

I. JESUS' TEACHING ON THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

1. ⁴ *Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. ⁶ You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.-Matt 24:4-8*

B. When Jesus described the signs of the end of the age as "birth pains," He was teaching that these events would increase in both frequency and intensity as history moves toward His return. Just as labor pains signal that a birth is approaching, these signs point to the coming of God's Kingdom and the return of Christ to establish His righteous reign on the earth.

1. *The purpose of these events is to alert the church of the timing of Jesus' return, to continue to live holy, and to exhort us to continue to warn and prepare as many people as we can.*

II. WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

A. One of the key negative signs of the times spoken by Jesus would be wars and rumors of wars.

1. *⁶And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.-Matt. 24:6-7*

B. Wars and rumors of wars have marked human history since the fall. However, Jesus taught that as His return draws near, these conflicts will increase in both frequency and intensity, like birth pains before the arrival of a child. The world will experience escalating violence and increasingly destructive conflicts, ultimately culminating in three major end-time wars foretold in Scripture.

III. GOD’S PURPOSE IN THESE WARS

- A. The Bible's emphasis is not on war itself, but on what God accomplishes through these events. The wars are the setting in which God displays His glory, judges evil, saves His people, and brings history to its appointed climax at the return of Jesus.
- B. GOD’S FIVE MAIN PURPOSES IN THE WARS
 - 1. He will reveal His glory and make His name known among the nations. (Is. 64:1-2)
 - 2. He will bring righteous judgment upon evil and lawlessness, allowing humanity to experience the consequences of its rebellion. (Acts 17:30–31)
 - 3. He will purify and strengthen His Church through testing and perseverance. (Dan. 12:10)
 - 4. He will bring in a great harvest of souls as many turn to Christ in the midst of global shaking. (Haggai 2:6–9)
 - 5. He will bring Israel to the end of self-reliance, preparing the nation to look to Him alone for deliverance. (Zech. 12:10 & Rom. 11:26-27)
- C. Ultimately, these events prepare the world for the glorious return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of His righteous Kingdom.
- D. All the wars mentioned in our study will take place during the last 3.5 years of this current age called the Great Tribulation. (Dan.9:27, Dan. 12:1, Matt. 24:21, Rev. 7:14, Rev. 13:5-7)

IV. WAR 1- EZEKIEL’S WAR OF GOG AND MAGOG

- A. Found in: Ezekiel chapters 38–39
- B. A coalition of nations led by "Gog" from the land of Magog attacks Israel. Gog is a title and future military leader of the coalition of nations that will attack Israel from the North.
- C. This can only happen when Israel dwells in safety, and without borders. (false peace with her neighbors)

1. ¹¹ ***You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'—Ezek 38:11***
2. ¹⁴ ***"Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord God: "On that day when My people Israel dwell safely, will you not know it?"-Ezek 38:14***

D. The coalition of nations include:

1. Magog-Often associated with parts of Russia and/or the broader region north of the Black and Caspian. These include modern day Turkey, possibly Russia, Persia (Iran), Ethiopia or Sudan
- E. God intervenes dramatically through natural disasters and supernatural judgment against this satanically inspired coalition.

V. **WAR 2-THE SEALS WAR**

- A. Revelation 6 describes the release of the four horsemen of the apocalypse and the beginning stages of end-time turmoil, including widespread warfare, famine, economic instability, and death. The second seal specifically portrays the removal of peace from the earth and the rise of global conflict.
- B. These events correspond closely to the "birth pains" Jesus described in Matthew 24 and serve as signs that history is moving toward the return of Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom.
- C. This war starts out with the Antichrist's political aggression to take over the war. He will use politics to deceive the nations and then violence to control them. He will initiate a world war.
1. ***Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; " ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.-Rev. 6:1-2***
 2. ***³ When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come ⁴ and see." ⁴ Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth,***

and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.-Rev 6:3-4

D. This global war, led by the Antichrist, is Satan's final attempt to compel the nations to submit to his rule instead of Christ's. It will unleash unprecedented devastation, bringing widespread death through violence, famine, and disease.

1. ***7 When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth.-Rev 6:7-8***

VI. WAR 3-BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON (16:16; 19:11-21)

1. ***16 And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.-Rev 16:16***
2. ***19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.-Rev 19:19***

B. WHAT IS ARMAGEDDON ?

1. Armageddon is best understood as the gathering place and staging ground for the final rebellion of the nations against God. While the armies assemble at Armageddon, the ultimate objective is to take Jerusalem so Jesus does not set up His throne there. The campaign reaches its climax when the nations march down and surround Jerusalem.

a) "For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem."-Zechariah 14:2

VII. WAR 4- THE BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM (Zechariah 12-14)

1. ***Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.² For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled and the***

women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.³ Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights on the day of battle.-Zech 14:1-3

- B. No city in history has been at the center of spiritual conflict like Jerusalem. From Genesis to Revelation, it stands at the heart of God's redemptive plan and has been the focus of both divine purpose and satanic opposition. Even today, Jerusalem remains at the center of world attention—a city marked by global controversy, tension, conflict, and immense spiritual significance.
- C. The battle for Jerusalem is a spiritual, political, and military battle for the control of Jerusalem. It is one of the most significant battlefronts in the spirit today. It will only end at Jesus' second coming, when He comes to reign over the whole earth and cast Satan into prison (Rev. 20:1-3).

