

## Israel, America And The Last Days

### Chapter Eleven: The New Millennium

*We are living in the end times and with every ticking second we are drawing closer to one of the most horrific times in this world's history. It's an exciting time for the Church of the Lord Jesus, a time to get ready for the backslider, a time of salvation for the sinner.*

*It's getting late and as we enter the actual beginning of the 21st Century, God's time clock continues to be and always will be centered around one nation - ISRAEL. All roads to God lead to Jesus in this century just as in every century before. It's getting late! Are you ready for the New Millennium?*

**Matthew 24:1-3 - And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple. [2] And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**

As I write this journal we are but a few days away from the beginning of another new year. Actually the start of 2001 is the real start of the 21st Century. The year 2000 closed out the final century with a tremendous amount of activity in the world's political and economic scenes that signal the end of this age of grace. We are getting close to the rapture of the church, the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming or return to earth of the Lord Jesus.

This next millennium could very well see these events come to pass. It's impossible to really know for sure but I believe the signs in our world right now point to too much that would indicate we will **NOT** celebrate Y3K before Jesus returns. This presents a great and awesome challenge for the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. ***We are the harvest generation. We are the last generation possibly before Jesus comes.*** That is a tremendous thought and feeling. It is also a trumpet sound and warning to an unbelieving world and backslidden society that it's time to make their peace with God and be saved by the blood of the Lord Jesus before it is too late. When the church is raptured, planet Earth will be plunged into darkness it has never seen to this time in her history nor will she ever see again. That is also a sobering thought.

It seems every major ministry emphasis right now seems to be centered on prophecy and end-time events. The latest craze has been Tim LaHaye's ***Left Behind*** series that honestly has captured my attention and respect. Mr. LaHaye is a fine author and if nothing else has presented some interesting scenarios for us all to chew on and pray about concerning what is ahead in this new millennium. While I'm not going to argue the validity of Mr. LaHaye's book on specific points or whether I think it is accurate, I will say that for the most part Mr.

LaHaye has tried it seems to stay very close to scripture in his writing of these books. **The truth is NO ONE knows all the exact details of what will happen in the future.** We have certain things that are settled in scripture as to what the role of Israel will be and the rise of the Antichrist. However, there are a TON of things the Bible doesn't clearly spell out. This coming year we are dedicating our web site to some of these subjects. We will be addressing several prophecy questions in detail. The point I'm making with these statements is this. There is a sobering awe that has fallen upon many in our society that is making them think about the future. Where will they spend eternity? What will happen to them if they are "left behind" after the rapture? When will the end of the world take place? Who is the Antichrist? What role will the United States play in prophecy? All these questions are on the minds of hundreds of millions of people, not only here in America, but all over the world.

The same type concern existed one day in the minds of the 12 apostles of Jesus. They asked Him point blank, **"When will the end of the world be and what will be the sign of your coming?"** Jesus proceeded to put forth a summary of events that would answer not only their questions but ours as well. He said famines and earthquakes would take place. Wars and rumors of war Jesus said, would be a sign that His return was near. In short, Jesus painted a clear picture that things on Earth would not get better with time, but worse. When He spoke these things some 2000 years ago He made it plain that Heaven and Earth would pass away but HIS WORD would never pass away. In other words, His listeners could place 100 PERCENT trust into what He was saying would come to pass.

I want to take four things Jesus said about the future and highlight those in this article on the New Millennium for in these four statements I believe we can also find our answer on how to handle the future.

### **Take Heed That No Man Deceive You**

**Matthew 24:4 - And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.**

One of the first things Jesus said to the 12 concerning the future was a warning: *"take heed no man deceive you."* Deception will play a major role in the last days not only prior to the rapture but also during the rise and fall of the Antichrist during the Great Tribulation period. Both the apostles Paul and John warned the church through their writings one sure sign we could see to know Jesus was coming soon would be a rise of demonic deception and false prophets:

**1 John 4:1 - Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.**

**2 Thes. 2:3 - Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**

**Col. 2:8 - Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

**Col. 2:18 - Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,**

**Ephes. 5:6 - Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.**

**1 Tim. 4:1-4 - Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; [2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; [3] Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. [4] For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:**

**2 Tim. 3:1-8 - This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. [2] 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.**

**2 Tim. 3:13 - But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**

**2 Tim. 4:3-4 - For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; [4] And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**

If there was ever a time when the church has turned away its ears from the

truth it is today. Our message no longer centers on Jesus, it centers on man and man's accomplishments. Most ministries promote prosperity, faith, gifts of the spirits, etc. while not centering on the main theme of the gospel - the cross of Christ. Paul said he would glory in the cross and nothing more. **It is the CROSS that made it possible for Jesus to return to glory and send back the Holy Ghost.** When the Holy Ghost came, He came not to glorify Himself, but to glorify CHRIST. He came to point us back to Jesus. He came to glorify CHRIST. Jesus must be the center of our message.

