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Revelation In Our Generation

Why write this book?

There are many reasons why this book needed to be written, and why it is important for all believers and nonbelievers alike to read it. My desire was to show you that the Bible is God's Word and to help you understand Scripture's prophetic events for the end times and what's coming down the road in our generation and your children's. Simply, to inform and to warn. Also, a strong desire to present the gospel message to you and why your salvation is so very important to God who loves you and wants to have that love relationship with you. To make you aware of the coming economic crisis and why you need to put your total faith and trust in Christ Jesus. As I've discussed in previous chapters, God sees the beginning from the end and knows all things. God has a schedule and has appointed times for events to happen. God has lovingly given us a look at His schedule so that we won't be caught off guard when these events take place.

Now that nearly 2000 years have passed since Christ's first coming, ominous trends in the world today tell some of us that we indeed are presently living in the end times. Our generation is replete with many disturbing signs indicating that this age of man's 6000 year government on earth is drawing to a close. Has the time finally arrived? Comparing our generation with the book of Revelation we can see things happening or developing today that will be leading up to this end time Tribulation period revealed in the book. Though many of these end time Bible prophecies won't climax until the Tribulation, our generation is the first to see every trend in place. Timewise, we are so close to these prophesied events that we can already see the foreshadowing of what's to come. As the final seconds of this age tick away, these end time events will come into even clearer focus.

In the book of Revelation, the third verse tells us that, "*Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy (v.3).*" The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Jesus to show His servants. He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John. The book of Revelation is the only book in Scripture that promises a blessing for those who read it. The word "prophecy" is used here in its more strict sense as denoting the disclosure of future events – a large portion of the book being of this nature.

Yet, this is the one Bible book many pastors seldom preached because they were taught in seminary that "it is too difficult for God's people to understand." The tragedy is that many of our church pulpits are nearly silent when it comes to the subject of prophecy. I often wonder why when at least 26% of the Bible was prophetic by the time it was written. The ugly fact is many of our pastors are silent on prophecy and don't deal with the subject because they know so little about it. They were not trained to "preach the Word" and then make excuses like prophecy is no longer relevant. I disagree! There is much to learn from the book of Revelation and it is most relevant to our time. The greater your understanding of the book, the greater your understanding of the future. This is one more reason why pulpits should be used to teach the truth about the end times and future prophecy, so Christians won't be deceived as we approach the Lord's coming and the end of the age.

The uniqueness of the last book of the Bible is apparent in the very first word – "Revelation." This word, meaning unveiling, is the origin of our word apocalyptic. It refers to the prophetic visions of the future that use symbols, figures, and other literary devices. This is why clerics and others throughout the centuries have had a hard time understanding the book and have told churchgoers that it should not be taken literally. The truth be known, it was too high tech to be understood. For the book of Revelation to make sense to its readers, it took nearly 2000 years and our generation to catch up with it technologically.

Not only does Revelation look forward to the future consummation of all things and the eventual triumph of God and the Lamb, but it also ties up the loose ends of the first 65 books of the Bible. In fact, that is how the book can best be understood, by knowing the whole Bible!

Some have appropriately called the book "the Grand Central Station" of the Bible because it is here that the "trains" come in. What trains? The trains of thought begun in Genesis and the following books, such as the concepts of the scarlet line of redemption, the nation of Israel, the Gentile nations, the Church, Satan the adversary of God's people, the Antichrist, and many more.

Satan hates this book for that reason, because it interferes with his plans for the end times. Revelation tells us of the true one-world government and all of the horrible things that are going to come from that. This will be during the seven years of tribulation when the Holy Spirit is taken away from earth. Revelation tells us that this period will be the only time that Satan will ever have full control. Many believers will come out of this period of God's wrath on earth, but they will most likely die for their faith. It will be a complete totalitarian rule during the Tribulation period.

It would benefit Satan greatly to keep you from reading Revelation. In my opinion, that is exactly why there has been so much controversy with the book of Revelation. Why is Satan trying so hard to hide what was revealed in Revelation? You have to ask yourself what is in there that he doesn't want you to know. Is it perhaps why Revelation says that you will be blessed for reading and hearing the words of this prophecy – the Revelation of Jesus Christ?

