

Written & published in April 2019 . . . WE ARE NOW THERE !!

As a topic of bible prophecy, the notion of a GLOBAL 'THERMO-NUCLEAR' WAR has it seems never been fully accepted or countenanced by our community. Certainly it has never been articulated from our lecture and preaching platforms as a 'VERY <u>REAL</u>' and approaching dimension of the coming judgments on mankind.

As a community, who rightly claim to have incontestably the most accurate bible-based understanding of prophecy in the end-times - we somehow seem unable (or unwilling) to process this confronting and horrific scenario of nuclear war. Even today in the very last days of the kingdoms of men - as we witness unprecedented political turmoil around the globe and increasingly angry nations pursuing nuclear missile proliferation on a truly insane level - there still remains an uneasy reluctance among bible believers to discuss the possibility of 'man-made ' global destruction actually being an agency of divine judgement. Raise the issue and one is often met with strained looks , unsettled body language and even a nervous step backwards.

Perhaps it is because the thought of such a global disaster is just too horrific to contemplate ; perhaps , as many believe the '*irreversible nature*' of the nuclear fall-out and the 'centuries' it would take (as scientists claim) for the deadly residue of nuclear radiation to dissipate seems totally incompatible with our understanding of (and desire for) God's Kingdom to be established on earth very soon. While never being openly stated , it does seem the universally preferred view on this contentious topic , is that it's simply easier to accept in broad terms that all the coming judgments executed on mankind "*the fire*"; "*the flame*"; the "*pillars of smoke*"; the "*clouds*"; the "*thunder*"; the "*noise*"; the "*darkness*" are essentially all outworkings exclusively related to the manifestation of divine power in the '*forces of nature*', whether of volcanoes , earthquakes , storms , pestilences or the celestial elements. Yet every single one of these dramatic outworkings are direct '*by-products*' generated by the scourge that is nuclear warfare. Can we just ignore this ?

Our intent in this article is to comprehensively and conclusively show that GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR ... IS COMING !!!

The idea that the <u>forces of nature</u> are the 'principle' source of divine judgement in the Time of Trouble is simply wrong and in fact, is 'widely divergent' from the immutable evidence found in God's Word. We assert that scripture is exceedingly <u>more explicit</u> in its language.

In fact, God's Word repeatedly indicates that up until the moment the Lord Jesus Christ's feet stand upon the Mount of Olives, these catastrophic events are <u>almost entirely</u> of man's own doing. That the unprecedented disasters soon to engulf the earth will appear (ostensibly) to the world to be the ' natural ' consequences of mankind's greed, foolishness and corruption - whether war, famine, pestilence or disaster. There will be no ' open manifestation ' of divine power apparent in these unprecedented calamities <u>UNTIL</u> the Lord Jesus Christ appears openly and visibly to the whole world. That the ' divine judgments' of the last days will be in very large measure the result of man' reaping what he has sewed'.

So clear and explicit is GOD'S WORD on this subject, *almost every aspect* of this coming nuclear war is comprehensively and graphically detailed in the pages of the Bible. <u>All</u> references are found in ' unmistakable context' and include :

- the accurate description of 'NUCLEAR' missiles and warheads
- the 'exact dimensions' of these deadly projectiles
- the 'design and technical configurations' (and uniformity worldwide)
- the 'core fissile materials / elements '
- the 'operational trigger '
- the 'flight path' (precisely 'pinpointing' its trajectory)
- the 'actual effect' of these nuclear detonations

- the extraordinary meaning behind 'the fire' and 'the flame' (of nuclear war)
- the 'mortal' and the 'destructive' effects of 'nuclear radiation'
- the 'scale and death toll '

The Bible <u>also</u> states the effects of this 'full-scale' nuclear war, will <u>NOT</u> be chance or arbitrary, but will involve :

- the ' discriminatory selection ' of those who will perish
- the world-wide 'moral judgment' upon the sinners and the ungodly
- the condemnation and targeted destruction of 'mainstream' religions (& their followers)

Also revealed are God's ' unbreakable ' promises . . .

