

3

Signs Unique To Our Generation

The Bible must be the Word of God because of its fulfilled prophecy

One of the great proofs that you can believe that the Bible is the Word of God is in the fulfilled prophecy of the Bible. This book, the Bible, has predictions of things that have yet to happen and will happen, because the Bible has predicted things ahead of time and these things did happen. It's amazing to see history fit into the sockets of prophecy and, as you can see, actually fulfilled prophecy. We could study all kinds of fulfilled prophecy, but let's just take those related to the person and nature of Christ. Think about the Scriptures and the prophecies that were fulfilled just in Jesus Christ alone. Scholars say that Jesus fulfilled more than 300 Old Testament prophecies going back hundreds and thousands of years. Some sceptics might say, "Oh sure, he fulfilled all these prophecies, but he rigged it!" Well, if you believe that, let me tell you some of the things that he arranged.

First, He arranged to be born in Bethlehem. Could you arrange where you are going to be born? Micah 5:2 tells the prophecy that was fulfilled in the New Testament book of Matthew 2:1-5. Then He managed for Isaiah to record details about His life 700 years before He was born. You can read the way Isaiah described Christ in Isaiah, Chapters 7, 9, and 53. Did you arrange to have the history of your life written before you were born?

Then He arranged to be crucified by execution on a cross. Did you know that if you read Psalm 22 written by David, 10 centuries before Jesus was born, you will read a description of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ that was written like a man who was standing at the foot of the cross? He tells about the piercing of His hands and feet, the gambling for His garments, and the very words that Jesus would say upon the

cross. Jesus wasn't looking back and quoting David; rather David is looking forward and quoting Jesus. It is an amazing thing that it was written as if someone is an eye witness to Christ's crucifixion.

This one Psalm contains 33 direct prophecies that were fulfilled at Calvary, yet written a thousand years before the birth of Christ. Even more intriguing, when David wrote this prophecy, the form of capital punishment practised by the Jews was stoning, not crucifixion; it hadn't been invented yet. Crucifixion was a Roman form of execution, and yet you find crucifixion described in Psalm 22, some 1000 years earlier before the Roman Empire came into being.

Did He arrange that He would be crucified between two thieves? The Bible prophesied all of this in Isaiah 53:9-12; it was fulfilled as recorded in Matthew 27. The Bible prophesied that Judas would betray Him for exactly 30 pieces of silver in Zachariah 11:12. You can read about the fulfilment in Matthew 26:15.

Here is the classic arrangement: He arranged to rise from the dead and be seen by more than 500 witnesses. Some claim the apostles were hallucinating. Five hundred hallucinating at the same time? Are people willing to die for a lie? No. People might live for a lie, but nobody will willingly die for a lie if they know that it is a lie. The early followers laid down their lives for the faith.

Most of these prophecies were not fulfilled by His friends but by His enemies, those who had the most to lose by the fulfilment of these prophecies. Matthew 26:56: *"But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."* Fulfilled prophecy is an incredible proof of the inspiration of the Bible.

In chapter one of my book *"Death and God"* I give you 10 reasons to believe in the Bible – prophecy being one of those reasons. The evidence is overwhelming when presented with the miracle of the Bible's structure, survival, integration (unity), historical and archaeological evidence, scientific insights, and over hundreds upon hundreds of fulfilled prophecies. There can only be one conclusion! The Bible must be the Word of God because of its fulfilled prophecy; only God can foretell the future and bring it to its conclusion.

Modern day signs of the times

The Bible foretells many prophetic signs that would culminate in the end times. Jesus indicated these signs would arise together as His return drew near (Matthew 24:33-34). Though many of these end times Bible prophecies won't climax until the Tribulation period, our generation is the first to see every trend in place. As the final seconds of this age tick away, these end times events will come into even clearer focus. Keep in mind as you read through this book that most of these prophecies were penned 1900 to 3500 years ago.

It is legitimate to ask if there are any signs that are truly unique to our day and time; signs that have never existed before. Are there new signs that clearly point to this period of history as the time of the Lord's return? The answer is yes. Accordingly, there are many end time prophecies that have never been understood until now, either because their understanding depended on historical events or because they were dependent upon technological developments. The fact that these prophecies have become understandable in recent years for the first time ever is proof positive that we are living in the end times.