The book of Revelation is the most prophetic book of the Bible. Except for the first chapter, the entire book is about things that are to come after Christ Jesus died for us. It is the necessary culmination of the Bible. It tells us how everything is going to come out; the end of the world as we know it.

Three major divisions of the Revelation must be recognized. The author John was commanded by God to write about the things concerning the past, present, and future as revealed to him. *"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this (Rev. 1:19)."*

This forms the general outline of the book. In the first three chapters we see John writing about the things of the past and present, then in the beginning of chapter 4 John is taken up to heaven. Many Bible students believe that John's entrance into heaven is a picture of the

Church being taken home to be with the Lord at this time (the Rapture). The Lord Jesus promises to show John things which must take place after this; the future. This is where I want to start focusing on – Revelation in our generation.

Before I get started I just want to tell you this: The book of Revelation is a very extensive book in regards to future events and key developments that we can see taking place in our generation. Therefore, I will devote chapters 7 and 8 to cover in detail major events in the Tribulation period such as the Antichrist and his program, Christ's return, Battle of Armageddon, the 1000 year reign of Christ Jesus (the Millennium) and the new Eternal State (new heaven and a new earth). In this chapter I will focus on other aspects of the end times as prophesied in the book of Revelation which we can see developing in our generation and coming to fruition in the Tribulation period.

New World Order

We are rapidly moving towards a New World Order – world government, world economic system and world church. It is my intent to inform you, using Scripture, to show you that this new world order is rapidly approaching and it's important to understand why and how that will affect you, your family, and your pocketbook in years to come. The current world economic crisis will pave the way for the creation of the new world economic system that the Antichrist will take control of, and eventually force everyone to take his "mark" to be able to buy or sell, or receive any kind of government benefits. This transition is in the process right now and I will explain it as we go along. Please see chapter 10, "The Coming Economic Armageddon."

One World Government – Globalization

The Bible does not use the phrase "one world government" or "one world currency" in referring to the end times. It does, however, provide ample evidence to enable us to draw the conclusion that both will exist under the rule of the Antichrist in the last days.

Over 2000 years ago the prophets Daniel and John described that there would be a global world government led by the coming dictator, the Antichrist in the last days (Daniel 7:14). There has never been a world

government during thousands of years of human history. However, the elite are moving behind the scenes to produce a world government as quickly as possible. The rising powers of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and World Court are moving us quickly beyond the days of national sovereignty and individual nations to globalization.

Globalization is "the act extending an influence to all parts of the world." It involves the emergence of a single world market or deregulation resulting in internationalization. At first glance, globalization doesn't seem all that bad. Its appeal lies in its proposal to free the world of wars and political strife, and its promises to eradicate poverty, disease, and hunger. Its purpose is to meet the needs and hopes of all mankind through worldwide peace. Globalization also seems to hold an answer to the world's financial troubles. However, careful consideration and research reveals disturbing historical precedents. As far as worldwide peace, I read some think tank organization figured out that the world experienced less than 25 years in all of human history where there was an absence of war.

The historical form of globalization in prior times has been military conquest. The Assyrian Empire is an apt example. The Assyrians were globalists in that they were bent on world conquest. Probably the most well known example of historical globalization is the attempted construction of the Tower of Babel in the 21st century BC. Rather than filling the earth as God commanded (Genesis 9:1), mankind rebelled, deciding to centralize in one city and not be scattered over the earth (Genesis 11:4). All the empires presented in a dream to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon represent other attempts to institute one world government (Daniel 2).

The final empire presented in the book of Revelation will be a true global government, ruled by the man known as the Antichrist, also called the beast and the lawless one (Rev. 13:4; 2 Thess. 2:8). He will have "*authority over every tribe, people, language and nation,*" and he, along with the False Prophet, will force all people to take his mark. This future global leader will control all financial transactions (Rev. 13:17) and all religious observance (Rev 13:8).

