

BABEL RISING!

by William D. Brehm

"But when God came down to see the city and the tower mankind was making, he said, 'Look! If they are able to accomplish all this when they have just begun to exploit their linguistic and political unity, just think of what they will do later! Nothing will be unattainable for them!'" Genesis 11:5 & 6; The Living Bible

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Introduction: Where is the Promise?

From the years following the Second World War, until the mid 70's, many churches in the western world were infected by a condition known as "Second Coming Fever". That is to say, many Christians were sure that the Second Coming of Christ was going to happen at any moment. Although this attitude seems to have been proven wrong by history, there were many good reasons for it.

One reason was the development of nuclear weapons and the threat of atomic war. Many Christians saw in the threat of atomic war the fulfillment of some of the Biblical prophecies concerning the final judgment. The most prominent example is II Peter 3:10: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat..." It may have been a mistake to interpret this passage as referring to nuclear holocaust, but it was not at all unreasonable.

A second reason for expecting the Second Coming to occur in the latter part of the Twentieth Century is the time that has passed since the First Coming of Christ. It has now been nearly 2000 years since Christianity began, and this does have Biblical meaning. By Biblical chronology, it was about 2000 years from Creation to Abraham; and about another 2000 years from Abraham to Christ. (exact numbers aren't important; large numbers in the Bible are almost always approximations.) Therefore, it logically follows that we should expect some type of large scale divine intervention in history in our time. ^[1]

A third reason for expecting Christ's return is the restoration of Israel as a state. There are several Bible prophecies that foretell this event, and that seem to associate it with the Second Coming of Christ. This is particularly true of Isaiah 11:10&11: "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner for the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him...It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand **the second time** [emphasis mine: author] to recover the remnant of His people." Again, there is no problem with connecting the establishment of the State of Israel with the imminent appearing of our Savior. Yet for all the good reasons to expect Jesus to really come soon, there has been a big decline in Second Coming Fever in the churches since the mid 70's. There may be several reasons for this. For one thing, people are probably just tired of all the hype about the Second Coming. Second, It's also true that people aren't as afraid of nuclear war as they used to be, especially since the end of the Cold War. But perhaps the biggest cause of the decline in interest in the Second Coming is the number of times in recent years that people have tried to pinpoint the date of the Second Coming and have been proved wrong by history. These incidents have tended to assign serious belief in the imminence of the Second Coming of Christ to the lunatic fringe of Christianity.

This writer found an example of the truth of this in two Christian book catalogues he had occasion to read recently. One was from Christian Publications, a chain of large Christian bookstores. The other was from Christian Book Distributors, a large mail-order house. In looking through the two catalogues, this writer was dismayed to see that there wasn't a single title offered in either one that was about the Second Coming of Christ. The reason is fairly obvious. Booksellers aren't going to push books that they don't think will sell. And it also must be remembered that any successful salesperson knows his market. These Christian businesses know that Christians aren't interested in the Second Coming. They know that Christians don't believe that Jesus will really come soon. So they don't publish what they know Christians won't buy.

Anyone who has any Biblical knowledge of the doctrine of Second Coming prophecy should know that Jesus made it perfectly clear that we can't pinpoint the time of His Coming. The key scripture for this is Matthew 24:36: "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of Heaven, but my Father only." Therefore, anyone who claims to know the exact date or time of Jesus' Coming, even the year, is taking an unscriptural position, no matter how much "scriptural evidence" or "insight" he may claim. And anyone who claims, as some have in recent years, to even have been told by the Holy Spirit when Christ will come, is in an offhand way confessing to have given heed to seducing spirits (see I Timothy 4:1).

But there is a counterpoint to this. The Scriptures also tell us that those who are truly living Spirit-filled lives of obedient faith will not be taken by surprise when the Second Coming occurs. One of the best known scriptures for this doctrine is the Parable of the Fig Tree in Matthew 24: 32: "Now learn this parable of the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and put forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, know that it is near-at the door!" Yet another passage on which we can base our certainty of being aware of the imminence of the Second Coming is I Thessalonians 5:4 (part of a passage that follows the famous "Rapture" passage in I Thessalonians 4): "But you, brethren, are not in darkness that this Day should overtake you as a thief". When the Second Coming is near, the obedient Christians will know it.

There is further support for this doctrine in the Old Testament. In Amos 3:7, we read; "surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servant the prophets". We find an example of this in Genesis 41, when Joseph, the son of Jacob, told Pharaoh about the coming seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. But how does this apply to us? In the Old Testament times, the Holy Spirit was given to only a select few people whom God had chosen for special purposes. These were the people we call the Prophets, and they weren't necessarily people who foretold the future, though most of them did at one time or other. In Genesis 20:7, God says that Abraham is a prophet, and He did tell Abraham in advance about the destruction of Sodom. Now in our time, the Holy Spirit is given to all who repent (accept Christ) and are baptized (Acts 2:38). And according to Revelation 19:10, everyone who testifies to faith in Jesus is a prophet, "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy". Therefore, it follows that everyone who truly testifies to faith in Jesus Christ and is filled with the Holy Spirit will know when the Second Coming is near.

In the light on this, let us reconsider the majority of Christians who were expecting the Second Coming to happen soon. Could it be that they were right in the long run? Did the Church, in effect, give up too soon? Were they, in fact, expecting the Second Coming too soon? In the reasons for expecting Jesus to come soon given above, at least two of the three (Israel and the time factor) are valid. And there are other valid reasons to believe that the Second Coming is close.

One is the prophecy in Daniel 12:4: "...many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase". If this is to be taken as a sign of the approach of the Second Coming (as the context indicates) it has certainly been fulfilled in our time. It has been said that the sum total of human knowledge is doubling every ten years. In this writer's lifetime, space travel has gone from science fiction to commonplace. In terms of passenger miles (to use the statistical term) there is more traveling done every day now than was done in a year a century ago. And it just so happens that much of the traveling is related to increasing knowledge! Many HAVE BEEN running to and fro. Knowledge HAS BEEN increasing. Which means that the Second Coming of Christ should be close.

Another indication that the end of the age is approaching is found in the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:12: "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold"; and the words of St. Paul in II Thessalonians 2:3: "Let no one deceive you by any means, for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (or "man of lawlessness"; author's note) is revealed, the son of perdition". There is no question that lawlessness abounds today, and the moral decline that has been infecting the whole world may very well be the falling away that Paul spoke of. The decline in belief in the imminence of the Second Coming could be part of it too. And although many people have understood the term "man of sin" to refer to the "Antichrist", it has been noted by some Bible scholars that it could refer to a type of person; one who rejects all moral standards and has no respect for law. There are many people like that around today, and some dare to call themselves Christians.

In his second Epistle, chapter 3, verses 3 & 4, St. Peter gave us what may be understood as another sign of the approach of the Second Coming: "Knowing...that scoffers will come in the last days...saying 'Where is the promise of His Coming?' ". It appears that these scoffers have come, and most of them are in the Church. (the unsaved usually aren't even interested in the subject.) They tend to be subtle about it, expressing their scoffing by their goals in life. It has been noted by no less a Christian personality than Chuck Colson of Watergate and "Born Again" fame that the primary goal in life of most Christians is not pleasing God (See I John 3:22), but rather is having a better quality of life in the here and now. As individuals, Christians are focusing on financial success and personal fulfillment. This is demonstrated in two books this writer recently saw on sale in a Christian bookstore: One was entitled "Secrets of Winning at Work: 20 Inspirational Keys for Success in Your Career". The other was a tantalizing little offering called the "Business Woman's Topical Bible". Clearly, the people who created these books didn't have the Second Coming on their minds. Their focus was on getting ahead in this world. This is also the goal of most modern ministries. Eternal goals are given lip service, but they are not part of the mainstream of contemporary Christian thinking. As previously stated, serious belief in the imminent Second Coming of Christ has largely been assigned to the lunatic fringe of Christianity.

Unfortunately, even if everything else a Church or ministry says or does is perfectly scriptural, it still isn't teaching the whole counsel of God if it isn't teaching the imminence of the Second Coming (See II Peter 3:10-12). Christians, and especially Christian leaders, should remember the warning given by Jesus in Luke 12:40: "Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Note that He said this to His disciples, which is to say, to Christians, not to the unsaved, and therefore, by extension, He said it to the whole Church. But many Christians no longer really expect the Second Coming, and many pastors never mention it.

Again, this has been due in part to all the people who in recent years have tried to pinpoint the date of the Second Coming and have been proven wrong by history. But this may be a Satanic ploy to discredit anyone who really believes in, and preaches, that Jesus will really come soon. The Bible indicates that he does have some idea of when the Second Coming will take place: "...the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time", (Rev. 12:12). If the Devil believes that Jesus will come soon, the last thing he wants is for Christians to be conscious of it and be concerned about being ready. Such a consciousness could precipitate a real revival. Far more Christians would be ready, and many more people would get saved. So he's playing a "boy who cried wolf" game with false predictions of the Second Coming so that Christians won't believe the real warnings.

There is more reason to believe that Jesus will really come soon than is usually known by students of prophecy, more than just the prophecies that have already been fulfilled. There are circumstances developing in this world that God is going to have to deal with if His plan of salvation is going to be fulfilled, and if the Second Coming is ever going to happen in any way that resembles our expectations. They will be discussed in the following chapters. But understand this: there is plenty of reason for any Bible-believing Christian to believe that Jesus will come soon. As He also warned us, "it (the Second Coming) will come as a snare on

all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth", (Luke 21:35). So in His own words (Mark 13:37), "**What I say to you, I say to all; Watch!**"

1. The Three Prohibitions

In the introduction to this booklet, entitled 'WHERE IS THE PROMISE', we said that in the last twenty years there has been a big decline in belief in the imminence of the Second Coming of Christ among Christians. This is frightening because as we also said, there is good reason for any Bible-believing Christian to expect Jesus to come soon. To show just how true this is, in this and the following chapters we will discuss some reasons why this is so that aren't part of what is ordinarily considered Second Coming prophecy. But we must begin by asking a question that, again, may not seem to have anything to do with Second Coming prophecy.

THE QUESTION is this: why did God confuse the languages at the Tower of Babel? Before this question can be answered, we must first understand what the Tower was and why it was built. There have been a number of erroneous explanations offered. One is that the Tower was really a spaceship. All you have to do is read the story in the Bible, in Genesis 11:1-9, in the New King James Version, to know that it was just a pile of bricks held together with asphalt. Then, more frequently, it has been said that the people at Babel thought that they could reach Heaven and take over from God (or some equivalent nonsense) by building the Tower. That, of course, is based on the words "whose top is in the heavens" in Genesis 11:4. But that's just a figure of speech that means that the Tower was intended to be very high. (Another example of the same figure of speech can be found in Deuteronomy 1:28, KJV.) It's like our calling tall buildings "skyscrapers". The real reason for the construction of the Tower is actually stated in verse 4: "...let us make a name for ourselves lest we be scattered abroad..." The purpose of the Tower was to give them an identity and thus preserve their unity. It would have become the focal point of their society, the common purpose and achievement that would have held them together. But God didn't want them to stay united.

There may be a half-truth in the erroneous explanation, but only in that the people of ancient Mesopotamia believed that they could get closer to God for worship purposes if they built their temples on the top of high platforms. (The Mayans of Central America seem to have had the same idea.) The ancient pyramid-like structures in the Mesopotamian region known as ziggurats were in fact elevated platforms for temples. But this possibility is the only real basis for the mistaken idea mentioned above.

The Real Reason for the confusion of the languages is plainly stated in Genesis 11:6: "And the Lord said, 'Indeed, the people are one and they have all one language, and this they begin to do; **now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them**'. This an astonishing statement. In fact, it's one of the most amazing things that God says about mankind in the entire Bible. It's like a modern proverb that says, "What mind can conceive, man can achieve." This comes from the fact that we are created in God's image: "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them" (Genesis 1:27). Note that the use of the phrase "created He them" tells us that we are created in God's image collectively as well as, if not more than, individually. God is the Creator; therefore we are creative, also collectively as well as, if not more than individually, as we shall see. In Genesis 11:6, God was saying that if we act in unity without limits on our ability to communicate, our creative potential, at least in the technical sense, is unlimited. The translators of The Living Bible, perhaps the most popular of the paraphrase editions of the Bible, obviously saw this meaning in this verse. They rendered it: "Look! If they are able to accomplish all this when they **have just begun** to exploit their linguistic and political unity, just think of what they will do later! Nothing will be unattainable for them!" In fact, consideration of both these verses leaves us with the impression that our collective creative potential is equal to that of God Himself! But there happens to be a big problem with that, and God confused the languages of the people at Babel to disrupt their unity and thus frustrate their creativity.

It is in our ability to communicate and in our creativity that we most radically differ from animals, and most obviously display our god-like nature. Dolphins and apes are nearly as smart as we are, but they can't communicate the way we do, and they aren't creative at all. There is only one word that could describe the difference between our ability to communicate and our creativity and that of ordinary animals. The word is **infinite!** We are so immersed in the products of our creativity, and our ability to communicate, i.e., talk, write, read, etc., comes so naturally to us that we don't realize how awesome these things are as compared to animals. Understand also, that when I speak of our creativity, I don't just mean artistic creativity. The booklet you are reading this in is a product of human creativity, as were the machines that were used to create it. The fact that you are reading it is an example of our ability to communicate. If you are sitting in a chair reading this, that chair is a product of human creativity. If you are reading it on a computer screen, that computer is a product of our creativity. The Internet through which you accessed it is the latest advancement in our ability to communicate. It's existence is a manifestation of our increasing unity. I took my ideas and turned them into a series of tiny symbols, and you are looking at those tiny symbols and turning them back into ideas. No animal can do anything that even remotely approximates this. In fact, as far as we know, no animals have ideas like these. We can do these things because we are created in the image of God. But this also makes us dangerous to ourselves.

In Genesis 6:5, just before the Flood, God makes another shocking statement about mankind: "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of his heart was only evil continually." This is related to the theological doctrine of Total Depravity; the idea that men are so inherently sinful, that they are incapable, apart from God's Grace, of turning from sin. But there is more to the passage than that. The real significance of this statement is rooted in the meaning of the Hebrew word translated "every intent" It is the Hebrew word "yetser", and it is a blanket term for everything man thinks of, and by logical extension, everything man creates. God was saying that everything man creates is evil to some extent as surely as "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). (And that includes computers, even though this writer is presently using one. In effect, computers are no more evil than a typewriter or printing press. Whether or not it's evil to use one

depends on what you're doing with it.) By the way, God says the same thing again in Genesis 8:21, presumably to make it clear that the Flood didn't change the situation.

God said in effect that we can do anything we think of doing, given two basic conditions: 1) we must have unlimited communication; from "they all have one language" and; 2) we must act in unity; from "the people are one". Note that this need only apply to people engaged in a specific project; not necessarily the whole human race. Neither do they have to be thinking and saying the same things generally. They only have to be working as a team on whatever specific project. God thought it necessary to confuse the languages at the Tower of Babel because of its profound implications concerning human creativity. We must conclude that human creativity, corrupt as it is, can pose a threat to God's plan of salvation for the human race. Understand, though, that the threat is effectively to ourselves, not to God. The Tower itself was not a threat to God's plan (note that He didn't destroy it); the threat was the human potential the Tower represented. So He moved against the human potential.

From this situation it is possible to perceive the first of three major inviolable prohibitions that God has placed on the human race. They are clearly implied, though not directly stated in the Bible. These are three things that God will not, and in fact cannot, allow the human race to do (at least not for long) regardless of how sinful we are otherwise, if His plan of salvation for the human race, as revealed in the Bible, is ever going to be fulfilled in any way that resembles our expectations.

- The first inviolable prohibition (from Genesis 11:6) is that God will not allow man to live in unity and have unlimited communication before the Second Coming of Christ. At least not for long. The second two prohibitions will be violated if the first is violated for any significant length of time.
- The second inviolable prohibition (from Genesis 3:22-24) is that God will not allow the human race to have biological eternal life. Neither will God allow us to significantly extend our lifespans. This is based on two shortenings of the human lifespan found in Genesis 6:3 and Psalm 90:10.
- The third inviolable prohibition (from Acts 17:26 and Revelation 1:7, etc.) is that God will not allow humans to leave the earth and take up permanent residence anywhere else in the solar system, let alone the universe, before the Second Coming.