The uniqueness of our generation

Our generation is unlike any before it. Not only can we point to clear signs of Christ's return, but almost every sign the Bible says to look for is present right now. Some signs are completely fulfilled such as the re-establishment of Israel as a nation. Others seem to be in an early stage of fulfilment such as the emergence of a loose confederation of European nations as a dominant world power. But regardless of the stage of fulfilment, some form of almost every end times sign is converging in our time. Nevertheless, most people remain ignorant of the signs and that's a shame.

Remember, Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His time for their failure to recognize His coming. He said they knew how to interpret the weather signs in the sky, but they didn't know how to recognize the signs of the times (Matthew 16:2-3). Jesus expected the religious leaders of His day to recognize the signs of His first coming. In the same way, Jesus expects us to recognize the signs of His second coming.

So, let's take the same approach. Now, let us look at a list of biblical signs of our times that could not have happened in any other generation, except for our generation. Now is the season of Christ's return. So, just as you know a storm is coming when you see dark clouds on the horizon, these signs below will alert you that Christ's second coming is near. Here is a partial list of some signs predicted 1900 to 3500 years ago that could have not been fulfilled in any other generation until now.

1. Israel back in the land. In A.D. 70, Roman soldiers put down a rebellion, sacked Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and carried the Jewish people to the farthest corners of the Empire to serve as slaves. They tried to eliminate every trace of the nation of Israel, even renaming the land Palestine in honour of Israel's historical enemies, the Philistines. Rome intended to erase the memory of Israel forever.

Fortunately, God had other plans. Thousands of years ago, He foretold the long exile of His people. He promised to call them from "*among the nations (Ezekiel 39:28)*," from "*the furthest corners of the earth (Isaiah 11:12)*," and from "*North, South, East, and West (Psalm 107:3)*." He promised to welcome the Jewish people home from the lands where they were scattered (Ezekiel 20:34), and He promised to restore them to the land of Israel from distant lands (Jeremiah 30:2, 10). And this is exactly what He did. Every person on earth today is an eyewitness to the modern miracle of Israel. Long ago, the prophet said this restoration will proceed a monumental event – the return of the Christ to set up His everlasting Kingdom (Isaiah 35, Joel 3, Jeremiah 23, Micah 4). In other words, Israel's existence in our day and time is a sign that the second coming of Christ is near.

Think about this; until the 20th century, there was never a prospect that the nation of Israel would ever exist again. But the Bible made this astonishing prediction long before it happened. For 1900 years, Christians could not point to this sign. Israel didn't exist, and the Jews were not in the land. But today? Jews from around the world are returning to Israel on a daily basis. Over 8 million Jews have returned to Israel in recent times. Without a homeland until 1948, Israel should have been assimilated into other nations and ceased to be a recognizable people group. This is unprecedented in human history. Never has a group of people been dispersed for hundreds of years (in Israel's case 1900 years) to every corner of the globe, and then

regathered back to their homeland. The fact that they did not disappear completely into the cultures in which they settled throughout the world stands as evidence for God's existence and faithfulness. God promised to regather them in the last days and He is doing that in our time, in our generation, before our very eyes.

2. The nation Israel would be born in one day. On May 14, 1948 Israel became a nation. The greatest miracle of the last 1900 years. Land, government, army, postal service, stamps, flag, currency, etc. – it all happened in one day just as Isaiah prophesied 2500 years ago. *"Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such a thing?.... Or shall a nation be born at once (Isaiah 66:8)."*

3. The Jews back in Jerusalem. When the disciples asked Jesus to reveal the signs of His coming and the end of the age, He gave them one of the keys to understanding the timing of His return. He told His disciples this: Jerusalem *"will be trampled by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles come to an end."* And then, after that, Jesus promised to return (Luke 21:24-28).

So when did this begin? The Gentile trampling of Jerusalem began with the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70 and the dispersion of the Jews to all parts of the world. For 19 centuries thereafter, Gentile (non-Jewish) kings and kingdoms held complete control over the City of Jerusalem. However, in June 1967, after the Six-Day War, the Jews regained control of the city for the first time since A.D. 70. According to Jesus, the Jewish repossession of Jerusalem will precede His return. For 1900 years Christians could not point to this sign, but today in our generation both Israel and Jerusalem are back in Jewish hands just as God predicted. God's prophetic clock started ticking to wind down 6000 years of man's government on earth.

