

Online Prophecy Conference

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Jeff Meyers. As we walk through this global pandemic together, typically I spend this moment by welcoming the family of First Baptist, Opelika, but I want to send a special welcome on behalf of the people of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA. You have joined myself and their pastor Dr. David Goza tonight for a special virtual service involving a prophecy conference.

Now when we hear the word "prophecy" there's a lot of different definitions and, shall we say, opinions that come up with that, but to keep it simple tonight, when one uses the word "prophecy" it means to forth-tell and to foretell, in other words, it is to speak truth but oftentimes as we'll see tonight, it is to speak truth about events, occurrences or even personalities in the future or, shall we say, even tonight particularly from the book of Daniel way in the future, millennia ahead of when it was originally spoken.

So tonight as we gather together, I want to share with you kind of the lay of the land and then we're gonna begin our special presentation tonight with an introduction of the book of Daniel by David Goza. Tonight is gonna be broken up into three sections. The first section is gonna be an introduction to the book of Daniel as well as the book of Revelation. Now David and I have taught these books of the Bible several times in our life. There is no way to encapsulate all of the content of these incredible books of the Bible in just about 10 or 12 minutes but we're gonna do our best to kinda do a flyover. Once we do those introductions, we're gonna come back and we're gonna address 10 prophetic signs that the Bible not only addresses but that we are seeing fulfilled in our very lifetimes, and then on the backside you're gonna have the opportunity to submit your questions. We're gonna answer your questions in real time.

Now the best way to submit your questions is to either utilize the Jefferson Baptist Facebook live feed or the First Baptist, Opelika. So go to one of the respective Facebook live posts and you can submit your question during the comment section below. We have a single personality who is taking those questions, bringing them together, and then we have access to see your questions but don't wait until the Q&A time. If you have a question in advance, feel free to go ahead and submit it and it'll go ahead and put in the queue.

So without further ado, we want to get started. I want to begin by introducing my good friend Dr. David Goza. We've known each other for about 20 years. He comes from the

state of Oklahoma, I come from the state of Texas, but nonetheless we came together at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary where we had the privilege of doing our PhD's together and mine was in evangelism and missions, he has a focus in church history. He and his wife Dana, they are blessed as the Meyers family of having three boys but they have an extra blessing, the Lord gave them a little girl, little Miss Anna, so he is doubly blessed but he has pre-teenage boys as I do as well. One thing I will say about David in advance is he was a much better baseball player than I was and so we'll go ahead and get that out of the way. I want to go ahead and confess from the beginning he was a much better ball player so we'll just let that lay to the side. There shouldn't be any questions related to that, we'll just let it lie.

But without further ado, he not only has a degree in church history but the book of Daniel has been kind of that book of the Bible that he has gravitated for years and we've had the privilege of discussing the contents doing prophecy conferences together and personally speaking I don't know anyone who I can call up who knows the book of Daniel better than David Goza. It's a book of history, it's a book of prophecy, the Lord merges those together and so, David, I'm gonna turn it over to you in Baton Rouge. Kick us off with an introduction to the book of Daniel.

David Goza. Alright, thank you so much, Jeff. I appreciate that introduction and to our people at Jefferson Baptist, I just want to say this is Jeff Meyers. As he said, he has three boys as well. He's too humble to say this about himself but his oldest boy just got signed with Auburn to play football. He is going to be a kicker for Auburn so he might be kicking against LSU in the years to come, so y'all don't hold that against Jeff. We've got some rabid LSU fans here at Jefferson. But Jeff and I go way back. He's a man of God. He's a good friend and as he said, we've done these prophecy conferences together and we've hosted them in my church before in the past, probably 15 years ago, and it's amazing how things have changed and how things have developed prophetically, so it will be interesting to see how this night goes as we go through these different prophecies that we're looking at.

My job tonight is to go through the book of Daniel and there's a lot to cover in Daniel. We're supposed to only give 10 minutes each as we go through Daniel and Revelation but there is a lot in Daniel that has to do prophetically and also with the end times and the antichrist, so I'm gonna do my best to kind of just break this up into four main sections and if you're taking notes at home, it might be hard to take notes, you might have to go back and rewatch some of this, but I want to kind of give you a guide, a prophetic guide for looking at the book of Daniel. It all starts with Daniel 9, so we're gonna look at Daniel 9, the prophecy of the 70 sevens, and then in Daniel 2 and also Daniel 7 we have the prophecies of the kingdoms that are going to come upon the world, and then in Daniel 8 and Daniel 11 we have an incredible set of prophecies that have to do with the antichrist, and then of course in Daniel 12 it covers the consummation of the age and what's gonna happen in the end times and those final instructions that God gave to Daniel.

So we're gonna start in Daniel 9 and, again, I'm just giving you an overview of this. We won't have time to get into it too deeply but this is an incredible prophecy. Daniel 9, it's

called the prophecy of the 70 sevens and in verse 25 of Daniel 9, the Scripture says, "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times." And what's amazing about this prophecy is that it gives, it specifies a number of years until the coming Messiah; from the going forth of the command to go and rebuild Jerusalem, rebuild the temple, rebuild the wall even it mentions, we know that that occurred with Nehemiah, we know that the command was issued by Artaxerxes II around 444-445 BC releasing them to go and rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, that was to take place in seven weeks, in other words, 49 years. So the 70 sevens is a prophecy of 490 years, 70×7 , 490 years. After the first 7 years a period of 49 years the wall is going to be rebuilt, and then there's another 62 weeks after that until the Messiah comes. So when you add those together, 62 weeks + the 7 weeks, you have 69 weeks, that's a period of 483 years. Here's the prophecy and probably many of you are familiar with this, I know Jefferson people are, that 483 years from 444-445 BC takes you to 33 AD when Jesus Christ died on the cross, and people have done very specific mathematical formulations of this proving that this is true, probably the most amazing fulfilled prophecy in the Bible, predicting to the very year when the Messiah would die; not only does it predict that he will be cut off and so it predicts that the Messiah will die and to the very year when it would happen.

It's amazing and people need to understand and know this prophecy. In fact, this was understood by the early church, in the 2nd and 3rd century church, those 2nd, 3rd, 4th generation church leaders, we call them apologists many of them, these men used Daniel 9 as a way to defend the faith. They referred to this and referred to this prophecy to prove to unbelievers that Jesus was who he claimed to be and we should use it in the same way as well. Those who are unbelievers who question whether or not the Bible is true and accurate, this is an incredible prophecy to show them. Daniel wrote this book almost 600 years before the time of Christ and he specifically made this prediction.

But you have a problem in this passage: 69 of the weeks have been fulfilled, there's still one more week to go. What happened to Daniel's 70th week? And here's what we know: Daniel's 70th week is what the book of Revelation is about that Jeff's gonna be talking about in just a few minutes. Revelation goes into specifics on what's gonna happen in that last week.

So what happened? Why is there this long separation between the 69th week which ended whenever Christ died, and the 70th week that occurs whenever the antichrist comes? And that's what we learn in verse 27 of Daniel 9, it says, "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate." That's the abomination of desolation committed by the antichrist that will take place in the future whenever the antichrist comes, and it says it's going to occur in the middle of Daniel's 70th week.

So what we have is a prophecy that predicts to when the Messiah will die and then the last week, Daniel's 70th week doesn't start until the antichrist comes. So there is a parenthesis of time from Christ's first coming and his second coming, the rapture of the church. That parenthesis of time was not revealed to Daniel, it was not revealed to the Old Testament prophets, it was revealed to Paul in the book of Ephesians, it was a mystery hidden in the heart of God, it's called the church age and that's the age that we are presently living in, and as Jeff's gonna tell you, Revelation 2 and 3 is a prophecy about that church age. And so Daniel gives this sweeping prophecy that takes us to the end of the world. That's the prophecy of the 70 sevens. In fact, Jesus mentioned this, I believe he quoted from Daniel whenever he was approached by some who said, "How often should I forgive a brother who offends me, seven times?" And Jesus said, "No," he said, "70 times seven." I believe that was a quote from Daniel saying you forgive them to the end of the age.

So that's Daniel 9. He predicts the coming antichrist. That last week will begin with a peace treaty of some kind signed by the antichrist. Now there's other parts of the book of Daniel that I want you to know about. Daniel 2 and 7, we call these the prophecies of the kingdom. In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream. In Daniel 7, it says that Daniel has a dream and Daniel also interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. They had dreams about kingdoms that were going to come upon the earth. They're great kingdoms and there are six. If you look real closely, you'll find that there are six in both chapters. In Daniel 2 it is an image that King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about, an image that had a golden head and that golden head, I'm just gonna give you briefly what each kingdom represents, that golden head represents the kingdom of Babylon of which Nebuchadnezzar was the head of. Then you go down the statue, it was the chest and arms of silver. That kingdom represents the kingdom of Persian. And as you continue to work your way down the image, the belly and the thighs were of bronze, and that bronze part of that statue represents the coming kingdom of Greece. And then the legs of iron represent the Roman Empire. It was a prediction of the coming Roman Empire. And then the feet which were made partly of clay, partly of iron represent the continuation of that kingdom. Those feet are going to be broken up. The Roman Empire fell. But they're not going to be completely gone, they're just gonna be separated. There's gonna be a political separation and then in the end times those feet are gonna be reformed and that's going to form the antichrist. That's where we get the prediction that we call the Revived Roman Empire, it's going to come from these prophecies. Then in verse 44 of chapter 2, we have a prediction of Christ's coming kingdom.

Now when you jump to chapter 7 of the book of Daniel, you see the same vision but it's given in a different way. You know, whenever Nebuchadnezzar saw this, whenever he had this dream and he saw this vision, he saw, you know, these precious metals: gold, silver, precious stones. Whenever Daniel sees it in Daniel 7, he sees beasts, these four different beasts that are going to come. And if you have your Bibles open there, you'll see in verse 4 of chapter 7, the lion with wings of an eagle, that's the Babylonian Empire. Verse 5, the bear, that's the Persian Empire. The leopard of verse 6 is the Grecian Empire. And then the dreadful and terrible beast is the Roman Empire. As you continue on and you study through that chapter, verses 8 through 14 we have a vision of the kingdom of

the antichrist, again, this Revived Roman Empire is gonna come back together again in the end times. Verse 8 says another horn will raise up, that represents the antichrist. And then following the antichrist comes the kingdom of Christ. Verse 9 says the Ancient of Days will come.

So I'd love to have time to go through all these and offer more explanation but this is a broad picture of what Daniel is predicting. He predicts when the end of the world will be, the structure of it, and then he lists out six kingdoms that are going to come upon the world and we have the benefit of sitting here 2,000 years later, we can look back and we can see the fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy: the Babylonian Empire, followed by the Persians, followed by the Greeks, followed by the Roman Empire, the Roman Empire disintegrated and now we also see those old Roman Empire countries coming back together in the European Union. We'll talk about that later on in our conference.

