



## BIBLICAL TRAINING CENTER

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### Best Evidence We're In the Last Days

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#### Can we know when Jesus is coming back?

Some people have tried to predict exactly when Jesus would come back. For example, Harold Camping predicted Sep. 6, 1994, May 21, 2011 and Oct. 21 2011. There have been many others.<sup>1</sup>

But the Bible says we cannot know exact time:

Matthew 24:36 --- "But of that day and hour **no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, **but My Father only.**"

Acts 1:7 --- "And He said to them, "**It is not for you to know times or seasons** which the Father has put in His own authority."

We might not know the exact time, but *we can certainly see* the stage is being set:

Matthew 16:2-3 --- 'He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! [speaking to Pharisees about events of his 1<sup>st</sup> coming] **You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.'**

1 Thessalonians 5:5-6 --- "5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night... 4 **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.** 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but **let us watch** and be sober."

Luke 21:29-31 --- "...Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 **When they are already budding**, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 So you also, when you see these things happening, **know that the kingdom of God is near.**"

<sup>1</sup> See Wikipedia, s.v. "Predictions and claims for the Second Coming of Christ," accessed October 21, 2017, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predictions\\_and\\_claims\\_for\\_the\\_Second\\_Coming\\_of\\_Christ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predictions_and_claims_for_the_Second_Coming_of_Christ)

## What is implied with the end-times scenario?

The view we've been teaching (Premillennialism) says there will be a **literal world leader** (antichrist) who is able to establish **peace treaty in the Middle East** between **Israel and her neighbors** for 7 years (Dan. 9:24-27). In the middle of the 7 years he walks into **the temple** in Jerusalem, takes away the **sacrifices** (Dan. 12:11), and declares himself to be God (Dan. 9:27; 11:31; Matt. 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thess. 2:3-4). He forces everybody to worship him (2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 13:15) and requires them to **have a mark** in order to **buy or sell anything** anywhere in the world (Rev. 13:16).

Daniel 9:24, 27 --- "Seventy weeks are determined for **your people [Israelites]** and for your holy city [**Jerusalem**]... Then he [the "abomination of desolation," aka **antichrist**] shall confirm a **covenant with many for one week** [7 years]; But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering..."

Matthew 24:15 --- "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, **standing in the holy place...**"

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 --- "3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that **he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**"

Revelation 13:16-17 --- "16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that no **one may buy or sell except one who has the mark** or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

### What things are implied by the above Scriptures?

1. Existence of **nation of Israel**
2. **One world leader & global government**
  - a. Mean a breaking down of national borders
  - b. And a breaking down of national economies (one world economy)
3. The **Jewish temple** would be rebuilt
4. A **people tracking system**
  - a. Every purchase is tracked
  - b. A "mark" to determine whether part of the system
  - c. Technology like computers and Internet are implied

**These things are happening today right before our eyes. This is evidence that his return is very near.** Now let's look at each area.

## How does the rebirth of Israel show we are near the end?

Israel was destroyed in AD 70. **For nearly 2000 years it did not even exist as a nation.**

- The **Romans** became displeased with tax revenue from the Jews in AD 66. So they massacred 3,600 Jewish citizens and **seized silver** from Jewish temple. This started the **First Jewish Revolt**.
- Some **Zealots** attacked and expelled Romans at Masada.
- Others Jews attacked Roman troops in **Jerusalem**, then **Judea** and **Galilee**.
- Eventually **Emperor Nero** sent General Vespasian and then his son **Titus** into Jerusalem.
- **Titus eventually crushed** the starving Jewish people in **AD 70**.
- Wanted to **preserve the Temple** but soldiers were so angry they **burned it**. (Mt. 24:2)
- Those who survived were sold as slaves.
- **Jews at Masada** remained for 3 more years until the Romans built a ramp to get up to the top (where they found all the Jews committed suicide to avoid being captured).<sup>2</sup>

