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All words spoken by Jesus Christ are in **red text**.

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## Introduction

During the final seven years of the last days—life as we know it—will be forever changed. This dismal and dark period of time is known as the Tribulation: a period of time when the world will be influenced, dominated, and destroyed by a Satan-empowered person known as the Beast.

“And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. Daniel 8:23-25

“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12

Given the condition and present darkness within the world, there is a very good chance the Beast is alive today—as he and the world is being prepared for his entrance upon the global stage by the ruler of this world: Satan. “The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.” Revelation 13:2

Jesus declared, “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.” Matthew 24:21-22

Therefore, it is imperative for everyone to be fully aware of the Beast and to look for him. The purpose of this lesson is to reveal what he will do; explain why God would allow the Beast to exist; describes possible ways he may enter into power; lists likely aspects of his persona; and examines the dire and unprecedented consequences of his satanically-driven influence upon the earth.

**Very Important Note:** *It is my core desire and commitment to base all lesson content upon Bible scripture. However, given this topic, there is lesson content that requires logical speculation to “fill in” the unknowns that are not defined in the Bible. For example, the Bible does not specifically answer a very relevant and important question: How will the Beast enter into power? Because the Bible does not reveal how he will arise and assume his power and great authority—lesson content that explores these possibilities are based upon logical reasoning and speculation. Therefore, this type of content will be preceded by the following words: “The following content (in this section) is based upon logical speculation.” Speculative content is based upon rational thought and prayer—and is provided as a means to stimulate thought of what may occur. Each reader should consider speculative content as “possibilities” and not fact; and either embrace the information for future reference, or disregard it because it is not biblically defined.*

*In truth, the absolute answers to some questions are unavailable, and the factual depiction of some future events is unreliable—and will remain so until we witness their occurrence. But it is beneficial to thoughtfully consider what may occur as we prepare for the inevitable.*

## The Unholy Trinity

The term “Holy Trinity” is a human term used to describe the Father (God), the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit as three separate persons unified into one Godhead. It is God’s will that we believe in His Son (our Savior and Lord), repent and turn towards Him, and be changed from within by the Holy Spirit (our helper, teacher and guide)—so that we may experience an eternal life in His presence. The following words spoken by Jesus refers to God, Himself and the Holy Spirit (Helper).

- “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” John 14:6
- “I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” John 16:7-11

However, during the last days, an unholy trinity will form that will consist of Satan (the ruler of this world who is judged), the Beast and the False Prophet. The desires of this unholy trinity is to cause persons to reject Jesus Christ—via deceptional lies—and join them in an eternal death within the lake of fire.

The Beast will be Satan incarnate (in whom Satan will dwell), and will provide Satan with a physical human body to deceive and destroy anyone who will listen, believe in, and follow. Satan desired to be worshiped as God, and convinced 1/3 of the angels to join him in attempting to overthrow God. Satan and his fallen angels failed in their attempt and were cast to earth as temporary punishment (we are living in Satan’s prison). Satan’s desire to be worshipped as God remains. This is why he wants to stand in the Temple in Jerusalem—the last place God dwelt upon earth and declare he is God—which was destroyed in 70AD. To make this occur, the Beast will enter into an agreement (covenant) that will allow the Temple to be rebuilt to support Jewish sacrifices and offerings—which initiates the 7-year Tribulation.

Biblically Defined Beast Events	Scripture
Satan (the dragon) will give the Beast his power, his throne and great authority.	Dan 8:24; Rev 13:2
The Beast will make a covenant to resume sacrifices and offerings.	Dan 9:27
The Beast will break the covenant after 3½ years have passed.	Dan 9:27, 11:31, 12:11
The Beast will then reveal his true identity and will exert his authority, his will and his power over the next 3½ years as the "abomination that causes desolation."	Rev 13:5, 11:2 Dan 9:27, 12:11
The Beast will desecrate the Temple.	Dan 11:31; Rev 11:2
The Beast will set himself up in the Temple.	Matt 24:15; Dan 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Mark 13:14
The Beast is described as having 7 heads. One of the heads will receive a fatal wound, but the fatal wound will heal.	Rev 13:1-3, 12
The world will be astonished with the healing and will follow the Beast.	Rev 13:3-4
The world will worship Satan and the Beast.	Rev 13:4, 8, 12
The world will also worship the Beast because they believe that no comparisons exist that can defeat the Beast.	Rev 13:4
The Beast will speak highly of himself, and will slander God and those in heaven.	Rev 13:5-6; II Thess 2:4
The Beast is given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them.	Dan 8:24-25; Rev 13:7
The Beast will join armies to war against Israel, but will be defeated by Jesus.	Dan 8:25

Revelation 13:11 and 19:20 identifies the third component of the unholy trinity (the False Prophet), who will also be given power and authority, and will cause the world to enter into greater darkness.

Biblically Defined False Prophet Events	Scripture
He will have the same authority as the Beast.	Rev 13:12, 14
He will make the world worship the Beast.	Rev 13:12
He will perform great miracles and signs.	Rev 13:13, 19:20 Mark 13:22; II Thess 2:9
He will cause fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of all.	Rev 13:13
He will deceive the world.	Rev 13:14, 19:20
He will make a statue of the Beast because the Beast was wounded and yet lived.	Rev 13:14
He will give breath to the statue so that it can speak.	Rev 13:15
He will cause all that refuse to worship the statue to be killed.	Rev 13:15, 20:4
He will compel all to receive a mark.	Rev 13:16
Mandates the mark of the Beast. No one can buy or sell unless they receive the mark of the Beast's name on their right hand or forehead.	Rev 13:17-18

## The False Covenant

The Jewish Temple was destroyed in 70 AD. Approximately 40 years earlier Jesus declared, **“Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”** Matthew 24:2 For more than 2,000 years the Israelites have been unable to make sacrifices and offerings for their sins, and fulfill the requirements defined within the Mosaic Law. The Wailing Wall (aka Western Wall), was given its name because of the sorrowful prayers of Jews due of the loss of their Temple.



