



Are We Headed Toward WORLD WAR III?



Russian President Vladimir Putin has threatened to use nuclear weapons in their “military operation” against Ukraine. The chances of the war in Ukraine spiraling out of control are very high, especially since the Russian military has made such a poor showing in their effort to defeat the Ukrainians. In fact, Putin is feeling pressure as his forces are experiencing defeat after defeat. President Joe Biden warned that we are closer to nuclear Armageddon than we were during the Cuban Missile crisis of 1962.

Retired U.S. General David Petraeus has declared that any use of nuclear weapons should be met with the United States military “leading a NATO collective effort, that would take out every Russian conventional force that we can see and identify on the battlefield in Ukraine and also Crimea and every ship in the Black Sea.” So who is bluffing? More importantly: what does the Bible say about Russia and nuclear war? (continued on page 2)

CHINA IS PART OF THE EQUATION!

The Old Testament prophet Daniel declared that three end-time nations will be “*plucked up by the roots.*” (*Daniel 7:8*) Who are those nations that will be totally destroyed? None of us knows for certain but the Bible tells us that one of them is Russia plus an unnamed nation beyond the sea. (*Ezekiel 39:6*)

Even more shocking than this is what we read in the Book of Revelation as it reveals that a huge army will come out of the East with 200 million soldiers. (*Revelation 9:15-16*) They will be responsible for slaying 1/3 of the population of planet earth . . . that equates to the killing of over 2 billion people during the seven year Tribulation!



One of the greatest threats to world peace is China’s plan to attack and reclaim Taiwan.

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The Bible . . . Russia . . . and Nuclear War (continued)

Ezekiel 39:1, 6 - "Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meschech and Tubal . . . And I will send a fire on Magog (Russia), and among those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Following WW2, Americans were very aware of the dangers of nuclear war. People built bomb shelters in their back yards and children in our public schools practiced air-raid drills.



In the 1950's and 60's, air-raid and fallout shelters were clearly identified in cities throughout the country. In recent years, however, Americans have felt much more at ease because of the belief that a nuclear holocaust could and must never happen.

We live under the assumption that nuclear conflict is unwinnable and no one would dare to initiate the unthinkable war. Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) is the doctrine of military strategy and national security policy which supposedly guarantees that no nation would dare to use nuclear weapons knowing that their own country would also be annihilated.

However, it only takes one MAD, power-hungry dictator to push the button to begin a nuclear war that could destroy the world. Is Putin that mad man?



The Bible predicts that Russia will one day awake out of hibernation and become dangerously aggressive.

Since 1991 and the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia has pretty much been in a state of hibernation. However, in recent years and under Putin's leadership, the Russian bear has awakened and seeks to expand its kingdom.

The prophet Daniel was given a vision from God about four end-time nations that would one day arise and come to international power. One of them depicts a hungry bear awakening from a time of hibernation and becoming very aggressive - "And behold, another beast, a second like a BEAR, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between its teeth; and they said thus unto it, *Arise, devour much flesh.*" Daniel 7:5

A bear with three ribs in its mouth? What's that all about? It is interesting that during the years of the U.S.S.R, the Soviet Union had three votes in the United Nations: Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine.

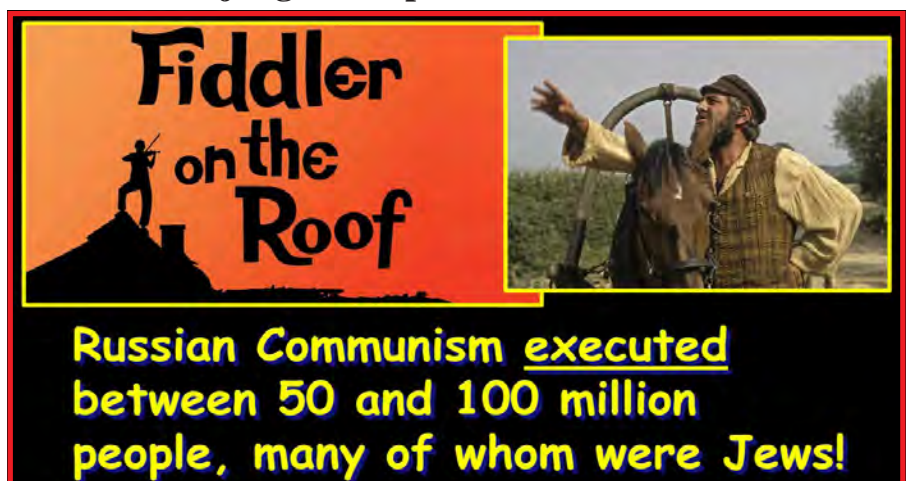
According to the Bible, Russia will one day attempt to invade Israel!



God warned Russia when He said - "And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army . . . and thou shalt come up against My people of Israel, like a cloud to cover the land; and it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against My land, that the nations may know Me." Ezekiel 38:4,16



The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel declared that the LORD would destroy 5 out of every 6 of the invading Russian and Islamic soldiers when they attempt to cross the Jordan River . . . you might ask: **WHY would God bring such horrific judgment upon the Russians?**



THE WAR OF GOG and MAGOG:

Russia will lead a huge army of Arab soldiers against Israel:

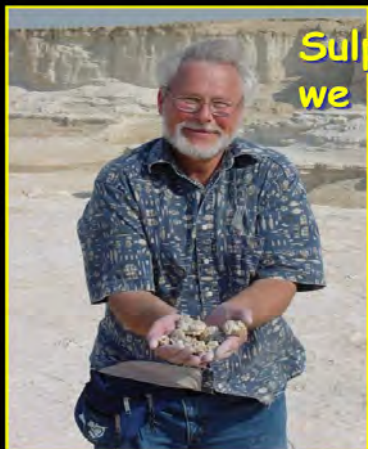


Ezekiel 38:18-19 - "And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog (the Russian leader) shall come against the land of Israel, says the Lord God, that My fury shall come up in My face. For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day **there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel . . .**"

Like the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrah, God will rain burning hailstones down upon the Russian and Arab armies. "I will rain down on him (Gog of Magog), on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire and brimstone." Ezekiel 38:22



Some people scoff at the Biblical description of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah but I can assure you that the fire and brimstone judgment actually happened. Several years ago, three friends and I visited the Gomorrah site at the foot of Masada along the Dead Sea and we picked up a bucket full of sulfur pellets that had once rained down upon the immoral and perverted cities!

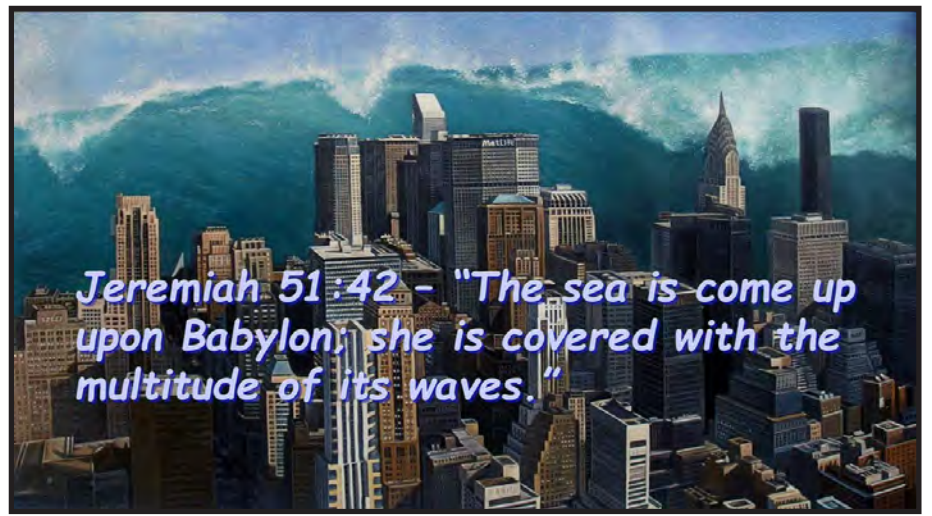


Sulphur pellets (brimstone) we collected at Gomorrah!



The prophet Isaiah went on to declare that on that day of Divine Judgment, the fish of the sea will be destroyed, mountains will be thrown down, and every wall shall fall to the ground! The Bible also warns of a time when the world will be severely shaken by earthquakes. World-wide earthquakes and huge tsunamis would cause incredible death and devastation. (Isaiah 24:19-20)

Could a full-scale nuclear war cause the earth to be thrown off its orbit and experience terrible earthquakes? Jesus spoke of a day when such terrible events will come upon earth - "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, **the sea and the waves roaring.**" Luke 21:25



Jesus went on to warn - "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." Luke 21:26

On May 3, 2017, FBI Director James Comey gave this testimony before a U.S. Senate hearing: "Russia is the greatest threat of any nation on earth." On the same day a number of news agencies reported that Russia is quietly planting "mole" nuclear weapons deep in the oceans off the coasts of the United States . . . weapons that would create super-tsunamis that could destroy American coastal cities and harbors.

THE BIBLE IS FILLED WITH MANY WARNINGS OF A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST!

Isaiah the Prophet clearly spoke of the horrors of a coming holocaust which sounds exactly like nuclear war.



WEAPONS FROM A DISTANT COUNTRY:

"They come from a far country, from the end of heaven, even the LORD and the weapons of His indignation, to destroy the whole land. Wail; for the Day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt . . . I will make a man more rare than fine gold, even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." Isaiah 13:5-7, 13



RADIATION BURNS?

"And they shall be afraid. Pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain like a woman that is in travail. **They shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.**" Isaiah 13:8

NUCLEAR WINTER?

"Behold, they shall be like stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; **there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.**" Isaiah 47:14

At the same time that the Russian Army is destroyed at the border of Israel, the Russian homeland will also come under the severe judgment of God. **According to Ezekiel 39:6, God will send fire upon the Russian homeland . . . and upon another unnamed, end-time nation.**

WHO IS THE NATION FACING JUDGMENT AT THE SAME TIME AS RUSSIA?

An unnamed nation will experience the judgment of God at the same time Russia is destroyed:

Ezekiel 39:6 - "And I will send a fire on Magog and among those who dwell safely in the coastlands."

God's warning to "those that dwell safely in the coastlands" should concern us . . . especially due to the fact that "coastlands" is translated "beyond the sea" in other passages such as Isaiah 41:1 and 5.

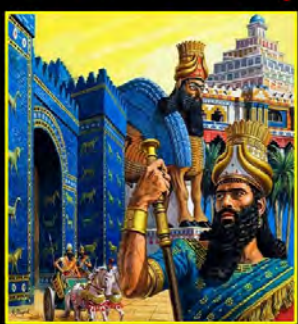
Most Bible scholars insist that the United States is NOT found anywhere in the Bible. It is true that the name America and United States cannot be found anywhere on the pages of the Scriptures. However . . .