4. During the dispersion of the Jews to the four corners of the globe, Israel would become a wasteland. (Deu. 29:23-28; Ezekiel 36:8-11, 36:33-36) During the past 1900 years Israel became a nearly uninhabited, desolate wasteland with malaria infested swamps, where very few Palestinian Arabs lived.

5. Israel, once a desolate desert, would blossom in the end times and export produce to the world (Isaiah 27:6, 35:1-2; Ezekiel 36:34-36). Whereas the British relegated much of the land to be uninhabitable,

the Jews took this barren wasteland, drained the swamps and made the desert bloom. Incredibly, as foretold 3500 years ago, they currently export nearly \$1 billion of fresh produce each year, including over \$200 million in flowers and ornamental plants. Today, Israel is known as the fruit basket of Europe.

6. Jerusalem would be rebuilt on its own ruins (Jeremiah 30:18; Zechariah 12:6). Earlier I told you that Jerusalem was totally destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. Since 1948, Jerusalem has been rebuilt on the old ruins exactly as foretold.

7. God's promise to make Jerusalem "a heavy stone, a burden for the world." "Behold, I will make Jerusalem and Judea like an intoxicating drink to all the nearby nations that send their armies to besiege Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it (Zechariah 12:2-3)." Here the Gentile nations are seen marching against Jerusalem in a future day. Jerusalem and the Middle East will be the storm centre of the world until Christ returns in glory. Almost daily the world news reports on the conflict over Jerusalem. This prophecy will be fulfilled during the campaign of Armageddon.

As you read this, world leaders today are focused on Jerusalem. In a hopeless effort to forge "peace" between the Arab and Jewish people, many leaders openly talk about "dividing" Jerusalem. Yet, God's proclamation is clear; Jerusalem will remain an undivided Israel possession.

8. All surrounding nations would be united against Israel (Ps. 83:4-8; Zach.12:2). This has never happened in history. Yet today, Israel is surrounded by Muslim nations sworn to her destruction.

9. Anti-Semitism worldwide anticipated (Deut. 28:37; Jer. 29:18; Luke 21:20-24; Rev. 12). History confirms that the Jews have been persecuted as no other people group throughout the ages. From the very first attempts to destroy the Jews; Pharaoh's murder of all the male Hebrew babies in the book of Genesis to Harrods order to kill all male babies under two years old in the book of Matthew. Fast forward to the 20th century when Adolf Hitler tried to exterminate them, and

then later in the coming Tribulation period the Antichrist will attempt to do the same.

Today, anti-Semitism is a global epidemic, for example, of over 700 General Assembly resolutions passed since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, nearly 450 condemn Israel. None have been passed against any Arab country nor any Arab terrorist organizations. In other words, out of 190 nations in the UN, over 60% of all General Assembly resolutions rebuke just one member; Israel.

At anti-Semitism's core is Satan fomenting hatred among men against the children of the God of Israel, generation after generation. He cleverly disguises each campaign with a compelling lie wrapped in a plan designed to rid the world of a perceived ill, blamed on the Jews. Satan's scheme throughout human history was to defeat God's plan to bring forth the Messiah of Israel (Jesus). He failed miserably.

10. Rebuilt temple in Israel anticipated (Dan. 9:27, 12:11; Mark 13:4; 2 Thess. 2:4; Rev. 11:1-2). The prophets Daniel, Jesus, Paul, and John all refer to the Temple in the end times. Therefore we know it must be rebuilt. It is one of the key unfulfilled elements of end times prophecy. We know that end times prophecy cannot be fulfilled without the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. Why? Because in Thessalonians 2:4, it tells us that during the Tribulation period the Antichrist will stand in the Temple and proclaim himself to be God and demand worship. Of course, in order for the Antichrist to do this, the Temple has to exist. And since the Roman legions destroyed the Temple in A.D. 70, it's never been rebuilt.

