

**Prophetic Update  
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January 8, 2023**

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**Introduction (Matthew 24:32-33, 36)**

The Bible is clear in teaching that we cannot know the time of the return of our Lord. And yet, He does expect to be aware of the “seasons” and see the nearness of His return (Mt. 24:32-33). There is nothing that must happen (in terms of prophetic fulfillment) before the Rapture of the Church. But as we see the increasing similarity of our times to those that will characterize the Tribulation, the period leading up to the second coming of Christ, the closer His appearing seems.

The articles cited below are not meant to say that they are the fulfillment of prophecy. Rather, they are an illustration of how end-time prophecy might be fulfilled. Also, they show an increasing readiness for the end-time events. One illustration of this might be the Temple in Jerusalem. The Bible indicates there will be a Temple in Jerusalem before the return of Christ (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15; & 2 Thes. 2:3-4). The news pointing to a readiness to rebuild the Temple shows how readily the world situation could become what is described in the biblical accounts of the days leading to the return of Christ.

“I read the, newspaper,” said John Newton, “that I may see how my heavenly Father governs the world;” a very excellent reason indeed. We have read the newspaper during the last three months that we might find illustrations of the teaching of our heavenly Father’s word; and we think we have not read in vain, for we have gathered instances in proof, and facts in explanation, which we have jotted down in these pages. The worlds of nature and of providence are full of parallels to things moral and spiritual, and serve as

pictures to make the written book of inspiration more clear to the children of God. [CH Spurgeon, Preface to *The Bible and the Newspaper*, AGES Spurgeon 2.0]

## **1. Middle East Peace**

### **A. Scripture (Daniel 9:27)**

Dan. 9:27 indicates that the last seven years before the return of Christ will start with a peace treaty that will apparently allow Israel renewed worship.

### **B. News**

There hasn't been much activity this year on Mideast Peace. There was tremendous progress and interest as a result of the Trump era Abraham Accords. But no such leadership has been active since then.

This is not to say there is no need... And this supports the idea that the world leader who brings peace will be greatly admired and honored.

## **2. The Temple**

### **A. Scripture (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15; & 2 Thes. 2:3-4)**

The Bible indicates that the Temple in Jerusalem must be rebuilt (again) and have a part in the end-time events. This is seen in Daniel 9:27; Mt. 24:15; and 2 Thes. 2:3-4.

### **B. News**

#### **1. Is there new evidence of Jewish Temple treasures in the Vatican?**

<https://www.jpost.com/jerusalem-report/article-696068>

#### **2. Hamas threatens Israel over extremists' plans for Passover sacrifice on Temple Mount**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-threatens-israel-over-extremists-plans-for-passover-sacrifice-on-temple-mount/>

**3. Does the arrival of five red heifers in Israel signal third temple, end times?**

<https://allisrael.com/does-the-arrival-of-five-red-heifers-in-israel-signal-third-temple-end-times>

**4. Red heifer sacrifice could take place in one year in Jerusalem**

<https://allisrael.com/red-heifer-sacrifice-could-take-place-in-about-a-year-in-jerusalem>

**5. Temple Mount activists petition Ben Gvir to permit Passover sacrifice**

<https://www.israel365news.com/364834/temple-mount-activists-petition-ben-gvir-to-permit-passover-sacrifice/>

**6. Wave of international criticism after National Security Minister Ben Gvir visits flashpoint Temple Mount**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordan-accuses-ben-gvir-of-storming-al-aqsa-by-visiting-temple-mount/>

**7. PA accuses Israel of trying to build a new temple on Temple Mount**

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-726511>



### **3. One World Government**

#### **A. Scripture. (Rev. 13:7; 17:12-13)**

The Bible speaks of a one-world government (Rev. 13:7; 17:12-13) headed by the Antichrist (though it will face opposition from northern, southern and eastern nations not aligned with the revived Roman empire [e.g., Ezek. 38-39]).

