

Climate Change

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What the Bible Says?

by

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A booklet written to consider the modern day predictions of impending catastrophe due to mankind's actions, thought to be causing climate change and extremes of weather, and compare these with what the bible tells us of what is coming upon the earth

Climate Change? What the Bible Says.

Introduction

2020 has ushered in a new decade with the world increasingly gripped by concern at the extreme's of weather that have been apparent over recent years, concerns that have seen demonstrations and conferences calling for action because of the supposition that all this is being caused by mankind's actions. Certain scientists, though not all, have concluded that, indeed, climate change is caused by man's activities all over the world and if not halted the very existence of mankind is at stake!

There are certainly signs of pollution that might suggest this is true. Uncontrolled emissions by industry being pumped into the atmosphere, plastic waste is found littering many places, on beaches and in the seas, which in turn is being ingested by fish and animals. But the overriding conclusion reached has suggested that the rise in carbon dioxide emissions caused by man is producing what have come to be known as 'greenhouse gasses'. The theory is that these make the sun's rays warm up the earth sufficiently to alter the weather.

At first this effect was called 'Global Warming' but this description did not quite take into account that there are also signs of lower temperatures, though glaciers and our polar regions are showing signs of melting. Therefore the term has been amended to 'Climate Change'.

All of this evidence appears to be irrefutable and there are only a few voices being heard that would suggest these theories might not be correct. Politicians around the world have added their backing to the calls for action, having targets for reducing CO₂ emissions from cars and industry to gain votes from those who vote them in.

Meeting with much opposition, one strikingly different voice has come from the President of the United States, Donald Trump, bringing cries of derision. Speaking about Climate Change he has publicly said, "I don't think it is a hoax. I think there's probably a difference, but I'm not sure it's manmade," stating, "We must reject the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse." Donald Trump has

dared to suggest there is a conspiracy to undermine the economic competitiveness of the United States, declaring that there are ulterior motives behind some who seek to back this agenda.

As a result of the warnings of disaster fear is gripping the hearts of many people, concerned not just for their own future but that of their children and grandchildren. **But what is the truth?**

Underlying the controversy one consideration appears to be lacking - **'What does the bible say?'** This is largely ignored because the growing majority of mankind no longer believe in God. For them it is not a consideration. So it is that the majority are content with the majority view. But are they right? And does their lack of belief in God indicate a rebellion that makes mankind think he is the sole author of his own destiny?

In this booklet we will consider what the bible says. **What does God say is the future for mankind?**

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The Beginning of Birth Pangs

*"You will be hearing of wars and rumours of wars. **See that you are not frightened**, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are **the beginning of birth pangs.**" (Matthew 24:6-8)*

These words are just some of the prophetic warnings that Jesus spoke. Speaking to His disciples two thousand years ago His teaching speaks of the time shortly before the end of the age and His return to the earth as King. The coming of the Messiah was very much part of the belief of the Jews at that time but they were expecting a king and Jesus came as a servant who first needed to suffer death for the sin of all mankind; to bring the solution to mankind's problem. So it is that we see the link between sin and the events that have made up and will make up the actual happenings upon the earth.

Jesus came as the Son of God, though this was not accepted by those who would crucify Him as a false prophet and false teacher. But God was to raise Him from the dead as proof that He personified the Truth, as Paul declared on Mars Hill in Athens as he endeavoured to persuade his hearers that God was real, explaining, “For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. **He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead.**” (Acts 17:31) Here we get a glimpse of the plan of God which has yet to fully unfold, one so many are ignorant of.

True and False Prophets

Accused of being a false prophet Himself Jesus taught, “**Beware of the false prophets** who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.” (Matthew 7:15-20)

We can apply this test to Jesus Himself who came to demonstrate the love of God through His selfless sinless life.

Jesus warned, “**Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many** and because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, but he who endures to the end shall be saved, and **this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.**” (Matthew 24:11-12) Jesus was describing the scene we are beginning to see unfold. He was not referring to the the end of the world, however, but to the end of the age before His return as King.

So it is, many have no belief in God but there are many who have false understandings and beliefs, looking for a way to safeguard their own and mankind’s future. Some even look for their own messiah, one of mankind’s own making. Jesus therefore warned, “Then if anyone says

to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah (Christ)!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it, for **as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.**" (Matthew 24:24-27) The coming of Jesus, the true Christ, will be no hidden event but one all mankind will see.

