

Be Aware and be Ready!

For the Second Coming of Christ - for it is Soon!

An overview of the signs, their implications, what is happening in the world and what is going to happen during these times.

Introduction

End times or eschatology as it is called is not my favourite subject, but over a period of time, the Lord has drawn me into relatively deep studies on the subject of the second coming of Christ and related events. The first time this became relevant to me was in 1995 when separately the Lord spoke to both me and my wife about writing a book on the subject for evangelistic purposes. This resulted in a novel, which we called *Escape from Armageddon* being published in 1997. It is still available as a free download from Good News Australia at www.vicnet.net.au/~gnaust/

After that I left the subject alone for a long time. There were so many differing views on the timing of the rapture in particular, that it seemed a pointless exercise to look at what a large number of experts had diametrically opposing views. The Lord led me into writing of the series of studies on Fullness of Life in Christ, studies which have had great spiritual blessing for myself and others. They may be found online at <http://www.goodnews.org.au/fullness/index-2008.html>

Then in late 2008, the Lord gave me the suggestion to write a more up-to-date advice to people of the world, both believers and for those who do not yet know the Lord. Everyone needs to know what is going to happen in this world, so as to prepare and be ready to escape the coming wrath of God. From the Lord's instruction I took it that end time events may not be too far away.

I mapped out a structure in early 2009, left it until June and then wrote the early parts of what, by that time the Lord had given me the title *Soon!* How apt! Then, after a heart operation in June 2009, the rest of *Soon!* was then written and placed online in December of 2009. At around that time, my pastor asked me to preach two sermons on the subject in our church. These are my notes for those two sermons.

Let's go into the studies. As always the Holy Spirit is your teacher

Ken Walker

No	Point	Developmental	Illustrations - Linkages
1	My experience of old time salvation preaching and end times salvation preaching.	<p>When I was growing up in the Salvation Army, there was much of what was called hellfire and brimstone preaching. At Williamston Salvation Army, where I grew up, there was a certain Major who excelled in this form of preaching. His message was, "If you died tomorrow, you need to be saved tonight, otherwise you won't get to heaven". Have you heard that before?</p> <p>Had that Major been preaching today I think he would have been tempted to add, "If the rapture of saints from the earth happens before you get saved, then you won't get to heaven and still worse, you will go through the worst tribulation period the earth has ever seen – and then, perhaps die in your sins.</p> <p>So in the light of that, the theme of these messages will be to Be Aware and to be Ready! For we do not know when the Lord will return.</p>	<p><u>To be aware</u> of the full biblical facts about the second coming of Christ and the signs in the world that suggest His coming And secondly, once you are aware, <u>to be ready</u> for His coming.</p> <p>Over two weeks, this will be a brief introduction – not first 10% but of the whole. I hope to keep this as simple as possible</p> <p><u>PRAY</u> for wisdom and hearing by all.</p>
2	The stage was set for the second coming of Christ in the garden of Eden.	<p>The reasons for the second coming originate way back in the garden of Eden. What happened there began a war between God and Satan which will end with the second coming of Christ and the battle of Armageddon. So we are going to begin in Genesis, where End Time events are indicated in Genesis 3:15.</p> <p>Read. After the Fall, God said..."<u>that He (Jesus) will bruise the head of Satan (ie a metaphor for crush his head at the end of the Millennium) but first, Satan will bruise His heel,</u> revealing that Christ will suffer – bruised for our iniquities – at the Cross of Calvary.</p> <p>So, even as sin entered the world at Eden, God had the plan in place for the redemption of mankind and the defeat of Satan.</p> <p>Doom and gloom? Armageddon if often looked as a doom and</p>	