**This was the end of Israel.** The problem is that the Bible verses above all speak of an antichrist who establishes peace between the **nation of Israel** and surrounding nations. If you were living in the time after AD 70 you might wonder: **how can all the prophecies of the second coming be fulfilled if there is no nation of Israel?** Here's the story of how Israel just recently became a nation once again:

- In **19<sup>th</sup> century** Jewish families lead by **Theodor Herzl** began to migrate back to Palestine (he coined the name **Zionism**).
- Herzl was upset how Jewish people were treated
  - **Much anti-Semite sentiment in the church:** the official church theology was the church fulfilled promises to Israel (who rejected and crucified messiah)
  - **Jews were persecuted throughout Middle Ages** (e.g., during Crusades the "Christian" knights would practice their military skills on Jewish people back home. The First Crusade began with the **murder of 50,000 Jews**.)
- Herzl believed the Jewish people **would never be free** from persecution living as minorities in non-Jewish countries. **They needed a land of their own.** Suggestions included **Uganda, Argentina** and **Palestine**.
- **6 million Jews** were exterminated in the Holocaust during **World War II**.
- In response to these atrocities the Jewish people were **allowed to form a Jewish state** under support of the **United Nations** in 1948.<sup>3</sup>

**Conclusion:** The nation of Israel has only **existed as a nation again since May 15, 1948** – or 69 years. The fact that it's a nation once again has made it possible for prophecies about antichrist (and the many other prophecies about Israel) to be fulfilled. **This is the biggest evidence we are near the end.**

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<sup>2</sup> "A.D. 70 Titus Destroys Jerusalem," Christianity Today, November, 2017, accessed October 21, 2017, <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-28/ad-70-titus-destroys-jerusalem.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Winfried Corduan, *Neighboring Faiths* (InterVarsity Press), 73.

## Is there evidence that we're moving toward a one-world government?

### United Nations and the European Union

**Many believe formation of the United Nations is another big clue that the end times is near.** Although the United Nations is not mentioned in Scripture by name, the concept of a **one-world-global-government** is. The Bible mentions the rise of a confederation of 10 nations (Revelation 13:1; Daniel 7:16–24; Daniel 2:41–42). One of these will displace 3 others and go on to rule over the entire world (Dan. 7:23).<sup>4</sup>

Dan. 7:23 --- "...The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And **shall devour the whole earth...**"

**The European Union which was formed November 1, 1993 is also a step toward a one-world government.** A similar attempt has been made to unify North America in what's called the **North American Union** (Canada, Mexico and the United States). It has been proposed that the NAU would even have its own currency called the "**amero**" which is similar to the "**euro**." People believe the NAFTA superhighway (aka Trans-Texas Corridor) is a step towards achieving the NAU.

In the past year **we've seen a backlash against globalization (populism)**. While populism may prevent consolidation for a time, it's likely that globalism cannot be prevented.

**Quotes** showing agenda to form a one-world government:<sup>5</sup>

- "The drive of the Rockefellers and their allies is **to create a one-world government** combining super capitalism and Communism under the same tent, all under their control.... Do I mean conspiracy? Yes I do. **I am convinced there is such a plot,** international in scope, generations old in planning, and incredibly evil in intent." (Larry McDonald, US House of Representatives)
- "We are on the verge of a global transformation. **All we need is the right major crisis and the nations will accept the New World Order.**" (David Rockefeller)

**Warning: conspiracy area!** The recent trend is to label people who believe there's a secret agenda to establish NWO as conspiracy theorists. Regardless, many prophecy followers continue to look for **evidence of a powerful elite secretive group** conspiring to bring about a one-world government by dissolving national borders through rushed immigration reform, fabricating crises to remove civil rights, funding the United Nations through a global carbon tax, etc. Many point to groups like the **Bilderberg Group**, the **Trilateral Commission** and wealthy elite families like the **Kissingers, Rothschilds** and **Rockefellers**. Many think George Soros is involved. **We wouldn't expect all conspiracy theories to be true.** But at a minimum

<sup>4</sup> "Does the Bible say the United Nations will have a role in the end times?," Got Questions?, accessed October 21, 2017, <https://www.gotquestions.org/United-Nations-end-times.html>.