Before this amazing day Jesus warned of deception, deceptions that have and will bring great confusion. Deception is very much part of the reason all manner of different theories and beliefs abound, but God has ensured we have the scriptures that contain His Word, the bible, and He has poured out His Spirit upon all mankind that should we sincerely seek the truth we will find it.

So What Does the Bible Foretell?

The bible tells us that it is because of His love for the world that God gave His only begotten Son, that those who would believe in Him might be saved and have eternal life. (see John 3:16) And Paul taught that it was God's desire that all men might be saved and come to a knowledge of the Truth. (see 1 Timothy 2:4)

The bible tells the story of mankind from his first beginnings, rebelling against God who made him, and seeking his own will in rebellion against his Maker. As a result of man falling from the grace he had at the beginning, sin entered the world and the creation that in the beginning was good, became corrupted.

The bible tells of the plan and purpose of God to restore man and all creation to Himself, a restoration that cannot come by man's own efforts, but only by accepting Jesus as Saviour. **Good works are not able to save mankind, he required a new heart - to be born again!** (see John 3:3-5)

This amazing story is played out on the earth that God made. The bible says, **"The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world,**

and those who dwell in it for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.” (Psalm 24:1-2)

Contrary to the belief of many, the earth is not in the sole hands of mankind, despite him being its steward. **The earth still lies in the sovereign hand of Almighty God.**

The True and False Apocalypse

The modern-day warning cry that mankind is set on a course governed by his own actions that are leading us all to disaster, is often described as a coming ‘apocalypse’. They say this is evident by the signs of climate change that it is feared it will result in the end of the world, The real meaning of the word ‘apocalypse’, however, comes from the Greek [ἀποκάλυψις] meaning ‘revelation’ or ‘an unveiling’, which literally means ‘to pull the lid off something’. It refers to the coming, or **revealing** of Christ.

The conjecture about such an end of the world caused by climate change has no basis in scripture but only comes from man’s own imagination and intellect that denies the existence of God.

The Book of Revelation in the New Testament has the literal title in Greek, the "**Apocalypse** of John" which together with other scriptures tells us about the true consummation of the ages that is God’s plan and purpose.

However, to those who deny God’s sovereignty, it seems mankind is capable of destroying what God owns and therefore many believe that man alone is able to save what actually God has created and holds in His hand. So, although God gave mankind ‘free will’ he is not able to do whatever he wishes for God will not allow it. God is still Sovereign - not mankind!

The nature of sin is ‘self’ and so it is that we see from history mankind continually choosing his own way, turning away from God but not succeeding in bringing his own plans to full fruition for God has always

intervened! This is the lesson we learn from God's dealing with Israel in particular, as the bible records.

Sometimes it may have seemed that for a time evil has prospered over goodness, and man has been able to do just what he likes, perhaps suggesting that God does not exist, but God has always stepped into history once men's hearts have had chance to turn from their wicked ways. History confirms that mercy has always preceded God's judgments, giving men opportunity to repent, as He has continually tried to draw man back to Himself.

In His love and mercy, along the way God has warned men in advance of His judgments, even sending His true prophets forewarning men of the consequences of their actions. Always in His love God has been slow to anger. The bible record tells this story of God's interaction with man, and His dealing with Israel in particular, all written for our instruction upon whom the end of the age has come. (see 1 Corinthians 10:11)

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews tells of one such story when Moses told the Israelites not to touch the holy mountain at Sinai in danger of death, using this story to warn the reader, **"Do not refuse Him who is speaking, for if those did not escape when they refused him [Moses] who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.** His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, **"Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven."** This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we receive a Kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; **for our God is a consuming fire.**" (Hebrews 12:25-29)

In this scripture we see the true reality of what we are seeing today. Not climate change caused by mankind's actions, but God

shaking not only the heavens but also the earth! But who is heeding these warnings?

God is Shaking the Heavens and the Earth

Those who suggest mankind alone is the author of his own salvation focus upon the extremes of weather alone yet it is clear for all to see that there are other factors out-with man's control that threaten mankind's present life as we know it. It is not only extreme's of weather but man's inhumanity to man, wars, pestilences and increased volcanic activity and earthquakes, all things that Jesus said would denote the beginning of birth pangs that precede the end of the age, that truly are the signs of the times. For those with eyes to see it is these 'birth pains' that point to the end of this age and the coming of the Kingdom of God when Jesus returns to the earth as her King!