When you go to church, you need to be hearing one of four messages - Jesus saves, Jesus heals, Jesus baptizes in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking with other tongues and Jesus is coming again. That's the gospel. The gospel is not a trump card for a fun life. It's not a "pass Go and collect \$200 card" into glory. **The way of the CROSS leads home.** The way to God has not changed - it is still through the SON. It is still through Jesus. HE IS THE WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE and NO ONE comes to the Father but by HIM.

Most of the church, especially in the West, has embraced the selfish spirit of the world. **Ministries center on MAN and not Jesus.** We use God's name in generic terms now. We no longer tell people they must confess their sin and ask JESUS into their heart. We just say you need "God" in your life. Friend, the only way you can have "God" in your life is come to God through HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST.

We center on those things that will make our life easier, not more in tune with the will of God. It's the same emphasis on which the Antichrist and False Prophet to come will attach themselves to in order to deceive millions. Daniel said this demonic union would destroy millions by FLATTERY. Flattery is expressing something that is favorable about someone else to gain advantage. Many will believe the lie hook, line and sinker because they believe the lie now.

Some church circles don't even believe in the rapture. Some preachers have stopped preaching on hell and judgment. Some have told their people that just because one has said a prayer and has confessed Christ, that individual can live any way they want and still waltz into heaven. Folks, that is a lie! If we are going to survive the New Millennium we are going to have to study God's word and train our spiritual ears to hear WHAT THE SPIRIT is saying to the Church, NOT MAN! Jesus warned the 12 about the future by saying, "take heed that no man deceive you."

### **A Word to My Pentecostal/Charismatic Brethren**

I am Pentecostal. I speak in tongues. I believe in the gifts of the Spirit. I believe God still works miracles today and heals the sick. I believe God speaks through prophecy. I am a firm believer in the supernatural of God working TODAY and NOW not something that worked yesterday and might work again

the future. Saying that, I want to direct this next statement to those involved in the Pentecostal movement

For whatever reason we as Pentecostals seem to chase every thing and fad under the sun that purports to be God if it is wrapped up in charismatic wrapping paper. If it speaks in tongues, prophesies, does miracles and even heals, we automatically label it and say, "that's of God." One of the earmarks of the coming Antichrist will be his ability and the ability of the False Prophet to perform miracles and tell lies. The world will wonder after him because of his great ability to "speak great things." He will have demonic power and cause fire to come down from heaven in the sight of men. Through these miracles he will control and eventually destroy millions. This is a blunt statement but one I believe is true. THE "CHURCH" is already setting the stage for this today. For if any minister or ministry "speaks great things" today we take what they say at "face value" and accept them as from the Lord. Where has our discernment gone?

***Rev. 13:5 - And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.***

***Rev. 13:12-13 - And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him, and causes the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. [13] And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,***

***Rev. 16:13-16 - And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. [14] For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. [15] Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. [16] And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.***

Listen carefully. I believe that there is a real power of God that heals the sick. I believe speaking in tongues are scriptural and should be practiced both corporately and individually. Tongues are not of Satan; they are a SIGN to the unbeliever. Don't misunderstand my statements and say that I'm advocating we should not embrace the power of God. I don't believe Satan is greater than God. It's sad that while even though the Protestant movements don't chase after some of the foolishness that exists in some circles, they are also deluded into not pursuing spiritual gifts because they are so concerned Satan will do some harm to them. Brethren, I have MORE FAITH in God's ability to keep me in the truth

than Satan's ability to deceive. That is, as long as I am pursuing JESUS and His nature and understand that my source of life comes from His word and example.

Saying that I wonder sometime how the circles that DO embrace the things of the Spirit can be so duped sometime into embracing things that are in SERIOUS ERROR and conflict with God's word? Common sense would tell us that some of the so-called manifestations some ministries purport to be of God ARE NOT. In addition, we look at ministries around the United States and see a sickening display of ARROGANCE and PRIDE, not Godly compassion and humility. And the fuel for the fire? MONEY. It's all about money. What can we do to get more money from the people? What miracle can we say happened to get people to give more? What can we announce that OUR CHURCH is doing to get people to think God is there?

