

Many things point to the fact that the end of the age is nearing, but the dominant sign is the fact that Israel is back in her homeland, as of 1948 and back in the unified City of Jerusalem as of 1967. The generation that sees the beginning of this prophecy will see the climatic ending of this present age.

"The Bible Has Laid Out The Future"

We are now living in the times the ancient Jewish prophets wrote about. The prophecy about Israel does not stop with the rebirth of the nation. The Bible has laid out the future. As time goes on, God's prophetic plan as outlined in the Bible has become clearer.

"Eschatology"

The study of the end times is called Eschatology which basically means a study of the end things. The end things in this case is a study of the end times and deciphering the nearness of Christ's return based upon Scripture. In Paul's last letter to Timothy and having the knowledge that his death was imminent, he warned Timothy by telling him to, "**Mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people**" (2 Tim 3:1-5). These appear to be more so today than in Paul's day. The longer the period of time of Christ's return is, the more skepticism will increase, but Peter warned us about this natural tendency in 2 Peter 3:3-4, "**Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' He promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation. What Peter is saying in his last letter is that people have been saying this ever since his ancestors were around. It is much like in the days of Noah, prior to the flood, in which Noah spent 120 years warning people of an impending flood of judgment to come. If they laughed at Noah, they will laugh at believers.**"

"As In The Days Of Noah"

"**For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming**

of the Son of Man." "Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." (Matthew 24:37-39, 44)



"THE SCRIPTURES PROCLAIM SOMEONE IS COMING"



Beginning in the New Testament we move from the realm of shadow, type, and prophecy, into the full sunshine of the presentation of the **Son of God**. The Old Testament speaks of Him on every page, but speaks in shadows, in types, in symbols, and in prophecies -- all looking forward to the coming of Someone. You cannot read the Old Testament without being aware of that constant promise running through every page --

Someone is coming! Now, when we open the Gospels, that Someone steps forth in the fullness of His glory. As John says, "**We have beheld His glory...as of the only Son from the Father,**" (John 1:14). Here we see Christ as He is.

"The Old And New Testament Bear Witness To One Another"

Matthew - Mark



Luke - John

People often wonder why we have four Gospels. There is a very good reason for this. It is interesting to note that each of these Gospels is a development of an exclamatory statement that is found in the Old Testament. Four different times -- and only four times -- in the Old Testament there was an

exclamatory statement made concerning the Messiah, introduced always by the word behold. In one of the prophets we read, "**Behold Thy King, O Israel!**" In another place we read, "**Behold The Man!**" In a third place we read, "**Behold My Servant!**" In still a fourth place we read, "**Behold Thy God!**" These four statements are amplified and developed in the four Gospels -- **Matthew, the Gospel of The King; Mark, the Gospel of The Servant; Luke, the Gospel of The Son Of Man; and John, The Gospel of God, the presentation of The Son Of God.** These four Gospels give us four aspects of our Lord's character and person. They are not, strictly speaking, biographies. They are really sketches about the Person of Christ -- eyewitness accounts by those who knew Him personally, or those immediately associated with them. Therefore, they have the ring of authenticity, and they carry to our hearts that first and marvelous impression that our Lord made upon His own disciples, and then upon the multitudes that followed Him. No more amazing character has ever walked among men.

"Matthew Presents The King Of Glory"

The great message of the Gospel, then, is that God is not up yonder on some throne; he is not waiting in some distant judgment hall to pass judgment upon us. He is ready and waiting to pass into the center of a hungry, thirsting person's heart, and there to minister the blessing of His own life, His own

character, His own being, pouring them out for us. When the King is enthroned in the life, the kingdom of God is present. That is the message of Matthew -- "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heaven does not mean some place out in space; it means the realm of the invisibilities, where God reigns in the Spirit. **That kingdom is at hand in the presentation of the King.**

"Bible Prophecy Exalts God "

The Old and New Testament reveals "What Was, What Is, And What Is To Come." Just as the Old and New Testament points to the First Coming of Christ they also point to the Second Coming of Christ. These scriptures would be categorized as prophecy, "What Is To Come." Bible prophecy confirms the divine inspiration of Scripture. Bible prophecy exalts God above all others as the only One Who knows the end from the beginning. We are exhorted to listen to and heed Bible prophecy. Prophetic declarations exalt God and confirm the divine inspiration of Scripture: (Isaiah 46:9-10) "Remember the former things, those of long ago; I Am God, and there is no other; I Am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."

"The Ancient Prophets Speak Of Today's Times"

UNLOCKING
THE
SCRIPTURES
OF PROPHECY

Over one fourth of the Bible consists of Bible prophecy: In addition to the Old Testament books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel and the twelve Minor Prophets, a good portion of the Psalms and many other passages such as Genesis 49 record future events.

We Shall Behold Him

In the New Testament, four books - I and II Thessalonians, Jude, Revelation, as well as many passages in the Gospels and in the other epistles deal with prophecy. 1) **The Second Coming of the Lord is mentioned 318 times in the New Testament.**

2) Salvation is the only subject referred to in the New Testament more frequently than the Second Coming. 3) The ordinance of communion is only recorded twice in the thirteen epistles of Paul, **but the return of Christ is mentioned fifty times.** The Bible contains 1,817 individual predictions concerning 737 separate subjects found in 8,352 verses. These numerous predictions comprise 27 percent of the 31,124 verses in the whole of the Scriptures. We are exhorted to listen to and heed prophecy: 2 Peter 1:19 "And we have the Word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near." God said, "Surely the sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing it to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). God said "nothing," and He did not exclude Christ's return. I take Him at His Word.

"A Major Prophetic Sign To This Generation "



It is mind-boggling to think that our generation alone is uniquely standing on the precipice of time and where no generation has ever stood. We are living in the days spoken of by the ancient prophets. These prophets spoke of the Israelites being gathered back into their own land, in

passages such as Ezekiel 37:21: This is what the what the Sovereign LORD says: "I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land." This began in May 14, 1948. The "Dry Bones" of Ezekiel 37 have come alive.

The Budding of the Fig Tree



When God begins to fulfill the end time prophecy, He will quickly make an end to it. Those who witness the beginning would likewise see the end; "Now learn a parable of the fig tree. When its branch is still tender and puts out leaves, you know that summer is near. So you, likewise, when you see all these things,

shall know that it is near, at the doors. Truly I say to you; this generation shall not pass until all these things are fulfilled. The heaven and the earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father." (Matthew 24: 32 – 36) Israel is symbolized by the "Fig Tree" and the "Fig Tree" is a fit emblem of Israel. It is clear then from the "Parable of the Fig tree," (Matthew 24:32 -34), that a new tree will spring from the root, that is, the nation of Israel will revive, and when it shall reach the point where it shall "put forth leaves" then we shall have the "FIG TREE SIGN" that Christ's return is not far away. In this case the "Fig tree" will bear leaves before it bears fruit, for Israel is to be revived nationally before she is converted. Israel had been set aside for 2,000 years without signs of life: no leaves, no bud, no sap, no bloom and no real fruit, total barren in man's sight. But, even though the tree of Israel appears dead outwardly, the living root is still there. Like a dormant volcano, there is life underneath.