Such is the magnitude of this mighty event when Jesus returns to the earth as her King it is accompanied by great spiritual opposition, spiritual opposition to God's will that has been evident throughout the history of mankind but which is now increasing. **It is this opposition to God that creates tribulation and affliction, tribulation that has yet to reach its climax.** Such is the parallel to the giving of birth with pains that increase in intensity and frequency that this figure of speech ideally describes what is happening and what is to come. Coming is a time of great tribulation which Jesus foretold these birth pangs would culminate in; **"great tribulation such as has not been seen since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."** (Matthew 24:21) But men are being deceived into thinking that 'Climate Change' is the problem when it isn't!

The horrors of past wars, horrendous though they were, will be surpassed by what lies ahead. Such is the opposition that comes from Satan who has deceived man to allow him to be god of this world, with the whole world lying in his power. (see 1 John 5:19) Such is the reality of this spiritual battle and Satan's involvement that many are ignorant of.

But God has not left man without a solution or hope, for His Kingdom can be a reality for any who accept Jesus as their Saviour and King now. This is the good news that has been preached for the last two thousand years and taught from the very beginning of Jesus ministry on earth and which will be preached in the whole world as a witness until Jesus returns. (see Matthew 24:14) For any who call on His Name, Jesus can be their Lord and King.

The Great Tribulation or Climate Change Predictions?

So the bible tells us that life will change upon the earth but not as a result of Climate Change as so many worldly prophets suggest. A time of great tribulation is coming but this is caused by Satan. John is told of the events that will come to pass and hears a voice from heaven saying, **“Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time.”** (Revelation 12:12) Such is the nature of coming events that the bible foretells, that we can begin to understand that the world’s woes are not caused by man alone.

Although what the bible describes is full of horrors we might not wish to contemplate, we must not forget that the victory of God is certain. The future will see the fears of ‘Climate Change’ concerns pale into insignificance as “peace will be taken from the earth” and “men slay one another.” (Revelation 6:3)

The Fear of Population Growth

Some modern-day prophets fear that population increase will mean insufficient food will be available to feed the world, but the real cause of famine will come from a different source the bible prophesies. The bible tells of the coming time when it will be said, “A quart of wheat for a denarius [a days wage], and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine,” (Revelation 6:5-6) describing the economic link to coming famine, not global warming or population growth, although both might play their part. But all is not loss for then the promise that Jesus taught will bring hope in distress for those who

seek and find the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and promise of food and clothing.

Jesus taught, “**Do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’** For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them, but seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

The world’s population will not grow out of control as some suggest for this coming time of great distress will see Satan having authority due to men submitting to him and his deceptions rather than God, and “*Authority will be given to Death and Hades over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.*” (Revelation 6:8) Earth’s woes are multiple in nature but ‘out of control population growth’ will not be the cause of mankind’s demise.

The Martyrdom of the Saints

We need to understand that the power of death and life are not indiscriminate. Those who belong to the Lord may also be killed, but “slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they *will maintain*,” the bible says. (Revelation 6:9) Jesus foretold that His followers will **love not their own lives, even unto death**, and would be persecuted for righteousness sake. Of these Jesus said, “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven,” and “blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**” (Matthew 5:10-12)

Writing to the church in Corinth who were undergoing persecution, Paul encouraged them saying, “Do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For **this momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of**

glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:16-18) **Our life ‘here and now’ is really about eternity.**

So, in the early days of the church when they found themselves in great persecution, to encourage the saints, Paul also wrote “God *has* said, ‘**Light shall shine out of darkness,**’” explaining that He is “The One who has shone in *men’s* hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ,” adding that “**we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;** we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that **the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**” (2 Corinthians 4:7-12)

This is the reality that will see the gospel of the Kingdom proclaimed not just in word only but by believers testifying to its reality through their very lives. “Having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written” of the saints that preceded those who also believe, *saying* “‘I believed, therefore I spoke,’” so believers now will “also speak, knowing that **He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise *them* also with Jesus and will present *them all*” before His throne, “so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:13-15)**

The true church will yet shine forth as the brightness of the sun at the end of this age resulting in a great harvest before Jesus returns, the time which will see the angels having fully separated the wicked from the righteous, the tares from among the wheat, the sons of the evil one from among the sons of the Kingdom. (see Matthew 13:43&47)

Thus the gospel of the Kingdom will be preached and proclaimed by word and deed by the end-time church. The bible says so!