		<p>gloom issue, as indeed it can be seen. (It is the end of the age, not the end of the world) However, there is also a wonderful bright side to it, if we only take notice of the Word of God, bringing hope and anticipated great joy.</p> <p>Because we are going to be dealing with some negative, as well as positive things, I want to provide a way of receiving difficult things we see and hear, both today and in the world.</p> <p>Paul's provides such guidance for us. Read In 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 he says that <i>"we will not lose heart, if we do not look at things that are seen, for they are temporary, but to look at the things that are not seen, for they are eternal and glorious."</i></p> <p>So, if we focus on the world as we see it, then all we will see is the coming darkness where evil seems to be winning.</p>	<p>So we need to focus on what God is doing and not on the negatives we see with our eyes.</p> <p>So we need to look through to what we cannot yet see and, by faith, focus on eternal things.</p> <p>If we can do this, the second coming of Christ is a matter of great hope and ultimately, extreme joy.</p>
3	<p>Jesus two comings. It was always planned that Christ would come twice.</p> <p>Let us distinguish between the two.</p>	<p>The First and Second Comings of Christ are vastly different. His first coming is matter of historical fact, whereas His second coming is a matter of prophecy.</p> <p>His first coming was as a servant in order to pay the penalty for our sins, be resurrected and ascend to the Father. His second coming will be as a conquering warrior and to rule as the King of Kings over the whole earth.</p> <p>He will come riding a white horse and not a donkey. He will come to be man's judge and not as a sacrifice for the sin of man.</p>	<p>He will come to bring peace to the entire world.</p> <p>Also, He will come to receive and be received by the Jewish people – those that survive the tribulation period.</p>
4	<p>He will come. And He will come! Lest we be unsure He is coming again, here are some of His words</p>	<p>Lest some think the second coming is some fantasy, let me say that His Second Coming is a Great truth. It is a truth that is often ignored. But there is no doubt about that at all. Jesus promised!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He said: <i>...For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his work...Matt 16:27.</i> 	

		<p>Read.I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you <u>I will come again and received you to Myself...</u> John 14:2-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews says "...to those who eagerly await for Him, <u>He will appear a second time...</u>Heb 9:28 • At the ascension of Jesus in Acts 1 the angel said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, <u>will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven...</u> Acts 1:11. <p>Jesus ascended from the Mt of Olives and will come there also, splitting it in two from east to west.</p>	<p>Finally, just one verse from Amos about Israel itself. God said, "<u>I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them,</u> (Amos 9:14-15)</p> <p>What a comfort these words are. There is no doubt that Jesus is going to return; to rule over all the earth.</p>
5	<p>Time markers. Explain the lay out time markers.</p>	<p>From various parts of scripture we know a lot about the structure and timing of the end of the Age – Armageddon is not the end of the world as some say. Visual. So you have a visual representation of these I am going to lay markers out in front of you. (<i>later we will look at what happens between each of those markers</i>)</p> <p>The first one is NOW – April of 2010. Some distance away (we don't know the timing) we have the marker called The Peace Treaty which will usher in the START OF TRIBULATION. As you will soon see, the Angel Gabriel told Daniel about this Peace Treaty. He called it a covenant. (referred to in Rev 6:1)</p> <p>Then, from timing we know we have the MID POINT OF TRIBULATION – sometimes called THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE. Then we have the END OF THE TRIBULATION – AND THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON following.</p> <p>Then we have the start of THE MILLENNIAL PERIOD. 1000 years later St John says that the New Heaven and Earth with a New Jerusalem come down out of heaven.</p>	<p>Then we have one very important event where we cannot tell when it will occur, and that is THE RAPTURE.</p> <p>Many have tried to work out when this will be, but we have not been told.</p> <p>We will look at all these things, but first, what has been going on in the world that we can take as signs that He is coming again?</p>

6	<p>What is happening in the world?</p>	<p>Now, we need to remember recent events which includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <u>promotion of evolution</u> since the 1860's, has done more harm to our cause than almost any other. If you do not believe in creation it is very difficult to believe the gospel. (FCCC experience) • Two world <u>wars and continuous other conflicts.</u> • <u>Israel returning</u> to her homeland and surviving since then. • Rampant <u>sin, immorality and evil</u> surrounding us. 	<p>So, in the context of all that, what are the signs of His coming?</p> <p>Next – Signs of His coming</p>
7	<p>Signs of His coming.</p> <p><u>So, what are the signs of His coming?</u></p> <p>Stand at NOW marker</p>	<p>What did Jesus say in Matthew 24 about signs? Read Jesus said to take heed, so as not to be deceived: Many will come as false Christ's and false prophets; There will be wars; nation against nation, famine, pestilence and earthquakes (Read mention earthquake stats – killer earthquakes in the 1940's were only 4, 56 in the 1970's, 100 in the 1990's, and averaging 134 over the last 15 years.)</p> <p>What else do we see standing here in 2010? Well first, most people do not see anything different at all. Most people think that life will go on forever, like it always has done. Some do not even know that God has planned an end to the Age.</p> <p>Generally, as Christian people, we do not really watch and read the signs as Jesus said we are to do.</p> <p>But all we have to do is to be aware and be ready.</p> <p>What other signs are there? Or to use Jesus analogy of the olive tree; buds.</p> <p>Read Jesus said to look at ALL the tree, in other words, all the signs over the whole world.</p> <p>Other signs or buds that are significant are New World Order and New World Government, Climate change, World financial crisis. We will look at those next week, and how they fit with scripture.</p> <p>A major sign is the work towards a peace treaty. When this treaty is confirmed for 7 years, it will usher in the tribulation period, which, as you will see is primarily to do with Israel. (far more than the church)</p> <p>However we need to know what is planned by God, so we can tell others.</p>	

