

Session 9 Biblical Trends Related to Gentile Nations

I. TREND #1: A URGENT CRY FOR WORLD PEACE AND SAFETY

We are on session nine of a fourteen-session course here at IHOPU. Tonight we are talking about signs of the times related to the Gentile nations. Now it is important that we know these signs because they are in the Bible, though I would go as far to say that most believers do not think much about these signs related to the Gentile nations.

The fact that the Lord put them in the Word of God as a gift to a generation means we want to pay attention to them, and we want to be familiar with them. Because when we are familiar with them—I mean more than a little casually, a bit more than that—then we can notice what is happening in the nations and how it corresponds with God’s end-time plan. As I have said on several occasions, our natural tendency is to get stuck in the bubble of our own agendas and pain and struggle, just because we are normal weak people. It is very normal. When we see the signs of the times, however, we see there is a divine narrative, that there is a divine storyline going on. We see what the Bible says, then we watch it happen in society, and it pulls us out of our own bubble for a few moments. We see there is a bigger storyline, there is something remarkable, something very important, something that is dangerous as well as glorious, as well as earth changing.

Things are not going to be like they always were, and that is what these prophetic signs are meant to say. They are messages. They are trumpet blasts from heaven. For the uninspired imagination and the uninspired mind looking at it, it is just a piece of information in the Bible. So what? When we begin to see what the Lord sees in these signs, in these trumpets, in these signposts, then it awakens us and grabs us; it arrests us. We see this is really happening, though this was unforeseeable 100 years ago or a 1,000 years ago or 2,000 years ago.

- A. The Antichrist will establish a temporary peace in Israel and the Middle East that will impact many throughout the earth. The Antichrist will be revealed on the world stage as a man of peace.

³When they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction [Great Tribulation] comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. They shall not escape. (1 Thes. 5:3)

We are going to look at several trends tonight. Number one, the urgent cry for world peace happening in the nations. Now there has always been a cry for peace in anyone’s particular nation, but there has never been the urgency across the globe like there has been the last 100 years for world peace, because we are in a global connectedness in a way we have never been in history.

That cry for peace is not only peace related to military conflicts, it is also for safety. When we hear the word “safety,” we think of terrorism, we think of famine, we think of economic collapse. Because the world is so connected in this hour like it has never been before, there is a global cry for global peace and safety which is a new reality. It is coming to greater and greater urgency.

Well, there is going to be peace and safety. Men are going to establish it in their own way. It is going to happen. So the cry for peace and safety is actually going to be accomplished. It is going to be accomplished by men and women—I am using the word men in the generic sense—human beings. They are going to find a way to bring peace, but they are looking for it right now. The very cry of it is conditioning the nations for that one leader who is actually going to bring a temporary peace and safety to the nations. The cry of it is rising right now because the trouble is increasing, the distress is increasing, the economic problems are increasing. Terrorism is about to go to a whole new level in the next decade or two, way beyond what is happening right now. So the

global cry is, “We need a solution!” Now people are not necessarily crying out for one man. They are just crying out for a solution. That global cry is setting the conditions for that man to emerge.

1 Thessalonians 5 is a very significant prophecy of Paul, meaning this is not a secondary piece of information. This is a main part of God’s end-time plans. Verse 3, when they say, “Peace and safety,” then the next thing that happens is the Great Tribulation. So when the nations are claiming peace and safety, it is a pre-Great Tribulation reality. There is a growing crisis right now that is going to come to a place where people are resolved to have peace and safety. Then the Lord says that they are going to find it is a temporary superficial peace and safety. It will not be real, and it will not be lasting, because it is not built on truth.

So they cry, “Peace and safety,” and the “they” that is mentioned in verse 3 is mentioned twice. They cried “Peace and safety,” then at the end of the verse, “they will not escape.” The “they” are the unbelieving masses in the nations who are not acknowledging and honoring the leadership of Jesus. That is the “they.” It is the people outside of covenant with God.

Paul says that peace and safety is going to happen. Again the point being we know it is going to take place and the cry for it right now is increasing so intensely that in itself it is a sign of the time. Because 100 years ago there was not this same urgency. World War I was just breaking out about a little over 100 years ago. The global awareness of the need for peace and safety across the globe was not something that was dominating the global narrative. In fact almost nothing was dominating the global narrative because all the nations were mostly in bubbles and regions, separated from one another.

As you know, the man the Antichrist will appear on the world stage first as a man of peace. He will deceive the nations, as he will come with the solutions. He will come with political unity. It will all happen. Then he will pull his mask off and show himself as a man of war.

- B. The claim of peace and safety will be heard throughout the nations just prior to the sudden destruction that will be seen in the Great Tribulation. There will appear to be a cessation of military conflict, civil strife, terrorism, economic collapse, etc.
- C. The Antichrist will offer solutions to the turmoil in the nations that will occur during the beginning of birth pangs (Mt. 24:4-8). The Antichrist will establish peace by making a seven-year covenant with many nations. In Hebrew, a “week” could be either seven days or seven years (Gen. 29: 27-18; Dan. 9:25-27; cf. Dan. 10:2).

²⁷**He [Antichrist] shall confirm a covenant [peace treaty] with many for one week [7 years]... (Dan. 9:27)**

The Antichrist will offer solutions. Again people are trying to find those solutions right now. I mean the heads of nations and all kinds of coalitions and groups are working on these problems. You know the G-12, the G-20, the leaders in Africa, the nations in Asia, the nations in Latin America, North America—they are all trying to find ways to make this happen right now on a global scale.

We know that he is going to establish a seven-year covenant. There is going to be a seven-year covenant that is going to be the human end of this cry for peace and safety. We have looked at that at other sessions so we will not develop that now.

II. TREND # 2: ONE WORLD GOVERNMENT—A NEW WORLD ORDER

- A. Millions across the nations see the value of one unified world government. The most challenging issues facing the nations are international in nature, including terrorism, the global financial crisis, famine, disease, and more. The growing crisis in these issues has made the need for global cooperation obvious and thus makes global governance an attractive solution.

