Prophetic Update Terrell Bible Church Drake Torp-Pedersen, PhD January 10, 2021

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Introduction (Matthew 24:32-33, 36)

The Bible is clear in teaching that we cannot know the time of the return of our Lord. And yet, He does expect to be aware of the "seasons" and see the nearness of His return (Mt. 24:32-33). There is nothing that must happen (in terms of prophetic fulfillment) before the Rapture of the Church. But as we see the increasing similarity of our times to those that will characterize the Tribulation, the period leading up to the second coming of Christ, the closer His appearing seems.

The articles cited below are not meant to say that they are the fulfillment of prophecy. Rather, they are an illustration of how end-time prophecy might be fulfilled. Also, they show an increasing readiness for the end-time events. One illustration of this might be the Temple in Jerusalem. The Bible indicates there will be a Temple in Jerusalem before the return of Christ (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15; & 2 Thes. 2:3-4). The news pointing to a readiness to rebuild the Temple shows how readily the world situation could become what is described in the biblical accounts of the days leading to the return of Christ.

"I read the, newspaper," said John Newton, "that I may see how my heavenly Father governs the world;" a very excellent reason indeed. We have read the newspaper during the last three months that we might find illustrations of the teaching of our heavenly Father's word; and we think we have not read in vain, for we have gathered instances in proof, and facts in explanation, which we have jotted down in these pages. The worlds of nature and of providence are full of parallels to things moral and spiritual, and serve as pictures to make the written book of inspiration more clear to the children of God. [CH Spurgeon, Preface to *The Bible and the Newspaper*, AGES Spurgeon 2.0]

1. Middle East Peace

A. Scripture (Daniel 9:27)

Dan. 9:27 indicates that the last seven years before the return of Christ will start with a peace treaty that will apparently allow Israel renewed worship.

B. News

1. Top White House official says peace plan could be rolled out before March vote

Top White House official says peace plan could be rolled out before March vote

2. Trump unveils plan for 'realistic 2-state' deal, 'undivided' Israeli Jerusalem

https://www.timesofisrael.com/trump-unveils-plan-for-realistic-2-state-deal-undivided-israeli-jerusalem

3. Here is the official Trump peace proposal.

http://k6s3v6r4.ssl.hwcdn.net/?file=20200128203007.pdf

4. Trump predicts 'one unified family' in Mideast With Netanyahu on phone, euphoric Trump predicts 'one unified family' in Mideast

Announcing Israel-Sudan peace, US president invites reporters to hear call with Israel, Sudan leaders, says Saudis will sign up, ultimately Iran too; PM backs 'better' Iran deal

https://www.timesofisrael.com/with-netanyahu-on-phone-euphorictrump-predicts-one-unified-family-in-

mideast/?utm source=Breaking+News&utm campaign=breaking-news-2020-10-23-2414416&utm medium=email

5. Evangelicals praise White House signing of 'Abraham Accords' between Israel, UAE and Bahrain

https://www.christianpost.com/news/evangelicals-praise-white-house-signing-of-abraham-accords-between-israel-uae-and-bahrain.html

2. The Temple

A. Scripture (Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15; & 2 Thes. 2:3-4)

The Bible indicates that the Temple in Jerusalem must be rebuilt (again) and have a part in the end-time events. This is seen in Daniel 9:27; Mt. 24:15; and 2 Thes. 2:3-4.

B. News

1. Sanhedrin Gets Authorization to Use Their Trees for Third Temple

https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/144915/sanhedrin-gets-authorization-to-use-their-trees-for-third-temple/

2. Israel's Defense Minister: We are Now in Era of Third Temple

https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/145117/israels-defense-minister-we-are-now-in-era-of-third-temple/
The video of the speech (in Hebrew) is below:
https://www.facebook.com/100012268565790/videos/877840189301
592/

3. Jordan warns against changing status of Temple Mt., after Netanyahu's Saudi trip

Jordanian ex-aides say Israel could seek to hand custodianship of the Jerusalem holy site to Saudi Arabia, in effort to secure 'the big prize' of normalization

https://www.timesofisrael.com/jordan-warns-against-changing-status-of-temple-mt-after-netanyahus-saudi-trip/

4. Activists Attempt to Light Menorah on Temple Mount, Like Maccabees of Old

https://www.jewishpress.com/news/israel/jerusalem/activists-attempt-to-light-menorah-on-temple-mount-like-maccabees-of-old/2020/12/14/

3. One World Government

A. Scripture. (Rev. 13:7; 17:12-13)

The Bible speaks of a one-world government (Rev. 13:7; 17:12-13) headed by the Antichrist (though it will face opposition from northern, southern and eastern nations not aligned with the revived Roman empire [e.g., Ezek. 38-39]).