So those are the prophecies of the kingdom and real quick we're gonna jump to Daniel 8 and Daniel 11 and these passages in the Scriptures in Daniel 8 and 11 are so vitally important because of how specific Daniel is in his prophecies of things that are going to be taking place in these kingdoms. These are prophecies that concern three different men. In Daniel 8 and 11 there are prophecies concerning Alexander the Great, there's also prophecies concerning a man by the name of Antiochus Epiphanes, and then there's the prophecies concerning the antichrist. Now when you read Daniel 8 and 11, many of you have probably read that, these are two chapters that we kind of just skim through because there's so much in them that are difficult to understand but if you devote the time and really look at these prophecies, I believe you'll find more there than what you have in the past, and I'm gonna try the best that I can to give you an interpretive key to Daniel 8 and chapter 11. If you have a pencil, pen and notes, I want you to write down these verses or you can rewind this and look at it later but I'm gonna give you the verses within these chapters that correspond to these three different men so that the next time you read it, hopefully you can read it through a different set of eyes.

So Daniel 8:1-8 is a prophecy of Alexander the Great, alright? And then in Daniel 8:9-14 Daniel switches to a prophecy of Antiochus Epiphanes who we'll talk about more in just a minute. And then in Daniel 8:23-27 you have prophecies concerning the antichrist who is to come. Now in a similar way in Daniel 11 it breaks down in a similar way. Verses 3 and 4 of Daniel 11 is a prophecy of Alexander the Great, and then verses 21 through 35 of Daniel 11 are prophecies concerning Antiochus Epiphanes, and then in verses 36 through 39 of Daniel 11 we see the rise of the antichrist, the prophecies of the antichrist. So I know I went through those rather quickly but hopefully the next time you read that, you can read it through that set of eyes.

Now the question is why did God reveal this prophecy to Daniel in such a way where all three of these prophecies are mixed together about different time periods and different men? The only answer I have to that question is that God revealed these prophecies in a mystery. Daniel didn't understand them fully. These were events that he was talking about that took place after his time. We have the benefit, though, of looking back and we can interpret these passages through history and I believe that accords with what Daniel

says in Daniel 12, that this book is sealed up until the time of the end where knowledge will increase, and so I believe God wants us to understand these prophecies.

Regarding Alexander the Great, Daniel made incredible predictions about Alexander the Great, about the swiftness of his conquering; about the extent of how he would conquer throughout the world. In fact, according to Josephus, the first century Jewish historian, when Alexander the Great had destroyed the city of Tyre, he was coming against Jerusalem because Jerusalem refused to render him aid, and the whole city of Jerusalem led by the high priest went out to meet Alexander the Great to implore him not to destroy the city of Jerusalem and the high priest showed Alexander the prophecies concerning him within the Scripture, and he was so impressed by that that he decided not to destroy Jerusalem. So Alexander the Great is very clearly and specifically prophesied of by the prophet Daniel.

Antiochus Epiphanes. Now the prophecies of Alexander also include the way that he is going to die. In verse 20 of chapter 11 it predicts that Alexander would die young, that he would not die in anger nor would he die in battle, and that's exactly how Alexander died. He got sick in some way, he died in Babylon in his bed. His kingdom would be divided four ways, Daniel says. We know from history that's exactly what happened. The kingdom was divided among his generals. Two of his generals, the most famous being Ptolemy and Seleucid, their followers were called the Ptolemies and the Seleucids, the Ptolemies reigned in Egypt in the south and the Seleucids reigned in the north and Palestine that included the area of Israel.

Antiochus Epiphanes was a ruler that came out of that line and he's predicted specifically by Daniel, and the reason he is singled out is because Antiochus Epiphanes is an example, he becomes an example of the coming antichrist, a prophecy of the coming antichrist. He committed the abomination of desolation. He went into the temple in Jerusalem and defiled it, and he was greatly hated by the Jews at that time, in fact, they eventually rose up against him, the Maccabean Revolt took place during that time and that too was predicted by Daniel in Daniel 11:32-35.

All these things were laid out and they're so specific. You know, people and scholars, biblical scholars, liberal biblical scholars, they read the book of Daniel and they have criticized the book of Daniel and made the case that Daniel could not have possibly been the author of this book because the prophecies that he gives, the descriptions in Daniel 8, 9, 10 and 11 of all the events that were going to take place and the political maneuverings that took place during the Seleucid Empire, all the things that Daniel in detail gives, they said there's no way that Daniel the prophet wrote those before the time, it must have been written after the event, and that's what unbelievers believe about the book of Daniel to this day, that it had to be written later. Of course, we reject that.

Then finally the prophecies of the antichrist. Daniel predicts that there will be an antichrist, that he will come at the end of the age, and he gives us characteristics of the antichrist. In Daniel 7, he is the little horn speaking pompous words. In Daniel 9, he's the ruler who's gonna begin his kingdom with signing a peace treaty of some kind, entering

into a covenant of some kind and that will inaugurate Daniel's 70th week. Also throughout the Scripture we see reference to the antichrist. 2 Thessalonians 2, he's called the man of sin, the son of perdition, the lawless one. In Revelation 6, he's one of the horsemen of the apocalypse. In Revelation 13, he's the beast coming up out of the sea.

In the book of Daniel in Daniel 11:36-39, we have more characteristics of this antichrist that are very interesting that I want to put out there for us to process. In verse 36 it says that he will do according to his will. The antichrist, in other words, is going to reign with absolute power. No one will be able to withstand him except for Christ whenever Christ comes. But he will be the absolute power in the end times.

Verse 37 it says that he shall regard neither the god of his fathers. You know, some take that passage to mean that he is perhaps from a Jewish background because it refers to the god of his fathers and that's certainly possible. It's not known for certain. It seems that he will be an atheist, that he is ultimately going to declare himself to be God. We know he's going to be filled with the spirit of Satan as well.

Verse 37 says that nor will he regard the desire for women. That's a very interesting phrase, that description of the antichrist, and many people have pondered and wondered what does it mean that he will not regard the desire of women. It's kind of an ambiguous phrase and some take that to mean that he will be a homosexual and, you know, from where I'm sitting and the day and time in which we live, this day and age in which gay marriage is now readily accepted, it seems to fit very well with the end time context that not regarding the desire of women very well. That may be a reference to homosexuality.

The end of chapter 12 is about the consummation. Verse 1 says, "At that time," at the end of the age, "Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people." He says, "There shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation." I don't have time to read all of this. So in the end times after the rapture, the church is removed and Daniel 70th week begins, Michael the prince shall stand up, God turns his attention back to the people of Israel.

You know, that parenthesis of time that we talked about from the first coming of Christ and the rapture, the church age, Jesus refers to that as the time of the Gentiles. So does Paul, the time of the Gentiles. Hosea 3:1-5, that little chapter, that's only five verses, is the same prediction that Israel's gonna go into a time of captivity where they're no longer gonna be a nation and that's gonna be the time of the church age, but at the end times and Hosea says at the end of the age, they will become a nation once again and they're going to turn their hearts back to God. And so Daniel says during this time period Michael is going to stand up. He is the angel assigned to Israel. God will turn his attention back to his covenant people but it's gonna be a very very dark time.

Now Daniel closes out his book with God speaking to him and God says in verse 9 of chapter 12, he says, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." So there's an indication there when I read this that these words written, these prophecies were intended not for Daniel's day, not for the days of the apostles but

for at the end of the church age, for God's people at the end of the church age, and we're gonna continue to make that case tonight whenever we get into the prophecies that we are to look for because Jesus told us to watch and to be ready. And so we would make the case that the book of Daniel has been unlocked; that we're living in that time period in which we can understand these prophecies so that we can prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. With that, I'm going to turn it back to Jeff for Revelation.

Jeff. As we look at the book of Revelation, you know, one of the things that I think is necessary to understand is that you really can't study Daniel without Revelation or Revelation without Daniel, and one of the things he mentioned was Daniel 9, that incredible prophetic statement about the famous 70 weeks, and that final week, that final seven years where Jeremiah refers to it as Jacob's trouble. That being said, the majority of the content of what we know as the book of Revelation is actually a detailed account of that prophecy from the book of Daniel, and so now you understand when, you know, we do a prophecy conference together, obviously we're going to refer to other prophetic books of the Bible, there are passages as he referenced in Hosea and I'm going to allude to some others throughout the evening, but primarily what David alluded to is what Daniel prophesied ages ago is going to be literally fulfilled as written in the book of Revelation, and that word is important tonight. David made an excellent case for the fact that there have been many scholars through the years that have disputed the, shall we say, the integrity and the accuracy of the book of Daniel because it is so accurate and they claim oftentimes that it was written after the fact. I think David laid it out perfectly, the prophetic element not only with Alexander the Great but obviously with the prophetic 70 weeks.

That being said, when we come to the book of Revelation, I think one of the things that humanity, even believers are oftentimes guilty of is making it say what they want it to say versus what it actually says, and I appreciate David, that as he goes into the book of Daniel, as you heard him quote and read Scripture, he just takes it for what it says and then allows history to be the fulfillment thereof. Well, we see the same thing in the book of Revelation except rather than being able to see it as a history book, it is a prophetic book written as history in advance.

Now when we come to the book of Revelation, many people will admit that it is that one book of the Bible that oftentimes we're a little bit hesitant to address. It just, it has kind of an ominous title, there have been all kinds of books and movies that have been produced, and let's be honest and I tease my people here in Opelika that when it comes to the book of Revelation, oftentimes you get two people, you're gonna get three different opinions. There's just so many different approaches to the book of Revelation but tonight we're going to take the same approach to Revelation as David took to Daniel, we're going to read it as it is literally written, we're going to believe that it is going to be fulfilled as it is written just like Daniel and the prophecies of days gone by were fulfilled exactly as they were written.

So again, as David took an incredible book of the Bible and summarized it in a brief time period, I'm gonna try to do my best with the book of Revelation. Our folks here in

Opelika know that we walked through the book of Revelation for 2 ½ years on Wednesday night. I promise I won't take up the rest of our time this evening but I want to call your attention, hopefully you have a Bible with you, to Revelation 1 because as we talk about the content of the book of Revelation, I think it is necessary as we walk through these prophecies and these signs as we look at the correlation between Daniel and the book of Revelation to understand how is the book of Revelation laid out, and I think the most strategic verse, now not the most prophetic verse, the most strategic verse in the book of Revelation is actually found in chapter 1.

Now chapter 1 serves as the introduction. David mentioned the church age, that great parenthesis, that's actually chapter 2 and 3. I'll allude to that in just a moment. But we find the Apostle John, we find him on the island of Patmos. He has been exiled for his faith, for his allegiance to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and there on the island of Patmos the Lord comes to him in a majestic vision. In fact, the very first verse says, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." There is no need for you to think that the book of Revelation is hidden from you, has hidden messages, somehow, some way cannot be deciphered unless I go to seminary, there's no way I can understand it. No, in fact, I believe the book of Revelation is laid out so simply that any one of us who has a heart to know the truth of God's word can exactly know precisely what it is not only saying but what it is prophesying. It's not hard to read, it's hard to believe that it will actually take place the exact way the Bible says.

He's on the island of Patmos, he receives this incredible vision. His vision of Jesus Christ is so very different than during his earthly ministry. Rather than this humble servant as Isaiah 53 prophesied who would not only sacrifice his life but wash his own feet in John 13, he sees him as this royal, majestic, powerful figure with feet of brass and eyes of fire. The Bible says that he falls down at his feet as if dead. Jesus Christ takes his right hand, places it upon him and says, "Fear not," and describes that he is not only the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end but he has the keys to death and hell. And in verse 19, Jesus Christ commissions the Apostle John of what his task is in recording the events, the personalities and the prophecies of what we know as the book of Revelation. There in verse 19 he says, "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." And what Jesus Christ does here in verse 19 is he lays out that the book of Revelation is going to be in three distinct sections: the things that were, the things that are, and the things that are to come.