<sup>5</sup> "One World Government Quotes," AZ Quotes, accessed October 21, 2017, <http://www.azquotes.com/quotes/topics/one-world-government.html>.

**the Bible supports the conspiracy that fallen angels have been at work to bring about Satan's agenda on earth (Eph. 6:12).** And Satan's revealed goal is worldwide worship of himself under an antichrist (Rev. 13:15; 2 Thess. 2:4).

## Are there any plans for the Jewish people to rebuild the temple?

**Many Orthodox Jews believe that when the Messiah comes, the temple will be rebuilt and sacrifices will be reinstated.**<sup>6</sup> The **Temple Mount Faithful** was formed in 1967. Its stated goal is:

"The goal of the Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement is the **building of the Third Temple** on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem **in our lifetime** in accordance with the Word of G-d and all the Hebrew prophets and the **liberation of the Temple Mount from Arab (Islamic) occupation** so that it may be consecrated to the Name of G-d."  
([templemountfaithful.org](http://templemountfaithful.org))

All of **the instruments for temple service have been built** and are ready (you can actually see them in Israel today). The problem is that the **Muslims have a holy site** on the spot where it's believed the temple used to be (this is the **Dome of the Rock**, the 3<sup>rd</sup> most holy site in Islam said to be the location of Muhammad's Night Journey into heaven).

It is believed that the antichrist will be the first person to negotiate peace between Arabs and Jews so that somehow they will agree to let the Jewish people rebuild the temple.

## How do computers, the internet and other tech show we are near the end?

Many believe computers / the internet are connected to the "mark of the beast":

Rev. 13:16-18 --- "16 He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, 17 and that **no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark** or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666."

### Computers & Internet make this possible

The very **first computer** was built in **1946** (used 18,000 vacuum tubes and weighed 50 tons). In **1955** there were only **250 computers** in the world. The **first personal computers** came as kits in **1975**. In the 80s, personal computers became popular (30 million sold). Today, it seems that everything is or has a computer chip (TVs, cars, phones, refrigerators).

The birth of the Internet (TCP/IP) was Jan. 1, 1983. The World Wide Web was created in 1990. Most people began hopping online beginning in mid-90s. Today, **nearly everyone is connected to the web via their smartphone.**

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<sup>6</sup> Winfried Corduan, *Neighboring Faiths: A Christian Introduction to World Religions* (InterVarsity Press), 62.

It's difficult to imagine life today without computers and the internet. Technology has revolutionized every industry.

**The point: Today, it's not difficult to imagine how every single person on the face of the earth must be part of a system in order to buy or sell anything.** This will obviously be done through online software using global servers—a people tracking system like the many that are already deployed today.

### Could implanted RFID chip be the mark of the beast?

On Aug. 24, 1998 **Kevin Warwick** implanted an **RFID chip under his skin**. He was able to **open doors**, turn on **lights** and **heaters** by simply walking into a room. Some companies, like Three Square Market in Wisconsin, are beginning to **install microchips into their employee's hands** so they could have **keyless access** to the building and **automatically pay** for their meals in the cafeteria. **This sounds precisely like what is mentioned in Rev. 13!**

**But RFID chips can be removed.** The Bible seems to imply that if a person receives the mark of the beast **there is no hope for salvation** anymore. Listen to these verses:

Revelation 14:9–10 --- "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and **receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand**, he himself shall also **drink of the wine of the wrath of God...**"

Revelation 15:2 --- "And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those [the saved] who **have the victory over the beast**, over his image and **over his mark** and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God..."

If the mark were just a silicon RFID implant the **size of a grain of rice** it could be dug out of the forearm or forehead (the arm can even be hacked off). So it **seems to be more** than simple chip. See next idea.

