

END TIMES

Chicago Bible Students

BATTLE BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

A marked feature of the initial phase of Christ removing Satan's control over the earth is that wars and trouble will be globally unprecedented— *"trouble such as never was."* (Daniel 12:1) Christ has allowed a protracted time of world trouble to convince mankind that, because of their selfishness and pride, they cannot effectively rule over themselves. Today, even the most democratic governments fall far short of the justice and righteousness required to be successful and lasting.

Before Christ's rule will be accepted by mankind, they need to reach the point of exasperation with their own futile attempts at achieving benevolent governments and peace on earth. This, therefore, is the purpose of the *time of trouble such as never was* — the final lesson which will illustrate that a government without God's principles is in vain.

THE GREAT PROPHETIC CLASH

It is no wonder that the Bible identifies the time in which we are living as *"this present evil world"*, declaring Satan as the *"god of this world."* (Galatians 1:4; 2 Corinthians 4:4) According to Bible prophecy and chronology, what the world has been experiencing over the past 100 years, especially since the start of World War I, is the great prophetic clash between the *kingdoms of this world*, with Satan as their ruler, and the Kingdom of God, with Christ as the incoming King. As the time approaches for Christ to take *full* control, these two worlds will be at war. It is nearing the time for Satan to be fully bound; but before that time, there will be great conflict in the earth as Satan struggles to maintain his current corrupt governments, corporations, and even religious systems under his influence. Revelation 20:1-3

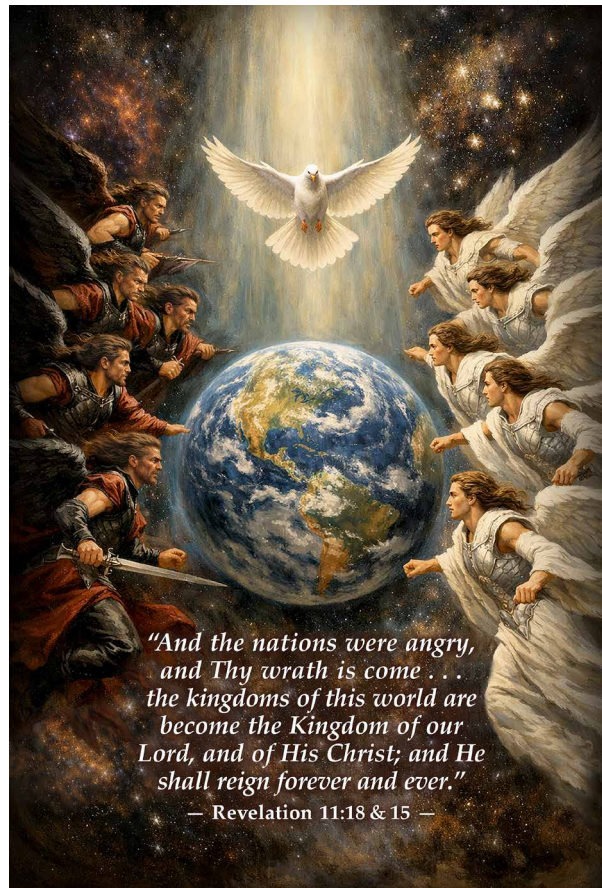
A fitting illustration of this tearing down process is evident today as the conflict in the Middle East rages on. Overturning tyrannical regimes has always proven to be costly both financially and in lives lost or wounded. What's more, it is debatable whether overturning current ruling

powers could ever bring about positive and lasting change. One thing is certain, conflict is sure to incite resentment, which only adds to the discontent. The reality is that any peace agreement in this *evil present world* will be but a temporary remedy.

WHY ARE THE NATIONS ANGRY?

The theme text states that, at this time when Christ is beginning to take control of earth's affairs, the nations will be *angry*. The Psalmist states this same thing as a question: *"Why are the nations in an uproar? ...the rulers [current oppressive regimes] take counsel together against the LORD [Jehovah] and His anointed [Christ]."* (Psalms 2:1, 2 NAS) This *"uproar"* is because the *kingdoms of this present world* belong to Satan. *"The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not..."* and

this fuels the confusion. Satan is struggling against the incoming Kingdom of righteousness. (Matthew 12:28, 29) Therefore, we see that the selfish, greedy nations that unknowingly serve Satan are likewise not interested in surrendering without a fight. But the power of the kingdoms of this world must be broken, and this will be accomplished by uncovering corruption in every sector of society and provoking the oppressed, discontented and desperate people who through revolution will wipe away all unjust systems. Then Christ will build God's Kingdom upon a cleansed foundation. Ezekiel 21:26, 27; Psalms 2:6-9



*"And the nations were angry,
and Thy wrath is come . . .
the kingdoms of this world are
become the Kingdom of our
Lord, and of His Christ; and He
shall reign forever and ever."*

— Revelation 11:18 & 15 —

UNPRECEDENTED WORLD UPHEAVAL

“*At that time shall Michael* [“who as God” — Christ] *stand up* [take charge of earth’s affairs]. . . *and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation...*” (Daniel 12:1) The setting up of God’s righteous Kingdom will continue to be a painful process for the world. During this transition time between the battle of two worlds, we are living in the prophetic era styled “*the time of the end,*” during which this old order is replaced by God’s Kingdom on earth. (Daniel 12:4) This is proven to be true by several key prophetic events.

