

Political Signs of the Times Pertaining to the Nation of Israel

We are going to look at political signs pertaining to Israel, and then we are going to look at political signs pertaining to the Gentile nations in the next session. We are going to look at technology, birth pangs, and we will look at what is happening in different social trends in the nation. There are quite a few signs. At the end, we will put them all together, and have them in one big list, so you can look at the different signs all at one time.

REVIEW

Roman numeral I. The Scripture commands us to know the signs of the times. That is a new idea to some Christians. They think opposite to that; they think that we are not supposed to know when. When we are in the generation of His appearing, He commands us to know the time and to understand the signs. Many Scriptures emphasize how important the prophetic signs are at the end of the age.

In Scriptures, Jesus taught more on the signs of the times than any of the apostles. You add all the apostles together, and Jesus exhorted them to know the signs of the times of His first and second coming. When He exhorted them to know the signs of His first coming that was a prophetic message to know the signs of His second coming. The message is this: when I come, I give signs. When I give signs of My coming, you must know them: that is the underlining message whether Jesus is focusing on His first coming or His second coming.

My premise is that we are in the beginning stages of the generation of the Lord's return. I do not know whether the final seven prophetic years before the second coming of Jesus will begin in five years, or fifty (probably closer to fifty than five). I think that there are still things that need to happen, and we might be a few decades out. It is hard to say.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 "Concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night . . . but you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day . . . therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober."

Paul is saying that the Day of the Lord should not be a surprise to the people of God. Paul made it clear that concerning the times and seasons, the believers are the sons of the light; we are not to be surprised, overtaken, and shocked that He comes like a thief. He only comes like a thief to ones who are not watching and aware that Jesus is returning.

THREE DISTINCT TIME FRAMES RELATED TO THE RETURN OF THE LORD

Paragraph B. When comparing Matthew 24 with 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3, we see three distinct prophetic time frames related to the final, seven-year period of this age. First, we will see the beginning of birth pangs. Second, the worldwide period of counterfeit peace and safety with increased birth pangs. Third, we see the Great Tribulation with heavy birth pangs.

ISRAEL IS THE REFERENCE POINT FOR UNDERSTANDING GOD'S REDEMPTIVE HISTORY

Paragraph C. My opinion is that the beginning of the birth pangs began in either 1948 (when Israel became a nation), or 1967 (when Jerusalem came under Jewish control). I think that they began in 1948. Israel is the reference point for understanding God's redemptive history (past and future). Israel gives us the prophetic

timetable for the unfolding of God's end-time plans. This is very important when you study the Old and New Testament prophets.

The New Testament has apostles functioning with prophetic revelation. When you study the prophets in Scripture, what God does in Israel is the reference point or litmus test for the end times. As Gentiles—most of us in this room are Gentiles—God causes the timing of His redemptive plan to be related to the city and nation that He is coming back to and from which He will rule the nations. The city and nation that Jesus is coming back to where He is going to rule the world from is Jerusalem. It is the reference point on the timing of His return. All the timing in the Scripture related prophetic events to the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. The most dramatic thing in history happened in Israel. After 2,000 years, Israel became a nation. This is unprecedented in world history. It stands in a category of its own—way out there, all by itself.

It said in the Old Testament in many places directly or by implication, Israel had to be a nation in the generation in which the Messiah returns. We are going to look at some of these passages, so you can become more aware of them. The prophets of the Old Testament 2,500 to 3,000 years ago prophesied that Israel would become a nation, and they will occupy the city of Jerusalem before the Messiah returns.

That was all fine and easy back in the Old Testament when Israel was in the land and controlled the city of Jerusalem, so those seemed like pretty normal prophecies. Then, the Roman armies came in 70AD. They scattered the Jewish nation to the four winds, took over the city of Jerusalem, and disbanded the nation. All of a sudden, many of the Old Testament prophets were asking, "How is Israel going to become a nation again? How will Israel be reinstated in their statehood—their nationhood?" That was OK for maybe fifty years, or maybe even a hundred years. But then, the people of God began to say, "Huh? This is getting a little more difficult to happen. For 6,000 years since Adam, no nation in the history of the world has ever been without a homeland for one generation, and then they recovered the land."

Two thousand years later, it looks impossible. There is not by chance. It has never been done. Even after forty years, it had never been done. Suddenly in May 1948, Israel becomes a nation and the prophetic time clock starts up again. For those who are unfamiliar with Bible prophecy, this might seem like a small thing; but it is a gigantic shout from heaven that the end-time clock began on May 14, 1948.

FIVE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PROPHETIC POLITICAL EVENTS HAPPEN SUDDENLY

Paragraph D. Five of the most significant, prophetic, political events happen suddenly in the last 2,000 years. Four of five of these events I have listed on the handout are happening right now in this generation. For 2,000 years, zero of five of these events happened. Then suddenly in one generation, four of the five events come to pass; undoubtedly, the fifth one will come to pass as well.

