

THE SIGN OF OLIVET - MAY 12th 2009

Why was the Pope's visit a 'dire warning' for 2023 ?

*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 :)*

In the Olivet prophecy, the prophetic sign given by Jesus (Matt 24:15-21) to herald the coming of the Great Tribulation was NEVER intended to apply solely to the events of AD70 (as many believe). While the events of AD70 were both grievous and consequential , they were but a foreshadowing of greater events to come . . . *in the latter days*. The sign of the 'abomination of desolation standing in the Holy Place' was in it's ultimate sense, purposed by the Father to be a warning (for our time) to the 'final judgments' of God to come upon mankind . . . the final 'SEVEN' judgments !!

Jesus' warning in the Olivet Prophecy is directly and inextricably connected to the 'Seven Trumpets' of Revelation. Now in March 2023, we are currently in the 'immediate prelude' to the sounding of the First Trumpet, the very event that represents the start of the final tribulation. And the Olivet Prophecy proves it. In fact, since May 12th 2009 when Pope Benedict XVI visited Jerusalem and stood in the Holy Place (*first & only time in history a Roman Catholic Pope had done so*) until the present moment, we have been in the course of events as recorded in Revelation 8 : 1-6.

Some may argue : " But Pope Benedict's 2009 visit to the Temple Mount was almost 14 YEARS AGO !! . . . How could it be 'at all relevant' to the Seven Trumpets of Revelation and world events in 2023 " ?!?! The bible reveals the answer.

If we look at the opening context in Revelation Ch.8 as the Seventh Seal is opened , we are explicitly told in verse 1 : "*. . there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour*". This means . . . From the time the Seventh Seal is opened - until - the sounding of the First Trumpet Judgment there is , for "*about the space of half an hour*" silence in heaven (a metaphor for the 'political' realms). In the Jewish/Hebrew custom half an hour (or 30 minutes) is equivalent 'symbolically' to 15 years. Yet, it is most notable (and immensely significant) that verse 1 records it is only "*about*" half an hour (ie. approximately). So it is not exactly 15 years. In fact , it is widely recognised among bible scholars , the divine curtailing of this time interval in verse 1 points to this 'period of silence' being only 14 years. If we add this '14 YEAR' span to the time of fulfilment of this end-time sign which happened in 2009 , we arrive at the sounding of the first trumpet judgment and start of the great tribulation being imminent in 2023 (or early 2024).

Then verses 2 to 6 describe a series of preparations by the Ancient of Days and his holy angels. These preparations - which take place 'prior to' the first angel sounding the trumpet in verse 7 - are to recognise and accommodate the prayers of the living saints - preliminary to (and in readiness for) the pouring out of the 'Seven Judgments' to come.

In 2023 . . . we are now at 'the very end' of this preparatory , interim period for the saints.

Given the urgency and gravity of this *pre-tribulation period* we now find ourselves in , do these connected prophecies of Revelation 8 and Matthew 24 hold any further clues to confirm we are in this truly prophetic moment of history ? Yes. there are TWO more 'truly astonishing' signs :

- 1) As if 'an omen' fore-warning of the dark events to come in 2023 , Pope Benedict XVI - the *very man* who stood in the Holy Place - died on the 31st December 2022 only hours before midnight. Is it just 'co-incidence' the supreme head of the Apostate Harlot system - who *himself* was the focal point of this ancient prophecy - was taken on the 'last day of the year' just before the calender flips over to this most consequential of years ?
- 2) In verse 5, as the angel casts the golden censer filled with fire into the earth , it says "*there were voices , and thunderings , and lightnings , and AN EARTHQUAKE*". Important note : These all happen before "*the angels prepared themselves to sound*" (verse 6) the trumpets. So a major earthquake (the final event mentioned) must happen right before the first trumpet sounds. The world has just witnessed a catastrophic earthquake which struck (*of all places*) Turkey, causing in excess of 50,000 deaths. The timing and location of this 2023 earthquake is highly significant. Firstly, it is in perfect alignment with the 'pre-trumpet' sequence of events recorded in Revelation Ch. 8. Beyond this , the locality of its epicentre is consistent with the final 'drying up of the great river Euphrates' (Rev.16) this being the removal the last vestiges of the Ottoman/Turkish Empire in order that "*the way (military advance) of the 'kings of the east' might be prepared*".