There is a mysterious end-time nation that is described in the Scriptures:

"BABYLON"
"daughter of Babylon"

The term "Babylon" is used in many places throughout the Bible . . . including in the final book of the Bible, The Revelation of Jesus Christ.

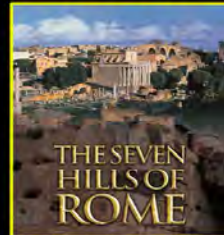
This end-time "Babylon" is not historic Babylon . . .



This end-time "Babylon" is not Saddam Hussein's attempt to rebuild the ancient city in Iraq.



This end-time "Babylon" is not religious Babylon described in Revelation chapter 17 . . .



THE DESCRIPTION OF END-TIME BABYLON:

(Revelation chapter 18)

WEALTHY CONSUMER OF THE PRODUCTS OF THE WORLD:

End-time Babylon is described as a great consumer of the merchandise that comes from all over the world. When she is suddenly destroyed, the merchants of the earth will wail because they have lost their best customer!

LAND OF GREAT ABUNDANCE AND LUXURIES:

" . . . the merchants of the world are grown rich through the abundance of her delicacies . . . How much she has glorified herself and lived luxuriously." Revelation 18:3,7



Babylon: land of MASSIVE IMPORTS

End-time Babylon will be the most wealthy nation in the world with many sea ports. Merchant ships will fill her many harbors as the people of Babylon live in great luxury. This description alone tells us that Babylon cannot be referring to ancient Babylon which was completely land-locked.



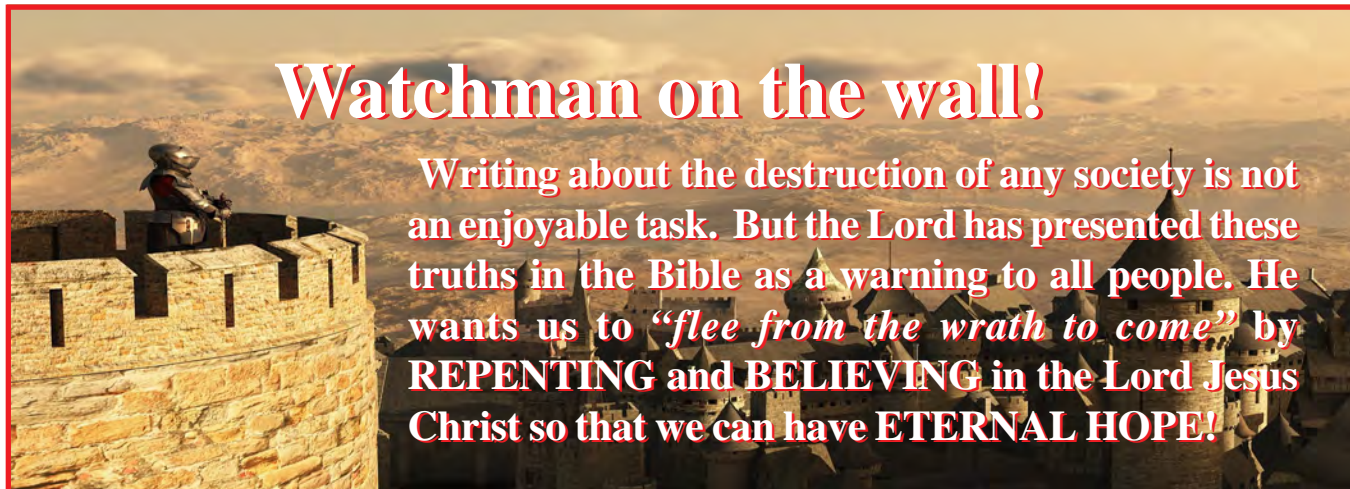
Babylon: DRUG CAPITAL of the WORLD

" . . . for by her sorceries (Gk: pharmakeia) were all nations deceived." Revelation 18:23b The Greek word "pharmakeia" is the root-word from which we get our English word pharmacy. It can be translated as both drugs and poison! Without doubt, our pharmaceuticals (including the recent Covid Vax) have poisoned the world.

LAND OF PRIDE, ARROGANCE, SIN, and SELF CONFIDENCE:

"How much she has glorified herself . . . I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow." End-time Babylon will be confident that destruction can never come upon her . . . according to the Old Testament descriptions of Babylon, she will be powerful and mighty among the nations.

The Old Testament Scriptures also provide a number of remarkable descriptions of end-time Babylon. *Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51 plus Isaiah chapter 13* tell us that the “daughter of Babylon” will be the youngest of all the great nations . . . born from a motherland . . . a mixed multitude of people from all over the world . . . and a nation that forsakes God and embraces violence, immorality, and perversion.



Revelation 18: 17-19 - “For in ONE HOUR so great riches are come to nothing. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning saying, What city is like unto this great city? And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, in which were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! For in ONE HOUR is she made desolate.”

Signs of the Times!

Jesus’ disciples asked Him - “Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the age?”

Jesus answered them - “And you shall hear of **WARS** and **RUMORS OF WARS**; see that you are 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 various places.” Matthew 24:6-7

Then Jesus declared - “All these are the beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:8 “Beginning of sorrows” is translated “BIRTH PAINS.” We all know that the pains leading up to birth INCREASE in INTENSITY and FREQUENCY. So too the events that Jesus told us to watch for would become more frequent and more intense.



One of the most devastating famines in human history may be in the making in Africa right now as mandatory lockdowns are being enforced to the extent that people cannot leave their homes and go into their fields to tend their crops. Furthermore, the Russians limiting Ukraine from exporting and shipping their wheat will undoubtedly exasperate the potential for serious famines.

London (CNN) “The world is facing multiple famines of ‘biblical proportions’ in just a matter of months, the UN has said, warning that the coronavirus pandemic will push an additional 130 million people to the brink of starvation.”

“Famines could take hold in ‘about three dozen countries’ in a worst-case scenario, the executive director of the World Food Programme (WFP) said in a stark address recently. “Ten of those countries already have more than 1 million people on the verge of starvation,” he said.

“While dealing with a Covid-19 pandemic, we are also on the brink of a **hunger pandemic.**”

David Beasley told the UN’s security council. “**There is also a real danger that more people could potentially die from the economic impact of Covid-19 than from the virus itself.**”



Pandemics are nothing new. The plagues of past centuries were devastating beyond comprehension.

The Bubonic Plague, also known as the Great Plague or the Black Plague, was one of the most horrible pandemics in human history, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 75 to 200 million people in Eurasia and peaking in Europe from 1347 to 1351.

But the Coronavirus (some refer to it as the Chinese Plague) is nothing to be ignored as deaths continue to rise and the world economy is on the brink of utter ruin. Some people wonder if man-made pestilences and mandated vaccinations is the “mark of the beast.” My answer to that is “*Probably not, but it could be a precursor of things to come.*”

We need to keep in mind what Jesus predicted when His disciples asked Him what would be the signs of His return. He replied - “*There shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.*” Matthew 24:7-8

Signs of the Times (continued)



The increasing number of large killer earthquakes in the world should be a wake-up call for all of us.

20th Century: There was an average of one major earthquake every 6 months.

21st Century: There was an average of one major earthquake every 18 days!

The reported increase in the number of earthquakes has been scoffed at by many people who claim that the only reason there appear to be more earthquakes is because of increased reporting due to the number of seismographs located all around the world.

It is true that history only recorded 28 major quakes from the first century to A.D. 1800 which equated to just one major earthquake approximately every 60 years. But since records have been more accurately kept, the ever-increasing number of killer quakes should capture our attention to Jesus' prophecy that increased numbers and intensity of earthquakes would be one of the signs of His soon return.



Social breakdown and rebellion should not surprise us. It is the direct result of moral decay and the disintegration of the family.

For decades our public schools and colleges have ignored the principles of Biblical faith and godly character and have promoted deviant lifestyles and evolutionary lies that have left an incredible void of morality and hope in the hearts of students. College professors have long promoted socialism resulting in multitudes of young people who are committed to the destruction of capitalism and democracy. Their determination to burn the system down and eliminate law and our police force are not empty threats that should be ignored.

The escalation of violence we have witnessed in the streets is also taking place in homes across America where physical and sexual abuse are on an alarming increase.



Officials attribute the increase of domestic abuse to the stresses brought on by the coronavirus and mandatory lockdowns . . . and it would appear that there is not a quick fix to this plague that has been heaped upon the world by the communist leaders of China.

The Scriptures warn us of devastating days as we read in 2 Timothy chapter 3 - *"This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men will be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection . . . despisers of those who are good . . . evil men and seducers shall become worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."*



The LGBTQ movement has an aggressive agenda to gain special rights and draw our children into their perverted lifestyle.

God's Word warns us of a downward pathway that leads to the destruction of individuals and societies and is detailed in the first chapter of the Book of Romans:

When people ignore their Creator, God gives them over to IMMORALITY.

When people refuse to repent of their immorality, God gives them over to PERVERSION.

When people refuse to repent of their perversion, God gives them over to a REPROBATE MIND.

The hatred and political confusion that we are witnessing in our beloved country is the obvious outworking of the reprobate mind . . . a mind that is in total rebellion against God. Reprobates cannot make decisions that are good or godly. That is evidenced in the anarchy in the streets, plus the defiance against Biblical teachings in our schools, courts, and governing assemblies. The agenda of the reprobate is to break free of all laws resulting in the killing of the innocent and enslaving of the free.



The issue of "abortion rights" is NOT A POLITICAL ISSUE . . . it is a SPIRITUAL and MORAL ISSUE. Mankind will be held accountable to the God Who created man in His own image and likeness.

Scripture and ancient history give us an alarming warning that we should not ignore. God sent the armies of Babylon to destroy His own beloved city because they *"filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the LORD would not pardon."* 2 Kings 24:4

The *"innocent blood"* referred to the children who were sacrificed at the evil altars of Baal (2 Kings chapter 21). In today's world, babies are sacrificed at the altars of women's rights, choice, and convenience.

If God ignores this deplorable sin of outright murder and never judges America, He will owe an apology to the ancient people of Jerusalem who came under God's severe chastening and judgment.

Signs of the Times (continued)



Wars and the threats of wars are nothing new to our world. In fact, history is pretty much a testimony of man's continuous, bloody conflicts one after another.

But Jesus was very specific in warning us that the end-times would be marked by increased conflicts. Military leaders in the United States have warned our government leaders of the potential threat of future conflicts with Russia, China, and a number of rogue states, including Iran and North Korea. The prospect of nuclear war is daunting indeed especially to those who have not found refuge and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ!

The prospect of nuclear war has become very real as Russia has invaded Ukraine and been bogged down in one embarrassing defeat after another. Now, with the United States authorizing the deployment of our Patriot missile batteries into the conflict, Russia has threatened that America is entering directly into the war. Russia has superior supersonic nuclear weapons and may soon feel that is her only recourse. We are living in threatening and fearful days!