		<p>Read. God provides times for many things are given in the Bible.</p> <p>God knows about the timetable for the end of the age and reveals some of it</p> <p>We will now look at Daniel’s timeline. It is the basis of God’s planning for the end of the age.</p> <p>In such things, remember to look beyond what we see, to what we cannot see.</p>
8	<p>Daniel’s timeline.</p> <p>The basis of the 7 year tribulation</p>	<p>The coming peace treaty and a troubled period have been known about since 500 B.C. This is told about in the book of Daniel. This 7 years of tribulation is not just 7 years tacked on to Biblical history.</p> <p>It actually is a part of the punishment of Israel, which began some years after the sacking of Jerusalem in 486 B.C. with the Jews being exiled to Babylon. Daniel was one of those.</p> <p>Let’s look at what Gabriel told Daniel. This incredible prophet was told by the Angel Gabriel that Israel would have to suffer for a period of 490 years. The 7 years of tribulation is the last of those 490 years. Some of this is couched in strange language deep in Jewish culture. Gabriel called it 70 weeks. (Those 70 weeks were weeks of years, so 70 times 7 = 490 years. This 70 weeks or 490 years, were determined by God for Israel to make reconciliation for sin, and after that to bring into the world a state of everlasting righteousness.</p> <p>That is one of God’s aims. The second, is to restore Israel to its land as God had always promised.</p> <p>The 7 years is last of 490 years of the punishment of Israel. The other 483 years ended just prior to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. (it was in two parts – 49 + 434))</p> <p>All that we need to know is that Israel has served all but the final 7 years, which are still to come. All this is in scripture.</p> <p>Sir Robert Anderson and others have made the calculations to confirm that there were still 7 years go come – He is often quoted for his accuracy.</p>

		<p>The beginning date of these 7 years is not known, but the 1 times of the two periods of 3.5 years are known, although not when they start</p> <p>We do know the length of these in days, months and years. I have the references. Each half of the tribulation is 3.5 years, 42 months and 1260 days.</p> <p>(in Daniel 12:7, 7:25 Revelation 12:14) (in Revelation 13:5, 11:2) (in Revelation 12:3, 12:6)</p> <p>By the way, a Jewish year is 360 days hence 7 years is 2520 days or 84 months.</p>
9	<p>We are now going to look at the first two aspects of the end of the age.</p> <p>The rapture and the Millennium period.</p> <p>Next week we will look at all the tribulation period</p>	<p>The rapture not a fantasy. To some people it is, as though they were reading Harry Potter, or some science fiction novel like The Black Cloud, or The Day of the Triffids.</p> <p>However, the rapture is God’s redemptive act for true believers! Perhaps people find it hard to believe that millions of people will go flying through the air to meet the Son of God there.</p> <p>The rapture is a future event beyond today, but perhaps in the near future, as you will see next week. At the rapture believers in Jesus Christ, whether they are alive at the time or have died previously will be snatched off the earth to meet Jesus Christ somewhere above the earth and taken to the safety of heaven.</p> <p>But raptures have happened before! As a matter of historical fact, Enoch (Gen 5:24), Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) and Jesus (Acts 1:8-11) were all raptured, or translated. The rapture is the sure hope of believers.</p> <p>Read. The origin of the Word origin. It is derived from the Latin rapio or rapturo, meaning "caught up" that Paul uses in Thessolonians 4:17. The Greek word is Harpartzo. This word is also used in other forms of rapture. (Phillip – from Gaza, Paul to heaven and back)</p> <p>The timing of the rapture is now known. Jesus and Paul say things like, it will be like a thief in the night or when we do not expect. So we are not to know the time, but we must be ready. The rapture will happen in God’s perfect time.</p> <p>Show by moving rapture marker anytime from NOW until sometime into the tribulation.</p> <p>However, Paul does bring some very important and comforting words.</p>