THEN - *immediately afterward* - in verse 7 comes the 'sudden outbreak' of the GREAT TRIBULATION. This begins with the terrible 'First Trumpet' judgment. The apostle John (on the Lord's behalf) describes this apocalyptic event as "**hail and fire mingled with blood**". The same verse further reveals, when cast upon the earth it causes the 'third part of the trees to be burnt up' and 'all the green grass to be burnt up'. (Trees and grass being symbols of 'the nations' and 'peoples'.) So 'one third' of all these are consumed by this fiery storm. Until now the true source and nature of this coming judgment has remained an enduring mystery. In 2023 . . . what looming event - figuratively depicted as 'hail and fire' - will bring to pass this unspeakable global catastrophe? [[FOR MORE DETAILS](#) : See our link below]

❖ [[THE SEVEN TRUMPETS of REVELATION](#) : THE COMING ' END-TIMES ' FULFILMENT - Astonishing events for 2023 & beyond (Click Link)]

Many bible scholars - who having studied prophecy extensively - fervently believe the present year 2023 will be a year of enormous prophetic significance. Some believing and proclaiming it will be the year of the Lord's return. Among the most compelling reasons for their belief arise from the closing words of Daniel's prophecy wherein the 'identical sign' that Jesus spoke of in the Olivet Prophecy ('abomination of desolation') is presented by Daniel as a far-reaching and portentous 'marker' in a timeline that reveals the unfolding of significant 'end-time events' . . .

Daniel 12:11

*And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away,
and the 'abomination that maketh desolate' set up,
there shall be 'a thousand two hundred and ninety days'.*

'Blessed' is he that waiteth, and cometh to the 'thousand three hundred and five and thirty days'.

It is well documented that the 'setting up of the abomination of desolation' relates prophetically to the establishment of the Islamic shrine - the Dome of the Rock - which began in 688 AD (completed in 691/692 AD) upon the original site of the Temple Mount (Solomon's Temple). When the 'day for a year' principle is applied, and the first of these time periods is added to this date (688 + 1,260 years = 1948) its result pinpoints the exact year of the miraculous re-establishment of the state of Israel. Beyond this, when the second of Daniel's time periods is applied in years (688 + 1,335 years = 2023) it arrives at the current year of 2023, causing many to interpret this as the year of Christ's return, based upon the pre-text "**BLESSED is he that waiteth, and cometh to . . .**" this much anticipated date.

So there is solid evidence to suggest 2023 will be a profoundly consequential year of prophecy, especially for those who expect it to be the year of the Lord's coming. And in a sense they would be right . . . even though they're wrong !!

Before explaining this conundrum, it is important to recall the indelible pattern of history and scripture. Ancient events - whether old testament or new testament happenings - are often and consistently found to be 'types and shadows' of events to come, which are intended to serve as faithful and reliable guides in the lives and journey of the saints in the last days. Perhaps amongst the most unfortunate of these relates to Jesus' disciples and the 'fundamental misconception' they had concerning His return. Despite being taught at the feet of the Lord for over three years and listening intently to His every word, nevertheless they failed miserably to understand and perceive the true nature of His return - and the things he had to suffer - but rather were blinded by their own 'pre-conceived ideas' of what they expected should come. Are we - as a community - making the very same mistake in 2023? That is, being wholly consumed by the 'scripturally unfounded' notion (and a misguided hope) of an early PRE-tribulation 'calling away'. In their experience, there is a lesson for us.

The year 2023 will most assuredly bring the Lord's 'coming' . . . but 'NOT' His appearing !! Rather 2023 will bring the commencement of 'THE LORD'S JUDGMENTS' (ie. Seven Trumpet Judgments). The outworking of this series of judgments is an indicator of 'His nearness .. His coming' (G3952 - 'parousia'). Just like the first fulfilment of the Olivet Prophecy in AD 70, the Lord's judgments were exacted upon Jerusalem by the Roman armies (with the Lord not being 'visibly' present) so it will likewise be in the first six trumpets, as Russia's confederate armies headed by 'Gog' will bring forth the Lord's judgments of fire upon the nations without the Lord Jesus Christ being visibly present.