The Bible, therefore, shows that any time man attempts "globalization" it is ruled by wicked, ungodly empires. We should oppose

globalization to the extent that we understand that it is implemented by Satan, currently the god of this age (2 Cor. 4:4). It is interesting to note that man's (and Satan's) final attempt at globalization will include a resurgence of "Babylon," which started the globalization effort so long ago (see Revelation 18).

God has a plan for globalization under the headship of the King and Redeemer; Jesus Christ (see Revelation 19-20). Evidently, there will still be individual nations under Christ's rule (Zech. 2:10-11). The Kingdom will be a time of righteousness and true justice (Isa. 11:3-5).

It's New World Economic System

There must also be a world economic system in place before the Rapture and the start of the Tribulation, because midway through the seven year Tribulation the Antichrist and the false Prophet will take total control of a world economic system. As I have noted previously, at that point, the false Prophet will force everyone on earth to worship the Antichrist and take his "mark" to be able to buy and sell. Everyone will be forced to worship the Antichrist or his image to get the "mark of the beast." (Revelation 13:15-18).

Before the Tribulation starts, there will be a technology of some kind that will allow a world dictator to control what everyone on earth buys and sells. People will not be able to receive government benefits, be able to work or hire employees, drive a vehicle, get any kind of license or do just about anything without the "mark of the beast."

A world economic system will be created before the Tribulation that will give the conspirators complete control over the people. The economic unions, agreements and organizations are the building blocks of this conspiracy. The Antichrist will inherit that control, and midway through the Tribulation he will force everyone on earth to take his "mark" to be able to buy or sell.

End end time apostasy – Getting the world ready; religiously

A number of decades ago, we thought our biggest enemies were the Communists, atheists, and secular humanists. Now, however, we know that is not true. According to Scripture, Satan's work in the end times will be done by religious people; very religious people, in fact, many

of whom will be professing Christians. Many of them go to church, profess to know about Christ Jesus, but do not have a personal relationship with Him. They have had an intellectual conversion not a heart felt conversion. We also know that the coming world government of the Antichrist will come to power largely through its cooperation with a worldwide religious movement presided over by the False Prophet (Rev. 16).

So let's ask ourselves a question. Has there been a measurable increase in spiritual deception in our generation? Well, can you think of any time in the last 2000 years when there has been more religious deception than there is today? True enough, there has always been false prophets and wolves masquerading in sheep's clothing. And, certainly we know there has always been cults and false religious movements. But here's the important point: semi false teachers are infiltrating the true church, the body of Christ, on an unprecedented scale.

Skyrocketing operating costs have prompted many large ministries to water down the Gospel to avoid offending potential donors. These dollar-driven organizations avoid controversy at all costs because, after all, they have to meet their yearly budgets. Meanwhile, the evangelical ship of state is being sucked into a deadly whirlpool of compromise and becoming more worldly (apostasy).

It should be no surprise, then, that the first thing Jesus warned His followers about in Matthew 24 was false religionists. On another occasion, as recorded in Matthew 7:21-23, He declared: *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day (judgement day), 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'... And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* Sadly, here we see professing Christians who falsely profess to acknowledge Him as Saviour, but have never been converted or born again of the spirit. They call Him "Lord" and do many things in His name but their protestations will be in vain. Jesus will declare to them on judgement day that He never knew them or acknowledge them as His own. How tragic!

Yes, you might be religious and sincere in your beliefs but can also be

sincerely wrong. Your belief no matter how sincere, when it comes to judgement day, will not help because you believed in the wrong thing. In fact, faith in the wrong thing can put you in more peril than no faith at all. That is why our Lord continually warned His followers about the deadly reality of spiritual deception. Let me explain: Many major church ministers refer to adherents of the world's major religions as "believers." According to the Bible, however, it is not enough merely to believe. The New Testament points out that even the demons believe and tremble with fear at the realization that God exists (James 2:19), and they obviously have no part in God's salvation; so belief alone is not enough. What really matters is what you and I believe about Jesus of Nazareth and the redemption He brought on Calvary's cross nearly 2000 years ago. If this is not the focus of our faith, we are lost!