Take a moment and consider the heart-felt pain you would experience if a key component of your faith is taken from you: your ability to receive forgiveness of your sins through the death and the blood shed by a sacrificial animal—for this is the pain experienced by Jews as they continue to look for the Mashiach (Messiah)—who will restore Israel, Jerusalem, and the Temple service.

The Beast will negotiate a covenant with Israel and Israel's enemies (i.e. “many”) that will allow the rebuilding of the Temple and resumption of sacrifices and offerings. This covenant is a critical event to look for because it initiates the 7-year Tribulation (referred to as one week below). 3½ years after the covenant is made, the Beast will break the covenant, stand in the Temple and declare he is God, and will attack the saints (Jews and Christians). This is the beginning of the Great Tribulation, and the first time Satan will be able to execute his rage and vengeance upon all who inhabit the earth.

- **“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.”** Daniel 9:27
- **“And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.”** Daniel 11:31
- **“Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”** 2 Thessalonians 2:4

- “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.” Revelation 13:5-7
- Jesus warned, “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.” Matthew 24:15-22

Some Israelites may consider the Beast as the long-awaited Messiah because of his covenant, and the perceived “protection” he will provide during the first 3½ years of the Tribulation. Jews believe the Messiah will come in power to destroy their earthly enemies. But God had a different plan. His Son, the Messiah, came as a lowly lamb—unblemished and without sin—willingly gave His life on the cross, and shed His blood as a sin sacrifice for all who believe. Jesus came not to destroy Israel’s earthly enemies as they perceived, but to destroy their spiritual enemies. However, God will fulfill His promises. Jesus will come in power to destroy all of Israel’s earthly enemies when He returns. This is when all Jews will realize Jesus was and is the Messiah, and He will forgive them, and they will mourn. “It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” Zechariah 12:9-10

For more information on the covenant, read “The Covenant” on [UniqueBibleStudies.com](http://UniqueBibleStudies.com).

## Why Will God Allow the Beast to Exist?

Jesus provided us with spiritual insight into the purpose of the last days, the Beast and the influence of the Beast. The Parable of the Wheat and Tares describes a final harvest via the separation of the wheat (saved) from the tares (non-saved). Tares are weeds that look like wheat, and live amongst the wheat.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” Matthew 13:24-30

“And His disciples came to Him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.’ He answered and said to them: ‘He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!’”  
Matthew 13:37-43

The final separator of the wheat from the tares will occur when people will be required to receive a visible mark of the Beast in order to buy and sell (purchase food, pay for rent, buy gasoline, and survive). Those who reject the mark will be easily identifiable as the desired wheat—to be gathered for an eternal life with Jesus. Those who accept the visible mark will be easily identifiable as tares—to be gathered for eternal burning in the lake of fire.

## The Mark of the Beast

“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.” Revelation 13:16-17

Every person on earth will be required to receive the mark of the Beast to buy and sell. In other words, you will need the mark to buy food, clothing and shelter; you will need the mark to receive income, pay rent and bills; and you will need the mark to maintain a semblance of one’s present lifestyle, and to avoid a multitude of insecure, fearful, and gut-wrenching unknowns.

Because "he causes (or compels) all," rather than "forces all," reveals there will be a choice to accept the mark of the Beast or not. Besides, God would not force one into eternal death. If one decides to accept the mark it will be easier to buy and sell in the marketplace. However, based upon the scripture below, the long-term consequences of accepting the mark are far worse than not accepting the mark.

“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.’” Revelation 14:9-11

The lives of those who reject the mark will be completely and forever changed. In order to survive, they will need to spend a significant amount of time seeking food, clothing and shelter (likely by trading for goods and services, or by receiving assistance from those who are marked...if allowed ). The daily stresses of normal life will not compare to the overwhelming pressures of a survivalistic existence. As such, it becomes easier to understand why it should not be difficult to cause both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to accept the mark of the Beast.

## The Relevance of the Mark

In Genesis 4:15, God put a mark on Cain so that no one would kill him. In Exodus 12:7, God directed Moses to tell all in Israel to mark the sides and tops of the door frames of their houses with blood from a sacrificial lamb. That evening, those who did not have the mark on their door frames lost their first born. Paul states in II Corinthians 1:22 that God places His seal of ownership on us and puts His Spirit within our hearts as a guarantee of what is to come. Revelation 7:1-8 reveals that God will put a seal on the foreheads of His servants, from the 12 tribes of Israel, in order to save them from destruction in the last days.

In contrast, the Beast's mark identifies eternal damnation. Those who accept the mark will demonstrate their willingness to follow his mandates; represents a form of worship of the Beast and Satan; and their rebellion towards God. Refusing the mark will require a total trust and faith in God, in His Word, and in His promises.

The mark represents the final dividing line or "wedge" that will eternally separate the wheat (saved) from the tares (non-saved). It will no longer be possible to delay a personal decision for Christ, or be "lukewarm," or "straddle the fence" (claim Christianity and live a worldly life), or hide faith in Christ.

## Mark Decision Influencers

Accept Mark	Reject Mark
<b>Eternal death</b>	<b>Eternal life</b>
<b>Will not be a martyr</b>	<b>May be a martyr</b>
<b>Continue to trust self</b>	<b>Will have to trust God</b>
<b>May keep possessions</b>	<b>May lose possessions</b>
<b>Access to the marketplace</b>	<b>No access to the marketplace</b>
<b>Life will be easier for short period</b>	<b>Life will be difficult for short period</b>

The mark of the Beast and all of the personal sacrifices it represents will dissolve any false "fronts" that someone may be hiding behind. Who or what we truly believe in will be revealed...because each person must make one of two decisions: eternally perish with the Beast by accepting his mark, or reject the mark and live eternally with Jesus.