Trend number two, the cry for peace and safety is going to dovetail together with a cry for a one-world government. Now we have heard of that for about the last forty to fifty years. It has been a theme that has been talked about. Consider that for 5,000 years of human history nobody thought about it really, or it was very, very rare that people thought about it. The last fifty years it has been talked about. The last five or ten years it has gone to a whole new level because of the crisis and because of the synergism that could happen. That is, not just the avoidance of crisis but the positive benefits that could happen with global cooperation together.

Millions will see the value of one unified world government. Currently nobody agrees on who should lead that government or how it should happen. There is a growing consensus that there are great opportunities of economic prosperity and peace that can be realized by it. There is tremendous crisis that can be avoided or problems that can be answered by it.

Now the most challenging issues that are facing the nations are international in nature. For instance, terrorism is obviously an international problem, not just a local problem for one nation. It is local, and it is international. Then there is the global financial crisis which is right there on the bubble right now. I mean we are at the breaking point, and nobody knows if we will hang on for five years, ten years, fifteen years or a few months. Nobody knows. The economic scholars, the forecasters, and leaders of the nations all have different opinions concerning if the bubble is going to break really soon or if it is not going to break for a little while. Most of them are sure are pretty agreed upon that there is a great financial crisis that is not far away.

Well, their answer is a global plan and everybody working together. So the global cooperation is becoming obvious. Leaders are willing and nations are willing to give up some of their national liberties in order to have international safety and cooperation. Just like in our nation and many nations individuals are willing to give up their personal liberties to have greater safety in their nation, so they are accepting greater government restrictions, laws, and policies and less of the liberties, so on a global level it is the same way. Nations are saying, "We would like to be totally independent, but we would rather be safe, and we would rather be prosperous, so we will give up our independence to a measure in order to have the greater benefit." Thus the concept of a global government is becoming more and more attractive as the problems increase.

- B. There is a deliberate move toward a one-world government in the United Nations (193 nations in 2016). There is a call for the political identity of a new World Order with the push to minimize national boundaries and establish one world currency, military, political process, etc.

Today there is a very deliberate move towards a one-world government in the United Nations. Right now there are 193 nations in the United Nations. There are about 200 nations on the planet, and the number is larger if you count territories and different designations, but 200 is a ballpark number. They have been talking for several decades about a new world order, and now more and more. They are actually wanting to get plans and ways for the economics to work together, for trade to work together and for militaries to work together in a far greater way. In the last ten or twenty years that has increased dramatically.

There is a call for the political identity of a new world order with a push to minimize national boundary lines. We see that in Europe, in the European Union where the national boundary lines are very, very minimal. Other

leaders are saying, “Why can’t we do that in a broader base than Europe? Why can’t we do that in all kinds of coalition of nations working together?”

There is a push to establish a world currency. Now we are a few steps away from that, but there are already regional currencies, like the euro in Europe and other plans with nations in Asia. They are talking about, “What if we have an Asian coalition and we have a currency that is unified that can compete with Europe and compete with the dollar in North America. What about this and that?” So all kinds of discussions are happening.

It is more than a world currency and minimizing national borders. They want to see a unified military strategy. I mean that is the way you can really go after the bad guys—if all the militaries are unified together. Of course then you have to have a government to control the military so it does not get out of control as well as to protect the unified currency. So you got to have a unified government, a rule of law, if you are going to have a unified currency and military. Obviously most of you are super aware of all of these things, but the fact is that it is increasing so dramatically.

The point I want to make is that we are so used to this in the last five, ten, fifteen years that we could lose sight of the fact that it is predicted in the Word of God and was impossible to happen for thousands of years, not even a chance of it. For so long it was not within view, not within possibility. Now it is almost a given that these things will happen to some degree. We know from the Bible it is going to happen in a little bit more than a small degree. It is almost a given. I mean even the most biblically uninformed person can tell you that we are moving in that direction. What they do not know is the Bible said this thousands of years ago. It pointed out one generation of time when all these signs would come together.

- C. The Antichrist will possess unusual diplomatic skills that will enable him to establish the most powerful political coalition with the largest army and the most money of any leader in history. He will have *some* authority and *some* worshippers in every nation, but will not dominate each nation.

³All the world marveled and followed the Beast [Antichrist]...⁴saying, “Who is like the Beast? Who is able to make war with him?”...⁷Authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ...⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him... (Rev. 13:3-4, 8)

It says here talking about the Antichrist that there is going to be a world leader about whom the world will marvel. They are going to follow the Beast who is the Antichrist. They will say, “Who is like him? Who is able to resist him? Who can war against him and win?” Who can resist him and still survive and succeed is the idea.

Verse 7, “Authority will be given him over every tribe and nation.” Verse 8, “All who dwell on the earth will worship him.” Now word “all” in verse 3 and in verse 8, and the words “every tribe and tongue” in verse 7 are troubling. It is this passage that has made some people say, “Well, why are we even resisting? He is going to dominate everything.” That is not really what the scripture says: that he is going to dominate everything. I think that he will have some impact and some authority and some influence in every nation. He will not dominate every nation. It is not talking about total authority and domination. He will have some measure of impact and influence in every nation. The Bible is very clear in a number of passages, particularly the end of Daniel 11, that there are a number of nations that are resisting him to the very end and he cannot get them under his control. So do not have the idea that when it says that he will have authority over all nations that it means he will dominate them in the way we think of domination. Yes, he will have influence, and every nation will have to contend with his authority. However, there will be a number of nations that will not come under it in the complete sense. They will be resisting it all the time.

Again the analogy I have used in the past is what happened in France with Adolf Hitler. It is not a perfect analogy, but many in France resisted Hitler even though he had authority in France. There was part of the government that submitted to Hitler and said, “We are going to just do what you want,” and a whole other part of the government went underground and resisted him. There were certain economics and markets and values and things going on in total resistance. Hitler could not get complete control of that nation of France.