		<p><i>"For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.... (Mention implications of this verse)</i></p> <p>One of Paul's descriptions of our exit from the earth is just wonderful.</p> <p><i>(1Thess 5:9) He says that as the rapture begins, the dead in Christ shall rise first – we shall follow soon after. Perhaps there is going to be a traffic jam in the sky!</i></p> <p>When the rapture does occur, the world's collective jaw will drop in disbelief and wonder – and wish they had taken notice!</p>
10	<p>The Millennium</p> <p>(The Millennium is mentioned in Revelation and described fully in last nine chapters of Ezekiel – and in other or the prophets, such as Isaiah)</p>	<p>After Armageddon, which we will look at next week, the prophet Daniel tells of a period of 75 days before the 1000 years reign of Christ begins. He does not explain, except to say those who wait will be blessed.</p> <p>The coming of the Millennium will bring about huge change on the earth. It will be the answer to many a prophecy written in the O.T. It will provide a redeemed environment for redeemed saints that He has delivered. Here are some examples of the changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jesus Christ will reign over the whole earth. A resurrected King David will assist Christ in ruling over the earth. Zadok, a faithful priest in David's time, will have Priestly duties. ● Men will again live to an older age. (Isaiah 65:20) ● Christ will redeem the whole earth. Read The lion will lay down with the wolf, the calf and the lion will eat together and the lion eat straw like the ox and the child will play with the cobra. (Isaiah 11:6-9) Politicians and Greenies will be out of a job. ● Jerusalem will be the worship centre of the world. It will be called Jehovah-Shammah, meaning The Lord is there. ● We will again all speak one language, one which is pure, says Zephaniah (3:9) ● Middle east lands will again be all owned by Israel as promised to Abraham 4000 years ago. The whole of the land of Palestine will be shared between the 12 tribes of Israel

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea will be joined by a river running through Jerusalem. <p>All nations will be required to present themselves in Jerusalem or they will get no rain! Remember this for next week when we look at climate change.</p> <p>Right now, all we have to do is to overcome, looking to the Lord in His power until He overcomes and destroys all evil.</p> <p>These are just a few pointers. There are many more!</p> <p>There is one other significant event occurs at end of Millennium.</p> <p>Satan is let loose. A second Gog Magog war occurs and Satan is cast into the lake of fire – gone forever.</p>	
11	New heavens and earth	<p>John tells us in Revelation that a New Heaven and Earth comes down to us. Read about it in Revelation 21. Also mentioned in Isaiah 65:17. It has many interesting characteristics. We live there for eternity in peace forever. Listen to what John says about one aspect of this new life.</p> <p>Read "<i>And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads</i>". Rev 22:3-4</p>	Can you imagine what that will be like?

<p>12 p1</p>	<p>Today, let's finish with a few special thoughts.</p> <p>Where do we all stand in all of this?</p> <p>Where do you stand?</p> <p>Page 1</p>	<p>True believers in Jesus Christ will be raptured and go into the Millennial Kingdom.</p> <p>However, there is still a few things to happen yet. Right now, Satan is the god of this world, but those who believe have a special light to guide them through this foreign kingdom in which we now live.</p> <p>Jesus summed up the position of unbelievers when He said, Read <i>"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."</i> Matt 25:46.</p> <p>If you are not a believer and you are challenged by what God has had written into His Word, think of it as God's challenge to you, for your benefit and His glory. I am merely speaking His words. Recognize the challenge as being from God Himself.</p> <p>Know that being born again is like a surrender of oneself. I enjoy listening to Sarah Brightman. She has a song called Surrender. The punch line is "You can't have peace until you surrender."</p> <p>Remember, there is always hope – for Jesus said, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. It is merely a matter of surrender to God on His terms.</p>	
<p>12 P2</p>	<p>Page 2</p>	<p>As believers, Lest we believe we are inadequate for the task, remember that we believers are just so special in God's sight. From these things we can learn to tell others. Look at what we have been given!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our eternal destiny is settled forever. ● We as believers have been born again. ● We are new creations, Christ's lives in us, ● He is our very life; We abide in Him and 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The agapao of God has been poured out into our hearts. • We are one with Him, just as Christ is one with the Father, we also are one with Him – and each other. • Futher, His life is being formed within us. In the King James version Paul says it is as though in the labour or travail of childbirth for them (not to be saved) but to get them out of the wrong doctrine of the law. <p>To sum up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All these divine qualities not only confirm our eternal destiny, but are the very attributes that equip us to spread the word! <p>Think of it this way.</p> <p>If John 3:16 is the most important verse for unbelievers, then Galatians 2:20 is the one for believers life. (Speak it out)</p>	<p><i>"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. The Life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who died and gave Himself for me."</i></p> <p>Mention KJV of Not I but Christ</p> <p>How could one ever not want to belong to Christ?</p> <p>Don't miss out on the rest of the story next week. Here is what we will be looking at.</p>
13	Next Week	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We will look at the remaining aspects of the tribulation, including Armageddon. 2. We will examine some of the current aspects of life that are signs or buds of His coming. 3. We will examine some aspects of the life of Habakkuk, who faced a situation where some aspects were similar to those in our time. We can learn from Habakkuk's attitude towards God. 4. We will learn more on our need to be aware and finally, look at what we need to be doing. 	<p>A suggestion</p> <p>Read the book of Habakkuk and see his response to what God told him He was going to do.</p> <p>Pray</p>

