

*“ . . . men who had understanding of the times,  
to know what Israel ought to do”  
– I Chronicles 12:32.*

## **When Will the Great Tribulation Begin?**

**How close is the coming “time of trouble” and the “Great Tribulation” and period of worldwide distress? With Red New Moon eclipses scheduled to appear on God’s annual holy days in 2015-2016, as a sign of the Imminent coming of the Messiah, is there further prophetic evidence that the 3 ½ year Great Tribulation may start in 2012? Are we now at a *turning point* in history and man’s sojourn on the earth?**

**William F. Dankenbring**

Get ready now, for the perfect storm is coming.

Four times more jobs were lost in June than were forecast; sending economists reeling. U.S. automakers are bleeding – GM sales are down 18%, worst June in 17 years. Chrysler sales plunged nearly 50%. GM, Ford and Chrysler may have to consolidate, or be sold off to the highest foreign bidder, or even file for bankruptcy.

Starbucks is closing 600 locations, and canceling 200 new stores! Foreigners are quitting the U.S. dollar in disgust – the greenback is resuming its plunge on world markets.

Plummeting home prices have eliminated jobs in banking, real estate, construction, and furniture manufacturing. All across the country, manufacturers are closing plants and retailers like Starbucks are shuttering stores. And Wall Street just witnessed the most brutal first two quarters since 1970 and the worst June since The Great Depression began in 1930.

Oil, gold, food and many other commodities are at or near historic highs and threatening to surge higher. This news alert is from Martin Weiss, PhD who says that the truth is that the gulf between what Washington says and what we are really experiencing in the economy has never been greater.

Fortis Bank, a large bank and insurer in the Netherlands and Belgium, now predicts US financial market meltdown within mere weeks. Fortis expects bankruptcies will occur amongst 6000 American banks which have small insurance coverage currently. Or is another interest rate cut going to be implemented, which delays everything but makes the hemorrhage of the dollar even worse?

It is a bad time to be fully invested in stocks and bonds. The financial world is panicky and chaos could soon collapse the world economic system.

War continues in Iraq and Afghanistan, and President Bush warns Israel not to bomb Iran. One day before the demolition of North Korea's nuclear cooling tower, President Bush issued a declaration of national emergency. For the past 30 years America has been under one "national emergency" or another. Destruction of the cooling tower in North Korea is more show than substance. North Korea has a 100 nuclear warhead arsenal and intercontinental ballistic missiles targeted to deliver to New York City. Do not be deceived by the abrupt willingness of North Korea to destroy her main nuclear cooling tower, and by her willingness to hand over reams of documents to the Chinese.

There will definitely be another war soon! War is simmering and brewing in the Middle East once again. War could at the same time erupt between North Korea vs. South Korea, and U.S., already tied down in Iran and Afghanistan, would be like Gulliver, all tied up and helpless to intervene. And China, which has long coveted Taiwan and its high tech industry, could at the same time make its move on the island nation, with the U.S. helpless to stop it.

Meanwhile, heavy rains in the U.S. and drought in Australia signal that global harvests (particularly corn and soybeans) might fall far short of what's needed to help ease world food shortages. Food is growing short around the world, and even in the United States food shortages of rice have occurred.

A new book by Dick Morris, entitled *Fleeced*, has shot to the No.1 spot on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)'s list of best sellers just three days after it was published. It is about how Barack Obama, media mockery of terrorist threats, liberals who want to kill talk radio, the do-nothing Congress, and companies that help Iran are scamming us and growing rich in the process. The book details how taxpayers are fleeced by our own government; by foreign countries like Dubai that are gobbling up American interests and spending millions to influence government decisions; and how we are fleeced by Washington lobbying firms that push the agendas of corrupt foreign dictators; and by hedge-fund billionaires collecting huge tax breaks courtesy of the IRS.

Says Morris, Barack Obama has called for \$1 trillion in tax increases over the next 10 years – and dressed them up as tax cuts. Obama has plans to raise taxes on anyone with a household income of more than \$100,000, and plans to extend health insurance to illegal immigrants, and even require the federal agents to notify terrorists

within seven days of the start of an investigation into their activities. The book explains why 50 of our Gitmo detainees are now back in Afghanistan fighting our own troops!

The world is surely topsy-turvy – a veritable “mad house”!

Where is it all leading? Could clouds foreshadowing the Great Tribulation even now be scudding across the horizon and approaching us?

