

Chapter 1

Wars and rumours of wars

Our generation has seen more wars and threats of wars than most previous generations. What is more significant is the wars themselves, who is involved and the fulfilment of prophecy. The bible speaks of end time wars which involve Russia, Iran and Syria. Is it a coincidence that this scenario is playing out right now before our eyes? Every day the news reports of another conflict in the world. Much of it has always been in the Middle East or Europe, but after 911, we cannot afford to ignore the reality that these things are now coming to our shores.

Unlike the ancient days when it was man to man combat, we now have the ability to take out cities and even nations with the touch of a button. I truly believe that only God is holding back such events.

We have madmen like North Korean supreme leader Kim Jong-Un, who would love to take out South Korea given the chance, along with other nations, and is threatening to do so now that he has the capability.

We have Iran who makes threats to eliminate Israel and makes threats against the USA. Just in the past few weeks they have been testing their missiles. It is only a matter of time before yet another war erupts.

We have ISIS who is an Islamic extremist group terrorizing the Middle East, Europe and now infiltrating North America. There are ISIS training centres in almost every major city of the USA and some in Canada as well. Every week, we hear of more terrorist threats in North America, and news of attacks in major cities of the

world has become common place these days. It is only a matter of time when some of these threats become reality.

From ethnic cleansings, black/white tensions, violent protests, black lives matter movements, increased gang and mafia related murders, drug wars, bullying in our schools and crimes against elderly and disabled, Lawlessness abounds in our generation.

All these things are leading up to a climactic final war will take place in Israel and is referred to in the bible as the battle of Armageddon when God Himself will defeat the antichrist and all the armies that have joined together against God's chosen people. It will happen in the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all of their descendants.

Chapter 2

Famines, pestilence and earthquakes

I receive emails from several charities nearly every week, all asking for help to relieve the famine struck areas of the world. There are so many causes, it is hard to know which ones to help. Granted some of them are fraudulent, but many are real organizations helping real starving people across the planet. While there are many receiving help, millions more die every year. Jesus said that the poor will always exist but the increase of it would be a sign of his coming.

Pestilence is another world for disease and we see more new diseases every year, and medical professionals warn of hundreds more dangerous viruses about to break out that are antibiotic resistant. We have already seen how Ebola spread like wildfire in places Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The outbreak of aids, and other sexually transmitted diseases has swept across the world. From mad cow to swine flu to bird flu to viruses like H1N1, this

generation has seen more than its share of diseases that have resulted in thousands of deaths. While disease has always been a part of life on earth since the fall, it has reached unprecedented proportions in this generation.

Earthquake records show more seismic activity in the last few decades than ever before, and earthquakes of greater magnitude and frequency are now a regular occurrence. Fault lines are rumbling and seismologists warn of major earthquakes that will change the landscape of our planet. With large cities placed right in their path, any sizeable earthquake will be a large catastrophic event with major loss of life and property. Tsunamis sometimes follow, like the one in Indonesia which claimed over 200,000 lives in a matter of minutes. If the fault line in California moves as it is expected to, the coastline will disappear into the Pacific Ocean in a matter of hours, taking thousands of lives

What about volcanos? Mount St Helens did tremendous damage in 1980 and again in 2008, as did the more recent eruption of a volcano in Iceland in 2010 which shut down air traffic for 7 days. In 2011, it erupted again. Scientists and geologists are watching the Yellowstone Caldero super volcano in Yellowstone National Park, in the state of Wyoming. 2016 studies are showing alarming increased seismic activity. This is being monitored very closely. Some suggest that an eruption would have catastrophic consequences which would be 20 times worse than the 1980 Mount St Helens eruption and could possibly leave large areas of the United States uninhabitable.

What about floods? While God promised to never again wipe out the whole earth by flood, there are regional floods that are causing major havoc all around the world. Then there are record numbers of tornadoes and hurricanes which have caused billions of dollars in

damages and loss of lives in the past few decades. We have had 100 year storms, snow storms, ice storms, wind and dust storms, and strange weather events all around the world.

If any of these events happened without frequency or apart from other events, it wouldn't be such convincing evidence. What we are seeing today, however, is the convergence of many things at once. It is hard to keep up with all of the things that are going on these days. Can we chalk this up to coincidence or are these signs of the times? Are they warnings of things to come? Jesus compared them to birth pangs, which means they would get more intense and closer together as the birth was about to happen. I think that with everything that is going on, it's time to pack our bags and get ready to go.