B. News

1. Update: UN chief calls for multilateralism, reformed global governance

https://www.msn.com/en-xl/news/other/update-un-chief-calls-for-multilateralism-reformed-global-governance/ar-BB1bRkOJ

2. Coronavirus and the need for global governance

https://www.democracywithoutborders.org/13204/coronavirus-and-the-need-for-global-governance/

3. Pope calls for the COVID crisis to prepare us for a collective future.

Pope calls for inequalities to be abolished after 'time of trial' https://thehill.com/policy/international/europe/493565-pope-calls-for-inequalities-to-be-abolished-after-time-of-trial

4. Suppression of Free Speech is growing

Facebook and Instagram Block President Trump's Account Indefinitely

https://www.lifenews.com/2021/01/07/marck-zuckerberg-says-facebook-and-instagram-will-block-president-trumps-account-indefinitely/

4. One World Economy

A. Scripture (Rev. 13:16-18)

Rev. 13:16-18 teaches that the Antichrist will totally control trade so that no one will be able to buy or sell without the mark of the beast on his right hand or his forehead.

Rev. 13:16 And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, [17] and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. [18] Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

B. News

1. China Turns to Health-Rating Apps to Control Movements During Coronavirus Outbreak

https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-turns-to-health-rating-apps-to-control-movements-during-coronavirus-outbreak-11582046508

2. Apple, Google reveal new system for tracking people who might have COVID-19

https://disrn.com/news/apple-google-reveal-new-system-for-tracking-down-people-who-might-have-covid-19/

3. Rabbis Accuse Netanyahu of a "Mass Microchip Plot": Selling Out Israel to the Globalist Agenda

https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/149840/rabbis-accuse-netanyahu-selling-israel-out-globalists-after-sensor-children-comment/

4. U.S. Democrats propose ominous '6666' bill for coronavirus tracing

The shortened title of the bill is, 'COVID-19 Testing, Reaching, And Contacting Everyone (TRACE) Act.'
Mon May 11, 2020 - 5:53 pm EST

https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/house-dems-propose-ominous-6666-bill-for-coronavirus-tracing

5. Wearable tattoo: Scientists print sensors directly onto skin without heat

https://www.upi.com/Science News/2020/10/12/Wearable-tattoo-Scientists-print-sensors-directly-onto-skin-without-heat/8371602507160/

6. 'We won't force vaccine; but here's what we will do'

https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/292039?fbclid= IwAR3a-

yIozWBwjsvSxBXyzQ6831sYti9MIooeTcXzu9eydnQNrmWr9TR5Fhs

7. Is That Proof of a Vaccine in Your Wallet?

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2020-12-30/is-that-proof-of-a-vaccine-in-your-wallet

8. Important institutions are quietly forcing conservatives out

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jun/1/deplatforming-trend-highlights-terrifying-bias-aga/

9. Covid vaccine certificates could lead to 'global identity document' used for all aspects of life, human rights NGO warns

https://www.rt.com/news/510053-covid-passport-global-identity-document/

10. Control of information is another side this control

Twitter Follows Trump Suspension With Massive 'Purge' Of Conservative Accounts

https://dailycaller.com/2021/01/08/twitter-purge-harmful-activity-accounts/

11. Email provider suspends Trump Campaign's account

https://disrn.com/news/email-provider-suspends-trump-campaigns-account

5. One World Religion

A. Scripture (Dan. 9:27; 2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:8)

Part of what the Bible tells us about the Antichrist is that he will take over the Temple at the mid-point of the Tribulation and set himself up for worship (Dan. 9:27; 2 Thes. 2:3-4). Rev. 13:8 says that all the non-elect will worship him. The end times, therefore, will see a unified state religion that will oppose the biblical faith.