VIII. WHY IS THE BATTLE OVER JERUSALEM

- A. Scripture presents it as the city of the great King and the focal point of God's kingdom purposes. It is therefore no surprise that Jerusalem continues to be at the center of international attention, conflict, and controversy as God's plan for history moves toward its fulfillment
- B. The Kingdom of God can not be established on the earth until Jesus takes physical control over Jerusalem, and He will not do that forcefully, but only when He is welcomed by His people Israel nationally
 - 1. ***O Jerusalem...how often I wanted to gather your children...but you were not willing! 38See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you [leaders of Israel] shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!" -Mt. 23:37-39***

IX. SATAN'S STRATEGY TO TAKE JERUSALEM FOR HIMSELF

- A. Satan's strategy is to oppose God's end-time plan by hardening Israel against her Messiah. Knowing Jesus' words in Matthew 23:39, he seeks to keep Israel from welcoming Him as King.

B. Satan's end-time strategy includes seeking to permanently control Jerusalem by:

1. Deceiving Israel into taking the mark of the Beast (making an alliance with the Antichrist)
2. Releasing lies about Israel to fuel Global Anti-Semitism
3. Killing the remnant of the Jewish race so there are none to invite Him back to rule Jerusalem.
4. Working so that Israel is so offended at Jesus that they will not receive Him as their king

X. REASONS WHY SATAN HATES JERUSALEM

1. IT IS CALLED THE THRONE OF GOD

- a) ***"At that time Jerusalem shall be called the Throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart."-Jeremiah 3:17***

2. IT IS CALLED THE CITY OF TRUTH

- a) ***"Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts, the Holy Mountain."-Zech 8:3***

3. IT IS CALLED THE PRAISE OF ALL THE EARTH

- a) ***give Him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth."-Is 62:6-7***

4. IT IS CALLED THE JOY OF ALL THE EARTH

- a) ***"Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God... Mount Zion... is the joy of all the earth."-Ps 48:1-2***

5. IT IS CALLED THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING

a) ***Jesus said: .for it is the city of the great King"-Mt 5:35***

6. GOD CHOSE IT AND WILL DWELL THERE FOREVER

a) ***"For the LORD has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling place...'This is My resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it."-Ps 132:13-14***

7. ALL THE NATIONS WILL STREAM TO IT TO LEARN FROM JESUS

a) ***"Many people shall come and say," Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths."For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.-Isaiah 2:3***

XI. **FINAL REBELLION AFTER THE MILLENNIUM REIGN OF CHRIST (Revelation 20:7–10)**

1. ***⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.-Rev 20:7-10***

B. Even after Christ's thousand-year reign, every human heart must still choose whether to submit to His rule. When Satan is released, he deceives multitudes into rebelling against Christ and launching a final assault against His reign from Jerusalem, exposing the persistent sinfulness of the unredeemed human heart. God swiftly crushes the rebellion, casts Satan into the lake of fire forever, and brings evil and rebellion to their final and eternal end.

XII. WAR 5-THE BATTLE OVER THE HUMAN HEART

- A. One of the Bible's central themes concerning the end times is that the greatest battle is not merely over land, nations, or military power, it is over the allegiance of the human heart. Behind the physical wars described in prophecy is a spiritual conflict over worship, truth, and loyalty to God.
- B. Every war in history before it manifested in the physical battlefield first manifested in the hearts of depraved men. Every bloody war that took millions of lives in history was because of pride, greed, and evil found in men's hearts.
- C. As history moves toward Christ's return, humanity becomes increasingly polarized. The Bible portrays the human heart at the end of the age in two contrasting ways. Hearts are either hardened in rebellion against God, or purified in wholehearted devotion to Him.
1. Hearts will grow cold
 - a) **"Because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold." -Matt. 24:12**
 2. Hearts will become beds of deception
 - a) **"Take heed that no one deceives you." -Matthew 24:4**
 3. Hearts will be altars of idolatry
 - a) **People will be lovers of self, lovers of money..." -2 Timothy 3:1-5**
 4. Hearts will be paralyzed with fear
 - a) **²⁶men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth,-Lk 21:26**

XIII. PSALM 45 PICTURE OF THE END TIME BRIDE OF CHRIST

- A. During the greatest testing of the human heart in history, while darkness and deception increase across the earth, God will raise up a purified Bride who has made herself ready. She will cultivate the oil of intimacy with

Christ, endure with steadfast faith, and overflow with passionate devotion to Jesus and confident hope in His soon return.

1. **My heart is overflowing with a good theme;**
I recite my composition concerning the King;
My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.²-You are fairer (more beautiful) than the sons of men;-Ps. .45:1-2