

**Prophetic Update
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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. Saudi leaders tell Jewish group they’re ready to normalize with Israel, but first need to normalize with US

<https://allisrael.com/exclusive-interview-saudi-leaders-tell-jewish-group-they-re-ready-to-normalize-with-israel-but-first-need-to-normalize-with-u-s>

2. Israel Can Normalize Ties with Saudi Arabia – with Biden’s Help

Originally published in [*Jerusalem Post*](#).

<https://jinsa.org/israel-can-normalize-ties-with-saudi-arabia/>

3. Davos World Economic Forum on Mideast

This article is part of: [World Economic Forum Annual Meeting](#)

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/01/middle-east-davos-2024/>

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. 'Almost everything is ready for the Third Temple,' claims Israeli TV report about red heifers brought to Israel last year

<https://allisrael.com/almost-everything-is-ready-for-the-third-temple-claims-israeli-tv-report-on-red-heifers-brought-to-israel-last-year>

2. Hamas Spokesman: Oct 7 attack launched to stop the red heifers

<https://www.israel365news.com/382489/hamas-spokesman-oct-7-attack-launched-to-stop-the-red-heifers/>

3. Rabbis petition government to allow Passover sacrifice on Temple Mount

<https://www.israel365news.com/369083/rabbis-petition-government-to-allow-passover-sacrifice-on-temple-mount-arabs-decry-the-attempt/>

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. Welcome to 2030. I own nothing, have no privacy, and life has never been better

Originally published at www.weforum.org.

<https://medium.com/world-economic-forum/welcome-to-2030-i-own-nothing-have-no-privacy-and-life-has-never-been-better-ee2eed62f710>

2. Jordan Peterson says Ontario psychologist licence may be suspended over public statements

<https://globalnews.ca/news/9386896/jordan-peterson-ontario-psychologists-college-public-statements/>

3. Elon Musk says 'single world government' could lead to end of civilization at World Government Summit

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/elon-musk-says-single-world-government-could-lead-end-civilization-world-government-summit>

4. It is time to seriously consider the advantages of a world federal government

Arvind Ashta is a Senior Professor in the Burgundy School of Business, Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté, Dijon, France.

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europpblog/2021/03/18/it-is-time-to-seriously-consider-the-advantages-of-a-world-federal-government/>

5. The big idea: is world government possible?

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/nov/22/the-big-idea-is-world-government-possible>

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. Are We On the Verge of a Cashless Society?

<https://tech.co/pos-system/cashless-society-stats-pros-cons>

2. 'Alarming' surveillance: Feds asked banks to search private transactions for terms like 'MAGA,' 'Trump'

Read the full article [here](#)

<https://judiciary.house.gov/media/in-the-news/alarming-surveillance-feds-asked-banks-search-private-transactions-terms-maga>

3. Federal Government Flagged Transactions Using Terms like "MAGA" and "TRUMP" for Financial Institutions

Read the full letter to Director Wray [here](#).

Read the full letter to Noah Bishoff [here](#).

<https://judiciary.house.gov/media/press-releases/federal-government-flagged-transactions-using-terms-maga-and-trump-financial>

4. [Davos Agenda](#)

The benefits of a cashless society

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/benefits-cashless-society-mobile-payments/>

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. The Abrahamic Family House inaugurated in Dubai

<https://www.israel365news.com/367134/the-abrahamic-family-house-inaugurated-in-dubai/>

Video:

<https://www.israel365news.com/367134/the-abrahamic-family-house-inaugurated-in-dubai/>

2. Israeli futurist, author predicts AI will soon 'write a new Bible'

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/israeli-futurist-predicts-ai-will-soon-write-a-new-bible.html>

3. Pope Francis reiterates belief that 'religions' must unite in 'service of brotherhood'

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/analysis/pope-francis-reiterates-belief-that-religions-must-unite-in-service-of-brotherhood/>.

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. Iraq intends to build 99 jetties in its Grand Faw Port to make it the largest container terminal in Western Asia

<https://www.zawya.com/en/projects/construction/iraq-to-build-99-jetties-in-faw-port-lwh98do7>

2. Iraq is undergoing tremendous reconstruction on the ruins of war

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287633.shtml>

3. China, Iraq begin construction of new city near Baghdad

<https://new.thecradle.co/articles/china-iraq-begin-construction-of-new-city-near-baghdad>

4. Al-Faw Grand Port to be deeper than Suez Canal

<https://www.iraqinews.com/iraq/al-faw-grand-port-to-be-deeper-than-suez-canal/>

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 38:2-3, Eze 38:5-6), possibly led by the Soviet Union, will unite to attack Israel. (emphasis added)

B. News

1. Putin takes pity on Palestinians and blames Israel for seizing part of their land

<https://news.yahoo.com/putin-takes-pity-palestinians-blames-130322516.html>

2. Russia turning against Israel, growing dangerously close with Iran, says Israeli Minister Gideon Sa'ar

<https://allisrael.com/russia-turning-against-israel-growing-dangerously-close-with-iran-says-israeli-minister-gideon-saar>