❖ Out of the ashes of colonialism, more than one hundred new nations sprouted, each demanding its own right to rule. And the nations continue to war with each other, not yet willing to submit to the Lord’s dominion. They manifest their pride and selfishness in ways more threatening than ever before — with nuclear, biological and chemical weapons — even killing their own people in the streets when they rebel. Indeed, Jesus described our day thus: “*And upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity . . . men’s hearts failing them for fear . . .*” Luke 21:25, 26

❖ World War I, a turning point in history, was decisive in the process of breaking up the kingdoms of earth. This War resulted in *travail* upon the nations. “*Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child... as a woman in travail...?*” (Jeremiah 30:6) In other words, spasms of pain plagued the European kings as they lost their crowns and were replaced with governments *by the people*.

❖ The truth everywhere, on all subjects is being exposed, for when Christ reigns, he wields the *sword of truth*. “*And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword [of truth], that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron . . . on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*” (Revelation 19:15-16) It will be *truth* and *righteousness* that will ultimately triumph. “*Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*” 1 Corinthians 4:5

❖ Because of enlightenment — the increase of knowledge and travel throughout the globe — societies are breaking down within nations, and within these nations, ethnic groups are demanding rights with dignity and freedom from oppression. (Daniel 12:4) As the oppressed poor learn

of the wealth and freedom in other nations, they become more and more discontented. And, as the injustices against downtrodden races in the enlightened nations are revealed, reforms are *demanded*. Yes, the subject of human rights is a global issue which shall not be quieted. The nations “*have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy... Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them...*” Ezekiel 22:29-31

NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S IMAGE:**A PROPHETIC PICTURE OF OUR DAY — Daniel 2:1-48**

The Prophet Daniel marks an additional key prophetic event in the “*time of the end.*” Nebuchadnezzar was the King of ancient Babylon in Daniel’s time. The King had a dream that was very disturbing to him, and Daniel was approached for his interpretation of the dream. He described a colossal image with a head of gold, chest and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed with clay. He explained to the King that each division of the body of this awesome image represented an earthly empire — each one overturning the other. (Ezekiel 21:27) Daniel related that the head of gold represented King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel then detailed how the various metals representing the rest of the image became less precious from top to bottom, illustrating that each successive government would progressively become inferior. At the feet, the last civil power of iron was mixed with clay, rendering it impure, brittle and weak.



The dream continued, showing a stone being cut out of the mountain without hands which struck the image at its brittle feet, toppling the mighty structure and grinding it to powder. This stone was a picture of God’s Kingdom, which would strike the feet — the last remaining governments — gradually grinding them to pieces. The final aspect of the dream told of a wind, which blew away every bit of the pulverized image. This pictures the last battle between Satan’s kingdom and the Kingdom of God under Christ.

Daniel concluded the interpretation of the dream thus: “*And in the days of these kings [depicted in the colossal image] shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it [God’s Kingdom] shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms [of this world], and it shall stand for ever.*” (Daniel 2:44) This prophecy describes our

day and where we are in this battle between two worlds — the overlapping of old, flawed systems will soon pass away and will be replaced with a new, perfect order in due time. Indeed, God’s righteous Kingdom will wipe away all selfishness and corrupting influences, and it then shall bring everlasting blessings and peace to all the families of the earth.

“THE CHILDREN OF THY PEOPLE”

The prophet Daniel was used of the Lord to describe yet another event to occur in the *time of the end*. Daniel 12:1 states that when Christ stands up to reign over the nations — causing a *time of trouble* — he will also stand for “*the children of thy people*” — Israel, the natural seed of Abraham. Who can deny the incredible phenomenon of the rebirth of a lost nation, whose people have been scattered throughout the world for nearly 2,000 years? Indeed, this prophetic fulfillment of the regathering of the Jews to their ancient homeland has been an undeniable miracle. (Jeremiah 16:14, 15) What is not generally understood, however, is that through His holy arm, Jesus Christ, it is God who is ruling over them to bring Israel back to *His* land. “*As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm and with fury poured out, will I rule over you. And I will bring you out from the people and will gather you out of the countries [of the whole world, not just ancient Babylon] wherein ye are scattered...*” (Ezekiel 20:33, 34) Note that the gathering process is not peaceful, but “*with fury.*” Note, as well, that the word for “*rule*” in the