B. News

1. Chinese Churches 'Must Support' Communist Leaders and Gov't, New Law Says

https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michaelfoust/chinese-churches-must-support-communist-leaders-and-govtnew-law-says.html

Related:

China Raids Churches for 'Illegal' Bibles, Threatens Fines of \$1,400 'Persecuted Even after Death' -- China Bans Christian Funerals China Persecuted 5,576 Churches in 2019, Climbs to 23 on Worst Persecutors List

<u>Chinese Pastor Sentenced to 9 Years in Prison for Preaching Gospel</u> <u>Chinese Panel: Bible Must Be Re-Interpreted to 'Keep Pace with the Times'</u>

<u>China Demolishes 3,000-Seat Megachurch during Worship Service</u> <u>China Edits Pastor's Sermon, Deletes 'God Made Heaven and Earth'</u> China Beats and Arrests Pastor for Not Removing Church's Cross

2. China orders Christians to take down crosses, images of Jesus; worship communist leaders not God

https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-orders-christians-to-take-down-crosses-images-of-jesus-worship-communist-leaders-not-god.html

3. Chinese Churches Are Ordered to Praise Socialism, Slander the United States

https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michaelfoust/chinese-churches-are-ordered-to-praise-socialism-slander-theunited-states.html

4. China's Communist Party orders teachers to establish Marxist religious view, promote atheism

https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-teachers-ordered-to-establish-marxist-religious-view.html

5. Pro-Abortion Democrat Ends Congressional Prayer With "Amen and Awomen"

https://www.lifenews.com/2021/01/04/pro-abortion-democrat-ends-congressional-prayer-with-amen-and-awomen/

6. 5,000 Clergy at the World Christian Leadership Conference

https://www.globenewswire.com/newsrelease/2020/12/07/2140831/0/en/5-000-Clergy-at-the-World-Christian-Leadership-Conference-1st-Anniversary-Online-Event.html

6. Babylon

A. Scripture (Rev. 17-18)

Revelation 17-18 (Note 17:1, 5) indicates that Babylon will again be a significant city and focus in end time events. Many have thought that this was perhaps symbolic of Rome. That is not required by the text. Some have wrongly assumed that the judgment of Babylon in Jer. 50-51 has been fulfilled so that Babylon will never be rebuilt. See Dyer's articles for a clear refutation (Bib Sac 144: 305-316 and 145: 433-449). See also Dr. S. Lewis Johnson's transcribed sermons: Isaiah 13:1 – 14:23' "Babylon and Lucifer" and his five sermons on Revelation 17-18.

B. News

1. With Iraq trip upcoming, Pope Francis makes appeal for peace in Middle East

https://religionnews.com/2020/12/10/with-iraq-trip-upcoming-pope-francis-makes-appeal-for-peace-in-middle-east/

7. Invasion from the North

A. Scripture (Ezek. 38-39)

The Bible indicates that Israel is the focus of the end-time events. One aspect of that is that it will be the center of much warfare. One assault will come from a northern alliance. Many commentators equate this with Russia—at least in part (i.e., Magog in the Caucasus mountain region) (cf. BKCOT, 1299-1300—see update map), Ezek. 38-39.

While somewhat dated by references to the Soviet Union, Charles Dyer's comments in the Bible Knowledge Commentary on the OT (BKCOT), on Ezekiel 38 are helpful:

However, while one must avoid dogmatic assertions, three reasons suggest including the Soviet Union within Ezekiel's prophecy: (1) Some of the countries named by Ezekiel were located in what is now Russia. (2) The armies are said to come "from the far north" (Eze 38:6, Eze 38:15; Eze 39:2). This probably includes the land bridge between the Black and Caspian Seas, now part of the Soviet Union. (3) Ezekiel spoke of a coalition of several nations, many of whom are today aligned with or under the influence of the Soviet Union. These include Iran ("Persia"), Sudan and northern Ethiopia ("Cush"), Libya ("Put"), and Turkey ("Meshech," "Tubal," "Gomer," and "Beth Togarmah"). All these nations (see Eze 38:5-6), possibly led by the Soviet Union, will unite to attack Israel. (emphasis added)

B. News

1. Iran's view of Biden as restrained could lead to hitting Israel harder, INSS [Institute for National Security Studies]

https://www.jpost.com/international/irans-view-of-biden-as-restrained-could-lead-to-hitting-israel-harder-inss-654454

2. China urges calm, Russia warns against overdramatizing as Iran ramps up uranium enrichment

https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iran/2021/iran-210105-presstv10.htm

2. IDF chief warns Iran now the 'most dangerous country' in Middle East

https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-chief-warns-iran-now-the-most-dangerous-country-in-middle-east/

8. Wars and Rumors of Wars

A. Scripture (Matthew 24:6-8)

B. News

1. Kim Jong Un says North Korea is developing tactical nukes, new warheads and a nuclear-powered submarine

https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/09/asia/north-korea-nuclear-development-intl-hnk/index.html

2. US military presence in Georgia would help deter Russia and contain Iran

https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/inside-the-rapidly-increasing-us-iran-military-tensions

9. Persecution of Christians

A. Scripture (Mt. 24:9; Rev. 6:9)

Mt. 24:9 indicates that persecution and execution of believers will be part of the end times. Cf. Rev. 6:9.