I think there will be other nations in that final hour that will have even greater resistance of the Antichrist than the analogy I am using with France. So do not have the idea it is over and so we might as well give up and give in. No, no, that is not what it means! It means that his presence will be contested in every nation.

The real point I am making is not about his world presence. It is the fact there will be a new world order. The cry in the nations, and many politicians moving in that direction, is that is where history is going—to a new world order that has based in evil, but it will not prevail in the whole world and it will be very temporary. Then the real new world order is coming when a Jewish King with a resurrected body returns to rule all the nations of the earth. There is a new world order that is coming, so you can be sure of that!

- D. The tension in the financial crisis today is that we have global financial markets without global rule of law. Therefore global infrastructures are moving from being nation-based to having a globally unified expression (Rev. 17-18).

*The tension in the financial crisis today is that we have global financial markets but we do not have a global rule of law. So all the markets are influenced by each other, but we do not have one government over all of them. There is a lot of chaos that is going on. So the leaders of the great convergence of the earth and the politicians are saying that we need to see a global infrastructure that is moved away from a nation-based infrastructure to more of a global expression. And, it is obvious that it is happening right now. A hundred years ago it was unforeseeable. Fifty years ago this was unforeseeable. For thousands of years this has been in the Word of God, but unforeseeable. It is super obvious to us now, but what is the point of it being obvious? **These prophetic signs form a divine message that you are living in the only hour of history where these things are actually happening together on a global level.***

- E. Many propose one-world technology, economy, communication, trade, security, military, religion, as well as geopolitical cooperation, travel, and info. Some today are calling for one global currency.

III. TREND #3: THE RISE OF A 10-NATION SUPERSTATE

- A. Scripture prophesies a *10-nation superstate*—from Russian, European, Middle Eastern, and North and East African nations (Ezek. 38:2-6). This 10-nation confederation will be based in some of the territory where the Roman Empire was once based. Daniel, Ezekiel, and John prophetically described this superstate (Dan. 2:41-44; 7:7, 20, 24-25; 9:26-27; Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 17:3, 7, 12, 16).

¹²***The ten horns which you saw are ten kings...they receive authority...with the beast [Antichrist].***

¹³***These are of one mind, and they will give their...authority to the beast. (Rev. 17:12-13)***

*The third trend is the rise of a ten-nation superstate. It is more than the European Union. The European Union, in my opinion, will be **one** of the ten nations. It will be seen as one of the ten. I remember hearing Bible teachers in the 1970s who thought it was the European Union because at one time it had ten nations. They thought, “Oh, that is the ten nations that the Bible talks about,” because Daniel the prophet as well as John the apostle both described a ten-nation confederation.*

My opinion is that the European Union is one of those ten. It will be far bigger than Europe. It will involve a number of Middle East nations. I believe it will involve a significant part of Russia and the former Soviet Union. It will be all one superstate under one leader and under one government. That is where it is going. The reason we want to know this is not to try to make sure it does not happen. It is going to happen. As we watch different policies and conversations of top leaders in the globe moving in these kinds of directions, we are alerted. We understand that we are really living in that hour of history where this storyline is building in an overt, obvious, global way.

Again most the nations are not even aware there is a divine storyline going on. They just think it is the most natural thing. They do not know that thousands of years ago it was all prophesied and laid out that there would be the signs of that hour when the new world order was coming and the power of the resurrection would touch all the nations of the earth when Jesus returns.

Well, just to get it clear in your mind, because you want to have this really clear, there is a ten-nation coalition prophesied in the Bible. Ten nations, ten regions even. I think it is more than just nations. It is “kings,” but they are over maybe a cluster of nations in some cases representing under one king. I believe this ten-nation superstate will involve Russian, European, Middle Eastern, North African, and Eastern African nations, because the nations are specified; they are laid out in the Bible, and they are going to come together in a unity. You can see the early signs of that movement right now. If you are aware of what the Bible says, you can connect it to the Scripture.

In Revelation 17, John said he saw it in the open vision. The angel said, “Hey John, you see those ten horns?”—on the Antichrist is what he meant—“They are ten kings who are going to be working with him; that is what is going on.” Of course John could have said that that is what Daniel saw back in Daniel chapters 2 and 7. I have the verses there. Daniel saw that 500 years before John did.

Well, the real story is that God saw it long before Daniel or John. The real story is God saying, “I want My people to be aware of it so you are not surprised. When it unfolds little by little, your urgency and your boldness and your confidence increases as this steadily unfolds before your eyes.”

These ten kings in Revelation 17:12 will receive authority over ten nations or ten clusters of nations. They will have their authority in unity with the beast, the Antichrist. It is more intense than that. Verse 13, they will be of one mind. These ten nations will come together of one mind. They will give their authority to the Antichrist. So these ten nations or clusters of nations will come together, and there will be a new world order. It is really going to happen. It will only be very short-term, but it will serve God’s larger purposes. Daniel prophesied it, Ezekiel prophesied it, and John prophesied it.

I have a little bit of information on these nations here. They are going to occupy some of the same territory that the ancient Roman Empire occupied. If that is a brand new idea to you, you can look at the information on the notes about that. It is a pretty standard idea. Most anybody who studied even the elementary ideas of end-time prophecy understands that the Antichrist ten-nation confederation will be related to where the Roman Empire was, both the Western part of the Roman Empire which is the European part, and the Eastern part of the Roman Empire, which is the Middle East/Islamic part. This world coalition will be deeply involved or rooted or established in those parts of the world. I would put Russia in there as well and parts of North Africa and East Africa.

- B. This 10-nation confederation will give their authority to the Antichrist—this will be one of the most significant political events in human history. It will result in one man leading the most powerful political, military, and economic alliances in history. The Antichrist and his 10-nation superstate will exercise a measure of authority over all nations. He will have the greatest power base of any leader in history, which will also include the largest religious network ever.