We are in a state of increasing violation of the first prohibition, for purposes of education, science and business, and even for entertainment, right now. Therefore, we are currently working on the violation of the second and third prohibitions with increasing unity and ease of communication. In short, a new Tower of Babel is rising. But, unlike the first one, which was built with bricks and asphalt and simply meant to be very high, this one is being built with science and high technology **and it's literally reaching for the stars!**

The threat that this poses to God's plan of salvation, and especially to the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Second Coming, must result in massive divine intervention in human affairs to stop it. And this can't be just a local intervention, as was the confusion of languages at Babel. The whole world is involved in this. (Did you know that China and India have space programs?) The only thing prophesied in the Bible that will do the job is the Second Coming of Christ, or, from the standpoint of the world, the Great Tribulation. Although we can't pinpoint the date, it must happen fairly soon, in terms of years, or history is going to go beyond the point where the prophecies can be fulfilled, again, in any way that resembles our expectations.

In the Introduction entitled "**Where is the Promise**", mention was made of the prophecy in Daniel 12:4: "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase". Few Christians today are truly conscious of the extent to which this prophecy has been fulfilled just since the end of the First World War. At that time, there had already been a major scientific and technical upheaval, that we call the Industrial Revolution. But it was just a prelude to what was coming.

The last eighty years have seen an onslaught of scientific and technological progress that has exceeded anything imagined in history before this century. It has wildly outstretched the dreams of early science fiction writers such as Jules Verne and H. G. Wells. Although they foresaw commercial and military aviation, their ideas were silly and crude. The present reality far exceeds what they imagined. Verne's submarine "Nautilus", contrary to common opinion, was not nuclear powered (that was Walt Disney's idea) and the power plant Verne loosely describes would not have produced enough power to run a submarine if really built. The idea of computers has actually been around since at least the late eighteenth century, but no one foresaw the electronics and the micro-miniaturization of components that make them possible. More than that, they were originally envisioned simply as big number crunchers. No one foresaw all the different tasks they can now do, like word processing, graphics and the Internet. No one expected the impact that television has had on society. People dreamed of space travel, but what's happening now wasn't even imagined a century ago.

Meanwhile there has been a revolution in communication. The crude telephones and wireless telegraphs of 1918 have given way to cellular phones, communications satellites, and the Internet. We are increasingly in possession of means of communication that the builders of Babel couldn't have imagined. In ten years we will possess ways of communicating across language barriers that will, for scientific and business purposes, effectively override what God did at Babel. According to Gordon Moore, chairman of Intel Corp., and one of the principle architects of the computer revolution, we will have computers that can instantly translate any language into 50 others. (Note that this man built a multi-billion dollar business by always being right.) If such machines become common, we will have in effect completely overridden what God did at Babel. In an interview in Forbes magazine, Moore also made the point that computers are enhancing our minds the way machines enhanced our muscles. That is to say, they are making us in effect far more intelligent and creative than we really are. And of course, they are enhancing our ability to communicate. And God was upset when all we had was bricks and asphalt!

There has been another major change in the world in the last eighty years that has much to do with the Babel Rising problem. Until World War I, war was regarded as an unavoidable if horrible fact of life. But the carnage of the First World War, followed by the

catastrophe of World War II, capped by the advent of the atom bomb, sent an urgent message to scholars and statesmen everywhere: **man must eliminate war or war will eliminate man!** The result has been a historically unprecedented effort by leaders everywhere to avoid war. Although we continue to get so-called brushfire wars, the fact that it has been over fifty years since the last global conflict shows that this effort has not been in vain. With the end of the Cold War, it's safe to say that in the foreseeable future there will not be another major war. Business leaders have recognized that we are living in a world that is basically at peace. The small conflicts we constantly hear about, the "wars and rumors of wars", involve only a small percentage of the human population and an equally small percentage of the world's populated areas. The motto of global political and business strategy is "make money, not war". [2] The world is not likely to end in a nuclear holocaust any time soon.

We aren't likely to have an environmental catastrophe either. For example, it was recently announced in the news media that the emission of fluorocarbons into the atmosphere has declined to the point that the hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica is expected to close up. Again, in New York State, the Hudson River, which was long considered too polluted, was recently officially re-opened to swimming. Environmentally, we're cleaning up our act.

So if God means to stop this new Tower of Babel from rising, He is going to have to do it Himself. With the unity and ease of communication we are acquiring (not to mention the number-crunching power), we'll be able to deal with any problem we may have, and achieve any goal we set for ourselves given enough time! But God isn't likely to give us the time! He will stop this new Tower of Babel from rising. Lift up your head! **JESUS REALLY IS COMING SOON!!! BE READY!!!**

2. The First Prohibition: Unity and Unlimited Communication

In the first chapter of this booklet, it was said that God confused the languages at the Tower of Babel to disrupt human unity and thus frustrate human creativity (Genesis 11:6). From this it is possible to discern the first of three inviolable prohibitions that God has placed on the human race. These are three things that God will not allow the human race to do no matter how sinful we are otherwise. The first, which is twofold, was shown by what God said and did at Babel. He will not allow the human race to live in unity apart from His Lordship, and He will not allow the human race to have unlimited communication. At least not for long. Yet the human race is in a state of increasing violation of this prohibition for purposes of science (including medicine), education, and business (including entertainment).

Today, we are not, of course, all one, and we don't all speak the same language. But there are ways in which we do have unity, and ways in which we do all have the same language. And we have means of communication that are beginning to seriously override what God did at Babel. Yet we are still guilty of the problem that God stated in Genesis 6:5: "every intent of the thoughts of his (man's) heart was only evil continually". This means that everything we create is to some extent tainted with sin, as surely as "all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That's why we live with problems like nuclear weapons, toxic waste, and the immoral influence of entertainment on our children.

But the problem that God was, and still must be, concerned with is the potential of our corrupt creativity to interfere with His plan of salvation for the human race. To understand this, we must consider what might have happened if God hadn't confused the languages at Babel. From what He said, we understand that the people were the same ethnically and socially. There were no class distinctions. We know from the story of the Flood, and from the story of the Tower itself, that they were civilized and had the beginnings of technology. History has shown that cultures like that tend to develop scientifically and technologically very quickly. Because they had ethnic and social unity, their progress wouldn't have been slowed by slavery. Slaves usually come from lower classes or other ethnic groups, and there were none. If God hadn't confused the languages, it might never have appeared. Slavery isn't mentioned in the Bible until the time of Abraham. Cultures that have slavery don't develop quickly. The Romans, for example, did little to improve their sailing ships because they had cheap slave labor to row them. Again, they knew how to build water mills to cut lumber and grind grain, but they seldom did, for the same reason.

Moreover, their progress wouldn't have been slowed by war. There wouldn't have been anyone to fight with. Again, if God hadn't confused the languages, there might have never been any wars. We know that in our times, war accelerates progress in science and technology through weapons research and development. But it wasn't always so. It is known that in ancient times, wars caused much scientific and technological knowledge to be lost. This was from the ancient practice of exterminating entire cultures, through mass deportation and enslavement of captives, or out and out slaughter (it's in the Bible). When a culture died, any knowledge that was unique to that culture usually died with it. For example, it was discovered some years ago that the ancient Babylonians knew how to make electricity from batteries and do electroplating. The destruction of Babylon caused that knowledge to be lost for over 2000 years. It was the confusion of the languages that precipitated ethnic differences, wars, and slavery.

Again, the Babel culture may not have had any of the false beliefs and cultural taboos that can hold back progress. For example, the pioneer astronomer Galileo nearly got burned at the stake for saying that the earth orbited the sun, because the Church of Rome insisted on taking the erroneous theories of Aristotle and Ptolemy as gospel. When Galileo's discoveries were finally accepted as fact, they gave birth to modern astronomy and calculus, modern physics, and now-space travel. If the Babel culture did not have such erroneous beliefs, their scientific development could have happened that much faster.

So what would have happened if God hadn't confused the languages? From Genesis 9:1 and 11:8 & 9, we know that God wanted them to spread out. Well, they would have spread out, all right. In chapter 1 it was mentioned that some people have foolishly believed that the Tower was a spaceship. It wasn't, but if God had left them alone, they would have been building spaceships within a few centuries. By the time of Moses, they'd have been on the Moon. They'd have had colonies on planets around other stars by the time of Christ. We'd be living in an interstellar civilization by now. Again, the Tower itself was not the problem. The problem was the human potential it represented.

The people of Babel would have also noticed within a few centuries that their lifespans were getting dramatically shorter. If they had set out to do something about that, we would have had biological eternal life a long time ago. Because of our longevity, and the fact that the human population wouldn't have suffered attrition from war and disease, the human race would now number several trillion individuals. But God's plan of salvation calls for the human race to stay on earth (Acts 17:26 & Revelation 1:7). And humans with biological eternal life might be lost beyond salvation (I Corinthians 15:50). There is also Biblical reason to believe that God's plan includes a limitation on human numbers, implied in Acts 17:26 and Revelation 7. God confused the languages at Babel to keep human creativity from interfering with His plan of salvation.

When one considers what we've done so far, in spite of limitations God placed on us, and what we are now thinking of doing, one must believe that with their unity intact, the Babel culture would by now have achieved things that we have not yet imagined. Unity and unlimited communication are the key ingredients necessary for unlimited scientific and technical progress. An uninformed person might not believe that mankind has much unity now. But as stated, for purposes of science, business and education, and even entertainment, we do have unity, and that unity is increasing. When the "Babel Rising!" message was first published on audio cassette in 1986, we were still in the Cold War. As this booklet is written, Russian cosmonauts and American astronauts are orbiting the earth together in the Russian Mir space station, which is being serviced by an American space shuttle. In the long run, this unity will eventually override what God did at Babel, and to some extent it already does. Again, it isn't required that we all think and say the same things to violate the second and third prohibitions. All that is required is that enough people work together for a common purpose for long enough. And they don't even have to be consciously working together. Here's an example of how this works out in practice: Go into your kitchen. Look around at all the things you have in that one room, all the dishes, appliances, utensils, foods, etc. Now imagine what would happen if everything in that room that was produced and marketed by other people suddenly disappeared. The odds are that you would be standing in an empty room, buck naked! The technological civilization we live in was produced by unity, the kind of unity that threatens God's plan. If all the products of human unity in this illustration disappeared, the room would disappear, too!

Look at it this way: One person, starting from scratch without parts and tools, probably couldn't build a bicycle. But people working in unity for that purpose can build a Boeing 747. In fact, they've built hundreds of them. One man, without tools or machinery, could probably just about lay a few logs across a small stream. Get enough men acting in unity, and they can build the Golden Gate Bridge. One person, starting without tools and materials, probably couldn't build a small house. But people working in unity for that purpose build skyscrapers, like the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. Understand? And if you've never watched a skyscraper being built, you'd be amazed at how few people working in unity it takes! You'd also be amazed if you knew how many people are working in unity on things that will contribute to the violation of all three prohibitions.

There are many languages spoken on earth, over 1400. But it just so happens that most serious scientific and business communication takes place in only about a dozen. The meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations are translated instantly into only 5! So many people are multilingual these days that language differences are seldom a barrier to important communication. And we do have, for the above purposes, two languages that are universal: mathematics and binary code. A student learning calculus will learn the same things whether he is learning it in New York or New Delhi, in Tokyo or Topeka! Most scientific and technical information is expressed and communicated, at least in part, in mathematical terms. The same is true of business information. We also have the binary code, the mathematical language that all computers use to store, process, receive and transmit data, regardless of the programming language. This language makes it possible for any computer to "talk" to any other computer. The result of this is the Internet, which links by current estimates something approaching 50 million computers all over the world. This number is growing rapidly. The Internet puts oceans of information at the fingertips (literally!) of anyone who has a computer and a modem. Moreover, hardware and software are being developed (some already exists) that can automatically translate languages. As stated in the last chapter, Gordon Moore is the chairman of Intel Corp. (the leading manufacturer of microprocessors; this booklet was made on a computer with an Intel Pentium processor), and one of the main architects of the computer revolution. He was quoted in a recent issue of Forbes magazine (a leading business periodical) as saying that in 10 years we will have computers that can instantly translate any language into 50 others. If such computers become common, we will have completely overridden the confusion of the languages at Babel.

But that isn't all that computers are doing. In the same interview, Gordon Moore also made the point that computers are doing for our minds what machines did for our muscles. Machines make us effectively far stronger than we are, give us far more speed and stamina, and enable us to be far more precise in our measurements. Computers give us the ability to effectively think much faster and more accurately than we really can, to have far better memories, and to be far more creative. Computers can quickly analyze quantities of data that would overwhelm a human mind. The result is great acceleration in the advancement of science and technology. When the Verazzano Narrows Bridge was built, much was said about how the use of computers had shortened the time taken to design it. And that was thirty years ago when computers were in their infancy. "Computer Aided Design" (CAD, for short) has become a major area of computer application. A state of the art desktop computer of today is far more powerful than the best computers were then. It can be used to do many more things. Computers are even used to design better computers and write better software. And, again, they are greatly enhancing our power of communication.

Not long ago, I had occasion to walk past the print shop - still in business - where, about 25 years ago, I had the first piece of Christian literature I ever wrote for distribution printed on an early Xerox machine. I'd typed it on a beat up mechanical typewriter that could barely produce readable text. And the photocopied literature looked worse. Now, I sit typing on the keyboard of a powerful computer using a state-of-the-art Word Processor program. I will print it out on an inkjet printer that will produce

professional quality results. Then I'll photocopy it on a machine that makes copies that are as good or better than the originals. The technology to build the machines I'm using didn't exist 25 years ago. I will also be transmitting copies of it through the Internet. And a new revolution in computers is in coming in the near future. Soon, perhaps before you read this, a new data storage and retrieval device, called the DVD disk, will be marketed. These disks will make it possible to make computers with fifty times the maximum amount of RAM memory available on most personal computers now, and that at a small fraction of the cost. This will lower the cost of computers, and also make it possible to use much more powerful software than ever before.¹³

Computer speed, as you may know, is measured in 'Megahertz'. When I started planning this ministry, 100 Megahertz was the high end. I bought, and am using a 166 Megahertz, which is now below standard, and 266 Megahertz is available. 300 Megahertz should be available within a year. The new "MMX" technology that Intel has just introduced makes even the 166 Megahertz processors more powerful than they were.

An experimental manufacturing process called "nanotechnology" may make computers available in twenty years that will make the one I'm using look like that old mechanical typewriter.

Two more things that must be said about computers: First, the machines themselves are no more evil than a typewriter. Otherwise I wouldn't be using one. They become part of the "BABEL RISING!" problem when they are used to help violate the other two prohibitions, and you better believe they are being used that way.

On the other hand, contrary to a lot of Christian rumors, there is no reason to believe that computers will have anything to do with the "Antichrist" or the number "666". Such theories are based on the naïve assumption that computers are totally secure and that they are fail-safe. Anyone who knows the least about computers knows that they are neither. In fact, anything but! Large companies and government agencies spend thousands of dollars on "firewall" software to keep hackers and viruses out of their computers, and even then the hackers and viruses sometimes still get in. And the nightmares of the computer operator or programmer are the "crash" and the "lockup". No one in his right mind would accept living in a world that was governed economically by a single computer. And by the way, that "supercomputer" called "the Beast" that supposedly is in the Common Market (now known as the European Economic Community) headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, does not exist and never did. The story was a false rumor that originated in a fictional Christian movie in the late 60's. Due to a misunderstanding, an account of it got published as a news item in the Moody Monthly (a major Christian magazine) and hence the rumor. I repeat: There is no such computer and never was! An illustration of the dangers of fiction.

Relative to the issue of unity, we still hear of "wars and rumors of wars". But the wars that are happening now, like the one in Bosnia, (which may have ended) involve very small percentages of the world's population and equally small percentages of the earth's land area. These wars will have very little impact on the future history of the world. Moreover, such wars are starting to die out. In a recent internal publication of Lehman Bros.¹⁴, a major international investment bank, Dr. Allen Sinai, the bank's top global economist, stated that we are living in a world that is essentially at peace. That observation was the basis for his recommendations for the bank's business strategy, so he wasn't saying it lightly. They don't pay him a huge salary to be wrong. The major nations are so involved with each other for business purposes that there is little chance of there ever being another major war. For example, Lehman Bros., which is based in New York City, has a branch office in Beijing! But according to I Thessalonians 5:3, this state of peace may be the last great sign that the Tribulation is near: "For when they say, 'peace and safety', then sudden destruction comes upon them".

