
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL, GOG and MAGOG and the SEVEN LAST PLAGUES

Welcome to Bible study. The crescent new moon (*rosh kodesh*) for was sighted Wednesday, December 4, 2013 at sunset at 4:29 P.M in Jerusalem and reported by Karaite Korner witnesses. So it is the ninth biblical Hebrew month (Tivet) and the new moon day was Thursday, December 5. The Jews are a day ahead of the observed true new moon this month because they are using the Jewish calculated mathematical calendar by Rabbi Hillel II in 358 A.D. Maybe in the next few years they will get back to the original calendar, and when they do maybe a lot of other people will, too. In the meantime, should we follow the Jews when we know they are wrong? The Jews follow the rabbi and whatever the rabbi says to do, they do. They now have the Sanhedrin, although it is not widely recognized. My question is, “What is the Jews’ excuse for not returning to the observed new moon?” Repentance means change—to turn around and follow God’s way. I am hopeful that maybe in the next few years they will get back to the original calendar. When they do, maybe a lot of other people will also.

Isaiah 55: 6-9—“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

This is the Laodicean age of the seven churches. In Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are the letters of God written to the seven churches in Asia Minor (Turkey) on the mail route .These churches depict the church of God down through the ages. God mentions each church as existing at the same time in each generation. Each church *represents an attitude of spirituality*, either growth in dedication and obedience to God or lack of growth with disobedience, stiff-necked and unproductive in furthering the Gospel of Christ and his coming kingdom. The last church stop on the mail route was Laodicea which represents the last church in the last age. We are living in this last age of the church today.

Rev 3:14-22 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm-- neither hot nor cold-- I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ **But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.** *I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.” Laodicea was characterized by being lukewarm, rich and increased with goods, proud and thinking very highly of themselves. *Blind* means they are unable to see God’s plan, or his purpose and the enactment and fulfillment of His prophecies. *Wretched* is a description of despicable gross immoral behavior—not upright. *Nakedness* has to do with not being spiritually clothed, not keeping the commandments properly.*

Laodicea was the wealthiest of the seven Churches. It was known for its banking industry, manufacture of black wool, and a medical school that produced eye salve called “Phrygian power.” The city was so

wealthy that when an earthquake destroyed it in 17 A.D., it refused imperial aid for rebuilding and did it entirely on its own. The people of Laodicea had even built an aqueduct to bring water from hot springs into the city. By the time the water had reached the city, it was no longer hot, nor was it refreshingly cold. It had become lukewarm. Laodicea had become spiritually *lukewarm*, complacent living in luxury and blinded to their real spiritual purpose.

We are to be zealous and careful that we do not fall into a Laodicean spiritual attitude (state of being). Be careful to do as Christ says to do and overcome. “He who has an ear let him hear.”

- Be zealous –full of zeal to follow God (not lukewarm)
- Repent – change your ways; examine yourself daily, to be sure you are living by the word of God with the help of his Holy Spirit.
- Know and memorize the scriptures (“it is written”) for an understanding heart
- Do what is right and just—with praise, thanksgiving and prayer

Ignorance is a lack of knowledge or experience and the way to destruction. We need to read and study the word of God for knowledge, wisdom and understanding. The Bible, the word of the living Creator God, is the real foundation and source of knowledge. We are his creation. He designed us, we are his children, and he teaches us the way we should go the way a good parent will do. He is patient with us so we will learn the right way to be successful and happy in loving Him and our neighbor.

Hosea 4:1—“Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood touches blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwells therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away. Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest. Therefore shall thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy your mother. **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:** because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shall be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

Today religions have gone astray. It is not just the politicians and our government. It is the churches and the ministers that have led them astray—about as far from the Bible as they can get. God’s precepts and concepts, the judgments, the statutes and laws of the Bible are not being taught. Yet they call themselves Christian. The things they are doing and teaching in the name of God astonishes me!