The panic experienced by the attack of 911 was but a harbinger of devastating things to come.

Jesus spoke of a coming day when men's hearts would literally fail them for fear - *"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth . . ."* Luke 21:25-26



Can you imagine the panic that would grip the hearts of people if the earth moved out of its orbit and earthquakes would shake the world apart? According to the Scriptures, those days are coming, probably as a result of a fullscale nuclear war during the seven-year Tribulation that will occur after Christ comes to remove His born-again people from planet earth.

Jesus prophesied and described future days of *"distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring."* Perplexity means that people won't know what to do. The *"sea and waves roaring"* undoubtedly speaks of great tsunamis that will come crashing into population centers as we read in *Jeremiah 51:42* - *"The sea is come up upon Babylon (a great end-time city) and she is covered with the multitude of its waves."* Hollywood has made movies of such horrific events not realizing that those very events may actually occur in the foreseeable future.

Prophesies of future judgment and utter ruin are not given by a sadistic God in order to create panic. The Lord is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

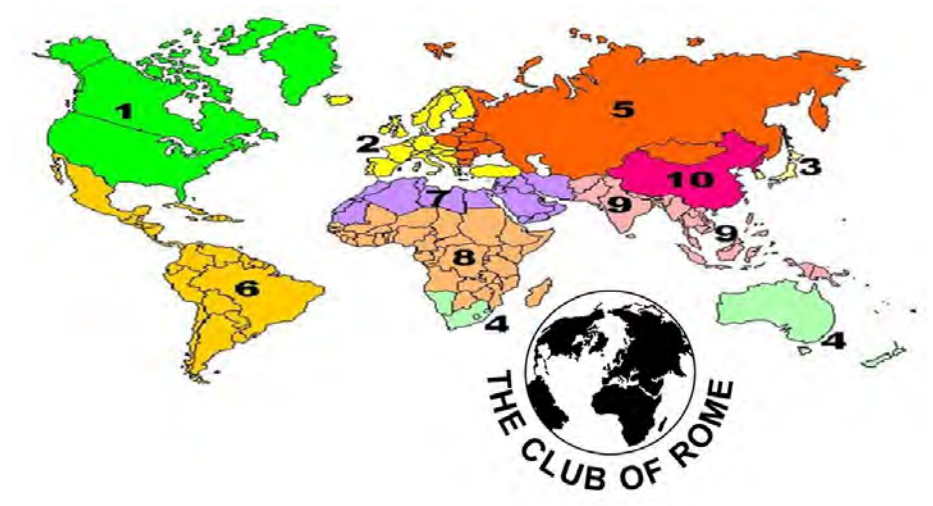


The Book of Revelation is very clear in warning about coming days of tyranny and total control by ruthless and ungodly men.

According to the Bible, men who refuse to swear allegiance to a world-wide economic (and health?) and political system by receiving a mark on their hand or forehead, will not be able to buy or sell. (*Revelation 13:16-17*) This mark may be invisible similar to the implanted chips that some newborn children are reportedly receiving in hospitals without their parents' consent. "Snopes" debunks any notion that children are receiving ID implanted chips, but more and more evidence is revealing that "Snopes" is being used to cover up the intentions of the one-world planners.



Not only do the Scriptures speak of an evil leader who will one day control *"the whole earth"* (*Daniel 7:23*), but a group called the Club of Rome has already designated ten regions that will be governed by ten regents under the control of the United Nations. Evil plans by evil people are in the works!



According to Club of Rome's publications, the common enemy of humanity is man himself. One of the major goals of the Club of Rome is to reduce the world's population by at least 2 billion people through war, famine, disease, or any other means necessary.

Signs of the Times (continued)



One of the most remarkable fulfillments of Biblical prophecy was the rebirth of the nation of Israel on May 14, 1948.

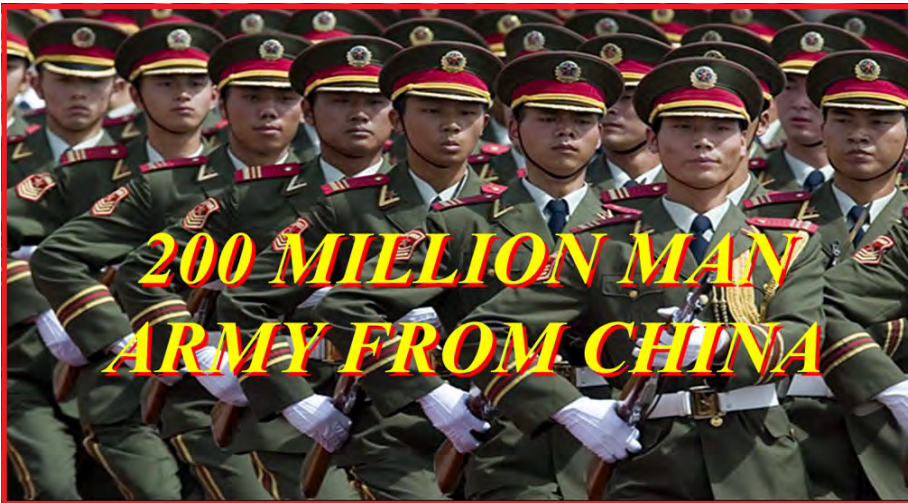
Some people believe that God is through with unbelieving Israel. The teaching is known as “**Replacement Theology**” . . . that the church has replaced and can claim all the promises made to ancient Israel. **Nothing could be further from the truth . . . the Lord has a purpose for His chosen nation and He will be faithful to every promise He has made.**



Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, are crystal clear in describing a future day when Russia, along with a huge armada of Islamic nations, will invade the land of Israel.

It is noteworthy that Russia is making every attempt to be a major player in the events of the Middle East, and they are firmly implanted in Syria and other Islamic nations already. The Scriptures describe what appears to be a nuclear war that has become known as the War of Gog and Magog (Russia) and it will involve another unnamed nation - *“I will send a fire upon Magog, and among those who dwell securely in the coastlands (beyond the sea); and they shall know that I am the LORD.”* Ezekiel 39:6

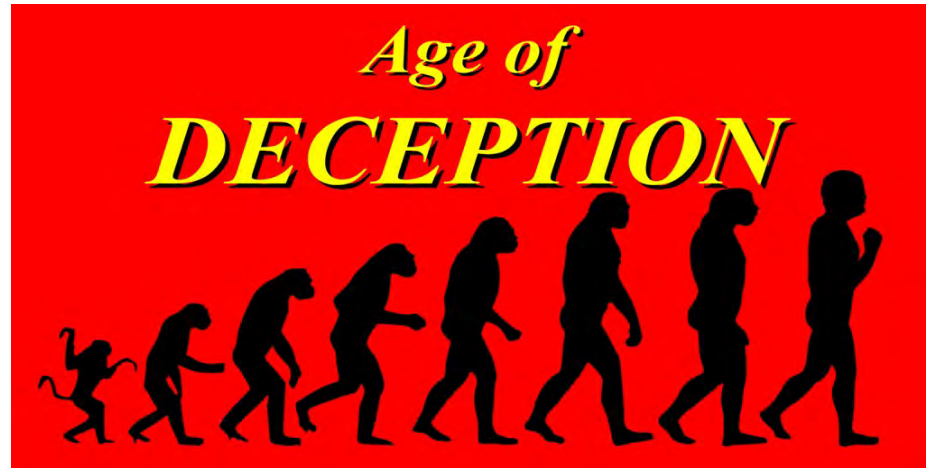
This conflict is NOT ARMEGEDDON but appears to be fought at the beginning of the Tribulation since it will take seven years to clean up the weapons of warfare. (Ezekiel 39:9)



Communist China is also recognized as a threat to world peace. This nation from the east is also described in Scripture and will be a major player during the days of Tribulation:

*“And the four angels were loosed, who were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, **TO SLAY THE THIRD PART OF MEN.** And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand . . .”* Revelation 9:15-16

China is the only nation on earth that has the potential of sending 200 million soldiers into battle!



Without doubt, one of the most obvious symptoms of the end-times is world-wide deception. The denial of Biblical truth has permeated our mainstream media and entire educational systems. This is especially evident in the universal teaching of evolution which has turned the hearts of multitudes away from seeking the God of truth . . . the Creator and God of the Bible.

Satan began his string of deceptive lies in the Garden of Eden when he challenged Eve - *“Hath God said?”* Then he went on to blatantly declare that *“God hath not said . . .”* and that lie has been continuously propagated ever since. Satan’s lies and attacks against God and His Word are obvious in the false teaching that the earth and all of life slowly evolved over millions and millions of years thereby declaring that the Bible is wrong and untrustworthy.

Many proponents of evolution have chosen to believe that life evolved over millions of years instead of the act of a wise and powerful Creator - *“Knowing this, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, **walking after their own lusts.**”* 2 Peter 3:3 The denial of creation and the Creator is a moral decision people make as they choose to live in immorality and perversion instead of being accountable to God.

The Bible speaks of another great lie . . . about Noah’s flood: *“For this they are **willingly ignorant** of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, By which the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same Word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment . . .”* 2 Peter 3:5-7 **“Willingly ignorant” means DUMB ON PURPOSE!**

Deception is affecting multitudes of young people and is leading them astray to a life of unbelief and eternal loss. Many parents are becoming increasingly alarmed that their children are being indoctrinated instead of being educated in our public school systems. Parents should be alarmed as their children grow up to embrace the lies of moral perversion, evolution, gender confusion, and socialism.



We hesitate to point to every cosmic event and claim - “This is it! The end is near!”

This is especially true of the many lunar eclipses we have witnessed in recent years. But we must not forget what the Lord told us in the very first chapter of the Bible - *“And God said, **Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; AND LET THEM BE FOR SIGNS, and seasons, and for days, and years.**”* Genesis 1:14

It should grab our attention when some of these events have occurred on Jewish feast days which have happened repeatedly in recent years as shown above. Something is obviously going on in our world, and we would be wise to pay attention but avoid setting dates!

IS THERE ANY HOPE?

The answer to that question is **ABSOLUTELY YES!**

Despite all the sorrows that we see in our world, threats of war, famines, devastating diseases, and even death, there is hope! But that hope is not found in possessions, health, scientists, or even in political leaders who think they have all the answers. Real hope is found in a Person . . . Jesus Christ, the God Who created the world and died on a cross to pay the penalty for all our sins. Despite anything that we have done, He wants to give us forgiveness, eternal life and real hope for now and the future!

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them who are asleep, that you sorrow not, even as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. For this we say unto you by the Word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them who are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS.”
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Jesus Is Coming Again! What Does That Mean?

THE RAPTURE:



The word “Rapture” is not found in the Bible but refers to the sudden removal of born-again believers from earth.