⁷***Authority was given him [Antichrist] over every tribe, tongue, and nation. (Rev. 13:7)***

- C. Ezekiel identified 8 of the 10 nations using the ancient names of 5 nations (Ezek. 38:2-6). Gog is the Antichrist who will rule from the land of Magog, Meshech (western Russia), and Tubal (central Russia). Gog is the “rosh” which is Hebrew for “chief prince” (38:2, 39:1). Other nations include Persia (Iran), Ethiopia (Sudan/East Africa), Libya (North Africa), Gomer (north of the Caucasus Mountains in Ukraine or western/central Russia), and Togarmah (eastern Turkey). Ethiopia is modern-day Sudan. Many scholars identify Gomer as originally located north of the Caucasus Mountains in the area of the Ukraine, and Togarmah as the area of eastern Turkey. Some see Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah as all in the region of modern-day Turkey and Syria.

²***Set your face against Gog [Antichrist], of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal [Russia], and prophesy against him, ³and say, ... “I am against you, O Gog, the prince of Rosh... ⁵Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya are with them... ⁶Gomer and all its troops; the house of Togarmah from the far north and all its troops... (Ezek. 38:2-6)***

Ezekiel identified eight of these ten nations. Now the challenge is that he uses some of the ancient names for these nations. Ezekiel was 2,500 years ago, in 500 BC. So 2,500 years ago what were these nations called? You know we are reading it today and we are thinking, “Huh. Where is Magog? Which nation is Magog?” There is quite a bit on the internet, and there is quite a bit of information that is up-to-date. There is quite a bit of unity on it, yet there is also a little bit of difference. You know, some will say it is this nation and some will say it is the nation next door to it. But the general area is very clear. It is Turkey, Syria, Middle East, Iran, Iraq, Russia, and Europe. It is quite clear it is those nations and some nations in Northern Africa—Libya—and then Ethiopia, Eastern Africa as well.

So 2,500 years ago Ezekiel laid out eight of the ten nations. It says in verse 2—this is the Lord telling Ezekiel to prophesy 2,500 years in advance—He said, “Set your face against Gog and prophesy against him.” Now I believe that Gog is the Antichrist. Gog is not a nation. I believe that Gog is the title of the evil world leader like you can have a title like Caesar or prime minister. It is no one in particular, no particular man. You could have a religious title of Pope that is not one man but referred to any number of men through history. So it is a title; it is a position. I think that Gog, whom we find in Ezekiel 38, we find again in the book of Revelation 20. I do not think it is the same man. I think it is a title. It is again like Caesar, prime minister, president, and it is the most powerful, wicked world leader in unity with Satan. That is his title, “Gog.” That is what the Bible calls him. So do not think of that as his first name, and do not think of Gog as a nation, but think of it as a prophetic title of the most powerful man who is being inspired by the devil who is resisting God’s purpose in a prophetic hour. There are two Gogs. There is one who is the Antichrist at the end of the age, and there is another Gog at the end of the Millennium. It is not the Antichrist. Again same title, same position as the world demonic leader, but not the same man. The Antichrist does not come out of the pit and get raised from the dead. It is not that kind of thing.

So he says in verse 2, “Set your face against Gog of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal. Prophesy against him and say, ‘I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Persia,’—that is Iran,

“Ethiopia,”—well, that says Ethiopia, but it is all of East Africa because Ethiopia in the ancient world was not just Ethiopia as it is today; it was any of the most major nations in that area that were south of Egypt—“Libya”—that is North Africa—“Gomer”—many scholars believe that is the area of the Ukraine. Then it goes on and describes these other nations here.

So you can read a little more about that. There are three primary nations. Then there are five secondary nations. Together—three plus five—there are eight nations that are given. These eight nations give us great insight as to what it is happening. I think my best guess is—and I do not have this definitively, but I got this idea from Bible teachers and scholars through the years—that Magog might be the European Union, because it is a big area and it is not Russia, it is not Turkey, and it is not Syria. It is bigger than that is what it seems like, but we are not really sure. We know it is that whole geographic area.

So we have different Bible teachers who might have set the boundaries slightly differently. It might be this nation or the nation next door to it. All are agreed that it is that general area of the world where the leaders are going to come together in unity under the powers of darkness to stand against God’s purposes, particularly to go after and attack Israel with all of their might, with all of their oil, with all of their armies. The Lord is going to defeat them openly before all the nations.

I have a little bit more here on this ten-nation confederation. There is so much on the internet on all of this stuff. I am trying just to give you the broad strokes so you are at least informed enough, if this is new to you, to where you can actually pay attention to it and be more intrigued by it. Well, more than intrigued, since where you are, you must have a hunger to understand it. That is what this course is about: to give you the main broad strokes to get your attention stirred up and your hunger awakened.

- D. Daniel prophesied that the Antichrist’s empire would be built upon the historical foundation of four successive, ancient, cruel, anti-Semitic empires, referred to as “beast empires”—Babylon (Iraq), Persia (Iran), Greece, and the Roman Empire (Dan. 7:1-8). The Antichrist’s kingdom will incorporate the evil of all four of these ancient kingdoms. The demonic elements of the four empires will be fully expressed in the Antichrist’s empire as a composite “fourth beast”(Dan. 7:11-12). The four kingdoms will come to fullness and find expression in Antichrist’s empire (Rev. 13:2)
- E. Daniel prophesied two distinct stages in the Roman Empire—the ancient empire and a revived Roman Empire with 10 nations (ten horns), led by the little horn, the Antichrist (Dan. 7:23-24).
- F. **Ancient Roman Empire:** This includes the western (146 BC–AD 476) and eastern (AD 330–1453) divisions of the empire. The Eastern Roman Empire, called the Byzantine Empire, lasted 1,000 years after the fall of Rome. The capital of the empire moved from Rome to Istanbul in Turkey. The Eastern Roman Empire continued until 1453, when it fell to the Ottoman Empire (based in Turkey), which had a strong Islamic rule and culture.