The Beast will speak to our flesh. Jesus spoke to our hearts.

The Beast will proclaim war against the saints. Jesus will provide peace for the saints.

The Beast will destroy the rebuilt temple. Jesus sought to cease idolatrous worship in the temple.

The Beast will seek to destroy the saved. Jesus came to save the lost.

The Beast will deceive. Jesus spoke truth.

The Beast will point the way to hell. Jesus pointed the way toward Heaven.

The Beast will glorify Satan. Jesus glorified God.



# The Beast's Persona

## Satan's Darkness

Satan's existence was perfect. He was an anointed cherub who lived in the presence of God. However, he was consumed by delusional sinful thinking—which caused him to believe he could overthrow God and become the Most High. As such, Satan's malignant mind caused him to convince 1/3 of the angels to join him in a rebellion to overthrow God. However, Satan and his fallen angels were defeated. As punishment, they were cast down to earth (their prison) to await their final judgment in the lake of fire. Read Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isaiah 14:12-15; Revelation 12:7-12 and 20:10-14.

Jesus said regarding Satan, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." John 8:44

Satan's delusion to be God has not changed. "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

When Satan declares he is God in the Temple, "There will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened." Matthew 24:21-22

## Fake Persona

Note: The following content (in this section) is based upon logical speculation.

It is likely the beast will initially portray a fake persona (words and behavior) to persuade the masses.

His persona will hide his true intent.	He must first drive a cult following. He will be rejected if he initially declares his actual intentions.
He may portray himself as a religious person, or has religious ideals.	It will be beneficial for the masses to perceive the Beast's persona as being "spiritually founded."
Depicts himself as a friend of Israel.	Rebuilding the Temple requires Israeli acceptance of him.
Declares he has a solution to the world's instability and chaos.	This "solution" is a likely "ticket" that will give him access to a global "stage."
Will appeal to many in the world.	The words that he speaks must align with the needs and perceptions of many.
Is masterful in diverting blame by declaring others are guilty of the crimes he is instigating (redirects the truth).	As he executes his darkened objectives, he will redirect responsibility and criticism towards others. "Do not look at me—but look over there because they are causing this."
Will verbally attack and demean anyone who stands in his way.	He will likely use caustic words against anyone who criticizes him. In addition, those who seek to rebel against him may be attacked via threats or actual physical harm.

The Beast may not initially reveal who he is and his true objectives...because he will be more subject to ridicule and rejection. He must first gain a following (i.e. a “cult worship”), to build his power base who will do his bidding. However, over time and as he gains power, he will be unable to hide behind a fake persona as his Satan-inspired nature and Satan-driven objectives will come to the “surface” for all to see.

## **Mental Disorders**

Satan’s attempt to overthrow God indicates his delusional and malignant mind. To gain insight, it is possible to compare human personality disorders that correlate to Satan’s behavior. Sociopaths and narcissists are an example. As you read each of the behavioral descriptions below, consider the following questions: How does this behavior relate to:

1. Satan’s attempted rebellion?
2. Past or present leaders (i.e. Hitler)?

A person is considered a sociopath when they:

- Chronically lie.
- Has a propensity to break laws and social norms.
- Lacks empathy, and does not experience guilt or remorse if they harm others.
- Is unwilling to take responsibility for their actions--including consequences of their actions.
- Is willing to take advantage of others for personal gain.

A person is considered a narcissist when they:

- Have an exaggerated sense of self-importance:
  - Overestimates their abilities.
  - Devalues other people.
  - Are surprised when they do not receive the praise they feel they deserve.
  - Blames others when they fail to achieve expected successes.
- Perceive they are special or unique.
- Seek and demand admiration.
- Project a sense of entitlement.
- Behave in an arrogant or haughty manner.
- Visualize fantasies of success.
- Takes advantage of others

Now review the list of behaviors again, and ask if each defines the antithesis (opposite) of Jesus.

Satan (via the Beast) will cause unprecedented global destruction and death. To accomplish this he will:

- Lie.
- Break laws and social norms if they benefit him.
- Not experience remorse or guilt for causing destruction and death.
- Deflect responsibility for the consequences of his actions by blaming others.
- Use anyone who may assist in his objective, and discard them when no longer useful.
- Attack anyone who stands in his way.
- Become the most destructive person who has ever lived upon earth.

## How the Beast May Enter Into Power

Note: The following content (in this section) is based upon logical speculation.

Note: It is possible for the Beast to be “behind the curtains” and not presently in the public eye. It is also possible the Beast is someone who is presently a nation’s leader; was a nation’s leader; or one who is in the public eye but has not stepped forward seeking global power. The purpose of this section is to explore what may occur that will facilitate the Beast’s entrance into power and control.

## The World Is Being Prepared for the Beast’s Authority and Worship

“Authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him.” Revelation 13:7-8

“So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, ‘Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?’” Revelation 13:4

The authority (influence, power and control) of the Beast will be global and unprecedented. But worse, both Satan and the Beast will be worshiped. Therefore, to gain authority over every tribe, tongue, and nation—it is likely the present power of national leaders will succumb to the Beast—for they will either willingly join him, or he will attack and overcome them via war.

### Nations Who Willingly Join the Beast

Here are some rational truths to consider regarding a nation’s transfer of control and power.

- National leaders do not like to give up their power and control.
- Inhabitants of nations do not like foreign entities ruling over them.
- When life is “good” and a nation’s populace is satisfied:
  - There is no need for the existing power infrastructures to step aside.
  - The nation will collectively fight against any attempt to relinquish control to a foreign entity.
- When life is “bad” and a nation’s populace is dissatisfied:
  - The existing power infrastructures are weakened.
  - The nation’s populace will seek a solution—even if it requires control by a foreign entity.