The “Rapture” is often referred to as the “*Blessed Hope*” . . . Jesus promised His disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them and that He would one day return for them. (*John 14:1-3*)

Scripture is crystal clear that “*no man knows the day nor the hour*” of Jesus’ return, but that we are to “*watch and be ready*” because Jesus will come unexpectedly as a “*thief in the night*” when the “*dead in Christ*,” and then the living believers, will suddenly be “*taken up*.” Many believers anticipate His coming for His “*Bride*” at any moment. This is referred to as the “*Pre-Tribulation*” Rapture Theory. Others believe that Jesus will come at the middle of the seven-year Tribulation period.

This is referred to as the “*Pre-Wrath*” Rapture Theory.

The editor personally believes that the “*Blessed Hope*” will occur before the onslaught of the terrible days of judgment and Tribulation because 2 *Thessalonians* chapter 2 teaches that the “*anti-Christ*” cannot be revealed and begin to deceive the people of Israel until after the “*restrainer of sin*” (the Holy Spirit Who is abiding in the Church) is removed. This same chapter tells God’s people that they “*are not appointed unto wrath*” and that believers can “*comfort one another*” with this great hope. Regardless of which view one holds, **no one wants to be left behind to endure the terrible days of wrath coming upon the earth.** (See page 16)

THE REVELATION:



The “Revelation” of Christ refers to His coming in power and great glory at the end of the seven-year Tribulation.

There will be nothing secretive about the coming of Christ at the end of the Tribulation. Jesus said -- “*For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*” *Matthew 24:27, 30*

When Christ physically returns to earth He will destroy His enemies that hate Him at the Battle of Armageddon, judge the nations, and establish His one-thousand-year Kingdom of true peace and prosperity on earth. He will rule righteously with a “rod of

iron.” It should be noted that “*signs of the times*” will be specifically fulfilled during the days of the Tribulation. As we see many of these future “*signs of the times*” and future events already unfolding in today’s world, it makes us aware how soon the Rapture could occur!

Jesus’ coming for His born-again “*bride*” could occur at any moment, and those left behind will endure the horrors and wrath of the Tribulation. Jesus’ coming may pre-empt a terrible day of destruction as men pour out their wrath upon one another. Jesus said that He would return as a “*thief in the night*” . . . and it may be the darkest night in human history as the nations pour out their nuclear wrath upon one another. **Do not wait. Believe in Christ today!**

IF GOD IS GOOD, WHY IS THE WORLD SO BAD? What kind of God would make such a terrible world?"

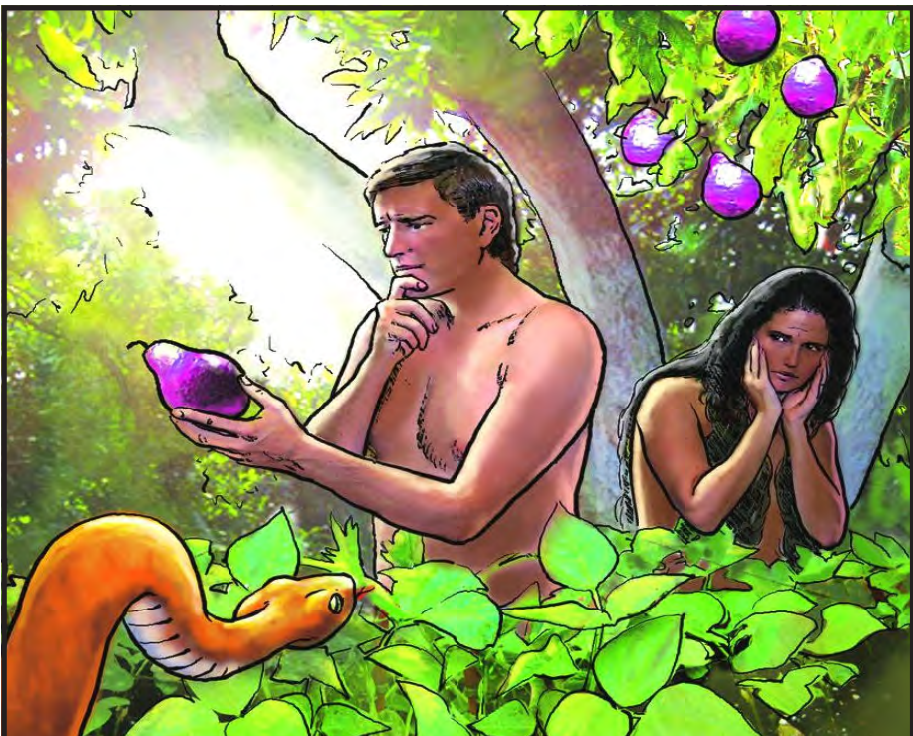
The world that we live in is filled with war, violent storms, suffering, sorrow, heartache, and death. BUT IT DIDN'T START OUT THAT WAY!



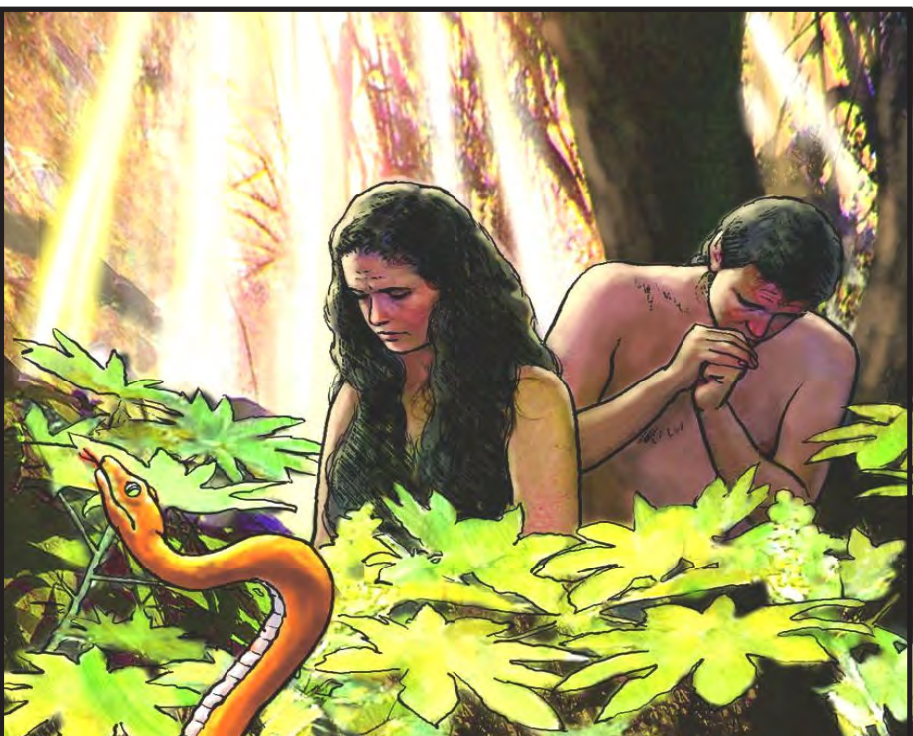
God created man in His own image and likeness and placed him into a beautiful garden. There was no sickness, no pain, no suffering, and no death because there was no sin.



God told man that he could eat anything in the Garden of Eden except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The devil, who is called Satan, came to the woman in the body of a beautiful serpent and tempted her to eat of the forbidden fruit.

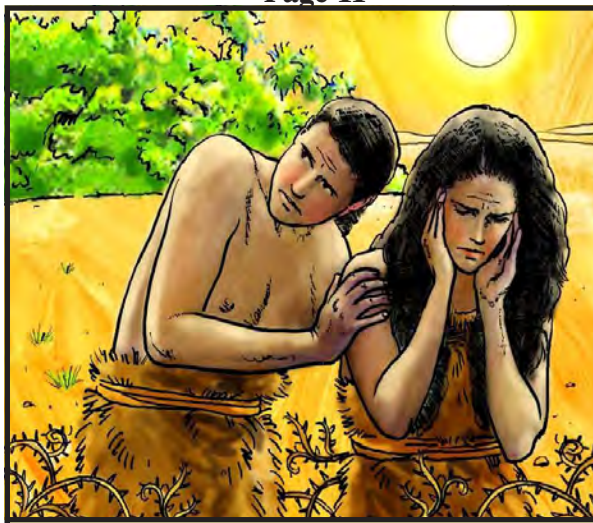


Adam's wife, Eve, ate of the fruit and gave it to her husband. When man disobeyed God, something very tragic happened to them and to us.



God had warned man that if he disobeyed, he would die. Adam ate and brought the terrible curse of death upon all mankind and even upon the animal kingdom.

Adam and Eve became separated from fellowship with the God Who created and loved them. People continue to live under the shame and sorrow of a sinful human heart.



Because of sin, Adam and Eve were expelled from the beautiful garden that God had provided for them. But God still loved them and clothed them in the skin of an innocent animal.



Adam and Eve had never seen death before. God was showing them that an innocent substitute had to die as a sacrifice for the sins of the guilty.



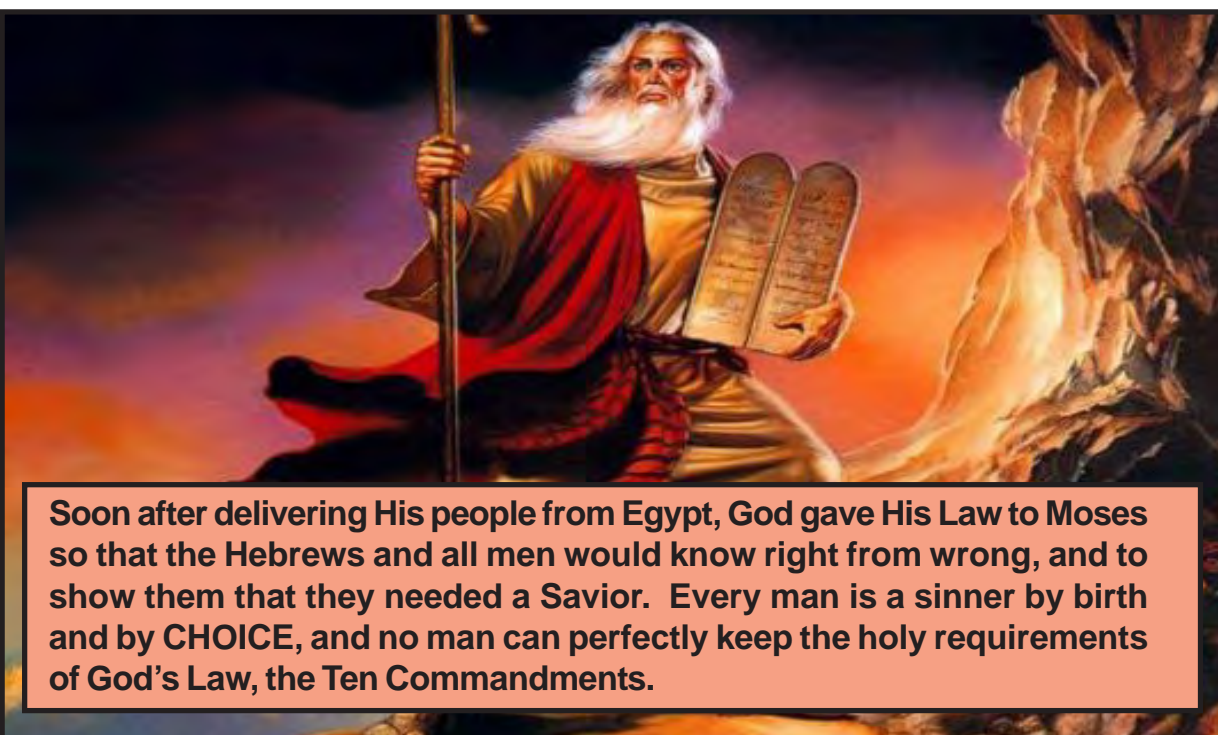
Adam and Eve's greatest sorrow would come when their oldest son, Cain, would kill his younger brother, Abel, because of anger and jealousy. Sin is a terrible thing and has left an ugly scar of violence upon the entire human race!