Hebrew means *to ascend to the throne*. (Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, H4427, H4428) This is the word used when all the kings of Israel began their reigns and sat on the throne of Jehovah. (1 Chronicles 29:23) In the same way, Christ sits on the throne of Jehovah when Israel is being gathered and restored. “*O sing unto the LORD a new song, for He hath done marvelous things; His right hand, and His holy arm [Christ] hath gotten him the victory.*” Psalms 98:1

The Jews are being gathered step by step and gradually prepared for their place in God’s Kingdom. During this process, Jerusalem is regarded as a “*burdensome stone*” for all people. “*And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.*” (Zechariah 12:3) The nations of the world, as prophesied, are having trouble knowing what to do

with Israel. Jealousy prejudice and disdain against the Jews are causing the majority of the nations to turn against God’s “*chosen people*” with more rage. But, prophecy indicates that Jehovah is bringing Israel back into favor to one day be the seat of His earthly Kingdom. Though Israel has suffered greatly at the hands of cruel nations, God intends a blessing for them, stating: “*I am with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure...*” Jeremiah 30:11

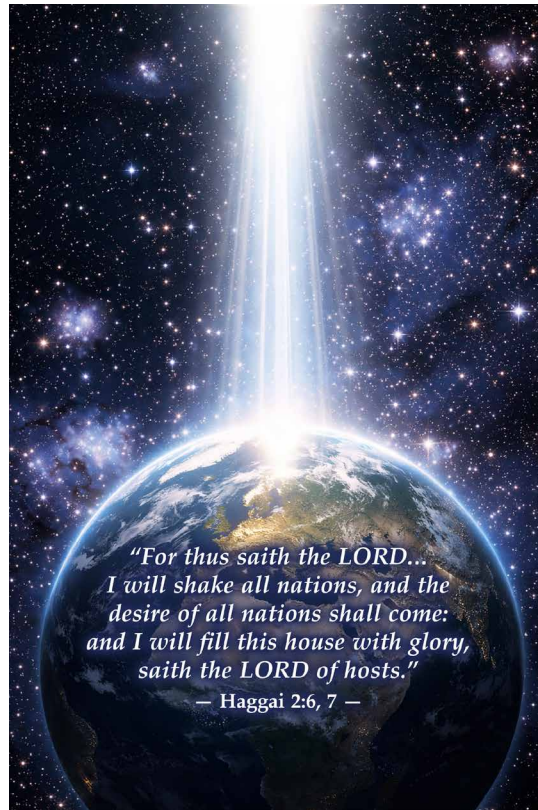
GOD’S KINGDOM IN EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

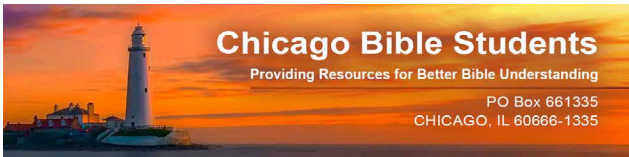
“*And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain [Kingdom] of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains... and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion [spiritual Israel reigning from heaven] shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem [the resurrected faithful of natural Israel as God’s earthly representatives].*” Isaiah 2:2,3

Once this battle between two worlds is over and Satan’s kingdom has been removed, the people of the nations will then be humbled, brought to a clear understanding of God’s great plan and will be ready to learn. “*Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and to pray before the Lord... In those*

days it shall come to pass that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you; for we have heard that God is with you.” Zechariah 8:22, 23

This will be the time for the people of all nations, who were once under the dominion of Satan, to turn to their new King, Christ, and be nourished, refreshed and healed. (Revelation 22:1, 2) Though the governments, and all institutions — financial, civil, religious and social — of the earth will be dissolved, the *people* will be brought forth into the Kingdom of God, submissive and ready to listen to His beloved Son. Christ, the rightful King will have been victorious in this war of two worlds, and then heaven and earth will coexist in perfect harmony. “*For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*” Zephaniah 3:9





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This Issue:

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What is the Bible?

The Bible may be compared to a magnificent edifice that took seventeen centuries to build:

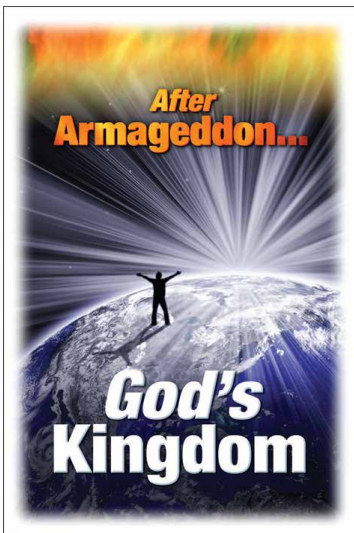
- Its architect and builder is God
- Like this beautiful world, it bears everywhere the impress of a Divine hand
- This majestic temple contains 66 chambers of unequal size; 66 books of the Old and New Testaments
- Each of the 31,173 verses is a stone, a panel of the building which is a Temple more glorious by far than that of Solomon or Zerubbabel

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