The Coming of Christ and the Day of God's Wrath

The book of Revelation tells us that after the time of 'great tribulation' that is coming there will be "a great earthquake, and the sun *will become* black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon *will become* like blood; the stars of the sky *falling* to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. The sky *will be* split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island *will move* out of their places. Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man *will hide* themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains" saying "to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, **for the great day of their wrath has come.**" (Revelation 6:12-17)

Jesus also spoke of this day, saying, "immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken, and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. (Matthew 24:29-31)

The coming of Christ will see the catching away of those in Christ who are alive on that day, and the raising from the dead of the righteous from all previous ages. Such is the power and glory revealed on that awesome day.

Paul wrote by way of explanation to the church in Thessalonica, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and **the dead in Christ**

will rise first. Then those who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Jesus comes in the air and does not return to the earth itself for a further three and a half years, for the ‘Day of the Lord’, the great day of God’s wrath has come to prepare the earth for Jesus’ earthly reign. Nowhere in scripture is the ‘great tribulation’, which is caused by Satan having great wrath, confused with the time of ‘God’s wrath’ that follows it. These are two distinct times that follow on, one from the other.

The Judgment of the Nations

With Jesus coming on the clouds the time has come when Jesus Himself will carry out the judgment of the nations that remain upon the earth for Jesus comes as Judge, as scripture foretold. (see Acts 17:31)

Speaking of His judgment of the nations Jesus taught His disciples, “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.” (Matthew 25:31-32) This judgment separates those who will go through to the millennial reign of Christ upon the earth when Jesus returns to the earth itself, and those who won’t.

Paul also wrote of this time, writing to the church in Thessalonica saying, “The Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8)

The working out of this judgment will see God pouring out His wrath upon those who have not responded to the preaching of the gospel during the time of ‘great tribulation’. This time of judgment is described in apocryphal detail in the book of Revelation revealed to Jesus and

shown to His servant John on the Isle of Patmos. We see that despite the awesome judgments men will not repent of their evil deeds but will still oppose the coming of Jesus as King to the earth itself. (see Revelation 8-11 and Revelation 16) The wrath of God is described by seven trumpet judgments as well as by seven bowls of wrath.

This is not the first time God has shown His anger towards mankind. The wrath of God was seen in the past, at the time of the 'flood' when **"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."** Man's wickedness was so great that the bible tells us that God "was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart." (Genesis 6:5-6) At that time "the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence." (verse 11) God's judgment was to flood the earth but not before Noah, who found favour in God's eyes, was able to build an ark to rescue himself, his family and some of every living thing to keep them alive.

After the flood had abated God promised to never destroy every living thing again, declaring that **"Whilst the earth remains seedtime and harvest and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, would not cease."** (Genesis 8:22) To confirm His covenant promise with Noah and all flesh, that **He would never again destroy the earth by flood**, as a sign God said, "I will set My bow [the rainbow] in the cloud, and it will be a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth." (see Genesis 8:11-13) Quite contrary to modern-day doomsayers God's anger will not result in the earth no longer supporting life! **Such warnings of doom deny God's covenant promise, and even God Himself.**

As the time of God's wrath comes again, as the Son of Man is revealed in the sky, His judgment takes on a different nature. The first trumpet judgment sees a third of the earth burnt up and **a third of the trees burnt up and all the green grass.**" (Revelation 8:7)

We see that this first of God's judgments make nonsense of the present day call for millions of trees to be planted to try to counter the affects of CO2 emissions that are manmade!

The Carbon Dioxide Delusion

The earth's atmosphere is made up of 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 0.9% argon, and 0.03% carbon dioxide with very small percentages of other elements. Our atmosphere also contains water vapour with traces of dust particles, pollen, plant grains and other solid particles. Of this 0.03% of carbon dioxide found in the atmosphere only 3% of that total is actually manmade. 97% of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere occurs quite naturally.

The case being made today that the CO2 emissions caused by man will result in the end of the world as we know it is fanciful and is just not true! As God judges mankind we see that He is the One who holds the earth in His hand and men delude themselves in thinking that they are able to save a fallen world from destruction. Men neither understand what is happening rightly, nor are their conclusions as to what is the true nature of the problem correct.

The Population Growth Myth

As we have already considered, in addition to men's concerns over climate change there is a present day concern over uncontrolled population growth. This false concern will also be exposed at the time of God's wrath being poured out. John tells of the voice he heard on the Isle of Patmos, "Then the sixth angel sounded and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released **to kill a third of mankind.**" (see Revelation 9:13-21) Only in God do we "live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28) Our times are in His hands.

Such is the horror of these judgments that many find it difficult or impossible to consider, but the judgments are found to be just as rebellion is still found in the hearts of men. The horror of the judgments of God only reflect the seriousness of the offence - the seriousness of mankind's sin, his evil and his wickedness!