Throughout the Old Testament, people could only come to God by faith through the sacrifices of innocent animals which pointed to a greater sacrifice that would one day be offered to remove sin once and for all.

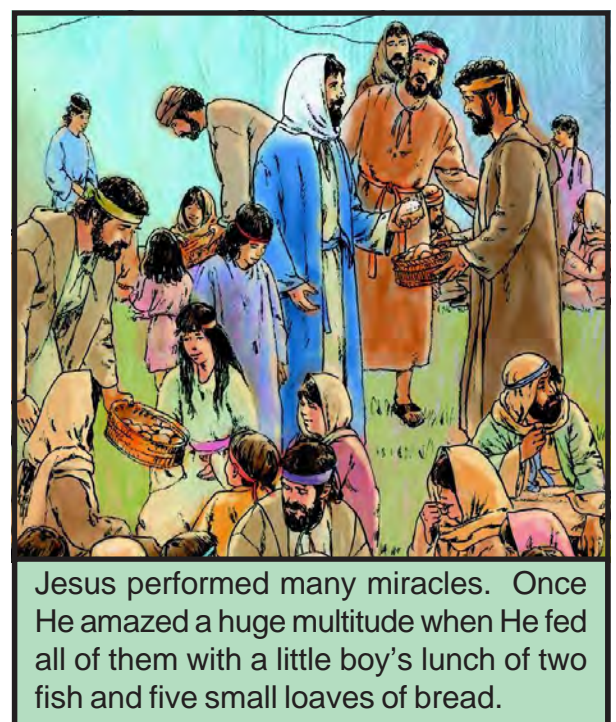
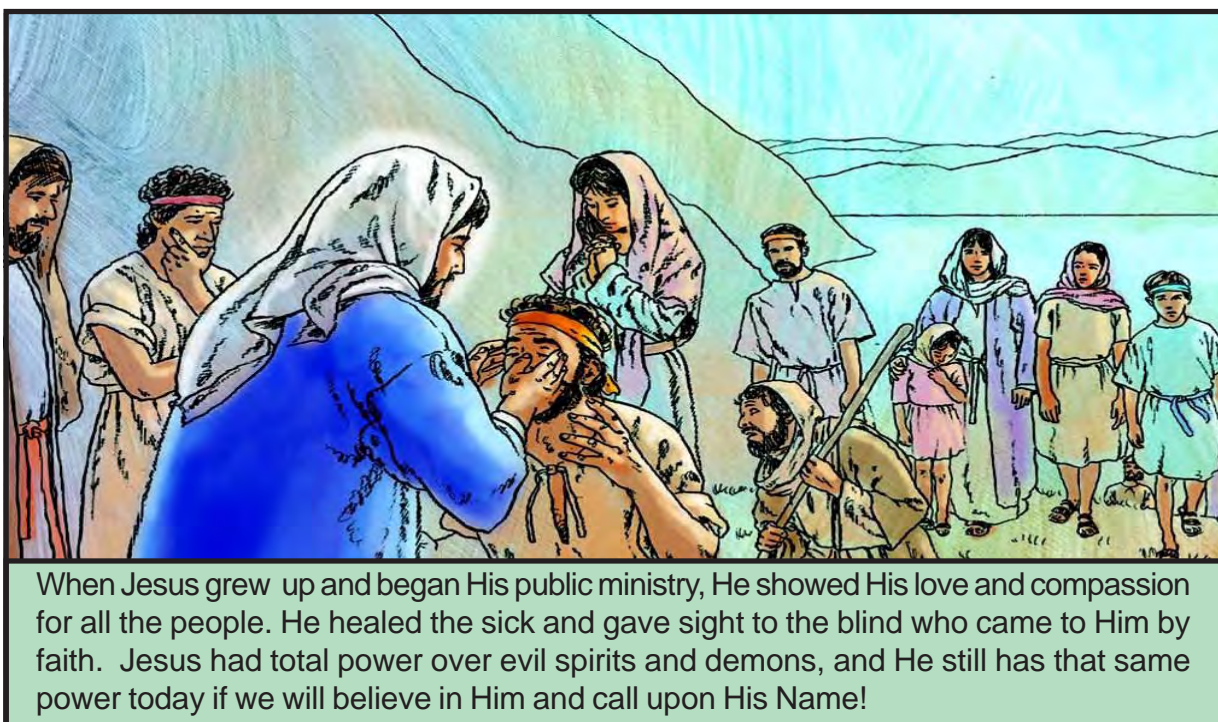
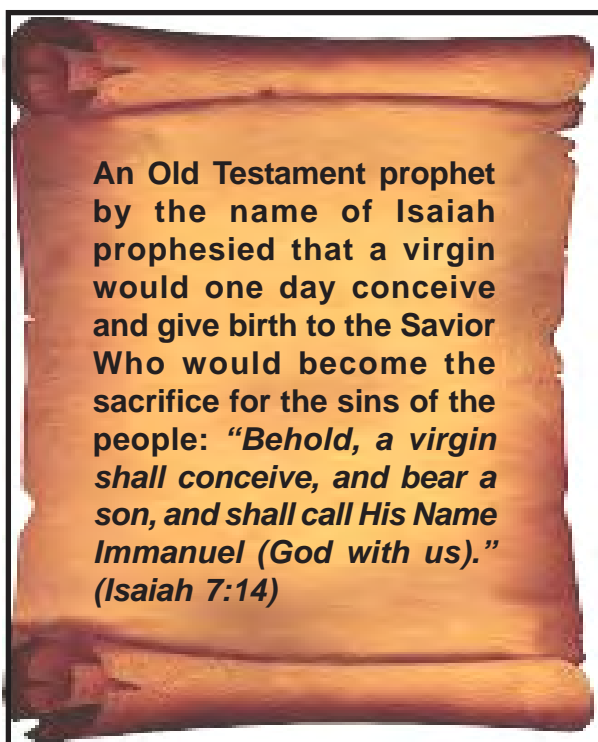
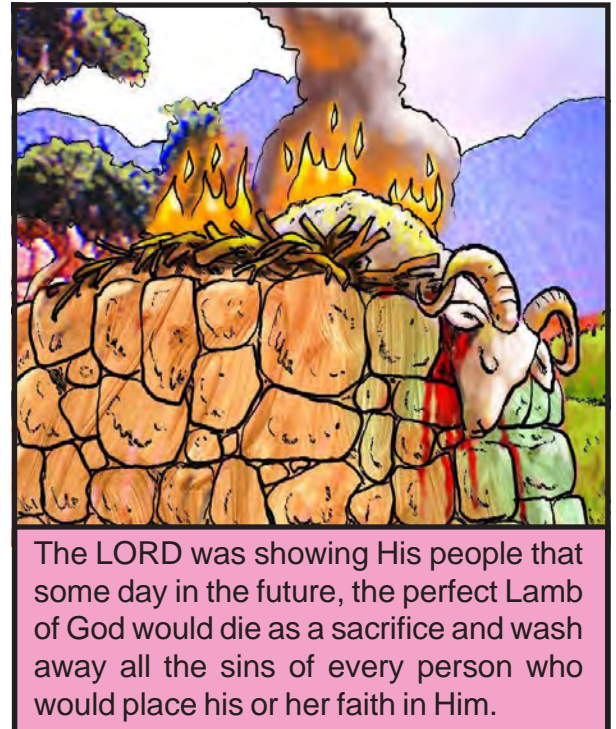
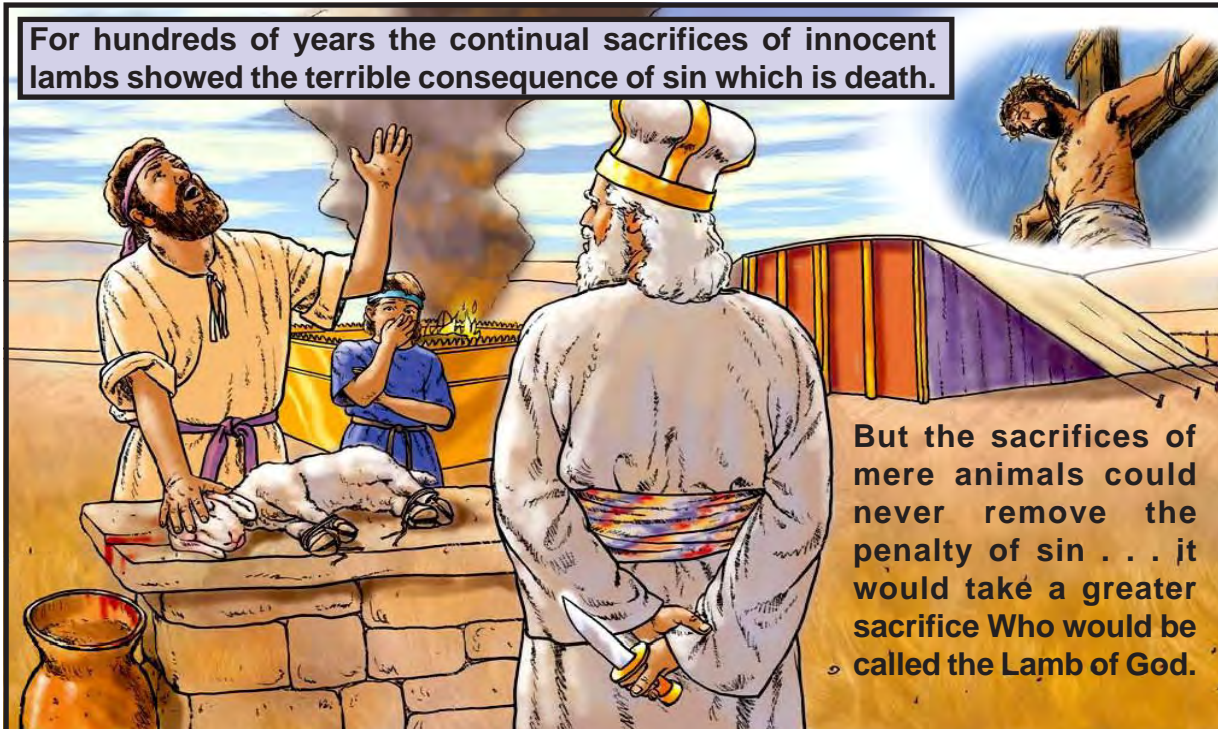
Hundreds of years later, in the land of Egypt, God told His people to apply the blood of the Passover Lamb to their doorposts in order to escape the judgment that was coming upon the unbelievers. If the blood was not applied, the firstborn of that family would die, but if the blood was on the doorpost, the death angel would pass over those who were inside. (*Exodus 12:1-13*)

The sacrifice of that lamb was not enough . . . the blood had to be applied by faith!