#### **B. News**

##### **1. Hungarian PM warns tyranny 'greater than this pandemic' is coming**

<https://www.wnd.com/2022/03/hungarian-pm-warns-tyranny-greater-pandemic-coming/>

##### **2. GLOBAL GOV'T ALERT: Threat to national sovereignty set to go down May 22-28 at WHO World Health Assembly**

<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2022/04/global-govt-alert-threat-national-sovereignty-set-go-may-22-28-world-health-assembly/>

##### **3. Critics slam timing of Biden's 'ministry of truth' to police internet for 'disinformation'**

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/critics-slam-timing-bidens-ministry-of-truth-police-internet-disinformation> +

##### **4. The World Government Movement**

<https://worldgovernment.info/>

##### **5. French President Emmanuel Macron called for world government in a speech Friday,**

<https://www.newswars.com/we-need-a-single-global-order-macron-calls-for-global-government-to-avoid-world-war/>

6.

**Introducing the 'Great Reset,' world leaders' radical plan to transform the economy**

<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/504499-introducing-the-great-reset-world-leaders-radical-plan-to/>

#### **4. One World Economy**

##### **A. Scripture (Rev. 13:16-18)**

Rev. 13:16-18 teaches that the Antichrist will totally control trade so that no one will be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast on his right hand or his forehead.

Rev. 13:16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, [17] and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. [18] Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

##### **B. News**

##### **1. You Have a Social Credit Score, and You Don't Even Know It**

<https://redstate.com/jimthompson/2022/02/10/you-have-a-social-credit-score-and-you-dont-even-know-it-n519967>

##### **2. Banks are moving to freeze accounts linked to convoy protests.**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/emergencies-act-banks-ottawa-protests-1.6353968>

### **3. Hand implant allows people to pay with chip**

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/hand-implant-allows-people-to-pay-with-chip/ar-AAWjHEb>

### **4. Social Credit Scoring System Designed To Modify Behavior Launched In Italy**

<https://www.christianitydaily.com/articles/15681/20220425/social-credit-scoring-system-designed-to-modify-behavior-launched-in-italy.htm>

### **5. 'Imagine the compliance': Pfizer CEO praises 'ingestible pills' with microchip**

<https://www.wnd.com/2022/08/imagine-compliance-pfizer-ceo-praises-ingestible-pills-microchip/>

### **6. Microchip Payment Implants - Biohacking Trend Or Sign Of Things To Come?**

[https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent\\_news\\_id=5684](https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=5684)

### **7. President Biden is pursuing a digital currency for the US**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/09/16/technical-possibilities-for-a-u-s-central-bank-digital-currency/>

### **8. Biden is planning a new digital currency. Here's why you should be very worried**

<https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/599768-biden-is-planning-a-new-digital-currency-heres-why-you-should-be-very-worried/>

## **5. One World Religion**

### **A. Scripture (Dan. 9:27; 2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:8)**

Part of what the Bible tells us about the Antichrist is that he will take over the Temple at the mid-point of the Tribulation and set himself up for worship (Dan. 9:27; 2 Thes. 2:3-4). Rev. 13:8 says that all the non-elect will worship him. The end times, therefore, will see a unified state religion that will oppose the biblical faith.

### **B. News**

#### **1. Signs that the CCP's religious overseers are gearing up to exert influence over religious believers in Hong Kong**

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2022/01/signs-that-ccps-religious-overseers.html>

#### **2. 'After School Satan Club' Is Latest in Growing Trend Of Overt Satanic Displays**

[https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent\\_news\\_id=5781](https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=5781)

#### **3. At UN, Religious Leaders Explain "Addendum" to 10 Commandments & "Third Covenant"**

<https://thenewamerican.com/at-un-religious-leaders-explain-addendum-to-10-commandments-third-covenant/>

#### **4. The Abrahamic Family House is 20% complete ABOUT THE ABRAHAMIC FAMILY HOUSE**

<https://www.forhumanfraternity.org/abrahamic-family-house/>

(see ppt for slides from

<https://gulfnnews.com/photos/news/photos-abu-dhabis-abrahamic-family-house-marks-20-per-cent-of-construction-progress-1.1623835886640?slide=4> )

## **6. Babylon**

### **A. Scripture (Rev. 17-18)**

Revelation 17-18 (Note 17:1, 5) indicates that Babylon will again be a significant city and focus in end time events. Many have thought that this was perhaps symbolic of Rome. That is not required by the text. Some have wrongly assumed that the judgment of Babylon in Jer. 50-51 has been fulfilled so that Babylon will never be rebuilt. See Dyer's articles for a clear refutation (Bib Sac 144: 305-316 and 145: 433-449). See also Dr. S. Lewis Johnson's transcribed sermons: [Isaiah 13:1 – 14:23' "Babylon and Lucifer"](#) and his five sermons on [Revelation 17-18](#).