There was a one week gap between these two sermons.

<p>1</p>	<p>Review of last week</p> <p>(Speak these out as markers are located)</p>	<p>Remember, from last week, we are looking at beomg aware and being ready for the second coming of Christ and the signs of His coming.</p> <p>There is a partial analogy in the OT to coping when big changed are expected. It is in the story of Habakkuk around 600 BC.</p> <p>Habakkuk was concerned about the violence in injustice within the land of Judah. So He asked God why the righteous were suffering and the wicked prospered.</p> <p>God’s answer surprised him. God told him he was going to bring the Babylonians against his people. They were an even more wicked nation than Judah.</p> <p>When Habakkuk recovered from the shock, he was able to say to God that He should get on with this work, as the righteousness of God was more important than the fate of Judah. Just consider that. What God was doing is more important than what happens to us. Would you and I say that?</p> <p>Finally Habakkuk was able to say his famous words <i>„that even though everything should fail, “Yet will I exalt in the Lord; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation”.</i></p> <p>So, he believed and trusted God. We will come back to Habakkuk later</p> <p>Today we are going to look at each of the time periods, what will happen, and</p> <p>Finally, what we might do about all these things.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>So, let’s examine some more Signs of His coming?</p>	<p>We have already covered what Jesus said in Matthew 24 about the signs of His Second Coming. All the signs that Jesus spoke of are present now, in increasing degree. However, there are now other signs or buds, as Jesus called them in the fig tree analogy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read He said, “When we see buds, then summer is near”. Likewise, He said, when you see these things, know that the Kingdom of God is near. <p>If we look at the “buds” on ALL the tree as Jesus said, there are many. We only have time to look at two.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change • One World Government <p>I am going to begin with my overall assessment of the meaning of these buds.</p> <p>I believe that God, out of His permissive will, is allowing men to bring the world to a point where He is bringing forth His end time agenda.</p> <p>I am saying that as God allows men to bring about their intended evil, (even sometimes disguised as good) to bring about the conditions, even the deterioration of the earth’s climate, as part of His preparing for the coming of His Son.</p> <p>If you think this is odd that God would permit such a huge negative on His creation, then remember it was His will for Jesus to die. Peter told us that it was by God’s determined counsel and foreknowledge that Jesus died. That was planned and so is what is going to happen in the world. God is in charge of His world all the time.</p>	<p>It seems very likely that climate change and one world government are connected.</p> <p>But remember, we see the light of God and not the misery of darkness that threatens.</p> <p>Although we know from Paul that we will not have to face the worst of what is going to happen, we need to know all about these things, so we can help others to see God’s plan of eternal salvation for them.</p>
2.1	<p>Connections of one world government and climate change.</p>	<p>We know from scripture the Antichrist, will rule <u>the world</u> for the 7 years of the tribulation, in a form of <u>World Government</u>. So we cannot ignore signs connecting these things.</p> <p>The world is not aware! God has already dramatically changed the world once, at the time of Noah. God’s flood at that time has not been recognized for what it was. After Armageddon, He will again change the world forever. But we have an advantage over the world! We believers know what is going to happen. Pause</p> <p>We read in the Bible that God controls the physical and natural world through His spiritual power. Here is one set of verses in Job 37:10-13. Listen carefully to these words.</p> <p>Read. <i>"By the breath of God ice is given, And the broad waters are frozen. Also with moisture He saturates the thick clouds; He scatters His bright clouds. And they swirl about, being turned by His guidance, that they may do whatever He commands them on the face of the whole earth. He causes it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy".</i></p>	