Salvation is not a matter of being religious but it is a personal acquaintance with the Lord Jesus Christ through faith unto repentance. The difference between a *professing* or counterfeit Christian and a *possessing* Christian, who is indwelt by the spirit of God, is like the difference between night and day. The possessing Christian is *not* one who hopes to be saved but *one* who knows they're saved (Eph. 2:12; Rom. 8:24). Professing Christians, who base their salvation on baptism, confirmation, christening, church sacraments, good works, church membership or on living a good life and doing the best they can, have no biblical foundation. Their faith is in vain. They are religious but lost. You have to ask yourself this question: "Am I in a religion or am I in Christ Jesus?" Remember that going to a garage doesn't make you a mechanic and going to church doesn't make you saved. Truth be known, many people who profess Christ wouldn't know God from a goose.

Request my book: *Don't Be Deceived*. I cover the subject in detail. I write about the coming ecumenical religious monstrosity revealed in the book of Revelation; the end time global church.

The emerging church

You might not be aware of this and perhaps the term is meaningless to you. If this is the case it won't be for long. Bible believing Christians are facing an onslaught of ideas and experiences, redefining the meaning of Christianity in this post-modern world. The Word of God

is under attack. There is great emphasis in the church today on uniting all professing Christians of all denominations and beliefs. This new wave that is sweeping the world is powerful. The present emerging church wave is a tsunami that has the potential of reshaping the very foundation of the Christian faith; the gospel of Jesus. No denomination or church affiliation is immune to the changes. Here are just a few samples:

1. The centrality of the gospel of Jesus is being replaced by humanistic methods that promote church growth and a social gospel.
2. The churches are being told that Christianity needs to be re-invented in order to provide meaning for this generation.
3. While the authority of the Word of God is being undermined, images and sensual experiences are being promoted as a key to experiencing and knowing God. These experiences include icons, candles, incense, liturgy, the sacrament of the Eucharist, etc.
4. There is a growing trend towards an ecumenical unity for the cause of world peace that claims there are many ways to God.
5. We all believe in God and were not so different after all. Let's all get together and work together, setting aside our theological differences, so we can help each other in the things we all agree upon. And if the doctrine causes division, it should be avoided for the sake of love and unity among the brethren.

The Bible clearly teaches that following the Rapture, this Ecumenical Church will be the church of the Antichrist, the church of the end time Tribulation and totally apostate. Everything today is pointing in this direction. The world will have it's *One World Government* and it's *One World Religion*, which we can see in the United Nations and the coming World Parliament of Religions. So-called Christian denominations and church groups will unite first, which we see happening in front of our eyes. The sad part is that many good Christians cannot or will not see what is happening in the present day. There are spiritual forces at work within the Christian church that run counter to the revealed Word of God. By divine revelation the apostle Paul declares that conditions in Christendom would get worst. *"Evil men and impostors will grow worst and worst, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 3:13).*

The Scriptures clearly show that the professing church, or what is called Christendom, will steadily increase in departure from God and His Word, by inward corruption and outward conformity to the world. The apostasy cannot reach its height until after the Rapture. The restraining power of the Holy Spirit still continues, and the full apostasy of the Ecumenical Church and the manifestations of the Antichrist cannot take place until He, the Restraint (the Holy Spirit), has been taken out of the way at the Rapture (2 Thess. 2:7).

The last picture that the Bible gives of Apostate Christianity is found in Revelation chapters 13 to 18. In these chapters we find a merger of all religions under one great end time religious leader called the "False Prophet."

The Ecumenical Church is clearly shown in Revelation, chapter 17, as religious Babylon. After the rapture of God's children from earth, the professing churches on earth unite to form one large apostate body. This religious entity of the last days is called: "*Mystery, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth (17:5).*" The Bible clearly teaches that, following the Rapture, this Ecumenical Church will be the church of the Antichrist, the church of the Tribulation period. It will be a totally apostate church; a church that calls itself Christian and yet courts alliance with the godless systems of this world, committing spiritual adultery (see James 4:4).