Now anytime we take an object whether the book of Revelation or any object and we divide it into three sections, there's naturally going to be two places of division and one of the great questions is: so where do we place those two places of division? Where are the things that were in the past? Where are the things that are in the present? Where are the things that are in the future? Well, I think the most natural and simplistic way to do so is just allow the book of Revelation to unveil itself. There are two very distinct places in the book of Revelation that not only separate what I believe to be these time frames but are significant as far as a prophetic picture for you and I. The passages are in chapter 4, verses 1 and 2; in chapter 19, verses 11 through 15.

Allow me to explore what happens in those two passages. In chapter 4, verses 1 and 2, the Bible records that there is a door that is opened in heaven and who we know as the Apostle John is actually supernaturally removed from the earth to the heavens. Now by the way, the actual word is not there but this is where we get the concept of rapture. The term "rapture" means to be taken supernaturally instantaneously from one place to another. We'll address that subject matter I'm sure at length later in this prophecy conference, but that being said, really the Apostle John is technically by definition, he is raptured. He's taken from earth, he's taken to the heavens where he is shown the future. He is given a grand tour of the heavenlies and he's given a grand tour not only of the prophecies of Daniel but what the events of the days coming are going to look like exactly.

So in chapter 4:1-2, a door opens up and the Apostle John goes up into the heavens from the earth. When you get to chapter 19, there's another door that opens but rather than someone going from earth to heaven, in this case we have that very famous scene that we often refer to as the second coming of Jesus Christ. The door opens up and Jesus Christ descends to earth on the back of a white horse, remember on his thigh it says, "King of kings and Lord of lords," and there the entire armies of the Lord are following behind.

So when you take the book of Revelation and you use those markers of a door being opened, John going up, Jesus and his armies coming down, it gives us a very natural division for its contents. Now remember what the contents are: the things that were, the things that are, and the things to come.

Now let's begin at the end because it's the easiest for us to grasp, the things to come. Typically that's chapters 20, 21 and 22. Chapter 20, we have a time period that we often refer to as the millennium. It is the thousand year reign of Christ on earth, on his throne, on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. A lot of people have questioned the legitimacy of that thousand year time period. Is it to be taken literally or is it figurative? Well, six times in seven verses the Lord says it will be a thousand years so we take it literally as it is written. For one thousand years not only does Jesus reign but it says that Satan, the great deceiver, will be bound in the bottomless pit for a thousand years. At the end of these thousand years, he is loosed for a season, he is judged by the Lord with fire and brimstone, and then that great final judgment, the great white throne of judgment takes place at the end of chapter 20 where it says that the book of life as well as the books of works are taken out and those that are found in the book of life to life everlasting, the book of works to a place the Bible describes as the lake of fire. Chapter 20 encapsulates a thousand years of the reign of Christ plus the final judgment. When you get to chapter 21 and 22, we enter into the age of eternity. That's where it says that he saw a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem. That's where it talks about that there will be no more pain, no more tears, no more sorrow. And you see described there in Revelation 21 and 22 this incredible description of eternity for the believer in Jesus Christ and it wraps up the final statement in chapter 22 of the book of Revelation literally means, "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

That being said, the last three chapters of the book of Revelation are the things to come. From our vantage point today, things to come in the distant future. Eternity is a distant future. The literal return of Jesus Christ is at least seven years away. We'll talk about that in just a moment. These are events of the future. It's those events in the middle section that are going to be so critical to our understanding tonight not only of the prophecies of Daniel but looking at these signs and prophecies that are taking place in our very life.

One of the statements that I hold near and true to my heart and the people of Opelika have heard this so many times they could probably quote it for me, comes from a dear friend of mine who has recently gone on to be with the Lord, Dr. Gene Williams, he makes a great statement. He says nothing has to happen before Jesus comes for us, that's what we know as the rapture, there are a whole lot of things that have to happen before Jesus comes back with us, that's that return in chapter 19. However, some of the things that have to happen before Jesus comes back with us may in fact happen before Jesus comes back for us, and then are those events that we see in that middle section of the book of Revelation, particularly chapters 6 through 19 that we call the great tribulation, that is that event of the seven years. This is Daniel's 70th week, the thing that David was alluding to from Daniel 9, the detailed fulfillment of those final seven years are found in chapter 6 through 19 of the book of Revelation.

Now it begins in chapter 6 with the opening of those famous seven seals and it's interesting that when you get back into chapter 5, the entity who opens those seven seals is Jesus Christ himself. In fact, it makes it very clear that a strong angel descends seeking who was worthy to open the book. It says that he shouted in the heavens, under the earth and in the earth. No one was found worthy except the Lamb that was slain, definitively the person of Jesus Christ because then it says from the tribe of Judah.

Jesus Christ opens those famous seven seals. That first seal is the advent of the antichrist, the one that David was describing from the book of Daniel that's pictured in three very definitive ways. We have seven seals, we have seven vials or bowls, and we have seven trumpet judgments, but the thing that's most important about this period or, shall I say, this section of the book of Revelation, is the Apostle John has been taken up and he is seeing it in real time. In fact, in the book of Revelation when you read chapter 6 through 19, it reads as if it's happening in the present because it was happening the present from John's perspective. He was actually taken up from the perspective of God and seeing history, or shall I say seeing prophecy as if it was playing out before his very eyes, and in those chapters, in those famous seals, the description of the antichrist, the mark of the beast, what's important for us particularly in light of the book of Daniel is it is laid out exactly as Daniel 9 said.

There are seven years, the first 3 ½ years if you'll allow me to say this, are not near as bad as the last 3 ½. Now the first 3 ½ are not going to be pleasant but one of the things that we discover is that the temple, the Jewish temple is going to be built again on that Temple Mount. I'm sure we'll address that in one of the signs and prophecies in just a moment in detail, and what we see as David described is the abomination of desolation takes place. Now remember what he said about Daniel 9, it takes place in the middle of

the week. After 3 ½ years, the antichrist which, by the way, in the book of Revelation that's not the term used for him, the term is actually the beast, the famous mark of the beast. That beast or that antichrist goes into what we know as the temple and according to 2 Thessalonians 2, he declares that he is God. Now what's interesting is this seven year time period that Daniel prophesied that's mentioned in the book of Revelation, Jesus Christ in Matthew 24, he referred to it as the great tribulation. So when people say, "Why do you call it the great tribulation?" Because that's what Jesus Christ referred to it as. And then in verse 15 of Matthew 24, Jesus Christ said, "When you see the abomination of desolation as spoken by the prophet Daniel."

So tonight when David and I are exploring these concepts in the book of Daniel and Revelation, this isn't David's opinion, my opinion, Jefferson Baptist opinion, First Baptist, Opelika, this is what the Bible says and what Jesus verified.

So 3 1/3 years into that time period that is in chapter 6 through 19 of Revelation, the antichrist is going to gain control of the world as David described, he's going to declare himself as God and the last 3 ½ years, the best way I can describe it, it is literally a hell on earth. Jesus Christ said in Matthew 24 and in Mark 13 it would be the worst period of time since the creation of God. So it's the worst time period in the history of the world. So the latter half, the things to come, the millennium and eternity. The things which are is this famous 70th week of the book of Daniel revealed in its entirety. I want to actually conclude my understanding or, shall I say, my overview of the book of Revelation by looking at the beginning.

Now in chapters 2 and 3, David alluded to this, we have a description of seven specific churches. It begins in the book or with the church at Ephesus and it ends with the church of Laodicea and, yes, these were seven actual literal congregations that were found there in the Asia Minor area there in the latter first and into the early second century. We know that as a historical record. They're also a wonderful picture of ourselves. We're able to go back and read what was good about them, what was negative about them. Interestingly the church of Smyrna and the church of Philadelphia, nothing negative is spoken. The church of Laodicea, which is important in just a moment, there's nothing positive that is said. But the prophetic aspect of chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Revelation, that parenthesis that David talked about, that church age, that's what's being addressed.

It begins with the church of Ephesus, one that was doctrinally pure, one that understood how the Bible was laid out and they were true to the Scriptures. It says it lost its first love. Then we go into the church of Smyrna, that though it was small and heavily persecuted, the Lord says that they were strong in him. It's a picture of what we know as the church of Jesus Christ coming out of those early days into the second, third, even the fourth century where the Roman Empire instituted an incredibly state-sponsored persecution and we saw a demise of the physical life of believers yet they were strong in their relationship to the Lord. Then we have the ages of Pergamos and Thyatira, etc. and if we could just take a bird's view of chapters 2 and 3, what we see is a history of the church of Jesus Christ from the moment of which he ascended in Acts 1 until the time in which he calls us home at that famous rapture event that's described so eloquently in 1

Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15 where it basically says that those who are dead in Christ, those who are alive in Christ will meet the Lord together in the air, where we are taken up with him. Interesting when you look at those "rapture" passages it says that we are caught up with him. What happens in chapter 4:1 and 2? The Apostle John, representative of us, is caught up to the heavens in a supernatural event which is important for our study tonight, which precedes that great tribulation.

So if you'll allow me, I went backwards slow, I'm going to go forward fast. What we see in the book of Revelation is the Lord Jesus Christ giving the Apostle John for us history in advance. The church of Jesus Christ is gonna make its way through a series of stages and ages through what we know of that Laodicean church which I'll conclude in in just a moment. The rapture event is going to take place where the body of Christ is taken to be with the Lord. Then Daniel's 70th week is going to be fulfilled exactly as it was spoken by the prophet Daniel and given a little more detail in the book of Revelation. At the end of those seven years, Jesus Christ is going to return physically with his people, his army. He's going to establish his kingdom for a thousand years. The final judgment will take place and in chapter 21 eternity will begin.

Now why is this important for us tonight when so many of those things, the great tribulation, the aspect of the new heaven, the new earth, are in the future and in particular the great tribulation I believe biblical evidence that the body of Christ won't have to technically walk through, why is it critical for us? Because at the end of chapter 3 the church of Laodicea, this is the lukewarm church, this is the church that is carnal, this is the church that has worldly possessions, it has wealth, but there's a picture there in verse 20 that Jesus Christ is actually on the outside looking in. In fact, he knocks and says that he would be glad to come in if the door would be opened, and what David and I want to share with you very emphatically before we get into these 10 signs or prophecies, is that we believe not only can we look back on history of the age of Ephesus and Smyrna and Pergamos and Thyatira, etc. but that you and I are living today in what we would call the Laodicean church age. It is a time period that is carnal. It is a time period that is filled with buildings and budgets and large crowds, but as that age progresses there's going to be less and less of Jesus spoken. He's going to be less emphasized and the institution will be of greater emphasis, and what we see and what we believe the prophetic word is, is that the church of Jesus Christ is going to go through an apostasy state, we'll talk about that in just a moment with one of the signs, and essentially what we're going to see is that the world systems that are going to be paving the road for the antichrist are going to begin to formulate themselves, the church of Jesus Christ is going to wane in its worldwide impact and influence, and the church and the world at large is gonna be in a great demise, then the rapture of the body of Christ, those who are dead in Christ and alive in Christ as pictured in chapter 4:1 and 2 will take place, and then the antichrist will take hold of the world system and instigate that final 70th week.