IV. TREND #4: THE RISE OF ASIA

- A. John saw a vision of Asian kings from the east. This passage is both negative and positive. It is positive because the Asian leaders will resist the Antichrist’s seductions and threats until just weeks before Jesus returns to destroy him. They will stand fortified throughout the Tribulation until the final weeks. This passage is negative in that these kings eventually succumb to the Antichrist.

¹²The 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. ¹³I saw three unclean spirits...coming

out of the mouth of the dragon [Satan],...the Beast [Antichrist], and...the false prophet. ¹⁴They are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth...to gather them to the battle of that great day...¹⁶to the place called...Armageddon. (Rev. 16:12-16)

Trend number four is the rise of Asia. Now 2,000 years ago John saw a vision concerning Asia, a vision of the kings of the East. Now 2,000 years ago the kings of the East did not have any global power. 2,000 years ago Rome had significant power in the world, but the kings of the East were not in unity, number one. Number two, collectively they did not have any global influence that was part of the global conversation. That sort of thing was unthinkable: that this remote group over in the East would rise up, being so remote from the Roman empire and the civilization that John was familiar with and Israel and the whole Middle East narrative that was going on. John said that there is a group of kings over in the East who are going to rise up. He gave this prophecy 2,000 years ago. It did not make any sense because there was no great power base in the East at that time that John could have been aware of or anybody would have been aware of in the natural.

Now this prophecy that I am going to read here is both positive and negative. At first all you might see is the negative: that the kings of the East are deceived by the Devil and the Antichrist at the end. The part you might not catch at a quick reading is that the timing when this happens is literally a couple weeks before the second coming. This takes place at the very, very end. The positive note in this prophecy is that prior to this the kings of the East had been resisting the Antichrist and withstanding him fiercely and firmly.

So when I look at the kings of the East, I say, “Lord, what kind of power base in the natural and what kind of spiritual power base are involved for the kings of the East to resist the Antichrist to the very last days of this age?” I mean right through the Tribulation they resist him and resist him. They resist his seductions. He promises them great things. They say, “No.”

They resist his threats, “I am going to destroy you if you will not do what I am telling you.”

They resist it. They say, “No, we are standing against you.” It is the only cluster or coalition of nations in the Bible that stands against him firmly all the way till the end.

So I ask the question. Something is going on in Asia that is more than just military might and economic power. There is a spiritual reality going on in Asia. Of course I think it is a dynamic prayer movement that is behind it. I believe that there will be an explosion of the prayer movement in Asia. It is already happening now. It is already, and we can see the beginning of what is going to be the spiritual influence behind this resistance.

Well, let’s read the prophecy. Revelation 16:12, “The sixth angel poured out his bowl.” Again this is days before the second coming of Christ at the very end of the Great Tribulation. He poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates and the water was dried up so that the kings of the East might be able to come and join in in the great battle against Jerusalem. Again, it is the final weeks of this age.

Verse 13, “I saw three unclean spirits coming out of the mouth of Satan the Dragon, the Antichrist the beast, and the false prophet.” So Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet are saving their mightiest miracles on the global stage for this hour, which tells you again a little bit about the kings of the East. The kings of the East have been resisting. Satan says, “I am going to have to use my most powerful deception ever in history and miracles beyond measure to get them to submit to this thing.”

Again, the negative is that in the final days they submit. but the positive is that in those final years they have stood strong, fortified against the plans of evil. That tells us something about what is happening in Asia. It is going to have a mighty power in the natural, and it is going to have a mighty power in the spirit. So as a person who understands a little bit of the implications of this, I step back and I pray, “Lord, I want to see the trends of

power in the natural in Asia and I want to see the trends of spiritual power, the prayer movement, revival in the Church.” We are seeing the prayer movement growing very strong in Asia. We are seeing all kinds of movement in Asia as well. I have a bit of it written here on the notes, which we will not spend much time on. There is a coalition of Asian nations, and they are coming into alliances that are giving them power unknown in world history regarding the East. I mean 100 years ago this was unforeseeable. Two thousand years ago when John prophesied it, it was really unforeseeable. It has only happened in one generation, and it is happening now. That is to alert us that we are living in that hour when this unforeseeable dynamic along with many of the other ones as well as we have covered in this course are taking place.

- B. The Antichrist will hear troubling news from Asian kings, who will resist his financial seductions, refuse his demonic miracles, and stand against his threats. China, Korea, Japan, India and others will have military forces powerful enough to trouble the Antichrist’s mighty empire (Dan. 11:44).

⁴⁴But news from the east [Asia] and the north shall trouble him [Antichrist]... (Dan. 11:44)

Daniel saw it too, in Daniel 11. Now Daniel was 500 years before John. Daniel was prophesying at the same time Ezekiel was, in 500 BC. Daniel saw news from the East that was troubling the Antichrist. I mean the Antichrist is the most powerful political military and economic leader in human history by far. No one has ever had the size of an army with the sophisticated weapons, the economic base, the people base of Middle East nations, North African nations, Europe, Russia that the Antichrist will have. I mean that is a power base all in unity. There is a group of nations in the east that will trouble him. I think, “Wow! If you are troubling a man that powerful, you have got something going on.” I mean they are not just insulting him on the internet! They are resisting him because there is natural and spiritual power that is enabling them to cause him trouble. Now if you are reading Daniel 11:47 just really quickly, you might think, “The kings from the East will trouble him, no problem.” No, that is a serious point! I mean this is huge! This is the most powerful military economic coalition in human history being troubled by leaders from the East.

- C. Asia is rising to world dominance economically, militarily, and politically. China has the largest standing army on earth (2.3 million; the USA is 1.4 million and India is third with 1.3 million). Many project that within a decade 40% of the gross domestic product of the earth will be produced by China and India. China excels in mass manufacturing, and India specializes in software design and services. These two emerging giants are transforming the global economy.