B. News

1. 'Persecuted even after death': China bans Christians from holding religious funerals

https://www.christianpost.com/news/persecuted-even-after-death-china-bans-christians-from-holding-religious-funerals.html

2. Report: At least 620 Nigerian Christians killed by Boko Haram, Fulani militants in 2020 so far

https://disrn.com/news/report-at-least-620-nigerian-christians-killed-by-boko-haram-in-2020/

3. China bulldozes 'illegal' gravestones of 20 Swedish missionaries

[This reminds me of the destruction of statues in USA—seeking to delete the history and values foundational to our nation.]

https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-destroys-gravestones-of-swedish-missionaries.html

4. "Bigot" has been given a new dictionary definition and it TOTALLY isn't aimed at you

https://notthebee.com/article/bigot-has-a-new-dictionary-definition-and-it-totally-isnt-taking-aim-at-you

5. George Mason U. professor finds Bible, reports it to 'bias' hotline

https://www.thecollegefix.com/george-mason-u-professor-finds-bible-reports-it-to-bias-hotline/

6. Major LGBT Group Urges Biden to Strip Accreditation of Christian Schools, Colleges

https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/major-lgbt-group-urges-biden-to-strip-accreditation-of-christian-schools-colleges.html

7. Thousands of pastors go into hiding amid China's rising persecution, attempts to eradicate Christianity

https://www.christianpost.com/world/china-pastors-go-into-hiding-amid-final-assault-on-faith.html

10. Pestilence

A. Scripture (Rev. 6:8)

Rev. 6:8 And I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. And authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

B. News

1. 2020 will be remembered as the year of COVID-19

While the virus made many ill and many died, the virus showed how quickly a disease can spread and become a pandemic.

Worldwide nearly 86 million were infected and over 1.8 million died (as of January 4, 2021, https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/)

Comparison with other viruses

https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/coronavirus-death-rate/#comparison

For comparison, the case fatality rate with seasonal flu in the United States is less than 0.1% (1 death per every 1,000 cases). Mortality rate for SARS was 10%, and for MERS 34%.

Virus	Death Rate
Wuhan Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)	2%*
SARS	9.6%
MERS	34%
Swine Flu	0.02%

^{*}estimate

pan·dem·ic ∜ (păn-dĕm□ĭk)

Share:

adj.

- **1.** Widespread; general.
- **2.** Medicine Epidemic over a wide geographic area and affecting a large proportion of the population: pandemic influenza. n.

A pandemic disease.

[From Late Latin pandēmus, from Greek pandēmos, of all the people : pan-, pan- + dēmos, people; see dā- in the Appendix of Indo- European roots.]

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1. Health experts: Human-to-human spread of new virus worrying

https://apnews.com/a980aeb44b3840341c674a6e67c19da6

2. 10 Plagues That Are Hitting Our Planet Simultaneously

http://endoftheamericandream.com/archives/10-plagues-that-are-hitting-our-planet-simultaneously

3. Fecal Bacteria In California's Waterways Increases With Homeless Crisis

https://californiahealthline.org/news/fecal-bacteria-in-californias-waterways-increases-with-homeless-crisis/

11. Immorality

A. Scripture (2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3)

2 Tim 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3:3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 3:4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.

2 Pet. 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2:2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 2:3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

B. News

1. Germany passed a new law removing any restriction to suicide

https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2020/03/tyranny-ingermany

2. Dutch Doctors Allowed to Euthanize Without Warning

https://fsspx.news/en/news-events/news/dutch-doctors-allowed-euthanize-without-warning-62211

3. California insurance commissioner: Breast amputation surgery for minor girls must be covered

https://www.christianpost.com/news/calif-insurance-cos-must-cover-breast-amputation-for-minors.html

4. Over 42.6M abortions conducted in 2020, surpassing world's leading causes of death

https://www.christianpost.com/news/m-babies-aborted-in-2020-surpassing-leading-causes-of-death.html

5. Joe Biden Celebrates Abortion, Calls Killing Babies in Abortions a "Constitutional Right"

https://www.lifenews.com/2020/06/29/joe-biden-celebrates-abortion-calls-killing-babies-in-abortion-a-constitutional-right/

6. Even mainstream dictionaries have bowed to transgender insanity

https://www.lifesitenews.com/blogs/even-mainstream-dictionarieshave-bowed-to-transgender-insanity