I ask again, why are Charismatics and Pentecostals, as well as many Evangelicals, so undiscerning? Could it be our judgment of others who don't have the gifts we claim to have in the Lord has caused the Lord to pass judgment on us by taking our discernment away? Face it. Non-Pentecostal denominations usually don't chase after such foolishness as rolling on the floor and barking like dogs or fleshly displays of entertainment that would even make Hollywood executives blush. **Most other denominations don't chase after "spirits" not the Holy Spirit.** I believe in speaking in tongues. I believe in miracles. I believe in prophetic gifts. ***But I don't take those things to heart in determining what is real and what is not. THE WORD IS THE MEASURE FOR ALL MANIFESTATIONS! The Word is what we live by. We don't live by the gifts of the Spirit. The Just Live By Faith!***

In this final hour, we need to come back to the basics of Christianity. We need to come back to a simple devotion to Christ. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to take us back to our first love - Jesus. We need to embrace the Son of God through the power of His word and His Spirit. The Spirit and the Word agree. And when we are lifting up JESUS, He will anoint our eyes with His eye salve so we will see clearly and be able to DISCERN what is right and what is wrong! There is a line being drawn in the sand right now as I write this between the true and the false. That will increase, as we get closer to the rapture and into the Tribulation period.

***2 Cor. 11:3-4 - But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtly, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. [4] For if he that cometh preaches another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.***

Paul warned the Corinthians of accepting or believing three things: ANOTHER JESUS, ANOTHER GOSPEL and ANOTHER SPIRIT. The church of

the 21st Century has accepted all three. We preach a Jesus that is ready to bless you without a requiring a total self-denial of your life for His. We preach a gospel that condones sin and allows man to live to himself, not unto God. We embrace another spirit which may look like God, act like God and sound like God, but it turns our attention away from Christ and puts it on man and man-made organizations. We must return to CHRIST. If we are united to Him, we will not be deceived!!

### **...See That You Be Not Troubled**

**Matthew 24:6 - And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: *see that ye be not troubled*: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.**

The second thing Jesus told the 12 about the future was that in spite of all the horror and conflict that was coming they were to "see they be not troubled." In other words, Jesus said look, "all of hell's forces are about to break loose on planet earth in the future, but no matter what, the gates of hell shall not prevail against YOU - MY CHURCH!" The child of God has an anchor to hold on to during the coming storm. We are not to be troubled by what we see. The things happening in the Middle East and around the globe are supposed to happen. Wars and rumors of war are supposed to highlight our news. Earthquakes, famines, pestilences, natural disasters are all part of the final stage of redemption of the planet.

Paul talked about this in Romans when he said the creation as a whole is moaning at this very moment for its redemption. That redemption will only be realized when the Lord Jesus returns and sets up His kingdom. One day after a 1000-year reign the Lord will create a new earth and a new heaven:

**Romans 8:17-24 - And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. [18] For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. [19] For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. [20] For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, [21] Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. [22] For we know that the whole creation groans and travaileth in pain together until now. [23] And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. [24] For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?**

There will be much the world will be worried and anxious over but Jesus said to us "see that YOU be not troubled." You are a child of God. You are in God's hands. God is in control. Even when Satan himself is walking on planet earth, God is in control. God is in control of the future. The future does not belong to the decisions and whims of the United Nations nor the United States of America. Whatever happens will not happen without the hand of God intervening. Whether He allows something to happen or intervenes directly, HE IS IN CONTROL, so SEE THAT YOU BE NOT TROUBLED! Glory to God.

### **Because Sin Abounds, the Love of Many Will Wax Cold**

***Matthew 24:12 - And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.***

A third thing Jesus said about the future and a sign His coming was near would be a horrible time when the love of many would wax cold. People will not love God like they used to. They will not love each other like they used to. They will not love their families like they used to. They will become cynical and bitter, not trusting to others and only live for themselves. We are in that time right now.

Many people in this hour have been sinned against. Because of that Jesus said their love would wane in this final hour. That is why it is so vitally important that we know how to forgive others and walk in God's love. If that love is waning we need to hear the words of Jesus and return to our first love immediately. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to rekindle the burning love we once had when we first got saved. We need to fall in love again with our God. We need to fall in love again with our spouse. We need to fall in love again with people. We need to see the GOOD in everyone and shun the bad. Intercede for those who have hurt us. Pray for those who have spitefully used us. Heed the warnings of Jesus, which trumpet the news that a wave of cold love will sweep across the nations prior to the rapture and His Coming. In this panorama of events Jesus also warned people would betray one another and HATE one another. This spirit exists, not only in the world, but in the CHURCH, as well.