Asia is rapidly rising to dominance politically, militarily, economically. Again I want to add the word spiritually in terms of the growing prayer movement. So many houses of prayer are growing in Asia right now. So many church leaders are wanting to cultivate a culture of prayer. It is a new reality that is very, very encouraging spiritually as well.

You go back seventy years ago. It is 2016 now, so go back seventy years ago to 1946. At that time it was unforeseeable that Asia would have world dominance. It just was not foreseeable, at least not to many of the political and economic forecasters. I do not think it was an obvious thing at all seventy years ago. Now it is obvious to everybody; now it is unmistakable. A thousand years ago that was not obvious at all.

China now has the largest standing army on the earth. Many project that China and India added together will produce forty percent of the gross domestic product of the earth. Coming from these two nations, forty percent of the whole earth. Imagine that from two nations. Now China excels in manufacturing, and India in software design and services. These two are moving closer together, and they are talking about alliances and coalitions.

They are having the same conversations, though I am sure there are different nuances, with South Korea, with Japan, and a host of other of the smaller nations in Asia.

- D. In 1967, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed by 10 smaller Asian nations. In 1997, China, Japan, and South Korea joined the group. ASEAN has the goal of moving towards an “EU-style community” with a visa-free travel between its member states, and some of its leaders are advocating the establishing of a common currency.

This began slowly. For 2,000 years you could not see a trace of it. Then in 1967 was the very slow beginning, almost unnoticed on the global scene. In 1967 ten smaller Asian nations formed the Association of Southeast Asia Nations. These ten smaller nations said, “Hey, let’s work together.” That was good, but it did not make big world news. It did not seem that threatening to the power base of Europe and America economically.

Then in 1997 China, Japan, and South Korea said they wanted to be a part of this group. Now they are discussing a European-Union style community together. Like, “Hey, the EU did it. Why can’t we do it and have the free passage between the nations and have a unified currency so that we could compete with them in a very dynamic way and overcome them?”

- E. China, Japan, and India are the three who hold the most power, accounting for 50% of the world’s population, 25% of its economy, and 50% of its nuclear warheads.

China, India, and Japan are the three in the most powerful positions in Asia. Together they account for fifty percent of the world population, twenty-five percent of the world economy, and fifty percent of the nuclear warheads in the world. So my point being, this rise of the kings of the east that John prophesied in Revelation 16 and Daniel prophesied in Daniel 11, this rise of the power of the east which was unforeseeable seventy years ago, 100 years ago, 2,000 years ago, is suddenly very, very obvious and right before us in a very dynamic way. It is right in the global conversation in a main way.

V. TREND #5: THE RISE OF RUSSIA

- A. Ezekiel identified the three primary nations who will serve under the Antichrist (Ezek. 38:2) *Gog* is the Antichrist—he will rule from the land of *Magog*, *Meshech*, and *Tubal*. Many scholars today see *Meshech* as western Russia and *Tubal* as western and central Russia, while some see *Meshech*, *Tubal*, *Gomer*, and *Togarmah* as located in the region of modern-day Turkey and Syria.

²Set your face against Gog [Antichrist], of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech [a region in Russia], and Tubal [also in Russia], and prophesy against him, ³and say, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I am against you, O Gog...⁸In the latter years you will come into the land of those...gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel...¹⁵Then you will come from your place out of the far north, you and many peoples with you...a mighty army. (Ezek. 38:2-15)

The fifth trend is the rise of Russia. Let’s go back to that passage in Ezekiel 38. It says in verse 2, “Set your face against Gog,” the Antichrist. Gog is of the land of Magog, Meshech, and Tubal. Most scholars, not all—there is some disagreement, but certainly by far the majority of the scholars that teach on this—say that Meshech and Tubal is western Russia to central Russia. Again different ones have different boundary lines. Others see it as involving Turkey and Syria as well. Either way it is all right there, clustered together. Here is what the Lord says to this leader over what I believe to be these nations. It seems best to me to understand it this way, using the resource of many Bible teachers and their scholarship, their knowledge of Hebrew and the geography and the ancient history, etc.

The Lord says, “Prophesy against him.” Verse 3, “Say this, ‘Thus says the Lord, I am against you, O Gog.’” Verse 8, “In the latter years”—or in the last days is the idea—“you will come into the land of Israel.” And here is what he is saying here. Basically he is saying, “You are going to come with your whole coalition and you are going to attack Israel. I am telling you that is going to happen.”

Of course they might puff their chest out and say, “Wow, man! We are going to go conquer them!”

The Lord tells Ezekiel to tell them, “Thus says the Lord, ‘I am going to wipe you out when you do that. I am going to stand against you, and the whole earth will know that I am the God of Israel.’” That is what is going to happen. Well, that is the bigger story line. That is not our point right here, but I wanted to slip that in.

Verse 15, the point I want you to see here is that they come out of the north from their place. Their place is in the far north. Again most Bible prophecy teachers say the far north of Israel directly is Russia. “You will come with many people.” In other words, you will have a mighty following; you will have great influence, great resources. Many people means you have influence, authority, resource. You are mobilized. You are going to have a mighty army. The idea is this cluster of nations—these three primary nations here but Meschech and Tubal—are going to have a mighty coalition of nations working under them or have a mighty nation army themselves.

So Russia is going to emerge on the world scene again. Now many of Bible teachers saw the Soviet Union really take off after World War II. They saw that after Hitler was out of the way and was dead, and World War II was over, then Stalin formed this block of all the eastern European nations—the Soviet Union—and it just looked invincible under Stalin after World War II. It was 1945 when World War II was over. For almost fifty years it just seemed like they were so powerful, the number one challenge to the Western world and the Western powers in America. Then in 1989 it just kind of disassembled. People thought after 1989, “Well, Russia is out. Their economy is in ruins. There are all kinds of civil unrest, all kinds of broken infrastructure.” All the other nations broke off, and it looked like Russia is out of the storyline entirely.