12. The Family will suffer

A. Scripture (2 Timothy 3:1-2)

2 Tim 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy

B. News

1. 47 Percent of Mainline Pastors Now Support Same-Sex Marriage

https://www.christianheadlines.com/contributors/michael-foust/47-percent-of-mainline-pastors-now-support-same-sex-marriage.html

2. Joe Biden makes sweeping promises to LGBTQ activists

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/joe-biden-makessweeping-promises-to-lgbtg-activists/ar-BB1btbZ2

3. Public Schools Will Be Forced To Allow Biological Males On Female Sports Teams If Joe Biden Wins, According To Biden

https://dailycaller.com/2020/06/29/joe-biden-transgender-athletes-girls-sports/

13. Lawlessness will increase

A. Scripture (Mat. 24:12)

Mat. 24:12 "And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

B. News

Space and time would not allow me to list, describe, or document that amount of rioting, looting, violence, and anarchy that has marred several major cities of America.

The recent attack on the Capitol building is another stunning example.

I have been shocked to see occasion after occasion of brutal fights breaking out in restaurants, stores, and even airline jets ... over the issue of wearing a mask!

1. Department Of Justice Identifies New York City, Portland And Seattle As Jurisdictions Permitting Violence And Destruction Of Property

https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-identifies-new-york-city-portland-and-seattle-jurisdictions-permitting

14. Anti-Semitism

A. Scripture (Rev. 12:12-13)

"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time." ¹³ And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child. (Revelation 12:12-13)

B. News

1. The coronavirus pandemic is fueling anti-Semitism around the world, and the US is no exception

https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-pandemic-fuels-anti-semitism-2020-4?r=US&IR=T

2. The Simon Wiesenthal Center notes Anti-emitic incidents across the world, and in universities, etc.

https://www.wiesenthal.com/assets/pdf/top-ten-anti-semitic.pdf

Application:

All of this is not to set a date or say that these are the final fulfillments of prophecy. They could be or may just show trends and tendencies. We are told to be watchful. Watch the news and note the seasons!

At least three responses should be given to the study of biblical prophecy:

1. Purification

John tells us that he who has the hope of the rapture of the saints and the coming of Christ purifies himself (1 John 3:2-3). We do that by trusting Christ for salvation (Titus 3:5) and then, repenting of sin, yielding ourselves to the service of Christ.

2. Prayer

Jesus taught us that we are to pray "Thy kingdom come." (Mt. 6:10). When Daniel saw the times in which he lived, he turned to his Bible and then responded to the prophetic teaching with prayer. (Dan. 9:1-3)

3. Proclamation/Preaching

Based on prophetic truths, we should encourage/comfort others (1 Th. 4:18; 5:11, 14; Heb. 3:13). We should also be faithful in persuading others of the gospel and their need to respond (2 Cor. 5:10-11).

This "news" is not to cause us to fear. It reminds us that our hope and home are not in this world, but in heaven with Christ.

Appendix: An overview of Biblical Prophecy

Perhaps it would be helpful to review some of the important features of the prophetic calendar of the Bible. The major parts of it are the following:

- (1) First, the course of the present age will be characterized by the growth of the true church (cf. Matt. 16:13-20), the growth of professing Christendom (cf. 13:1-52), and the growth of apostasy within the latter.
- (2) Second, the translation of the church, including the resurrection of the dead saints, the rapture of the living (cf. 1 Thes. 4:13-18), and the judgment seat of Christ (cf. 2 Cor. 5:10-11).
- (3) Third, the seventieth week of Israel (cf. Dan. 9:24-27), during which a series of prophetic events occur, including the rise of world government and the beast, or the Antichrist, the making of a covenant by the Antichrist with the Jews in the land concerning worship and other

- matters, and the breaking of the covenant by the beast in the middle of the week (Dan. 9:27).
- (4) Fourth, the second advent of Christ (cf. Rev. 19:11-16), with the judgment of Israel (cf. Ezek. 20:24-38; Matt. 25:1-13) and the judgment of the Gentiles (cf. Matt. 25:31-46).
- (5) Fifth, the messianic kingdom of Christ (cf. Rev. 20:4-6).
- (6) Sixth, the great white throne judgment, where all past accounts of the lost are settled permanently (cf. Rev. 20:11-15).
- (7) Seventh, the creation of the new heavens and the new earth, or the eternal state (Rev. 21:1-8).

Dr. S. Lewis Johnson, *Believers Bible Bulletin*, Series: "Matthew," Lesson 79, page 2. (September 4, 1977)