Soon after delivering His people from Egypt, God gave His Law to Moses so that the Hebrews and all men would know right from wrong, and to show them that they needed a Savior. Every man is a sinner by birth and by CHOICE, and no man can perfectly keep the holy requirements of God's Law, the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments
 Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.
 Thou shalt not make any graven images or worship them.
 Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD in vain.
 Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy.
 Honor thy father and thy mother.
 Thou shalt not kill (murder).
 Thou shalt not commit adultery.
 Thou shalt not steal.
 Thou shalt not bear false witness.
 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house or wife.





Jesus even raised the dead when He commanded -- "Lazarus, come forth." Jesus declared -- "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25



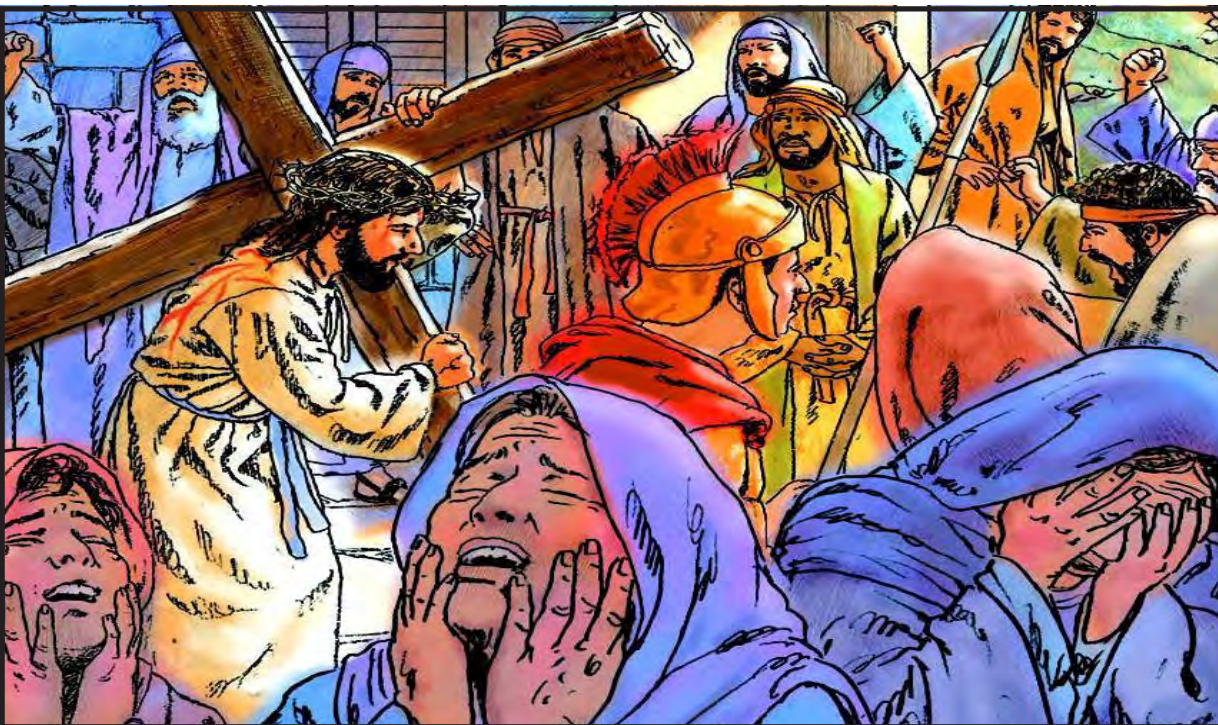
Jesus had power over the wind and the waves, proving that He was the Son of God, the Creator of heaven and earth. (Mark 4:35-41, John 1:1-3)



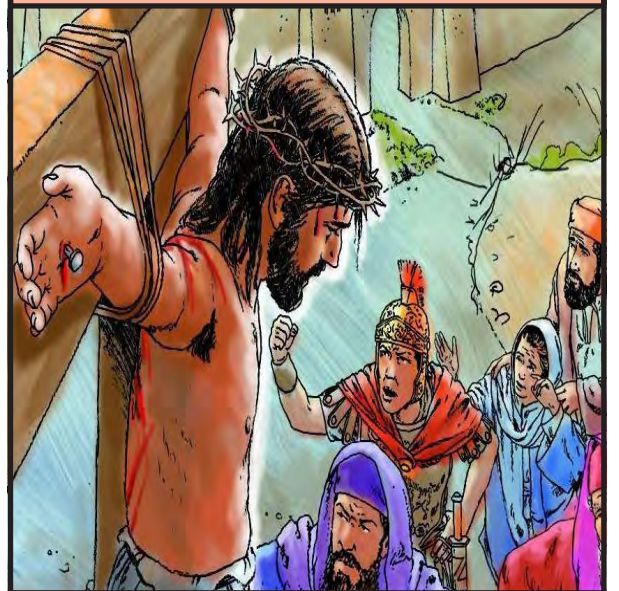
Just as Jesus calmed the angry sea, He can bring peace to the troubled heart that has been scarred by the difficulties and trials of life. (John 14:27, 16:33, Isaiah 26:3, Psalm 23)

Despite all the good that He did, Jesus was hated by the religious leaders. They arrested Him and falsely accused Him. Even the crowds of people yelled "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

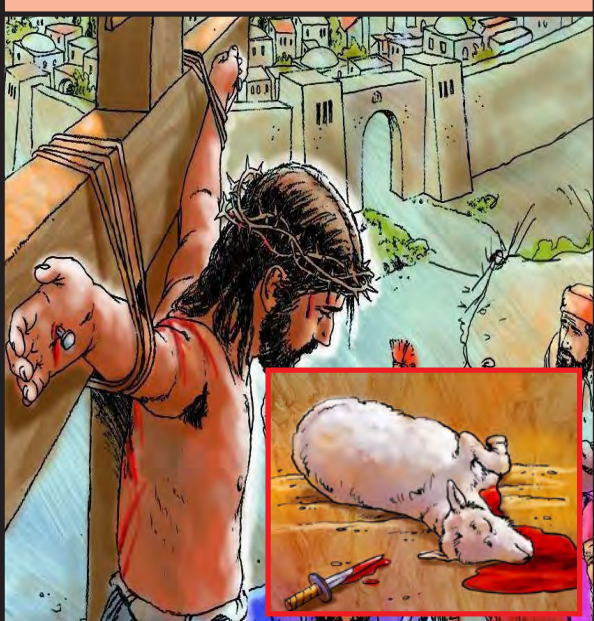
Cruel men spit upon Him, beat Him, and placed a crown of thorns upon His head, and then led Him away to be crucified.



Jesus was nailed to a wooden cross like a common criminal. The Son of God suffered and died to pay the penalty for all our sins.

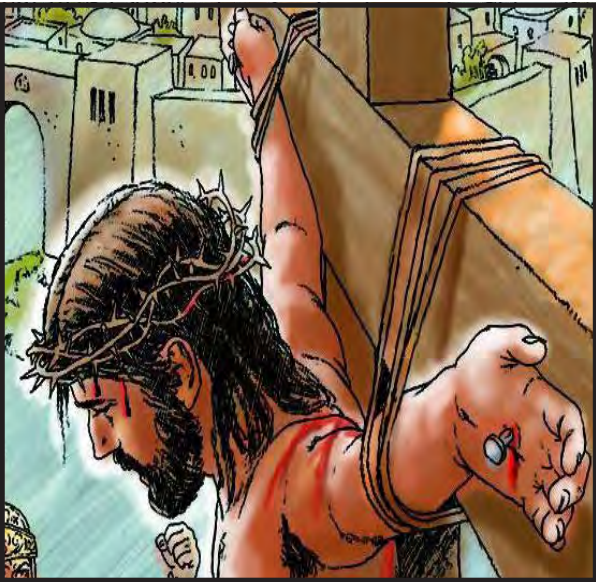


Just like God had promised, the perfect and sinless Lamb of God died in our place!



One of the criminals who died alongside of Jesus asked the Savior to remember him when He came into His kingdom. Jesus said to him, "Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." Luke 23:43 That dying thief knew that he would live forever with Jesus after he died. What a wonderful thing it is to know that you can have eternal life by calling upon the Lord Jesus Christ!

"Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13



Before He died, Jesus prayed -- *"Father, forgive them."* Even a Roman soldier knew that this man who prayed for His enemies was the Son of God!



After He died for our sins, Jesus was buried in a new tomb in a nearby garden outside the walls of Jerusalem. That garden tomb is still there today!

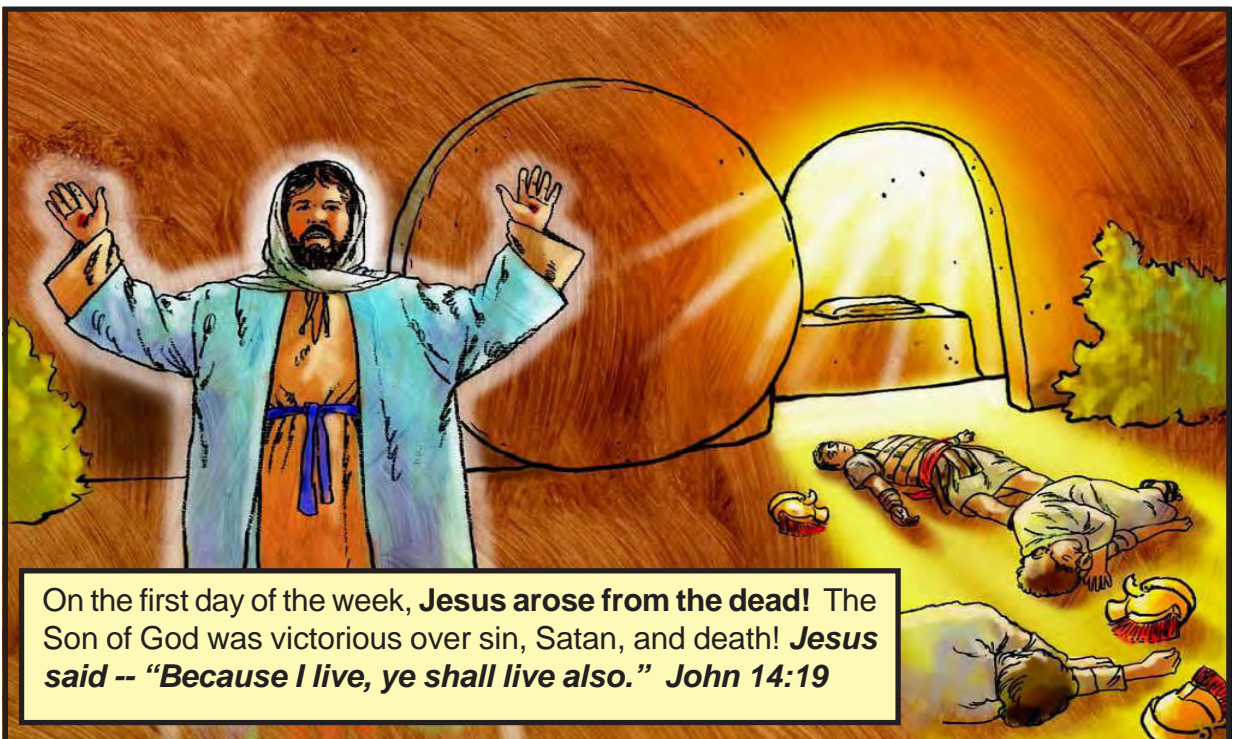


Roman soldiers were ordered to seal and guard the tomb so that no one could steal away the body of the Lord Jesus Christ.