The Word of God tells us with flat-out accuracy what is going to happen, and even WHEN disaster will strike! We must prepare ourselves!

### *The Mount Olivet Prophecy*

Jesus Christ told His disciples on the Mount of Olives, days before His crucifixion, in a prophecy for the End Time, “For then there will be great tribulation (affliction, distress, and oppression) such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now – no, and never will be [again]. And if those days had not been shortened, no human being would endure and survive, but for the sake of the elect (God’s chosen ones) those days will be shortened” (Matt.24:21-22, Amplified Parallel Bible).

Moffatt has these verses, “For there will be sore misery then, such as has never been, from the beginning of the world until now—no, and never shall be. Had not those days been cut short, not a soul would be saved alive; however, for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short.”

How close are we to that coming time of horror and grief?

The signs are mounting almost daily that we are rapidly approaching the most horrifying time to exist for mankind on planet earth! The signs are everywhere.

Jesus Christ gave us many details in His prophecy. He also warns world leaders, “When it is evening you say, It will be fair weather, for the sky is red, and in the morning, It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and has a gloomy and threatening look. You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times” (Matt.16:2-3, APB).

Can we interpret the signs of the times?

Christ warned of many things to look for which would herald His soon arrival back on planet earth. He declared, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom [that’s happening today]. And there will be famines [happening right now], pestilences, and earthquakes in various places” (Matt.24:7).

The natural order appears to have been upset. More and more new infectious diseases are being reported. AIDS ravages the world. Resistant strains of tuberculosis

are increasing in deadliness, and infectious diseases are a growing threat in hospitals due to antibiotic resistant bacteria.

Earthquakes are multiplying and shaking the ground in unheard of places. Floods, volcanoes, drought and famine stalk the nations of the world, and even the United States is greatly suffering from the after-effects.

What is happening?

### *Signs of the Times*

This week the Supreme Court ruled that Americans have a right to own guns, without being part of a militia. The ruling is gratifying for hunters and self defence. However, don't hold your breath. There are serious problems in the offing.

1) The U.S. government will soon recognize the U.N.'s laws and treaties which supersede the laws of individual nations, including the U.S. The time will come when our guns will be taken away by a U.N. mandate.

2) The next planned terrorist attack will be used as the excuse by either the President or chief of FEMA who will announce that our entire government is immediately dissolved including the Constitution. This is the Illuminati plan for all nations whose citizens now elect their government leaders. Once the WWII designed to produce the "Masonic Christ" or Antichrist gets underway, planned terror attacks will occur all over the world. In each nation each ruler will announce that until the terrorists are vanquished, the present government must be abolished. (You think this couldn't happen?—it would be so easy.)

When the Antichrist appears there will be no freely elected governments in existence. All free governments will have been overthrown and replaced by an absolute dictatorship (the beast/Antichrist), all supposedly because of "terrorism" which is the excuse for taking away freedom of the people.

The Scriptures bear witness to this new form of world government. In the book of Revelation, we read of "kings of the earth, and of the whole world" (Rev.16:14). No mention of freely, democratically elected presidents, prime ministers, or others – but "kings" – that is authoritarian rulers, despots, dictators, monarchs, and the like.

Christ also mentioned vastly increased persecution of Christians as being a harbinger of the end.

Focus on the Family's Dr. James Dobson recently voiced strong words and feelings about statements made by Barack Obama, Democratic presidential nominee that twist, distort, and push a *fruitcake* interpretation of the Bible. Left-wing politicians wish to designate all Christians and Evangelicals as right-wing fanatics and extremists, and that sets them up for persecution.

Obama, who could be our next president, states that the 1) Sermon on the Mount is so *radical* that our own Defense Department would not survive its application. 2) He says, “Turning the other cheek” is not practical as a guideline for the conduct of nations. Dobson thinks that Christians are going to see a weird blend of pseudo-Christian beliefs which are totally contrary to the Bible. Obama wrongly drags Biblical understanding through the gutter. He argues that the religiously motivated people must frame debates over issues like abortion, not just in their own religious terms, but in arguments accessible to all people.

In other words, Obama, is saying he supports abortion rights and is trying to govern by the lowest common denominator of morality. What he is saying is that unless every body agrees, we have no right to fight for what we believe. That is dictatorship on our thoughts and beliefs – thought control. You won’t be able to express anything different from the common prevailing viewpoint of the government.