Letter: *Southwest Radio Ministries/Noah Hutchings* (12/13/13). Noah is over 90 years of age, a long-time foot-soldier in the cause of teaching the word of God, and believes in baptism by immersion. “According to a Fox News item dated October 23, 2013, President Obama has issued a directive to make our Armed Forces appear less aggressive by, for example, changing the 1922 Marine hat style to a more girlish or feminine appearance. In order to understand, we have to go back to the real Obama at the university—a bisexual, anti-American demonstrator. What most citizens do not understand is that when they vote for a candidate for president, they are also voting for him or her as commander-in-chief of our armed Forces.” “A Fox News report dated October 30, 2013, reported: ‘More Evidence of Anti-Christian Bias in Military Briefings.’ According to this report, ‘evangelical Christians’ are now regarded in certain Army circles as the nation’s most dangerous enemies. If this propaganda is permitted to spread in our armed forces, how long will it be before evangelical Christians will be imprisoned or placed before a firing squad? Why doesn’t the commander-in-chief of our armed Forces do something? Maybe he doesn’t care.” Could he be

behind it with his Muslim beliefs and sympathy toward the Muslim Brotherhood? Last March, Obama was interviewed by Nicholas Kristof, a New York Times Op-ed columnist. “Mr. Obama recalled the opening lines of the Arabic call to prayer, reciting them with a first-rate accent Mr. Obama described the call to prayer as “one of the prettiest sounds on Earth at sunset.” He also greeted king Abdullah of Saudi Arabia with a full bow from the waist at a G-20 meeting in London (*Examiner* 4/8/09). Such an act is a traditional obeisance befitting a king’s subjects, not his peer. Obama is the U.S. President. Realize that by and large, Muslims hate God, Christians and Jews. Their daily prayer says there is no other God but Allah. It is not a religion of love and acceptance, but one of hatred and warfare. The facts speak for themselves, and the evidence is clear regardless of what is said. The Koran speaks of beheading your enemies, the infidel and those who do not accept Mohammed and Allah. Christ said we will know others by their fruits—the way they act. Christ tells us to love and pray for our enemies. God will deal with the wicked at the appointed time.

Hutchings *continues*. *So Goes the Nation*. (1) “According to a Money “Banking” report of October 30, millions of Americans soon will have no health insurance at all because of the so-called Obamacare bill. They make too much money for Medicaid and are left out of subsidies for Obamacare. According to the 2,572 pages Obamacare bill citizens will be fined \$2,000 if they don’t have health insurance. Also according to this report, twenty-four new tax hikes or increases are planned to support Obamacare, and the president has given the IRS an extra \$500 million to enforce the new taxes.” (2) “A new civil war? Our history books record the terrible sufferings, death and flowing economic disaster caused by the War Between the States in the 1860’s. The lesson supposedly learned was that differences could be settled at the voting booth instead of on the battlefield. However, has this national resolution been weakened by time and political differences?” (3) “Residents from 20 states have filed petitions with the white House to secede from the country. Louisiana became the first of the (as of now) 50 united states that managed to collect enough signatures to have their petition for secession added to the White House website last week, and so far they’ve had no problem finding company. So far 19 other states have managed to attract similar success.” (4) According to a Gallup poll report, the majority of Americans now favor legalizing marijuana. (5) State after state is now recognizing two men or two women living together and sharing the same bed as a legal marriage, in spite of what God has said. (6) The average American now watches three hours television a day. TV programming now is a complete format of infomercials, hucksters promoting drugs, sex pills, pantyhose, exercise machines, vacuum cleaners, garden hoses, and cruises to Timbuktu from which you will return broke, exhausted and disgusted.”

Hosea 4:10-12—“My people ask counsel of idols. They have deserted His law and played the harlot against their God to give themselves to a spirit of prostitution, to old wine and new which takes away their understanding (enslaves the heart).” Not only have the colleges, and higher institutions of education kicked God out, so have the churches. **Verses 10-12**—“The more the priests (ministers) increased the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their glory for something disgraceful. They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness. And it will be: Like people, like priests. I will punish both of them for their ways and repay them for their deeds.”