So you and I today, one of the critical reasons for having this prophecy conference is I believe that prophetically and somewhat historically we're at the end of chapter 3. Much like my dear friend Dr. Williams said, there is nothing that has to happen before Jesus comes back for us. And so in just a moment we're gonna walk through 10 of these signs

or prophecies and I want to be clear: these things don't have to happen before that rapture event. The thing we want to emphasize to you is we're beginning to see them happen in such a dramatic manner that we literally are just moments away from a historical perspective of that rapture event.

Now David and I are not going to set dates. We're not going to tell you exactly when it will occur. We're not even going to speculate when that may be. We don't know when it will be, in fact, that's why I believe 1 Corinthians 15 emphasizes that it can take place in the moment, in the twinkling of an eye. And so whether it takes place in five days or 500 years, we need to be alert and we need to be prepared and we need to be ready for these days that are coming.

So with that being said, I'm gonna throw it back to David in Baton Rouge and he's gonna introduce and he's gonna introduce these seven signs, these seven things that we're going to deal with in a very quick manner and then we're gonna take your questions.

David. Alright, thank you very much, Jeff. So as Jeff just said, we're about to transition into the real meat of why we're meeting tonight is to discuss these 10 different signs of the times that the Scripture has given us as Christians to look for marking the end of days. The reason we go into the introductions of Daniel and Revelation is because it's so very important to see that God has already laid out the end from the beginning, from the time of Daniel until the end of the age, he has already told us from a macro level exactly how everything is going to occur from the kingdom of Babylon all the way through the kingdom of Rome, through the church age, to the time of the rapture. He's told us how everything is going to be. He's even described seven different time periods within the church age, as Jeff just mentioned in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, and at the end of that church age, Revelation 4:1 and 2 is the rapture of the church followed by Daniel's 70th week. The question that we want to talk about now is how can we know where we are on God's timetable.

Now using Revelation 2 and 3 is the best way to know because we can follow that through church history, those characteristics given in Revelation 2 and 3, but in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 Jesus was asked specifically by his disciples, "What are the signs of the times? When are these things going to take place? When is Jerusalem going to be destroyed? When are you going to set up your kingdom?" And Jesus went into those orations in Luke 21, Matthew 24, two different accounts of the same oration, and he laid out signs of the times, and then whenever you take the rest of the Scripture, the rest of the passages throughout the writings of the apostles on end time events and things to look for, we can take from those passage and list out the signs that are going to characterize the end of the age. Now the question for us today is are we living in those times.

So Jeff and I are going to take a look at 10 different signs and we're going to make the case that we are living in that time period; that we're seeing these signs take place. In fact, I'm gonna tell you that we're going to make the claim and I think it's going to be self-evident that we are experiencing things that no other age and no other generation during the church age can say that they've experienced; that these signs were reserved for the

time of the end and what's amazing is that all 10 of these signs are taking place at the same time, pointing to the coming of Christ and Jesus said this, he said, "When you see these things," referring to the signs, he says, "When you see these things begin to come to pass, look up for your redemption draws near." But not only that, he also told us over and over again to watch and to be ready, to watch and to be ready so that this day does not overtake us like a thief in the night.

So we are commanded as Christians to watch and to be ready, to use discernment to know where we are in God's prophetic timetable and he even says that those in the time of the end, they will be able to recognize it otherwise he wouldn't have told us to look up. So we want to encourage you to look up and prepare your heart tonight. Jeff is gonna start with the first sign and so, Jeff, I turn it back over to you.

Jeff. Alright, as we discuss these 10 signs, just kind of, I guess, a reminder to us, these are not the only 10 things that are mentioned in Scripture. They are not the only 10 things mentioned in the book of Matthew 24, but David and I just kind of, you know, kinda started brainstorming the other day and said, "Okay, what are 10 things that are definitively being unveiled before us, as he said, not successively but simultaneously?" And so he alluded to Matthew 24 and also Luke 21, I want to read Jesus' very first statement to his disciples when they asked him when is this gonna happen.

Now they asked him some strategic questions: when is this gonna occur, which is a reference to him saying the temple was going to be destroyed; and what would be the sign of the end? Now here is his response, verse 4, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Now David just said we need to be discerning and that was Jesus' first warning, "Don't let anybody deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many. You shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Now I'd love to focus on verse 8 there because a lot of what I'm gonna address was written in verses 6 and 7, the beginning of sorrows, and I think that's one of the things we want to share with you tonight is we're not setting a timetable, we're not establishing that this event occurs and then the next one and then we can look here and look there, what we're saying is we're seeing all of these things in dramatic fashion.

And I want to begin tonight with a subject matter that's very near and dear to our hearts, what we know as pestilence or disease. You are I are walking through unprecedented days. How many times have you heard myself, even David or somebody else say we're navigating uncharted waters? Why are we doing so? Because we're walking through a global pandemic, we're being told to shelter in place, we're limiting our mobility because there is a pestilence, there is a disease that has taken a grip over the world like none of us have ever seen before. But this isn't the first time that disease or pestilence has gripped the world's attention and as we talk about this issue of pestilence, I want to make a distinction between, shall we say, quantity and quality.

Now if you look back in history and I know David is the history individual of the two of us, but nonetheless when you look back into history, as of this moment there are actually plagues, there is pestilence, there is disease that accounted for and took more lives, in fact, two of the ones that are very prominent if you do your research is obviously what we know as the Black Plague of the 14th century, and also what we know as the Plague of Justinian in the 6th century AD. Both of those consumed enormous amounts of fatalities and we're gonna talk about this in just a moment that in the end the Bible says there will be mockers, there will be scoffers, there will be those who question the legitimacy thereof, and I've had conversations with folks that say, "Well, it's not near as bad as what the Black Plague was. How can we say these are indications of the end of days?" Well, when you look back at the Black Plague, we know that it consumed enormous amount of life. In Europe alone 60% of the population fell not only ill but fell to death with what we know as the Black Plague.

Now let's imagine if that happened to our culture today. Imagine if 60% of Americans were to lose their lives to this global pandemic. That would be 200 million people. Now we look at that number, it's astronomical and say even the worst of projections of what we're hearing in the daily press conferences don't even touch or get close to that, but you also have to remember in the 14th century they didn't have ICUs, they didn't have hospitals, they didn't have the surgeons we have of today, the medical care, they didn't have the vaccines, they didn't have near the ability to fight infection or to address medical concerns. And so I think sometimes when we look back at some of these great plagues of the past when it comes to pestilence and we think, "Well, what we're walking through today is not near as bad as then," from a life loss perspective you're absolutely correct but you have to equate for the technology, David's gonna address technology in just a moment, and the medical progress that has been made on behalf of society.

Now when you look at the plague from the 6th century known as the Plague of Justinian, 10%, 10% of the world's population died. Now if you were to apply that today, that would be 750 million people, an enormous amount of loss of life.

And so there is no comparison today but you also can't compare the medical conditions. In fact, one of the games that my boys and I play all the time, particularly with sports figures, I know David's boys play sports and such, is they always want us to compare great athletes of the past to great athletes of today, and I don't know about David but I'll oftentimes say, "You cannot compare one era to the next," because they played with different materials, they had a different set of rules, whatever it may be. Well, you can't really compare the Black Plague to Covid-19 because the medical care was so different but I want to talk about quantity for just a moment. I want to go back to the last major event, at least in our culture's dramatic response, what we know as 9/11, just the last 19/20 years. We haven't had a Black Plague event of that amount of death but let me share with you what has happened. This is on not just in America but a global scale. We've had the disease or the pestilence of SARS, MERS, the Avian flu, the Swine flu, Ebola two times, Zika and now the Corona virus. It seems like we cannot get away from these constant barraging of diseases and pestilence that are hitting our cultures on a regular frequent basis. So when the Bible says there will be pestilence, yes, the Black

Plague was dramatic in loss of life but you and I are living in a world today where we're already hearing about, you know, Covid-19 2.0, that it's going to resurface and I don't say that to scare you, I say that to reemphasize when Jesus says there will be pestilences, these are the beginning of sorrows, it's almost as if he's saying there's going to be a lifestyle where pestilence is just the norm, and for the last 20 years every time we turn around there's been a significant event of disease.

The last thing I want to share is the reason for the pestilence. You know, you go back into 2 Samuel 24 and King David numbered the people against the wishes of the Lord, and the consequence was pestilence. You know, today we're on the search for a vaccine, we're on the search for a cure and I get that, but the thing that we need to address when pestilence is used in Scripture, that it is oftentimes referred to as a consequence of our rebellion and our sin against God. And one of the things that happens in that Laodicean church age is people are not turning to the Lord, even the church is not focused on the things of God. So as we see these global pandemics not just in today but probably in days ahead, we have to understand that there is biblical record not only that they will become more quantifiable but that it is our sin ultimately that leads to this pestilence and if we don't address the repentance of our sin problem, then we're never going to alleviate the pestilence problem, which is why as we walk toward the end of chapter 3 of Revelation we're gonna see more and more pestilence.

That being said, we're going to go ahead to number 2. I know many of you are going to have questions that are formulating. Feel free to send them in with the respective Facebook feeds. We're gonna go to technology and the rise of technology. Alright, David, take us to technology.

David. Revelation 13 says in verse 16, "He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." This is what we often refer to as the mark of the beast and this mark, whatever it is and I think we have a pretty good idea today, nobody did before us, but this mark is going to be able to empower one man to be able to monitor the buying and selling of every human being on earth.

Now we know that throughout history there was no Roman Emperor, there was no industrial age President for that matter, that would be able to fulfill this prophecy to monitor the buying and selling of every human being. Technology just had not increased that much so the technology prophecy is inferred from this passage. For one man to be able to achieve what this verse says implies that there is going to be a dramatic increase in technology. There's no verse in the Bible that says technology is going to increase in the end times, Daniel does say knowledge will increase, and so it is inferred from this passage.

You know, technology when you look at history, it did not really change much. You know, the same boat that took Xerxes in the Peloponnesian War was essentially the same boat that took the Apostle Paul hundreds of years later on his missionary journeys, it's the

same boat that, you know, a couple thousand years later took Christopher Columbus on his discovery of the New World. It just, technology did not change that much and now it's just a few hundred years later, we're talking about sending people to Mars. And so we're seeing in these end times there is a huge explosion of technology. Of course, I don't have to tell you that, you're living through it with me, just you've got that cellphone in your pocket. I mean, who would have thought back in the 1990s that we would have phones like we do today where all knowledge is accessible at anytime, all we've got to do is speak to it and we can find out anything that we want to find out. The increase in technology is just unbelievable.

You know, technology is also implied in Revelation 8 and 9 where the Scripture says that had not Christ intervened, mankind would have destroyed itself through war. You know, we have events described in the book of Revelation, cataclysmic events where one-third of the population is wiped out suggesting some tremendous power. Now you cannot destroy the world population, you cannot destroy the world with bows and arrows and swords. You know, that's all they had through most of human history but now, of course, with the invention of nuclear bombs, that prophecy could actually be fulfilled.