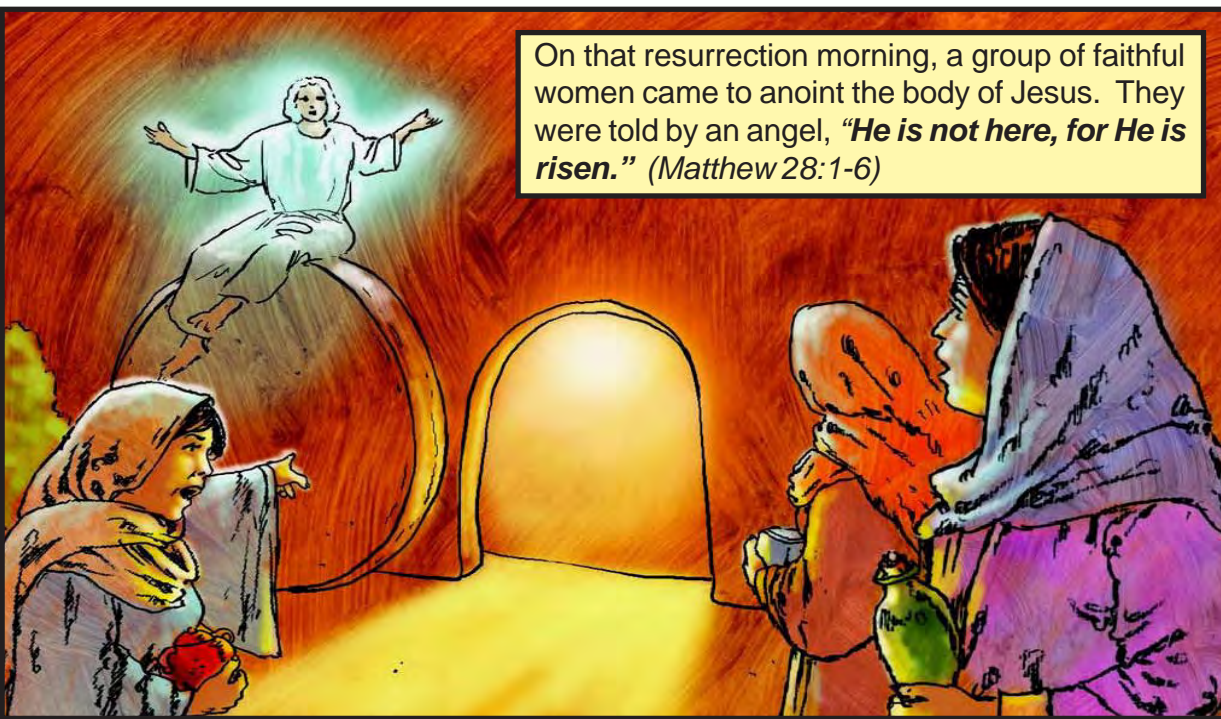
Jesus was buried for three days and three nights during the Jewish Passover and Sabbath.

What a time of darkness that must have been for Jesus' followers who were hiding in fear. In their sorrow and fear they had forgotten what Jesus had told them about His death, burial, and resurrection:

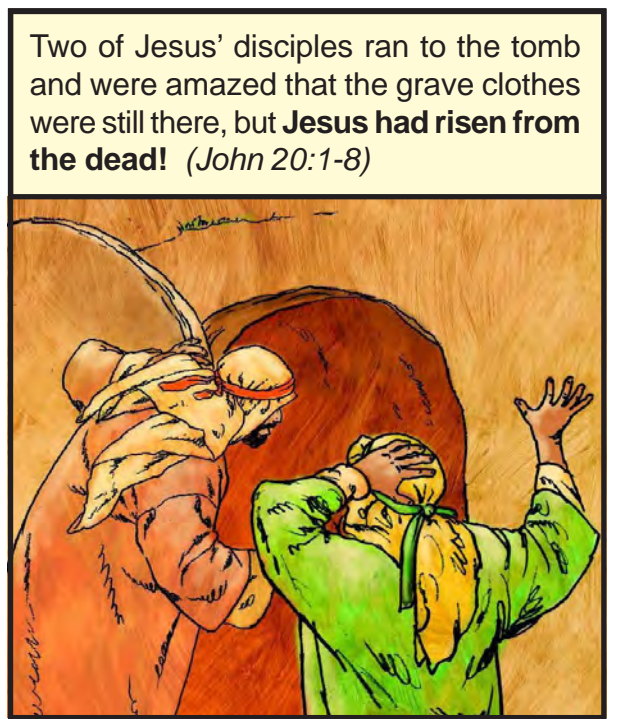
"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40



On the first day of the week, **Jesus arose from the dead!** The Son of God was victorious over sin, Satan, and death! **Jesus said -- "Because I live, ye shall live also."** John 14:19



On that resurrection morning, a group of faithful women came to anoint the body of Jesus. They were told by an angel, **"He is not here, for He is risen."** (Matthew 28:1-6)

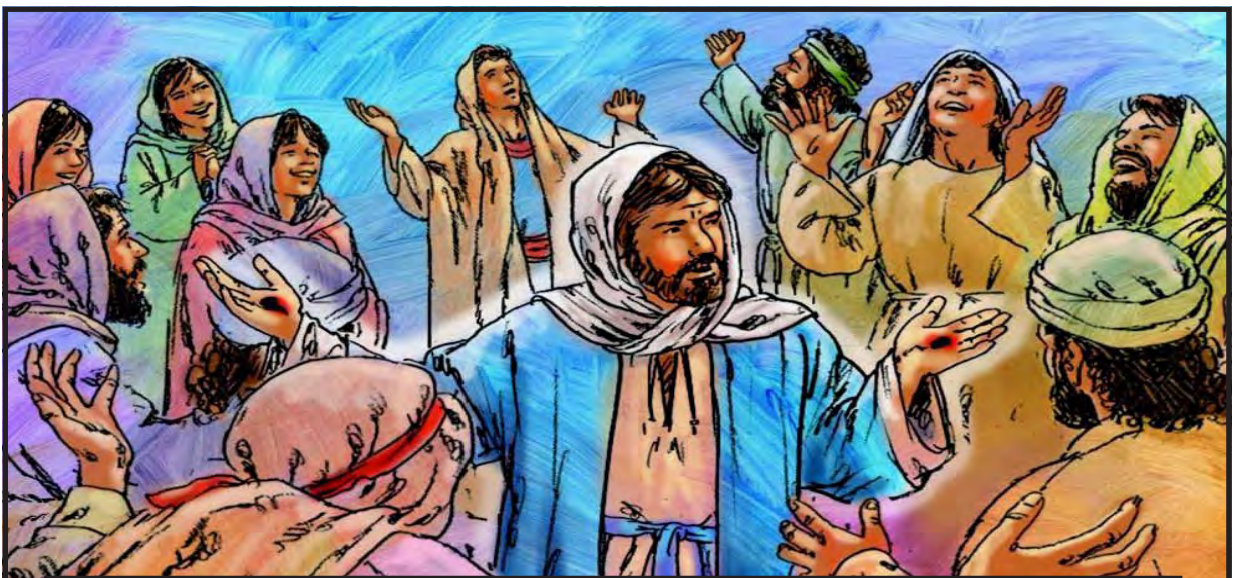


Two of Jesus' disciples ran to the tomb and were amazed that the grave clothes were still there, but **Jesus had risen from the dead!** (John 20:1-8)

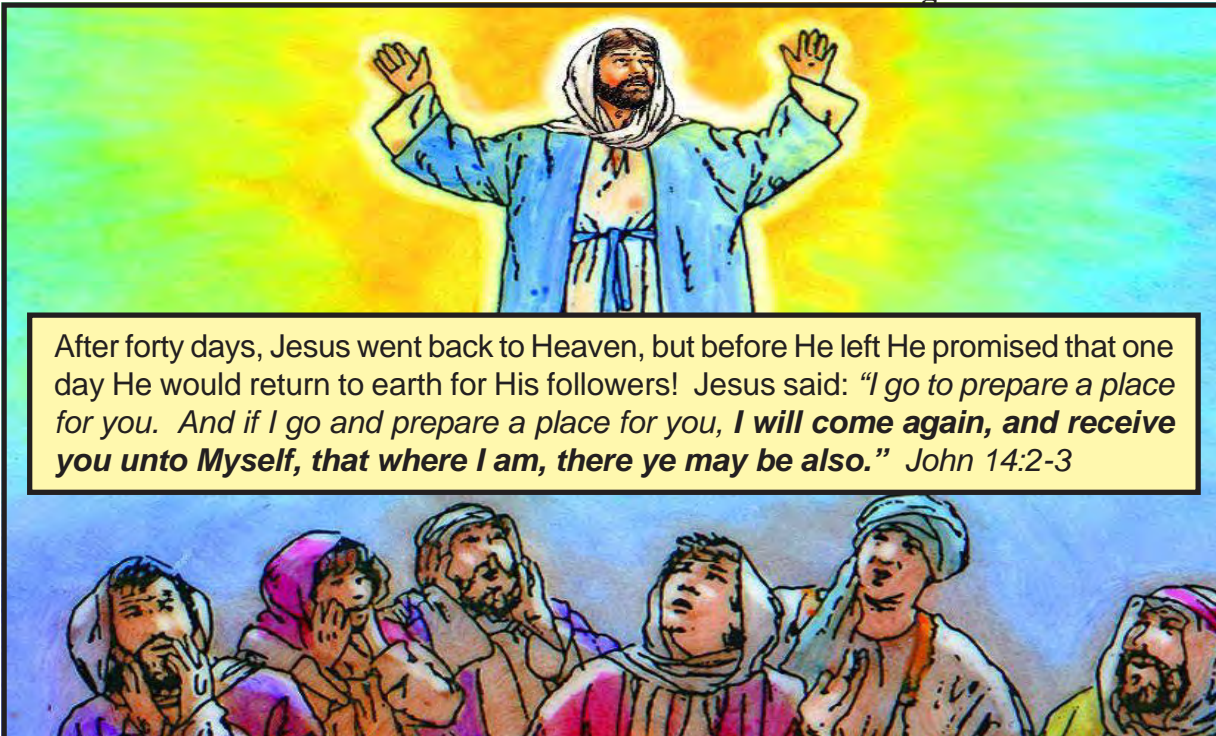
In our world so filled with death, sorrow, and darkness, the resurrection of Jesus Christ gives great hope to those who believe in Him. Jesus is alive and promises the gift of eternal life to all who will trust Him as Savior.