As noted in previous articles, the first six trumpet judgments will be wrought through the 'arm of the flesh' - these being executed by and through the LORD's appointed agency, otherwise known as "**the sword of the LORD**". As these trumpet judgments progress, the world will descend ever deeper into an abysmal period of tyranny, violence, chaos and suffering. The outlook and prospects for mankind will be bleak to the point where - if these events were to continue - the very existence of humanity would be threatened. The Lord 'fore-warned' of these exact conditions:

Matthew 24:21-22

*For THEN shall be 'GREAT TRIBULATION'
such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

*And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved :
but 'for the elect's sake' (the saints) those days shall be 'shortened'.*

The Lord reveals this dreadful period - through which his saints will both endure and be preserved - will be shortened for 'their' sakes. By its very definition, this means WE ARE 'NOT' called away before the tribulation. This notion of being 'pre-emptively removed' before trial has never been the experience of His servants down through the ages. Not even for *the Son of God* himself. It's only through the exercise of fiery trials and affliction that 'the gold' (*faith*) is purified. The whole doctrine of an 'early removal' before tribulation is a falsehood. It is NEVER found in the Bible. Moreover, it is entirely contrary to (and undermines) the very principles of God's work of redemption with mankind.

Having declared this *GREAT TRIBULATION of the latter days* will be "*shortened*", the Lord then reveals the greatest and most anticipated event in all human history will take place '*immediately following*' the tribulation's conclusion :

Matthew 24:29-30

*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 :*

*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.*

AT THE END of the *tribulation* (amid a series of astonishing celestial signs symbolising the unfolding events in the political realms) will come '*the moment*' of His own glorious and long-awaited return to the earth. It is an event that will not happen '*in secret*' but will be open, visible and witnessed by all nations and tribes. Having then descended from heaven and now visibly standing upon the Mount of Olives, it is - ONLY AT THIS TIME - the following happens :

Matthew 24:31

*And he shall send his angels with a GREAT SOUND of a TRUMPET,
and they shall gather together 'his elect' (the saints) from the four winds,
from one end of heaven to the other.*

At the '*GREAT SOUND*' of a *Trumpet* . . . the Lord Jesus Christ then sends forth his legion of angels to gather together '*all*' his faithful servants - both the living and the dead (1 Cor 15:52). Can there be any dispute this is the moment of our calling away? And why is it described here as a "*GREAT sound of a Trumpet*"? Clearly because it is "*THE GREAT Trumpet*" the same spoken of in Isaiah 27:13. Indisputably the '*SEVENTH and FINAL*' Trumpet of Revelation which heralds the '*intervention*' of the Lord *Jesus Christ* [*y'hôshûa'*] not only to *deliver* (and *save*) His servants from out of the darkness of the great tribulation, but also to '*personally*' execute His righteous judgments upon the nations.

It will also be a fulfilment of another old testament anti-type - *the seven trumpets* - used to collapse the walls of the ancient city of Jericho. Led by *Joshua* [*y'hôshûa'*] over *seven consecutive days* the *seven trumpets* were sounded by the *seven priests*, as the children of Israel bearing the ark of God daily compassed the fortified city. ONLY upon the sounding of the '*SEVENTH and FINAL*' trumpet on the *seventh day* was '*judgment*' wrought upon the city's inhabitants.

Beyond this ancient prefigurement, if there was 'any doubt' at all concerning this rendering of the Lord's words in the Olivet prophecy (and the sequence and timing of these events) we only need compare it to another monumental pillar of end-time bible prophecy which provides a '*fully detailed*' description of this very moment of the Lord's advent.

Daniel 12:1-3

*And AT THAT TIME . . .
shall Michael (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 THAT SAME TIME

*And AT THAT TIME . . .
thy people (the saints) shall be delivered, every one that shall be found 'written in the book'.*

*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

ONLY . . . “*AT THAT TIME*” when Christ stands up on the Mount of Olives will all the saints (*the living and the dead*) be called away and delivered ‘*out of*’ the time of trouble (*great tribulation*). There will be no ‘*secret*’ return of Christ. No early ‘*PRE-tribulation*’ removal. Not today. Not next week. Not next month. Not “*at anytime*” or “*any moment*”.