- the 'selective protection' of believers in a 'full-scale' nuclear war (both WHY & HOW this will be achieved)
- the 'remarkable place' where 'the faithful' will be protected
- the faithful will actually 'witness' the reward of the wicked

Finally, the Bible declares :

- it is <u>God Himself</u> who 'initiates' these <u>man-made</u> 'judgments'
- the ultimate ' destination ' of these highly destructive projectiles
- the 'overall purpose' of this 'apocalyptic' nuclear war
- the 'final outcome' beyond this coming global crisis

This documented 5-part series seeks to 'bring to light' large sections of God's Word which for centuries have had valid and legitimate interpretations and now - only in the last days (according to the Father's will and purpose) - are their deeper, hidden understandings being fully revealed. Initially, some interpretations of passages may on face value seem subjective, however, when considered in the totality of the parallel bible quotes provided and the consistent manner in which the divine Hand has used literal, figurative, symbolic and metaphorical language throughout scripture, we believe the 'interpretations drawn' are absolutely sound and will withstand any scrutiny. We invite anyone to show / prove otherwise.

We will then exhaustively consider "<u>IN CONTEXT</u>" extensive bible passages and their consistent language & detailed descriptions of these final cataclysmic 'man-made' events.

A HISTORICALLY 'UNPRECEDENTED' TIME OF TROUBLE ... COMING SOON

Throughout scripture we are often provided with brief, fleeting visions of this long-prophesied ' *time of trouble*'. Both in the old testament through the prophet Daniel and through the words of the Lord Jesus Christ in three of the Gospel records (Matt 24 / Mark 13 / Luke 21) we are told that this ' *final tribulation / affliction* ' will be ' *UNLIKE* ' any event *ever before seen* in the history of mankind. It will be utterly ' <u>unprecedented</u> ' in both its magnitude and its nature. While the bible passages (below) give no indication of the specific nature of these events , we are fore-warned they will be ' *so grievous* ' that <u>all life</u> on earth would otherwise be totally exterminated and cease to exist , if it were not for ' *divine intervention*' - *through the Lord Jesus Christ* - to stop this global destruction and to save the ' *chosen* ' or ' *elect* ' of God. The old testament prophet Daniel speaks of this climactic moment when the Lord Jesus is revealed , a moment that will represent the beginning of the ' *final apocalyptic phase* ' of these end-times tribulations .

DANIEL 12

 v1 And AT <u>THAT</u> TIME shall Michael (Lord Jesus Christ) stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people & there shall be a 'TIME OF TROUBLE' such as NEVER WAS SINCE there was a nation ... even to <u>THAT</u> SAME TIME This moment will be the culmination of the escalating chaos and unprecedented violence sweeping the whole earth and overwhelming mankind. The gospel record in Matthew 24 is a crucial narrative in truly deciphering the end-times events. Not only does it provide perhaps the most comprehensive timeline in the bible, outlining the actual sequence of events through this period but it also provides the one singular and epochal ' sign ' to herald the arrival of the great time of trouble.

MATTHEW 24

- v15 '*WHEN*' ye therefore shall see the '*abomination of desolation*' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand :) . . . (FULFILLED - 12th MAY 2009)
- v21 For 'THEN' shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was NOT since the beginning of the world to this time, no, NOR EVER shall be
- v22 And except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED : but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened
- v29 **IMMEDIATELY AFTER** the '**TRIBULATION**' of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:
- v30 And '**THEN**'... shall appear ' **the sign of the Son of man** ' in heaven and '**THEN**'... shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see ' **the Son of man** ' **coming** in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

The central purpose of this prophecy (given by Jesus himself) was to provide a 'clear signpost' to the faithful believers of the nearness and imminence of the time of '*GREAT TRIBULATION*'. One prophetic event was given by Jesus as 'A SIGN' to herald the beginning of the end-times, this being '<u>WHEN</u>' the "*abomination of desolation*..*stands in the holy place*". As noted above, this event was actually fulfilled on 12th May 2009 when for the *FIRST TIME <u>EVER</u>* a Roman Catholic Pope (Benedict) stood inside 'THE HOLY PLACE' in Jerusalem. A 2,000 year old prophecy fulfilled - unmistakably and undeniably. According to Matthew 24, the '*Great Tribulation*' (*Time of Trouble*) and the Lord's return will '<u>THEN</u>' follow this event.