FIRST AND SECOND EVENTS: REBIRTH OF ISRAEL AND RECAPTURING OF JERUSALEM

The first event is the rebirth of the nation of Israel (May 15, 1948). Event number two is the recapturing of Jerusalem during the Six Day War (June, 1967). For the Jews to have control of the city of Jerusalem is a critical part of prophecy because a lot of the Old Testament prophets said the Jews had to be in the city, and that they would be surrounded by the nations. One of the famous prophecies is that the nations of the world would surround the city of Jerusalem to wipe out the Jews. The Jews have to be in Jerusalem to be surrounded by the nations.

THIRD EVENT: JERUSALEM WILL BE THE CENTER OF WORLD CONTROVERSY

The third event is that Jerusalem would be at the center of world controversy (Zech. 12:1-3; 14:1-3). In 70 AD when they were disbanded, Jerusalem became a very second-class city. In 1850 or 1860, Mark Twain visited Jerusalem and wrote a famous report, which is referred to often in commentaries. He said that Jerusalem was beaten down, dirty, and poor; it was a third-world city. There was very little population in the city. However, the prophets said that the city of Jerusalem would be the number one city; it would be the greatest source of controversy, and Israel would be in the news. There is no city in the news like Jerusalem. For 2,000 years, you could not get any news report on Jerusalem. Suddenly, Jerusalem is in the center of world controversy. You cannot just be the number one most controversial city on the earth because you choose it to be. Who would choose it? But, you cannot make the nations of the world be galvanized in their thinking and concern about Jerusalem—a particularly small city that for over 2,000 years had almost no population in it. There was no economic base; nothing was in the city that was of interest to most people except for some holy sites.

FOURTH EVENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The fourth significant political event that must happen is the establishment of the European Union in the same territory as the ancient Roman Empire. The book of Daniel is clear about the Roman Empire. But from 500 to 1,000 years, the Roman Empire existed (depending upon how you defined it). What Daniel said was the Roman Empire was going to go away, which was basically the Mediterranean area and Europe. In the generation that the Messiah would come, the Roman Empire would come together as an empire. They would be gathered together as a unified empire. Beloved, that is happening right now as we are talking.

The next thing that has to happen is that an international leader (the Antichrist) will be in the unique position to establish a peace treaty with Israel and the Middle East in order to bring world peace. Four of these five events have occurred, so Europe will soon be unified. Thus, the most significant, political, prophetic events in the last 2,000 years are occurring in this generation.

FIFTH EVENT: EUROPE WILL SOON BE UNIFIED

The fifth one: Europe will be unified, and that is the one we are waiting for. These five events are very hard to imagine happening, especially after we experienced almost 2,000 years of a national political drought. The Roman Empire has not existed; they have tried to conquer Europe for 2,000 to 1,500 years. They have tried to revive the Roman Empire. No leader has ever been able to pull it off.

Napoleon wanted to conquer Europe! Hitler wanted all the nations to come together again. Charles the Great wanted to unify nations; Charlemagne wanted to bring the kingdom of Europe back together again—the ancient Roman Empire. Mussolini's vision was to do it, although he did not even get close to it. All these powerful leaders have wanted to unify Europe, but there has been a 1,500-, or 1,000-year drought in this agenda. It has been impossible to do. However, suddenly it is coming together. Suddenly, it has a life of its own; Europe is coming together. There was a political drought in the Roman Empire. There was a political drought in Israel and the city of Jerusalem. It is not that they are coming together, but they are all coming together for the first time and at the same time. It is not like Israel became a nation in 1,200 AD, and then the Roman Empire started getting revived in the 1700s. They all came together for the first time at the same time—that is supposed to be understood by people with discernment as a sign of the time. It is the first time that they have come together at the same time—all five of these. The fourth one has not happened, but it is not long off.

CURRENT EVENTS THAT ARE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

What is happening now in the Middle East with the President of Iran, the Hamas, and the radical Islamic terrorist is causing such a boil and a fire storm that they are setting the stage for a world leader to bring peace. The firestorm is being stirred up, and it is going to cause havoc to all the economies of the world. This firestorm: this trouble is going to cause oil problems, terrorism, economic problems, security, and military problems worldwide. The entire world wants this issue settled, and nobody can settle it. I am telling you from the Scripture, and most of you know that there is coming forth a man who will settle it in a way that will be supernatural. God will be moving, and the enemy will be moving in part. Men will be moving, and the entire thing will come to pass in such a way where there will be peace in the Middle East, but that is counterfeit peace. The stage for that peace is being set up right now because we are getting into violent waters right now. There is great turmoil: the turmoil is far more significant than it has been in other times especially with Iran and nuclear weapons within a year. Conservative estimates are that within a year, or a year and a half, Iran will have the weapons. Russia is open about it: “We are helping them develop nuclear weapons.” They are public about it and in the news right now. The Islamic groups right now are calling for the assignation of the President of Egypt. They are calling for the assignation for the King of Jordan. They are calling for the bringing down of the house of the Saudi Arabian royal family. They want to bring down the entire dynasty.

They reason that they want to bring down the president of Egypt, the king of Jordan, and the house of Saudi is because they are too conservative and friendly with the West. They want all the nations around Israel to be radical, Islamic zealots who want to exterminate Israel. They are actually publicly calling for the assassination of the leaders of these three nations. They are saying publicly, “You men, terrorist and suicide bombers, please take your life, and take out the leadership of these three nations. Then, they can be replaced with radicals, so we can have a wall of fire around Israel.”