If the Lord had to confuse the languages at Babel, what does He have to do now? There are serious reasons why He can't allow the human race to have significantly extended lifespans, let alone biological eternal life. There are equally serious reasons why He can't allow mankind to spread out his habitation to the other planets, let alone to other stars. In the following chapters, these reasons will be discussed, and we will look at what is happening in medical science and space travel. But all who read this are exhorted to look beyond their quality of life in the here and now. Begin to focus on being ready for the Great Tribulation. We should all concentrate on being **"sons of the light and sons of the day....Let us watch and be sober"** (I Thessalonians 5:4-6).

3. The Second Prohibition: Extended Lifespans and Biological Eternal Life

In the first two chapters of this booklet, it was shown that mankind possesses both the peace and unity, and the unlimited communication necessary to violate the second and third prohibitions identified in the first chapter. We may be able to seriously extend our lifespans right now. We may be able to give ourselves biological eternal life within the next half century. Meanwhile, many nations are involved in the effort to bring about practical travel between the planets. Eventually, we will have travel between the stars. Humans may begin to leave the earth to live permanently on other worlds within the next 30 years, and certainly within the next 50 years. But this situation constitutes a new Tower of Babel that is rising, and God has to step into history in a big way to stop it. The only thing that the Bible prophesies that will do the job is the Second Coming of Christ, and the events associated with it. So you better be ready. It's going to happen soon.

The second inviolable prohibition began in the Garden of Eden. There were two special trees in the Garden; the Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:9). As a person who believes in God and the Bible, I believe that they were real trees. I have no problem believing that God could create trees with such fruit. It is well known that God told Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. It is not so well known that He did not forbid them to eat the fruit of the Tree of Life until after they sinned! If they had left the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge alone, and eaten the fruit of the Tree of Life, they could have lived forever. Such was the life-giving power of the fruit of the Tree of Life, that they would still have lived forever if they had eaten it even after they fell (see Genesis 3:22-24).

God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden to keep them from getting at the Tree of Life after they fell. The extreme measures He took to see that they stayed out make it clear that He considered the possibility of them eating the Fruit of the Tree of

Life a very serious danger. Why? The probable answer is found in I Corinthians 15:50; "flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God". If Adam and Eve had acquired eternal life after they fell, they'd have been lost beyond salvation. If they could have passed that eternal life on to their children, as they did their sin, the whole human race would have been damned. The only way God could save mankind was to let death reign (Romans 5:14). Like it or not, we, in our fallen state, do have to die to go to Heaven (Hebrews 9:27).

Yet there is something going on in the field of medical science that could at least open the way for us to eventually give ourselves biological eternal life. It's called the Human Genome Project. It's an international genetic research project that is being coordinated via the Internet.^[5] The goal is to locate and identify every gene in every chromosome in the human cell. (The arrangement of the genes in a cell is called the "genome"; hence the name of the project.) The next step will be to learn exactly what each gene does. The present phase of the project may be completed as early as 2001. One of the main centers for the project is the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Scientists there are using a robot called the "Genomatron" to do over 300,000 DNA tests a day. The results each laboratory produces are being shared with all the others via the Internet. In 1995, in the United States alone, the project was funded to the tune of \$225,000,000.00. And every country that has a genetic research establishment is involved in the project.

Scientific predictions of the benefits of this are typically conservative (real scientists are almost always conservative with their predictions). But they are promising things that will at least extend the average human lifespan. These benefits are expected to include genetic treatments for cancer, heart disease, diabetes and mental illness. But the overall goal is to learn at the most fundamental level how a human develops from an embryo, and how genes influence health, disease and personality. This knowledge will make genetically engineered humans a real possibility. It is therefore at least possible that the Human Genome Project will enable us to learn how to give our bodies the ability to perpetually renew themselves. If our bodies could do that, we could stay young and live forever. As has been said by others, the only causes of death will be accidents and war. But there is no way the God will allow us to do that. At least not for long.

Meanwhile, there is another movement going on in medicine, howbeit less formally, called Longevity Research, also known as the Longevity Movement or the "life extension movement". This movement seeks to increase the human lifespan by enabling people to stay young longer. It is not as well organized and coordinated as the Human Genome Project, and unfortunately it includes some obvious quackery and dishonest marketing claims. For all that, some real progress has been made. It is quite likely that if a person started applying what is known right now about life extension when about 2 years of age, he could add thirty years to his lifespan. And most of those extra years would be youthful and productive. That is to say he'd live to be at least 100, and wouldn't start getting really "old" until he was at least in his 80's. Dr. Karlis Ullis of the UCLA School of Medicine specializes in helping his patients to extend their lifespans. His methods include diet and exercise, vitamins and hormones. He is also treating himself, and has gone on record saying that he plans to live to be 150!

Relevant to this is the fact that we have already significantly increased the average human lifespan in this century. In the year 1900, the average lifespan of an American was 47 years. By 1993, it was 75. That is an increase of 28 years, about 60%. Most of the increase in the human lifespan that has taken place in recorded history has taken place in this century. This increase in longevity has already begun to cause social and economic problems. It is beginning to produce political problems as well, with a new block of voters with special interests emerging: the aged. It was once assumed that a person over 65 years old was too old to work for a living and needed to retire. This is no longer true. This writer's mother was still working for a living in her early 70's. A person 60 years old can now look forward to as much as three more decades of active life. This situation will soon force major changes in how society deals with aging. Longevity Research will make the problem worse.

Social and economic problems, however, are insignificant compared to the spiritual problems associated with increased lifespans. It was the Lord, in Genesis 3:22-24, who drove the fallen Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden. So it follows logically that He won't let fallen man give himself biological eternal life. It was also the Lord, in Genesis 6:3 and Psalm 90:10, who decreed the shortenings of the human lifespan, first to 120 years and then to 70 years. With the present average of 75 years, we are still within the limits of Psalm 90:10: "The days of our lives are seventy years, and if by reason of strength they are eighty years....". God must have had reasons for limiting our lifespans so it also follows logically that He won't let us extend our average lifespans much beyond what they are now. At least not for long. But as stated, we probably could increase our lifespans by another thirty years right now by applying everything that's known about life extension as an integrated program. Thus far, relatively few people are doing so. But as Longevity Research and the life extension movement grow, more and more people will.

In short, we can expect the Second Prohibition to be violated soon. But God did have reasons for it including that stated above and more. It is possible to discern at least two of them. One has to do with the possibility of people getting saved. It has been known for some time that most people who get Born Again do so before they are 30 years old. Although there are exceptions, the older a person gets, the less likely he is to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. For people who aren't believers at age 70, the probability of their ever becoming believers is virtually zero. People get set in their ways as they get older. That can mean that they get hardened in sin and unbelief. Some Christian leaders, notably Billy Graham, have suggested that a person can go so far into sin that He can't be saved. God was very likely referring to this problem when He said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever...." (Genesis 6:3). He set limits on our lifespans to limit how far people can go beyond the spiritual point of no return. There is reason to believe that the effect of sin on the human race has been cumulative throughout history. Humans reach the point of no return earlier in life than they once did. That's why God let the human lifespan drop to where it was in 1900. But we have already reversed the trend, and we will soon take our lifespans beyond God's limits.

The second reason for the shortening of our lifespans is a link that can be discerned between longevity and human creativity. It is well known that before the Flood people lived to an average age of 900+ years. What isn't so well known, but can be clearly seen in the Bible, is that they developed the beginnings of technical civilization very quickly. Noah knew enough about shipbuilding to make an Ark 550 feet long. Ships that big weren't built on a regular basis until the late 1800's. The people of Babel knew how to make kiln-dried bricks and build with them. This is skilled labor, knowledge that must have originated before the Flood. Genesis 4:19-22 says that two men, Jubal and Tubal-Cain were the inventors of two whole fields of human creativity; music and metalworking respectively. They wouldn't have had a scientific foundation to build on. Therefore they would have needed a long process of trial and error to develop their knowledge and skills. Thomas Edison had to do a lot of trial and error experimenting while inventing the light bulb. But he had a team of highly skilled technicians to do most of the hands-on work for him. That saved him an enormous amount of time. Jubal and Tubal-Cain couldn't have had such teams; the skills didn't exist. They were able to achieve what they did because they lived so long. Both God's driving Adam and Eve out of the Garden and His shortenings of the human lifespan were intended to limit both man's sinfulness and man's creativity. It is known that in our time potential scientific breakthroughs have been lost, or at least delayed, because scientists' careers were cut short by death. Besides unity and unlimited communication, increased longevity is a third factor that can enable human creativity to threaten God's plan of salvation for the human race.

If nothing significant happens to stop or delay us, within the next half century or so we will almost certainly learn how to give the average person a lifespan of at least 120+ years, thus violating the limitations of Psalm 90:10 and Genesis 6:3. The Human Genome Project may even open the door to biological eternal life. If this happens, there will be practically nothing of a technological nature that we can't do. Many of our dreams for the future involve very long-term projects; projects that will take so long to complete that, with current lifespans, the people who start them will have no hope of living to see them completed. This human factor might prevent such projects from being started. The Longevity Movement will change that. Yet some of these projects involve violation of the Third Prohibition: humans leaving earth to live permanently on other worlds.

As stated in the Introduction, "Where Is The Promise?", there are multiple reasons from Second Coming Prophecy to believe that Jesus will come soon. Now we begin to see from the "Babel Rising" situation that the soon returning our Lord isn't just likely. It has to happen. There is more reason to believe this that will be discussed in the following chapters. But for now, remember what happened to the unfaithful servant in Matthew 24:48-51. Be a faithful and wise servant! **"Your redemption draweth nigh!"**

4. The Third Prohibition: Space Travel and Humans Living on Other Worlds

In the last chapter of this booklet, we discussed the spiritual and scientific consequences of increased longevity, the second of the Three Prohibitions that God has placed on the human race. The third, as has been stated, is that mankind cannot leave the earth to take up permanent residence on other worlds. Violation of the first two Prohibitions will enable man to violate the third, and it won't be long before it happens. As this booklet was being prepared, the writer learned of several new developments in the area of space travel that will hasten the day that it happens.

For years following the Challenger disaster, space travel wasn't "politically correct" in the United States. Therefore, there hasn't been much about it in the mass media for the past ten years. The average American is oblivious to what is going on in the field of space exploration. Because Christians tend to be especially ignorant of scientific matters anyway, they are even more so. All that most U.S. citizens have heard about has been minimal reporting of space shuttle flights, and there has been some attention given to the Hubble Space Telescope. Actually, in view of a feature article in Life magazine commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Challenger disaster, the success of the "Apollo 13" movie, and the more recent announcement about the discovery of possible evidence for life on Mars, that seems to have changed. Space travel is alive and well and moving steadily forward. In fact, it may be about to take another great leap forward. A new beginning is in progress.

We occasionally hear about the Russian "Mir" space station, but little detail has been published. Yet this space station, which has been in orbit for ten years, is as big as five Greyhound buses arranged in a "⚡" shape. It is manned continuously. Russian cosmonauts, and even a few American astronauts, have been staying in it for months at a time. What they are learning in the process about how human bodies adapt to long periods in zero gravity will pave the way for people to stay in space for far longer periods. Even for life. It is worth noting, once again, that this station, which was built by the Soviet Union, is now being supplied by the United States. This is an example of the rising international unity that is going into space travel. Furthermore, it is a little-publicized fact that about 2/3 of the research done on space shuttle missions is for the purpose of acquiring knowledge needed to advance the cause of space travel.

Meanwhile, an international program is going on for the construction of the "Freedom" Space Station. The launching of this station will begin late in 1997. It will consist of a framework the size of two football fields, to which modules for different purposes will be attached. They will be used for living, various kinds of research, and the beginning of commercial Zero-G, total vacuum manufacturing. There are a variety of high-tech products that can be made better, or only made, in zero gravity, which can't be produced on earth, and/or total vacuum, which is expensive to produce on earth, but both exist naturally in space. Later, the station will be used as a staging area for permanent return to the Moon. It might even be used for tourism. The design of the "Freedom" Station will allow it to be enlarged indefinitely.

To facilitate the construction and operation of the "Freedom" Station, new types of spacecraft are being developed. Russia is working on heavy-lift launch vehicles capable of putting payloads of 100 tons into orbit. (Note: the first Sputnik, launched on October 4, 1957, weighed only 184 pounds.) Great Britain is working on a vehicle called the HOTOL (an acronym for "Horizontal Take-Off and Landing). It's a space shuttle the size of a Boeing 747 that will both land and take off like an airplane. It's primarily for carrying passengers. The United States is working on a new space shuttle design called the Venture Star. It will take off and

land vertically, carrying 40 ton payloads. The first prototype, an experimental vehicle called the X-33, should fly before the end of 1999. All these things will expand space flight to the point that there will be several dozen people in space at any given time.

In the original tape recorded lecture with which the "Babel Rising!" concept was first introduced to the world, it was said that the high cost of space travel was one of the main things that was holding back progress. It was also said that in time, as machinery and techniques are perfected, the price of space travel would come down. This prediction may be about to be fulfilled. Right now, it takes an unbelievable \$10,000 to put a pound of payload in orbit. NASA officials believe that the Venture Star will reduce the price tag to only \$1000. That in itself will be a massive drop in price. Ten times as much space flight for the dollar! But that may only be the beginning. There are two private companies that are developing their own launch vehicle designs. They are anticipating being able to launch payloads into space for less than \$10 a pound. 1000 times as much space flight for the dollar! That will open the door to an explosion of progress in space travel. Their rockets should be flying within ten years.

All this is what's happening now. But there are ambitious plans for the future. As stated, once the "Freedom" Station is up and operational, work will begin on a permanent return to the moon. This will not be accomplished with little one-shot capsules as in the Apollo program. Rather, there will be a fleet of completely reusable trans-lunar passenger shuttles. They will make regularly scheduled trips between the earth and the moon. There will also be large unmanned vehicles that will drop huge payloads of materials and equipment on the lunar surface. A permanent colony will be set up. It's first purpose will be for research and exploration. Later it will be used for mining and manufacturing, and eventually even for tourism. The Moon Colony should be operational in 30 years if not sooner. If the recent apparent discovery of water on the Moon proves true, it will further reduce the cost. There is concrete reason why people who go there to live and work will never come back. It would be prohibitively expensive, even with the reduction in costs mentioned above, to regularly shuttle workers back and forth from the moon. But the Moon's gravity is only 1/6 of the earth's. Workers who spend more than a year there might be unable to physically re-adapt to living on earth, so they'd have to spend the rest of their lives on the moon. The Third Prohibition will have been violated.

But this is still how manned spaceflight begins. After the Moon Colony has reached the level of mining and manufacturing, work will begin on a "space city". There are plans for the construction of huge space stations capable of holding small, self contained civilizations of 10,000 people or more. They will be built at the "La Grange Points" (named for the scientist who discovered them), places in space relative to the earth and the moon where gravity is neutral. Anything placed in orbit at a "La Grange Point" could be expected to stay there forever. The "space cities" will be built with materials mined and manufactured on the moon and shot into space with huge electric launchers called "mass drivers" or "rail guns". This will be much cheaper and faster than launching things from earth.

These "space cities" will serve a practical purpose for the further advancement of space travel. They will function as orbiting shipyards for the construction and maintenance of a fleet of completely reusable, fusion powered interplanetary spaceships. The "cities" will also become transit points for people outward bound for planets, and eventually, the stars. The ships will begin the exploration and colonization of other planets and moons in the solar system, and beyond. (The fuel for these ships, Helium 3, will be mined on the moon.). It has long since been decided that the first destination will be Mars. Plans are already on the books to "terraform" Mars; that is, to change the environment of the Martian surface to make it like the earth. There are plans to capture and mine asteroids and comets to obtain raw materials for this project. It will take about 200 years, which is the first major place where extended lifespans will come in handy for space travel. And here's a scary thought: scientists are seriously considering the idea of genetically engineering humans to adapt them for living in space, on Mars and on other worlds. The Human Genome Project will help with that. Again, people who go to live and work for long periods in "space cities" or on other worlds will probably never come back. Administrators will want people with extended lifespans for this purpose. There will be fewer retirements and deaths to deal with that way.