Today, preparations by the Temple Institute are nearly complete. Currently, the Temple Institute has created the temple furniture, vessels, and priestly garments. Just recently the Temple Institute undertook an unprecedented step in this prophetic restoration: rebuilding the Altar of the Lord. There are also several hundred young Jewish men in training for the Levitical priesthood. This just shows us how close you are to Christ's return.

“Breaking news (August 29, 2016) – High priest is chosen by Sanhedrin: Temple Service could be one week away.” So far they are talking about the temple service but the rebuilding of the temple itself may still be years away. Regardless, what we do know is that after the

Rapture when the church is taken to heaven the rebuilt temple will be in place in Jerusalem as we're told the Antichrist will enter the Temple and desecrate it.

11. Russia would rise as a military power and lead an attack on Israel (Ezek. 38). Ezekiel wrote this prophecy over 2500 years ago and at that time Magog (Russia) was an obscure nation with no military power. Look at Russia today and the military might she is. Also look at Russia with her naval base in Syria, less than 70 miles away from Israel's border. Ezekiel 38 also tells us that Libya (Put), Iran (Persia), Sudan (Cush), and Turkey (Gomer) would also join Russia in the attack on Israel. Ironically, Egypt and Jordan would not participate in this attack (Ezekiel 38). Interestingly, these two nations have signed recent peace treaties with Israel; Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

According to Scripture this attack on Israel will come after the Church (body of Christ) has been raptured (caught up) and taken to heaven. Scripture also tells us that Russia and her allies are stopped and defeated by God's use of confusion, disease, and natural disaster. This is known as the Battle of Gog and Magog. The Bible says it will take Israel seven months to bury all the bodies from this horrible battle (Ezekiel 39:12).

Scriptures are also clear that as a result of the defeat of Russia and her Islamic allies in Ezekiel 38-39, a power vacuum will exist that will provide the perfect opportunity for the rise of a one world government and for **Mr. Fix-It**, the Antichrist, to come onto the world stage.

12. An increase in Travel and Knowledge. Approximately 2500 years ago, an angel told the prophet Daniel to seal the book and keep his visions secret until a later date. What later date? The angel said, "*Until the end times, when many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase (Daniel 12:4).*" In other words, a significant increase in travel and knowledge will mark the end times and the time just prior to the Second Coming of Christ Jesus. Have we seen such an increase? I think the answer is obvious. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, few individuals travelled beyond their own communities. For all of human history right up until the early 20th century, the fastest mode of land based transportation was a horse. Yet today, we can travel to the other side of the earth in a matter of hours. For example, my dad who was born in 1890 and died at age 85, witnessed and experienced

unprecedented technological advancements. His life started with horse and carriage and progressed to automobiles, planes, and since then, civilization going from the "nuclear age" to the "space-age" and the ability to put a man on the moon. Unbelievable, but all of this happened in my dad's lifetime. How wonderful it is for the Bible to predict over 2500 years ago the very conditions that we are seeing fulfilled today. Today we are in the age of travel. Many are running to and fro today and prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes. Someone has said, "The world today is literally a human race on wheels."

As far as knowledge increasing just look at the millions or billions of young people worldwide with college and university education today. Then in the last hundred or so years there came major advancements in the field of communication systems such as the telegraph, radio, phone, television, and now handheld computers (smartphones). Deployment of global satellite networks during the 20th century allow news to travel the world at the speed of light for the first time ever. As for an increase in knowledge, think about how much information is on the Internet. In 1990, there was only one website. Six years later, the internet featured more than 100,000 websites. And a decade later? One hundred million. Today, estimates place the number of websites at somewhere around six hundred million. It has been said that with the advent of the internet, our cumulative knowledge is doubling every 4 to 5 years. Yes, Daniel's prophecy has certainly come to pass because knowledge has increased and spread via technological communications to the point that the present time has been aptly called the "Information Age."

13. The Rise of a United Europe. The Bible repeatedly states a revised version of the Roman Empire will ascend to power in the end times (Dan. 2, 7; Rev. 17). This will be the final world empire before Jesus returns. Do we see this empire today? No. Not yet. Do we see an alliance of strong and weak nations in the area of the old Roman Empire. Absolutely! It's called the European Union and its entire purpose is to collectively strengthen the member nations through alliance; just as the statue's iron and clay feet and toes would attempt to strengthen themselves through "*intermarriage*." (Daniel 2:43)

As of this writing, the European Union contains the world's fourth, fifth, and sixth largest economies (Germany, the United Kingdom, and

France) but it also contains the world's 103rd, 112th, and 136th largest economies (Estonia, Iceland, and Malta). Individually, no EU nation is a world power. Together, the combined nations of the EU are the world's leading economic power. And this is precisely the type of arrangement the Bible says will exist in the time just prior to Christ's return.

