

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ -

THE RETURN OF JESUS



If George Washington had said Jesus was coming soon, everyone rightfully could have laughed and maybe even would have thought him confused. So too if William Shakespeare had said that, or Abraham Lincoln. They would have been speaking incorrectly, for the many prophecies of events to happen before Jesus returns to earth had not yet happened.

But now, I can say Jesus is coming soon and you can't laugh. You too can say he is coming soon, and you should. Numerous prophecies in the Bible given by God through various prophets and Jesus himself have been fulfilled in the lives of many of you reading this newsletter. In fact, there is nothing to stop Jesus from coming now to call out his Church. Nothing.

For hundreds of years after Jesus' death and resurrection, the prophecies went unfulfilled. But suddenly in the last century they began to be fulfilled with force. Now the signs are all around us, that is, if you are open and able to see them. Many prophetic scriptures bear on all this throughout the Old and New Testaments. Jesus himself gave many prophecies in three gospel chapters – Mark 13, Matthew 24, and Luke 21.

THE REESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL AS A NATION IN 1948

- In 70 AD the temple in Jerusalem was totally destroyed as Jesus had prophesied, and Jerusalem itself was overrun and destroyed. The Jews were dispersed and Israel as a political entity, as a geographical nation, went out of existence. Suddenly in 1948 in one moment the nation of Israel came back into existence. Never in the history of the world had a nation been completely taken over and dismembered, only to rise again hundreds of years later. Through the centuries the dispersed Jews had continued to maintain their unique identity. Unlike other conquered



peoples who blended into the conquering groups and disappeared from history, the Jews continued to be visible. Isaiah 66:8 asks if a nation can be born in a day. The answer, in the case of Israel, is yes. Ezekiel 37:21-22, Micah 4:6-8, and Jeremiah 31:35-37 are just a few of the many scriptures prophesying the restoration of Israel. God's long term plans for Israel are clearly spelled out in Genesis 15:18 and 17:8. Israel is the apple of God's eye (Zephaniah 2:8).

The reestablishment effort suddenly began in earnest at the end of the 1800's when a Jew, Theodore Hertzl, began to write and speak about a nation for the Jews. In World War I Britain miraculously was led to take a stand publicly in support of this – the Balfour Declaration – and later was given a governing mandate over the area in the Middle East where Israel and Jordan now are. In World War II millions of Jews were killed. In 1948 the United Nations formally established the new nation of Israel. The United States under Harry Truman immediately recognized this nation, even though some top advisers did not support him in this.

When Israel came into existence, serious believers and Bible scholars were suddenly faced with the undeniable fact that the great prophecy of the return of the nation of Israel had indeed happened! God was moving, and moving fast.

THE TAKEOVER OF JERUSALEM BY THE JEWS. – Even though Israel was now established, the city of Jerusalem was still not under Jewish control. Suddenly in 1967 in the miraculous six day war, this tiny nation that was only 19 years old recaptured Jerusalem and much other territory. Jesus himself in Luke 21:24 and 32 had prophesied that the end of the control of the Gentiles over Jerusalem would occur with many other prophesied events connected to Jesus' return in one generation. That happened in 1967.

INGATHERING OF THE JEWS – Can these bones live, God asks in Ezekiel 37:3. Yes, they can. From the reestablishment of Israel and even before while the area was under British mandate, Jews began moving back to Israel. For some this has been difficult. Soviet Jews could not readily leave to return, not until the fall of the Soviet Union. Lost tribes have been discovered in Ethiopia and in India, and they have been and are in the process of returning. There is even an organization, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, that works to return the dispersed Jews to Israel. From a tiny population in 1948, Israel has grown to where there are now about as many Jews in Israel as in the rest of the world, and the ingathering continues. Relevant prophecies include Amos 9:14-15, Zephaniah 3:20, Ezekiel 37:21-22, Jeremiah 16:15, and Isaiah 43:5-7.

PEOPLE FRIGHTENED BY THE ROARING AND TOSSING OF THE OCEAN (Luke 21:25)
Yes, we all know there are hurricanes from time to time. But has there been any change in the pattern or severity? Consider this: Including the recent Burma/Myanmar hurricane, of the ten worst hurricanes in recorded history in the world – worst meaning deadliest – four have occurred in the last 66 years! The worst hurricane in recorded history occurred in 1970, with a death toll in Bangladesh of over 500,000. Anyone with knowledge of mathematics and probability/statistics knows that in no way should we expect four of the worst ten to have occurred in our lifetimes. But look at the next point:

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EARTHQUAKES (Matthew 24:7) – Including the recent China earthquake, of the twenty worst (deadliest) earthquakes in recorded history, ten have occurred in the last hundred years! Half! Recorded history is a lot longer than that. In fact, the worst earthquake occurred in 1556 in China, with about 830,000 people being killed. Mathematically, it is amazingly significant that half the top twenty have occurred just in the last hundred years.

NOW CONSIDER THIS AMAZING FACT: In the short time span of just the last 3 years and 5 months (from Christmas of 2004 until today), 3 of the 20 deadliest earthquakes and 1 of the 10 deadliest hurricanes have occurred! In all of recorded history. Two of these events have occurred in the last few weeks!

There are many other prophecies, and I will list several here with a scripture reference. You can find more explanation in our CD *The Return of Jesus - Prophecies Fulfilled*, and perhaps we will expand on these in future newsletters.

RISE IN LAWLESSNESS/TERRIBLE TIMES (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

GREAT INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE (Daniel 12:4) – Just consider the computer, the internet, the cell phone, space travel, on and on.

EVERYONE RUSHING AROUND TO AND FRO (Daniel 12:4) – describes our life style today doesn't it?

BREAKDOWN OF FAMILY UNIT (Micah 7:5-6) – Hello? Our society today, isn't it?

TIME COMPRESSION (Amos 9:13) – It's not just a feeling that you don't have enough time. Time really is compressing.

MASS COMMUNICATION – (Matthew 24:27) How is it possible that everyone at the same time can see the Son of Man returning? One answer is satellite television! Of course, he may choose some other means.

GOD POURING OUT HIS SPIRIT – (Acts 2:17, Joel 2:28) – This deserves many pages. It is clearly happening in certain areas of the world and in some places in the US.

WARS/RUMORS OF WARS – (Matthew 24:6) – Iraq, Afghanistan, threat of Iran, general terrorism threat, the Middle East, and more - enough said.

INCREASE IN DECEPTION - (Matthew 24:11 and 24:4) – Again, you can find your own examples in the worlds of entertainment, news media, political leaders, etc.

RETURN OF ANCIENT HEBREW AS THE LANGUAGE OF MODERN ISRAEL – (Zephaniah 3:9)

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THE OLD COIN, THE SHEKEL, AS THE CURRENCY IN MODERN ISRAEL – (Ezekiel 45:12)

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN FOR US?

Pretty amazing, isn't it – this list and the implication for all of us: **Jesus is coming back very, very soon!**

One last thought jumps out after looking at all the prophecies fulfilled – Will you be ready when Jesus calls? Maybe of more pertinence, will those you love be ready?

Keep in mind that no one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws him. So when you pray for others to know Jesus, be sure to ask the Father to lead them to Jesus.

Stay in the blessing.

John

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