		<p>Notice that God Himself actually <u>sets the weather patterns</u> and the changes in them. Three reasons are given - <u>whether for correction - or for His land - or for mercy.</u></p> <p>Read The NIV says... "<i>He brings the clouds to <u>punish men</u>, or to <u>water his earth</u> and <u>show his love.</u>"</i></p> <p><u>For correction</u> because God uses His power over the weather to <u>influence mankind</u> when they do not do His will. For His land, because it <u>is His land</u>, so He cares for it</p> <p>- and <u>for mercy</u>, when He wants in His mercy <u>to assist mankind, even</u> where man does not love God</p> <p>So God controls all weather and climate. Give Elijah & Millennim examples</p> <p>Scientists and others think they know the reasons for climate change but are unaware of God and His ways....AND...</p> <p>Even if scientists are correct in assessing the reasons for climate change, it is still God that is allowing or bringing about those changes, whether they be CO2 or whatever. God will allow men their views as they coincide with His end time agenda!</p>	
2.1 p 2	<p>Continuation</p> <p>Connections of one world government and climate change.</p>	<p>So if God is behind all this then how should we see it?</p> <p>The <u>time is fast approaching</u> when Jesus Christ will return to earth. <u>All the signs He spoke of</u> are increasingly evident!</p> <p>Notice God's attitude - Even after all the years of human history, <u>God is still reaching out to people, hoping they might wake up and repent, such is His love for them.</u></p> <p><u>But instead</u> the world looking to scientists and politicians, who only know what they see. Thank God we know the unseen!</p> <p>The Rapture will end the chance for fallen man to enter the Millennium. (there are chances in the tribulation, but the circumstances will be terrible and probably result in early death) The only real time is NOW! Today is the day of salvation!</p>	<p>This climate change is just a blip on God's calendar of time, possibly as a sign, or a bud, for men to seek their God. Instead, it is being used to move their focus to the world and away from God.</p> <p>But remember God works in the hidden eternal realms, for us who believe</p>

2.2	<p>New World Order One World Government</p>	<p>A new world order with a one world government is not new. When writing <i>Escape to Armageddon</i> show book. I traced it back to <u>1913</u> in the modern era, but it really goes back to the <u>Tower of Babel</u>, where mankind followed a desire to do without God.</p> <p>Many USA presidents feature prominently in the NWO. Also, Prime Ministers of England, writers like HG Wells, and diplomats like Henry Kissinger.</p> <p>Today, one world government is talked about by many of the world's leaders. President Obama, President Sarkozy, and Prime Minister Gordon Brown are three of many.</p> <p>The Copenhagen Climate change conference in December of 2009 actually revealed an apparent connection between climate change and One World Government.</p> <p>The draft proposals read that as climate change was a world wide issue and each country could not be trusted to bring its CO2 emissions under control, so a world government was needed. What a simple way to gain control over the world!</p> <p>This was based on CO2 being the only cause. But as we know, God is allowing man to delude himself, in his ignorance of God and His power.</p> <p>God will permit man to do whatever he wants to bring about the conditions for the Second Coming of His Son.</p>	<p>At Copenhagen they did not quite get what they wanted, but they will at some point in time. If not on climate change then on some other pretence.</p> <p>They are really playing right into God's hand and His agenda.</p> <p>But remember our ways of seeing Him in the invisible realm.</p> <p>A mind stayed on God in that way will not fear as much.</p>
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2.3	Look at the whole world for a moment	<p>Stand back and look at all this! We are facing times in the world we have never seen before.</p> <p>We see Middle East tensions, <u>world population</u> outstripping food supply, <u>a world economic system in crisis</u>, a planet under stress and <u>political systems</u> that are heading for a One World Government.</p> <p>It would not be quite so significant if only one or two of these things were occurring. However, there is a convergence of all factors, seemingly at the one time.</p> <p>At some point in all this, God rapture His saints. This will come out of our great hope and result in exceeding joy.</p> <p>However, evil always appears to be winning; and God losing, but we look to God's work in the invisible realm. Think of the invisible realm always.</p> <p>Pause.</p> <p>There are two main factors that make the Lord's coming soon in prospect.</p>	<p>The push by world leaders for a one world government, and a peace treaty between Israel and the Arab World.</p> <p>This is possible at any time, although we do not know when.</p> <p>Pause</p> <p>We are now going to look at that coming peace treaty.</p>
3	The peace treaty	<p>The world's eternal time clock centres on Israel!</p> <p>This peace treaty will be the catalyst for the beginning of the tribulation.</p> <p>This peace treaty will be an affirmation of an existing treaty, between Israel and "many" as Gabriel told Daniel.</p> <p>Currently great efforts are being made to bring about this treaty. Even America is now standing apart from Israel! Israel will become more and more isolated.</p> <p>When the peace treaty is signed that will usher in the beginning of the 7 year period on earth. (as per Revelation 6)</p>	<p>Remember from last week, this will be the last 7 years of God's judgement on Israel and part of the total of 490 years discussed last week.</p> <p>Next – beginning of tribulation</p>