### **B. News**

**1. Babylon, the iconic ancient city, is once again rising from the ashes,**

<https://allarab.news/babylon-that-great-ancient-city-is-once-again-rising-from-the-ashes-just-as-bible-prophecy-predicts-here-is-the-latest/>

**2. Vast oil field in Iraq yet to be developed**

<https://oilprice.com/Energy/Crude-Oil/One-Of-The-Worlds-Largest-Oilfields-Faces-Delays-In-Development.html>

## **7. Invasion from the North**

### **A. Scripture (Ezek. 38-39)**

The Bible indicates that Israel is the focus of the end-time events. One aspect of that is that it will be the center of much warfare. One assault will come from a northern alliance. Many commentators equate this with Russia—at least in part (i.e., Magog in the Caucasus mountain region) (cf. BKCOT, 1299-1300—see update map), Ezek. 38-39.

While somewhat dated by references to the Soviet Union, Charles Dyer's comments in the Bible Knowledge

Commentary on the OT (BKCOT), on Ezekiel 38 are helpful:

However, while one must avoid dogmatic assertions, three reasons suggest including the Soviet Union within Ezekiel's prophecy: (1) Some of the countries named by Ezekiel were located in what is now Russia. (2) The armies are said to come "from the far north" (Eze 38:6, Eze 38:15; Eze 39:2). This probably includes the land bridge between the Black and Caspian Seas, now part of the Soviet Union. (3) Ezekiel spoke of a coalition of several nations, many of whom are today aligned with or under the influence of the Soviet Union. These include Iran ("Persia"), Sudan and northern Ethiopia ("Cush"), Libya ("Put"), and Turkey ("Meshech," "Tubal," "Gomer," and "Beth Togarmah"). All these nations (see Eze 38:2-3, Eze 38:5-6), possibly led by the Soviet Union, will unite to attack Israel. (emphasis added)

### **B. News**

#### **1. Exposed: The Russian Companies That Will Get Billions From New Iran Nuclear Deal**

<https://freebeacon.com/national-security/exposed-the-russian-companies-that-will-get-billions-from-new-iran-nuclear-deal/>

#### **2. Syria: Damascus Airport temporarily shut down by alleged Israeli airstrikes**

<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-726390>

**3. Russia is actively involved with and/or in Iran, Syria, Ukraine/Crimea**

**8. Wars and Rumors of Wars**

**A. Scripture (Matthew 24:6-8)**

**B. News**

**1. Several areas of potential multi-national conflicts are potential:**

- Russia/Ukraine/Europe
- China/Taiwan
- Iran/Israel
- North Korea/S. Korea/Japan
- Israel/Syria

**9. Persecution of Christians**

**A. Scripture (Mt. 24:9; Rev. 6:9)**

Mt. 24:9 indicates that persecution and execution of believers will be part of the end times. Cf. Rev. 6:9.

**B. News**

**1. Christian MP says prosecution for tweeting Bible verse on homosexuality is a 'privilege'**

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-mp-says-prosecution-over-biblical-beliefs-a-privilege.html>

**2. A parliament member from Finland is facing three charges of hate speech**

Amir Tsafarti, <https://t.me/beholdisraelchannel/6046>

<https://twitter.com/PaiviRasanen/status/1480282227825070080/photo/1>

**3. YouTube this week determined a sermon from popular Christian leader Pastor John MacArthur is "hate speech"**

<https://www.wnd.com/2022/01/fighting-god-youtube-pounces-bible-hate-speech/>

**4. Switzerland: Crosses to disappear from nation's largest cemetery because they upset 'other religions'**

<https://www.jihadwatch.org/2022/01/switzerland-crosses-to-disappear-from-nations-largest-cemetery-because-they-upset-other-religions>

**5. Twitter suspends congresswoman for criticizing affirmation of 'men who pretend to be women'**

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/twitter-suspends-gop-congresswoman-hartlizer.html>

