

Luke Chapter 22

- Following the celebration of Passover in the upper room and before going to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus gave his disciples their final instructions. Among these instructions we find in verse 35 through 38 the following:
- "35 and he said to them, 'and when I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything? So they said, 'nothing'.
- 36 then he said to them, but now he who has a money bag let him take, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.
- 37 for I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in me: 'and he was numbered with the transgressors', for the things concerning me have an end.

Hebrews 10:20-25

- Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy. We must consider how to rouse one another to love and good works. We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another, and this all the more as you see the day drawing near.

SLB-009

The Spiritual Life Basics

**Introduction: The Need for a Spiritual Life - The Times
in Which We Live Part 9**

The End Is Near! (again)

- Anytime there is trouble in the world, there is someone trying to sell a new book claiming the recent events are signs that the end of the world is at hand.
- It is obvious that each day that passes brings us a little closer to the end.
- This obvious truth does not mean that every new crisis that comes along is evidence that the return of Jesus is upon us.

The End Is Near! (again)

- There always have been and always will be difficulties and tragedies in this fallen world.
- Christians need to be discerning and not be deceived by every sensational claim that some self-proclaimed prophet announces.
- A little understanding of history will go a long ways in helping us better understand the present in which we live.
- Israel had to deal with false prophets in ancient times.
- God gave them a test to use so they could discern between a false or true prophet.

The End Is Near! (again)

- Deuteronomy 18:20-22

But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken?’— when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

The End Is Near! (again)

- False prophets predicting the end of the world are nothing new. They have been around for many centuries. Below is a list of some of the false prophets who have deceived multitudes.
- 1. Montanus: “After me there is no more prophecy, but only the end of the world.”
- About 156 AD, Montanus appeared in a small village, fell into a trance, and began prophesying in what he claimed was the voice of the Holy Spirit. With two young women, Prisca and Maximilla, he traveled throughout Asia Minor teaching that Christ was going to appear very soon. Montanism finally disappeared in the sixth century.
- Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol. II, 5th ed. p. 423.

The End Is Near! (again)

- 2. Hippolytus calculated that 5,500 years separated Adam and Christ and that the life of the world was 6,000 six full 'days' of years until the seventh the day of rest." His calculations in 234 AD indicted there were still two centuries left. (A History of the End of the World, Rubinsky and Wiseman, 1982.)
- 3. Jerome (347-419) translated the Greek New Testament into the Latin Vulgate. He believed the capture of Rome by the Vandals in 410 AD and signs of the end of the empire were omens of the approaching end of the world. (Philip Schaff, History of the Christian Church, Vol. III, 5th ed. p. 86.)

The End Is Near! (again)

- 5. Europe in the Middle Ages
- “As the last day of 999 approached, the old basilica of St. Peter’s at Rome was thronged with a mass of weeping and trembling worshipers awaiting the end of the world, believing that they were on the eve of the Millennium. Land, homes, and household goods were given to the poor as a final act of contrition to absolve the hopeless from sins of a lifetime. Some Europeans sold their goods before traveling to Palestine to await the Second Coming.

The End Is Near! (again)

- This mistaken application of biblical prophecy happened again in 1100, 1200, and 1245. Prophetic speculation continued. In 1531, Melchior Hofmann announced that the second coming would take place in the year 1533.... Nicholas Cusa held that the world would not last past 1734.”
- Both Halley’s comet in 989 AD and a supernova in 1006 AD were interpreted as signs of the end. (Gary DeMar, Last Day Madness, pg. 14.)

The End Is Near! (again)

- 6. In the 12th century, Peter Waldo, the founder of the Waldenses, taught that the Pope of Rome was the Antichrist. The Waldenses rejected the Catholic clergy system and taught people did not have to possess any special education or ordination to teach the Bible.
- 7. Both Martin Luther and John Calvin taught in the 1500's that the Pope of Rome was the Antichrist.
- “The last day is at hand. My calendar has run out. I know nothing more in my Scriptures.”
- Martin Luther, January 1532

The End Is Near! (again)

- 8. The Presbyterian Church
- “There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ- nor can the Pope of Rome in any sense be the head thereof; but is the Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition that exalteth himself in the Church against Christ, and all that is called God.”
- Westminster Confession of Faith in the 17th century.

The End Is Near! (again)

- 9. London, 1666
- An outbreak of the bubonic plague killed 100,000 and the Great Fire of London struck the same year. Many thought that the year with the beast's number (666) must be the end of the world.
- 10. John Wesley, (Methodist Church)
- John Wesley claimed the "time, times and half a time of Revelation 12:14 fulfilled in 1058-1836. He predicted the Millennium would begin in 1836.