2 Timothy 3:1-9—“This, know also, that *in the last days perilous times shall come*. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **3** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, **4** Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; **5** Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**6** For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, **7** Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**8** Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. **9** But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.” My paraphrase of this is that the character of men and leaders will be crazy.

World Net Daily (11/3/13) reported there is an increasing consensus that we are living in the last days.

- Billy Graham: “The world is coming to the end of the age.”
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu: “Biblical prophecies are being realized.”
- U.S. representative Michele Bachmann, concerning the Second Coming: “The world has entered the last days, as the days of Noah.”
- Barna Group poll: “4 in 10 Americans and 77% of evangelicals believe that we are now living in the very end of the age.”
- Paul McGuire: “We are on the verge of an explosion in the interest of apocalyptic events.”
- A History Channel special is entitled “7 Signs of the Apocalypse.”
- A number of planned TV and movie releases on the end-times will begin soon.

The interest in prophecy is at an all time high. People are concerned and appear to be getting anxious with the increasing frequency of unpredictable weather disasters, world economy and debt, dwindling adequate safe food and water supplies, and leadership power plays by the world’s nations. *Prophecy News Watch* headlines—“

- **Geneva Fallout: Iran Becomes a Nuclear Power while Israel Loses Trust in Obama.** Israel’s most painful lesson from the two-day Geneva conference on Iran’s nuclear program is that the man who guarantee to defend Israel’s security, President Barack Obama, is now marching hand in hand with Tehran towards a nuclear-armed Iran.”
- **Pakistan ‘Ready to Deliver Nuclear Weapons to Saudi Arabia’.** Saudi Arabia has invested in Pakistani nuclear weapons projects and believes it could obtain atomic bombs at will a variety of sources have told BBC. The nuclear bomb race is heating up in the Middle East.
- **Islamist Super-Bloc Begins Forming in the Middle East.** A monumental strategic shift is taking place in the Middle East as an Islamist super-bloc is forming. Turkey and the Muslim Brotherhood are making up with Iran and Hezbollah. Egypt and the Gulf states are forming their own alliance. The U.S. outreach to Iran and the Brotherhood has left it missing from the equation. Saudi Arabia is leading a third bloc that opposes Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood. The United Arab Emirates has loudly lobbied for such a coalition. Other members include Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Yemen and Oman. The North African countries of Libya, Morocco and Algeria are likely participants, as is Tunisia once the Brotherhood’s ousting there is completed. This is the bloc that is the least hostile to U.S. interests and Israel. To me, this sounds like what Daniel 11 calls the king of the south. Daniel always included Egypt, and Egypt was the focus of it. Saudi Arabia is a Sharia-based Salafist state that cannot be expected to support Muslim moderates with a diametrically-opposed vision. The Saudis are supporting so-called “moderate” Salafists in Syria to compete with Al-Qaeda.
- **U.S. Plans to Force Israel to Accept a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as the Capital.** If Israel and the Palestinians do not agree on a “two state solution” by the end of this year the Obama administration plans to propose its own solution and force it on the two sides in early 2014. For Obama, the goal is to have this agreement in place in time to influence the November 2014 mid-term elections. Unfortunately for Israel, the Palestinians have absolutely no incentive to move off their current demands because Obama has been promising them a Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capita since very early in his presidency. So the Palestinians have no motivation to negotiate in good faith since they already know that they are going to get what they want in the end anyway. Ultimately, Obama plans to force Israel to give up the West Bank, East Jerusalem and control over the Temple Mount in exchange for a “promise of peace” that is not even worth the paper that it will be printed on.

“Obama made the following statement about Israel earlier this year. ‘Israel doesn’t know what its own best interests are.’ Not only does Obama believe that he knows what is best for Israel, he also plans to force them to do it. The IDF radio reported Monday, if negotiations do not produce an agreement by the end of this year, the U. S. government plans to propose, or impose, its own solution that will include a U.S. position on every point that is in contention in January 2014 and force a peace agreement on Israel and the Palestinian Authority formulated by the U.S. The IDF radio is actually run by the Israeli military. The head of the left-wing party, Zahava Gal-On, said Monday that the Obama administration is determined to achieve a major diplomatic breakthrough next year in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, including arrangements for a final status agreement.”

