

Lesson Notes:

Are we living in the Last Days – Part 1

Many believe that we are living in the end of the Church Age and are fast approaching the period described as the Great Tribulation in the Book of the Revelation and the return of our Savior Jesus Christ. Others believe that the Tribulation referred to in the Book of the Revelation was the tribulation that Christians endured at the hands of the Romans during the reign of Nero and God's judgment on the Roman Empire. Below are biblical references to facts concerning the end times and how those either have been or are in the process of being fulfilled?

Scriptural Principles

- 1. Global Communication – Rev. 11:7-9** describes the death of the 2 witnesses and indicates that this will be witnessed by everyone worldwide. Before the advent of satellite television it would have been impossible for this prophecy to be fulfilled. The preterist point of view regarding the two witnesses is this is an allegory of heaven and earth and this is witnessed by the angels in heaven.
- 2. Global Government – Rev. 13:7-8** indicates that the Beast will be given power over the entire world. Currently the Euro is rapidly becoming the global currency and during the EU Council of Rome a plan was developed to broaden the EU to 10 major components that would exist worldwide. For those that feel that Nero Caesar or the Roman Empire was the Beast referred to in the book of the Revelation, Rome literally ruled the known world of their day.
- 3. All the Nations of the World would gather together against Jerusalem. – Zechariah 12:3** tells us that all nations of the world will gather together against Israel. The Arab world (with the exception of Jordan and Egypt) is essentially gathered together against Israel today politically if not militarily.
- 4. Vast increase of knowledge at the time of the end – Daniel 12:4** tells us that there will be vast knowledge at the end of the age. This has occurred with the advent of computers.
- 5. Ability to track everyone and their transactions – Rev 13:16-17** tells us that no one will be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast. This may be possible in today's world by eliminating paper and coin currency and requiring everyone purchase goods via the use of a credit card. Others believe that the mark of the beast is referring to Roman currency. During the time of the Roman tribulation no one was able to buy or sell goods unless they possessed Roman currency.
- 6. The Military Alliance of the Latter Days War – In Ezekiel 38** Magog (possibly Russia), Meshech (possibly Moscow), Tubal (Turkey), Persia (Iran), Cush (Sudan),

Put (Libya) are aligned against Israel. This military alliance is already in place. Egypt & Jordan are not listed and they currently have peace treaties in place with Israel.

- 7. Jerusalem will be trampled by the gentiles until the time of the gentiles are fulfilled.** - **Luke 21:24** tells us this. – Israel conquered Jerusalem for the first time since the destruction by Titus during 1967 six day war.
- 8. Israel will be reunited at the end of the age – Ezekiel 37:21-22** tells us that Judah and Israel will reunite at the end of the age. The Jewish people have been returning to Israel since the United Nations recognized Israel as a Nation on May 14, 1948.
- 9. Israel would become a lush garden and export fruit to other nations** – We are told this in **Isaiah 27:6** and **Ezekiel 36:34-35**. Currently Israel exports \$900 M of produce each year and is second only to the United States in fruit and vegetable imports.