The End Is Near! (again)

- 11. William Miller
- William Miller, a Baptist preacher, prophesied in 1831 that Christ would return between March 21, 1843 and March 21, 1844. When Jesus did not return, he recalculated and claimed the real date was October 22, 1844.

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The End Is Near! (again)

- 12. Charles Russell and “Judge” Rutherford
- Charles Russell claimed “that six thousand years from the creation of Adam were complete with AD 1872”. And the battle of Armageddon will end in AD 1914 with the complete overthrow of earth’s present rulership.
- Watchman Expositor, Vol. 9. No. 6, 1992 pg. 4.
- (Jehovah Witnesses have predicted the return of Jesus at least nine times; the years 1874, 1878, 1881, 1910, 1914, 1918, 1925, 1975, and 1984.)

The End Is Near! (again)

- 14. In 1934 Herbert Armstrong began the Worldwide Church of God and published a paper called The Plain Truth. During the 1940's he predicted that the battle of Armageddon and the end of the world would occur by 1975.
- 15. Salem Kirban: "The genealogical tables in the history of the Old Testament seem to show that from Adam to Christ about 4000 years of recorded Biblical history or 4 days (since 'one day with the Lord is as a thousand years...') 2 Peter 3:8. The 5th day ended with the advent of the dark ages in 1000 AD The 6th day then would end in the year 2000. The Millennium would then be ushered in and the thousand year reign of the saints with Christ would begin.

The End Is Near! (again)

- 16. Jack Van Impe: “God’s Word is beginning to unfold before our eyes. Judgment is about to fall for all of the ‘rotteness’ that runs rampant in our beloved land. If it does not commence in 1976, I have no doubt that unbelievable calamities will occur before 1980. It could easily be the predicted Tribulation hour.” (1976)
- “The world will literally run out of food by 1984... As the nine planets of our solar system align themselves in 1982, their gravitational pull may cause huge storms on the sun. These could alter wind direction, rainfall and temperature patterns, affect the earth’s rotation and cause great earthquakes.” (1979)

The End Is Near! (again)

- “Beloved, there’s no doubt about it The revived Roman Empire (or European Community) comes to power January 1, 1993. The panorama of end-time prophecy is unfolding BEFORE OUR VERY EYES! Get ready for a rapid rush of world-changing developments that begin mankind’s inescapable march to the end of this age!... Yes, the Antichrist will emerge very soon now... In January 1993, the European Community (E.C.) comes to power, bringing with it a unified global monetary system that lacks just one thing more to really prosper - a single leader to direct it.” (1992)

The End Is Near! (again)

- “Jesus said, ‘Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled’ (Matthew 24:34)...
- By comparing Old Testament accounts recording the number of generations between certain events with ancient historical records which give dates for those same events, we can calculate the approximate length of a generation to be almost 48 years. Do you realize what this means? Israel became a nation again in 1948 - 42 years ago! If the generation which witnessed this event will not pass away until the End-Time prophecies are fulfilled - how much time do you think could possibly be left? Jesus’ coming is so near... any time now - PERHAPS TODAY!” (1996)

The End Is Near! (again)

- 17. Pat Robertson: “Note these facts bringing history in conformity with prophecy. In 1975 Ethiopia fell to communism; in 1979 the Shah of Iran fell and, probably before 1980 ends, Iran will be a Soviet puppet. Somalia is a Marxist country and Libya tilts to the Soviets; Mideast oil is the key to world domination; the Soviets have moved 200,000 troops to Afghanistan. . .The coming Middle East war is an absolute certainty, as is the destruction of the Soviet Union. All available economic and military intelligence pinpoints 1982 as the optimum time for such a Soviet strike... and the world. On the eighth year, there begins a new era - a new beginning - for Israel and for the world.” “Pat Robertson’s Perspective,” A special report to members of the 700 Club, Feb./March 1980. pg. 3, 5.

The End Is Near! (again)

- For the next five years, a time of grace, the Israelis work out and amplify the peace, and there is an incredible final spiritual harvest throughout the Gentile world as millions are added to the kingdom of God. During the fifth year, in 1982, Russia strikes Israel, is defeated, and for seven years Israel makes symbolic offerings by fire of Russian war material. These seven years are a transition period for Israel
- “Pat Robertson’s Perspective,” A special report to members of the 700 Club, Feb./March 1980. pg. 3, 5.