Ezekiel 38 tells us, “No, no, they are not. They are going to have a comeback.” They are going to comeback fiercely with a great and mighty army beyond anything that you can imagine. We can see the beginning of that right now. They still have a few steps to go, but we can easily see the re-emergence of Russia after seemingly they had been taken out of the global conversation as a real player and a real threat. Now they are back in the global conversation. So for a moment there the nations thought they were not worried about this threat anymore or this power base or this dominance. Suddenly it is back in the news again in a way that is surprising after such a short time after it disassembled in 1989.

- B. Russia has applied to join the East Asia Summit and has formed its own initiatives to forge closer links with its Asian neighbors. Today, talks with Russia, China, and India are taking place. Russia recently signed a pipeline deal that would supply China with 85% of its natural gas needs.

Russia has been having conversations with the East Asia Summit. They are forming all kinds of new associations with Asia and all kinds of things are taking place. Check the internet and you can get a lot of details on it. They have recently signed a pipeline deal that according to some reports would supply China with eighty-five percent of their natural gas needs. This is an “if” on the numbers, as one report says this, one report says that. Even if the number is a bit lower, if Russia has this kind of supply to China, that is a tremendous influence that Russia will have in the world scene even by that one reality right there. They could come to the bargaining table with so much influence by that one point, although there are many other points as well.

My point being that from the global point of view Russia was down and out, but they are back in it again. The whole thing is a remarkable recovery of a nation in a global way the way Russia has. Ezekiel said this all along,

that it was going to happen that way, that there is going to be a mighty nation and a mighty power and a mighty influence coming out of that part of the world. It is not over just because the Soviet Union decentralized and broke up, etc.

VI. TREND #6: THE RISE OF EGYPT (SPIRITUALLY)

- A. The Holy Spirit will work in an unusual way in five cities in Egypt before Jesus returns. This will happen to such a degree that these cities will swear to follow Jesus. They will be renowned for their dedication and boldness in the face of Islam and the Antichrist's oppression (Isa. 19:20).

¹⁸In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear by the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction [lit. City of the Sun]. (Isa. 19:18)

I will just give a minute on the sixth trend, because I love Egypt so much. I have a real heart and burden for Egypt and a real commitment to pray for Egypt. Look what it says about Egypt. This is before the Lord returns. In Egypt five cities, Isaiah 19:18, will swear by the God of Israel. Wow! We are not talking about individuals in the cities; we are talking about the governmental leadership of those cities. In the presence of an Islamic nation and culture, five cities are going to have the government leadership officially swear their allegiance and loyalty to the God of Israel. Like, whoa! That is intense! I mean this is a huge implication in this taking place.

- B. Prayer ministries will be established in Egypt (Isa. 19:19, 22). The grace of prayer, leading to a great revival and deliverance from the Antichrist, will be released in Egypt before Jesus returns. Egypt, as the king of the south, will be temporarily oppressed by the Antichrist (Dan. 11:41-43).

²⁰In the land of Egypt...they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and...He will deliver them. ²¹Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD...²²The LORD...will be entreated by them and heal them. (Isa. 19:20-22)

It says in that same passage, Isaiah 19:20, that in the land of Egypt they are going to cry out to the Lord. Yes, there are going to be oppressors coming against them, but instead of just fighting and that is all they do—resist the oppressors—they are going to cry to the God of Israel. Wow, that is intense! The God of Israel will send them a Savior. The God of Israel will deliver Egypt. He is going to hear their cry.

There is this incredible prayer movement that is going to emerge in Egypt. Again we can see it already, as those of you who are involved in the information know. I am a bit. It is remarkable what is happening in Egypt in the prayer ministry. This is a brand new reality. That is, over the last hundreds of years there was nothing like it. There was a prayer movement in the early centuries of the Church back in the second, third, fourth, fifth century. Over the last 1000 to 1,500 years there has not been the kind of thing that is happening now, this resurgence of people praying and prayer ministries being established all through the land.

*Verse 21, the Lord—that is Jesus; the Lord is Jesus the God of Israel—will be known to Egypt. The Egyptians will know Jesus. Like, this is an Islamic nation, wow! Verse 22, the Lord will be entreated—that is prayed to—by them. God will answer and heal the Egyptians. I look at this and think, “Wow! The God of Israel is going to hear the cry of the Jews in Israel **and** the Egyptians in Egypt.” He is going to hear the cry of the nations. He is going to hear the prayer movement in Asia. It is a remarkable reality.*

We are watching this new development in Egypt right now. Some of you may not be familiar with it, but it is an exciting story. The prayer movement in Egypt is a new story suddenly on the world scene. So I look at that and I think, “Lord, we are clearly in those early days of that generation,” from my point of view.

VII. TREND #7: REBUILDING THE CITY OF BABYLON

- A. The ancient city of Babylon on the Euphrates River in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad) will be rebuilt as an economic and religious center for the Antichrist (Isa. 13-14; Jer. 50-51; Rev. 17-18). Babylon is a literal city (Rev. 16:19; 17:5; 18:2, 10, 21). Just as Jerusalem was suddenly rebuilt after lying desolate for many years, so Babylon will be suddenly rebuilt after lying desolate.

¹⁰***That great city Babylon, that mighty city! In one hour your judgment has come. (Rev. 18:10)***

²¹***With violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. (Rev. 18:21)***

Now to bring this teaching to an end, the seventh trend, which is the rebuilding of the city of Babylon. I believe the Bible, and I believe it is clear. Other Bible teachers think the city of Babylon here is symbolic, but I believe it is literal, that the city of Babylon, the ancient city of Babylon, is going to be rebuilt and then destroyed by the judgments of the Lord in the end times, in the great end-time storyline. Now some people say that the ancient city of Babylon, which has like 5,000 people in it right now and is about fifty miles south of Bagdad, has nothing going on there.

Well, that is what they said about Jerusalem for 2,000 years ago. For 2,000 years they said that Jerusalem could not emerge on the world scene. You had a few thousand people, and it was just a big desert land, and there is nothing happening in Jerusalem. Then suddenly Jerusalem came on the world scene. Within the last number of decades what a remarkable thing has happened to Jerusalem.

