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ON THE BRINK OF ARMAGEDDON!

By Mark A. Fox

Introduction:

In this study we shall see the march of the nations and what everything is leading up to. We shall discover our day in the light of Bible prophecy! The world is aflame tonight! There are dire imminent threats coming from every direction. You don't have to be an expert in Bible Prophecy to know that everything is leading up to something apocalyptic, something ominous, something big, something prophetic. Ancient prophecies reveal that the end is not near, it is here!

FUTURE OF THE WORLD:

So how will the world end? What is the future of the late great planet earth? What is the future of our troubled world? ID Magazine front cover story: 7 Biggest Threats to Mankind

1. Catastrophe – Asteroid impact.
2. Catastrophe – Supervolcano Eruption.
3. Catastrophe – Global nuclear war.
4. Catastrophe – Apocalyptic Domino Effect
5. Catastrophe – Pandemic
6. Catastrophe – Solar storm of the Highest Caliber.
7. Catastrophe – Gamma-Ray Burst from space.



DRAMATIC INCREASE IN KNOWLEDGE:

What amazing prophecy is given in the book of Daniel that is being fulfilled right now? Daniel 12:4 "Many shall run to and from and knowledge shall increase." There is possibly a two fold application to this prophecy:

- A. Explosion of general, scientific, information, medical, technological. There has been a sudden staggering increase in scientific knowledge. Now we can travel far and fast!
- B. Explosion of knowledge of the prophecies of the book of Daniel.

So how do these two dramatic increases in general and prophetic knowledge work together? Amazing technological breakthroughs enable the gospel and ancient prophecies to be rapidly proclaimed around the world.

Key point: Does God want to favor you with an understanding of end time prophecies? Yes according to Daniel 12:4

We cannot keep up with all the rapid startling changes sweeping across our world! Our world is spinning faster than ever with stupendous changes!

ARMAGEDDON:

- Is a term that is usually used in the media and books to refer to a final military "mother of all wars" War.
- Will there be a nuclear war in the near future? Will the world be destroyed by a nuclear holocaust?
- Jesus forecast that in the last days: "men's hearts failing them from fear." Luke 21:25
- Is there still an ominous threat of a nuclear war?
- The U.S. and Russian still have thousands of nuclear weapons ready to be launched within 15 minutes.
- Mankind has the power to destroy the whole planet!
- The bomb of Hiroshima killed 100,000 people in a flash!
- The nuclear weapons we have today are the equivalent of 80,000 Hiroshima bombs.



- Former U.S. President John F. Kennedy warned: “Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind.” In an UN speech on Sept. 25, 1961 he said, “Today, every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when this planet may no longer be habitable.” “Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident, or miscalculation, or by madness.” “The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us.” What could set off a nuclear exchange between the nations? The most likely way a nuclear war could be triggered is by accident.

END OF COLD WAR:

- We grew up scared to death that nuclear war between the two superpowers would destroy us all.
- But then at the end of the 1980’s communism was losing it’s hold.
- Virtually a bloodless revolution swept across the eastern bloc countries of Europe expunging communism and ushering in a brave new world of freedom. Overnight the Soviet Union fell!
- Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan standing in front of the Berlin Wall said, “Mr. Gorbachev tear down this wall!” And shortly after it happened! The suddenness of these monumental, game changing events took the world by an overwhelming surprise!
- In the United States, Russian President Gorbachev became a superstar overnight!

INVASION OF KUWAIT:

- Then Saddam Hussein of Iraq invaded the little country of Kuwait in a calculated attempt to annex it to Iraq.
- But America and her allies joined forces and in a very short war was able to liberate Kuwait. CNN news became the news to watch because of their live coverage and cameras on the Air Force jets and followed the precision bombs destroying Iraqi tanks and more. Then the United States began to be called the “Sole remaining Superpower.

NEXT GLOBAL SUPERPOWER?

Who will be the next global Superpower? China? Russia? European Union? Will Europe ever become a united political Superpower? ID magazine front cover story asked: “IS THE INTERNET BECOMING THE NEW SUPERPOWER?”

NO NEED TO GUESS:

Does God want us to know the secrets of end time prophecy? Deuteronomy 29:29; Amos 3:7; John 14:29; 2 Peter 1:19-21 Why study Bible Prophecy? It will help you to know how to interpret the daily news.

ANCIENT PROPHETIC DREAM:

- Given first to King Nebuchadnezzar and then Daniel.
- Spans 2600 years of history in advance!
- It reveals the future of the world!