This is how space travel begins. But as any science fiction fan knows, that's not how it ends. The ultimate goal of space travel is not colonies on the Moon and Mars, and a few "space cities". It's interstellar, and eventually, intergalactic travel; the dream of humans traveling to other star systems and setting up new civilizations, even empires, on worlds as yet unknown. In view of Genesis 11:6, we will eventually do this if God gives us the time, but the question is, when? It isn't likely to begin in the next few decades, but it could easily happen within the next 100 years. And that's thinking on the basis of technology we expect to have. If an unexpected breakthrough gives us better technology (especially for propulsion) it could be much sooner. The first manned interstellar probes may be launched before the Solar System is fully explored.

The human drive toward interstellar travel is stronger than the average Christian may think. The UFO phenomenon, TV programs like "STAR TREK", and movies like "STAR WARS" and "ET" have been fueling a subtle but real public demand for interstellar exploration. The biggest success in space exploration in recent years is the Hubble Space Telescope. It is being used almost exclusively for interstellar research. Hardly a week passes by that some new discovery it has made isn't announced in the scientific media. Recently, the discovery of planets orbiting other stars has made headlines in the mass media. Once we know that there are other planets like ours, and know where they are, the demand will increase for starships to go and check them out. If the starships come back and report that there's potentially valuable real estate out there, it won't be long before the fleets of colonizer ships are on their way.

Extended lifespans will also play a big role in interstellar travel. Forget zipping around between the stars "STAR TREK" style, and don't expect us to be able to just jump from planet to planet like "Dr. Who". With the best technology we really expect to have in the foreseeable future, even the shortest interstellar voyages will take tens of years. For a person with a normal lifespan, going on an interstellar flight would be like going to prison for life with no possibility of parole. There is a parallel to this in America's guided missile submarine program. When one of those nuclear subs goes to sea, it usually stays submerged for three months. The

crews have to be specially screened to be sure they can take the psychological stress of being restricted like that. Being in a starship would be worse than being in a nuclear submarine. But for a person with an extended lifespan, it could also mean coming home to 50 years of back pay with compounded interest and still being young enough to enjoy it. For colonizers, extended lifespans would mean being able to travel to other worlds, establish homesteads, start families, and become the patriarchs of new civilizations. People would go for it.

Some scientists have said that we'll have to get this world straightened out before we can travel to other worlds. They may know science, but they should study history. Back in the 19th Century, people were leaving Europe for the United States by the millions because Europe was so messed up. The same thing is happening in Latin America and Southeast Asia now. A century from now (if the Lord tarries), people may be willing to give up everything they have to travel to other worlds. They'll be emigrating from an increasingly overpopulated, impoverished, polluted, and politically oppressed earth to begin new lives on new worlds. Even with the best technology we can expect, we won't have interstellar travel like our current intercontinental travel. But we can seed the whole universe with human civilizations given enough time. God, however, isn't going to give us enough time. If He does, our expectations concerning the Second Coming are very, very wrong. But if they are, then God's promises aren't true either. Do you believe that?

This is where the "BABEL RISING!" situation comes to a climax. The Biblical prophecies about the Second Coming of Christ, and the outpourings of God's wrath associated with it, are all about things that happen specifically on earth. See, for example, Revelation 8:5. There is just no place in the prophecies for people living on the Moon or Mars, let alone on planets orbiting other stars. For the prophecies to be fulfilled in any way that resembles our expectations, the whole human race must stay on earth until the Second Coming. And this is true no matter what doctrinal view you have about the Second Coming. In Acts 17:26, Paul says, "And He (God) has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings". Thus far, God has allowed us to inhabit most of the land on earth, even Antarctica. But there isn't even a hint in the Bible about God allowing humans to live anywhere else. One possible objection to this could be based on Matthew 24:31, which speaks of the saints being gathered "from one end of heaven to the other", and several similar verses. But these verses, properly interpreted, refer only to the saints being gathered from the most distant places on earth. The "Good News Bible" renders it "from one end of the world to the other". That is the correct interpretation. Acts 17:26 suggests that God has plans for the human race that involve parameters of both time and space. History has shown that He will intervene in human affairs any time that our corrupt creativity threatens to interfere with His plan. He has done it more than once!

Our corrupt creativity is now threatening God's plan to a degree that makes the threat posed at Babel seem trivial by comparison. The threat grows greater with each new breakthrough in science and medicine. There are also "wild cards" in this situation; the possibility that unforeseen breakthroughs could result in some of this progress happening a lot faster than now expected. Here is an example of what I mean: when I was about 10 years old (early 1950's), I had a precocious interest in space travel. So my parents gave me a book entitled "The Real Book About Rockets And Space Travel". It dealt with the subject in a broad and factual but elementary way. It had one chapter that was devoted to "ray guns", the standard weapons of science fiction. The writers said that though they couldn't say that ray guns were impossible, they had no idea how a ray gun would work. That was the early 50's, and it was less than 10 years after the book was published that the first laser beam blazed out of a synthetic ruby crystal. Right now, Boeing is building a fleet of special 747's that will be armed with laser cannon for the U.S. Air Force!

I might add that when I was a boy, my father, an educated man, told me that it was impossible to build a rocket ship and go to the moon. He lived to see himself proved wrong.

There are a number of wild card possibilities that are actually in the early research stage: New sources of unlimited power that consume no fuel and produce no pollution or radiation; structural materials over 100 times stronger than anything we have now; faster-than-light communication, and, yes, believe it or not, maybe antigravity and space warp travel. If these things become reality, we are going out into space the way Europeans came to America. And computers much smaller yet much more powerful than what we have now are almost certain.

In Revelation 1:7, John says, "Behold, He (Jesus) is coming with the clouds, and every eyes will see Him". Even now, it's hard to understand how this prophecy can be literally fulfilled. How much more so if mankind is spread all over the Solar System, let alone the whole universe? It took only a handful of men working in unity to give us aviation. Another handful gave us electronics. Right now, thousands are working together to give us space travel. Some of them are trying to give us interstellar travel. Give them enough time, and they'll succeed. However, people living in self-sufficient colonies on other worlds (and except for those near the earth they'd have to be) would be able to escape the Tribulation (or, if they were Christians, they'd miss the Second Coming and the Resurrection). No matter how you look at it, He's coming very soon! **"Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"**

5. Man Most High?

In the previous chapters of this book, we've discussed the ways in which human creativity presently threatens God's plan of salvation for the human race. We've shown that God has to intervene in human affairs soon in a big way or history will go beyond the point where the prophecies of the Second Coming can be fulfilled in any way that resembles our expectations. In this chapter, we will look at a deeper problem that underlies both the original Tower of Babel story and the present "Babel Rising!" situation. We begin by remembering what the people of Babel said before they started building: "let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad" (Genesis 11:4). What was going on there? Was it not the human race trying to assert control over its destiny? They were not, as some have ignorantly said, trying to reach Heaven and take over from God (He would have laughed at that; see Psalm 2:1-4.), but they were trying to take charge of their future on earth. Which is to say, they were trying to collectively be their own god.

The First Commandment given by God in Exodus 20:3 is **"You shall have no other gods before Me!"** But we know that this commandment has been violated again and again. Yet in our time, the worship of idols has been on the decline. Even in India, which has the most wide-open idol worship of any nation on earth, the number of "true believers" in Hinduism is on the decline. For the wealthy and educated, their adherence to Hinduism is often more culture than faith. But while the human race is gradually abandoning the worship of "graven images", we've found a new god to worship: ourselves! We worship human achievement, achievement in science and business, achievement in sports, and achievement in entertainment. In fact, it's in entertainment that it's the most obvious. When someone is called a "movie idol" or a "Rock'N'Roll idol, there's more truth to the term than the person who uses it realizes. Consider the candlelight vigils that are annually held outside the Graceland mansion in Memphis, Tennessee on the anniversary of Elvis Presley's death. That's out-and-out worship! But though idolatry in our society is most blatant in entertainment, it is by no means limited to it. In sports, the biggest events are the Olympic Games. These games began as an outgrowth of ancient Greek idolatry. As this is written, people are standing in line all night to get tickets to New York Yankee playoff games. Did you ever see people stand in line like that to get into a church service? The worship of man by man is everywhere in our society, worldwide.

In the realm of science and medicine the idolatry isn't so obvious, but in its long term goals, at least, it's definitely there. In the Introduction, the modern proverb "What mind can conceive, man can achieve" was quoted, which is supported by Genesis 11:6. There is another proverb that is a corollary to this, that comes from the world of science and technology: "The impossible takes a little longer". Again, this is mankind saying that there is nothing we cannot do, given enough time. If, that is, we act in unity with unlimited communication. We are created in God's image. Therefore we are creative. And we are created collectively in God's image, if anything, more than individually. This becomes obvious when you compare what we can do as a team to what we can do individually. Mankind, acting in unity with unlimited communication, becomes to all practical purposes a second God. (I do mean a "God" with a big "G".) Mankind, collectively, can say, "Is anything too hard for me?"

The root of the problem goes right back to the lie of Satan in the Garden of Eden: "You shall not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God", (Genesis 3:4 & 5). When Adam and Eve, ate the forbidden fruit, they were trying to become gods apart from God. They did acquire a moral consciousness, however limited. They also acquired death. Ever since then, the human race has been on an endless quest, consciously or unconsciously, to acquire the God-like knowledge that the forbidden fruit failed to deliver, and the eternal life we lost. The priests of ancient Egypt sought it. The astrologers of ancient Babylon sought it. So did the ancient Greek philosophers. Confucius and his colleagues in China sought it. The Alchemists of the Middle Ages sought it. True, many cultures despaired of it and gave themselves up to low-brow idolatry and debauchery (the Canaanites of Joshua's time were an example). But in all the major civilizations, there were those who sought it. In the long run of history the quest for God-like knowledge and eternal life has survived, and in the past few centuries it has grown tremendously.

The statement by the Angel Gabriel in Daniel 12:4 is a prophecy of the near-fulfillment of this quest that we are seeing in our time: "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase". We are closer to achieving this goal than any of our ancestors ever dreamed of being. Computers and the Internet are part of the fruit of this quest, and they're helping us on our way. {I'm creating this booklet with a machine that wasn't even dreamed of when I was born.} The nearer we get to achieving the goal, the greater our inclination to worship ourselves as gods becomes. But the goal will not be achieved until we give ourselves biological eternal life, and also consummate another goal; reacquiring the dominion we lost.

In Genesis 1:28, God gave mankind dominion, that is, power and authority to rule, over the earth and everything in it. But when man fell, the dominion was lost and passed to Satan (see John 12:31 & 14:30). Now the earth is cursed against us. Mankind wants the dominion back. And to fully assert that dominion, we want it not only over the earth, but over the entire universe! This idea didn't originate with this writer, it's been around for a while. It was vividly expressed in the title of a science fiction novel that was published some years ago: **"STARS IN MY POCKET LIKE GRAINS OF SAND"**^[6] by Samuel R. Delaney. This needs some interpretation: "STARS", in the science fiction/space travel sense, means not just the stars, but the planets that orbit them; in other words, entire solar systems. "IN MY POCKET" means "in my possession" and/or "under my control". "LIKE GRAINS OF SAND" means "in uncountable numbers". In other words, at least entire galaxies. The human race wants to collectively stretch out its hand, seize control of the whole universe, and say to itself, "This is mine! I am God!" That's why the goal of Star Trek is "to go boldly where no one has gone before". This idea now finds its clearest expression in science fiction, but given time, like Jules Verne's fictional submarine "Nautilus", it will find expression in fact.^[7] Remember what God said in Genesis 11:6: "nothing they imagine to do will be withheld from them". But no way will God give us enough time.

There is a further purpose to space travel that is also related to our desire to be our own gods. This purpose was, I believe, first noted in Christian circles by C. S. Lewis, in his science fiction novel **"OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET"**^[8]. The purpose is to achieve eternal life for the human race as a whole. Mankind fears death, not just as individuals, but for the whole race. We know how many species have already become extinct on earth.^[9] Since the advent of nuclear weapons and biological warfare, we have begun to fear our own extinction. Recently, we have learned that the collision of a comet or asteroid with the earth could wipe us out. We also know that the sun could someday "go nova" and incinerate the earth. But we have the idea that if we can establish enough self-sufficient colonies on enough planets around enough stars in enough galaxies, no one war or natural catastrophe could ever wipe us out, and the human race will survive forever.

C. S. Lewis expressed this idea in fictional form as the reason why his villain "Weston" built a spaceship and went to Mars. Toward the end of the book, though, Lewis gave a broad hint that he wrote the book to express theological ideas that he didn't think would be well received as non-fiction. So he took the idea seriously. And it isn't unique to him. The late science fiction

writer Robert H. Heinlein (one of the most famous of this century) was well known for saying that "the earth is too small a basket for the human race to keep all its eggs in". Which is to say that he believed in the idea. This idea has also been expressed by others in the fields of science and science fiction. It is a real driving force behind space travel.

In short, the most fundamental reason; the true spiritual reason, for all the effort that's being poured into scientific and medical research is man's desire to manifest his own imagined divinity. This is true regardless of whether or not any particular researcher has that idea consciously in mind. Most, by far, certainly don't. We are talking here about what mankind wants collectively, not necessarily about what individuals consciously want, though some definitely do. As shown in chapter 2, unity doesn't have to be conscious unity to be effective. As anyone who has been a Christian for long knows, the Church as a whole is the Body of Christ, Jesus is the head and every Christian is a part (I Corinthians 12). Well, the unsaved world to some extent functions as a body too, but the head is Satan. Satan hasn't done too well at getting people to worship him directly (though some people do). So he's settling for getting man to worship himself. If the "body" of mankind worships itself, and Satan is the "head", then guess who is really being worshipped? When "the man of sin...sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God..." (II Thessalonians 5:3 & 4), it won't be some mythical offspring of Satan. It will be man worshipping man (or we might say, it already is!) The true Temple of God is not some glorified rockpile in Jerusalem (see Acts 7:49-50). It's the human race! At least that's what we were created to be. See I Corinthians 6:19. But we think we're gods, and we're trying to prove it to ourselves.

From what the Bible says about him, Satan at the present time is confined to this earth (Revelation 12:9). That's another reason why man is also so confined. C. S. Lewis also expressed this idea in "**OUT OF THE SILENT PLANET**" and the other two books, "**PERELANDRA**" and "**THAT HIDEOUS STRENGTH**"¹⁰ of his famous space trilogy. (His "Bent Eldil" is obviously Satan.) But if unredeemed humanity is allowed to spread its rule throughout the universe, Satan's rule spreads with us. If unredeemed humanity acquires biological eternal life, Satan's kingdom will last forever. He'll be able to turn the entire universe into a living hell, literally. No way will God allow these things to happen. But, as has been shown, they will happen if God doesn't intervene to stop it. He must intervene in a big way, soon! In the Garden of Eden, Satan told Adam and Eve that if they did what he said, they'd be like God. Ever since, he's been lying to us, telling us that we really are. Fallen man, with his foolish pride, wants to believe it. Unfortunately, there is some truth to it, but only in a limited sense. Christians are "sons of God", but in an incomplete way. We won't be complete as such until the resurrection. Unsaved people are "sons", if anything spiritually, of the devil. Satan is encouraging us to prove that we are gods by violating the Three Prohibitions. The terrible truth is that if God lets us have enough time, we can. What Satan said wasn't totally false. It was rather the form of lie that we call a half-truth. As has been said, the First Prohibition is being increasingly violated now. At least part of the Second soon will be, and the same is true of the Third. Unless Jesus comes first.

This is what Christians must expect. If you understand what has been said in this booklet, you can see that the Soon Coming of Our Lord isn't just a possibility. It's mandated by circumstances. As Paul said in Romans 12:1 & 2, the rational thing for all Christians to do is be living sacrifices.¹¹ As Peter and the writer of Hebrews put it, live like "strangers and pilgrims on the earth". The Soon Coming of our Saviour is a certainty. So be ready! Be aware, that, contrary to popular belief, "the Day of the Lord is darkness and not light" (Amos 5:18)¹² **"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man"** (Luke 21:36).