“The Obama administration has quietly presented a plan in which the Palestinians Authority and Jordan will receive sovereignty over the Temple Mount while Israel will retain the land below the Western Wall, according to a senior PA negotiator speaking to WND. This is not something that Obama came up with recently. The truth is that Obama has been planning this since early on in his presidency according to a *World Net Daily* article all the way back in 2009.”

It says in **Daniel 9:27**—“he, the end-time prince,” the little horn that rises up (Antichrist) is going to “force a treaty with the many.” The King James Bible translation says, he will confirm a *covenant* with many. This land was bequeathed by God to Abraham (Israel). How can this work when Palestinians hate the Jews and admittedly purpose to destroy Judaism and every last Jew remaining in the Middle East by driving them into the Sea?

Russia and China Prepare for the Day When They Will Nuke the United States. To most Americans, it sounds very strange to hear that Russia and China are concerned about nuclear war. After all, isn’t the Cold War over? Isn’t that what politicians from both major political parties keep telling us? Unfortunately, the truth is that Russia and china both consider the U.S. to be their number one geopolitical threat, and both nations have been systematically strengthening and updating their strategic military forces. It would seem that Obama has been making us weaker and weaker on the surface. As the world’s last great super power, we are beginning to be just one among a group of several super powers.”

In these new alliances being formed in the Middle East, the question comes up, “Where does the United States fit into that new picture?” The answer is nowhere. The U.S. support for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt has alienated the majority of the Egyptians. After the Obama Administration suspended a significant amount of military aid to Egypt, the Egyptian government is now embracing Russia as an alternative. We destroyed our alliance with Egypt and the stability of Libya and they are now aligning with Saudi Arabia who hates Obama although they helped bring him to power. They thought he would be their friend, but he is cozying up to Iran, and the Iranians hate the Saudis and the Saudis hate the Iranians. Saudis are mainly Sunni Muslims and the Iranians are predominately Shiite Muslims. Saudi Arabia is perplexed and feels threatened, so now seeks to own a nuclear bomb. The United States outreach to Iran and minimal support from the rebels in Syria has caused the Saudi officials to talk about a major shift away from America.

Our country is undergoing a radical realignment and reversal of our polarity. America in the past has been very pro-Israel, but now America is becoming Israel’s enemy. America is largely Ephraim and vexing Israel who is Judah. God said this would happen. This is actually foretold in **Isaiah 11:11**—“In that day the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel: he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.” “Ephraim’s *jealousy will vanish and Judah’s enemies will be cut off.* **Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, nor Judah hostile toward Ephraim.**”

The Arabs have been laying siege against Israel—Judah and Jerusalem—every since Israel has occupied that little sliver of land in the Middle East. They fought wars with them—1956, 1967, 1980 Lebanon—and are still oppressing Israel today.

Note: It makes me wonder what crafty counsel against God's people, the five nations plus one — Russia, China, U.S., France, Britain (the world's leading countries)—really agreed to when they met with the Iranians in Geneva. The *European Union* includes 28 countries— Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden—consulted together with one consent.

Zechariah 12:1-4—“This is the word of the Lord concerning Israel. **The Lord who stretches out the heaven, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him, declares:** I am going to make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. **Verse 3**--In that day, **when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all the nations.** All who try to move it will surely be cut to pieces. On that day I will strike every horse with panic and its rider with madness. I will keep a watchful eye over the house of Judah, but I will blind all the horses of the nations. The governors of Judah will say in their hearts, ‘The people of Jerusalem are my strength in the Lord of hosts, their God’.” **Verse 6**—“On that day, I will make the governors of Judah like a firepot in a woodpile, like a flaming torch among sheaves. They will devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and the left, but Jerusalem will remain intact in her place.” God is going to intervene and save his people.