God is able to “Declaring the end from the beginning.” Isaiah 46:9,10
 What is the future of our cities? “Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets.” Amos 3:7

Prophecy Reveals:

- God is in control.
- You can believe the Bible.
- We are living in the end of time.
- Prophecy is history in advance.
- History confirms Bible Prophecy.
- To play on the word “History” History is “His –Story”



A DRAMATIC STORY OF A FORGOTTEN DREAM:

- King Nebuchadnezzar had an important dream he could no remember. Daniel 2:1-3
- The wise men could not help the frustrated king. Daniel 2:4-7
- The king issued a swift harsh death decree – execute them all! Daniel 2:8-12
- This death decree included the four young Hebrews. Daniel 2:13
- What were Daniel and his Hebrew friends doing in Babylon? In 605 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and took many captive including Daniel and his friends. The king also took the sacred vessels to Babylon.
- Daniel’s request for time was granted by the King. Daniel 2:14-16
- When their lives were on the line they did what they were accustomed to do: Prayed to God. Daniel 2:17-18.
- God gave Daniel the exact same dream that He gave to the pagan king. Daniel 2:19-23
- There is power in prayer!
- Daniel was highly favored of God with an understanding of prophecy.
- In the presence of the pagan king, Daniel gave all the praise to the King of Kings of heaven. Daniel 2:24-30.
- Daniel then explains this remarkable dream. It was a metal man of prophecy. Daniel 2:31-35.
- Then Daniel gave the correct inspired interpretation of the dream. Daniel 2:36

SEVEN PARTS TO THIS PANORAMA PROPHECY:

PART ONE – HEAD OF GOLD – BABYLON

- Daniel declared: “You are the head of gold.” Daniel 2:37-39
- Ancient Babylon:
- It is one of the most famous and greatest cities of the ancient world.
- Play a major role in Bible Prophecy.
- A city of wonders.
- Hanging gardens.
- “Mistress of the kingdoms” Isaiah 47:5
- Location: 60 miles south of modern Baghdad in Southern Iraq.
- Babylon was 10 miles around. Rome was 6 miles. Athens was 4 miles.
- The city was spread out in a rectangle shape and surrounded by two sets of massive towering walls.
- Plenty of food! Babylon was self sufficient and self sustaining: Not dependent on foreign countries for supplies. Huge bountiful harvest.
- Enough food to last 40 years.
- Plenty of temples and towers! The city was renowned for its majestic temples and temple towers.
- Plenty of religion. Very religious! Religious center. Marduk – “chief Sun god” Astrology originated in this region. Worshipped heavenly bodies. And it was a city of Divination.
- A Ziggurat: Temple tower in form of a terraced pyramid with each story smaller than the one below.
- Britannica: “The best known (Ziggurat) is the seven stages tower of Babel at Babylon.” 600 feet high on a base of 60 feet high.
- The temple of Marduk was 300 ft high.
- Outside is was covered with blue glazed brick.
- Overlaid with gold.
- The altar and throne were made from 8 ½ tones of solid Gold.
- No wonder it was called the “Golden city”
- Twice size of Rome in Population – 200,000
- Dates: The Babylonian Empire dominated the world from 605 B.C. to 539 B.C.



THE END OF BABYLON:

- Daniel predicted a second world empire – Daniel 2:39
- Represented by the chest of silver.
- “He removes kings and raises up kings.” Daniel 2:21
- Destroyed like Sodom and Gomorrah. “Babylon shall become heaps.” Isaiah 13:19,20

How did the mighty and invincible city of Babylon fall?

Babylon fell overnight without a fight!

The Bible predicted how Babylon would fall and who would pull it off – Cyrus – Isaiah 45:1

Isaiah the prophet predicted how Babylon would fall and who would do it:

- A. Cyrus
- B. Names more than a century before he was born.
- C. Gates left open
- D. Nations would fall before him.
- E. Set God’s people free!
- F. Order rebuilding of Jerusalem. Isaiah 45:1-5,13; 44:28

Method/Strategy: Diverted the River Euphrates and marched his troops down the dry river bed and underneath the outer gates and into the city. Timing: Last day of a long annual drunken celebration.

THE PARTY IS OVER!