A worldwide problem will likely occur that will cause the earth’s inhabitants to experience severe hardships, weaken existing power infrastructures, and cause people to seek new leadership. The root cause this worldwide problem could be a global economic collapse—facilitated by our unprecedented global debt, wars, and catastrophic events (Matthew 24:6-8).

If a global economic meltdown occurs, the Beast may position himself to the masses as a savior: the only one who can fix what is wrong, and return stability and peace to all who inhabit the earth. He must be initially viewed by the masses from a positive perspective to gain trust. He will likely define what is wrong and who is to blame. In addition, he may “package” his messaging within absolute statements and grandiose promises—all of which are not true, and he will not fulfill. But the masses—those who are headed to the eternal lake of fire—will believe, follow and worship him as he initiates decrees.

## **Nations Defeated by War**

History is filled with examples of how nations succumbed to a foreign military—followed by the replacement of the existing government infrastructure. For example, consider the changes that occurred within Germany and Japan after they were defeated by the militaries of allied countries.

It is also prudent to consider that a global economic meltdown may not fully affect all nations equally. It is possible some will maintain varying degrees of prosperity—especially those nations and countries that are not completely dependent upon others for economic trade. As such, those who are prosperous are less likely to give up their power and control unless they are defeated by war.

“And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity.” Daniel 8:23-25

## **Existing Influential Factors**

The occurrence of populace revolts and military actions may be magnified by existing influential factors:

1. Economically Interdependent Nations
2. Unsustainable Debt
3. International Collaboration

## **Economically Interdependent Nations**

Globalization is a term used to describe the growth of economic interdependence that has occurred since the end of World War II. Prior to this time most countries were independent, self-supporting and less likely to feel the effects of failing countries. However, since WWII, countries have become economically dependent (interdependent) upon one another as they increasingly traded goods and services. Products and services created in one country are consumed in another country, and vice versa. Today, if one country experiences any form of an economic slowdown, other countries “feel” the consequences of their pain. For example, the consequences of a war in an oil producing nation is quickly reflected by increased gasoline prices across the globe.

## **Unsustainable Debt**

Debt is like cancer. If allowed to grow it can kill the organism it resides within. As such, to not allow debt to sap the life out of the Hebrew’s economy and keep it strong, God directed the Jews to cancel all debts amongst one another every seven years (Deuteronomy 15:1-6).

However, most nations have amassed unsustainable debt over the past years. What’s more, many countries are not only unable to pay down their debt, they are finding it difficult to even pay the interest on their debt.

For example, as of January 1, 2024, America’s national debt exceeded 34 trillion dollars, and continues to grow. America’s interest payments on its debt consumes a significant percentage of income from taxes

and other sources. Plus, America's national debt exceeds its gross domestic product (GDP—or the total financial amount of all finished goods and services made within a period of time). America's present GDP is estimated to be just under 28 trillion dollars. ([Source](#))

To make America's present financial situation more relatable, consider your financial situation if your total annual after tax income is \$50,000 per year, and your total debt is \$60,000 (at a conservative 5% interest rate—or \$3,000 per year, or \$250 per month). Remember, your monthly income is used to pay for your mortgage/rent, food, shelter, car, gasoline, insurance, medical, entertainment, and all of those "other" unplanned expenses. Whatever remains is available for payment against debt (which is growing because of interest). For many persons (including countries), the amount of "whatever remains" is insufficient to reduce debt...so the total debt increases over time.

Debt has been used to subsidize economic growth. Governments (including America) have been using a strategy of borrowing money to stimulate economic activity within their country. This scenario may be compared to owning and driving a car. The injection of money within an economy equates to what occurs when we purchase gasoline for our vehicle. As we drive our vehicle it consumes the gasoline, and additional gasoline must be purchased to continue—otherwise the vehicle will stop functioning. Likewise, commerce is stimulated within an economy when money (gasoline) is injected. However, like an automobile, the economy will consume the money and will require more to keep going.

To gain a greater understanding of our perilous condition, as of February, 2024, America's national debt of 34 trillion dollars equates to more than \$100,000 for every man, woman and child. ([Source](#)) However, in addition to America's national debt, America's household (or personal) debt reached 17.5 trillion dollars at the end of 2023, and is also continuing to climb. ([Source](#))

Each country's national debt must be reduced...but it has been impossible because more debt is incurred to sustain national economies. Meanwhile, the global debt has become larger—and will continue to do so. In truth...global debt will not be reduced, it is out of control, and is likely to cause a global economic collapse—like a line of dominos. If this scenario occurs, it will:

- Cause the inhabitants of nations to rebel against their leaders and turn to anyone who has an idea in how to return things to "normal."
- Provide an opportunity for the Beast to step forward and declare he has a solution to the problem.

## **International Collaboration**

There are two international collaborative groups that may play a role in the beast's rise to power: the United Nations (UN), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Formed after WWII, the UN is comprised of 193 countries. The purpose of the UN is to prevent future world wars, and to replace the ineffective League of Nations that was formed at the end of WWI (which had a similar objective to maintain world peace).

In 2015 the UN adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ([Source](#)). The commendable goal is to improve the quality of life worldwide by achieving 17 separate objectives: such as improving access to food, clean water, healthcare, education, and energy; reducing gender inequalities; and provide refugee and disaster relief. However, as darkness becomes more prevalent during the last days, these worthy goals will likely transition their focus upon 2 of the objectives: refugee and disaster relief.

There is some speculation that the Beast may leverage the UN to gain global power. And it is possible for the Beast to gain acceptance by promoting the UN agenda. However, given the charter, history, and numerous recent scathing criticisms, the UN may be considered a “paper tiger,” or one who appears to be in charge, but is completely powerless. And the reason is understandable, this is because the UN:

- Is basically a formal place for countries to come together to discuss issues and raise formal complaints against countries that are attacking them or other countries.
- Does not have its own military, and does not attack countries engaging in war.
- Has a peacekeeping force.
  - The primary function is to facilitate post-war peace agreements.
  - Member countries are asked to contribute personnel for each operation.