They are calling out for it right now—today. An army of young men are rising up and saying, “We want to die for God. We will gladly drive our car into the situation to take out a president so we can replace him. In a minute, all of Israel is going to be surrounded by a radical Islamic fanaticism that wants Israel exterminated.” This is the setup for a world leader to come in and solve it. Beloved, we are minutes away from the thing being in a full firestorm. This has never happened like this. It is not just that for the first time, these things are coming together, but they are coming together at the same time. It is the first time in history, and it is not an accident. So you want to be familiar with these things; you want to know these terms, the politics, and get familiar. You do not have to buy a 500-page book on the Middle East, and study it for the next couple of years. Just a couple of terms and a couple of key Bible verses, you cannot be but excited, alarmed, and alert on the inside. Beloved, it is coming down right now politically; there are many other signs, but these five signs are already stunning. The chances of them happening at the same time for the first time is almost zero because they are exactly what the prophets in the Old Testament prophesied would happen.

HOW DIFFERENT PROPHECIES CONCERNING ISRAEL ARE CLOSELY LINKED TOGETHER

Paragraph F. Many of the prophecies related to Israel are closely linked and interdependent with each other, meaning as we look at a few of these, one of them overlaps with the other one. They are very interdependent events that have to happen. As we talk about one inevitably, we are talking about a couple of the others as well. These interdependent events include the abomination of desolation. We looked at this last week. We will review it a little bit. That has to happen and is the number one prophetic sign—politically or spiritually. It is a political sign and a spiritual sign. That is yet to happen, and it is the ultimate end-time sign: When that happens, you can

set the clock to 1,260 days, and the Lord will return. Over and over, the prophets say: 1,260 days, forty-two month, three-and-a-half years, times time and a half of time later, in the middle of the week— they are all different ways that say the same timeframe in the Scripture.

Event number one: the big one has not happened, as when it does, the second coming is minutes away, which means three and a half years. That may be a really long three-and-a-half years, and it will be a really powerful one too.

THE JEWS WILL RETURN TO THE LAND TO REESTABLISH THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Event number two: the return to the land to reestablish the State of Israel, gain control of Jerusalem, and rebuild the temple. The temple must be built in the city of Jerusalem. It has to be built. Additionally, the Hebrew language will be reestablished, as well as the Sabbath in their civil law, as it is already happening right now. They respect the Sabbath over there. They have laws regarding the Sabbath. They are not mandatory; but they exist. A hundred years ago, you did not have the same situations that they have now. Israel has become the center focus of world politics, which we looked at a minute ago, resulting in worldwide anti-Semitism. That has to happen, and it is happening rapidly. Beloved, it is coming again, and the Church will stand faithfully with Israel in this coming anti-Semitism—the global hatred of Israel. That is what it means bottom line. The gathering of all nations around to lay siege against Jerusalem is the final event on our list. What I mean by a siege is to surround it and to take it over. Right now, the nations are already gathering around Israel. Recently, the news in recent weeks and months is that they are calling terrorist to assassinate the leaders who are standing in the way: Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia. They are publicly saying to kill them. They are promised, “You will get rewarded in heaven if you kill them! To kill them!”

Somebody says, “Wait! They are Islamic leaders; they are a part of our brotherhood!”

Others respond, “That is too bad! They are conservative, and they are compromisers. They like the West, and they like Israel. They have to die, so we can get a radical group surrounding Israel who will be committed to the extermination of them as a nation.” They are surrounding Israel in part right now.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION IS THE PRIMARY SIGN OF THE END TIMES

Roman numeral II: the abomination of desolation is the primary sign of the end times. This is the primary sign of the end times. Do not be afraid of that phrase abomination of desolation—it is such a cryptic phrase. What? What does that mean? It is an abominable act that brings desolation or destruction to people.

It is an abominable or blasphemous act. It could almost be called the blasphemy of destruction if you wanted to exchange the words. It is the great blasphemy that leads to destruction of the nations of the earth. Not just a few here and there. I am talking about world history. That is what we are talking about. It is the desolation or destruction of the known world as we know it. The earth will be desolate because of this blasphemy and because of this abomination.

Paragraph A. The sign of the abomination of desolation has had many significant implications to it.

THE ANTICHRIST WILL DECLARE HIMSELF AS GOD

Paragraph B. The abomination of desolation will occur when the Antichrist declares himself to be God. He will require the nations to worship him. But the bad part is that because he claims to be god and requires nations to worship him, the nations agree and do it and they blasphemy God. So it is not just that the Antichrist does it; the nations follow in his footsteps. They say yes! Of course, not all the nations, as there will be a billion or two who will not say yes. There will be a billion or two who will not say yes, or maybe more than that. Nobody knows the number, but it will be a significant number who say no. Billions will say yes, and that is a blasphemous thing, or an abomination to God.

So instead of abomination put blasphemy, if that helps you to understand it better. It leads to desolation, or destruction. As I mentioned last week, the Antichrist says, “If you do not worship me as god, I will destroy you and bring desolation.”