In the time since this remarkable fulfilment (May 2009) there has been world-wide strife, turmoil and chaos. International financial / debt crises, the Arab Spring, the Syrian War, the rise of ISIS, the Global War on Terror, unprecedented migrant crises, the weakening and destabilisation of the EU, cataclysmic weather events, apocalyptic disasters (ie. Japan) and never before seen levels of violence and immorality worldwide. [2024 Note : <u>Add</u> the 2020 Covid-19 Global Pandemic and mounting instability and crises (world-wide) since >> ie. Global supply-chain crisis / international food shortages / further worsening refugee and immigration crises / Russian-Ukraine conflict / exploding Middle East crises) *BUT is this ' really' the Great Tribulation spoken of ??* The Answer is YES, IT IS... but we <u>can</u> expect it to get much, MUCH WORSE !!! While these dramatic events may seem to be ' *in the normal course* ' of worldly happenings, the Lord Jesus ' fore-warned ' his followers to be vigilant, for in the last days before His return, the ' *vast majority of mankind* ' will be asleep to the approaching perils, and taken unawares (and perish) in the catastrophic events that will constitute the ' Day of the LORD'.

LUKE 21

v34 Take heed to yourselves, lest ... 'THAT DAY' come upon you unawares.
v35 For 'AS A SNARE' shall IT come on <u>ALL THEM</u> that dwell on the face of the <u>WHOLE EARTH</u>.

As this unprecedented '*Time of Trouble*' intensifies, not only do we need to be preparing for the Lord's return, but we should also be warning others of this impending storm. Yet, as servants of the living God, do we '*truly understand*' what God's coming judgments on mankind <u>will involve</u>? Do we actually know <u>WHAT IS COMING</u> ... and are we even prepared for whatever time and circumstances <u>WE ARE REQUIRED TO ENDURE</u> during this 'final period of affliction'? We hope this article will provide helpful answers and a deeper level of understanding on these issues.

ISAIAH 24 - JUDGMENT OF THE 'WHOLE' EARTH

Perhaps no other single chapter of scripture provides a greater overview and insight into this coming catastrophic period than *Isaiah 24*. This one remarkable prophecy fully details the pre-conditions, the world-wide distress, the reasoned explanation of 'WHY' and the final terrible outcome of these divine judgments. Verses 1 - 6 and verses 17 - 22 broadly frame these events from a global - or - world-wide ' perspective, with the terms ' *the earth* ' and ' *the world* ' being consistently repeated. Wedged between these passages are verses 7 - 13 which focus on the deteriorating events ' *in the land* ' (*of* Israel) that appear to be contemporaneous with God's judgments upon mankind.

On a closer reading, verses 1 - 4 outline the misery, disorder and corruption found on earth before these final judgments, including social, economic and moral collapse in every level of society, together with the evident breakdown of the environment. Verse 5 then makes clear this global deterioration and defilement by its inhabitants is the direct result of man's actions and this verse expands further, by providing the three specific reasons 'WHY' this corruption has occurred. Mankind has 1) transgressed God's Laws 2) changed His ordinances and 3) broken the everlasting covenant - all three being <u>foundational elements</u> God had previously established for the natural, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of mankind.

ISAIAH Ch. 24

- v1 Behold, the LORD maketh **THE EARTH** empty and maketh it waste and turneth it upside down & scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof
- v2 And **IT SHALL BE** ... as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower
- v3 The land shall be utterly emptied and utterly spoiled : for the LORD hath spoken this word.
- v4 **THE EARTH** mourneth and fadeth away, **THE WORLD** languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.
- v5 **THE EARTH** also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have ... **transgressed the laws**, ... **changed the ordinance**,

... broken the everlasting covenant.