This was the way government was operated in the Roman Empire, and in Hitler’s Germany. America is traveling down the same ancient well-worn path in curtailment of liberty and freedom. Obama could be the one to literally open the door to the Antichrist. If he became elected, and our country began to implode with riots, rebellion, and revolution our people would begin to cry out for a Savior—a world ruler to bring order out of chaos and will welcome with open arms a charismatic Antichrist (impersonator of the real Christ).

“Wars and rumors of wars.”

After seven years of fighting, the U.S. and the super powers of the West have not been able to conquer the tiny country of Afghanistan and are on the verge of losing the war. On President Bush’s watch America has launched two wars and is losing both of them. The U.S is also about to lose the one Islamic ally it has, Pakistan, which borders Afghanistan and is now making its own peace deals and will not allow Americans to operate in Pakistani territory.

The world today is a different world and a different Middle-East. Things are beginning to threaten to explode! Saber-rattling between the Palestinians and Israel, and the United States and Iran, occupies the headlines daily. We are spiraling downward toward worldwide chaos: politically, nationally, weather, food supply, water supply, the economy—we are teetering on the edge of a global holocaust.

Never have world conditions been so frightening!

As Jesus prophesied, “And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars [exploding galaxies, colliding galaxies, new black holes, super-nova, comets, asteroid near “misses,” fateful eclipses]; and upon the earth [there will be] distress (trouble and anguish) of nations in bewilderment and perplexity [without resources, left wanting,

embarrassed, in doubt, not knowing which way to turn] at the roaring (the echo) of the tossing of the sea.

“Men swooning away or expiring with fear and dread and apprehension and expectation of the things that are coming on the world; for the [very] powers of the heavens will be shaken and caused to totter.

“. . . Now when these things begin to occur, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption (deliverance) is drawing near” (Luke 21:25-28).

### *Financial Upheavals*

Barclay’s Bank of England warns of a financial storm as Federal Reserve’s credibility begins to crumble. U.S. Central Bank recently released an *inflation shock* that will rock financial markets, says Ambrose Evans Prichard. He has advised their clients to batten down their hatches in this world-wide financial storm, warning that the U.S. Reserve has allowed the “inflation genie” out of the bottle and let its credibility fall below zero. This is going to be very negative on financial assets.

Sky-rocketing oil is over \$130 per barrel which is an all time high. The only deflationary item is the price of housing.

Thomas Sowell, Republican strategist and Hoover Think Tank member, says the U.S. is facing a great dilemma because of our choice of president now and the fact that Barack Obama is in the lead to become the next president. He states that there is no reason why someone as arrogant and foolishly clever, and ultimately as dangerous as Obama should become president, especially at a time when international terrorism and nuclear weapons loom over 300 million Americans. Many people, he says, seem to regard elections as an occasion for venting emotions like cheering for a favorite team, or choosing the homecoming queen. The leading candidates for their parties’ nomination for president are being discussed in terms of their demographics, race, age, and sex as if that is what the job is all about.

Says Sowell, “One of the most painful aspects of studying great catastrophes of the past is discovering how many times people were *preoccupied with trivialities* when they were teetering on the edge of doom.”

Are we teetering on the edge of doom?

If we believe the words of the Biblical prophets, the answer is YES!

Jeremiah declared, “Thus says the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling and panic—of terror, and not of peace. Ask now and see whether a man can give birth to a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor? Why are all faces turned pale?

“Alas! For that day will be great, so that none will be like it; it will be the TIME OF JACOB’S [UNEQUALLED] TROUBLE, but he will be saved out of it” (Jeremiah 30:7, APB).

Ezekiel wrote, “Thus says the Lord God: Behold, an evil is coming, [an evil so destructive and injurious, so sudden and violent, that it stands alone, not as a succession but as] only one evil.

“And END has come! The END has come! [The end—after sleeping so long] awakes against you. See, it has come!

“Your turn (your doom) has come upon you, O inhabitant of the land; the time has come, the day is near, a day not of joyful shouting, but a day of tumult upon the mountains [world’s nations]” (Ezekiel 7::5-7).

Ezekiel continues: “Behold, the day! Behold, it has come! Your doom has gone forth, the rod has blossomed, PRIDE has budded. Violence has grown up into a rod of wickedness . . . The time has come, the day draws near. Let not the buyer rejoice nor the seller mourn, for wrath is upon all their multitude. . . . They have blown the trumpet and have made all ready, but none goes to the battle, for My wrath is upon all their multitude. The sword is without and famine and pestilence are within. He who is in the field shall die by the sword, and he who is in the city shall famine and pestilence devour” (verses 10-15).