But this time of God's wrath being poured out is still not the end of the world, nor the final culmination in God's dealings with mankind's rebellion. This is just the end of the age which will usher in the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth after which men will once again display rebellion in their hearts as Satan is released from his chains once more. (see Revelation 20:7-10) The culmination of God's dealings with mankind only conclude after the thousand year reign of Jesus upon the earth. Then the "first heaven and the first earth will pass away," (Revelation 21:1) and God will "make everything new" (verse 5) - a new heaven and a new earth. Those who have found the victory available in Christ, the "Alpha and the Omega" the "beginning and the end," these "will inherit all this, and *He* will be their God and they will be *His* children." (verse 7)

In God's plan we see that He is love but also a righteous judge, hating sin but loving the sinner. In His love He desires that all men might be restored to a righteous relationship with their Maker through the only means of salvation that provides a propitiation [an act required to make up for something done wrong] for the sins of mankind - Jesus' death upon the cross. That men might find eternal life. And 'Today' is the day of His salvation.

The Weather

As we look to the bible we gain an insight into how God has, and does, give warning through the affects of the weather. God spoke to Israel of old through His prophet, Amos, saying, "'You have not returned to Me,' declares the Lord. 'Furthermore, **I withheld the rain from you.** While there were still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city and on another city I would not send rain. One part would be rained on, while the part not rained on would dry up. So two or three

cities would stagger to another city to drink water, but would not be satisfied. Yet you have not returned to Me,' declares the Lord. **'I smote you with scorching wind and mildew,** and the caterpillar was devouring your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; **Yet you have not returned to Me,' declares the Lord.**" (Amos 4:6-9)

In this scripture we see **it is the sinfulness and rebellion of man that causes God to withhold His blessings.** Despite His loving kindness and despite Him being slow to anger, Israel ignored the warnings of God and the many blessings He bestowed on them, and "were enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them." Then the Lord's anger burned against them, and He shut up the heavens so that it did not rain and the ground did not yield its produce. (see Deuteronomy 11:16-17)

Pestilences and Plagues

In our day, we again see men ignoring the signs that God is putting before them, ignoring not only the real cause of any extremes of weather but other catastrophes that are a result of the shaking that is going on. Just as in Amos's day, when he prophesied to Israel that it was their rebellion that had caused God to withhold His blessings, the earth is seeing pestilences and plagues, wars and disasters.

Amos prophesied, "'I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses, and I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils; **Yet you have not returned to Me,'** declares the Lord. 'I overthrew you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze; **Yet you have not returned to Me,'** declares the Lord. 'Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel. **Because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel.'** **For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness and treads on the high places of the earth, The Lord God of hosts is His name.**" (Amos 4:10-13)

More Shaking Yet To Come

Foretelling of birth pangs and all that is coming upon the earth before His return, Jesus explained to His disciples that just before His second coming, **“There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”** (Luke 21:25-26)

Such will be the trauma caused by these happenings that Jesus gave this warning; **“Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation** [overindulgence in sensual pleasures, the squandering of money, energy, or resources] **and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap;** for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of all the earth. **But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”** (Luke 21:34-36)

In these words of Jesus we see the hope that is available in Christ, strength to cope with and endure all that the world must go through on whom the end of this age has come.

So it is that this age, described in scripture as the “times of the gentiles”, (Luke 21:24) will come to an end.

Conclusion

The bible gives far more detail of events that have yet to unfold. The bible also tells of past events that have proved to be true and in agreement with the history of the world. We deny past events and timings that the bible tells us of, and future warnings, at our peril. But many prefer to believe theories of man’s own making, rather than consider their own fault. The sad reality for many if they do not receive the truth so as to be saved - they are given over to believe a lie. (see 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

So this booklet comes with the prayer that the reader might be granted the wisdom and spiritual understanding to seek the Truth from God Himself, for it is Almighty God who is speaking, desiring that men everywhere might repent and turn to Himself by faith.

We have considered what God's plan of salvation is which contrasts with the conclusion of modern-day prophets, who, with no knowledge of God, have used their intellect alone to seek for solutions that ignore the fact that it is man's heart condition that needs to be changed, their heart condition being the real root of all mankind's problems.

Today is the day of salvation and the Spirit of God is still saying, "All who call upon the Name of the Lord will be saved." (Acts 2:21)

This is why Jesus declared that, "Repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His Name to all the nations." (Luke 24:47) This alone is the answer to the real problem.

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