But as far as the mark of the beast goes, what is this technology that the beast is going to use, that the antichrist is going to use? You know, we used to say when Jeff and I did prophecy conferences together probably some 15 years ago, and I remember saying this many times in the past, you know, this technology is coming into being. With the advent of the computer age, we're starting to see how it's possible that one man could fulfill this prophecy and we would warn people of that, that we see the possibilities of how the antichrist will actually fulfill this prophecy. Today I believe we can confidently say that not that the technology is coming but that it's actually upon us. It's here, ready to be fulfilled.

In fact, Covid-19, this crisis that we're presently going through, I believe reveals just how close we really are. Bill Gates and his foundation, he participated in an "Ask Me Anything" session on Reddit just a few weeks ago and Gates was being asked, "How are businesses expected to operate with all the social distancing rules that are in place." And he was replying to that question and he said this, quote, he said, "Eventually we will have some digital certificates to show who has recovered or been tested recently, or when we have a vaccine, who has received it." There's going to be digital certificates, he said. Now the question is and this raised a lot of eyebrows and has kind of fired up a lot of people on social media, "What does he mean by digital certificates and how am I gonna get a digital certificate? What is that going to look like?" I believe we know what it's gonna look like, the digital certificates refers to a thing called quantum-dot tattoos. I don't know if you've heard of that yet. You can Google it and read on it. I would encourage you to do that, but it turns out this has been in the works for many years. In fact, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has engaged with scientists and scholars at MIT, also at the University of Rice to develop a new kind of technology, in fact, I downloaded an article produced by Rice University and one of their professors, Kevin McHugh, a professor of bio-engineering tells the story of how he was approached by Bill Gates to develop technology to help him with the problem that his foundation was running into. The problem was this

and Bill Gates is doing a lot of good works for a lot of people and meeting social needs all over the world, I'm not questioning that, but he needed a solution for a problem, the problem was this: their foundation volunteers are going into villages all over the world where there's not a lot of record-keeping or things like that, they go and they give shots to the people living in those villages, vaccinations of different kinds, the problem is not everybody will receive the vaccination and then there's no reliable record-keeping of those who have received the vaccination so that when volunteers return to that same village, they have no way of knowing who's been vaccinated and who has not. And so he's engaged, the Foundation has engaged these bio-engineering scholars to help them solve the problem and the way that they have solved that problem, they came up with a way where they can keep the records, the medical records of each person on their person and the way they do this, it's called quantum-dot tattoo. It's an invisible mark that's put on their wrist or on their arm and it's actually a microscopic microchip that contains their medical records.

I further discovered as I was reading through this and learning more about it, there's another group called ID2020 and this also is an organization that's funded by Bill and Melinda Gates, among others. There's a lot of leading scholars, politicians, everybody involved in this group and their goal is, of this organization is to use this technology to mark a billion people. Those in the lower that have social needs. Those who are in danger of falling through the cracks. They don't have a reliable way of keeping their identities secure they're doing it for a good purpose but the technology is what we are focused on. Now understand, this is not a conspiracy theory that we're peddling. Go look up ID2020. You can go to their website and you can read about what their goals are, you can read about this quantum-dot technology. It's all there for everybody to read.

These things are already in place. Some are calling for these things to be accelerated. No other generation, and this is the point, no other generation can say that they are living, that they lived in a time where this prophecy of the mark of the beast could have been fulfilled. We are living in that time period and with the Covid-19 crisis, we can see how this antichrist is going to accomplish it. I believe God has given us this Covid-19 crisis to open our eyes, to give us a taste of what it's going to be like in the days to come, how powerful and intrusive the government can actually be in the name of public good, and we can see how the antichrist can use some kind of crisis to demand that everybody receive this mark, what we call the mark of the beast. But for the good of humanity, those who are good citizens receive the mark so that nobody else gets sick. Those who do not receive the mark are outcasts. The technology explosion that is inferred from Revelation 8 and 9, that's inferred from Revelation 13, I believe that we're experiencing it today and that God has made it known to us.

Alright, Jeff's gonna move on to number 3.

Jeff. Well, I'd love to talk about technology for the rest of the time because I think we live in such a technology-based world. To me, I find it fascinating that as you said, David, in generations past there was no way to keep tabs on everybody at all times in all manners. Not only is that available now in multiple ways but it's being done in the name

of good. You know, it's actually considered a benefit to humanity to be embraced, hence the deception of this coming antichrist one day.

We're moving on to natural disasters. Obviously this is something that we hear about all the time in our culture, particularly when these storms come through, there's tsunamis, there's earthquakes, there's hurricanes, tornadoes and such, and what's interesting about Matthew 24 is it mentions that there will be natural disasters but it qualifies that as earthquakes in diverse or in, shall we say, different places. Now I'm gonna give us some data when it comes to natural disasters, again going back to that Laodicean church age, again going back to we are at that stage before these events begin to be materialized as we've described in Daniel and in the book of Revelation. I'm just gonna go back to about the year 1900. Why? Not because that's the best data because we've got data going all the way back to this time of Christ, but I want you to see how these events have been accelerated, I want you to see how we see an abundance of these. And again, I'm gonna distinguish between quantity and quality and I think this is important because when we look back on natural disasters, I'm just gonna go back to the year 1900 and just kinda say, okay, what's been happening? Is it truly happening more frequently? Is it worse? Or do we just have.... And I've heard people say, "Well, because of 24/7, you know, cable television we have, you know, access to information that we didn't have 100 years ago. We're just more aware thereof." No, there's actually data that we are seeing and experiencing more natural disasters than any other time in recorded human history. I'm just gonna go back about 100-120 years and I'm gonna use as our pivot point what we know as the World War II era. It's kind of a middle ground there and just kind of look at pre-World War II, post-World War II and kinda how things played out.

If you were to go back and you were to look at a chart of recorded global natural disasters over the last 120 years, it is a fascinating scene. If you just look back in the early 1900s, the early part of the 20th century up until what we know as World War II, about 40-50 natural disasters a year were recorded worldwide. That's everything from earthquakes to hurricanes etc. Now 40-50, don't get me wrong, that's a significant number, that's a lot of disasters, but much like when we talked about pestilence and disease and medical care, we didn't have the architecture and the building structure of today, we didn't have the technology to see these storms coming to prepare people in advance. I know David and Jefferson Baptist, I mean, they're down there in hurricane country and oftentimes they get warnings 7, 10, 14 days in advance of, you know, the barometric pressure, you know, is doing what it's doing and we need to begin to make preparations in advance. They didn't have a whole lot of that back in the 1800 and 1700s of course, but we still have record of the disasters. Why is that critical? Because if you go back about 100 years, every year even though there's 40 or 50 natural disasters, they would experience about 500 million deaths per year because of these natural disasters.

Now let's go post-World War II and this is what's interesting. There's a little bit of a rise around World War II but between World War II and today it is an exponential graph where it goes almost straight up at points to where we see natural disasters today in just our year today that on any given year we will have between 400-500 natural disasters that are recorded. Here's what's different: there's only about 50,000 deaths per year from

natural disasters. Now don't get me wrong, that's 50,000 too many people but do you see how those lines kind of invert themselves? And so it's easy to look back and say, "Well, great earthquakes and volcanoes of days past, oh, so many more people perished." They did. They didn't have the technology that David was talking about. They didn't have access to information like we do today and so therefore we don't have as great a loss of life but again it goes back to what Jesus was saying, these events are happening simultaneously, these events are happening in abundance. And so today just like every time we turn around, there's a new technological revolution, there's a new disease that is present, that what we discover here is that even in natural disasters, we turn around every day somewhere we hear of a storm, we hear of a disaster, and so therefore there is a rise in natural disasters.

Now here's what the secularist would say, that this is "climate change," this is the byproduct of burning of fossil fuels and overpopulation or whatever it may be, and I'm not gonna question that date of the storms, there are more storms occurring today than in days past, I think we have to consider the source. One of the jokes that I say and that's not just because I'm a good ol' Southern boy, is I don't believe we're experiencing more natural disasters because you drive a diesel truck. I really don't. I think the thing that we're seeing is what David and I have been trying to say all night long, the fulfillment of prophecies. Notice what Revelation 24 says, "diverse places." Who would have thought we'd record earthquakes in Oklahoma? Who would have thought that the Midwest, Missouri, would have some of the events that they're having? And oftentimes when we see these great storms coming in, they're in places that do not have a record or history of these storms and therefore oftentimes not prepared for them.

So Jesus doesn't only just say there will be a rise of natural disasters, the beginning of sorrows, he even qualifies that, that they will be happening in places that we never dreamed. And oftentimes today when we get the reports of these great calamities and these great disasters, we oftentimes respond to where I never thought that would happen there. That's the point of tonight. This isn't happening because of the burning of fossil fuels, it's not happening because we drive diesel trucks, it's happening because the earth is crying out, it's happening because Jesus Christ said in the last days these events will happen in places you've never dreamed simultaneously with all of these other events.

So that being said, we've mentioned, you know, climate change and all the excuses, shall I say, of the secularists, one of the things they claim that is causing a lot of this is a population explosion, that there's too many people, and so I'm gonna go back to David, he's gonna talk about the rise in population that has just been exponential throughout the ages as one of the signs for what we know. Alright, David, it's back to you.

I apologize. I made a technological error. David, I'm done with natural disasters. We're going to go back to the rise of population, so back to Baton Rouge and David.

David. Alright, good. I didn't hear a word you said there, brother.

Jeff. Don't worry, it was all good, I promise. It was great. You missed the best five minutes of the night.

David. Hey, yeah, we need to start tightening this up a little bit. We're going long.

Jeff. It's cause we're passionate.

David. [cross talk]. That's right, man. Population explosion. Revelation 9:13 says this, "Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them." So that verse 16 is the key passage, 200 million, he said he heard the number of the army. So again, implied in this passage is that in the end times there is going to be an incredible population explosion that's gonna come upon the world for a country to field an army of 200 million men. Now in the first century, this was an outrageous claim made by John because in the first century there were not but around 200 people on the entire planet and so for him to make this prophecy, to write this prophecy down was extreme, just to say the least.

Today, of course, here we are 2,000 years later, there's going to be an army the Scripture says east of the Euphrates that could number 200 million men. East of the Euphrates there's a lot of countries. In the far east of the Euphrates is China and then India, then of course you have Egypt and Turkey, or excuse me, Iraq and Iran. Egypt's not on the east side but Iraq and Iran are. So you have all these great countries with great armies that are east of the Euphrates and we're living in a day where it's possible that this prophecy could be fulfilled, a 200 million man army. We know in the past China has boasted of their capability of fielding a 200 million man army.

I looked at some statistics this week. China presently has a standing army of 2 million men but they almost, and get this, they almost have 700 million men that are fit for military service and every single year 20 million new young men come of military age that they could employ in their army. Just an unbelievable amount of men available. Now you compare this to Israel that only has 3.6 million men and women who are fit for service in their armed forces that are available. They have 170,000 active. 170,000. Now Iran, Iraq, Turkey, they together have 100 million men that are available for service compared to Israel's 3.6 and that's only three of Israel's enemies that surround them. That's not counting Egypt and everybody else. Those are just the ones that are east of the Euphrates. When you start adding all of those together, it is mind boggling how surrounded and how over-matched in manpower that Israel is with their enemies, and yet if it was not for the knowledge that we have of the providence of God, we would wonder how Israel would survive. We know God has his hand on the people of Israel.