APPENDIX: How God Works In History

In the main text of this booklet, which expounds the "BABEL RISING!" concept, something was said that may bother some Christians: The Soon Second Coming of Christ is mandated by circumstances. God must intervene in history in a big way soon if the prophecies of the Second Coming are ever going to be fulfilled in any way that resembles our expectations. This appendix is provided to hopefully reply to any questions arising from these statements.

I believe that some Christians will be disturbed by my use of the phrase "God must...". To resolve the problem, we will look at what the Bible, and Christian belief about the Bible, say about how God works in history. Our understanding of this issue much begin with a concept that is at the very core of Christian theology; the belief that humans have a free will. It has been well argued that if humans do not have a free will, God could not in justice punish anyone for his sins. This idea has its beginning in Genesis 2:15 & 17, when God forbade Adam to eat the Fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. The prohibition, with the warning of consequences, would have been meaningless if Adam hadn't been free to disobey. The idea is reinforced by such passages as Deuteronomy 30:19 and Joshua 24:15. We are free to make moral and spiritual choices, and to act on them.

If God hadn't given man a free will, there would be no sin and no necessity of salvation. In order to allow men to effectively have a free will, God for the most part must allow men to do as they please. So He allowed man to sin, and then began to work on a plan of salvation. To fulfill His plan and still give man a free will, God uses the device of from time to time intervening in history in an overt way, instead of exercising constant control. If God was exercising constant control, as some Christians erroneously believe, there would be no need for overt intervention. He could do it all "from behind the scenes". However, A pattern of overt divine intervention is so obvious in the Bible that this writer once heard an atheist admitting that the Bible is the only religious scripture that shows a real God stepping into real history. This is no small thing. By contrast, it means that all the stories of gods and their interactions with men in the mythologies and scriptures of other religions are nothing but fantasies. This alone sets the Bible, and by extension, the Christian Faith, far apart from all religions in credibility.

The scale of God's interventions varies enormously. In the Bible, they can be as small as giving thirsty Samson a drink (Judges 15:18 & 19) or as great - and terrible - as the Flood. In our lives, God intervenes frequently in ways both small and great (to us) in answer to our prayers. Again, He for the most part allows men to do as they please. If He didn't, there wouldn't be so much sin and suffering in the world. But He intervenes in a big way whenever man's sin threatens His plan of salvation. Sometimes, as at Babel,

He intervenes long before the problem comes to the point of crisis. At other times, such as the destruction of Sennacherib's army (II Kings 19), He waits until the last minute. Either way, the whole historical aspect of the Bible is a record of God's interventions. He may intervene to stop things from happening that He doesn't want, as shown, or He may intervene to make things happen that He does want, like the Exodus and the First Coming of Christ. Even so, He only overrides a person's free will when His purpose can't be achieved any other way. Pharaoh was a case in point; see Exodus 4: 21 & 9:12.

We aren't robots. Even the best of Christians can suddenly fall away and rebel against God. And sometimes the foulest sinner repents and becomes a heroic saint. There is no guarantee that any person will or will not do God's will at any specific moment. Only the Lord Jesus always obeyed. So to get things done, and keep His plan on track, God often has to intervene and make things happen. This is also why it's possible for us to get our prayers answered. He only guarantees to answer prayers that are in accordance with His Will, which is to say, in harmony with His plan of redemption.

When He does override a person's free will, God is capable of taking control of a person so gently and subtly that the person doesn't realize it's happened. Thus a person may look back later and be amazed by what he or she did at a particular time and place. But what the person did may have changed the course of history. It's a little known fact that Saul's persecution of the Church in Jerusalem did as much to spread the Gospel as did his later ministry as Paul. See Acts 8:1 & 4. (We're thinking in terms of people who don't know the Lord.) When Saul started his persecution, there were over 5000 Christians in Jerusalem, but virtually none anywhere else. God used him to start the spread of the Gospel "to the end of the earth" before he was saved! The persecution by Saul was part of God's plan, and it is also an excellent example of how rough God will get with His own people when they don't do what He told them to do. (Special note: The 'God' who 'wouldn't allow His people to suffer' isn't in the Bible.) Up until the martyrdom of Stephen, things had generally been going very well for the Christians in Jerusalem. So well that they probably expected to see the entire city converted (Acts 5:14-16). So well that they all stayed in Jerusalem even after the Apostles got whipped (Acts 5:40-42). It took Saul's persecution to get the Apostles moving out to the rest of the world. When Saul launched his full-scale persecution, most of the Christians scattered to the four winds. And everywhere they went, they preached the Gospel and started Churches. The Church in Antioch where Paul had his first ministry experience was started by Christians who had fled from his persecution! If God gets that rough with His own people, how will He deal with the unsaved when they threaten His plan with their corrupt creativity? "If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner?" Proverbs 11:31; "For the time is come for judgment to begin at the House of God, and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God?" I Peter 4:17.

God has intervened in history many times by overriding a person's free will. In the process, He will sometimes even exploit man's sinful nature to achieve His purposes. This was the case with Pharaoh and Saul, and it was especially so in the case of the Crucifixion. (Note: the sins are still the sinner's own decision and God will hold him [or them] accountable for them.) But His most fearful interventions are when He uses the forces of nature (by the way, "nature" was originally "God's nature"), as He did in the Flood. You might be interested to know that God's intervention with the forces of nature didn't end with the Old Testament period. Have you ever noticed that almost all the ancient pagan temples of Greece and Rome are in ruins? (Except the Roman Pantheon, which was turned into a church). They were some of the most massive and splendid structures ever built, and they didn't fall into ruin by neglect. It just so happened that on July 21, 376 AD, just about the time that the Christian Faith was getting the upper hand over idolatry throughout the Roman Empire, one of the biggest earthquakes in known history shook the entire eastern Mediterranean region. It leveled most of the pagan temples. This left a lot of usable cut stones available for rebuilding. The Christians happily confiscated the stones and used them to build churches. It was divine intervention through the forces of nature that terminated Greco-Roman idolatry.

If this writer is correct in what he understands certain passages of Scripture to mean, then during the Great Tribulation God will intervene with the forces of nature in ways that will make the Flood look like mercy killing. (It was!) Which brings us to another major aspect of God's interventions in history: He usually lets His people know what is going to happen. These warnings are a major part of prophecy. In Amos 3:7 we read, "Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets". This is a direct allusion to God's pattern of intervention. Before He intervenes in any significant way, whether through dreams, or visions, or "a still, small voice", God lets one or more of His prophets know, and they in turn warn the others, whether the others are obedient or not. It is a regrettable fact that those who are not obedient, yet are deceived into believing that they are obedient (a common condition in Bible times, and in our day as well), will not receive the warnings and will often persecute the prophets, even unto death. But God warns them just the same.

The reason He does this is that He wants people to know that whatever happens is His doing. It is all too easy for godless people and even disobedient Christians to dismiss acts of divine intervention as coincidence and happenstance. It has been done even with things as bad as the great earthquake of 376 AD. (That's why so few people today know about it.) God is concerned not only that people know that it is His doing when He acts, He is concerned that people simply know that He exists. Perhaps the most basic of all spiritual problems is unbelief. In the Book of Isaiah, chapter 44:6-8, God claims proof of His existence by His being able, through His prophets, to accurately predict the future. In the Book of Ezekiel, we find God saying again and again that some specific thing was going to happen "and they will know that I am the Lord". Elijah's fire on the altar was proof of God's existence and sovereignty. It took a lot of convincing for the Israelites of the Old Testament to fully and absolutely accept that the God of Israel was the one true God. In fact, it took the destruction of Jerusalem and the exile in Babylon to finally do it. But after that, the Israelites never engaged in large-scale, wide-open idolatry again. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc., plus the terrible events that fulfilled their prophecies, finally got the message across. What will it take to get the message across to the Christians of today? Let alone the unsaved.

When God tells His prophets that something is going to happen, He also puts Himself in the position of being required by His own divine nature to bring to pass the thing He has said that He would do (Isaiah 48:11). If this were not so, He would be a liar, and no better than a man. It is true that once in a while, as in the case of Nineveh following the ministry of Jonah, God in His mercy relents. But if He does, then there is always a clear-cut reason for it. Jonah's preaching produced what had to be one of the greatest episodes of mass repentance in history. In that case, the repentance of the people of Nineveh would have been meaningless if God hadn't relented. He will also "repent" of the intent to bless if the people He intends to bless are disobedient¹³. But most of the time, what He says will happen, happens. God has prophesied the Great Tribulation. He has promised the Second Coming of Christ, and the Resurrection of the Saints. He is obligated; required by His own divine truthfulness; to bring it to pass. And if circumstances threaten the fulfillment of those prophecies, as we have shown they now do, then God will act quickly. He had to pour out the Flood upon the earth. He had to confuse the languages at Babel. He had to send His Son to die for our sins, and raise Him from the dead. And now, He has to step into history in a big way again. **SOON!!!**

1. Actually, though, it won't be 2000 years from the beginning of Christianity until circa 2026-2030 AD
2. This is not just my idea, I have seen these words in print. Also, I presently work in the corporate administration department of a major international investment bank, and I have "insider" information about what is happening in the world of big business on the international level.
3. Update: They are now on the market, but so far are being used only for selling movies. But the computer use of them will come.
4. My company.
5. If you want to check this out for yourself, and you have a computer online, open Yahoo and search for the word "Genome". Check out what you find. You'll be impressed.
6. Don't read this book if you see it. It's actually homosexual pornography disguised as science fiction. But this gives us a clue as to where these ideas come from: our sin nature!
7. The first nuclear powered submarine was named the "Nautilus" in honor of Jules Verne.
8. Go ahead and read this one. To give credit where it is due, my initial inspiration for the entire "Babel Rising!" concept came from the writings of C. S. Lewis.
9. Over 90% of all known species are now extinct, and more disappear every year.
10. You can read these, too, but be warned, the third book is not light reading. It's the heaviest fiction Lewis ever wrote. Furthermore, Lewis suggests some very dangerous theological ideas in these books. Read with caution.
11. The Greek word translated "reasonable" in Romans 12:1 (KJV) is λογικος , transliterated "logikos", and it means just what it sounds like; logical.
12. The Hebrew word "Yom", usually translated "day", doesn't necessarily mean a 24 hour day, but rather can refer to any specific period of time. As used in the passage above, it refers to the entire Great Tribulation.
13. See Deuteronomy 28:63.

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DOES THE BIBLE TELL US WHO THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE ???

DOES IT GIVE US ANY CLUES AS TO HIS IDENTITY ??

(A study by John Aggson: Bible researcher)

Are there any Scriptures that give us a geographical location on where he may arise from, or that may possibly identify his nationality? Well presented in this study are some very interesting passages that seem to indicate these very things! Check out these two AMAZING portions of Scripture! They even have the SAME EXACT VERSE REFERENCES! (Another one of God's little coincidences I'm sure!) EZEKIEL 39:17-21 and REVELATION 19:17-21. Please observe the similarity of the terms and the wording used in each:

Ezekiel 39: 17-21

17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. 18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD. 21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.

Revelation 19:17-21

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19 And I saw THE BEAST, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And THE BEAST was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. (Emphasis mine)

BOTH of these areas of Scripture speak of a FINAL GREAT ENDTIME BATTLE in which the armies of God's enemies are DESTROYED, and FALL on the hillsides of Israel, and are DEVOURED and EATEN by the VULTURES AND BIRDS OF CARRION! These two portions of Scripture read almost WORD FOR WORD in some places, and it certainly appears that they are speaking of the SAME EVENT! Unless, of course, there are TWO DIFFERENT BATTLES in the endtime, where TWO DIFFERENT ARMIES come against Israel and fall on the hillsides and are eaten by the birds! But an in depth study of the Scriptures seems to point to only ONE! Therefore these two areas of Scripture are MOST LIKELY describing the SAME BATTLE... ARMAGEDDON!

REVELATION 19:17-21 says that this is the ARMY OF THE BEAST or ANTICHRIST which is destroyed, and EZEKIEL 39:17-21 says that this is the ARMY OF GOG; THE CHIEF PRINCE OF MESHECH AND TUBAL which is destroyed! IS THE ANTICHRIST THEREFORE GOG? WHOEVER GOG IS? If A = B, and B = C, then A = C...RIGHT?? BOTH are portrayed, in these separate areas of Scripture, as the MAIN LEADER or HEAD over these coalition forces! Why would the Lord depict TWO DIFFERENT LEADERS of what APPEARS to be the SAME BATTLE? They are VERY LIKELY the SAME PERSON! It certainly warrants our study and observation anyway; as students of ENDTIME PROPHECY!

There is even a verse that SOUNDS like the Lord is IDENTIFYING this prince AS the ANTICHRIST, who was spoken of by the prophets of old as coming against His people in the endtime! Ezekiel 38: 17. ("Art thou HE of whom I have spoken?")

Ezekiel 38:17

17 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?

This "HE" sounds like the Lord is trying to IDENTIFY this person to us as a SPECIAL PERSON! From the TONE of this verse, it sounds as if this person occupies a MUCH MORE SPECIAL PLACE in the Scriptures than just an ORDINARY KING, like King Nebuchadnezzar, or Cyrus of old. MANY kings have "come against" Israel down through history! This infers that there is something unique, special, and SINGULAR that applies to this ONE KING ALONE! What could that be? Well, it's very possible that the Lord has worded this Scripture this way to indicate to us that this person may be the GREAT ONE who has been given the SPECIAL CHARGE of COMING AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE ENDTIME!!! THE ANTICHRIST!!! Which has been foretold by the "Prophets of old" like Daniel, and Isaiah, and Ezekiel here, as well as John the Revelator and others.

Are MESHECH & TUBAL therefore, the ANTICHRIST'S HOMELAND, and HIS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OR NATIONALITY? If not, then why is his name even mentioned in the Bible, and not only ONCE, but TWICE? (In Ezekiel 38 and then again in 39) A full reading of Ezekiel chapters 38 & 39 are recommended to fully understand this; with emphasis on 38:1-9, and 39: 1-5.

Ezekiel 38:1-9

And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, 3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: 4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring

thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords: 5 Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet: 6 Gomer, and all his bands; the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee. 7 Be thou prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them. 8 After many days thou shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. 9 Thou shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee. Ezekiel 39:1-5

Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: 2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: 3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. 4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. 5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD.

Who is GOG? And who are MESHECH & TUBAL? According to Halley's Bible Handbook, the 23rd edition, pages 305 & 306, they are thought by many historians to be MODERN RUSSIA; and Meshech is thought to mean MOSCOW, while Tubal is thought to mean the city of TOBOLSK; a Siberian city in Russia! Magog, Meshech, and Tubal were Grandsons of Noah, and sons of Japeth who migrated to the FAR NORTH. Their people were even called THE ROSH! (Roshians, or Russians!?) You can find this name "Rosh" used in some translations of the Bible, (such as the New King James version - Ezekiel 38: 2, and 39: 1) as well as in the writings of Antiquity by ancient historians such as Flavius Josephus, who was a leading historian among the Jews of Jesus' day.

The traditional view held for years, because of the prophecy of Daniel 7, was that the Antichrist would arise out of a REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE! In this chapter it states that he arises -AMONG- the TEN HORNS (or world leaders) which according to REVELATION 17:12 do not arise until the VERY END of world history. Let's take a look at these verses:

Daniel 7:7,8,23,24

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up AMONG THEM another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

(emphasis mine) (he comes up AMONG THEM)

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the FOURTH KINGDOM UPON EARTH, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. (emphasis mine)

(As we know from history, this "fourth beast" was the ROMAN EMPIRE!) (It did just what it says here, and devoured the whole earth and trod it down and broke it up into pieces or Roman provinces.) (The "iron teeth" are even symbolic of the IRON RULE of Rome.)

24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Revelation 17:12

12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.