I believe the story of redemptive history is the story of the tale of two cities, Jerusalem and Babylon, the Bride of Christ and the Harlot church, coming in total conflict with one another. I believe both of them have an ancient city that they are associated with. I believe that we are going to see the literal restoring of the ancient city of Babylon.

Most Bible teachers are not even thinking about it. It is not on their mind. When that begins to happen, eyes will open. There is already movement in that direction; there are already leaders in that part of the earth working on it, thinking about it, considering how could it happen. There was Saddam Hussein before he died back in 1987. he was the first one to make global news of it when he pronounced, “We are going to restore the ancient city of Babylon.” That was a startling thought to restore this little 5,000-member town out of nowhere. What do you mean, restore it? He said, “No, we are going to restore it.” Well, he did not succeed, and you know he is now not alive. That whole conversation began, and there are all kinds of ideas. Again I do not know how much is conjecture and how much is fact, but there are all kinds of ideas about oil being associated in that area and it becoming new, like the city of Dubai that just instantly overnight became a global city that is wealthy beyond measure, that becomes what is described in the book of Revelation 18 as a literal city of Babylon. Of course it has a global network that is negative, with religious and economic influence.

I believe that the city of Babylon will be rebuilt just like Jerusalem was. It will be one of the centers of the Antichrist, not the only one. Then it will be utterly destroyed. Saddam Hussein was making global news by saying, “I am going to personally rebuild it.” Well, that got stopped, but I do not think the storyline is over.

That kind of surprised everybody after 2,000 years of it not really having much of an influence anywhere in the world. I think we are going to see that city emerge again.

- B. Jeremiah’s prophecy that judgment would *suddenly, completely, and permanently* destroy Babylon with fire has not yet been completely fulfilled (Jer. 50:13; 51:8, 64). The prophetic details were not all fulfilled in 539 BC when Babylon gave its power to the Medes and Persians without a fight. Thus Jeremiah’s prophecies about Babylon refer to both the ancient city and also a future one.

³For out of the north a nation comes up against her, which shall make her land desolate, and no one shall dwell therein...⁴In those days...the children of Israel shall come... with continual weeping they shall come, and seek the LORD...¹³Because of the wrath of the LORD she shall not be inhabited, but she shall be wholly desolate...²³How Babylon has become a desolation...²⁶Come against her...and destroy her utterly; let nothing of her be left...³⁹It shall be inhabited no more forever, nor shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation.⁴⁰As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah... says the LORD, “So no one shall reside there....” (Jer. 50:3-4, 13, 23, 26, 39-40)

²⁶“But you shall be desolate forever...³⁷Babylon shall become a heap...without an inhabitant...⁴³Her cities are a desolation...a land where no one dwells...⁴⁹As Babylon has caused the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon the slain of all the earth shall fall...⁶⁴Thus Babylon shall sink and not rise from the catastrophe that I will bring upon her.” (Jer. 51:26, 37, 43, 49, 64)

One of the really key points I have here is that, when Jeremiah talked about the city of Babylon being destroyed, he talked about it being destroyed suddenly, completely, and permanently. Well, that never happened back in the ancient world. Babylon was not destroyed suddenly, completely, and permanently. Babylon was conquered by the Persians Empire, but the city stayed intact; the city was not destroyed at all. The major parts of what Jeremiah said did not happen. Jeremiah’s prophecies are yet to be fulfilled to a literal end-time city of Babylon.

- C. Today there is much interest in the rebuilding of the ancient city of Babylon.

My real point is not trying to describe all that right now in three minutes. The idea is that the trend is already happening. In just the last couple decades the conversation is now is being had about rebuilding that city. For 2,000 years nobody talked about rebuilding that city, and now that conversation is being had. There are leaders in that part of the world that care about that. It does not have the kind of traction it needs to have yet, but it is in the conversation right now. I look at even that and I say, “Lord, all of these things are happening in the same hour of history!” Almost all of them were unforeseeable even fifty to seventy years ago, and certainly 2,000 years ago. They are all happening to a degree right now for the first time with a global conversation attached to it.

So I look at these and I ask, “Lord, what are You doing?” You look at the positive things in the Church that are happening, the negative things that are happening spiritually in society, what is happening in Israel, what is happening in the Gentile nations, and there are a few more categories we are going to cover as well.

As people who love the Bible and Jesus’ leadership, we are saying, “Lord, You are speaking to us. Are we listening? Are these just obscure, little pieces of information and we are dull of mind with darkened hearts, or do we see the value of what You put in the Word because it is important to You and it has a message in it because You love us?”

I say, “Yes and amen. Lord, Spirit, speak and Your people listen, and we will move and go forward in the encouragement of knowing You are leading a great global plan. We can see marks of it all over what it is happening in the earth in the positive and the negative ways of what is developing.”

Well, amen and amen. Let’s stand before the Lord, and let us just ask the Lord to touch us again. Tonight was a little bit factual-based and academic. It is not as inspiring of an idea. Beloved, we want to know whatever the Bible says about this. I want to know it. So I look at this and I say, “Lord, I am moved by this. I want to say yes to Your leadership in a fresh way.”

Holy Spirit, I just ask You that, even now as we open our hearts, show us more the hour in which we are living. Show us. Mark us. Do not let these remarkable developments just pass by us. Lord, I ask You to mark our hearts. I am going to ask, all over the room, Holy Spirit, just come and touch us. Lord, come and touch us even now. Lord, what hour are we living in? Lord, speak. Your servants listen. We listen, Lord. Lord, we wait to hear Your Word. We see the evidence of Your leadership in the earth. Even so come, Lord Jesus. Lord, we say yes to Your leadership. We honor Your leadership. We bow before Your great leadership, Lord. We say yes to Your leadership, the great King, the glorious King. Lord, we see evidence of Your hand in the nations. You are the great King. You are the One that we want. You are the One we trust.