Chapter 3

Persecution of Christians

Jesus said that if we truly follow Him, the world will hate us as they hated Him. These last few decades, unprecedented numbers of Christians have been persecuted for their faith. Like no other time in history, Christians have been murdered, ridiculed, jailed, tortured or maligned in some way. Evangelical Christians are being called intolerant and extreme and are now listed on a watchlist along with religious terrorists. Meanwhile, real threats are being ignored or kept silent by the media and an agenda has begun to rid the world of those who don't go along with the new world order way of thinking.

Have we become so distracted that we are not paying attention to what is going on in the world? Or are we willfully blind, not wanting to believe the words of Jesus? Do we love this life so much that we can't imagine losing it? Is someone or something more important to us than living for God? Have we lost sight of what is really valuable in our pursuit of worldly dreams and material

things? Have we been lured by money and lust for pleasure more than love for God? Jesus said that if we love our life here so much, we will lose true life which is in Him. Worldly pursuits will take us away from Him and lead us down a road to our destruction. God calls friendship with the ways of the world adultery and that it makes us an enemy of God. We have to realize that there is a cost to following Jesus and His ways. We have to lay down our lives as He laid His down for us. We have to walk away from the things that lead to unholy living. We need to repent, which means turning away from unrighteousness. His grace gives us forgiveness, but it also gives us power to live for Him if we will submit to His Holy Spirit. Grace does not give us a license to go on sinning.

Chapter 4

The falling away

2 Peter 2:1

Pastors and parishioners alike are falling away from the truth in unprecedented numbers, some denying the trinity, the virgin birth, and the rapture, which is the glorious appearing of our Lord and Saviour to all who believe. Multitudes of Christians are listening to and supporting false teachers who tell them what they want to hear, promising prosperity and health, documenting so called miracles, selling healing oils, promoting extra biblical writings and becoming extremely wealthy and popular. Some denominations are even introducing pagan rituals, walking labyrinths, calling on the dead for anointing power, rolling and writhing around like the demoniacs of Jesus' time, becoming overtaken by "holy" laughter, practicing yoga and mantra style praying, having beer at their churches, and condoning ungodly lifestyles. Peter warns us not to be carried away by the errors of those wicked people, but to live holy lives, looking forward to the day that God will rescue us from His judgment, when the heavens will be set on fire, and the elements will melt away in

the flames, along with the earth and everything on it which is left for judgment.

Rampant sin

Have you ever seen such blatant sin as in these days. People don't even try to hide it anymore. Sin is paraded through the streets and celebrated. Godliness is now seen as evil and dare we call anything sinful, we can be accused of being hateful or intolerant. Sadly, this is not only a condition of the world, but now it is happening in many churches and individual Christians are embracing the idea that it is ok to live like the world, because Jesus loved sinners. It is true that Jesus loved sinners, because He wanted them to be saved from sin. He told the woman caught in adultery that He didn't condemn her, but that she should go and sin no more. He didn't even argue that she was guilty of breaking the law and deserving of death, but rather that there was no one worthy of condemning her, except Him and He chose to forgive her. He wants us to forgive, but that does not mean we are to condone sin. John the Baptist wouldn't even baptise people until they would show him fruit worthy of repentance.

Jesus added that the love of many would grow cold in the last days. I am old enough to have seen this happening. Things that once would horrify us are now common place. People seem to be able to do things now that were once unthinkable. Rape, murder, abortion, sex slavery, pornography, elder abuse and other crimes are out of control. It is so normal to hear about it that we hardly blink anymore. People are being desensitised and demoralized by media and books that are graphic and disgusting and because there are no more absolute right and wrongs to monitor our behavior, people just do what they think is best for them, without a concern of how it effects anyone else. We are all guilty of being unloving to some extent, however it is not hard to see that the world is becoming more and more dangerous, unloving, selfish and evil.

Despite all these things that Jesus warned would happen before He returned, He said that those who endured to the end would be saved and that the Good News would be preached throughout the whole world before the end would come. That is almost a reality now, with internet and other media making it possible to go to the most unreached places instantly. Missions and soul reaching efforts have been going on since the days of the early church and now the final push is taking place, and because of technology, it is expected that all people will be evangelized in a very short time.

Now you may be saying, so if these things are all signs and they are all happening now, why hasn't he come yet and how long will he wait? Let us read about these things in 2 Peter, Chapter 3, starting in Verse 3.

Prayer