This prophecy is also mentioned in **Psalm 83:1-5**—“Do not keep silent, O God! Do not hold your peace. Do not be still, O God! For behold, your enemies make a tumult; those who hate you have lifted up their head. With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against your chosen ones. They have said, ‘Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Israel may be remembered no more.’ **With one mind they plot together; they form an alliance against you**—the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites, of Moab and the Hagrites, Gebal, Ammon and Amalek, Philistia, with the people of Tyre. Even Assyria has joined them to lend strength to the descendants of Lot.”

Prophetically speaking, *Esau* refers to Europe—Germany and Italy (one of the sons of Esau intermarried with the Italian people and the Germanic people), *Ishmaelite* –Arab, *Moab and the Hagrites*—Amman and Jordan, *Gebal*—Lebanon and Palestinians, *Philistia*—those living in Gaza, *Tyre*—America. Assyria can mean parts of Germany and Iraq where many Assyrians live today. **Ezekiel 38:32** also mentions this band of nations around the world which are going to come against Israel. A word of the Lord came to me: Son of Man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal; prophesy against him and say: This is what the sovereign Lord says: I am against you O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. **Verse 4**—I will put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with our whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. *Persia*, Cush and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you.”

Now Gog in the land of Magog is talking about the descendents of Japeth (Noah's son) after the flood that had migrated north of Palestine toward Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia (Rosh). The prince of Meshech is Moscow, Tubal stands for the land of Tobolsk which is eastern Asiatic Russia. This is talking about the land of Europe and Asian Russia coming against Israel in the last days. Persia is with them— Iran is their ally. Cush is Ethiopia. There is an eastern and a western Cush. The Cush mentioned here would be India. India is eastern Cush. They are related to the Cushites in Ethiopia in East Africa. This shows that Russia is going to come together with her allies including India which is going to turn toward Russia and China, the Communist nations and Libya (*in Hebrew is Put*) with them—nations of North

Africa. They are all going to come and attack Israel. Gomer, I believe means Indochina and maybe even China.

Ezekiel 38:8—“Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. **After many days** you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has been *brought back from the sword* (Israel which has been re-gathered), whose people were gathered from many nations *to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate (for 2,000 years)*. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them dwell safely.”

Verses 9-11—“You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up advancing like a storm and cover the land like a cloud. This is what the sovereign Lord says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. You will say “I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bar. I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land.” **Verse 15**—“You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army. You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, O Gog (Russia), I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.” Putin is casting covetous eyes on the Middle East, as Russia has long desired to control the Middle East and Israel.

Verses 17-23—“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘Are you not the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel? At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them.’ This is what will happen at the same time, when God comes against the land of Israel. “My fury will be aroused. In my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath I have spoken. Surely in that day there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel, so that the fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens, and the beasts of the field, all creeping things that creep on the earth, and all men who are on the face of the earth shall shake at my presence. The mountains shall be thrown down, the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. I will call for a sword against Gog throughout all my mountains. Every man’s sword shall be against his brother. And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. *Thus will I magnify myself and sanctify myself, and I will be known in the eyes of many nations. Then they shall know that I am the Lord’.*” This quake is going to be a mighty global earthquake!

This compares with the plagues that are going to be poured out at the coming of Christ. **Revelation 16** speaks of the seven last plagues, the seven bowls of God’s wrath which are going to be poured out at the end of this age –the very end of this time period and age today when God’s wrath is unleashed on the nations. These seven angels are going to appear at the sound of the *seventh trumpet* of **Revelation 11:15**. When the seventh trumpet sounds, Messiah is going to return from heaven with a retinue of angels, thousands upon ten thousands, to exercise judgment in the earth.

Revelation 14:14—“I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple crying with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, ‘*Thrust in your sickle and reap, for the time has come for you to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.*’ So he who sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, ‘Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe.’ So the angel thrust his sickle on the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw its grapes into the great winepress of God’s wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and the blood flowed

out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles (6-8 feet high) for a distance of 1,600 stadia (a stream about 280 miles long)." In other words, the Kidron Valley on the east side of Jerusalem will be full of blood, all the way from Jerusalem to the Gulf of Aqaba and into the Red Sea.

At the coming of the Son of Man, the Messiah on the cloud from heaven, **Revelation 16:1**—"A loud voice from the temple says to the seven angels, Go your ways and pour out the seven bowls of the wrath of God upon the earth.