**6. Finnish court: Expressing Biblical beliefs is not hate speech**

<https://wng.org/roundups/finnish-court-expressing-biblical-beliefs-is-not-hate-speech-1648842127>

**7. Chinese messaging app censors the word "Christ"**

<https://www.chinaaid.org/2022/04/chinese-messaging-app-bans-word-christ.html>

**8. Evangelical CEO Ousted by Australian Football Team over His Church Membership**



<https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/evangelical-ceo-ousted-by-australian-football-team-over-his-church-membership.html>

## **9. Sports Star sentenced to 10 Months For 'Transphobic' Message Of Creation From Genesis**

Originally published at [The Washington Stand](#) - reposted with permission.

[https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent\\_news\\_id=5721](https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=5721)

## **10. Pestilence**

### **A. Scripture (Rev. 6:8)**

Rev. 6:8 And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. And authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

### **B. News**

#### **1. COVID**

The disease spread broadly and quickly...a pandemic. Many died. It had broad financial and social impact. (educational delays, supply chain failures, employment decline, suppression of freedoms, etc.)

## **11. Immorality**

### **A. Scripture (2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; Rev. 9:21)**

2 Tim 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3:3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 3:4

treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.

2 Pet. 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2:2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 2:3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

*Revelation 9:21 (NKJV)*

And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

## **B. News**

### **1. Conversion therapy to be illegal in Canada in 30 days**

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/politics/conversion-therapy-to-be-illegal-in-canada-in-30-days-1.5699251>

Video of Canadian Parliament cheering as they unanimously passed the anti “conversion therapy” law:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jz4HNpoYLjo>

### **2. Pro-family Canadians slam LGBT bill passed by House of Commons that criminalizes ‘conversion therapy’**

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/pro-family-canadians-slam-lgbt-bill-passed-by-house-of-commons-that-criminalizes-conversion-theory/>

**3. Major newspaper triggers firestorm calling pedophilia 'misunderstood'**

<https://www.wnd.com/2022/01/major-newspaper-triggers-firestorm-calling-pedophilia-misunderstood/>

**4. France's Macron Calls For Abortion To Be Added To EU's Fundamental Rights Charter**

<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/emmanuel-macron-EU-abortion-rights-charter/2022/01/19/id/1053097/>

**5. Massachusetts High School Pushes To Erase 'Gendered Terms' From Biology Class**

<https://freebeacon.com/campus/massachusetts-high-school-pushes-to-erase-gendered-terms-from-biology-class/>

**6. White House lights up with rainbow colors after same-sex marriage bill signing**

<https://news.yahoo.com/white-house-lights-rainbow-colors-034743720.html>

**7. Transitioning Kids: "This is a despicable, vile, child-molesting fad that the left supports" Prager**

<https://thedaybreakdaily.com/transitioning-kids-this-is-a-despicable-vile-child-molesting-fad-that-the-left-supports/>

**8. Marine Corps Plans To Get Rid Of "Yes Sir" Over Gender Neutrality Concerns**

<https://triunetimes.org/marine-corps-plans-to-get-rid-of-yes-sir-over-gender-neutrality-concerns/>

## **12. The Family will suffer**

### **A. Scripture (2 Timothy 3:1-2)**

2 Tim 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy

### **B. News**

#### **1. Schools across America implement BLM Week of Action that calls for 'disruption of Western nuclear family'**

**Published** Feb. 2, 2022

#### **Schools across America implement BLM Week of Action that calls for 'disruption of Western nuclear family'**

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/schools-across-america-blm-week-action-nuclear-family>

#### **2. The Golden State has become the 'Gangrene State'**

<https://www.christianpost.com/voices/the-golden-state-has-become-the-gangrene-state.html>

#### **3. Maryland Bill Effectively Decriminalizes Neglecting Newborns to Death**

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/maryland-bill-effectively-decriminalizes-neglecting-newborns-to-death/>

#### **4. Biden says students are like teachers' children when in classroom**

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-students-like-teachers-children-when-in-classroom>