Only Jesus can offer eternal life, as He said -- *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me."* John 14:6

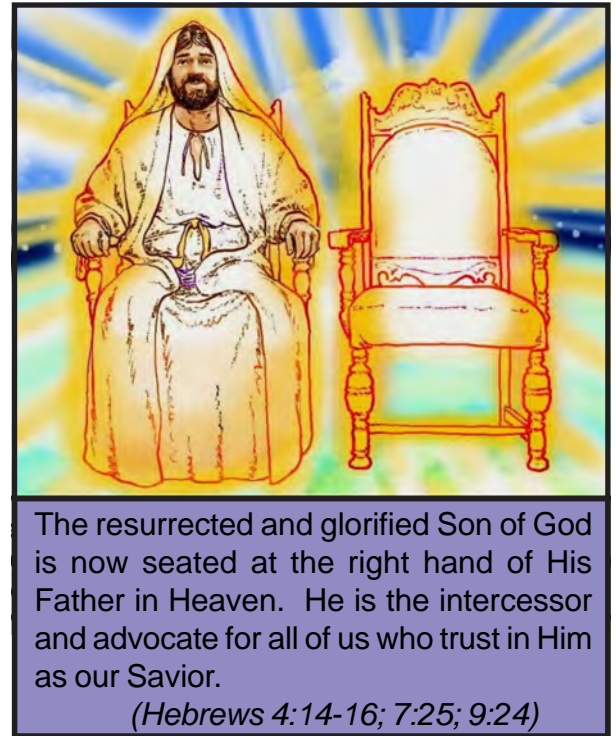
You can receive God's gift of eternal life if you will turn from your sin and unbelief and trust Him as your Savior!



After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and many other believers. He even asked for something to eat in order to prove to them that His body was resurrected, and that He was really alive! (Luke 24:36-43)



After forty days, Jesus went back to Heaven, but before He left He promised that one day He would return to earth for His followers! Jesus said: *"I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."* John 14:2-3



The resurrected and glorified Son of God is now seated at the right hand of His Father in Heaven. He is the intercessor and advocate for all of us who trust in Him as our Savior.
(Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25; 9:24)

BAD NEWS: *"For the wages of sin is death . . ."*

GOOD NEWS: *" . . . but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Romans 6:23

The moment we acknowledge our sinfulness and truly believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died as the sacrifice for all our sins, we are given the free gift of eternal life, and our name is written in the "Lamb's Book of Life." (Revelation 20:11-15)

"For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved."
Romans 10:13

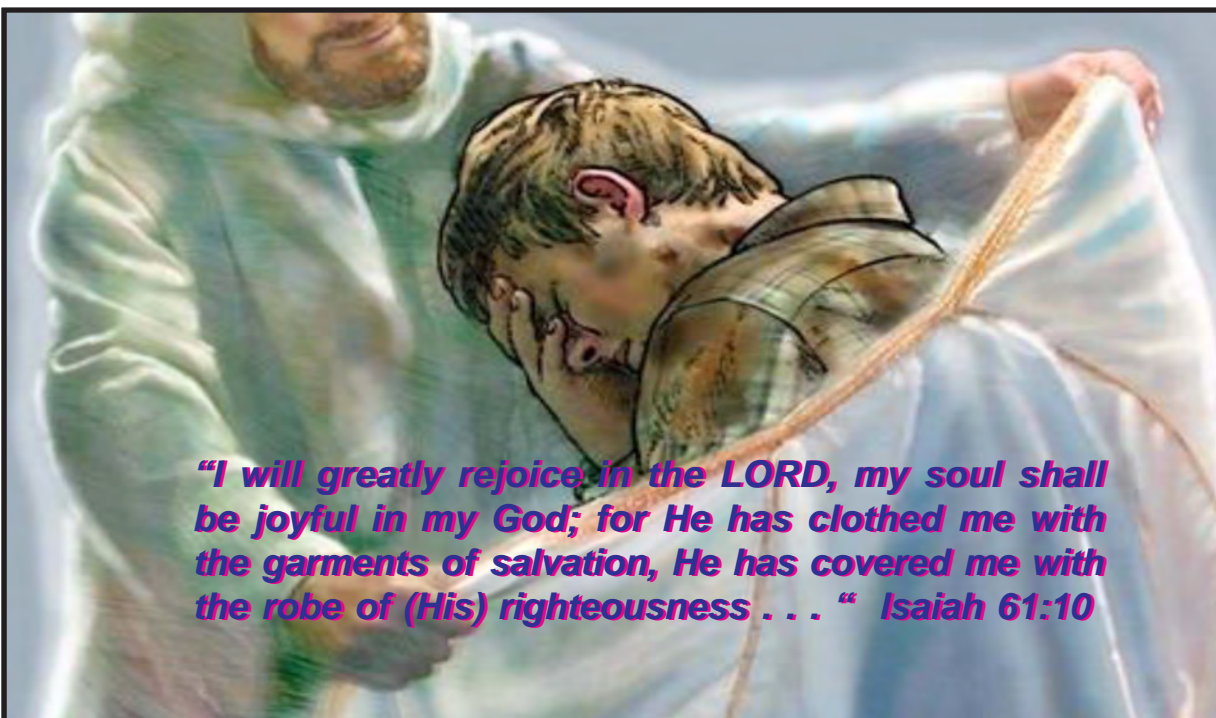
Jesus took upon Himself the sins of the whole world when He gave His life upon the cross. When we trust Him as our Savior, He forgives us and covers us with His perfect righteousness --

"For He hath made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21

QUESTION:

Is there anything that would keep you from praying and receiving Jesus Christ as your Savior right now?

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Mark 8:36



"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of (His) righteousness . . ." Isaiah 61:10

If you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for you and would like Him to save you from your sins, we suggest the following prayer or one that is similar to it in your own words:

"Lord Jesus, I know that I have sinned and that I do not deserve to live forever with You in Heaven. But I believe You died on the cross in full payment for all my sins. By faith I turn from my unbelief and sins and ask You to save me. I invite You into my life. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for dying for me on the cross. Thank You for giving me the gift of God which is eternal life. Help me now to live for You each day. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen."

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name." John 1:12

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10

The Bible declares that you can KNOW that you have eternal life by trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior:

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."
Acts 16:31

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God, that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life . . ." 1 John 5:13

We would encourage you to read God's Word, the Bible, and pray every day. Wherever you are, find a church that faithfully teaches the Bible verse by verse. Water baptism will not save anyone, but it is the Lord's command and it is a testimony to others that you have trusted Christ. Fellowship with other believers in Jesus and tell your friends what Jesus has done for you . . . and for them!

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND!



Jesus is coming to rescue (rapture) those who have trusted Him as Savior . . . but those who have not believed and called upon Him by faith will be left behind to face a world that will experience terrible tribulation and suffering.



The last book in the Bible (The Revelation of Jesus Christ) details those awful events coming upon the earth as God evicts Satan from his grip over the world. Revelation chapter 6 presents an outline of those days of horrific suffering and death as Satan pours out his evil upon the world. The "seven-sealed scroll" appears to be the key to understanding those seven-years of Tribulation. The first five seals describe the time of MAN'S (and Satan's) TERRIBLE WRATH against mankind.



1st Seal: WHITE HORSE (one-world government and artificial peace)

The rider on the white horse has a bow with no arrows (Revelation 6:2). Either the "arrows" (nuclear weapons?) have already been shot in the War of Gog and Magog (Russia and other end-time nations) or this is an indication that the world government will be economical in nature when a wicked world leader will be able to control of the masses by controlling the economy. Without absolute obedience and allegiance to him and his ten nation confederacy, no one will be able to buy or sell. Multitudes will starve to death.

2nd Seal: RED HORSE (anarchy and bloodshed)

The rider of the red horse depicts a time of world-wide rebellion and anarchy. The Bible declares ". . . power was given unto him that sat on the red horse to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another; and there was given unto him a great sword." Revelation 6:4 During the seven-year Tribulation, the Scriptures tell us that half the population of planet earth will be slain by war, famine and pestilence . . . this is the wrath of wicked men against humanity!

3rd Seal: BLACK HORSE (famine)

The rider of the black horse depicts a time of world-wide famine. "He that sat on the black horse had a pair of balances in his hand . . . a measure of wheat for a denarius (the wage for one day's work), and three measures of barley for a denarius, and see that you do not hurt the oil and wine." Revelation 6:5-6 One cannot help but wonder if the mention of oil is a possible reference to the world's supply chain being disrupted by the shortage of oil that fuels every part of the world's economy.

4th Seal: PALE HORSE (death)

The rider of the pale horse depicts a time of world-wide death. "And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death (disease) and with the beasts of the earth." Revelation 6:8

5th Seal: (MARTYRDOM of Tribulation Believers)

The fifth seal describes a time of world-wide violence against those who have repented and turned in faith by trusting Jesus Christ as their Savior. These tribulation saints will die for their faith. (Revelation 6:9-11)

6th Seal: (a great earthquake with cosmic disturbances announcing the beginning of GOD'S WRATH upon those who are rebellious and defiant against the Lord Jesus Christ)

Men will hide themselves in caves and in the rocks of the mountains as they try to flee from the wrath of the Righteous King of kings and Lord of Lords. (Revelation 6:12-17)

7th Seal: (SILENCE IN HEAVEN before the outpouring of God's judgment and wrath upon the defiant and unbelieving world)

"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour." Revelation 8:1 (This is the silence before the great storm of God's wrath against those who hate him and reject Him!)

DURING THE STORMS OF LIFE WE ALL NEED A FRIEND . . . SOMEONE TO TALK TO WHO CARES AND UNDERSTANDS!

All of us go through times of personal and family crisis and we want you to know that we are available to encourage and pray for you!

WHEN YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED A FRIEND!

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