1. Poured **ON THE EARTH**—"a foul and loathsome sore came upon the men who had the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image."
2. Poured **ON THE SEA**—"the sea became blood as of a dead man; and every living thing in the sea died."
3. Poured **ON THE RIVERS and SPRINGS OF WATER**—"and they became blood." The angel of the waters said: "*You are righteous, O Lord, the one who is and who was and who is to be, because you have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink, for it is their just due.*" Another heard from the altar saying: "*Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments.*"
4. Poured **ON THE SUN**—"power given to scorch men with fire. Men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they **did not repent** and give Him glory." (See Isaiah 30:26—sun 7 times brighter)
5. Poured **ON THE THRONE OF THE BEAST**—"his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. They *blasphemed the God of heaven* because of their pains and their sores, and **did not repent of their deeds.**"
6. Poured **ON THE GREAT RIVER EUPHRATES**—"its water dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Three frog-like evil spirits came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet." **Verse 14**—"They are the *spirits of demons* performing miraculous signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty." **Verse 16**—"Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon" (north of Jerusalem in the plain of Jezereal).
7. Poured **INTO THE AIR**—"a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying: 'It is done!' Then there were flashes of voices, lightning, peals of thunder and **a great earthquake**, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so tremendous was the quake.
 - a. the great city was divided in three parts
 - b. the cities of nations fell
 - c. Babylon was remembered by God and given the cup of wine filled with fierceness of His wrath
 - d. then, every island fled away and the mountains were not found
 - e. from the sky fell huge hailstones about 75 lbs. each (a talent) upon men who blasphemed God

Be ready and watching, keep your garments pure, stay on the straight and narrow. **Revelation 3:14, 19—Letter to Laodicea:** "These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." **Revelation 16:15**—This is a message to the church: "*Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed.*"

Revelation 1:7—“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced him; and all the tribes of the earth shall wail because of him.”

Acts 1:8—Paul is talking about the Messiah. It is forty days after the resurrection of Christ, and He is talking to his disciples at Mount Olivet who had asked, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and *you will be witnesses to me* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth. After he had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same manner as you have seen him go into heaven.”

Zachariah 14:1-5—“Behold, the Day of the Lord is coming. And your spoil will be divided in your midst. I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women ravished. Half of the city will go into captivity, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Then the Lord will go and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from the east to the west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azal (in the desert). Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then *the Lord my God will come and all the holy ones with him.*”

Christ is going to return to the very same Mount of Olives from which he ascended into heaven which faces Jerusalem on the east. He will return in the clouds of heaven. **Zachariah 14:8**—“On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half toward the eastern sea (Dead Sea) and half toward the western sea (Mediterranean Sea) both in summer and in winter. **The Lord YHVH will be king over all the earth. In that day there shall be one Lord and his name one.**”

Jeremiah 25:30—“The Lord YHVH will roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation. He will roar mightily against his foes. He will give a shout against all the inhabitants, a noise will come to the ends of the earth for the Lord YHVH has a controversy with the nations. He will plead his case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword. Thus says YHVH, the Lord of hosts, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation and a great whirlwind shall be raised from the farthest parts of the earth. And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground—food for the fowls of the air.”

Amos 3:7—“Surely, the Lord God will do nothing, unless he reveals his secret to His servants the prophets. A lion has roared—who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken—who can but prophesy?”

Amos 4:12—“Therefore, I will bring upon you all these further disasters I have announced. Prepare to meet your God as he comes in judgment, you people of Israel!” **Amos 5:14**—“Seek good and not evil that you may live; so the Lord God of hosts will be with you.” **Psalms 96:13**—“For the Lord is coming! He is coming to judge the earth and will judge the world with righteousness and all the nations with his truth.”

There you have it. Christ is coming and the way is being prepared. He has provided redemption for his people and his righteousness and mercy endure forever. To God the Father and Christ his Son belongs eternal praise. Let us love and serve him with our whole heart in all that we do and think. Amen!