3. Iran, Russia, Turkey demand end to Israeli attacks on Syrian soil

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/494170/Iran-Russia-Turkey-demand-end-to-Israeli-attacks-on-Syrian>

4. Russia And Iran Finalize 20-Year Deal That Will Change The Middle East Forever

<https://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Russia-And-Iran-Finalize-20-Year-Deal-That-Will-Change-The-Middle-East-Forever.html>

8. Wars and Rumors of Wars

A. Scripture (Matthew 24:6-8)

B. News

1. Estonia, Finland plan to close Baltic Sea to Russian warships after Finland joins NATO

<https://www.ukrgate.com/eng/?p=44572>

2. Germany is preparing for Putin attack against NATO in 2025

(see also: <https://nypost.com/2024/01/15/news/germany-preparing-for-russia-to-start-world-war-3/>)

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-12964575/Germany-preparing-Putin-attack-against-NATO-2025-Leaked-secret-plans-reveal-step-step-Russia-escalate-conflict-war-18-months.html>

3. 'World War 3 has already begun' as warning issued 'no chance of peace for decades'

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1857662/ww3-russia-ukraine-war-israel-iran>

4. Norway Military Chief: War With Russia in 3 Years Possible

<https://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/war-russia-norway/2024/01/24/id/1150773/>

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. Christian woman tied to a tree, beaten by village leaders in Mexico

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-woman-tied-to-tree-beaten-by-traditionalist-catholics-mexico.html>

2. Democrat Senator Wants To See Children Protected From Vacation Bible School

Originally published at [The Washington Stand](https://www.washingtonstand.com) - reposted with permission.

https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=5885

3. school district bans student-teachers due to faith Arizona Christian University pledges action after school district bans student-teachers due to faith

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/arizona-christian-university-pledges-action-school-district-ban.html>

3a. Complete Victory Achieved in ACU Lawsuit Against Washington Elementary School District

Press release from Alliance Defending Freedom available here: <https://adfmedia.org/press-release/adf-lawsuit-prompts-school-district-renew-agreement-arizona-christian-university>

<https://www.arizonachristian.edu/2023/05/04/complete-victory-achieved-in-acu-lawsuit-against-washington-elementary-school-district/>

4. UK Street Preacher Convicted of "Misgendering" Man

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/british-street-preacher-appeals-conviction-for-misgendering.html>

5. Päivi Räsänen trial pending sentence

<https://evangelicalfocus.com/europe/23368/paivi-rasanen-trial-pending-sentence>

6. Finnish lawmaker wins second 'hate speech' case over quoting the Bible

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/finnish-lawmaker-wins-second-hate-speech-case-quoting-bible>

7. Exonerated Finnish politician and bishop to return to court over biblical 'hate speech'

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/256548/exonerated-finnish-politician-and-bishop-to-return-to-court-over-biblical-hate-speech>

8. China ensures 'stability' by demolishing churches, removing crosses

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-ensures-stability-by-demolishing-churches-removing-crosses.html>

9. China attempts to stifle Christianity with education system crackdown

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/china-attempts-to-stifle-christianity-with-education-crackdown.html>

10. Malta prosecutes Christian for sharing 'ex-gay' testimony

<https://evangelicalfocus.com/europe/20390/malta-prosecutes-christian-for-sharing-ex-gay-testimony>

10. Immorality

A. Scripture (2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; Rev. 9:21)

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.

Revelation 9:21 (NKJV)

And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

B. News

1. Three Years In Prison For Saying Men Cannot Get Pregnant?

Originally published at [The Bridgehead](#) - reposted with permission.

https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=5828

2. Conservative Media Personality Ordered To Take "Social Media Retraining"

Originally published at [WND News Center](#) - reposted with permission.

https://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=5827

11. 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. Some U.S. cities are legitimizing polyamory

<https://wng.org/roundups/some-u-s-cities-are-legitimizing-polyamory-1681761291>

2. Biblical Concept of Family is "Dangerous"

<https://notthebee.com/article/this-is-parody-right-theres-no-way-democrats-actually-believe-this>

12. 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

1. San Francisco's oldest toy store due to crime and drugs plaguing downtown area

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/news/san-franciscos-oldest-toy-store-due-to-crime-and-drugs-plaguing-downtown-area/ar-BB1hm1N5>

2. Oakland's In-N-Out shuts doors due to crime

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/n-closing-store-first-time-191951581.html>

3. Burger King employee killed after customer complains about long drive-thru line

https://www.ktvu.com/news/burger-king-employee-killed-after-customer-complains-about-long-drive-thru-line?_twitter_impression=true

4. Stores across America are closing due to crime. Major cities are becoming dangerous

San Francisco mall loses fifth store in a month as occupancy plunges to just 25%

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/san-francisco-mall-loses-fifth-store-in-a-month-as-occupancy-plunges-to-just-25/ar-BB1gWTFI>

5. 'Thou shalt not kill' posters coming to DC. Can they help curb gun violence?

<https://wtop.com/dc/2023/01/thou-shalt-not-kill-posters-coming-to-dc-can-they-help-curb-gun-violence/>

13. 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. GAZA—October 7, 2023

2. Campus and City demonstrations internationally—Pro-Hamas. "From the river to the sea."

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)