Then, God says on the other side, “If you do say yes to the Antichrist, I will destroy you.” So, one group is being destroyed by the Antichrist. The other group is destroyed by God. It will literally cause the world, as we know it to come to an end. It is not just the desolation of a few people. It is the desolation of world history. It ends! The new world order comes out of the ashes from this desolation. It is the ultimate sign of the end. This man cannot be in a position to require the world to do it; he will not have the power to enforce his requirement except that he is the world leader, and he is entrenched in the nation of Israel. He will do this from Jerusalem. It is so dramatic: he is not doing this from Mecca, London, or Washington D.C. He is not doing it from the mountains of Tibet. He is going it from Jerusalem. This man’s abdominal act will happen in the Jerusalem temple. This is where he stands up and says, “I am god! I am the Shekinah glory. I am god!” Many Jews will follow it, and many more Gentiles will follow this deception.

THE ANTICHRIST WILL MAKE A DEMONICALLY EMPOWERED STATUE

Paragraph B. Central to this abomination is the image of the Beast (the Antichrist), which will be a statue, an image, or idol that is demonically empowered. It will seem to think, talk, breathe, and make laws. It is very similar to Daniel 3 when Nebuchadnezzar made the statue of himself and made everybody worship the statue, or get thrown in the fire.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego said, “No!” Then, they are thrown into the fire! Then Jesus, a forth man like the Son of God stands in the fire with them. These three Jewish boys are in the fire, but the fire did not burn them. The point of it is this: there was a statue that the entire nation had to worship as God. It was Nebuchadnezzar’s statue. He says, “What do you mean you are not worshipping my statue?” That was a prototype—a very low level prototype of a very sophisticated image that will have all the technology involved with it. It will have supernatural power, and the statue that will talk, breathe, and seemingly reason on its own power. It will have supernatural power and sophistication about it as well.

THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST

Paragraph E. The image, statue, or idol of the Beast is mentioned thirty-six times in the book of Revelation; the beast is the Antichrist. Once the false prophet is called “another beast.” I believe that the reason the Antichrist is called a beast is because it depicts his cruel nature. He will look calm and reasonable, but he is unreasonable. He has no capacity for mercy at all, even though he will have a kind countenance when he wants to. The

prophets are saying, “He is an unreasonable, wild beast at the core of his being. He cannot be bargained with. You cannot deal with him; you cannot make any kind of negotiation with him. He is a wild, unreasonable demon at the core of his being. He has a demon-like nature.” The reason that the prophets called the false prophet another beast is so we would know that the false prophet has the same nature, personality, and spirit as the Antichrist does. That is why the Scriptures gave him the name once. He will undoubtedly show himself as reasonable and kind, so the world will follow this man. He will bring world peace, and people will say, “No. You are just not getting it. You Christians are so fanatical! You are worse than those Islamic zealots. You will not reason. This man brought world peace; we are feeding all the children, and the wars are stopped.”

THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE MERCILESS, AND WILL TAKE AWAY THE DAILY SACRIFICES

We will warn them, “I am telling you that this man who is causing it is unreasonable—you cannot reason with him. He has no mercy; he has a supernatural cruelty about his personality that he hides from people until the day he chooses to show it.” The image (the statue, or idol) of the Beast will be set up in the Jerusalem temple. They are going to set it up in the holy place. When this happens, the daily sacrifices taught by Moses that had been recently restored will be stopped. The 1,290 days is thirty days longer than in the 1,260 days. I am not going to go into that right now.

My point is this: the daily sacrifice in the Jerusalem temple will be taken away when the image is set up in the holy place. That is what Daniel said. I want to say it again: the Jerusalem temple is going to be built and set up. They will reinstate sacrifices of Moses; the Old Testament sacrifices that are described and prescribed in Leviticus. What is going to happen is they are going to reinstate the temple again, and they will get the sacrifices going. What Daniel says 2,500 years ago is basically, “I am telling you that the daily sacrifices are going to be taken away when the abomination of desolation sets up his statue.” When the statue is put into position, the sacrifice will stop. What does this tell you? The sacrifice is going to be going on in order for it to be stopped. Right? Well, the sacrifice is not going yet. That is still a future prophecy. Right now, we are looking at this prophecy, and we are asking, “How can the sacrifice be taken away?” It has not started yet. There are significant amounts of people from the priestly line who are right now going to school to learn how to offer these sacrifices. There is tremendous energy among some of the priests in Israel to learn all the system of Moses. They are right now in classes today. This is a new thing over the last several years.

This is amazing: for 2,000 years, there was never a school that taught you how to do sacrifices like Moses. Now there is one! That is amazing! The daily will be reestablished. One of the reasons Daniel says it this way is he wants us to know that at this time in history, the sacrifices will be reestablished again; he wants us to know they are going to be suddenly interrupted. They are going to be interrupted by the statue, or the abomination of desolation, which is the big phrase that means the statue, and all that is related to it. The statue is set up there. Where is there? It is set up in the Jerusalem temple. It goes for thirty days, one month longer than three-and-a-half years longer; there is a very important reason we are not going into it right now.