The End Is Near! (again)

- 18. Hal Lindsey

- In one of his earlier predictions, he claimed the “Rapture” would occur before Dec. 31, 1981.
- In his book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, he predicted the rapture would take place by 1988.
- “I believe many people will be shocked by what is happening right now and what will happen in the very near future. The decade of the 1980’s could very well be the last decade of history as we know it.”
- Hal Lindsey, *The 1980’s: Countdown to Armageddon*, 1980, pg. 8.



The End Is Near! (again)

- 20. W. S. McBirnie worked with the Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio when it was called “the fastest growing church in the nation” and has appeared regularly on TBN.
- “Whoever is elected President will hold this nation and the free world in his hands when Russia strikes the Middle East. This will probably happen during the new President’s first year”
- “No man knows the date of His coming. But we now have sufficient evidence that we may be living in the terminal generation. The whole creation groans under the weight of perplexing problems, which could produce worldwide calamity by 2000 AD. My study of the Scriptures indicates Jesus will return for His own people before 2000 AD.

The End Is Near! (again)

- 21. In his booklet, 88 Reasons Why The Rapture Will Be In 1988, Whisenant claimed,
 - a. The rapture will take place on Sept. 12, 1988.
 - b. The 144,000 will be sealed on Sept. 26, 1988.
 - c. WWII between Russia and the USA will end on June 19, 1989.
 - d. The two witnesses in Rev. 11:3-8 will be killed at sunrise on March 9, 1992.
 - e. The Antichrist will die and go to hell on April 19, 1992.
 - f. Armageddon will be finished on Oct. 4, 1995.
 - g. Satan will be chained on October 11, 1995.
 - “Only if the Bible is in error am I wrong, and I say that unequivocally. There is no way Biblically that I can be wrong...”

The End Is Near! (again)

- When Whisenant's predictions failed, he wrote a new book called, *The Final Shout: Rapture Report 1989*. In it he said he had made a critical error because he was following the wrong calendar:
- “My mistake was that my mathematical calculations were off by one year.... Since all centuries should begin with a zero year (for instance, the year 1900 started this century), the first century A.D. was a year short, consisting of only 99 years. This was the one-year error in my calculations last year [1988]. The Gregorian calendar (the calendar used today) is always one year in advance of the true year. Numbered correctly from the beginning, i.e., 1 AD., 1989 Gregorian would be only one thousand nine hundred eighty eight years of 365.2422 days each.”

The End Is Near! (again)

- 22. On April 14, 1993, Paul Crouch came on during a portion of a “Praise-A-Thon” that was a week-long, 24-hour appeal for funds to keep the Trinity Broadcasting Network [TBN] on the air. He claimed that he had some world-shaking news.
- That news was that a “very dear friend” of his whom he identified as “Pastor Henkle” had recently had some personal and verbal words directly from God. Crouch assured everyone that he had experienced some of Pastor Henkle’s prophecies in the past and had observed them to come true. The world-shaking words that Pastor Henkle supposedly had received directly from God were:
- “On June the 9th, Thursday, 1994, I am going to rip evil from this world”!

The End Is Near! (again)

- 23. Mikkel Dahl predicted in *The Midnight Cry* that the present era would end by 1980.
- 18. Reginald Duncan predicted in *The Coming Russian Invasion of America* that the Millennium would begin in 1979.
- 24. Emit Gaverluk of the Southwest Radio Church predicted that the Rapture would occur by 1981.
- 25. Moses David of The Children of God faith group predicted that the Battle of Armageddon would take place in 1986.
- 26. In 1991, Nation of Islam Leader Louis Farrakhan proclaimed the Gulf War would be “the War of Armageddon ... the final War.”

The End Is Near! (again)

- 29. On Jan. 14, 1999, Jerry Falwell gave a speech before 1,500 people at a conference on evangelism in Kingsport, TN. He claimed the Antichrist is alive today and is a male Jew. He also said the second coming of Christ will be within 10 years.

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Current Events

- One survey of UK Muslims found that only 44 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds feel Britain is their country, while 51 percent believe September 11 was the result of an American-Israeli conspiracy.
- In a Pew poll, an astonishing 81 percent of British Muslims said they thought of themselves as a Muslim first and a citizen of their country only second.
- Furthermore, 30 percent of British Muslims would like to live under sharia law, and 28 percent would like Great Britain to become an Islamic state.