As such, whether or not the UN is leveraged by the Beast in some way does not seem viable. One could be certain UN member countries will raise their objections and announce formal decrees against the Beast’s military actions and conquests. But it is likely the Beast will not seek UN control nor UN permission as he attacks other countries. Besides, consider the number of wars, conflicts, and skirmishes that exist today and determine if the UN is effective. ([Source](#))

### **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)**

NATO is an alliance of more than 30 countries ([Source](#)). Formed in 1949, NATO’s purpose is to safeguard the freedom and security of member countries by political and military means. If one NATO member is attacked—it is perceived as an attack against all NATO members—and the militaries of all NATO members will collectively respond to defeat the attacking country.

NATO countries support one another by strengthening their defense capabilities, participate in military training exercises, and share intelligence. In effect, NATO is comprised of a collective military that declares to all non-member countries, “Don’t mess with us.”

Because of NATO’s dominant global military strength, it may represent an obstacle that stands in the way of Satan’s objectives, or may represent a means to escalate global war.

- If Satan perceives NATO as an obstacle, there are two potential scenarios—Satan may seek to:
  - Undermine and weaken member participation via conflict, disagreements, strife, and wars between NATO members.
  - Gain control over NATO.
- Attacking a NATO country can quickly escalate global war. As such, Satan may seek collaboration between non-NATO countries to attack one or more NATO countries. Because of the NATO agreement, many NATO countries will join the battle against the attacking non-NATO countries—resulting in global war.

It is important to remember Satan’s desire is to create global confusion, chaos, destruction and death. However, he will likely not take an initial military position and aggression—because he must receive acceptance by nations. As he gains power and control, Satan may employ all of the above NATO strategies simultaneously via his minions.

## Deceptional Influence

The disciples asked Jesus about the end of the age. The first response by Jesus was, “Take heed that no one deceives you.” [Matthew 24:4](#)

Satan’s skill is in the use of deceptional lies to misdirect from the truth, infiltrate the mind with lies, and drive behavior that results in sin. As such, Satan’s skill of deception will be magnified exponentially during the last days—for this is why Jesus warned us to not be deceived—which requires knowledge of the truth.

Satan will masterfully deceive and influence the nations by:

- Converting truths into lies, and lies into truths.
- Demonstrating signs and wonders as a means of authentication.
- Manipulate the masses via a variety of techniques.

### Truths Will Become Lies, Lies Will Become Truths

God is the source of truth, and His word is absolute. Satan is the source of lies, and his words seeks to undermine and redefine God’s truth. As we enter into the last days—as the Beast steps onto the global stage and into power—God’s truths will become lies, and lies will become truths.

It is important to understand that God nor Satan forces people to do things against their will. God designed us with a free will—including the angels. Those who seek after truth, and those who seek after lies, do so because of the desires in their heart, and their free will to fulfill those desires.

However, unlike the past, God will allow Satan to fully use his persuasive lying skills during the last days.

“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” [2 Thessalonians 2:9-12](#)

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” [2 Timothy 4:1-5](#)

Fables are defined as a fictitious narrative or statement. Today, we have seen a multitude of fictitious narratives (such as conspiracy theories) that have influenced the perceptions of many. Fictitious narratives are absolute lies—have been propagated by various persons and media sources—and has resulted in a great division between those who believe the lies, and those who recognize the lies. This trend will worsen as those who have itching ears (those who prefer lies over truth) will actively seek sources that reinforce the fictitious narratives. Once a person believes a lie...it is very difficult (and sometimes impossible) to change their mind...even when they are provided with factual evidence of the lie. They will form “mental protective walls” and will “close the eyes and ears” to anything that does not support their delusions. These are those who will reject Jesus; will willingly believe the beast’s lies; will follow and worship the Beast; and their souls will die a second death in the eternal lake of fire.

## Signs and Wonders

Throughout time God has used various signs and wonders to overcome our skeptical nature. Akin to a “*Certificate of Authenticity*,” signs and wonders may be defined as miraculous manifestations of supernatural activity that are intended to (1) provide tangible evidence that confirms spiritual authority, (2) truth of what was spoken, and (3) magnify belief in whom is glorified. For each sign and wonder demonstrated by God, Jesus and the disciples pointed to the glory of God and to believe in Him.



Jesus described our weaknesses and need for tangible proofs—which explains why God has demonstrated miracles—and why Satan will be given power to perform signs and wonders during the last days.

- “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign.” Matthew 16:4
- “Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.” John 4:48

However, during the last days Jesus warned, “False christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” Matthew 24:24

To reinforce and magnify the influence of the Beast, God will allow Satan and his minions to perform deceptive signs and wonders that will cause the masses to believe in the Beast.

“The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, **signs**, and **lying wonders**, and with all **unrighteous deception** among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

Imagine for a moment you are witnessing a person declaring all of the wonderful attributes of the Beast and why he should be followed. This person then demonstrates non-human power by making fire come down from heaven to the earth for all to see. What sort of influence do you think this type of event will have upon the masses? Will the spoken lies be perceived as “truth” because of the miraculous event? Well...the Bible declares this will occur by the False Prophet.

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs **great signs**, so that he even **makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men**. And he **deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast**, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived.” Revelation 13:11-14

Important truth: If someone demonstrates a sign and wonder—identify whom they are glorifying. If their messaging points to (and does not deviate from) salvation by the grace of God, and glorifies Jesus Christ as Lord—the miracle they performed is driven by the Holy Spirit. If the messaging contains any content that points to the glorification of the Beast—the miracle they performed is driven by satanic power. Remember...discernment is based upon whom is glorified!



## Manipulation of the Masses

Note: The following content (in this section) is based upon logical speculation.