Daniel the prophet also foresaw this horrific, horrendous period of time in the earth’s future. He wrote, “And there shall be a time of trouble, straitness, and distress such as never was since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the Book [of God’s plan for His own]” (Daniel 12:1).

When will all these things be?

How close is the “time of trouble” – the END?

Daniel himself heard an angel from heaven ask, “How long shall it be to the END of these wonders?” (Dan.12:6).

He was told: “. . . it shall be for a time, times, and half a time [or three and one-half years]; and when they have made an end of shattering and crushing the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished” (v.7).

When Christ, the Messiah, intervenes to save His people from total extermination and extinction—annihilation—then all these things will be finished—completed. As John said in Revelation, “there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets” (Rev.10:6-7, NKJV).

Daniel also speaks of a “final week” of prophecy, leading up to the coming of the Lord (Dan.9:27). Speaking of the time of the end, he writes, “And he [an end-time world leader or “prince”, potentate, tyrant] shall enter into a strong and firm covenant with the many for ONE WEEK [SEVEN YEARS]. And in the MIDST of the week he shall cause the remaining sacrifice and offering to cease [for the remaining three and one half years]; and upon the wing or pinnacle of abominations [shall come] one who makes desolate, until the full determined END is poured out on the desolater” (APB).

Three and one half “times” or “years” equals 1260 days, in prophetic Biblical language (see Rev.12:6, 14). These two verses equate 1260 with 3 ½ -- so the whole 7 year period under discussion would be twice that or 2520 days!

But in the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Daniel, we also read: “And from the time that the continual burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days” (Dan.12:11). This is an extra 30 days! So we have:

1260	1st half of final 7 year period; at its end the daily sacrifice is taken away. Then another
1260	second half of the final 7 year “week”; then
<u>30</u>	another “30” days
2550	or a total of 7 years plus 30 days.

What could this mean?

From the time of the daily sacrifice taken away and the Abomination of Desolation set up, there shall be an additional 1290 days, after the first half of the week totaling 1260 days. Thus we have 1260 days, 1260 days, plus 30 days which equals 2,550 days.

Did you know that *this very year* according to the Jewish calendar, from this year’s Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) until Yom Kippur ( Day of Atonement) in 2015 is *exactly 2,550 days!*

Could this mean that this prophecy will be fulfilled/completed in 2015?

But then Daniel is told: “Blessed, happy, fortunate, spiritually prosperous, and to be envied is he who waits expectantly and earnestly (who endures without wavering beyond the period of tribulation] and comes to the 1,335 days!” (Dan.12:12).

Could this pinpoint the time or date of the Messiah’s return and arrival?

### ***Yet Another Prophecy***

But there is even more!

In the book of Ezekiel we read that the prophet was told to lie upon his side for 390 days as a sign to Israel. “And you, son of man, take a tile and lay it before you, and make upon it a drawing of a city, even Jerusalem.

“And put SIEGE works against it, build a siege wall against it, and cast up a mound against it; set camps also against it and set battering rams against it round about.

“Moreover, take a plate of iron and place it for an iron wall between you and the city; and set your face toward it and it shall be besieged, and you shall press the siege against it. This is a SIGN to the house of Israel!

“Then [bound as you are] lie upon your left [and north] side to bear symbolically the iniquity of the house of the TEN TRIBES of Israel upon that side. According to the number of days that you shall lie upon it you shall bear their iniquity.

“For I have laid upon you the *years of their iniquity, according to the number of days*, 390 days [representing 390 years]; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel” (Ezekiel 4:1-5).

### **This is talking about the times of Israel’s punishment!**

In Leviticus 26, God says to Israel, if they disobey Him and break His covenant, reject His Torah, His laws and way of life: “I will chastise and discipline you *seven times more* for your sins” (Lev.26:18); “I will bring seven times more plagues upon you” (v.21); “I will smite you seven times for your sins” (v.24); “I also will chastise you seven times for your sins” (v.28).

Notice! So if you take 390 years of punishment God decreed on Israel, and multiply it by “7” times, you come to 2,730 years.  $390 \times 7 = \underline{2,730}$  years.