(Here, from this verse in Revelation, you can see that the 10 horns do not come on the scene until at the VERY END of world history, RIGHT BEFORE the BEAST or ANTICHRIST ARISES!) (They rule with him for a very short time, indicated by the Biblical terminology of "one hour!") (Daniel 7: 24, right before this verse, indicates that he arises AFTER the ten kings, and "subdues" three of them.)

Since this "little horn" arises AMONG the 10 horns of what most Biblical scholars believe is the REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE, everyone has always just ASSUMED that this "Beast," or "Antichrist" would be a GREAT EUROPEAN LEADER, like a German, or Juan Carlos or one of the Hapsburgs of Austria, or even lately Prince Charles.

Everyone just AUTOMATICALLY ASSUMES that the REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE IS EUROPE! But DANIEL CHAPTER 2 reminds us that ROME once ruled the whole known world. IT THEN SPLIT IN TWO, (symbolic of the TWO LEGS OF IRON in Daniel 2) and there was EAST ROME, ran out of Constantinople and WEST ROME, ran out of the city of Rome. West Rome followed CATHOLICISM, while East Rome followed the ORTHODOX religious line. They are the same basic religion started by Constantine. The RUSSIANS became followers of the ORTHODOX line, until Lenin and Stalin came along and tried to wipe them out.

It is interesting to note that both the leaders of Germany, (Greater West Rome) AND RUSSIA, (Greater East Rome) were called CAESAR! KAISER (as in Kaiser Wilhelm) and CSAR (as in Czar Nicholas) both mean CAESAR! Does this fit with the BEAST that was and is not and yet is? BOTH continued on in the traditions of Rome, even calling their leaders CAESAR!

My point here is that RUSSIA could ALSO fit in the scenario of a REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE, if the remnants of both EAST-AND- WEST ROME, (The two legs) (one Catholic, and the other Orthodox) are considered in this picture! She even called her leaders CAESAR, or CSAR! Few people seem to consider that the Antichrist could arise out of the EASTERN ROMAN LINE! Granted, modern Russia was not as far NORTH in those days as it is now. Back then they were still in the Caucasus. They migrated further north in the 1100's, but were still part of GREATER BYZANTIUM or EAST ROME, as can be observed by their adoption of the ORTHODOX religion.

The following verses from DANIEL chapter 8 indicate that the Antichrist will rise out of ONE of the FOUR KINGDOMS that ALEXANDER THE GREAT'S empire broke up into after his death:

Daniel 8:8,9

8 Therefore the he goat waxed very great: and when he was strong, the great horn was broken; and for it came up four notable ones toward the four winds of heaven. 9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.

Daniel 8:21-25

21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king. 22 Now that being broken, whereas four stood up for it, four kingdoms shall stand up out of the nation, but not in his power. 23 And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. 24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. 25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

(Upon Alexander's death, his top four generals divided the whole world up into four sections according to the directions NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, & WEST, on the map.) (It says here that the Antichrist; the "King of fierce countenance" shall arise out of ONE of these in the latter or END TIME!)

Then AGAIN in DANIEL chapter 11 it talks about this same break up of Alexander's empire, and even identifies -WHICH- of the four kingdoms the Antichrist arises out of. (DANIEL 11:1-21, with special emphasis on verse 21) It indicates that the Antichrist arises out of the empire of the KING OF THE NORTH!

Daniel 11:2-4

2 And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia. 3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will. 4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

Daniel 11:15,21

15 So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand. 21 And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

(This VILE PERSON is the ANTICHRIST!!!)

Back in the days when this prophecy was given, the ROSH, or the people of MAGOG, (Meshech & Tubal) lived in THIS KINGDOM; the NORTHERN KINGDOM! They then even migrated further NORTH. So as you can see, all of these prophecies regarding the Antichrist and the geographical location of his homeland can certainly FIT into the scenario of him being GOG, the CHIEF PRINCE OF MOSCOW!

It is certainly something we should keep our eyes on anyway, as the idea of a WEST EUROPEAN ANTICHRIST does NOT fit with the prophecy of GOG & MAGOG in Ezekiel 38 & 39. (UNLESS GOG is just some kind of GREAT MILITARY LEADER who is USED by the Antichrist as sort of the HEAD of a WORLD POLICE FORCE like the UN, or an east-block coalition) But if this were the case, I would think that the antichrist would be at least MENTIONED in Ezekiel 38 & 39.

There is NO MENTION of any other GREATER LEADER here! Only GOG; who is identified as the RINGLEADER of this great coalition force, which sounds more like an EAST BLOCK-ARAB coalition than a UN force, by the nations named in (Ez 38:5,6.) ALSO, the idea of a EUROPEAN ANTICHRIST from the West Roman line does not fit as well with the very important prophecies of DANIEL chapters 8 & 11 either; (of coming out of one of the four Kingdoms of Alexander) (And in specific the King of the North) but a GREAT NORTHERN RUSSIAN LEADER DOES!

Some Bible prophecy teachers think that Ezekiel 38 & 39 most definitely portray Russia coming against America and Israel, but that they have NOTHING to do with the ANTICHRIST! They believe that Russia simply comes against America and Israel, and that there is a great war, and they destroy us, and we destroy them; and THEN the Antichrist arises out of Western Europe and rules the world for either 3 ½ or 7 more years AFTER THIS! They do not believe that Russia has anything to do with the Antichrist at all.

Most of the people who hold to this view believe that the Antichrist cannot rise until Russia and America DESTROY eachother, as we are both too powerful for him to arise until we are gone, and no longer a threat to world domination. But if I am correct about the first two sets of Scriptures in this study, then they prove that this cannot be the case; as they DIRECTLY LINK GOG, of Ezekiel 38 & 39, to the BEAST OR ANTICHRIST of Revelation 19. There cannot be two separate leaders of this same battle!

And it's VERY LIKELY the SAME BATTLE, as there do not appear to be TWO SEPARATE TIMES in the Scriptures where armies come against Israel, and fall on the hillsides and are eaten by the birds! Therefore they MUST be speaking of the same battle, and hence, the same LEADER! THE ANTICHRIST!!!

Some Bible teachers believe that the Antichrist will be an AMERICAN, or the PRESIDENT of modern "Babylon the Great" - AMERICA! But, if indeed America actually IS "Babylon the Great," then this scenario does not make much sense if you take a look at what the following verses say:

Revelation 17:16-18

16 AND THE TEN HORNS WHICH THOU SAWEST UPON THE BEAST, THESE SHALL HATE THE WHORE, AND SHALL MAKE HER DESOLATE AND NAKED AND SHALL EAT HER FLESH, AND BURN HER WITH FIRE. 17 For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. 18 And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. (emphasis mine)

It says here that the BEAST & HIS TEN KINGS HATE THE WHORE (modern Babylon) and BURN HER WITH FIRE! Why would the Antichrist burn up his own kingdom? Observe the following Scriptures also:

Revelation 18:8,9,19

8 Therefore shall her plagues come in ONE DAY, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be UTTERLY BURNED WITH FIRE: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. 9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for IN ONE HOUR IS SHE MADE DESOLATE. (emphasis mine)

It says here that Babylon is UTTERLY BURNED WITH FIRE IN ONE HOUR! If America is "Babylon the Great," then this is very possibly describing the coming NUCLEAR WAR! Considering all of our modern technology and weaponry; nuclear war would be the most likely cause of the BURNING of such a LARGE AREA in such a SHORT PERIOD OF TIME! But if the Antichrist is the leader of America, then WHY WOULD THE ANTICHRIST NUKE HIMSELF AND HIS OWN COUNTRY? This does not fit as a credible doctrine!

According to the visions of Dimitru Duduman and Henry Gruver; (both Holy Spirit filled Ministers with the gifts of prophecy and of receiving visions) IT IS THE RUSSIANS who attack AMERICA shortly in a NUCLEAR FIRST STRIKE! Back in the mid to late 1980's, both of these men were taken up in the Spirit; high above the earth, by the Lord's Angel; and shown THE ENTIRE PANORAMA OF THE COMING NUCLEAR WAR AND DESTRUCTION OF AMERICA BY RUSSIAN SUBMARINES! The Lord then told them both to GO AND GIVE AMERICA THIS WARNING MESSAGE OF COMING JUDGMENT! The Lord even told Dimitru in prophecy that America was indeed "Babylon the Great," and even went into detail as to WHY He calls it that. (Their addresses will be given at the end of this study if you would like to contact their ministries personally for more information on these INCREDIBLE visions.)

Dimitru Duduman was a MARINE OFFICER in the SOVIET ARMED FORCES of the U.S.S.R. who helped BROTHER ANDREW smuggle over 300,000 Bibles into the former Soviet Union over a period of 15 years. He was caught and tortured terribly, but the Lord delivered him and brought him to America to warn this nation and then gave him this AWESOME VISION! Henry Gruver is an American Evangelist who was a pioneer in the SPIRITUAL WARFARE movement, where brethren walk up and down the length and breadth of different cities and areas praying in the Spirit and casting down strongholds of the enemy, and loosing the Lord's Angels to work. Henry was in Wales, on the top of the Caernarvon Castle, when the Lord took him high in the air, and gave him this same AWESOME VISION!

The Lord even showed him the entire panorama of the coming huge sea blockades of both the Pacific and Atlantic by the GIANT SOVIET BATTLE FLOTILLAS, and the subsequent surfacing of the submarines and launching of their missiles!! He and Dimitru saw the same basic cities vaporize in NUCLEAR FIREBALLS! (New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, and Miami, among others.) In his book, "The Next Domino?," General Sir Walter Walker of NATO has added GREAT CREDENCE to Henry's vision, by stating that the above scenario is INDEED an ACTUAL PLAN that the RUSSIANS HAVE HAD FOR OVER TWO DECADES NOW, and is the MOST LIKELY SCENARIO THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW when they begin their LAST GREAT CONQUEST FOR WORLD DOMINATION and the DESTRUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA! He even verifies the concept of the SEA BLOCKADES and the SAME ACTUAL PATHS THAT HENRY SAW THE SOVIET BATTLE FLOTILLA'S TAKE!

Also, much of what Henry now teaches on this subject, since he had this amazing vision, concerns revelations the Lord has given him about Ezekiel 38 & 39 describing not only the invasion of tiny Israel; but the United States of America too! Specifically where it speaks of Gog coming against the land of UNWALLED VILLAGES, having neither BARS NOR GATES, where the people DWELL WITHOUT CARE! That more correctly describes modern America; not Israel, where the people still live in great fear of Arab attacks and also have bars on their gates and windows!

So these visions of Henry and Dimitru certainly fit more with a GREAT RUSSIAN LEADER than an AMERICAN or EUROPEAN as the head of this great invading force of Ezekiel 38 & 39! In fact in some of Dimitru's visions he EVEN SEES the LEADER OF RUSSIA plotting the INVASION OF AMERICA with other eastern leaders, and then stating that he could now do WHATEVER HE PLEASED WITH EUROPE! (The 10 Kings?) (OR...will the 10 Kings come from the nations listed in Ezekiel 38: 5,6 that join forces with Gog in the end ?)

PERSIA, (modern Iran, Iraq, and Syria) ETHIOPIA, LIBYA, GOMER and all his bands, (Germany and it's allies) TOGARMAH and all his bands, (Turkey and surrounding Slavic & Muslim nations?) That's just something to think about! They are mentioned there for a reason. And the counties listed there are for the most part certainly siding with Russia right now today against us! It wouldn't take much for Germany and Turkey to go along with the others, especially if the American economy crashes, and a Russian superman, or one of "near lineage" steps in to offer an ECONOMIC SOLUTION!

Look at Libya NAMED BY NAME 3,000 years ago as siding with Russia! Remember Ghaddafy's 12 Billion dollar ARMS DEAL with Russia back in the 70's? (The largest arms deal of the time!) There might not be 10 nations specifically mentioned here, but perhaps the phrase "all his bands," accounts for the rest of them!?

If the Antichrist himself doesn't actually come out of Western Europe, then maybe the 10 kings don't either. (at least, not ALL of them) If the two legs of ancient Rome are taken into account here, then the 10 kings could just as easily arise out of the remnants of EAST Rome, or the former Byzantine Empire. Many of the nations mentioned in Ezekiel 38: 5 & 6 are indeed located in this area.

But perhaps the 10 kings DO come from Western Europe and it's "black nobility" families and rulers such as the Hapsburgs and others. Some of these families can supposedly trace their lineage clear back to the days of Rome! They are certainly the "wealthy elite," who are FINANCIALLY CAPABLE of such a feat, and who most certainly do have plans for WORLD DOMINATION! Perhaps if the American economy crashes soon, they will RALLY behind a great leader from much closer to home...maybe even a "Prince of Magog," such as the CHIEF PRINCE OF MESHECH!?

Texe Marrs, of LIVING TRUTH MINISTRIES, has done some of the most exhaustive background work that I have seen on these "black nobility" families of Europe. His ministry is highly recommended at the end of this study. To learn more about all this, please order his book, "CIRCLE OF INTRIGUE!"

Interestingly enough, there IS a "Chief Prince of Meshech" living right out in the PRESIDIO right now in San Francisco! Mikail Gorbachev! He even has his own 501c 3 (tax exempt status) for his very own GORVACHEV FOUNDATION! Wouldn't it be interesting if he were to suddenly emerge as a GREAT UNITED NATIONS LEADER! That would not make him the ANTICHRIST, as from the Scriptures in Daniel 11, it appears that the Antichrist may be the THIRD person to rise out of the Kingdom of the North. (The VILE PERSON!) But it could make him the FIRST! This is certainly something we should keep our eyes on anyway, and be watching closely! It speaks of the FIRST King of the North, followed by one who is a RAISER OF TAXES, followed by the VILE PERSON who comes in "peaceably," and obtains the Kingdom by "flatteries."

As concerning whether or not America is actually "BABYLON THE GREAT" spoken of in Revelation chapters 17 & 18; here is some pretty strong evidence that supports this view: (A full and careful reading of these chapters is necessary to completely understand this, but here are the main verses that seem to indicate this...)

Revelation 17:1-5

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the GREAT WHORE that sitteth upon many waters: 2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a WOMAN SIT UPON A SCARLET COLOURED BEAST, FULL OF NAMES OF BLASPHEMY, HAVING SEVEN HEADS AND TEN HORNS. 4 And the WOMAN was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (emphasis mine, except for verse 5 which is capitalized in the King James)

Revelation 17:18

18 And the WOMAN which thou sawest IS THAT GREAT CITY, WHICH REIGNETH OVER THE KINGS OF THE EARTH. (emphasis mine)

As you can see from the above; verses 1 and 5 identify this WOMAN as THE GREAT WHORE, and BABYLON THE GREAT! Then verse 18 makes it plain that this WOMAN -IS- that -GREAT CITY- which REIGNS OVER THE KINGS OF THE EARTH! (It says that SHE IS A C-I-T-Y!) (A GREAT CITY!) (And that the KINGS of OTHER NATIONS are even RULED OVER from this GREAT CITY!) WHO ELSE COULD THIS BE SPEAKING OF IN OUR MODERN WORLD BUT NEW YORK CITY?? This is the SEAT of the FEDERAL RESERVE, and the BIG BANKERS who loan out BILLIONS to the KINGS OF ALL THE OTHER NATIONS IN THE WORLD, in return of course for their "obseisance!" By this means they literally RULE OVER THEM! The "borrower" becomes servant to the lender, as the Bible says!

This LOANING of such HUGE SUMS OF MONEY to other nations and kings does not happen ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD, from ANY of the world's other great financial centers, in the CAPACITY or VOLUME that it does from NEW YORK! And most of those loans that ARE given out, from other areas of the world, are DIRECTLY TIED to aid or loans that INITIALLY CAME FROM NEW YORK to start with, or from banks that are connected in some way to the banks in New York!

Our DOLLAR is the STANDARD CURRENCY that all other currencies in the WORLD are measured against! Our STOCK MARKET is the BASTION for the stock markets of the world, that they all depend upon and are supported by! The WHOLE CONCEPT of STOCK MARKETS and CURRENCY EXCHANGE and all this TRADE and COMMERCE came PRIMARILY from the BIG NEW YORK BANKS back in the late 1800's! Even though big European Bankers were involved, the major vehicle they used for setting up their "spider's web" of financial markets and trading and commerce WORLDWIDE were the LARGE NEW YORK BANKS!