4	<p>Beginning of tribulation period</p>	<p>In the beginning of tribulation period, the Antichrist will have now appear and will be seen by the world as the saviour of the world.</p> <p>He will be so impressive that the people of the world will accept him as though he were Christ; hence on of the reasons for the title Antichrist.</p> <p>Temple The Jews will be happy, for their beloved temple will be being rebuilt, with the help of the Antichrist. They as yet do not realize, that in 1260 days, things will change dramatically.</p> <p>Deception reigns! The world will still be unaware. This is the calm before the storm.</p>	<p>Can you see how believers are privilege people?</p> <p>Next – middle point of tribulation</p>
5	<p>Middle point of the tribulation</p>	<p>The midpoint of the tribulation will be the darkest day that earth has ever seen.</p> <p>A dramatic change occurs. The Antichrist will proclaim himself as “god” and sit as “god” in the newly built Jewish temple.</p> <p>Suddenly the scales will fall off Jewish eyes and they will see how they have been deceived...yet try not to believe what they will be seeing. I admire Jewish people so much, but without the light of Christ, as with all are, have remained blinded.</p> <p>There will be a mass exodus of Jews from their holy land, Pause for yet another time. Many will die. In fact, two thirds of Jews will die. (Zech 13:8) Their population is currently 7 million.</p> <p>There are other aspects such as the mark of the beast but we can’t fit that into our time.</p>	<p>Pause.</p> <p>At this point of the tribulation, God’s judgements on the earth will intensify. They are known as seals, trumpets and bowls of God’s wrath.</p> <p>John tells us in Revelation that 25% and then 33% of those living in the tribulation will die.</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>The end of the second half of the tribulation period</p> <p>Use picture from Soon on screen</p>	<p>At the end of this terrible 1260 days, Jesus will appear for the Battle of Armageddon! Here is a dramatization of His coming and the Battle of Armageddon. It includes many facts from scripture.</p> <p>Read from card. <i>The Lord stood, His head finely crowned, the brilliance of His whole Being blinding horses and people alike. Behind Him rested His heavenly army clothed in the finest white linen. The land was now an undulating sea of faces. Every eye was transfixed on the majestic figure of Christ, clothed magnificently in His blood red robe. Christ gazed intently on those who were foolish enough to stand against Him.</i></p> <p><i>The armed horsemen prepared for war..... but there would be no war! The voice that at the beginning of the world brought about creation was also a voice with mighty destructive power.</i></p> <p><i>With a slow, deliberate movement, Christ raised both arms above His head. With the justice for which the world had waited thousands of years, He shouted just one statement of great victory, "All who have allowed evil to dominate your heart and lives....."</i></p> <p><i>He paused before delivering a sword like thrust with His mouth.....</i></p> <p><i>"Receive your punishment - NOW!"⁽⁴⁾ Million of men reeled back as the words of Jesus struck them.</i></p> <p><i>Confusion and terror seized everyone. The effect of His words spread over the entire length of Israel, as did the blood of slain men and animals.⁽⁶⁾</i></p>	<p><i>The next minutes brought every weather pattern known over this vast army. Pitch darkness, lightning forks with thunderclaps, and hail from heaven. Even His own people behind Him crouched and covered their eyes, as God showed the peoples of the world Who was in charge of this universe."</i></p> <p>At this time, The Antichrist and the False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire. Pause!</p> <p>God will have now taken full charge over His beloved creation – by the victories of His Son!</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>After Armageddon</p>	<p>Daniel tells us that there will be a period of 75 days after Armageddon, before the Millennium will begin on earth. He does not explain this. Next – revisit rapture.</p>	