So now in the first century when John wrote this prophecy, as I said, there were barely 200 million people on the face of the earth so this prophecy was unbelievable. In fact, it

was not until around the year 1300 in the Middle Ages that they got to 300 million in population. It would take all of recorded human history until the year 1850 for the world to have its first 1 billion inhabitants on earth. It took to the year 1850 for 1 billion. But now in 2020 we have, what, 7 billion. I just read a stat that by 2050 we're gonna have 10 billion people on the planet, if not more. This has all happened during this time period. That hasn't been a gradual increase. No, from the year 1850 until 2020 it's just astronomically exploded, the population has exploded.

When John wrote this prophecy, people would have thought that he was crazy. In 1850 when people would read this passage of Scripture they would say, "That's not possible that one army would be able to be comprised of 200 million men." But just a couple hundred years later we're living in a day where this prophecy could actually be fulfilled. Yeah, prophecy fulfilled in our day, a population explosion.

Alright, Jeff, back to you.

Jeff. As we're passionate about this, but I want to give a shout-out to our tech teams both there in Baton Rouge and here in Opelika. I know there's two of us on the screen but there's about a dozen men and women who are behind the scenes right now that are making all this happen and we had a little tech issue a while ago and it had nothing to do with them. You see, the way that David and I can hear each other is that we've actually got a phone call between each other and we have earpieces in and we're hearing each other and talking to each other by way of phone, and he and I are the ones that messed up the technology. So I just want to make that clear, that little glitch we had had nothing to do with those people behind the scenes. It's because there may be a rise in technology but David and I are struggling a little bit, yeah, and he just said, yeah, it was my fault. Well, it was my fault because I pushed the wrong button. So that being said, he's talking in my ear trying to make me laugh.

So as we move on, I know that we're passionate and going a little bit long but let's talk about wars and rumors of wars and I think the best thing for me to do tonight is exactly what I've done kind of with the natural disasters, is go back over the last 100-120 years and use what we know as World War II as a focal point, and the reason World War II is a focal point to me is because just as David said with the population explosion, in 1850 we had a billion people, now we have 7+ billion, who knows what the days ahead will lead us to, that incredible prophecy in the book of Revelation just seemed unfathomable even 175 years ago and today it is readily fulfilled.

Well, wars and rumors of war. Humanity, we've been fighting ever since Cain and Abel. We've always had issues with each other and it talks about nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and we look at that passage and there's a tendency to say, "Well, but this has always been happening." Well, here's what's interesting, you remember World War I was actually called the war to end all wars and it didn't? We renamed it World War I when World War II came, and again we had this global battle of just incredible proportions with tens of millions of people losing their lives.

What I think is significant to the study of wars and rumors of war and the prophecy of Matthew 24 is what took place in 1948. I'm not talking about the nation of Israel, we'll get to that in just a moment. In 1948 the world gathered itself together and formed what you and I know as the United Nations. Their purpose and their goal was not only to unite the world but also bring peace to the world, and many of you may not be familiar with this but the United Nations building there in New York City actually has a verse from the Bible inscribed on it. Isn't that interesting? That institution that rarely would we ever claim to be favorable to Christianity, much less the fidelity of Scripture, there's a Bible verse on it and it comes from Isaiah 2:4 and as Isaiah 2:4, it want you to hear what it says. It says, "And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Now here's the frightening part: if you look back beginning in verse 1, this is a prophecy about Jesus Christ. What we know as the United Nations is literally claiming to be God in that passage. That's kind of frightening to begin with.

The second thing I want you to notice is the very Scripture that they put on their building says that their purpose and their goal is to eliminate war, they're bringing peace, take the swords and beat them into plowshares. Since 1948 they have recorded 273 warfare conflicts in the world. Now do you find that interesting that on the backside of World War II we said we're gonna eliminate war, we've had 273 wars? You look back on human history and you see the war of this age and of that age and there's a period of peace, but nowadays much like the rise of technology, natural disasters, we live in a constant state of war. And I think one of the things that we're seeing that is so prophetic that we're talking about tonight is these issues, yes, they're new as far as the exponential quantity and severity of them, but they're simultaneously and that's what David was alluding to.

And so nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, and what's critical to understand is that as we make our way through the prophetic record, particularly in the book of Revelation, he talked about this army of 200 million men, when you get to chapter 16 it says that they are led by the kings of the east, those toes of that Revived Roman Empire, that coalition of the antichrist. You know, we live in a war-torn world and there's gonna be an increase as we lead to that rapture event. What's interesting when you get to Daniel's 70th week, when you get to that period in Revelation 6 through 19, is you get the idea that there is a peace on earth because the antichrist brings everybody together under his umbrella of authority and power. He is a sole dictator of the world but then he will take humanity through his deception and lead them to the battle of battles, what we know as the battle of Armageddon vividly described all throughout Scripture but particularly in the book of Revelation.

So again, the days of warfare are gonna be consistent. At least in my adulthood and I'll go back just to the early 1990s, there's rarely been a time where we as a country have not been at war, and these are the days that are going to continue until the time that the Lord calls us home. And so all of these issues are exponential now, they're prevalent now, they're rising to the forefront even when the largest group for peace in the world says their goal is to eliminate war, we've had 273 of them since 1948.

Well, we're about halfway through these signs and, you know, we look at all these different things from technology to population and there has been a rise of people who look at individuals like David and myself and our respective churches and say, "There is no way it's really gonna happen that way." So David, talk about scoffers and perilous times.

David. Absolutely. There's a number of passages that give us some specific prophecies about what the mindset of certain people are going to be in the time just before Christ comes. 2 Timothy 3:1 says, "in the last days perilous times will come," and then he lists out the characteristics of the people, "men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." You read that and you say, "Yeah, well, you know, the flesh has always been like that. People have always been." But the point is it's gonna be at an increasing rate, it's going to become worse and worse, it's gonna be very perilous.

Peter also describes the lawlessness of the age at the time of the end in 2 Peter 3:3 and 4. He says, "knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming?'" We could also add the words of Jesus in Matthew 24 saying that lawlessness is going to abound in the time of the end. Now in reference to that Peter passage where he says that there will be those who will be saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? Everything's been going on just the same as it always has. Where's that promise of Christ's coming?" That indicates that some of those are gonna be coming out of the church, some of these people were raised up in the church, they were told that Christ is coming soon and Christ didn't come according to their timetable and now they've turned into scoffers and they scoff those who are watching and being ready and longing for the coming of Christ. This is a prediction that this will happen in the church.

You know, we can almost make a case that we see this happening all around us in the evangelical church. You know, what people believe about when and where the rapture will happen, Jeff and I agree that that's not one of the essentials of salvation, that doesn't, you know, there's room in the tent for all of us who just might have some disagreements on that, but that's one thing, just having disagreements but it's another thing to be a scoffer. And I've had my run-ins with people who are scoffers. They scoff at those who believe, for example, in a pretribulational rapture like Jeff and I do. There's not too many pastors with PhDs who believe in a pretribulational rapture. There used to be but not so much now. I read a Lifeway research survey that says only 36% of pastors today believe in a pretribulational rapture. Almost half do not believe in a rapture at all or do not believe that those passages are to be taken literally. In 2010, just to give you some context, a decade ago 61% of pastors believed in a pretribulational rapture. So just in a short decade we're seeing how dramatic the expectation of Christ's soon return is in the pulpits of America.

Paul says perilous times will come in the days of the end, scoffers will come. Jesus says lawless times will come and this is in accordance with the Scripture because the antichrist in 2 Thessalonians 2 is called the lawless one, and as that time approaches, that lawlessness is going to increase. In fact, 2 Thessalonians 2 makes it very clear, it's one of the important passages on helping us understand when the rapture will occur because that passage Paul says that the restrainer of evil must first be removed out of this world and then the antichrist will come. That's what Paul says in that passage. The restrainer of evil in this world is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is embodied in the church, not the buildings in the people, in us as born again Christians. We, our presence in this world restrains evil and when the rapture occurs and the church is removed, there's no more restrainer and the lawless one, he is going to be free to come. So the rapture we believe, again, will take place before the antichrist appears.

So lawlessness, increase in crime, perilous times. I almost feel like I don't have to make a case that we are living in such times today, just the proliferation of violence, sexual abuse, terrorism, all these things that we see that make us fearful even letting our children walk down the street. When I was a child, when I was young I could walk all over my neighborhood, I could go to a friend's house, I could go to stores, my parents would drop me off at a mall. These days I don't let my boys do that because we live in very perilous times. In fact, I read a study, this is done by an advocacy group on Roman Catholic abuse that has taken place. From 1950 to 2018, 7,002 priests have been accused, credibly accused of abusing children and this group has counted 20,052 victims, almost three victims per priest. 7,002. 7,002. It's just mind-boggling. NBC News put out an article that said nearly 1,700 priests that were swept up in that first wave whenever all this stuff started coming out, there are still 1,700 priests who are credibly accused of child molestation. Most of those abused are young boys or were young boys at the time. 1,700 priests are still flying under the radar. They're still working. They're still educators. They're still out there and loose. It's a scary scary thought.

Lawlessness. You know, we see this around us all the time. You know, I saw reports, FBI reports from the 1990s was the height of violent crimes in America. There's been a steady decline in violent crimes and every violent crime except for one and that is sexual abuse, rape. That one has been increasing exponentially while others are trending downward, and in this time period in which we live where pornography is so readily accessible to young boys and men of all ages, we know that we face a dark dark day, a dark time. I believe that the world doesn't realize what's about to be unleashed on it. Just since Covid-19 has come upon us, do you know what the number 1 website in the world is? The most viewed website? The most viewed website is a place called pornhub.com. We live in perilous perilous times. It's only going to be darker and it's gonna get worse.

Alright, Jeff, back to you.

Jeff. Transition into the lukewarmness and the apostasy of the church. You know, we talked about the scoffers, those are actually people who claim to be a part of the church who are not adhering to biblical doctrines and the fidelity to Scripture. You know, David mentioned the rarity nowadays of individuals and pastors, particularly those who have

some type of formal education, that see the Scriptures laid out literally like he and I do. One of the reason we became dear friends years ago is as we're going through seminary, we actually took a course on eschatology, if you'll remember, which is a study of the end times, and it was the two of us and everybody else. We were very much in the minority position to seeing the book of Daniel literally prophesying the events of Revelation literally being fulfilled.

Speaking of that, as we go into the lukewarmness of the church, that is a term that is utilized to the church of Laodicea in the book of Revelation 3 and what's interesting about that term lukewarmness, and we hear that all the time in messages and sermons, this kind of riding the fence, you're not hot, you're not cold, but what's even more significant as we look at it from a prophetic perspective is that is that Laodicean church that represents the age before the rapture and then the pending time known as the great tribulation, it is a description of what the church of Jesus Christ will look like in those days before that rapture event. Now here's what's interesting: the term Laodicea actually means the rights of the people or civil rights. Now don't think the Civil Rights Movement, don't think in those terms, let's just think theologically here, let's think within the realm of the body of Christ. It's literally stating that the last days of the "church" before the rapture will be filled with a presence, a mentality, a philosophy that what man wants is more important than what God wants; what we want to do, what we want to see fulfilled, our desires are more important than his. The buildings are big, the budgets are huge, but as we saw and mentioned earlier, Jesus Christ is on the outside knocking, desiring to get in.