The gain power, the Beast must first coalesce a cult following who will comply with and execute his mandates. Here are some relevant aspects of cults:

1. Persons are influenced to willingly join a cult.
2. A cult leader will control cult members through various techniques.

It is important to understand and perceive the following regarding the Beast: everything he will say and do is based upon a lie. Although he may initially say words and display behavior that represent varying degrees of truth (to gain favor and acceptance), they will be “performed” as a façade—with the underlying purpose of executing his Satan-inspired objectives.

Satan understands the human mindset, our weaknesses, our desires, and our fears—but most important—he knows how to implement control over persons, countries and nations. Throughout time Satan has been constrained in his earthly prison—until the last days—when the Holy Spirit (who restrains) will grant him unrestricted access to (and manifestation of) his full darkened potential via the Beast. [“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed.” 2 Thessalonians 2:7-8](#)

Satan and his minions are dependent upon willing humans to fulfill their desires to create confusion, chaos, destruction, and death upon earth. This is why we can look back throughout time at murderous leaders—including today—and see a continual and repetitive pattern of unimaginable darkness that reflects Satan’s malignant mind. For more information, Google “Murderous leaders in history.”

Although the past is littered with the consequences of Satan’s influence upon earth, and the present does not look any better, the future will be much worse. The influential power of Satan has been restricted, but will be released during the last days.

By evaluating past megalomaniacs (who were driven by Satan and his minions to deceive and destroy), we may gain insight into the methods the Beast may use to manipulate and control the masses to gain power and control. It is estimated the reign of Adolf Hitler influenced countless deaths in the multitude of millions—including military and civilian fatalities, deaths from disease and famine, and the murder of more than 6 million innocent Jews. Therefore, it is safe to conclude Hitler was used by Satan as a means to cause death and destruction, and may be considered as a foreshadow of the Beast.

The manipulative tools used by Hitler to gain power and control over the German populace included:

- Indoctrination
- Creation of a cult
- Fear
- Scapegoats
- War

**Indoctrination** may be defined as a process of repetitive learning (via messaging communicated by various means) that cause people to accept a lie as being true. Referred to as propaganda, indoctrination occurs via the dissemination of misleading information (additional supportive lies) that reinforce a “core” lie. Hitler indoctrinated the German people via propaganda. Joseph Goebbels, the chief propagandist for Hitler, declared the following truths for those who seek to indoctrinate the masses with lies:

- “Repeat a lie often enough and it becomes the truth.”
- “Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.”

The **creation of a cult** occurs when persons accept the cult leader’s lies as truth. A cultist will not criticize nor question, will actively reject sources of truth, will blindly follow and comply with the cult mandates, and worships the cult leader.

Because of the broad expanse of the Beast’s control, he will need to set up a hierarchical organization of cult followers who have an absolute and unwavering allegiance to him. For example, he will need a close inner circle, an outer circle, and field-based cult leaders. The inner circle will be comprised of a small number of persons who will execute management, control, communications, and other functions for the Beast. As the Beast’s cult organization grows, he will need an “outer circle.” This group will have the purpose of facilitating compliance of the Beast’s mandates with field cult leaders. Field cult leaders are those who are geographically dispersed, and will drive compliance through various tactics.

If a cult member does not comply with the Beast’s mandates, or does anything that has a negative impact upon the Beast, they will receive swift public punishment for their wrongdoings (to reinforce fear and terror amongst cult members). Those who comply, those who propagate the lie, those who cause others to join the cult, and those who punish persons for non-compliance—will be rewarded, and will likely move up within the cult.

Hitler’s hierarchical cult organization was the Nazi party—who faithfully executed Hitler’s commands to expand his power and control.

**Fear** is a very strong psychological weapon and behavioral motivator that drives cult compliance. For example, those who did not accept Nazi rule were subject to brutal punishment in concentration camps. But to add to this darkness and control, the Nazi’s formed a secret police called the Gestapo (field cult members), who encouraged people to identify anyone who did not comply with Nazi mandates. Those who did not comply were harshly punished. The perception of punishment by non-compliance creates varying degrees of paranoia, avoidance, and submission.

**Scapegoats** may be defined as persons (or an entity) who is untruthfully blamed (for the negative consequences) that were caused by someone or something else. Leaders enter into power by declaring something is wrong and they can fix it. These leaders may create lying scenarios that blame someone for the reason why the problem exists. This is how Hitler positioned the Jews—as the ones who were responsible for Germany’s woes—which was an absolute deceptional lie! In addition, sociopathic and narcissistic leaders will find scapegoats to blame for the consequences of their own actions—because they will not take responsibility for their failures.

Here are two links for additional information: [Link 1](#) [Link 2](#)

**War**—Satan’s forte is causing war between people, and spiritual battles within the heavenlies. Hitler was a willing pawn of Satan who drove more than 50 nations to declare war on Nazi Germany—a war that can trace its beginning to a lie. For all wars, conflicts, arguments, and sin...began as a lie.

Satan—driven by a deceptual lie within his demented mind—caused war within Heaven. “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:7-9

When the disciples asked what will occur during the last days, Jesus warned, “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom.” Matthew 24:6-7

During the final days of the Great Tribulation Satan will coalesce nations to war against Israel. “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:13-14

However, Satan’s ultimate delusional objective in joining nations against Israel—which has not changed since he lost in his first attempt in Heaven—is to seek retribution by defeating Jesus. “He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means.” Daniel 8:25

“And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.” Revelation 19:19-20

Note the Beast and the False Prophet were cast into the lake of fire. However, God has a future plan for Satan. After Satan’s defeat he will be bound for 1,000 years during the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ...and then released for a short time to deceive and “stir up” war again. Thereafter he will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10-15).