DANIEL 9:27: THE BASIC TIME FRAME OF TROUBLE

Three and a half years is the basic timeframe of trouble, but there is one extra month that Daniel prophesies about. Look in Daniel 9:27: “Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

The Antichrist shall confirm a covenant with many for one week, which is really seven years; but in the middle of the week, the Antichrist shall bring an end to sacrifice and offerings. Again, if we did not believe in prophecy, we would ask how he could bring it into the sacrificial system? We would say “How will this happen, as there is not sacrifice going on in Israel for him to end?” Beloved, watch the temple be established: the temple is going to be rebuilt, and the sacrifices are going to be reinstated. The Antichrist is going to have a significant role as a world leader to make this happen. It is how he is going to get his stronghold in the nation.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES BEFORE THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Paragraph G. The abomination of desolation requires Israel to be in the land. For 2,000 years, there could not be an abomination of desolation. You cannot have an abomination of desolation unless Israel is in the land, controlling the city of Jerusalem in a rebuilt temple with sacrifices. All four of those are implied: Israel has to be in the land, which happened in May of 1948. They have to be in control of Jerusalem in order to run the religious system, which happened in 1967. They have to build the temple; that is a minute down the road, and they have to establish the sacrifices. Those four things have to happen before the abomination of desolation takes place; two of those have already happened, and two of them are a minute away from happening.

I realize that some of you are brand new at this. It is hard for you to say abomination of desolation without tying your tongue up. Say it to your neighbor; see you got it. Say Zerubbabel really fast. It will mix you up there. Just be patient with yourself if you are brand new. Just get familiar with the terms and discuss them with a few people. They are really pretty simple unless you are getting them all in one evening; they are a little bit overwhelming. Once you get down the five to ten concepts, you will have them down forever.

THE TEMPLE HAS TO BE REBUILT FOR THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION TO BE THERE

Roman numeral XIII. The Antichrist functions in relationship to the rebuilt temple. There has to be a temple rebuilt, or there will be no abomination of desolation. There is an entire group of scholars who believe that all of this is symbolic; when you ask what is it symbolic of, they all disagree with each other because it is not symbolic, it is literal. It is really going to happen, and it will happen as a sign to us. God put this in the Bible so that we would be aware of the hour we are living in. When we see it happen, we will say, “This is the timeframe that Jesus was talking about, and that is what we are supposed to do with it.”

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEMPLE

Paragraph A. Significant activities related to the tribulation temple: there have been two other temples—Solomon’s temple, Zerubbabel’s, or Herod’s temple—this is the third one. There are activities related to the tribulation temple that signal the end times. Those activities are getting stirred up right now. That is why we care about studying it in this session. For instance, the abomination of desolation cannot occur unless Israel rebuilds the temple on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The Great Tribulation does not start until the abomination of desolation takes place in the temple. That is the big event that initiates the Great Tribulation. The temple does not currently exist, but we know that it must be rebuilt, and we know it is going to be rebuilt soon. Even now, plans to rebuild the third temple are being pursued aggressively in Israel. There is a lot of energy in Israel to build that third temple and get that sacrificial temple going. This may occur just before the first half of the final seven-year period (often referred to as Daniel's 70th Week).

PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION

Paragraph B. Paul's prophecy about the tribulation temple are founded on Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:27). Paul prophesied of the desecration of the tribulation temple by the Antichrist (2 Thes. 2:4). This is solid, conservative Paul the apostle. Jesus gave us a little more insight through Paul the apostle. Paul prophesied about the desecration of the tribulation temple, or the third temple: the desecration, or the defiling of it. It is going to be defiled by the Antichrist. Again, you cannot defile it unless it is rebuilt. It has to be rebuilt if the prophecy of defiling takes place. Here is what Paul said:

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4: "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."

The Antichrist is the ultimate abomination in the way he lives and the decisions he makes. He is going to exalt himself above everything called God and oppose everything called God. In other words, he will not stand for any type of worship. He will be against Islam; he will be against Hinduism. He will be against every type of new age religion; he will be against every religion at the end. He will oppose everything that has God in it and demand that only one god is worshipped—himself.

Right now, he is letting the world religious systems come together in the one world religion. He is going to let that happen for a while to seduce the nations; then, he is going to outlaw that one world religion. His agenda is to get everyone to compromise his or her faith. He is trying to get the Muslims to compromise in their Islamic zeal and in their zeal for Allah. He is trying to allure Christians as well as all the different religions of the world. Once he gets us to compromise and be one big happy family; then, we are no longer true to the religion we grew up with, or whatever. Once he gets all the religions to compromise, they are all one big happy family. Then, he will outlaw every religion—even the new ones and say, "I am the only one now!"

When he does this, he will oppose everything that is called God. He will fight against everything; then, he will sit as God in the temple of God. He will show himself, or proclaim himself as God. That is part of the abomination. The other part is that billions of people will look at the Antichrist and say, "Yes, you are God!" Daniel talks about this same thing in Daniel 11:36-37: "Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all."

IS THE ANTICHRIST JEWISH?

Some people use this verse to assume that the Antichrist is Jewish when it says "the God of his fathers." "God of his fathers" is a Jewish term. I think it is reasonable; there is a very good chance that he has some type of connection with Judaism, even though he will be the archenemy of the Jewish race. It is similar to the confusion caused with Adolf Hitler who was part Jewish; however, Adolf Hitler trying to liquidate the Jewish race. It may have the same kind of complexity as Hitler did. It has been proven that Hitler was part Jewish; there is no question about that in terms of being honest about the data.