Now he mentioned that 2 Thessalonians 2 was a critical study not just in the person of the antichrist and the restrainer as he and I see is that Holy Spirit within us and when we are removed in that rapture event, obviously the restrainer is removed and the antichrist can become what he is prophesied to become, but it begins there in 2 Thessalonians 2 by describing the end of the age and the end of time and it says that it will not occur until the falling away takes place. Now what's interesting is that term "falling away" is where we get the word "apostasy," which literally means "to exhibit traits of or to profess faith of but not to actually be real."

One of the passages that mentions that term antichrist obviously not mentioned in the book of Revelation, is found in the book of 1 John. Chapter 2 of 1 John beginning in verse 18 it talks about there are many antichrists around us. By the way, the term "antichrist," don't think, you know, red suit, horns and a tail, think someone who exhibits the persona of a messiah but is fake; the answer to our problems, the solution to our ills, yet he has a motive that is less, significantly less than the things of God. And that's what we see in that antichrist figure, he is the exact opposite thereof.

That being said, in 1 John 2 beginning in verse 18 it talks about these antichrists that are among us and it says they left or departed from us because they were never a part of us, and that's a great description of apostasy, that you see the church, that's a collective term here, going about and becoming secular in its desires, secular in its presentation, becoming more like the world, that it is the word. That is a sin problem, don't get me

wrong, but it's also a prophetic picture. As you walk through those seven churches that represent these ages between the ascension and the rapture, what you see is in these last days the church is going to exhibit possibly authority and great presence but it's not gonna contain a true spirituality and authentic relationship with Jesus Christ.

I am mesmerized about how many times I watch a church service, I listen to church service of another entity and a preacher, for lack of better terms, can talk for 30 minutes about how to have success in life, how to feel good in life, how to have this good or that good, but never mention sin, never mention the need for repentance, never mention the sacrificial death, the atonement of Jesus Christ, much less the necessity of the resurrection which 1 Corinthians 15 says if that didn't happen our faith is in vain. The apostasy, the lukewarmness of the church is we have music, we have preaching, we have buildings, we have crowds, but we don't have the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we don't have the truth of God's word which is why David and I see events such as this as necessary. We're grateful to be a part of wonderful churches who adhere to the truth of Scripture but we live among a lot of people in our culture who do not. And so again, one of the signs, one of the prophecies of these last days is the church as an entity is gonna look more worldly than it does of the word.

Now speaking of the church and all these issues, one of the great signs of the times that people love to talk about is the nation of Israel. David and I had the privilege to be in Israel several times, we've been there together, so I'm gonna throw it back to Baton Rouge. Talk to us about Israel becoming a nation again.

David. Yeah, absolutely. This probably should have been the first prophecy fulfilled that we talked about. It's kind of the mother of all the prophecies because it happened in 1948, Israel became a nation again, and what's so significant about that is that they were not a nation for almost 2,000 years. In 138, the Emperor of Rome, Hadrian, he crushed a revolt, a final Jewish revolt, and he banned Jews from being in Palestine. They were removed. They were scattered all over the world just as that prophecy in Hosea 3 predicted, that they were going to be spread, they were no longer going to have their temple, and they were going to come back after many days, after many days Hosea said. The many days refers to the times of the Gentiles, the church age. At the end of the church age Israel is going to become a nation again.

So after 2,000 years of being spread out throughout the entire world, the most persecuted people, they did not lose their national identity even though they were all over the world, and then all of a sudden they come back and they're a nation once again. It's an unbelievable fulfillment of biblical prophecy. That land of Israel had been controlled by many different countries and fought over. The Ottomans took control of it and then ultimately in World War I Britain seized control, and then from that time until 1948 they worked to build an Israeli state and they finally accomplished it, and really on the day they accomplished it, the enemies around them, Egypt attacked Israel the very night that they were declared a nation but by then President Truman had already recognized them as a state and so it was done. Israel was a nation again. One of the most important biblical

prophecies that has been fulfilled, you are living in the day of the fulfillment of this prophecy. No other generation can claim that, just the one that we're presently living in.

But there's another aspect to this and, Jeff, I want to throw this back to you real quick but I just want to point this prophecy out. Zechariah the prophet, chapter 12, verses 2 and 3 says, "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all people round about, and in that day," the end times, "will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people." So not only does the Bible predict that Israel will become a nation once again in the end times, but it also accurately predicted that they will be like a stone around the neck of the world; that how many of the world's social problems and wars, how much of it revolves around that little nation state of Israel? Incredible fulfilled biblical prophecy. Jeff.

Jeff. Absolutely. In fact, you know, we started with the plagues or pandemics of the world, many of the great plagues, at least in Europe, were blamed on the Jewish people because of their adherence to the Old Testament laws with sanitation and such because they weren't getting as sick as other people were. And so they've always been that burdensome stone. Now we see it fulfilled as a sovereign state.

Well, speaking of Israel, the most sacred, most valuable piece of dirt on the planet is what you and I know as the Temple Mount. If you would look at this just from somewhat of an academic perspective, those from a Christian heritage, a Jewish heritage, and an Islamic heritage, all consider this the most, one of the most important places on the planet, but from a biblical prophetic perspective, one of the things that we have to address is that temple that David talked about earlier in his understanding of the book of Daniel with it being rebuilt, coming back in the 5th century BC and such, but the Bible tells us not only did Jesus say it would be torn down in Matthew 24 but it also says it will be built again. And this is one of the great things that scoffers speak of, in fact, David may remember when we were in Israel together we had a tour guide that was Jewish in background, he was not what we call a religious Jew, he was a secular Jew, and when we were there at that temple place, you know, he actually got in a disagreement with David and I and got somewhat heated that we really believed that the temple would be rebuilt again? That sacrifices would take place? What type of political disaster would that be? Because right now in the middle of the Temple Mount is a Muslim mosque, the famous Dome of the Rock that we call it in our vernacular. But the Bible says it will be rebuilt because in Revelation 11 the Lord with the Apostle John shows him the measurements thereof. It talks about the courts of the temple. It's measured with a reed. We're actually given the dimensions thereof. We've talked about what we know as the antichrist figure who commits the abomination of desolation, how does he do that? He goes into the temple. So for that antichrist abomination of desolation to take place, there has to be a temple that is build.

Now the two questions that we should be asking tonight, the question shouldn't be if it's going to be built because it's going to because like the other prophecies have been fulfilled, it's going to be as well. Really the big question is the timing and the location. Let's deal with timing for just a moment because the, shall we say, the enemies of Jesus ridiculed him in John 2 and in other places when they said, "You know, you say you're

gonna rebuild this temple," of course it says in John 2 he's speaking of his body, "It took us 46 years to build it." That's going back to that time of Ezra and Nehemiah and such. 46 years. You know, we look at that and say how can we say that these events are on the cusp of time when it took them 46 years? There are multiple entities right now, most of them based in what we know as Jerusalem, who already have the materials, they already have everything set aside, they are ready to go and many of them claim that they could build this structure as ordained by God in Scripture in just a matter of weeks. So again, this is kind of the rise of technology. In days past it would take four decades, now it might take four or five days, and so there's multiple groups that are desiring to do the, they're beginning the process of training young men to make the sacrifices as priests. How many times have you heard in the news, at least in the last 20 or 30 years, about this famous calf that they're looking for that will be red in nature that's necessary for the ashes for the priest to do all that he has to do?

We see all of these things surrounding that temple experience and so when we talk about the when, typically what people want to ask, not just how long would it take but is it gonna be on this side of the rapture or on the other side of the rapture? I don't know. I don't think any of us emphatically can tell you when. I can tell you it's not gonna take as much time as we think it is, but I will tell you this, that at that 3 ½ year point that the book of Daniel prophesied in the middle of the tribulation, the antichrist is going to go into the temple. So it will be fully viable and constructed by the midway point of the tribulation, it may be built in the days ahead, we don't know. There are groups right now actively seeking to build it and desiring to do so, the big question is where. There's a Dome of the Rock, a Muslim mosque right there in the middle. Well, right now as we speak there are archaeological digs all around the Temple Mount and even today Orthodox Jews will not step on the Temple Mount because they're fearful that they might go where the Holy of Holies was placed. And so there's a lot of evidence and a lot of talk about was the location in the exact middle, was it a little bit to the north, right across from what we know as the Eastern Gate?

And so again, there's a lot of speculation of where it will be built but let me conclude with this: even if that famous Dome of the Rock is the exact location, you know, the tour guide that we had scoffed at us and, man, there's no way that would ever happen, but that antichrist figure is gonna pull the entire world together under his umbrella of power, he's gonna be the ultimate political power-broker and if there was anybody who could pull that off, it would be that character when that first seal is broken and he rises to the forefront.

So last but not least, here's the last thing. Everybody wants to talk about the one world government, so back to Baton Rouge. Tell us about this one world government, David.

David. Absolutely. Yeah, this is one of the most fascinating and interesting prophecies that we all wonder about, we all look for because we hear so much about it, this move towards a one world government. And of course, in our day and age we see evidences of this all around, the whole globalist movement, you know, nations without walls, and this whole movement towards anti-nationalism, and we see the overall push towards a

globalist one world type government. Of course, the world has shrunk so much in the last 50 years with the advent of technology and language is not as difficult to overcome as it used to be in the past, and it's amazing how the world is becoming more and more and more united, and the more united man gets, the more they are working together, the more secrets they unlock of the universe. You know, remember during the Tower of Babel, man was united. There were no nation states at that time and man was building a tower up in the heavens, whatever that was, and God said it's not good and so he destroyed it and he separated man and he confused their languages, and he said something interesting in there, he said, "If we don't confuse them, if we don't separate them, nothing will be impossible to them." And we're seeing that today as the world is becoming more and more united and intellectual growth and technology growth, they're starting to unlock the secrets of the universe and inventing things that we could have never possibly imagined. It's not long before Christ comes.

But the unification of the world centers around the idea of the Revived Roman Empire that we've talked about previously in Daniel 7, those toes that were broken up, they're going to coalesce back together when the antichrist comes. He is going to come out at the head, I believe, of a Revived Roman Empire. Today we can look at the European Union and see, I believe, the government and the structure through which the antichrist will come. Some will disagree with that, but to me it's very self-evident, it's very clear. And if you look at a map, an ancient map and compare it to the European Union, the countries that make up the European Union are the same countries in the same areas of the world that made up the old Roman Empire.

The European Union came together post-World War II. In the 1960s and '70s it started to grow in its membership, started to grow in its unity, more countries started to join. In the 1980s when the Soviet Union fell, the wall of Berlin fell, it opened up many more avenues for the growth of the European Union. By the year 2000 the Euro is introduced and Europe now has a common and has for some time a common banking system that all Europeans use. You fast forward to 2001 and September the 11 and the terror attacks in New York and everything that took place there, that crisis provided a lot of fuel and spurred on the growth and the unification of the European Union in the name of security, in the name of peace and safety. They were able to increase their power, their control of other countries. In fact, that happened in America, the government really grew. Do you remember what life was like before 9/11? You remember how easy it was to go into the airport and to get out, and how much the world changed after 9/11. It really is mind-boggling and now with Covid-19, we're seeing a very similar thing occur. The government just tends to grow and control more with every crisis. That's what happened with the European Union. Following the financial crisis of 2008, they signed the Treaty of Lisbon and as a result of that their governmental structures became even more unified and provided more efficient working methods for the prospering of their economy.