King Belshazzar while heavily intoxicated defiantly and presumptuously had his servant bring some of the sacred vessels from Jerusalem’s temple into the party hall and they were filled with wine and then he had the audacity to offer a toast to the gods of silver and gold then all of a sudden a bloodless hand emerged amidst the murky shadows of the night and etched in fiery judgment cryptic letters, “MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN” (Daniel 5:25) The Bible says the Kings knees knocked together and his face turned pale. No one knew how to interpret the cryptic words. Then Daniel was ushered into the party and God gave him the interpretation.

“MENE: God has numbered your kingdom and finished it. TEKEL: You have been weighted in the balances, and found wanting. PERES: Your kingdom has been divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” Daniel 5:26-28

WEIGHED IN THE BALANCES:

God is judging every nation including America. – Psalms 9:19

Is America being weighed in the balances of Heaven?

"I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever." Thomas Jefferson.

Is America drunk with sin? Has America become very brazen and defiant against God?

What is the future of many of our sinful cities in America?

"Then sudden destruction comes upon them." 1 Thess. 5:3

PART TWO

- Chest and arms of silver – Daniel 2:38
- Medes & Persians ruled – 539 B.C. to 331 B.C.
- It was a dual dynasty for a while then the Persians took the ascendancy.

PART THREE

- Thighs of brass/bronze – Daniel 2:39
- Greece – 331 B.C. to 168 B.C.
- Alexander the Great came in like a shooting meteor and conquered the then known world.
- He was one of the greatest military geniuses in history.
- He was determined to rule the world.
- Alexander never lost a battle, never, not even one battle. By the time he was a young 32 years of age he had conquered the entire Mediterranean region and beyond.

PART FOUR

- Legs of iron – Roman Empire – Daniel 2:40
- What world empire is next on the stage of history?
- It was the greatest empire the world has ever known.
- "All roads lead to Rome!"
- "When in Rome do as the Romans do!"
- For four centuries Rome ruled over a quarter of the people on the planet.
- The rise and fall of this empire is fascinating.
- And there are the Emperor's: The mad, The brutal, and the brilliant.
- The most famous of them all: Julius Caesar.
- He overthrew the government he served and brought revolution to Rome.



ROME DESTROYED ITSELF!

- But Rome destroyed itself in a number of ways but especially because of its rampant immorality and moral decadence.
- Roman Coliseum – Cruel entertainment – 50,000 spectators. Gladiatorial contests and games. Public spectacles. Mock sea battles. Animal hunts. Executions. Re-enactments of famous battles and dramas.
- Estimated that about 500,000 people and over a million wild animals died in the Coliseum games.
- The Caesar's demanded worship.
- The more Christians were martyred and persecuted for their faith in Jesus, the more they multiplied.

AMERICA FOLLOWING IN STEPS OF ANCIENT ROME?

Is America following in the steps of Rome? History repeats itself!

Edward Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire presents this analysis:

1. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes; the spending of public for free bread and circuses for the public.
3. The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting, more brutal, more immoral.
4. The building of great armaments when the real enemy is within—the decay of individual responsibility.
5. The decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, losing power to guide the people.

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. Nations progress through the following sequence:

"From bondage to spiritual faith;

From spiritual faith to great courage;

From courage to liberty;

From liberty to abundance;

From abundance to selfishness;

From selfishness to complacency;

From complacency to apathy;

From apathy to dependence;

From dependence to bondage.

The United States of America was 200 years old in 1976.

"Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There is never a democracy that did not commit suicide."

John Adams

Rome – 168 B.C. to 476 A.D.

PART FIVE

Ten Divisions of Rome - Daniel 2:41-42

- Alamanni – Germans
- Franks – French
- Saxons – English
- Visigoths – Spanish
- Burgundians – Swiss
- Lombards – Italians
- Suvi – Portuguese
- Heruli – Extinct
- Vandals – Extinct
- Ostrogoths – Extinct
- These ten original tribes or kingdoms find their modern counterparts in the modern nations of Europe today, with the exception of three.



PART SIX

How did notable rulers attempt to unite Europe? Daniel 2:43

- A. Politically B. Militarily C. Inter-marriage

By the time of World War I most heads of nobility in Europe were related to each other through royal marriages. To the extent that Queen Victoria was called the Mother of Europe.

NAPOLEON TRIED:

- Napoleon - Napoleon divorced Josephine and married Louisa of France to further his Napoleonic government and ultimately to have "One Europe"
- But he was defeated in the battle of Waterloo, 1815
- Artillery bogged down in the mud from torrential rains.
- Generals misunderstood commands.