“This man shall regard neither the God of fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above them all” (Dan. 11:37). He will be against even the false world religion, but he will let it happen. He will turn against even the one world religion. He will exalt himself above every type of religion. “I am God!” So basically, Paul is quoting Daniel.

Paragraph C. For the Antichrist to stop the daily sacrifices in the tribulation temple means that the sacrifices must exist before he can stop them. Daniel 12:11: “From the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away . . . there shall be 1,290 days.”

Paragraph D. The apostle John prophesied of the desolation of the tribulation temple courts by the Gentile nations under the Antichrist's authority (Rev. 11:1-2). You can read that on your own. Revelation 11:1-2: “Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court, which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.”

THE THIRD TEMPLE IS NOT THE SAME AS THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

Paragraph E. The third temple is not the same as the millennial temple. There are two distinct Jerusalem temples prophesied in Scriptures (i.e. the tribulation temple or the third temple, which will be built by unbelieving Jews and then desecrated by the Antichrist). Jesus will build the millennial temple after He returns. Some end-time prophecies are talking about the tribulation temple or the third temple; others are talking about the millennial temple, which comes after the second coming, and it is really easy to tell which are which. So I included some verses for you. (Isa. 2:3; 60:6, 10, 13; Ezek. 37:26-28; 40-48; Zech. 2:11; 6:12-15; 14:16-21). Those are very distinct temples and everything about them is different.

The basic point that I have made in the last few minutes: here is the temple that will be built, and the sacrifices will be installed. They will be stopped. The reason that this is a sign of the times is that they are working right now to figure a way to build that temple. They are training the priests to offer the sacrifices. There is a new zeal and reality over that for the last several years. This was not happening 100 years ago, and it is in itself a sign of the times. It is going to be the issue of the tribulation temple. The Antichrist will come and tell Israel, “Israel, here is the deal: you have to do my agenda if you follow me, but I will build the temple for you.”

They are going to say, “If you will build the temple for us, we will do anything you want.” Israel falsely thinks that if they build the temple, they have the favor of God, but the favor of God is with Jesus—not with that temple. However, Israel is blinded. They think that if they can get the temple built, even if they compromise to get it built, God will have so much favor that He will bypass their offense. They are going to be really wrong about that. Many will have a superstitious view of this temple.

THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE AS A SIGN OF THE TIME

This temple does not excite me as a spiritual reality; it excites me as a sign of the times. I do not want anything to do with that temple. I am not going to give money to it, and I am not going to visit it, or take pictures in it. I want nothing to do with it. The favor of God is upon Jesus—not that temple—but the temple is a political and spiritual reality. Many in the nation of Israel will be deceived and will have a supernatural superstition about it.

The temple is complicated because it is not that simple. John calls it here in Revelation 11 the temple of God. Paul called it the temple of God, and that bugs me a little. I have to repent. I say, “Wait. This is the temple. The Antichrist is going to deceive the nation in Lord! Why are you letting John and Paul call it the temple of God instead of the temple of the Antichrist?”

The Holy Spirit whispered back to me, “Just calm down, pee wee, you have stuff to learn. I have some stuff that is not really clear right now. So just calm down.” It is not as black and white as I would like it to be. I see the dark side of it really clear. John and Paul are two main guys; they both called it the temple of God. Why do you not call it the temple of the Antichrist? God is doing something bigger than what I can understand. I do understand the dark side of it. It is the light side of the temple that I do not grasp.

THE NATIONS WILL SET A SIEGE AGAINST JERUSALEM

Roman numeral IV. The nations will set a siege against Jerusalem. All the nations of the earth are going to come against Jerusalem. You can see the early stages of it today. The nations are gathering, and Israel has one main friend—America. I want to believe that America is going to hang in there, but I know this: when it comes between oil or Israel, or when it comes between air-conditioning and Israel, most Americans are going to pick air-conditioning. Before it is over, it is going to come down to our nation: “Do you want air-conditioning and your cars to work? Or do you want to stand with Israel?”

Except for a miracle, man will go for their own comforts; so I expect America to reverse their decision. I pray that they will not. I pray, “Lord, do not let this happen because this is a glorious thing that we are standing with Israel against the nations.” All the nations are gathered against Israel, and America is a bright light; but America has not had to choose between Israel and air-conditioning yet. When it comes down to choosing between Israel and our cars, our economy, and our comfort, I do not have a lot of confidence in what our nation will do.

The Scripture says that all the nations will come against Israel. However, there are contingencies. Prayer and fasting can change some of the alls in the Bible. We do not know, but as long as we are saying yes to Israel; we want to keep asking the Lord’s favor on it. Read the verses I have here because they are very important ones, and they are straightforward. So it will not take time to read them.

ZECHARIAH 12:2-8

Zechariah 12:2-8: “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it. In that day,” says the LORD, “I will strike every horse with confusion, and its rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the LORD of hosts, their God.’ In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a fire pan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place—Jerusalem. “The LORD will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. 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.”