It all seemed to EMANATE from New York and to INFECT the WHOLE WORLD! As the Scriptures below, which I will present shortly in this study will point out; "by her sorceries were all nations DECEIVED," and "ALL NATIONS have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her FORNICATION!" This is the means by which the RICH ELITISTS have set themselves up to ROB the NATIONS OF THE WORLD of their WEALTH AND GOODS through CRIMINAL PRACTICES like FRACTIONAL RESERVE BANKING, and MANIPULATION OF THE WORLD'S MARKETS! (Pushing people into buying or selling certain stocks at certain times that favor the rich!!!)

They "deceive" people in their business deals, and take the LION'S SHARE and give the poor victim the "short end of the stick!" Quite simply; over time, THEY end up with all the GOODIES, and the poor of the world end up holding an empty bag with HOLES in the bottom...robbed of all that their nation had of value! This MAY be why they all end up HATING the whore, and BURN HER WITH FIRE IN ONE HOUR, as it says in Revelation 18!

A very simplistic explanation of how "fractional reserve banking" works is this: The Fed Reserve prints up a set amount of money to loan out. The bankers loan it out with INTEREST to be paid when the loan is paid back. The borrower puts up property or valuable goods for collateral against this loan. After this is repeated to many different "borrowers" there is never enough money in circulation to PAY BACK THE INTEREST! The Fed Reserve only printed a CERTAIN SET AMOUNT OF MONEY; they did NOT print enough to cover PAYING BACK THE INTEREST! So some POOR FOOL out there gets stuck not being able to come up with the cash to pay back the INTEREST on his loan...so he loses his LAND, or PROPERTY or GOODS, or WHATEVER HE PUT UP AS COLLATERAL! It's a bit like playing "musical chairs!" Somebody always gets LEFT OUT! The goal of these "insiders" and rich men is to finally end up with it ALL, and the rest of the world on their knees in serfdom!

Also, they only have to keep on hand a FRACTION of what they loan out, IN RESERVE! They can give loans out to MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE OR COMPANIES, off of this SAME AMOUNT of CAPITAL that THEY HAVE IN RESERVE! They can then earn ALL THAT MULTIPLIED INTEREST, from ALL THOSE PEOPLE; because what they've loaned out is MOSTLY ONLY CREDIT ON PAPER ANYWAY! This even increases the chances of more than one person or company defaulting at a time! So they are raking in HUGE amounts of profit from the INTEREST off of the same small, or "fractional reserve" amount, as well as many times over, the real estate and goods and machinery, or anything of value, that has been put up for collateral by those who are forced to DEFAULT on their loans!

If you are having any trouble believing this, just look at what has happened to the American farmer, and the ENORMOUS number of PUBLIC AUCTIONS of their equipment and foreclosures on their land! Look at the number of SMALL BUSINESSES that seem to come and go at such a high rate!

WHOLE NATIONS are now bowing to the IMF and world bankers and begging them to come in and "save" their businesses and economies with even MORE loans! (Such as the recent Asian fiasco!) When they ultimately DEFAULT on these loans; who will own the vast majority of their LAND, and REAL ESTATE, and VALUABLE RESOURCES, and anything they put up as collateral??? It is a very clever system that is ultimately designed to put the vast majority of the World's wealth in the hands of a very few!

There is much more too it than the simplistic little explanation above, of course; and there are many "levers" and "trigger mechanisms" that they use to control these things, such as raising and lowering interest rates and buying or dumping certain stocks at certain times; or even putting out WARNINGS of such intent in the media! But what I have mentioned above is the BASIC PRINCIPLE of what they are doing.

New York is not the only city in America involved in this. But it is the MAJOR CITY that this whole BANKING FIASCO IS RAN FROM! It extends, of course, to OTHER major American cities as well! Look at New York's SISTER CITIES, and "partners in crime" like L.A. and other major centers of finance that are dependant primarily on the BIG NEW YORK BANKS!?

Like giant "tentacles from an octopus" the New York banks spread out their centers of finance in the late 1800's, to other cities in America; primarily PORT CITIES, where commerce with other nations could be carried on by shipping lines! Revelation 18: 18 & 19 tell of the wealth that has been amassed by the great SHIPPING COMPANIES, and those that ship by sea, who stand afar off weeping when this great city; the source of their wealth, is destroyed!

Revelation 18:18,19

18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, WHEREIN WERE MADE RICH ALL THAT HAD SHIPS IN THE SEA by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. (emphasis mine)

What other nation could this be BUT America? Most of the great shipping companies in the world today were made RICH by the commerce and trafficking to and from American ports!

Over and over in Revelation 18 it speaks of the MERCHANTS, or BIG BUSINESSMEN who were made RICH by this GREAT CITY! From the description of Babylon's activities in this chapter, it is evident that BABYLON THE GREAT, exists solely for the purpose of THE BUYING AND SELLING OF GOODS! This is an obvious description of our great FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM!

It even says that her MERCHANTS, or BIG BUSINESSMEN are the GREAT MEN OF THE EARTH, and that they RULE over the KINGS OF OTHER NATIONS! Does this sound like the Rockefellers, and other leading businessmen and bankers who so freely travel the world, making their secret business deals; bound by neither capitalist or communist borders or ideologies? Remember during the days of the cold war when the Rockefellers and Armand Hammer visited the Soviet Union to privately discuss things with the leaders of that great communist empire? (Or was it to give orders?) I noticed that Nikita Kruchev "stepped down" right after the Rockefeller visit! Was he FIRED?

They seem not to be bound by any restrictions or borders, and can freely travel and make their deals without concern for the normal sanctions that would prevent others of us from doing so. Look at how Nixon and Kissinger visited Red China and made all those deals. The Communist leaders seem to have no problem doing business with them, and even seem to TAKE ORDERS FROM THEM! Certainly the third world nations come almost on a weekly basis, to bow at their feet and ask for aide. These great merchants or businessmen are indeed THE GREAT MEN OF THE EARTH, who literally REIGN or RULE over the KINGS OF OTHER NATIONS!

Revelation 18:3 (emphasis mine in all CAPS below)

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the KINGS of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the MERCHANTS of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

Revelation 18:9-11

9 And the KINGS of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. 11 And the MERCHANTS of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:

Revelation 18:15-19

15 The MERCHANTS of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, sea WHEREIN WERE MADE RICH ALL THAT HAD SHIPS IN THE SEA by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

Revelation 18:23

23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for THY MERCHANTS WERE THE GREAT MEN OF THE EARTH; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

What other nation on the face of the earth can this be talking about? Who else has merchants who are the GREAT MEN OF THE EARTH? Sure there are men of other nationalities involved in this, such as the Rothschilds of Europe, the Warburgs, and others. It is a CABAL of the "rich elite" from both Europe AND America! But the primary vehicle they have used for this WORLDWIDE DOMINATION is AMERICA; and in specific, NEW YORK CITY, and her SISTER CITIES and CENTERS OF COMMERCE! The FEDERAL RESERVE is NOT a FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY! It is a PRIVATE CORPORATION that is owned by these RICH ELITISTS; with half of the Class A stockholders being WEALTHY EUROPEANS! Yet it is LOCATED IN NEW YORK, and RUNS OUR ENTIRE ECONOMY AND MONEY SYSTEM!

Look in the PHONE BOOK under GOVERNMENT AGENCIES!?! You will not find it listed! Instead, you will find it listed with normal businesses! That is because IT IS NOT A GOVERNMENT AGENCY! It is WORDED that way to DECEIVE PEOPLE into THINKING that it is a Government agency! It sounds SO OFFICIAL; and SO FEDERAL! If people knew the TRUTH about it, and how it is OWNED and RAN by VERY WEALTHY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS; some of which AREN'T EVEN AMERICAN; and how they are MILKING US LIKE COWS, and SHEERING US LIKE SHEEP, they would be in ABSOLUTE SHOCK!!!

It says that by their SORCERIES were all nations DECEIVED! Many of these elitists and Rich men are into Satanism and witchcraft, although they call it Luciferianism, and believe that Lucifer is good. Many of them make their business deals through these Satanic means! Their GREED has caused most of the poverty and problems in the world! It is a known fact that most of the FAMINES we have in the world today are the result of this deception and greed; of robbing the poor of the world in their business dealings as it says of the RICH MEN in James chapter 5, who have heaped together treasures for the last days:

James 5:1-8

Go to now, YE RICH MEN, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. YE HAVE HEAPED TREASURE TOGETHER FOR THE LAST DAYS. 4 Behold, the HIRE OF THE LABOURERS who have reaped down your fields, WHICH IS OF YOU KEPT BACK BY FRAUD, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. 5 YE HAVE LIVED IN PLEASURE ON THE EARTH, AND BEEN WANTON; YE HAVE NOURISHED YOUR HEARTS, AS IN A DAY OF SLAUGHTER. 6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. 7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.. (emphasis mine)

They have been the creators of NAFTA, GATT, and the WTO; which are making use of slave labor, prison labor, and the "sweat shops" of the world! Perhaps NAFTA, GATT, and the WTO are the WOMAN attempting to saddle herself onto the back of the 7th head of the BEAST in Revelation 17, and it is about to turn on her and DEVOUR her with FIRE in ONE HOUR! This great RED (or "Communist") BEAST in Revelation HATES THE WHORE and TURNS ON HER! She was RIDING him up until this time! Perhaps the dog is about to turn on it's master!?

Some will argue that the GREAT CITY is ROME; Because of the description of her occupying 7 mountains like Rome sits on geographically:

Revelation 17:9,10

9 And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. 10 And there are seven kings: five are fallen and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.

But if you read the entire context of these verses, with other areas of Scripture; mountains are symbolic of KINGDOMS in the Bible. And as it indicates here, each mountain had a KING! (or a kingship or SEAT of rule) (like the dynasty of the Caesars) This helps to understand the TIME that elapses between the days of ancient Rome and the "revival" of Rome in the last days under the Antichrist and ten kings. Five are fallen, meant that they were kings, or dynasties, of kingdoms who have passed away! (Assyria, Egypt, Babylon, Medo Persia, and Greece) ONE IS; referred to the dynasty of the CAESARS and ROME! And the OTHER IS NOT YET COME, refers to the Antichrist who comes in the endtime.

These verses indicate that this "woman" has been around in each of these kingdoms down through history, "playing the harlot," and robbing the poor, actually RULING over the kings and leaders of the nations of their day from behind the scenes, by riding on their back, and riding them like a horse to perform their will! This is why the "woman" is portrayed as RIDING on the back of the beast in Revelation 17: 3.

This goes right along with the writings of the Illuminati, who as David J. Smith pointed out, can trace their movement for world domination clear back to the THRONE ROOMS OF EGYPT! They've been working to establish their kingdom on earth for thousands of years! If you wish to learn more about the sinister teachings of these rich elitists who believe that Lucifer is the good God, then contact David at the address on the back of this study. (Also Texe Marrs, points out in his book "Circle of Intrigue" how these "black nobility" families of Europe can trace their lineage clear back to the days of Rome!)

But Rome WAS at one time the "Babylon the Great" of it's day! But as world conditions changed down through time, these men have moved their financial ruling capital to accommodate the changes in world history! At one time AMSTERDAM was this capital; at one time PARIS, at another LONDON, and now FINALLY...THE EPITOMIE OF THEM ALL...NEW YORK CITY!!!

New York has become the FINAL LAST DAYS BASTION OF WORLD COMMERCE and WORLD FINANCIAL DOMINATION! You may think the Japanese are! But WE MADE them what they are; and without New York; Tokyo would collapse! New York banks went in after the destruction of Japan in World War Two, and helped them to build the Babylon they presently have! And they are actually the CREATION of the NEW YORK BANKERS and "tool" in their hands, with which they dominate and rule all the financial markets in ASIA!

We have just recently watched the Asian markets and peoples get the "short end of the stick" from the rich elite who rule behind the scenes! And they are not done with them yet; or us here in America, or the rest of the world. They are about to try to install themselves into the seat of TOTAL WORLD DOMINATION, as they attempt to saddle themselves onto the back of the great and final ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT and NEW WORLD ORDER OF THE END! (with NAFTA, GATT, and the WTO) But the RUSKIES may have other plans! We shall soon see! But anyway, hopefully you can see by the above verses and the explanations which follow them, why many of us who study Bible prophecy believe that America is "Babylon the Great" spoken of here. Even the Statue of Liberty itself is a SIGN! I believe that it is a MARKING SIGN put there by God to IDENTIFY just WHO BABYLON THE GREAT IS! Why wasn't this statue put on DRY LAND like every other statue in the world? There is a reason! Could it be because God CAUSED them to do this, unbeknownst to them, to give us a "marking sign" of who the WOMAN in Revelation 17: 15 is?

Revelation 17:15

15 And he saith unto me, The WATERS WHICH THOU SAWEST, WHERE THE WHORE SITTETH, ARE PEOPLES, AND MULTITUDES, AND NATIONS, AND TONGUES. (emphasis mine)

This pictures the WOMAN out on the WATER, which it says symbolizes PEOPLES, MULTITUDES, NATIONS, AND TONGUES! Could this be symbolic of ELLIS ISLAND? And the multitudes that came through there from different nations, speaking different languages? It's certainly something to think about! Look at the huge "BABYLON THE GREAT" that these people have BUILT there; and the huge "TOWERS OF BABEL" that they have created there! (All the modern towers and skyscrapers!) New York LED THE WORLD in this "TOWER BUILDING!" Perhaps this is the REASON that God actually CALLS it "BABYLON THE GREAT" in the FIRST PLACE! Because of ALL THIS TOWER BUILDING TO THE HEAVENS, which the original builders of the Tower of Babel tried to do in the days of old!?

Why do they now actually -CALL- New York City, or PARTS of New York City, "BABYLON?" OR, "BABYLON ON THE HUDSON?" Or, the "CITY OF BABYLON?" Just a coincidence! Or did God actually CAUSE them to do this, unbeknownst to them? If you GO THERE for any reason, you will real quickly notice that it sure SOUNDS like the TOWER OF BABEL of old, with all the CONFUSION OF LANGUAGES the people are speaking there now! Just try talking to a cab driver, or ask someone on the street for directions!?

Sure, there are other cities in the world that now RIVAL New York with their skyscrapers and towers; but they are all COPYING New York! That's where they got the IDEA FROM! From Babylon - "THE GREAT!" The GREAT one; their "spiritual leader," who actually STARTED all this ENDTIME TOWER BUILDING AND SKYSCRAPER BUILDING! They are all trying to OUT-DO their "MOTHER!" THE "MOTHER OF HARLOTS" and "ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH!"

If you read the history of the Statue of Liberty, it appears to back this notion up. (of God perhaps using it as a MARKING SIGN) The man who designed it was a high ranking FREEMASON who designed and built it to be a GIFT to the FREEMASONS of New York City! These HIGHEST RANKING Freemasons and members of the Illuminati are into the practice of Witchcraft or Luciferianism as I said before. These RICH MEN secretly rule the world from behind the scenes! The Lord is pretty clever at causing these men to do things sometimes when they don't even know He's doing it!!!

This man even said that this GREAT STATUE represents THE GODDESS ASTARTE! This is the Greek form of the Assyrian name ASHTEROTH! In Babylonian this name was known as ISHTAR! This is where we get our modern name for EASTER! This was BAAL'S WIFE! "THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN," as it calls her in the Book of Jeremiah! This is the SAME FEMALE DIETY that has been worshipped by the PAGAN RELIGIONS, like the DRUIDS, and others who are into WITCHCRAFT; all down through time under different names in different cultures. In Rome she was Diana. Now in modern times in the New Age Movement, & Wiccan witchcraft she is known as "Mother Gaia!" (the Goddess of the Earth)

It would take another complete study in itself to go into all this, but if you would like DOCUMENTATION on these things, I will give the address of three ministries at the end of this study who can verify much of this to you. They are the ministries of David J. Smith, of Waxahachie, Texas; Texe Marrs of Austin, Texas; and Des Griffin, of Clackamas, Oregon. These men write the most informative and knowledgeable newsletters and books that there are on this subject! They also are a good reference source for others who write about these things too. They may not share all my "opinions" in this study, but they can sure back up the facts on much of this with plenty of documentation!