So every crisis when you look back at the European Union, every crisis tends to fuel further power and growth for the European Union in the name of peace and safety. You know, it's interesting there's a verse in the Bible, 1 Thessalonians 5, and this is the Apostle Paul, this is an end time prophecy where he says, "For when they say peace and

safety, then sudden destruction comes up them as labor pains upon a pregnant woman and they shall not escape." Sometime in the end times there is going to be a huge push for peace and safety. Governments are gonna control people under the guise of peace and safety. I believe this is a prophecy we are to look for, I also believe it's a prophecy that we are experiencing. It's through crises that governments control, we lose more personal freedoms, and it's something that we should be very concerned about. The move towards globalism, nations without borders, these things are being driven by political leaders who use natural disasters, who use global warming, who use terrorism, these become opportunities for more control, more power. I don't believe that many of these politicians, many of these world leaders who do this are all bad people, that they have evil intent in their heart. On paper it looks like the right thing to do, let the government control more parts of people's lives so that less people die, so less, so that the government can take care of more people. It sounds like a kind human thing to do, but as students of biblical prophecy, we know what it is, it is the push towards globalism is a preparation for the coming one world government and the ultimate crisis that is going to prepare the way for the influence and the takeover the antichrist, I believe and I believe Jeff would agree with me, is the rapture of the church. The rapture of the church is going to occur and upwards of a billion people are going to disappear and out of that chaos, out of that crisis the antichrist is going to come. He'll bring a treaty to Israel. I believe it's through the antichrist that they're going to rebuild that temple at that time. We don't know, like Jeff said, whether it's before or after. I tend to believe that the antichrist will do it at that time. It will be like a peace offering. He'll bring unification to Muslim and Jews. It's going to be amazing what he accomplishes, and then he's going to force people to take the mark of the beast.

That is one of the major end time prophecies, this unification of governments pushing towards globalism, so I believe that those days are coming and I believe we're just seeing things being prepared for the coming antichrist and I'll close with that. So Jeff, back to you. I believe we're done with the prophecies.

Jeff. I've got some good news, David, and some bad news. The good news is we've covered a whole lot of ground. The bad news is we've left like seven minutes for questions. Now there have been people online saying, "Just keep going. Just keep going." Well, the problem with that is both David and I have an event, either of us respectively have to go, so we have to close this at 8 o'clock.

So David, I'm gonna put you on the spot, is that alright? I've done this before so it's okay. How about we do this version 2.0 in the future? Is that okay?

David. I'll do it anytime.

Jeff. Alright. So here's what we're gonna make you the promise of. We're gonna have prophecy conference 2.0 at some point in the future. We have all of your questions, alright? We'll keep those questions and, David, rather than doing summaries and signs, how about we just do a Q&A with you and I? Does that sound good? We do that in the future?

David. I'm in. Let's do that.

Jeff. Alright, that sounds good. Now we only have a few moments so I want, I have access to all the questions as you do too, and so I want to kind of pick one for you, if that's okay. You can pick one for me as we close, but if you take the entire time. This is one of those fascinating questions for me is back in the book of Daniel 7, okay, who are those four entities? Who are those beasts that are mentioned in Daniel 7? You know, because they're a little bit different than chapter 2 so that's one of the questions that was submitted. You're the expert on the book of Daniel. Go for it.

David. Well, I think I already mentioned this in my outline and Daniel 7 is, you know, the interesting thing, the differences between Daniel 2 and chapter 7, the differences in the visions, in the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had versus the dream that Daniel had, you know, it leaves us to speculating why are they so different? You know, why did Nebuchadnezzar, why did he see an image with a golden head, which he was the golden head because his was the first kingdom, and then you switch over to Daniel 7 and these same kingdoms are described like beasts? And I think that it's pretty self-evident and I believe that, I mean, it does take interpretation so it's somewhat speculative but the idea is that whenever mankind looks at the kingdoms of this world, what they see is power, they see gold, they see riches, they see those kind of worldly desires fulfilled in those kingdoms, and so that's why you see the precious metals described in that statue, but whenever you look at it from God's side, whenever you look at it from the spiritual side, those same kingdoms, they're not made of precious metals but they're actually just ferocious beasts who are causing so much devastation.

The lion with wings of an eagle is the Babylonian Empire. I think I mentioned this in the summary. The bear is the Persian Empire. The bear is, you know, lift itself up and it's gonna overcome the others, the ones that were before it and Daniel provides the description there and the Persian Empire was just like a bear, it devoured like a bear but it was also foolhardy like a bear as well. You remember the king of Persia, Xerxes, led a foolish march against Greece during his time. He led this massive army, the biggest army the world has ever seen. He left his boats, this huge navy, the greatest armada the world had ever seen, he left it out in the Mediterranean Ocean and ultimately it was destroyed by the wind and the waves and leaving his men, he didn't have enough food or water to take care of his army. He was ultimately defeated but he caused a lot of havoc for Greece. That led to Alexander the Great who in a lot of ways went and returned the favor. He attacked Persia as repayment like a leopard, he did it quickly, swiftly, and he was known for his movements to be like a leopard so that was a very appropriate description of the Greek kingdom. And then the dreadful terrible beast is clearly Rome. Iron teeth. The 10 horns refer to the 10 main kings and emperors of Rome, and it's an apt description of the Roman Empire.

So you know, to the best of my ability that's a short summary of what those four kingdoms are. I get to pick one for you now?

Jeff. Because I think as we talk about prophecy in future events, one of the greatest things we can do is actually look to history. History tells us so much particularly the Old Testament.

So you get to pick one for me and then we'll wrap it up. Be nice to me now. Be nice.

David. Alright, well, actually I'm gonna pick the one, I saw one I wanted to answer and I'm trying to find it right now. Hang on just a second.

Jeff. You see, I put him in a very much a position of leverage here. He gets the last one. He's scrolling through the screen right now. I know him well, I've known him a long time. He's gonna pick the perfect one so let's see if he finds it here.

By the way, we will be in touch in days ahead of when we're gonna have prophecy conference 2.0. We'll let you know when that's gonna occur. We're probably gonna be in a virtual worship experience for quite a while not only in Alabama but also in Louisiana so hopefully it will be sooner than later.

Alright, David, go for it. What you got?

David. Alright, so you've got about three minutes and this is the question I wanted to answer so we might have to team up but I want to hear how you answer it, see how you do it. We might come back to this when we do the 2.0 but number 8 says some say there is no rapture, others say that the rapture will come before the tribulation begins, while other says that we as Christians go through the first 3.5 years of the 7 years. Explain when the rapture will occur. That's perfect...

Jeff. It is perfect but both of us could easily because we see it as the Scriptures lay it out and you've referred to this term tonight as a pretribulational rapture, that is a catching up of the body of Christ both those who are deceased and those who are alive before the time known as the great tribulation. Two of the, shall I say, most emphatic passages in regards to this are 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and what we know as 1 Corinthians 15:51-55. I think one of the things that's important about these two passages, and again I'll keep this brief tonight, is there is no mention around any of them, there is no even alluding to the abomination of desolation, the opening of seven seals, the mark of the beast, in fact, in both of those accounts it is just a description to the people of God of how to live their lives for Christ and it says, "Oh, by the way, let me show you a mystery, we will not all sleep but we shall be caught up to be with the Lord in the air." And so there again there is no what I would call tribulational language around that.

The second thing that I would allude to is the fact that Jesus Christ made it very clear, he said, "I will never leave you and I will never forsake you," and I'm just gonna be honest, I don't know, David, if you agree necessarily with this position, I struggle with a Jesus who says you're a part of my body, I loved you enough to give my blood for you, I gave my life, I raised from the dead so you can be saved, but I'm gonna unleash the antichrist on you. I kind of struggle with that, so to speak. Speaking of that, when you get to

Revelation 6, who is it that unleashes the antichrist? It's Jesus Christ. He's the one that opens that famous seal with the revealing of the antichrist and I don't find any biblical evidence at all that Jesus Christ would unleash the antichrist on his body.

By the way, you mentioned 2 Thessalonians 2 earlier about that which restrains the Holy Spirit. You and I are called the body of Christ. The judgment that we see mentioned in Daniel fulfilled in Revelation, this famous last 70th week, this is not a judgment on the body of Christ, this is actually a judgment on those who have rejected Christ and continue to rebel against him.

So I know there's a lot of willing souls who want to make evidence for a mid, a post, or whatever tribulation rapture, but I believe 1 Corinthians 15, 1 Thessalonians 4, as you do says that there is gonna come a day without warning, without saying this has to occur then that has to occur, then it can occur, that those who are already deceased in the Lord, those of us that are alive if it were to happen right now, we would be caught up together to be with the Lord. There is no tribulational language around those passages. Jesus Christ said he would never leave us or forsake us, and the person that unleashes the antichrist is Jesus Christ himself.

Now David, you and I know we could go hours just defending that concept alone and so I appreciate you being a good friend and throwing me a softball there. So but we have got...

David. Let me, let me, let me, hey, let me close it out with reading this verse.

Jeff. Go for it, brother.

David. And then you after I read this verse, you can say whatever you want to say and then close us in prayer.

Jeff. Will do.

David. Alright, listen to this, this is the words of Jesus just playing off what Jeff just said about the rapture. Jesus is speaking about the end times, he's saying it will come "as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man."

Jeff. And as you well know, we've gone two hours tonight, we could go two hours just on that rapture event. I believe it is that prolific.

So to all of you, not only Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, to those of you at First Baptist, Opelika, here in Alabama and around the world, thank you for allowing us to be a part of your lives tonight. We're going to come back with prophecy conference 2.0 in some days ahead. It's going to be a strict Question and Answer, alright? And so the

people of Jefferson, you find the most difficult questions you can for me and at Opelika we're gonna try to stump David. Does that sound like a plan, brother?

David. I'm in.

Jeff. No, I'm joking. We're not gonna try to stump each other but we do want to address your questions and I bet based on tonight, I bet this is gonna spawn some more questions that people have and we'll kind of collect those and come back together.

So we have come to the end of our night. As David asked, I'm gonna close this in prayer and then we're gonna call it a night. So let's pray together.

Heavenly Father, as we gather tonight, Lord, how good it is to know that you have written history in advance, that even as we walk through a global pandemic, even though we are concerned for our health, we're concerned about our finances, we are concerned about the world that is around us and literally after tonight if we see all these things that are just coming to pass before our very eyes, Lord, we just claim what 2 Timothy 1:7 says, you have not given us the spirit of fear but of power and of love and a sound mind. Lord, may we have that power, may we have that love, may we have that sound mind. As David began two hours ago by stating that our role is to look to the sky to the glorious appearing of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God, as we have discussed all the prophecies of your word, Lord, we conclude tonight with the last words of your word, "Even so, come Lord Jesus." And it's in his name we pray. Amen.

God bless. Thank you, David. Appreciate you. Love you, man.

David. Thank you.

Jeff. See you at 2.0.