### **13. Lawlessness will increase**

#### **A. Scripture (Mat. 24:12)**

Mat. 24:12 "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

#### **B. News**

**1. We have all been stunned to see the senseless and cruel violence and crime that has become increasingly common.**

**2. Defund the police to make people safer, they said: Data shows huge increases in crime in 2022.**

<https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/data-shows-huge-increases-in-crime-already-in-2022/>

### **14. Anti-Semitism**

#### **A. Scripture (Rev. 12:12-13)**

"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." <sup>13</sup> And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. (Revelation 12:12-13)

#### **B. News**

**1. Antisemitic Flyers Distributed in Miami Beach Accuse Jews of 'Covid Agenda'**

<https://www.jewishpress.com/news/us-news/florida/antisemitic-flyers-distributed-in-miami-beach-accuse-jews-of-covid-agenda/2022/01/24/>

**2. Anti-Semitic crimes in NYC up nearly 300% in January**

<https://www.allisrael.com/anti-semitic-crimes-in-nyc-up-nearly-300-in-january>

**3. UK Jews record 2,255 antisemitic incidents in 2021 — the highest tally in Europe**

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/uk-jews-record-2255-antisemitic-incidents-in-2021-the-highest-tally-in-europe/>

**4. Former Chief Rabbi of Moscow Urges Jews to Leave Russia**

<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/chief-rabbi-pinchas-goldschmidt-russia/2022/09/08/id/1086536/>

**5. Antisemitism at Berkeley  
Antisemitism Once Again Rears Its Ugly Head on Campus**

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/antisemitism-once-again-rears-its-ugly-head-on-campus/>

**Miscellaneous**

**Application:**

All of this is not to set a date or say that these are the final fulfillments of prophecy. They could be or may just show trends and tendencies. We are told to be watchful. Watch the news and note the seasons!

At least three responses should be given to the study of biblical prophecy:

**1. Purification**

John tells us that he who has the hope of the rapture of the saints and the coming of Christ purifies himself (1 John 3:2-3). We do

that by trusting Christ for salvation (Titus 3:5) and then, repenting of sin, yielding ourselves to the service of Christ.

## **2. Prayer**

Jesus taught us that we are to pray "Thy kingdom come." (Mt. 6:10). When Daniel saw the times in which he lived, he turned to his Bible and then responded to the prophetic teaching with prayer. (Dan. 9:1-3)

## **3. Proclamation/Preaching**

Based on prophetic truths, we should encourage/comfort others (1 Th. 4:18; 5:11, 14; Heb. 3:13). We should also be faithful in persuading others of the gospel and their need to respond (2 Cor. 5:10-11).

This "news" is not to cause us to fear. It reminds us that our hope and home are not in this world, but in heaven with Christ.

## **Appendix: An overview of Biblical Prophecy**

Perhaps it would be helpful to review some of the important features of the prophetic calendar of the Bible. The major parts of it are the following:

- (1) First, the course of the present age will be characterized by the growth of the true church (cf. Matt. 16:13-20), the growth of professing Christendom (cf. 13:1-52), and the growth of apostasy within the latter.
- (2) Second, the translation of the church, including the resurrection of the dead saints, the rapture of the living (cf. 1 Thes. 4:13-18), and the judgment seat of Christ (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10-11).
- (3) Third, the seventieth week of Israel (cf. Dan. 9:24-27), during which a series of prophetic events occur, including the rise of world government and the beast, or the Antichrist, the making of a covenant by the Antichrist with the Jews in the land concerning worship and other matters, and the breaking of the covenant by the beast in the middle of the week (Dan. 9:27).

- (4) Fourth, the second advent of Christ (cf. Rev. 19:11-16), with the judgment of Israel (cf. Ezek. 20:24-38; Matt. 25:1-13) and the judgment of the Gentiles (cf. Matt. 25:31-46).
- (5) Fifth, the messianic kingdom of Christ (cf. Rev. 20:4-6).
- (6) Sixth, the great white throne judgment, where all past accounts of the lost are settled permanently (cf. Rev. 20:11-15).
- (7) Seventh, the creation of the new heavens and the new earth, or the eternal state (Rev. 21:1-8).

Dr. S. Lewis Johnson, *Believers Bible Bulletin*,  
Series: "Matthew," Lesson 79, page 2. (September 4, 1977)