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2730 \text{ years} \\
 \underline{-722-21 \text{ B.C.}} \\
 2008-09 \\
 \underline{\quad +1} \text{ (because no year zero)} \\
 2009-2010 \text{ A.D.}!
 \end{array}$$

Israel was besieged by ancient Assyria beginning in 721-22 BC. If you subtract (that is, go forward) 2,730 years from that date inclusively, guess what? It brings you to 2008-2009, *this very year!*

*If you add Daniel’s final 7 years to 2008-2009, it brings us to 2015-2016!!!*

On the other hand, notice this! In 718 B.C. the *siege ended*, with Israel being deported from the land and carried off into captivity.

If you count from 718 B.C., then, the final year of the 3-year siege, then it brings us to 2012!!!

$$\begin{array}{r}
 2730 \text{ years} \\
 \underline{-718 \text{ B.C.}} \\
 2012 \text{ A.D.} \\
 \underline{+1} \text{ (no year zero)} \\
 2013 \text{ A.D.}
 \end{array}$$

But if you count inclusively of the year 718, the answer would be the year 2012 A.D. – just four years from now! Could that year be the MID-POINT of the final WEEK of years – the MID-POINT of the last week when the Great Tribulation begins?

Could 2012 be the year of the “end-time” captivity, after 3 years of economic besiegement, of end-time Israel?

Could the year 2012-2013 be the year of the final beginning of the 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation?

This is something to meditate and think upon.

### *The Transit of Venus*

Another phenomenon which could well be a “sign” of the heavens that the END of this age is approaching is the fact that the planet Venus which transits the face of the sun twice, eight years apart, about every 200 plus years, made such a transit in 2004 and will again eight years later, in 2012. 2004 is the very year of the ‘end’ of 6000 years, counting from the time Adam and Eve were ejected from the Garden of Eden for their disobedience to God. Their punishment occurred in 3997 B.C., seven years after they were created, according to the book of Jubilees. Archbishop Ussher places their creation 4004 B.C.

This means that the very next transit of Venus between the earth and sun will be 2012 – the year the earth’s present cycle ends (end of the age of man) according to the Mayan calendar. Could that be the year that the “beast” sets up the Abomination of Desolation in the Temple of God, meaning that he himself goes into the “holy of holies” and claims he is God the Messiah?

If this should be true, it means that the Great Tribulation would start in the year 2012, four years from now, and Daniel’s 70<sup>th</sup> week would start next year in 2009. The coming Great Tribulation and the second coming of Christ are pinpointed between 2012 and 2017. We can’t know the exact day, or year. But it is interesting to look at these figures and Biblical prophecies that God gave us for a reason--to give us a clue as to how much time we have left before the end of the age. Put this together with the world news, if we are wise and “understanding the times” as the sons of Issachar did, by studying astronomy and the Bible signs then we can come to certain approximations.

As we earnestly and prayerfully study the Bible, God's Word, and pray for understanding and wisdom, discernment and enlightenment, the results become stark and transparent: *No matter how you slice it, there are not very many days left!*

The end has finally come. We are in the very foothills of the beginning of the time of Great Tribulation! There is very rough passage ahead. It is time to hunker down, duck and cover, and prepare for the greatest time of world trouble ever to fall upon this once blessed and beautiful planet!

God knows exactly when the time will be for the return of the Messiah. Make yourself ready (now), make your garments white while you have time. Keep your heart single minded, focused on serving God. "Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil. Therefore do not be vague and thoughtless and foolish, but understanding and firmly grasping what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:15-17, Amplified Parallel Bible).

## Something to Think About

Here is an interesting parallel drawn between Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy:

<p><u>Abraham Lincoln</u>  <u>Elected</u> to Congress in 1846            President      1860</p>	<p><u>John F. Kennedy</u>            Elected to Congress in 1946            President      1960</p>
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Both were: particularly concerned with civil rights

Both      wives lost their children while living in the White House  
             shot on a Friday, both in the head  
             assassinated by Southerners  
             succeeded by Southerners named Johnson

Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy.      Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln

Andrew *Johnson*, who succeeded Lincoln, was born in 1808

Lyndon *Johnson*, who succeeded Kennedy, was born in 1908

John Wilkes Booth, who assassinated Lincoln, was born in 1839

Lee Harvey Oswald, who assassinated Kennedy, was born in 1939

Both were known by their three names.

Both names are composed of fifteen letters.

Lincoln was shot in a theater and his assassin ran and hid in a warehouse.

Kennedy was shot from a warehouse and his assassin ran and hid in a theater.

Both assassins were assassinated before their trials.

A week before Lincoln was shot he was in Monroe, Maryland.

A year before Kennedy was shot, he was with Marilyn Monroe.