HITLER TRIED:

- Hitler: Then in the 1930's a mad dictator arose.
- It looked like Europe may be controlled by Hitler.
- "Lord, now bless our battle and our freedom, and therefore our German people and fatherland." – Adolf Hitler, Prayer, May 1, 1933
- "I believe today that I am acting in the sense of the Almighty Creator. By warding off the Jews I am fighting for the Lord's work." – Adolf Hitler, Speech, Reichstag, 1936
- There were some very impressive and miraculous turning points in World War II.
- The British were about to lose their army at Dunkirk
- The Battle of Dunkirk saved the British army from death and capture.
- God even used the foolishness of some of Hitler's decisions to weigh in on some turning points in the war.
- Invasion of Normandy – D-Day June 6, 1944
- "Let Our Hearts Be Stout" Prayed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the evening of June 6, 1944.
- "Usually, one day in a century rises above others as an accepted turning point or historic milestone. It becomes the climactic day, or the day, of that century." LIFE, 70 Years Later D-DAY, Page 42
- It was dubbed: "OPERATION OVERLORD"
- Largest armada in world history – Ships carried more than 100,000 American, British and Canadian soldiers across the turbulent waters of the English Channel.
- In June of 1944 the daring but successful Allied invasion of Hitler's fortress Europe at Normandy France pushed the dictator's ambitions into defensive mode.
- "...The Third Reich had the ability to call upon up to 50 divisions in the vicinity of Normandy to react to an Allied attack." Life, p. 54
- But make no mistake about it; only God could prevent this all out invasion from turning into a disastrous bloody defeat
- Bridgehead infantry units after pushing through tough Nazi coastal defenses could have faced a devastating German counterattack by three divisions held in reserve.
- Hitler's big mistake!
- But Hitler refused to give the order to commit them until after it was too late.



- Through God's wise providence Hitler was toppled!
- God's Word cannot fail!
- God intervened!

EUROPEAN UNION:

- Will Europe ever be politically united?
- "We must build a kind of United States of Europe. In this way only will hundreds of millions of toilers be able to regain the simple joys and hopes which make life worth living." Winston Churchill
- The Rome Treaty was signed in 1957 and came into force in 1958. It created the European Economic Community.
- The Treaty of Rome set the stage for the EU to become an economic, political, and military colossus. (Some info on EU from David Jeremiah's book "What in the World is Going On?")
- Jean Monnet, "United States of Europe," Once a common market interest has been created, then political union will come naturally."
- The Iron Curtain's fall in 1989 enabled eastward enlargement. (Berlin Wall)
- The European Union:
500 million people – 28 countries
- The introduction of the euro in 2002 replaced several national currencies
- Some believe that Europe is more integrated today than at any time since the days of ancient Rome.
- The United States of Europe is considered by many to be the second most powerful political force in our world.
- The world's biggest economic zone is now the European Union!
- A big question many are asking is "Are we seeing the rebirth of the Roman Empire?"
- The enlarged EU of 28 member states is now China's largest export market
- "THEY SHALL NOT CLEAVE ONE TO ANOTHER" - DANIEL 2:43
- The efforts to unite Europe have failed.



PART SEVEN

- What is the THE NEXT GLOBAL SUPERPOWER?
- "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces." Daniel 2:34
- What does the Rock represent? Jesus and soon coming kingdom!
- All the kingdoms of the world will become "like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found." Daniel 2:35
- "The stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." Daniel 2:35
- "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away." Matthew 24:35
- "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed;
- and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Daniel 2:44
- "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" Revelation 11:15
- The Best is Yet to Come!

APPEAL:

- Trust in Jesus as your Rock of Salvation - "For You are my rock" Psalms 31:3
- Psalm 61:1-3 Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. ² From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. "But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord" Psalms 31:14
- "you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:64
- "And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." Matthew 21:44
- Fall on the Rock, Christ Jesus and be broken, surrendered, abandoned to Christ.
- "unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:3
- The Lord's prayer – "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." Matthew 6:13



What is Jesus saying to you? How will you apply the lessons learned here? Are you depending on Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior? If Not I urge you to ask Jesus to come into your heart right now and ask you to forgive you of your sins and to give you a new heart. And then begin to spend quality of time with Him alone in personal prayer and Bible reading. See Revelation 3:20. See my personal conversion story on YouTube: Mark Fox testimony