***Matthew 24:9-10 - Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. [10] And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.***

In an earlier verse in this same passage He said "nation shall rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom," speaking of a time prior to His coming there would be great division upon the earth. Have we not just witnessed that in our own country? Have we not seen what lies beneath the surface of a false "unity" and "prosperity?" The Antichrist will be a unifier at first, but it will only serve his purpose of dividing later. He is a divider. Satan controls him and Satan divides. Satan divides churches. Satan divides families. Satan divides nations. Satan

divides denominations. Satan divides spouses. Satan divides friends. Satan divides sons and daughters to parents. He is a divider. God is a unifier.

Jesus said the way Satan accomplishes his own schemes however is a deep sense of unity among the satanic forces in the earth and in the heavenlies:

***Matthew 12:25-26 - And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: [26] And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?***

Listen to me church of the living God. If we are going to see a soul harvest prior to the rapture, we must renew our love for God and come TOGETHER in true biblical unity. Unity is not hosting a crusade in a city where all the churches get together once maybe every five years and then after the crusade is over we don't communicate with one another for another five years. THAT IS NOT UNITY! Unity does also not believe the same thing about every doctrinal issue concerning the Body of Christ. We will have our differences. The key is laying those differences aside for the sake of the Kingdom. The key is even though I may not believe in unconditional eternal security, if my Baptist brother wants me to go witnessing with him, I'm going to go for the sake of the kingdom. If I don't believe in speaking in tongues, but my Pentecostal brother wants or needs me to help out a cause to feed the hungry, I'm going to do it for the sake of the kingdom.

The key is if I discuss my differences with my brother that he and I both respect each other and not argue about those differences but intercede together for the building of the Kingdom. When we're interceding for the Kingdom, let us both ask the Lord to show us the LIGHT OF HIS WORD and what HE FEELS ABOUT IT! That is unity. That is why Satan wrecks havoc in the church. He is not divided, WE ARE! That is why he can send ONE BAD APPLE into a church and cause untold heartache through division and discord. Folks, that is a sign of the last days. The LOVE OF MANY WILL WAX COLD! ***And if we are to witness victory in the new millennium we must repent of the sin of cold love and return to our first love - the Lord Jesus!***

***Rev. 2:5-6 - Rev. 2:1-6 - Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write...Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. [5] Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.***

**He That Shall Endure To the End Shall Be Saved**

***Matthew 24:13 - But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved***

What I am about to say will probably draw some disagreement and that's ok. We are all entitled to our thought and belief on this. This verse is about as plain as you can get. It does not need a Greek interpretation. Jesus calmly says, "if you endure to the end, you will be saved." Now whether you believe that to be a promise to those facing the Great Tribulation, or you believe it to be a promise to someone in this age that is walking by faith, the words are the same and the meaning eternal.

Believe what you want to believe. Think what you want to think. If you have been born again you must stay IN CHRIST to obtain eternal life in the end. You cannot make a decision for Jesus then one day decide not to continue following Jesus and expect to win the prize. I know there are certain camps that teach that once one has made a decision for Christ there is never any danger of you EVER losing one's salvation. Honestly, I don't think a person can lose his salvation, but he can, by WILLFUL CHOICE, chose to stop following Jesus, and in doing so he will lose his eternal soul.

My dad and I love each other to death and this issue here is probably one of the main doctrinal issues we never see eye to eye on. I told him the other night if I was wrong, then everyone who is backslidden and died in that condition is in heaven and praise the Lord for it. If his belief you can never lose your salvation is wrong, then how many people who died in that same condition are in hell? Good question and I guess only eternity will answer it. But I say to you who are reading this. **You must endure to the end to be saved. You must believe in Jesus. You cannot stop and think well I believed once so I'm ok now. You're not ok now. You need to be sure TODAY that you are right with God. You need to be sure NOW that Jesus is the LORD and MASTER of your life.** You need to examine yourself to see if you be in the faith.

**2 Cor. 13:5-6 - Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? [6] But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.**

In closing, let me say this. We are entering the New Millennium. 2001 was actually the start of the 21st Century. This year marks another century of challenges, excitement and prophetic events unseen by anyone who has lived in past generations. We are living in exciting Bible times. It's not a time for the child of God to fear, but to rejoice. If you are not a child of God, or you are backslidden and not right with the Lord, TODAY is the day of salvation. Our life is but a vapor. We don't have much time. We very well could be sitting on the brink of the most monumental moment in human history - the rapture of the church and the start of the Tribulation period as outlined in the Bible - this year! That's how close I believe it is. No one knows for sure but as I close I leave you with the words of

Jesus and I pray you know Him today as your Savior and Lord. It's getting late neighbor, very late:

**Matthew 24:36-44 - But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. [37] But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. [38] For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, [39] And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. [40] Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. [41] Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. [42] Watch therefore: for you don't know what hour your Lord doth come. [43] But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. [44] Therefore you be ready: for in such an hour that you think not the Son of man will come.**