When one man rules the world – the Antichrist

Fifty years ago, after leaving high school, I could not have imagined how one individual could rise to such a place of prominence and power as the Bible ascribes to the coming Antichrist. We didn't think of the world as a "global village" at that time in history. But today the world is shrinking; travel, TV, internet. We are connected by money, media, missiles and materials as never before. Today, the idea of a one world ruler seems totally possible and becomes more so every day.

The tumultuous events of the end times; not the least of which will be the instantaneous disappearance of hundreds of millions of believers around the world in the Rapture. This will create an environment ripe for a charismatic individual to step forward and lead the world to a place of monetary stability. That man will be the Antichrist – Satan's superman. Instead of saving the world, he will lead it to the final battle

of history, the battle of Armageddon, where he and his forces will be defeated by the returning King of kings, Christ Jesus. But prior to that time, he will demonstrate superhuman powers such as the world has never seen, except in Jesus.

The Bible does not tell us who the Antichrist will be; his name, or what nation he comes from. In fact, Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 that this coming world leader will not be revealed until after the Rapture when the Church is taken to heaven (v.3).

The Antichrist

From a biblical perspective we are looking at a one world government – a totalitarian system. A final world ruler, Mr. Fix-It, will come on the scene and onto the world stage. The world will be in such a mess that people the world over will actually follow this persuasive, very smart end time ruler who will have the answers to the world's problems.

The Antichrist will make his debut in history at the beginning of the Tribulation (Dan. 9:24-27) just after the Rapture where every believer is taken to heaven. The Holy Spirit, who indwells every believer, will by default *"be taken out of the way (2 Thess. 2:6-7)."* In the Tribulation, the Antichrist will seek to be a substitute for Christ. Since Christ is the "the Messiah," or "Anointed One," the Antichrist will claim to be the Messiah – a pseudo-Christ, if you will. The Antichrist will be an attractive and charismatic figure, a genius, a demon controlled, devil taught charmer of men. He will have answers to the horrendous problems mankind will face in the end times going into the Tribulation. He will be all things to all men: a political statesman, a social lion, financial wizard, and intellectual giant, a religious deceiver, a masterful orator, and a gifted organizer. He will be Satan's masterpiece of deception, the world's false messiah. With boundless enthusiasm the world's masses will follow him and readily enthrone him in their hearts as this world's saviour and god.

The personality of the coming world ruler

We may not know who this world leader will be, but we do know from Scripture what he will be like: charismatic, cunning, cultish and cruel. From Revelation 13:5, we do know that he will be one of the most powerful orators the world has ever known and will use that skill to

sway masses of people in the direction he wants them to go. Whereas Hitler had the power to captivate a nation, the Antichrist will have power to captivate the whole world. Hitler will seem like a choir boy in comparison to him.

He will demonstrate a religious like fervor to attract followers to himself and away from God (2 Thessalonians 2:4). He will spare no one in his quest for world domination. He will persecute those who seek to follow Christ during the Tribulation and many who become Christian during the Tribulation will be martyred for their faith.

The Antichrist does not burst on the scene. He rises slowly out of the revived Roman Empire in Europe, and gradually assumes power. His charisma and cunning allow him to forge political treaties with anyone. He forges a peace treaty with Israel and the Jewish people (Daniel 9:27).

The world is going to be looking for someone who can bring peace and stability to the Middle East. Remember that the majority of the world's petroleum reserves are there, plus the ongoing tensions between Israel and her neighbours. The Antichrist will come on the scene and be the saviour. He will make a treaty with Israel on behalf of the nations. For 3 1/2 years there will be peace in the Middle East until the Antichrist breaks the treaty and begins to persecute Israel.

The Antichrist will set himself up as the one to be worshiped in the temple of the Jews in Jerusalem, thus beginning his full-fledged attack upon Israel. Before he carries out that mission, Jesus Christ returns from heaven and destroys his armies. The Antichrist is defeated, the Jewish people are saved, unbelievers are judged, and the Kingdom of God is established upon earth with Christ Jesus reigning for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3).

