<u>What Scripture says about ... the World leading up</u> <u>to Jesus' Return</u>

Eze 33:1-9 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: 'When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their **watchman**, when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he **blows the trumpet & warns the people**,

Eze 33:4 then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head.

Eze 33:5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But **he who takes warning will save his life**.

Eze 33:6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.'

Eze 33:7 "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me.

Eze 33:8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

Eze 33:9 Nevertheless if you <u>warn the wicked to turn from his way</u>, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.

Eschatology is the study of "the last things" ... Today we will look at events leading to Jesus' return ...as scripture has SO MUCH to say about the "end of the age"-We NEED understanding





20 Elements of End Time Prophecy

1 - Work of the church ends (suppressed?)

Dan 12:11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety (1290) days.

Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.

2 - Sacrifices End (... implying another temple built - or altar?)

Dan 12:11 "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up...

Mat 24:15-16 Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

3 - Events *leading to* the end time (4 horsemen + other)

Rev 6:1-8 Now I saw when the Lamb opened <u>one</u> of the **seals**; and I heard one of the four living creatures

saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." And I looked, and behold, a <u>white</u> <u>horse</u>. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. When He opened the <u>second</u> seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." Another <u>horse</u>, fiery <u>red</u>, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. When He opened the <u>third</u> seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a <u>black</u> <u>horse</u>, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." When He opened the <u>fourth</u> seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a <u>pale horse</u>. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.

Signs of the End of the Age

Mat 24:3-14 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one <u>deceives</u> you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and



will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

Mat 24:8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Mat 24:9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.

Mat 24:10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Mat 24:11 Then many **false prophets** will rise up and deceive many.

Mat 24:12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Mat 24:13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and **then** the end will come.

6 Categories showing end is "near"

A) The Signs of Nature

"... and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven." (Luke 21:11)

Jesus said the signs would be like "birth pangs" (Matthew 24:8). That means they will increase in frequency and intensity the closer we get to the Lord's return.

B) The Signs of Society

"Realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..." (2 Timothy 3:1-4)

Love of self is **Humanism** — the belief that Man can accomplish anything The love of money is Materialism.

The love of pleasure is **Hedonism**



But God cannot be mocked (Galatians 6:7). He therefore sees to it that when people chose Humanism, Materialism, and Hedonism, the payoff is always **Nihilism** — which is a fancy philosophical word

Need I emphasize that our world is wallowing in despair today? We live in a society plagued by **abortion**, **homosexuality**, **domestic**

violence, child molestation, blasphemy, pornography, alcoholism, drug abuse and gambling.

Like the days of the Judges in the Old Testament, people are "doing what is right in their own eves", and the result is that people are calling evil good and good evil (Isaiah 5:20).

C) The Spiritual Signs

There are more signs in this category than any other. Many are evil in nature ... a typical passage is the following one found in 2 Timothy 4:3-4:

"The time will come when they [professing Christians] will not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths." Some of the negative spiritual signs that are specifically prophesied include the following: false christs, cultic groups, heresies, apostasy, skepticism, deception, occultism, and persecution.

D) The Signs of World Politics

"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars... for nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom..." (Matthew 24:6-7)

Daniel prophesied that the Roman Empire would be revived (<u>Daniel 2:36-41</u>), something many men — like Charlemagne, Napoleon, and Hitler — tried to do through force & the European Common Market that has since morphed into the superpower called the European Union. The Bible pictures a great power located in the land of Magog in the *"remote parts of the north."* This nation will menace Israel in the end times and will ultimately lead an invasion of Israel together with specified allies, all of which are modern day Muslim states (<u>Ezekiel 38:1</u> – <u>39:16</u>). Russia with all its Muslim republics and its Muslim allies fits this description precisely.

Additionally, Political unions such as formed in the United nations promote one world government & loss of freedom via control of populations

E) The Signs of Technology

"Men will faint from fear over the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken." (Luke 21:26)

The development of nuclear weapons seems to be foreshadowed by this prophecy ... Also Biological weapons, chemical weapons, global pandemics, ecological disasters, Global economic collapse, synthetic biology, nanotechnology, Artificial Intelligence

F) The Signs of Israel

"And it shall come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it." (Zechariah 12:3)

The signs that relate to Israel are the most important of all because the Jews are God's prophetic time clock. A key prophecy is the one whose fulfillment we are witnessing today — the re-focusing of world politics upon the nation of Israel (Zechariah 12:2-3). All the nations of the world, including the United States, are coming against Israel over the issue of the control of the nation's capital — the city of Jerusalem. The Vatican wants the city put under its control. The United Nations wants it to be internationalized. The European Union is demanding it be divided between the Arabs and the Jews. The Arabs want all of it.



4 - Protection for some?

Luke 21:36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Psa 91:7-10 A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling

Revelation 17:6

I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

5 - Abomination of Desolation

Mat 24:15-16 Therefore when you see the 'ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Luk 21:20 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.