Roman numeral V. My point is to say that for the abomination of desolation to take place, and for Israel to build the temple, the Jews have to first get back in the land. They have to have control of the city of Jerusalem. I am summing it up again.

ISRAEL WILL ESTABLISH A COVENANT WITH THE ANTICHRIST

Roman numeral VI. Israel will establish a covenant with the Antichrist. Daniel 9:27: “Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.” The primary point is that the many nations are Israel and the Middle East Islamic nations—that is the point of interest. That is the point of interest: the main crux of this peace treaty is it will affect many other nations. Some think of it as simply a covenant with Israel. However, it is a big package deal.

Paragraph A. I am not going to develop it, but in the Scriptures, one week speaks of seven years. In ancient Israel, they called seven years a week. You know it is either a week of days, or a week of years. They talked about how in a week, this is going to happen. It is very obvious that in this context, it is talking about seven years; everyone who believes in literal end-time prophecy agrees with this, as it is a really common understanding. Here is the problem: in the middle of that week, which is the three and a half years mark, this man is going to bring an end to the sacrifice. He is going to break the covenant and say, “No more sacrifice in Israel.”

Israel is going to say, “Wait, a second. The deal is we get to have our temple.”

The Antichrist will say, “That is too bad! I lied!”

Israel will respond, “Well, you cannot lie!”

THE ANTICHRIST WILL REVEAL HIS REAL SIDE

He is going to pull his mask off, and show his real face and say, “You have no idea who I am, and I am in total power over your nation now. Thank you for the invitation.” He will use this covenant to get a stronghold—a foothold in the nation. Then he is going to show himself as false. This will be the darkest hour of Israel’s history.

Then, the Antichrist shall confirm a covenant, or a peace treaty with many Israel and Middle East nations. They will do this for one week (seven-year period); but in the middle of the week (after three and a half years), he shall bring an end to these sacrifices. They will stop sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple, thus breaking the covenant. They will cry, “On no! The most anti-Semitic man in history is the head of our nation and we gave him that role.” When they make a covenant with him, it is not just a political covenant; they have to completely sell out to his leadership. He has an agenda with them; he wants to exterminate them—that is what is on his mind.

ISRAEL’S LEADERS WILL MAKE A COVENANT WITH THE ANTICHRIST

Paragraph B. Israel’s governmental leaders will make a covenant with the Antichrist, which is called the covenant with death and with Sheol (hell). He will give their authority to him seven years before Jesus’ second

coming. The good news is that the decision gets reversed, and they denounce him. They go with Jesus at the end, and they make the covenant with Jesus. So the story ends really well.

THE ANTICHRIST WINS TRUST OF ISRAEL BY ESTABLISHING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Paragraph D. The Antichrist will win the trust of Israel by establishing peace in the Middle East, making a way for them to build the temple and gaining financial security by possibly establishing Jerusalem as one of the economic centers of the world. One of the implications of this covenant or peace treaty will be to allow Israel to offer animal sacrifices commanded by Moses in their temple. Most of it is straightforward so I want to go to Paragraph M. On the top of page six, and end with this.

ISAIAH 28 DESCRIBES THE CONSEQUENCE OF THIS COVENANT AS A SCOURGE

Paragraph M. The terrible consequences of this covenant is described in Isaiah 28 as a scourge going through the land in a relentless way. The very mention of what happens will cause terror (Isa. 28:19), and every attempt to find comfort at that time will be totally frustrated. Isaiah 28:14-15: “Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scornful men, Who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.” So these scornful men are making a proclamation; they are in despair because they now understand what they have done. It is as if they are saying, “We have made a covenant with death! We have made a covenant with hell! We thought he liked us and would build our temple; we thought we could trust him. He promised us money and security and it is a covenant with hell itself that we have made.”

Isaiah 28:15: “When the overflowing scourge”—of the Antichrist—“passes through”—the land—“it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves.” Israel said to themselves, “When his evil ways pass through it will not come to us because we made a covenant; we joined his team; he will take care of us and his families. We sold the nation down the river but he will take of us for we have made lies our refuge and protection. We have made an evil covenant is a better way of saying it. We trusted in this evil covenant. Under falsehood we have hidden ourselves under this false covenant. We think our families are safe but it is a false place to hide.”

Isaiah 28:16: “Therefore thus says the Lord God”—the Father—“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation”—Jesus’ ministry— “a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.” The Father is saying that He will lay in Zion a stone, a foundation, a tried one—a man who is proven. He loves Israel and gave His life for Israel; a tried stone, which is tested in the fires of Gethsemane. He is a precious stone. Jesus was fully God and gave Himself over in His integrity and love for the nation of Israel. Jesus is a sure stone. Any pressure will not move Him: no temptation, nothing will get Him off track. Whoever believes in this precious stone will not act hastily, meaning they will not under pressure, or make a covenant with the Antichrist. They will stay true and not get in a hurry because the nation of Israel is going to be under great duress to buy into the covenant. We are going to be prophesying and join guys like Asher Intrater and his entire gang over there.

We are going to say, “Do not be hasty! Do not buy into that covenant! Do not do it! There is a tried stone; a leader who is proven Himself and is very precious and was crushed by the wrath of God in His love for the nation of Israel. This other man is a devil and evil man.”