The book of Revelation is not about the revelation (appearing) of the Antichrist, but the Christ (Revelation 1:1). Knees may bow temporarily to the Antichrist, but when he becomes a defeated foe, the prophecy of Philippians 2:10-11 will be fulfilled: *"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

Today, those who do not willingly bow their knee to Him will one day be compelled to do so. Those who will not be reconciled during this age of grace will be subjected in the day of His judgment. How much better to bow before Him now in praise and adoration!

Mark of the Beast technology

The book of Revelation describes the end of cash and the creation of a cashless society in the last days where the possession of a certain mark on your hand or forehead will be essential to enable you to buy or sell. All private and public transactions will require that the parties involved have this mark. The mark will identify those who worship and follow the Antichrist. This was an astonishing prophecy when John proclaimed it 1900 years ago and is only possible with today's technology. How could the apostle John have known that the future would hold such incredible technology unless God inspired him to write the words recorded in Revelation 13:16-18.

Today such technology exists and is in use. In July 2004, Mexico's attorney general had a RFID microchip inserted under the skin of his arm to give him access to a new crime database and also enable him to be traced if he was ever abducted. Also, the VIP Baja Beach Club in Barcelona, Spain, is chipping its customers. Customers who have a chip implanted do not have to show identification to enter, and all their purchases are made by scanning their chip. A chip, the size of a grain of rice, will hold as much information as contained in 30 complete sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Your complete financial life records could be held by such a chip which could be read from a distance by electronic scanners.

Implantable computer chips with Global Positioning Satellite tracking technology will become commonplace in the near future – known as GPS Tracking Chips. In London 31,000 Metropolitan police officers have been "microchipped" so their movements can be monitored.

Electronic ID Bracelets are today being peddled to governments and airlines. The security bracelet would be worn by all airline passengers replacing the boarding pass. It would contain personal information about the traveller and enable airline employees to monitor the whereabouts of each passenger.

The goal of the "New World Order Gang" is to implant a computer chip or similar device on everyone on earth to replace all forms of identification, credit cards and cash. These "chips" will become commonplace before the start of the Tribulation period giving governments incredible influence over the lives of the people.

We are moving towards a cashless society and a regimentation of society by the computer. When this time comes, it will seem so reasonable, so quick, so necessary. When people are required to receive the mark, they will be able to walk out of any store and simply wave their hand to debit their account. At that moment, the store will know how much money you have in the bank and whether or not you will be accepted. There will not be any need for checks, credit cards or cash – no need to show any identification.

Like I said, there are many benefits for having chip identification and governments will say it will help them prevent terrorist attacks, tax evaders, money laundering and crime. This is true, but this information can also be used to manipulate people or control them. According to Scripture, this will be used by the end time dictator, the Antichrist, to give him absolute control over everyone on earth during the Tribulation period. Isn't this amazing that nearly 2000 years ago, it was prophesied in the book of Revelation and today this technology is in the grasp of our hands. Unbelievable! Only God knows the future and inspired John to write about this new technology over 1900 years ago.

The beauty and the beast

No person can afford to be ignorant of prophecy in these days in which we live, because the things that are prophesied in God's Word are imminent. I believe that the shadow of the end of this age is lengthening, the sands of time are running low, and we are standing on the threshold of the Rapture when Christ takes His church to heaven and the Second Coming of Christ Jesus.

Every person needs to know that there is a beast called the Antichrist, who is lurking in the shadows and getting ready to come onto the world stage. We need to prepare our loved ones for the things that are coming. We cannot afford to be ignorant. You may think that things are coming apart, but everything is fitting into the sockets of prophecy.

Worldwide Television Communication

Another incredible prophecy relating to our era is found in the book of Revelation that describes worldwide television communications. The prophet John prophesied that in the future Tribulation period (7 years) the Antichrist will kill two of God's witnesses who will stop rain worldwide for 3 1/2 years. The prophet declares that the people living around the world will see their deaths and observe their bodies lying unburied for 3 1/2 days in the streets of Jerusalem. The whole world will hold a party, exchanging gifts in their relief that their tormentors are dead. Then these people will watch with astonishment as God resurrects His two witnesses to heaven (Revelation 11:9-10). How could the news that these men were killed travel instantaneously around the world in any other generation than today? Over 100 years ago it would have taken a week for the news to travel from Israel to Japan or New York. However, today CNN instantly transmits pictures and sounds about any important event worldwide. Over 1 billion people around the world can simultaneously watch the Olympic events every four years. For the first time in history, this prophecy about the whole world watching an event in the streets of Jerusalem could only be literally fulfilled in our generation.

Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached into all the world

Here is one of the most wonderful of the prophecies concerning the prediction of Jesus Christ return: *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come (Matthew 24:14)."* The Bible has now been translated into more than 3300 languages in every nation, tribe and dialect on this planet. Electronic communication transmits the message of hope in Christ Jesus through the airwaves worldwide. According to researchers on evangelism, over 75,000 people accept Jesus as their personal Saviour every day. We have never witnessed such an explosion of the Gospel from the first days following the Feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem until today. There were only 1 million Christians in China in 1949 but after a century of faithful missionary work, the Church in China has grown astronomically despite tremendous persecution and the killing of untold millions of believers in concentration camps. Today, the lowest estimates calculate that there are more than 100 million true followers of Christ in China.

Knowledge and Travel shall increase in the last days

I just love this sign of our times because it is clearly pointing to our day today, and it cannot be refuted by anyone. Throughout history we have had slow and little increases in knowledge. But take a look at the explosion of knowledge over the past 150 years! Up until recently in history, the fastest form of transportation was a horse. Now man can travel at hundreds and even thousands of miles per hour, even travelling to the moon. Technology is developing at a rapid pace, which has led to great improvements in computer power, scientific discoveries and the medical field. Just look at how much we have learned about the human body with things like DNA and cellular structures, etc. And, how about "running to and fro?" Scripture here is pointing specifically to our day with planes, trains, automobiles and the busyness of our modern day lifestyle. We are definitely running to and fro and have knowledge like no generation before us.

Twenty-five centuries ago the Book of Daniel predicted that there would be an explosion of knowledge and a huge increase in travel in the last days. Daniel wrote these words: *"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book **until the time of the end**; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."* Throughout thousands of years of history the level of knowledge only increased incrementally. In some generations the level of general knowledge actually decreased. Yet, in the last century and a half, there has been an explosion of knowledge beyond anything ever experienced in human history. There are more scientists alive today than have lived in all of the rest of history. Recently it was calculated that the total level of human knowledge is growing so quickly that it literally doubles every 4 to 5 years. This is staggering in light of Daniel's inspired prediction from the ancient past. In addition, Daniel stated that a characteristic of the last days would be an awesome increase in mobility as "many shall run to and fro." The speed of transportation has also exploded in the last century. Throughout history most people have never travelled faster than a galloping horse. Today men travel at over 18,000 miles an hour in the US space shuttle Discovery. In addition, while most people in past centuries never travelled more than 20 miles from the place they were born, millions of people now travel the globe as part of their normal course of daily business or annual vacation. 13 years ago Facebook and YouTube didn't even exist. ('04/'05)

Was the new technology "holoportation" described in Revelation?

Any sufficiently advanced technology can seem indistinguishable from magic, especially way back in, say, A.D. 95 when the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation. Remember, John was instructed by Jesus to write down the things *"that he saw (Rev. 1:2)"* and most of what he saw was nearly 2000 years in the future. Talk about mind blowing future shock! How would a first century prophet describe things like:

- Advanced attack helicopters
- armoured vehicles
- biological and chemical weapons
- fighter jets
- nuclear warfare

Imagine the difficulty a primitive, non-technical man from the first century would have trying to make sense of modern advances and warfare; never mind trying to put it all in writing. We take today's technology advances for granted, but back in John's day they must have seemed like magic. In Revelation 13, John describes a statue that comes to life and is able to speak. Some believe John is using symbolic language. I believe he's probably describing a technology called "holoportation."

Holoportation is a new type of 3D capture technology that allows high quality 3D models of people to be reconstructed, compressed and transmitted anywhere in the world in real time. When combined with mixed reality, they are actually present in the same physical space. Communicating and interacting with remote users becomes as natural as face-to-face communication. Simply, this technology allows users to see, hear, and interact with remote participants in 3D as if they are actually present in the same physical space.