“He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.” Revelation 20:2-3

“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.” Revelation 20:7-8

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought

down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities.'" Isaiah 14:12-17

Looking back in time...everything Hitler declared to the German people was a lie. The only thing he did was cause global death and destruction—which was Satan's objective, and will be his objective during the last days via the Beast. If we look back in time and consider all of the death and destruction that occurred during WWII, what will occur in the future will be exponentially worse because Satan's influence via the Beast will be unrestricted.

In summary, Satan (via the Beast) may follow a similar "path" as Hitler as he rises into power. He will likely use propaganda (deceptive lies) to indoctrinate the masses, and to form his cult following—who will worship him and execute his mandates. He may then use fear and terror to expand his control. At some time during this period he will convince the enemies of Israel to back off and allow Jews to have unrestricted access to the Temple Mount so that they can (1) rebuild the Temple, and (2) resume sacrifices and offerings. Thereafter is when he will break his covenant, stand in the Temple declaring he is God, and will declare the scapegoats who are responsible for the problems that exist: Jews and Christians. This is when he will take firm control over nations (and their militaries) to instigate and expand global war.

## The Latter Time of Indignation

Note: The following content (in this section) is based upon logical speculation.

Indignation is commonly defined as strong anger aroused within someone who perceives they have received unjustified and unfair treatment. Many of us can remember our response when someone treated us unfairly, spoke untruths about us, or caused us to experience unwarranted emotional pain. As our indignation (anger) welled up from deep within us we (1) mentally "chewed on" (over and over) what happened, and (2) considered possible responses involving various types of retribution and punishment for what they did. Those who are filled with the Holy Spirit will also experience an opposing struggle between the desired response of our flesh (to extract a pound of their flesh), and the urging of the Spirit to forgive them.

Christians are instructed to forgive as we have been forgiven (Matthew 6:14, Mark 11:25, Colossians 3:13). When wronged, remember the following when experiencing anger and considering retribution:

- Jesus asked the Father to forgive those who unjustifiably crucified Him as He hung on the cross to die...because, **"They do not know what they do."** Luke 23:34
- Paul said do not retaliate when wronged. **"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord."** Romans 12:19

God gave Daniel a prophetic vision about the last days—which was interpreted by Gabriel (an angelic messenger of God). Gabriel stated Daniel's vision is about the end times, the Beast and his source of power, and what the Beast will do—all of which will occur during "the latter time of the indignation."

- **"The vision refers to the time of the end."** Daniel 8:17
- **"What shall happen in the latter time of the indignation; for at the appointed time the end shall be."** Daniel 8:19

Gabriel's words of "latter time of the indignation" provides an interesting insight into the Tribulation; Great Tribulation; motivation behind Satan's actions; and why God will deliver His wrath upon earth prior to the return of Jesus. Daniel 9:27 reveals the Beast will confirm a covenant with the many for "one week" (7 years) for the Israelites to resume sacrifices and offerings. This is the first half of the Tribulation when the Beast will "lay the framework" to execute his revenge. But when 3½ years have passed (mid Tribulation) the Beast will break his covenant—which initiates the Great Tribulation, or the "latter time of the indignation." Those who are living during the Great Tribulation will experience the consequences of Satan's unrighteous indignation, and God's righteous indignation.

### **Satan's Unrighteous Indignation**

Satan lost in his attempt to overthrow God, and was cast out of Heaven to his earthly prison to await his final punishment. Meanwhile, he has experienced indignation because his malignant mind is unable to recognize what he did was wrong; he perceives his punishment is unjustified and unfair; and he seeks retribution for his pain. When he (the Holy Spirit) who restrains is taken out of the way (2 Thessalonians 2:6-12), is when the lawless one (the Beast) will be revealed; and when the unbridled source of global devastation will arise as Satan (via the Beast) will destroy as many as possible. For Daniel was told by Gabriel, "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity." Daniel 8:23-25

Because of Satan's delusional darkness; because he cannot see beyond his mind-bending indignation; because he has a grandiose perception of who he is and his abilities; and because he does not understand God has used him from the beginning to fulfill His will—Satan will (1) create global devastation and death, and (2) attempt to achieve his greatest retribution by making a stand against Jesus—but he will be defeated again. "He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means." Daniel 8:25

### **God's Righteous Indignation**

God designed us and equipped us with the capacity to love Him as He loves us. Throughout time, God has sought a loving relationship with His human creation. Jesus was asked, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" Matthew 22:36-37

God has done everything to reach us and change our hearts towards Him. However, many have "turned their backs" on Him—starting with Adam and Eve. As the human population grew, Ezekiel chapter 16 reveals God's love for Jerusalem. It describes how God chose Abraham's descendants for Himself; took them under His wing; dwelled amongst them; anointed them; and adorned them with gifts of His love. However, the scripture reveals they also turned their back on God and became a "harlot" because they sinned with other lovers.

"For thus says the Lord God: 'I will deal with you as you have done, who despised the oath by breaking the covenant.' Nevertheless I will remember My covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you." Ezekiel 16:59-60 God's everlasting covenant is based upon

believing in His Son, Jesus Christ, who shed His blood on the cross as a propitiation for our sins. Propitiation may be defined as appeasing the wrath of an offended person and being reconciled to him—for when we sin...we sin against God. Simply stated, the sins of those who believe in His Son are forgiven.

The evening before Jesus was crucified, as He ate with His apostles, “He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.’” Luke 22:17-20

Jesus declared, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” John 3:16-21

Those who reject Jesus prefer sin, turn their backs on God, and will experience His righteous wrath as it is poured out upon earth (Revelation chapters 8, 9, and 16)...and for eternity.

## Messaging That Attacks Christians

Note: The following content in this section is based upon logical speculation.

Jesus declared (in Matthew 24:24) that false christs and false prophets will perform signs and wonders to deceive during the last days. As such, in addition to false christs and false prophets, it is probable that “public persons” (those who are depicted in various types of communication media) will claim to be Christian—but will speak inappropriate words, and/or will demonstrate hypocritical behavior—which will provide content for the deceived that will justify verbally and physically attacking Christians.