14. The Gospel Preached Throughout the World then the end would come (Matt. 24:14). In answering His disciple's question regarding the end of the age, Jesus described many signs to look for. Among them, He said this, *"And the Gospel will be preached throughout the entire world, so that every nation will hear it and then the end will come."*

Think we're getting close to that day now? I do. Today, portions or all of the Bible have been translated into over 2400 languages and dialects covering over 90% of the world's population. Satellites broadcast Christian programs throughout the world. And every day, missionaries carry the Gospel to people who have never heard it before. We're not there yet, but we're getting close.

Unfortunately, while this sign is all around us, most people don't see it as a sign. They don't think the global reach of Christ's message is a big deal. But think about it. The promise to see the Gospel preached throughout the world was made by a Jewish carpenter with some fishermen as followers nearly 2000 years ago. That's a bold proclamation, and its fulfillment is something the world takes for granted. Even after 1500 years, the message of Jesus was largely confined to the European continent. But today, the Gospel message is preached in every nation.

15. Mark of the Beast technology. The central piece of the end time world political puzzle is now in place for the first time. Scripture tells us that the final generation would be open to receiving a mark on their right hand or on their forehead and would not be able to buy or sell without it (Rev. 13:16). Here is another famous prophecy that is dependent on modern technology where the end time ruler, the Antichrist, will control the world's economy by requiring people to bear his mark or name on their hand or forehead to buy or sell anything. Again, how could this be possible before the invention of laser and computer technology? And today, for the first time in history, global tracking and marking technology is available for such an event

to occur. However, 1900 years ago this prophecy was made which shows us that only God knows the future and that we are living in the end times.

Recently, one company in Sweden voluntarily piloted a program that bears eerie similarities to those apocalyptic predictions. Employees of BioNyfiken are able to unlock doors, excess their printing accounts, and pay for lunch with a simple wave of their hand, as scanners read the chip implanted within and identify the user associated with it. Yes, my friends, we are probably less than 16 years away when big corporations and big government will come to us and say everyone should get chipped. We can see from recent technology that ancient prophecy is staring us right in our face today; as we speak.

16. Israel with an exceedingly great army. In his "*Valley of the Dry Bones*" vision (where God breathes new life back into the Jewish people), the prophet Isaiah saw the Jewish people come to life and stand up as "*an exceedingly great army (Ezekiel 37:10).*" Zachariah repeated this promise, speaking of a day when Israel is like a fire among sheaves of grain, burning up the neighbouring nations (Zechariah 12:6). In fact, he claims even the weakest soldier among them will be like David (Zech. 12:8). Do we see this today? We sure do.

What are the odds of Israel winning four conventional wars in 25 years? Israel barely cracks the top 100 nations in terms of population, but its military consistently ranks among the most powerful in the world. The whole country is less than 13,000 square miles (approximately the size of New Jersey). That's less than 1/10 of 1% of the land mass of the surrounding nations that wish to destroy her. Does this sound like a recipe for "an exceedingly great army"? Yet, that's exactly what the Israeli Defense Force is. Surrounded on all sides this brand-new nation, that didn't even have a formal military, emerged victorious in a multi-front war in 1948. Against all odds, this small Israeli army of less than 40,000, who were outnumbered and outgunned, defeated the huge Arab coalition of some 100,000 men and their superior modern day weapons; more than twice the size of the Israeli army. Were they really that good or did God play a hand in their victory? Then again, with Syria, Jordan, and Egypt preparing for war, the Israelis struck pre-emptively in 1967. The result? They achieved overwhelming victory in just six days.

And what does the Bible say about the timing of Israel's emergence as a world military power? When does it say Israel will have an *"exceedingly great army?"* You guessed it. The Bible's says, *"when God's people are regathered in the land just before the Messiah returns (Ezekiel 12, 36, 37)."* When the Jewish people have been *"brought back from the nations where they were scattered, and given the land of Israel by God Himself (Ezekiel 11:17)."* This only happened in our generation.