What John described 2000 years ago is exactly this new technology that is just being developed today. In Revelation chapter 13 we read about this man who is the Antichrist's lieutenant, who will enforce the worship of the Antichrist by performing great signs and miracles like

making fire come down from heaven to earth (v.13). Then in verse 15, this lieutenant, "*was granted power to give life to this statue so that it could speak. Then the statue commanded that anyone refusing to worship the beast (Antichrist) must die.*"

What John is writing about here nearly 2000 years ago perfectly describes today the new technology "holoportation." You gotta check this out; seeing is believing. Type into your computer's webpage or search engine: <http://research.microsoft.com/holoportation...> then click on the video and see for yourself the amazing technology John saw 2000 years ago when he was taken up to heaven and told to "*write the things which will take place after this (Rev. 1:19).*" At the start of chapter 4 John is taken (raptured) to heaven and shown the things that must take place on earth during the Tribulation period when the Antichrist is revealed and God's wrath is poured out onto the earth. This is some amazing prophecy that only could be possible with today's technology— that's why the Bible is the truth. In the book of Revelation it tells us, "*Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near (Rev.1:3).*"

The book of Revelation is totally amazing. Here we have John who was catapulted by God from one time period to another so that his extensive "visions" would have the authority of an eyewitness. The prophet then unknowingly encoded a warning for the generation in which these things would happen with conviction, accuracy and authority. That generation and the start of the Tribulation period I honestly believe is less than 16 years away. We, the Church (body of believers), will be taken to heaven in the Rapture just prior to the start of the Tribulation period and watching everything on earth unfold just as the book of Revelation describes.

Preparations for the Battle of Armageddon

Numerous prophecies deal with the climactic battle at the end of this age that will bring about the defeat of the Antichrist's army and the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth for 1000 years. The prophet John named the place of the final battle in this war against God. The apostle John also stated that the army of the Eastern nations from the "kings of the East" would consist of an

astonishing 200 million soldiers. This statement was impossible in light of the fact that the population of the entire Roman Empire in the days of John was less than 200 million people. How could John predict something that can only happen in our generation? Simply, because God inspired John to write the things He wanted him to write. Only God could foretell the future and reveal it to John.

There are so many more prophecies revealed in our generation that I can go on and on but I'm just going to have to stop it here. The evidence I've presented in this chapter also provides astonishing evidence that proves that only God could have inspired the writers of the Scriptures to accurately predict the startling number of predictions already fulfilled or near fulfilment in our lifetime. In other words, it is simply impossible that men alone could have written the Bible without the supernatural assistance and inspiration of God.

Genesis to Revelation – Bookends of the Bible

Just as Genesis explains the beginning of the world, Revelation explains the end of the world. Revelation is the book of consummation. Subjects that were introduced in the first book are brought to fruition in the last book. Note the following:

Genesis

Creation of heaven and the earth

We see the first Adam reigning on earth

We see an earthly bride (Eve) brought to the first Adam

We see the beginning of death and of the curse

Sorrow comes to mankind

Revelation

Creation of the new heaven and earth

We see Jesus, the last Adam, on earth reigning in glory

We see a heavenly bride (the Church) brought to Christ Jesus, the last Adam

The Saviour brings us to a state where there is no more death and no more curse

Sorrow eliminated

Man is driven from God's face in sin

We see God's face in glory

Right to the tree of life forfeited

Access to tree of life
restored

Satan appears on earth for the
first time

Satan appears on earth
for the last time

As we can see, the book of Revelation is the golden clasp that seals God's Word in holy, divine perfection.

In closing

Sadly, the Bible predicts a downward spiral of catastrophes, human sin, and religious apostasy before Christ returns. Paul writes, "*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.... Evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worst, deceiving and being deceived (2 Timothy 3:1, 13).*" Often, people experience anxiety when they think about the end times; however, it does not have to be that way. For those who know God, thoughts of the future bring eagerness and comfort. For example, describing a woman who knows and trusts God, Proverbs 31:25 says, "*She smiles at the future.*"