Current Events

- A massive MI5 anti-terrorism operation discovers Britain's first Islamic "school for terror."
- Al-Qaida has supplied its estimated 2,000 sleeper agents in Britain with what MI5 Director Eliza Manningham-Buller tells Home Secretary John Reid is "the most sophisticated terror manual ever found in this country."

Current Events

- MI5 is checking all Britain's universities and technical schools for Middle East students with a qualification in thermochemistry – the science that includes creating liquid explosives.
- MI6, Britain's secret intelligence service, has established that Continuity-IRA, the extreme Irish terror group, is providing Hezbollah and Iran's Revolutionary Guard with expertise on how to make ultra-sophisticated roadside bombs.

I Timothy 4:1-2

- – “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”

Islamic Lies

- LIES ABOUT THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL
- 1. Abraham offered Ishmael, not Isaac, on Mt. Moriah!
Genesis 22:1-2, 9, 12; Hebrews 11:17; James 2:21
- 2. The Jews never owned the Temple Mount – it is an Islamic holy site! II Samuel 24:18-25
- 3. There never was a king named David!
Psalm 78:70-72; 89:34-37 (mentioned 1085 times in the Bible)

Islamic Lies

- 4. The Jews never built a temple on the Temple Mount and there never was a king named Solomon! I Kings 6:1; II Chronicles 3:1-2
- 5. The city of Jerusalem never belonged to the Jews – it was and is a holy site for Muslims. (Jerusalem is mentioned 811 times in the Bible; not once in the Koran!) I Kings 11:36; II Chron. 6:6
- 6. The land was and is called “Palestine” until the modern State of Israel occupied it. Matthew 2:20-21 – The name “Palestine” was not officially given to the land until the 2nd century AD when Hadrian named it after the Jewish Revolt under Bar Kochba to offend the Jews by naming it after their ancient enemies – the Philistines.

Islamic Lies

- 7. The modern State of Israel was started by Jews who took land away from the Palestinians! The Jews were given a homeland by international agreement but never took any land away from anyone! When the holocaust Jewish survivors came to Israel, Egypt told some 300,000 Arabs to leave their homes in Palestine for a few days while the armies of seven Arab nations would wipe out the Jews.

Islamic Lies

- When they won the War of Liberation in 1948, the Jews invited all of these “refugees” to return. Some did; others did not. The Jews paid huge prices for land from a few Arab landowners – mostly swamps, desert land that was filled with rocks.
- There never were a Palestinian people, culture, nation, or language. There never was an Arab state on that land. The late Syrian leader, Hafez Assad, said: “There is no such thing as a Palestinian people; there is no Palestinian entity – there is only Syria!”
- 8. Tel Aviv is the capital of Israel, not Jerusalem! Jerusalem is the only capital Israel has ever had, both from ancient times to the present day.

Islamic Lies

- LIES ABOUT THE LAND
- 1. Israel forfeited its right to the land by their disobedience and sin! Leviticus 26:40-45
- 2. This land belongs to Islam. NO - it belongs to the GOD of ISRAEL - Leviticus 25:23
- 3. God's covenant to Israel about the land was conditional and temporary.
Wrong - Genesis 17:7-8 and Psalm 105:8-10 says it is an "EVERLASTING" covenant.

Islamic Lies

- 4. If the Jews give up land to the Palestinians, it will bring peace!
The policy of “land for peace” has failed 10 times (including GAZA)
Psalm 83:2-5
- 5. There is nothing unbiblical about dividing the land between the Jews and the Palestinians! Wrong again -
Joel 3:1-2; Daniel 11:36-39

LIES ABOUT ARABS

- 1. All Arabs are Islamic! No - over 50% are Christians!
- 2. All Palestinians are Arabs. NO - Many Palestinians (those who have lived in this land prior to 1948) are Jews. Most of today's so-called "Palestinians" are Jordanians who lived on land held by Jordan from 1948 to 1967.

LIES ABOUT ARABS

- 3. Most nations in the Middle East are Arab nations!
WRONG AGAIN!

Most nations are Islamic, but not Arab. The Arabs live within those nations. Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and even Saudi Arabia, are not Arabs. The Arabs are the direct descendants of the 12 sons of Ishmael, the son of an Egyptian handmaiden named Hagar – I Chronicles 1:29-31

LIES ABOUT ARABS

- 4. Jewish settlements are being built on Arab land. No settlements have ever been built on confiscated or privately-owned Arab land. The land upon which they exist was given to Israel by God, and the modern State purchased much of this land from Arab land owners who never lived in this land.
- 5. The Middle East problem is between Jews and Arabs! NO - the problem is between Jews and Muslims (who are committed to the destruction of the State of Israel and the extermination of the Jewish people).