### Could mark of the beast be human/internet integration?

**A brain-to-machine interface** might also be involved. With human/machine integration the system is literally in your head. It would not be possible to repent because others can then control you. One would lose free will (the ability to do otherwise) at that point. **This would be a complete merger into the system with no hope of return.**

**This sounds like science fiction but it's not.** There are groups actively working on merging man and machine (transhumanism). **DARPA (the US Military) has also recently announced it is spending \$65M towards brain-to-machine implants.** The DARPA website says the goal is to develop "an implantable system able to provide precision communication between the

brain and the digital world. Such an interface would convert the electrochemical signaling used by neurons in the brain into the ones and zeros..."<sup>7</sup>

Also, in August, 2017, **Elon Musk revealed he was creating "a brain interface startup" called "Neuralink" with \$27M initial funding.** Elon said the goal of Neuralink is so people could **communicate brain-to-brain** (thereby bypassing verbal language) for more efficient communication,<sup>8</sup> as well as give people the ability to directly access enormous **computational power** and **data** through online connectivity.

### Review: What things are implied by biblical end-times prophecy?

1. Existence of **nation of Israel**
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**These things are happening today right before our eyes!**

### Is there anything else that shows we are close to the end?

People have pointed to the following:

1. **Increase in knowledge.** Dan 12:4 --- "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."
2. **Increase in ease of transportation.** Dan. 12:4 again -- "many shall run to and fro"
3. **Artificial Intelligence.** Rev. 13 --- "He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak..." Ray Kurzweil, director of engineering at Google, believes that artificial intelligence will pass human intelligence around 2045—a concept he calls **the "singularity."**
4. **Nuclear weapons** -- Eze. 38:22; 39:9 talks about weapons burning for 7 years. Eze. 39:11-15, esp. 15 hints at **radioactive contamination.**
5. **Population explosion.** Matt. 24:37 --- "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be." Some believe the population could have been very high

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<sup>7</sup> "Towards a High-Resolution, Implantable Neural Interface," DARPA, July 10, 2017, accessed October 21, 2017, <https://www.darpa.mil/news-events/2017-07-10>.

<sup>8</sup> "Elon Musk's brain interface startup Neuralink files \$27M fundraiser," TechCrunch, August 25, 2017, accessed October 21, 2017, <https://techcrunch.com/2017/08/25/elon-musks-brain-interface-startup-neuralink-files-27m-fundraise/>.

since pre-flood lifespans were reportedly longer (Gen. 5). Also, Rev. 9:16 mentions a 200 million person army; there were only 100-200 million people alive on earth at time of Christ.

6. **False Messiahs** -- Matthew 24:5, 23-26 indicates the end times would be characterized by people claiming to be Jesus in his second coming. This seems to be on the rise. For a list of people who have made this claim see [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_people\\_claimed\\_to\\_be\\_Jesus](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_claimed_to_be_Jesus)
7. **Wars / Rumors of Wars** (World War I & II) -- Matt. 24:6 "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet."
8. **Increase in earthquakes / natural disasters** – From previous passage -- Matthew 24:7–8 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." (However, Steve Austin and Mark Strauss **strongly disagree** that earthquakes are on the rise; see [http://www.icr.org/research/index/researchp\\_sa\\_ro6/](http://www.icr.org/research/index/researchp_sa_ro6/))
9. **UFOs** – Gen. 6:1-2. Some people think one reason for the flood was because demons were mating with humans in an attempt to corrupt gene pool of promised messiah. These hold that aliens are either demons or offspring of human/demon relations.
10. **Increase in false teaching.** 1 Tim 4:1 --- "...in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."
11. **Lack of morality** (seems to be talking about the church) --- 2 Tim 3:1-5 "...in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"

## What should we conclude?

Sometimes it seems like the world is in chaos. But we can be encouraged that history is playing out exactly the way God described beforehand in biblical prophecy. **It gives us comfort to know God is in control and that He wins in the end.**

Revelation 22:6–7 --- 'Then he said to me, "These words [Revelation] are **faithful** and **true**." And the Lord God of the holy prophets **sent His angel to show His servants** the things which must shortly take place. "Behold, I am coming quickly! **Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.**"