But ominously , '<u>THEN</u>' comes verse 6 . . .

v6 THEREFORE ... hath 'THE CURSE' (H423 אלה' âlâh → cp. Zech 5v3) ... 'devoured the earth ' and they that dwell therein are desolate : therefore the inhabitants of the earth 'ARE BURNED' and FEW MEN LEFT

This is truly an apocalyptic verse with language that portends to a terrifying scenario for mankind. If there remained ' any doubt ' about exactly what this verse is alluding to when it graphically describes the " *devouring of the earth* . . . *the desolation* . . . *and the inhabitants being <u>burned</u>* . . . *until there are few men left*" then verse 6 contains a crucial and direct link to another prophecy that <u>unequivocally confirms</u> the coming ' terrible reality ' of Isaiah's vision.

To understand what is 'this horror' in Isaiah 24 that befalls the earth, we MUST UNDERSTAND what is "THE CURSE".





THE COMING 'TIME OF TROUBLE'

1. THE CURSE / THE PLAGUE / THE PESTILENCE (RECURRING 'METAPHORICAL' THEMES)

Beyond the normal use of symbols and metaphoric language, there are 'recurring themes' consistently found in these '*last days*' prophecies. These recurring themes - while at times having subtle differences in name - nevertheless speak clearly of the *same events* and *details* that inextricably tie these end-times passages together. While some are commonly assumed to be directly referencing '*divine power*' through the '*forces of nature*' this is frequently <u>NOT</u> the case, and a closer examination often reveals the origin of many of these judgments befalling mankind are actually *from man himself* as we will demonstrate. Equally, it's also quite true that many of these *prophetic events* can also have a 'double-application' or outworking, and will soon originate from <u>both</u> man and God during the 'Great Tribulation'. Among the most notable of these 'metaphoric' themes found in these prophecies are the phrases "*THE CURSE / THE PLAGUE / THE PESTILENCE*"

As noted in Verse 6 above, "*THE CURSE*" is translated from the ancient Hebrew word 'אלה' ('âlâh ' – Strong's H423). It is an unusual rendering of the word that is found some 18 times in scripture, whereas the general English word " curse " is used HUNDREDS OF TIMES. One of the other 'rare' occurrences of this same Hebrew root is found in *Zechariah Ch.5*, a chapter and prophecy that speaks of a troubling vision seen by the prophet. The <u>entire chapter</u> - from beginning to end - is utterly replete with descriptive symbolism and metaphorical language that points meticulously and indisputably to the certainty of an *end-times* 'global nuclear ' war.

It is a remarkable prophecy clearly never intended to be understood (in this manner) until the very last days. Down through the ages this prophecy in *Zechariah 5* has rightly had other legitimate interpretations attributed to it , however we would contend (given the ' enormity ' of this coming final fulfilment) this will be its ultimate and principle outworking. The prospect of world-wide nuclear war may be a shocking and confronting revelation to many students of God's Word , however it is also entirely consistent and in conformity with the ' *Time of the End / Great Tribulation* ' previously described in Daniel 11-12 , the gospel accounts and the devastating global events described in *Isaiah 24*.



In the event the reader still remains unconvinced of the bible evidence pointing to a *coming nuclear war*, there is still yet another 'TRULY ASTONISHING' connection that will TOTALLY and CONCLUSIVELY CONFIRM this approaching scenario as described in God's Word. This previously '*unknown -and- undiscovered* ' connection that we will reveal, quite incredibly is taken from (no less than) one of the <u>MOST</u> well-read, loved and cherished 'PSALMS' known to bible students. This will be considered in Part 3 of our series.

However, for the moment let us first consider the astonishingly detailed and precise language used in Zechariah chapter 5 that so unmistakably describes this approaching 'nuclear nightmare'.