These persons who claim to be “Christian” will either be demonically inspired, or will lack spiritual maturity. Regardless, their actions will provide strong evidenced-based messaging that declares to those who follow the Beast: “Do not believe Christians because they are hypocritical, delusional, judgmental bigots, and filled with hatred.” Besides, this type of messaging is becoming more commonplace today.

However, because Christians will see and understand the signs of the times; and because they will reject the beast and his mark; and because they will warn anyone who will listen about the beast, who he is and what he will do—an additional message will be propagated that will increase the anger within those who are deceived: “Christians stand in the way of the Beast!” This messaging, combined with the aforementioned lies, will serve as a means to justify and magnify Christian persecution—against those who are easily identifiable because they do not have the Beast’s mark!

“Since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction.” 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9

## Christian Response to the Beast

There will be many who know and see truth—and they will spiritually recognize the Beast is the embodiment and personification of Satan, and the fulfillment of prophecy. As such, Christians will become more vocal during the last days—as they warn against the Beast and declare the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

However, as the power and control of the Beast becomes more dominant, it will become increasingly difficult for Christians to warn others about the Beast, and to share their faith as persecution increases. It is highly probable the Beast will declare Christians should be stopped via whatever means—for this is what religious and government leaders did to Jesus and His disciples, and what Hitler did to the Jews.

The Bible reveals Christians will die for their testimony. *“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”* Revelation 20:4

If the rapture occurs prior to the murderous events described above, those who will die for their testimony may have committed their lives to Christ after they witnessed the Rapture. If so, these are those who heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and were aware of future prophetic events—but failed to make a decision for Jesus and were left behind—and now must endure unimaginable hardship, afflictions, and even death for their faith. As such, now is the time to prepare your heart and be continually ready!

Jesus said, *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”* Matthew 24:36-44

The following scripture is relevant for all Christians living at this time. *“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”* 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Christians will experience unimaginable fear during the Tribulation. As such, remember the following:

- Jesus said, *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Matthew 10:28
- *“Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways.”* Psalm 128:1

## The Beast's Final Demise

The culmination of Satan's desire is to destroy Israel; and to kill every Jew and every person who is saved by faith in Jesus—as he amasses armies around Israel. Jesus warned us about these times: **“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.”** Luke 21:20

Known as the Battle of Armageddon, is when the Beast, the False Prophet, and kings of the earth (who will fall prey to the Beast via the performance of signs by demons) will gather their armies together to attack Israel.

“Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. **‘Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.’** And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.” Revelation 16:12-16

However, victory in this battle will not occur because of human tactics and earthly power. This war against Israel's enemies will be won by Jesus Christ—the Messiah promised by God.

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, ‘Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great.’ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.” Revelation 19:11-21

It is important for all to realize...all that has occurred, is occurring, and will occur...is about the Israelites. God made promises to His chosen...and He will fulfill every one of them.

God said to Abram, **“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you.”** Genesis 12:2-3



All of the darkness; all of the division, all of the anger, all of the destruction, all of the death; and all of the unimaginable events the world will experience during the last days—will be allowed by God as a means to separate the wheat from the tares, as He places Israel in the center of His universe when Jesus returns.

Jesus will simultaneously destroy Satan, the Beast, the False Prophet, Israel's enemies, and fulfill God's promises. This is when God's beloved will realize Jesus Christ is His promised Messiah—the one whom they pierced—and they will mourn.

“In that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them. It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” Zechariah 12:8-10

Satan received an eternal death sentence for his attempt to overthrow God. Similar to a person who receives a death sentence for their crime is put into prison to await execution of their physical body. Satan was thrown out of Heaven and cast down to earth to await his execution in the lake of fire—for spirits (including our soul) will never die. However, those who are thrown into the lake of fire will greatly desire the absolute extermination of their existence—because the eternal torment of God's wrath far exceeds any form of torture man has devised, and beyond human comprehension.

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:10-15

## What is Your Response?

Take a close look at what's going on in the world today. Although there is increasing division between people, strife, hatred, and chaos; although we are shocked daily by the number of people killing one another, and by the atrocities of world leaders; and although we have a deep awareness that something is not right and the future looks unsure and bleak—things will get much worse.

As we see last day events come to fruition, it will serve as a confirmation we are witnessing the fulfillment of prophecy. If it is your heart's desire to fulfill the demands of your flesh—you know your final destiny. However, if you desire to seek and know God, there is a much better way.

Jesus Christ willingly gave His life as a ransom for our sins so that we can be forgiven and live for eternity with Him in Heaven? Jesus said, **“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”** Matthew 20:28

There is nothing we can do to improve ourselves to make us more acceptable to God—for if this was possible He would not have sent His Son to die for our sins. It is only when we are truly forgiven is when the darkness, and bondage, and consequences of sin is replaced by His light, His grace, and His love—which causes a compelling desire to well up from within our heart to follow and serve Him.

Jesus said, **“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”** Revelation 3:20

It is an indescribable feeling when we know Jesus is knocking on the door to our heart. However, this is also when an unseen spiritual battle is going on for our soul—because lies will also enter into our thoughts that provide reasons to not let Him in.

Spending eternity with Jesus begins with a simple prayer—from your heart—unto God. If you decide to let Him in...pray in this manner:

*Holy God, I am a sinner. I believe Your Son, Jesus, paid the price for my sins when He died on the cross. Jesus, I open the door of my heart to you, and ask you to live within me as my Savior and Lord. Holy Spirit change me to become more like Jesus and less like myself.*

To learn more about Jesus, discover more about yourself, and understand God's love for you...first read “3 Types of Death 1 Source of life” then “What is a Born-Again Christian” on UniqueBibleStudies.com.

Prepare because He is coming soon!

All for His Glory!  
Harold D. Thomas

**Please share this lesson with others.**