They even call the skyscrapers TOWERS now, as Isaiah the Prophet called them when he saw them FALL in the day of the GREAT SLAUGHTER!

Isaiah 30:25

25 And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the DAY OF THE GREAT SLAUGHTER, WHEN THE TOWERS FALL. (emphasis mine)

(Isaiah had just been speaking previously of the GREAT EARTHQUAKE that will come in the end of the world, in the chapters leading up to this--specifically starting from chapter 24 on.)

Speaking of the GREAT EARTHQUAKE that I just referred to in Isaiah; here is some more amazing Scripture that also describes this AWESOME ENDTIME EVENT! To view this we have to go back to the texts of Ezekiel 38 & 39, and Revelation chapter 16! ONCE AGAIN, here is another MAJOR EVENT that is described in BOTH of these areas of Scripture which PROVES that they are speaking of the SAME TIME PERIOD, and SAME EVENT! ARMAGEDDON!!! Ezekiel 38: 18-22 and Revelation 16: 16-21 BOTH speak of the GREAT ENDTIME EARTHQUAKE! They BOTH portray this earthquake as being the GREATEST EARTHQUAKE that will have ever happened!

Ezekiel 38:18-22

18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face. 19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; 20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. 21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. 22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Revelation 16:16-21

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. 18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. 19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

In the passage in Ezekiel it says that this earthquake is so great that it causes even the FISH IN THE SEA to shake at the presence of the Lord! It says that every man and beast will shake, and EVERY WALL SHALL FALL TO THE GROUND, and that the MOUNTAINS WILL ACTUALLY BE THROWN DOWN! Think of that!! All the great mountain ranges like the Hymalayas, the Alps, and the Rockies will topple! This is OBVIOUSLY A WORLDWIDE EARTHQUAKE, not just a local area earthquake like we presently have when one occurs. Compare the wording of these events out of Ezekiel with the following events out of Revelation:

In the passage in Revelation it says that this particular earthquake is GREATER THAN ANY THAT HAS EVER OCCURRED BEFORE! It says that it is SO GREAT that it causes THE CITIES OF THE NATIONS TO FALL! (Like in Ezekiel 38, where every WALL falls to the ground.) ALSO; like Ezekiel, it indicates that this event is WORLDWIDE IN SCOPE! It says that every island fled away, and the MOUNTAINS WERE NOT FOUND! (Ezekiel 38 says, "THE MOUNTAINS SHALL BE THROWN DOWN!")

Folks; that can only happen ONCE! The mountain ranges cannot be "thrown down," or leveled TWO SEPARATE TIMES, in the ENDTIME! These two areas of Scripture MUST be describing the SAME EARTHQUAKE! This mention of what happens to the MOUNTAIN RANGES sounds like PRETTY CONVINCING EVIDENCE, and CONCLUSIVE PROOF!

And in BOTH areas of Scripture it says that this is followed by a plague of GREAT HAIL falling upon mankind! Ezekiel says an OVERFLOWING RAIN OF GREAT HAIL, FIRE, AND BRIMSTONE! So both of these areas of Scripture are obviously describing the SAME EVENT HERE!

Therefore, if the GREAT EARTHQUAKE described in both of these areas of Scripture is the SAME EVENT; then by the same token, the GREAT BATTLE which is described in both, (where the armies fall on the hillsides) must be the SAME BATTLE TOO!!! There is the CONCLUSIVE PROOF! The fact that the MOUNTAIN RANGES CANNOT BE THROWN DOWN TWICE, and that BOTH OF THESE EVENTS OCCUR TOGETHER!

BOTH of these events: the GREAT BATTLE where the armies of God's enemies fall on the hillsides of Israel and are eaten by the birds, and the GREAT EARTHQUAKE, which is greater than any that has EVER OCCURRED BEFORE; GO TOGETHER to PROVE that THESE TWO AREAS OF SCRIPTURE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE SAME EVENT --- ARMAGEDDON!

This PROVES that Ezekiel 38 & 39 concern the BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON, and that they are not a SEPARATE BATTLE, in which the battle in Ezekiel occurs BEFORE the battle in Revelation. This is VERY IMPORTANT in understanding ENDTIME EVENTS. Because, as I said before, some prophecy teachers teach that the GOG - MAGOG battle of Ezekiel 38 & 39 is a SEPARATE BATTLE from the BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON spoken of in the BOOK OF REVELATION! They believe that Russia will attack America and Israel at the BEGINNING OF THE TRIBULATION, and destroy each other, and then the ANTICHRIST WILL RISE and rule for either 3 ½ or 7 years. (and be a WESTERN EUROPEAN)

But in light of the Scriptural evidence I have presented in this study, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN! I believe that the Antichrist will be of RUSSIAN, or of closely related DESCENT, or the Lord would have NEVER PUT THESE SCRIPTURES ABOUT GOG IN THE BIBLE! They are there for a REASON, and I believe that reason is to link them together with the LIKE VERSES out of Revelation concerning the BEAST and thereby SHOW US HIS IDENTITY!

This leads us into my NEXT STUDY, on MORE SCRIPTURES that PROVE this battle comes AT, or NEAR the VERY END, and that it is DIRECTLY TIED to the COMING NUCLEAR WAR which destroys AMERICA, (BABYLON THE GREAT) in ONE HOUR BY FIRE!

Revelation 16: 16-21 gives us an actual TIME FRAME REFERENCE for this GREAT EARTHQUAKE as coming at the LAST VIAL OF GOD'S WRATH! This is the LAST EVENT that occurs on GOD'S TIMETABLE! That places this all at the VERY END! This is very important in understanding just WHEN the nuclear war will come; as what APPEARS to be NUCLEAR WAR in the Scriptures, can be directly linked to these SAME EVENTS in the Book of Revelation and the writings of the Prophets!

I hope that this has been both interesting and enlightening, and that it inspires the reader to study the Scriptures to "see if these things be so!" I welcome your replies and commentary, and hope that you will take the time to respond with anything the Lord shows you personally concerning these events. Thank you for your time and attention.

- John Aggson

LIST OF IMPORTANT MINISTRY ADDRESSES

(These are folks that I highly recommend, that I believe are really preaching the truth, and preparing God's people to face the AWESOME EVENTS AHEAD! Please understand that they may not necessarily agree with the study that I have just presented, and I am in no way speaking for them in this study.)

Henry Gruver:

JOYFUL SOUND MINISTRIES

601 Walker

Woodbine, IA 51579

phone: 712-647-3104

Order Henry's amazing video: "THE RUSSIAN INVASION!" (part 1) (Henry is one of the dearest and most anointed men of God I've ever met!)

Dimitru Duduman:

HAND OF HELP

PO BOX 550

MINEOLA, TX

75773-0450

phone: 903-569-6187

Ask for printed copies of Dimitru's visions, his Book, "THROUGH THE FIRE WITHOUT BURNING," and his video: "WAKE UP AMERICA!"

(Dimitru recently passed away and went home with Jesus, but his Grandson, Michael Boldea will be continuing his ministry, Lord willing.)

Don McAlvany:

THE McALVANY INTELLIGENCE ADVISOR

PO BOX 84904

Phoenix, AZ 85071

phone: 1-800-525-9556

"SIMPLY THE BEST CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER THERE IS!" (Offering the soundest and most practical advice on what to do to prepare for the times ahead that all Christians will face!)

David J. Smith:

NEWSWATCH MAGAZINE

Church of God Evang. Assn.

1420 W. Ross St.

Waxahachie, TX 75165

phone: 972-937-2227

Website: www.newswatchmagazine.org

David is one of the most outspoken expositors of the Illuminati and the rich elitists that there is! This man is really anointed by the Lord! (A MUST READ!) call 1-800-516-8736 and ask for the FREE NEWSLETTER: "Will Russia Invade America?" (This particular newsletter would be good to read after the study you have just finished!)

Des Griffin:

EMISSARY PUBLICATIONS

9205 SE Clackamas Rd. # 1776

Clackamas, OR 97015

phone/fax: 503-824-2050

DITTO THE ABOVE! Nobody tells it like it is, like Des Griffin and David J. Smith. (Des is one of the most prolific writers of our time!)

Larry Taylor:

THE HYSSOP CHRONICLES

PO BOX 1602

Idabel, OK 74745

phone: 580-286-5732

fax: 580-286-3234

This man actually gets prophecies and visions from the Lord, AND THEY COME TRUE!!! A TREMENDOUS NEWSLETTER, and a TRUE PROPHET OF GOD!

Pastor Dan Bohler:

AGAPE HARVEST MINISTRY

1315 w. 40 Hwy

Blue Springs, MO

phone: 816-228-8355

Like Larry Taylor, this man HEARS FROM GOD! He has received many prophetic dreams and visions which have come to pass. Ask him for them. (He has received many visions concerning the DESTRUCTION OF AMERICA!)

Texe Marrs:

LIVING TRUTH MINISTRIES

1708 Patterson Road

Austin, TX 78733

phone: 1-800-234-WORD

A REAL HOT ONE!!! This man tells it like it is. Former Air Force Colonel, worked in BLACK BOX operations in Europe during cold war, former college professor, wrote college textbooks on computers.

The Family:

THE FAMILY

PF 3624

8021 ZURICH

SWITZERLAND

phone: 1-800-4-A FAMILY

website: www.thefamily.org/family and www.countdown.org

These folks have the most INCREDIBLE line of full color posters and artwork really preaching the truth on the endtime. Their music and videos are tremendous. Ask for their video: COUNTDOWN TO ARMAGEDDON!

(These people actually had the courage to dress in RED SACKCLOTH like Jeremiah of old, and go to the WHITE HOUSE, and UNITED NATIONS, and prophecy against BABYLON THE GREAT! Wearing ox yokes around their necks, as Jeremiah did, that symbolize America's coming bondage to the NEW WORLD ORDER! They carried LARGE SCROLLS with Scriptures out of Jeremiah, and Revelation, and related areas out of the Bible calling for AMERICA TO REPENT! They hand out a leaflet called, "WOE TO AMERICA!" God bless them! Real Prophets of the Endtime!)

Danny Catlin:

ETERNAL LIFE CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

230 W. 4th St

Florence, KS 66851

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Nebuchadnezzar: A type of Christ by Bill Somers

Mark 4 10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and **how then will ye know all parables?**

Nebuchadnezzar: **A type of Christ?** But Nebuchadnezzar was a wicked character! Perhaps so, but God blessed him, saved him and gave him the honor of narrating an entire chapter of the Book of Daniel. See Daniel 4.

But wicked character or no, He is used as a type of the Lord Jesus Christ and his history forms a parable for us today.

The Story of Nebuchadnezzar in the Bible is a Parable.

The key events are:

God's role for Nebuchadnezzar, He is given dominion over all the world. [Jeremiah 27; Ezra 1; etc.;see below.]

Nebuchadnezzar 's conquest of Tyre

Nebuchadnezzar 's rulership and destruction of Jerusalem and

Nebuchadnezzar 's conquest of Egypt.

In this parable the characters or elements are:

Nebuchadnezzar is a type of Jesus Christ,

The land of Judah and the City of Jerusalem are the Church.

The king of Tyrus is Satan, [Ezekiel 28; see below]

Pharaoh king of Egypt is also Satan.

The Lord is the Father God.

Egypt is the world. [The only new type here is Nebuchadnezzar.]

What the parable illustrates is the role Jesus plays in the Fathers plan.

Nebuchadnezzar first conquered Tyre, then Jerusalem, and finally Egypt.

Jesus first defeated Satan at Calvary. Now He is about to take over [conquer] the Church. Then He will judge and take over the world.

As Nebuchadnezzar was given the land of Egypt by the Lord, for his service in defeating the king of Tyrus, so the Father has given Jesus all authority and power under heaven for his defeat of Satan at Calvary. [Ezekiel 29, see below.]

And part of the judgment that Nebuchadnezzar carries out against Egypt is to destroy the houses of their gods. This alludes to the judgments the Lord made against Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt in Exodus. And it is a prophetic foreshadowing of the **Second coming** of the Lord Jesus Christ, when He will carry out vengeance against Satan's kingdoms [the houses of their gods] in the heavenly places. [Jeremiah 43; see below]

Then He will set up his throne in Pharaoh's house, and spread his royal pavilion there.

...And he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a **shepherd** putteth on his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace Jer.. 43:12. Which is to say, Jesus will set up his kingdom on this earth, and assume control of the world and bring peace!

But First, Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and burnt the temple. And afterward He conquered Egypt. [Jeremiah 25; see below]

Which is to say: Judgment must begin at the house of God, and then judgment will come upon the world.

The main lesson for the church today:

Nebuchadnezzar as a type of the Lord Jesus brings judgment on Jerusalem. This is the coming judgment on the Church. Organized Christianity as we know it will be devastated, like Jerusalem was. The survivors are counseled by the prophet Jeremiah to remain in the Land of Judah [praise] to dwell safely. If they go down into Egypt, they are in danger. [Jeremiah 42: see below.]

Likewise Christian who come through this judgment must stay in an attitude of Praise and Worship [service] to God, in order to be safe during the judgments coming on the world. If they loose heart and fall back into following the ways of the world [Egypt] they will be judged with the world.

The Judgment on the Church

The situation in Jerusalem when it was destroyed was that they were already under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar. The Kingdom of Judah was supposedly submitted to the Babylonian empire. Their King was a man He had set up and placed on their throne. He [Zedekiah] rebelled and brought down destruction upon the nation.

Our churches are supposedly submitted to the Lordship of Jesus. Our leaders are men he has raised up. Yet for our disobedience He [Jesus] must come as Judge. He will assume His authority and set up His throne in His temple, the Church. As Judgment begins at the House of God, so will the Kingdom of God begin in this revival.

This judgment is quite comparable to the destruction of Jerusalem. In Rick Joyner's article, Civil War in the Church, he speaks of it in terms of what will "look like a total meltdown of Christianity."

Isaiah speaks of a time when " When the enemy shall come in like a flood, Isa. 59:19

In another place Isaiah writes:

Isa. . 33:14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

15 He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

Paul speaks of the day of fire, (How often we pray, Lord send down the Fire!)

1 Cor.. 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Malachi mentions refiners fire when considering that day.

Mal 3:2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Luke mentions the fire in connection with purging.

Lu. 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

Hebrews speaks of judgment, shaking and fire, a consuming fire.

He 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.

27 And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:

29 For our God is a consuming fire.

References:

[Note that some of these references refer directly to Jesus, some to Cyrus King of Persia and some to Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon. The common element is that God speaks of each of them as 'my servant' or 'my anointed'. And as you might guess, Cyrus is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ just as Nebuchadnezzar is.]

Jeremiah. 27:6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

Ezra 1:2 Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

Isaiah. 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 44:1 Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; 2 I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: 3 And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. 28 That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Jeremiah 25:9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. 15 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it. 17 Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me: 18 To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day; 19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people;

Ezekiel 28:12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Ezekiel 29:18 Son of man, Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon caused his army to serve a great service against Tyrus: every head was made bald, and every shoulder was peeled: yet had he no wages, nor his army, for Tyrus, for the service that he had served against it: 19 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will give the land of Egypt unto Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall take her multitude, and take her spoil, and take her prey; and it shall be the wages for his army. 20 I have given him the land of Egypt for his labour wherewith he served against it, because they wrought for me, saith the Lord GOD. 21 In that day will I cause the horn of the house of Israel to bud forth, and I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Jeremiah 43:8 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying, 9 Take great stones in thine hand, and hide them in the clay in the brickkiln, which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah; 10 And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them. 11 And when he cometh, he shall smite the land of Egypt, and deliver such as are for death to death; and such as are for captivity to captivity; and such as are for the sword to the sword. 12 And I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and carry them away captives: and he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd putteth on his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace. 13 He shall break also the images of Bethshemesh, that is in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire.

Jeremiah 42:9 And said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him; 10 If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull you down, and I will plant you, and not pluck you up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you. 11 Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the LORD: for I am with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand. 12 And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land. 13 But if ye say, We will not dwell in this land, neither obey the voice of the LORD your God, 14 Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell: 15 And now therefore hear the word of the LORD, ye remnant of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; If ye wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt, and go to sojourn there; 16 Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die. 17 So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them. 18 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt: and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more.