The Lord is speaking, “Also, I will make justice the measuring line, and righteousness the plummet; the hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters will overflow the hiding place” (Isa. 28:14). Oh that is so intense! It is as if Jesus is saying, “I am going to deal with Israel . . . those who trust Me, I will deal according to their trust of Me. Those who sold Me out for the Antichrist, I will deal with everybody on the basis of justice. If they ran under My refuge, then I will deal with them on that basis.”

GOD WILL MEASURE US BY WHO WE STAND WITH IN THE END TIMES

Many in Israel will be measured by God and found guilty of treason against God by making this covenant with the Antichrist. Isaiah 28:18: “Your covenant with death will be annulled”—Antichrist will betray his promises to Israel—“And your agreement with Sheol will not stand; When the overflowing scourge passes through, Then you will be trampled down by it.”

This means that they trusted this covenant, but the Antichrist is going to break it; the Antichrist is going to stand up in front of them and say, “I lied!”

They will cry, “You cannot annul it.”

The Antichrist will say, “Yeah, I am annulling it. It is false; now, I am going to kill all of you.” Your agreement with hell will not stand, meaning that it will not protect you. The agreement that they make with the Satan and with hell will not protect you from the rage of the Devil, or the wrath of God. It is as if God is saying, “You will not be protected on either side. You will not be protected when the overflowing scourge passes through the land; in fact, you will be trampled down by it.”

The scourge that goes through the land is the Antichrist’s rage to destroy the entire nation of Israel, and it is God’s wrath as well; but the focus here is the Antichrist’s rage. This scourge will trample the nation of Israel down. It is very heavy, but the remnant will be saved. In many places, the remnant is the people who did not act hastily. The ones who said, “Wait, wait. We believe in Jesus.” There are others who do not know if Jesus is the truth but did not act hastily. They did not buy into this covenant, they are not taking the mark; they are not worshipping this evil man.

ISAIAH 28:19-20: THE END-TIME SCOURGE IS COMING TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL

Isaiah 28:19-20: “As often as it goes out it will take you; For morning by morning it will pass over, And by day and by night; It will be a terror just to understand the report. For the bed is too short to stretch out on, And the covering so narrow that one cannot wrap himself in it.”

“As often as it goes out” means that this scourge, or this whip will pass over you. In other words, it is unrelenting, and it is every day. It is like what the Nazi regime did to the Jews in Poland and in Germany. They were unrelenting and did not have mercy, attacking day-by-day and morning-by-morning. They would not let up at all. It will be a terror just to understand the report and just to hear the story; it will cause men’s spirits to tremble. That is the evil that is in this man’s evil heart. This is a strange little proverb but an important one: for the bed is too short to stretch out and the covering is so narrow, you cannot wrap yourself in it. This means that there will be no ability to find comfort, and that was a proverb in the land.

“The bed is too short,” the guy is bent upon the bed, and there is no relief or comfort from this scourge when it passes through the land. He thinks, “Yeah, but he will put the blanket on him, but oh no! The blanket is too

narrow like a little napkin! I am freezing; the blanket it too short.” There is no relief and no position to get into for comfort; that is what it is saying. Comfort will be impossible to find except in the Lord, but this is a people who have resisted the Lord. Roman numeral VII and Roman numeral VIII, you can read on your own. There are little points that are happening right now.

MINISTRY TIME

Let’s stand.

I encourage you to go home and study this. Again, it is new information for some of you; for others of you, you are really getting it. If you have been paying attention for three months, you are starting to get it. It is really not that complex. Let’s just pause before the Lord. It is very sobering—the signs of the times. These things are really happening, and the groundwork is being laid. The ones that are not happening yet; you can see the build up already.

“Lord, here we are! We are your servants. We are not going to act hastily even in our own nations. We are not buying into the deception of darkness; we will not act hastily. We will stand true to Your Son—the tried and precious stone. Lord, we ask for living understanding. We ask for revelation, Lord. We are Yours, Lord.”

I want to pray for those of you who are unsettled by this. I do not mean confused by it. You say, “No, I think I understand it too well. It is new to me, but I am unsettled by it. I want the Lord to touch my spirit.” Anyone in the room who this feels so heavy to you, and you want the Lord to touch and strengthen you—even between now and then—just come forward; we will pray for you. That is a very normal feeling, and it is OK to feel that way. It may be like, “Man, this is intense and not what I was planning for my life.”

If you want prayer because you feel burdened by something in your life—family members, finances—something is heavy on you. You have come into the community of God’s people, and we want to take a moment to pray for you. If you are being afflicted by sickness, or just something heavy on your heart, we want to pray for you so just come on up. We should always look each other in the eye and ask the Lord to intervene. Ninety-second prayers make a big difference. I am a major believer in ninety-second prayers. I have done a bunch of them. Do that two, three, or five days in a row; you will be surprised that some things will begin to move with ninety-second prayers. I am going to ask a bunch of you to come up for just a few moments. I need about fifty of you come if you would, but I want to get somebody in front of everybody. I want you to ask them what they need. Give them a minute to talk before we start the music. Wave your hands if no one is in front of you. I need a couple more of you to come up, if you would. Just ask them what you can pray for them.