8	A look back to the Rapture	<p>After all that I thought a quick look back to the rapture might be in order. Is the rapture before all that action?</p> <p>There are just two things to say. First, Paul has written about our place in all these events.</p> <p>This is what he wrote. "that God did not appoint believers to His wrath. 1 Thess 5:9</p> <p>and that Jesus delivers believers from the wrath to come. 1 Thess 1:10</p> <p>The second point is about the timing of the rapture. Is the timing known?</p> <p>The answer is NO! The timing of the rapture is even more unknown than the peace treaty. God alone knows.</p> <p>There are dangers in trying to decide the time of the rapture.</p> <p>If you decide for example that the rapture is going to be mid tribulation, and you do not get ready as Jesus says, then, if you are not saved then you miss the rapture if it comes at an earlier time.</p> <p>And if you tell others that, then they will face the same danger.</p> <p>It is best not to guess where the rapture is – just be aware and be ready!</p> <p>There is another sign that I have not yet mentioned – the Gog Mago war – the first one.</p>	<p>It must occur between now and the middle of the tribulation. It has not occurred yet and cannot occur after the midpoint of the tribulation.</p> <p>The war occurs when Israel is attacked from all sides but mainly from the north. The amazing thing about this war is that God Himself intervenes to save Israel.</p> <p>It is my hope that this war happens before the peace treaty, as it would be the best witness to the world that God is real – and many may come to Him. I hope it does come early.</p>
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So where do we go from here?

The **Be Ready** factor

(Stand near the NOW sign, looking towards the markers of the 7 years.)

Page 1

What should we be doing right now?

- **The first thing** is to **make sure you are saved.**

Paul clearly instructed us to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; Phil 2:12.

To examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.

I did this myself two years ago and I suggest you do also. Paul said to do that.

- **After that the main thing** is a right attitude to God and our life in Him.
- **Consider Habakkuk's attitude. Habakkuk did** not have all the wonderful scriptures we have. But he had God! He had no promise of a rapture to take him out of trouble. We do!

Even though he knew that Jerusalem was to be destroyed and they would be exiled to Babylon, **his attitude was impeccable!**

If we did nothing else but to have a similar attitude as Habakkuk, then we also would have nearly all we need.

- **Unless we give Him what He needs from us**, we cannot expect to receive from Him what we need to do His work through us. All He needs is our life surrendered to Him. It is after all, the life He has given us.
- **Witnessing may be a part** of what He has us do. That's a tough job today! With that may intercession may be required, a standing in the gap for others.

- **Apart from those things, continue life** as usual but with more emphasis on God and how He work. Let us ask God what we can do for Him, rather than just seek His blessing.

Response **What do we think and feel** when we hear of the second coming of Christ? **Do we see it as the best thing** that could ever happen to us? I doubt if our response is one of wild joy!

Let me tell you of some of my responses. Over the last two years I have spent about a quarter of my free time in writing about these things.

During that writing, now and then would come great excitement but then sometimes tears, because of what I knew was going to happen to people who, if they did not know God at the time of the rapture, would suffer beyond whatever I might imagine.

For myself, I could fly away tomorrow in God's redeeming act of the rapture. But, when thinking about other people I don't find it easy to maintain that joy - because of a sadness that comes and goes.

- **First, some of our children and grandchildren are not yet saved.** They and other family members do not know the full story.

I know that some of you would have family in the same situation. It is only by God's grace, who alone can change those we love.

- **People in the world at large,** just as they were in Noah's day, are oblivious of God and especially what He is going to do to end the age.

- **These are the reason why** I believe, God had me write *Soon!* **Hold book up**

Soon! **is the internet** and these **cards,** can be used to look at more detail yourself and give to family, friends, workmates. (packs of 10 available) Do what you can.

Summing up - So, what is all this about? – This second coming?

It's all about God's holiness and His bringing in of everlasting righteousness.

(which of course wrapped up in His love and justice)

God cannot at any time, allow anyone who is not holy to be near Him, hence the dramatic change near the end of the age to ensure holiness is the norm for everyone who enters His eternity.

No exceptions! He has given us plenty of time.

From Genesis to Revelation we hear there is One who is to come, sometimes obscure but mostly crystal clear.

Jesus Christ will come again.

Those who hear will be aware, as you are now more aware.

Keep on learning – making it more and more possible for you and others you teach – **to be ready** for the time of His coming.

Pray

For more information on this subject, please to the *Soon!* Presentation.

That presentation describes in greater detail more about the Second Coming of Christ and preceding and later events. It was written by a group of Christians from around the world, for the express purpose of informing non believers in particular about these things

Soon! can be found at <http://www.vicnet.net.au/~gnaust/soon/>

There are three ways of reading it.

Option 1. Read it entirely online – by reading and clicking through about 90 short files

Option 1. By reading or downloading a single file of 1 mb to read on your computer or by printing it off to read as hard copy.

Option 3. By reading a short version of the whole, just to whet the appetite for the whole.