6 - Israel Falls, Times of the Gentiles

Luk_21:24 & they will fall by the edge of the sword, & be led away captive into all nations & Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the <u>times of the Gentiles</u> are fulfilled

Rev 11:2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, & do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. & they will tread the holy city underfoot for 42 months



7 - 2 Witnesses

Rev 11:3-6 And I will give power to my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty (*1260*) **days**, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees & the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth & if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

8 - Church in the Wilderness

Rev 12:6 Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty (*1260*) days.

Rev 12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a **time and times and half a time**, from the presence of the serpent.

9 - Beast Power

Rev 13:4-5 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months**.

Dan 7:23-25 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a **time and times and half a time**.



- End time Beast is considered Roman Empire (various resurrections)

Rev 13:16-18 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a <u>mark</u> on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His <u>number</u> is <u>666</u>.

- Mark of Beast does not exist yet (not required yet to buy & sell)

- Various calculations in CoG literature count the number of the Beast =Roman Empire

From CgiBooklet - Church of God in Prophecy

Revelation 13 continues the saga of Satan's pursuit of the end-time saints. In this chapter, the devil summons a "beast" from the sea (verse1). The **beast** has "seven heads and ten horns" and represents **Antichrist** and his kingdom. A second beast rises from the earth, and is allied with the first beast (verses 11,12).

From CgiBooklet - Church of God in Prophecy (Continued)

The **sea beast** "opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation" (verses6,7).

This ruler of this blasphemous system can be none other than the **Antichrist**, the "**man of sin**," 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" (1 Thessalonians 2:3,4). This is the "**lawless one**," whose coming "is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish" (verses 9,10). His authority is not limited to an isolated area, but reaches every nation on earth.

The land beast is the idolatrous "**false prophet**" (Revelation 16:13; 19:20; 20:10) who "causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast" (Revelation 13:12). He has power to kill all who will not worship the image of the first beast (verse 15).

Christ warns, "If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints" (verses 9,10).

The **devil-inspired Antichrist and his idolatrous cohort, the "false prophet**," will not rest as long as there are faithful Christians on the earth. They will hunt them down like wild animals and kill all who refuse to reject God's commandments & renounce their loyalty to Jesus Christ.

In the end, Christ will defeat the Antichrist and his armies, and will grant immortality to the saints. But between now and then, it is up to us to prepare ourselves for the exciting yet turbulent times ahead.

10 - Great Tribulation = 5th Seal = martyrdom, captivity

Rev 6:9-11 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were ...

Mat 24:9-10 "Then they will deliver you up to **tribulation** and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Luk 21:23-24 But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people & they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away **captive** into all nations.

11 - Heavenly Signs = 6th Seal

Rev 6:12-13 I watched as the Lamb broke the <u>sixth seal</u>, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as dark as black cloth, and the moon became as red as blood. Then the stars of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind.

Mat 24:29 "Immediately <u>after</u> the <u>tribulation</u> of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, <u>**Before**</u> the coming of the great and awesome <u>day of the LORD</u>.

12 - Day of the Lord = 7th Seal = 7 Trumpets

Rev 8-9 list the various destructions

13 - Sealing 144,000 + the great multitude from the nations

Rev 7:3-4, ... "Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have **sealed** the servants of our God on their foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed **Rev 7:9-10** After these things I looked, and behold, a **great**

multitude which no one could number, of **all nations**, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Eph 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Eze 9:4 and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a <u>mark</u> on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it."



14 - Silence in Heaven

Rev 8:1-2 When He opened the 7th seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. & I saw the 7 angels who stand before God, & to them were given 7 trumpets

15 - 7 trumpets are plagues

Rev 9:20-21 But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these <u>plagues</u>, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

16 - WW3 = 5th Trumpet = 1st Woe & 6th Trumpet = 2nd Woe

Rev 9:7-9 The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle.

Rev 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit ...

Rev 17:12-14 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. **These will make war with the Lamb**, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Rev 9:13 Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

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Rev 9:15-16 So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to <u>kill a third of mankind</u>. Now the number of the army of the horsemen was **two hundred million**; I heard the number of them.

17 - Jesus' Return! at the 7th Trumpet

Rev 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.



18 - God's Wrath

Rev 15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the <u>seven last plagues</u>, for in them the **wrath of God** is complete.

19 - Content of 3^{rd} Woe = 7^{th} Trumpet = 7 Vial Plagues

Rev 8-9 list the various destructions



20 - Battle of Armageddon

Joel 3:12-14 "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow— For their wickedness is great." Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Zech 14:12 And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, & their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.

Rev 16:14 For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth & of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty **Rev 16:16** & they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, <u>Armageddon</u>.

Luk 18:8 ... when the Son of Man comes (*end time*), will He really find faith on the earth?"

Luk 18:1 ... He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray & not lose heart