17. Mankind would be capable of destroying all life (Matt. 24:21-22). Consider that when Jesus made this prophecy 2000 years ago, the armaments of His day were swords and spears. But today, with nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, it is possible to wipe out all flesh on planet earth. Speaking of the end-time Tribulation period Jesus said conditions will worsen to the point that human survival will be at stake! *"It will be a time of great distress [tribulation], such as there has never been since the beginning of the world until this time, and will never be again. If that time of troubles were not cut short, no living thing could survive; but for the sake of God's chosen it will be cut short (Matthew 24:21-22)."* This prophecy could not have been fulfilled by any previous generation because it is clearly stated that the Tribulation period will be ended by the Second Coming of Christ (v. 27).

18. The use of nuclear weapons anticipated (Zech. 14:12). The neutron bomb melts (dissolves) its victims just as God warned 2500 years ago. *"Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths."* This was unimaginable in Zechariah's day and here today it is common knowledge.

19. Global communications foreseen (Rev. 11:9-10). The invention of the television and the deployment of global satellite networks during the 20th century allows news to travel the world at the speed of light for the first time ever. Remember in my dad's day, before the turn of the 20th century, news travelled at the speed of horseback or train.

20. Apostasy – False Bible teachers and false prophets (2 Peter 2:1-2, 3). False Bible teachers would bring in heresies, have many followers, and cause others to reject God's Word. It is very common today to find

people who reject the Bible out of hand because they have heard it misrepresented by a false teacher. We also have these false prophets who are smooth talkers and money hungry. A growing number of TV evangelists epitomize this. They twist the Scriptures, using misleading words, to prey on the unwary. Apostasy is a very important sign of the end times.

21. In the end times Israel would have a peace treaty in place that the Antichrist would confirm and eventually break (Dan. 9:27). Currently the world's governments are striving for an Israeli peace treaty with no success but in the Tribulation period the Antichrist will make a peace treaty with Israel then three years later he will break this treaty and go against Israel.

22. Damascus would be destroyed (Isa. 17:1, 14; Jer. 49:23-27; Amos 1:3-5; Zach. 9:1-8). Damascus, Syria is increasingly in the news and is extremely anti-Semitic. God declares that they will become a ruinous heap. Prophecy fulfilment still in the future.

23. Chaotic weather would be prevalent (Luke 21:25-26). Chaotic weather would increase in both intensity and frequency. Of course chaotic weather is not new, but there are indications that we are witnessing an increase in strange weather. Just in the last five years alone there has been many disasters described as biblical 100 year type events, be they floods around the world, tornadoes, fires, rain bursts, landslides, storms, etc. I just read recently that scientists expect more 1000 year events like the 2016 Louisiana flood. Some areas received over 2 feet of rain in three days.

24. There would be a move towards a global government (Dan. 2:40-44, 7:23; Rev. 13:7-8). The former Roman Empire which encompassed present day Europe would revive and eventually dominate the world. The European Union has steadily moved forward in its attempt to unite Europe politically and economically. It has succeeded in creating a European Parliament, a court, and a common currency. Globalization is not only unique to Europe, it is happening everywhere. I just counted 23 key United Nation agencies and over 205 international organizations worldwide.

25. A global economic system would exist (Rev. 13:16-17). This was unthinkable in the apostle John's day nearly 2000 years ago. Yet today

globalists in every level of government are seeking to unite the world. Connecting the world monetarily is crucial to their goal.

26. A man would control all banking and commerce (Rev. 13:16-18). Remember, this prophecy was penned 2000 years before our computer driven society. Yet, until recently, you couldn't have even dreamed how a person could control all commerce but this is exactly what happens when the Antichrist comes on the scene to dominate world commerce during the Tribulation.

27. Asia (the kings from the East) would be capable of deploying a 200 million man army just prior to the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 9:14-16; 16:12). Bear in mind, when John penned this prophecy 2000 years ago, there were only an estimated 170 to 400 million people on the entire planet. Yet today, according to the CIA, China alone has 280 million men fit for military service. This prophecy could only happen in our generation.