Pope remarks reveal harder stance

BBC NEWS

- Pope remarks reveal harder stance
- By Peter Gould
- BBC News website
- The furore over the Pope's remarks about Islam has left many Catholics inside and outside the Vatican shaking their heads in disbelief.
- Aides of Benedict XVI are dismayed that a quotation used to illustrate a philosophical argument should have provoked such anger from Muslims.
- But for others, the row has highlighted their concerns about the Pope's attitude towards the Church's relations with the Islamic world.

Pope remarks reveal harder stance



- In his speech at Regensburg University on Tuesday, the German-born Pope quoted Emperor Manuel II Paleologos of the Orthodox Christian Byzantine Empire.
- Stressing that they were not his own words, he quoted the emperor saying: "Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."
- He also said that violence was "incompatible with the nature of God and the nature of the soul".

Pope remarks reveal harder stance

BBC NEWS

- The first year of his papacy passed off without controversy. Yet he was quietly planning a number of key changes in the Vatican hierarchy.
- When Joseph Ratzinger was elected pope in 2005, it was assumed that he would follow closely the policies of his predecessor, John Paul II.
- Diverging views
- On many Church issues, the two men were completely in sync. Like the Polish pope, Benedict XVI could be relied upon to uphold the traditional teachings of the Church.
- But on one key issue, Vatican-watchers detected a divergence in the views of the two men: the Vatican's attitude towards Islam.

Pope remarks reveal harder stance

BBC NEWS

- John Paul II wanted to reach out to other religions and in 2001, on a visit to Syria, he became the first pope to set foot in a mosque.
- It was a gesture intended to help end centuries of hostility and suspicion between the two religions.
- Benedict XVI undoubtedly wants to achieve better relations with Islam, but there is an important proviso.
- It can be summed up in a single word: reciprocity. It means that if Muslims want to enjoy religious freedom in the West, then Christians should have an equal right to follow their faith in Islamic states, without fear of persecution.

Pope remarks reveal harder stance



- **Re-shuffle**

- One of the first signs of a toughening of the Vatican's stance came with the removal from office of Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald.
- The British-born cleric ran a Vatican department that promoted dialogue with other religions.
- A distinguished scholar on Arab affairs, he was an acknowledged expert on the Islamic world.

Pope remarks reveal harder stance



- The decision by Benedict XVI to remove him from his post, and send him to Egypt as papal nuncio, was widely seen as a demotion.
- Some wondered about the wisdom of the move.
- Father Thomas Reese, a Jesuit scholar and an authority on the workings of the Vatican, told the BBC news website of his concerns: "The Pope's worst decision so far has been the exiling of Archbishop Fitzgerald," he said in an interview in April this year.

Pope remarks reveal harder stance



- "He was the smartest guy in the Vatican on relations with Muslims. You don't exile someone like that, you listen to them.
- "If the Vatican says something dumb about Muslims, people will die in parts of Africa and churches will be burned in Indonesia, let alone what happens in the Middle East.
- "It would be better for Pope Benedict to have Fitzgerald close to him."

Pope remarks reveal harder stance

- That warning now seems prophetic.
- Did nobody at the Vatican anticipate the way  words might be taken out of context, and the likely reaction?
- Since the 9/11 terror attacks on America, and the subsequent invasion of Iraq, nobody has been in any doubt about the importance of promoting a better understanding between Christianity and Islam.
- The sensitivity of Muslims about their religion was made clear last year by the publication in a Danish newspaper of cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad.
- The caricatures, re-printed in a number of Western countries, caused outrage in Islamic nations, leading to riots and acts of violence.

Pope remarks reveal harder stance



- **Daunting task**
- Pope Benedict has spoken of the responsibility of religious leaders to "work for reconciliation through genuine dialogue".
- His task now appears even more daunting, with real concern being voiced about the possibility of a violent backlash from extremists in the Islamic world.
- But the Pope is now acutely aware that wherever he is speaking, his words will be heard around the world by an audience ready to analyse every nuance of meaning.

Pope remarks reveal harder stance



- He may have another opportunity to explain himself to Muslims in November, when he is scheduled to visit Turkey.
- In the meantime, the Vatican will be giving a lot more thought to the words and actions needed to promote better relations between the world's two major religions.