We **must** read God’s Word for ‘*what it actually says*’ and not be misled and beguiled by the soothing *doctrines of men*, otherwise we’re at risk of fulfilling the words “*having a form of godliness, but DENYING THE POWER thereof*”.



In these three ‘*foundational cornerstones*’ of bible prophecy [Matthew (*Olivet Prophecy*), Daniel and Revelation] we not only have indisputable proof of the true ‘*time and nature*’ of the Lord’s return, but also absolute confirmation of the reality the saints will both ‘*endure through*’ and ‘*be preserved*’ (** *in an end-times ‘Passover’* **) amid this approaching period of tribulation. We each and everyone need to be ‘*spiritually prepared*’ for this eventuality.

The Lord’s warning in the Olivet prophecy concerning the ‘*abomination of desolation standing up in the Holy Place*’ was a monumental ‘*prophetic sign*’ - not just to the events of AD70 - but more crucially for the last days. It revealed a defined span of time (a period for the saints to ‘*prepare*’) before the outbreak of the final *Great Tribulation* - this being a series of divine end-time judgments graphically depicted and catalogued in the ‘*Seven Trumpets of Revelation*’.

Pope Benedict’s visit to the Holy Place on May 12th 2009 was a unique and unprecedented event. A ‘*sign*’ of the times designed to forewarn the faithful of this perilous period to come. Almost 14 years later, the astonishing date of that same Pope’s death on the eve of 2023, and the ensuing catastrophic earthquake in Turkey in February 2023 represent ‘*additional signs*’ that not only corroborate and confirm the veracity of this prophecy . . . but also ominously herald the imminent sounding of the First Trumpet (a judgment described as ‘*Hail and Fire . . . mingled with blood*’).

As we watch the world around us accelerate head long toward these calamitous events, we pray our Heavenly Father will bless each of us with a ‘*true understanding*’ of these matters found in His Word, and strengthen our hearts and our minds to faithfully endure through the dark and troubled days ahead until the moment of His Son’s glorious return.

*What are these which are arrayed in white robes ?
and whence came they ?*

*These are ‘they’ which
came out of . . . GREAT TRIBULATION*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ('CLICK' on Blue Links)

' BIBLE EVIDENCE ONLY !! ' DOCUMENTS

- [TIME OF TROUBLE - or - CHRIST'S RETURN \(Which comes first ? \)](#)
- [SAINTS ENDURE ' THE FINAL TRIBULATION '](#)
- [DIVINE JUDGMENT . . . THRO' MAN'S ' WICKED DEVICES '](#)
- [THE COMING ' END-TIMES ' PASSOVER](#)

FURTHER READING (STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

1. [THE FINAL VISION . . . Where there is NO VISION the people perish](#)
2. [EXPECTING THE LORD'S RETURN . . . Why we are still here in 2023](#)
3. [THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE . . . Can we know " the day & hour " ??](#)
4. [THE TIME OF TROUBLE . . . We Are Here Until The End](#)
5. [THE RETURN OF CHRIST . . . The Need For Bible Truth](#)
6. [THE END OF THE WORLD . . . Parable Of The Wheat & Tares](#)

7. [REVELATION 12 \(Pt.1 \) . . . The Great Red Dragon](#)
8. [REVELATION 12 \(Pt.2 \) . . . The Dragon](#)
9. [THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD . . . Cometh](#)
10. [CLIMATE CHANGE . . . The ' Apocalyptic ' Bible Truth](#)
11. [THE DESTROYING ANGEL . . . & The Coming ' End-Times ' Passover](#)

12. [THE COMING JUDGMENTS OF FIRE . . . ' Pre-cursor ' to Armageddon](#)
13. [THE GREAT NOISE . . . Soon To Consume Both Heaven & Earth](#)
14. [THE BUYER & THE SELLER . . . The Rod of Wickedness revealed](#)
15. [THE 2020 PROPHECY . . . \(Job 20 \) A Warning For The Last Days](#)
16. [GLOBAL NUCLEAR WAR . . . & The ' End-Times ' Passover](#)