28. There would be a move towards a one world religion (Rev. 13:8, 12; Rev. 17). Today, as never before, we are witnessing religions joining hands in the name of peace and tolerance as we have never seen before in any other generation. A world church will be established before the Tribulation. There has been much work to reunite the world's religions. The first attempt at global dialogue of faith was held in 1893. Roman Catholics, Protestants, Hindus, Buddhists, Moslems, Theosophists and others prayed together in dialogue for 17 days. The event was celebrated by another conference on its centennial in 1993. This led to a new series of conferences under the official title "Parliament of the World's Religions." It held meetings in 1999, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2014 and since then on a yearly basis. The Bible clearly teaches that before the Antichrist rises to power there will be a world church.

29. God's Two Witnesses of the end times watched by all peoples of the world (Rev. 11). These two great witnesses of God will preach in the city of Jerusalem during the first 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation. Then, in the middle of that terrible period, the Antichrist will kill them.

We are told that their dead bodies would lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 1/2 days and that all the people of the world will look upon them.

How could that be possible 2000 years ago? Prior to 1957 there was just no way that all the people of the world could look upon two dead bodies in the streets of Jerusalem. That all changed on October 4, 1957 when the Russians sent the first Sputnik satellite into space. Once again, modern technology has made an ancient prophecy understandable for the first time.

Finally, the number one sign

30. The Convergence of End Times Signs. That's right. The number one sign is not a single sign, but the convergence of all the signs Jesus, Moses, and the Old Testament prophets said to look for.

Jesus said, *"When you see all these things occur, look up. For your salvation is near (Luke 21:28)."* Note that Jesus didn't say, *"when you see one or two of the signs,"* He said, *"When you see all these signs."* In other words, the convergence of all the signs Jesus spoke of is what we should be looking for when determining the times of the end.

The convergence of so many specific and detailed events that Jesus told us to look for, should command the attention of even the most hardened skeptics. Why? Because for more than 1900 years following Christ's crucifixion, the signs were noticeably absent. But today? Today, we see them all around us. For the first time ever, each of the signs is present, that was not available to any other generation before us. And at the same time! Think that's a coincidence? I don't. It's not a coincidence. And time will prove it's not. Jesus is coming as prophesied. Now is the season of His return.

There are many more end time prophecies; in fact, I had a hard time deciding which ones I wanted to include from a list of over 100. However, these end time signs demonstrate that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Only God can know the future. Only our generation has witnessed the coming together of everyone of these events. God's clock is ticking. Those individuals born after 1967, when Israel re-captured Jerusalem, are the final generation just before Christ's return.

Predictive prophecy

After reviewing the prophecies listed above, I don't think we need any handwriting on the wall to indicate to us that we are living in a unique

age. Historical developments and technological inventions are making it possible for us to understand many end time prophecies for the first time. The bottom line, my friends, is that we are living on borrowed time, because Jesus is coming back soon.

Prophecy sets God's word apart from all other literature. The world is full of the records of man looking back and recording what happened in the past. But only the Bible is full of the records of God writing the events of history before they take place. Prophecy is history pre-written.

By most accounts the Bible is 25-30% predictive prophecy by volume. It's the proof God gives us to verify that He is who He claims to be and no one else is. Prophecy is God's way of authenticating Himself for us, because only someone who exists outside the restrictions of time can describe events before they've taken place with 100% accuracy. Contrast the Bible's 100% track record with other self-proclaimed prophetic sources and there is no comparison.

Dr. Hugh Ross (science-faith think tank), writes that there are approximately 2500 prophecies in the Bible pertaining to cities, nations, empires, events and individuals that can be verified in the historical record. He says about 80% of which have already been fulfilled to the letter with no errors. This is particularly astounding when according to scholars there are no prophecies, not one, in the writings of Buddha, Confucius or the Muslim Koran. Why is that? Only a supernatural God would be capable of knowing and revealing the future with 100% accuracy, time after time, in hundreds and hundreds of instances. That's exactly what the Bible does and that's precisely why the Bible is trustworthy. There simply is no logical way to explain the fulfilled prophecies in the Bible other than by divine origin. If man wrote the Bible on his own initiative, then how can we account for the thousands of prophecies that have been fulfilled? Man cannot predict the future; only God can.