



Are Nuclear War And Armageddon Coming Soon?

Matthew 24:22: (KJV) *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

Special Guest: Len Griehs



The Bible often tells us what is going to happen before it happens. Sometimes its prophecies are very specific and sometimes they are shrouded in symbols, but in all cases they tell us about the future. So, what is the future? Our world has come to a point where it has the capacity to destroy all living things. What is going to happen with this great power? There are several Bible prophecies that can be interpreted to not only verify this destruction but seem to graphically describe it as well! Are we headed for nuclear holocaust? Does the Bible verify such a horrible end? Is this all in God's plan?

(Commentary has been edited for brevity and clarity.)

RICK: Len Griehs is with us this morning. Len, you have been here several times over the years. We always bring you back for some of the hard subjects. Just a little bit of your personal background - where are you from? What do you do?

LEN: I live in Pennsylvania, down in the Philadelphia area. I retired about six years ago from about 35 years in the financial world dealing with Wall Street, corporate finance, political issues as well as financial issues - anything that affected the economy. I have an MBA in finance. Over the years it allowed me to follow fairly closely

and interpret what is good, bad and sometimes worrisome and not so worrisome. As a Christian, I like to determine what is realistic. When I hear somebody worrying about something, I ask if there is something we can know about it and can we stay above the fray?

RICK: And you have been a student of Scripture for pretty much your lifetime.

LEN: Yes, my mother was a very solid student of the Bible, and she raised us with that same interest. Growing up in the '60s was a tumultuous time when the extent of what you did with things like nuclear holocausts and bombs was you were trained to dive under your desk at school, and now as you think back, boy, that was pretty stupid. My desk would have been gone along with me!



If you see the flash, duck and cover!

Len Rick Jonathan





RICK: We are going to focus on specific Scriptures that when you read them from the outset, they look like they are describing nuclear holocaust.

JONATHAN: And devastation.

RICK: We are going to go through these Scriptures throughout the entire program and discuss it from the perspective of what is the Bible really telling us? Not what I *feel* like the Bible is telling me, not what am I *afraid* the Bible is telling me.

JONATHAN: Or what am I *told* the Bible is telling me.

RICK: But what are the Scriptures really telling us? Are they revealing a nuclear holocaust in the future or showing us something different?

I want to get some background on the whole nuclear situation. Let's begin by outlining the gravity of the world's present military power. How did we get here, and where are we going?

LEN: We have been sitting for several years trying to figure out what to do with somebody like Iran who was building up nuclear power and nuclear capability. Everyone knew there was a lot of political discussion around this. In July, finally, there was a deal worked out between Iran and six of the world powers including the United States. We know how much of a struggle that was, but there was a real crucial milestone that was passed then because the U.S. Congress failed to adopt a resolution that would prevent it from passing. It could have blocked a deal that would allow Iran to build up some nuclear capability. And so that deal moved forward, starting in July, and it emerged after quite a few years.

There was a lot of diplomacy going on, meetings around the world and negotiating sessions that I think all of us in business that did any kind of buying and selling of companies would be dwarfed by the kind of negotiating marathon deals that were going on.

Vienna became a battleground for this. It was very complex and highly technical, and as typical with any kind of government document, we ended up with about a hundred pages of the "do's" and "don'ts" of what can happen.

If you think about it simply - and I'm not a scientist, so I try to think in terms of simplicity - our biggest concern was the fear of them building an atomic bomb. Would they be able to do that? This deal was to prevent them from building that bomb.

They needed two types of radioactive material to build that bomb. One was uranium or plutonium, and so the talks they had and negotiations were all around how do we curb their ability to put these two things into a nuclear weapon yet allow them to use it for things like nuclear power?

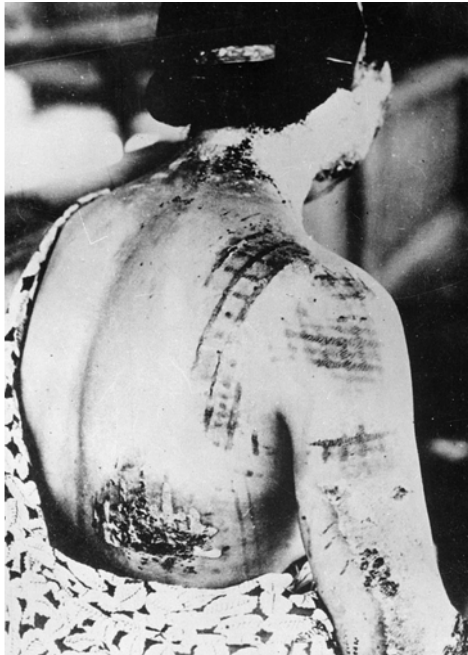
The fear was so great that they would be able to develop this that the various countries were willing to compromise on long-standing principles in order to take away that possibility for the interim. It does not take away the long-term possibility, but it is like so much we do in the government realm as we kick the



can down the road - let's leave it for the next generation. Basically that is what this did. We will let the next generation worry about this.

RICK: So, this deal is in place and it brings the whole nuclear discussion back to the forefront of everybody's mind all over again. What about the first and only military use of nuclear warheads? Please give us an overview of some of the history.

LEN: 70 years ago we had the only experience with something like this - the atomic bombs that ended the war with Japan. It is only recently that material has been released to understand how devastating it was.



(Source: Wikipedia) A victim of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, she suffered severe burns; the pattern on her skin is from the *kimono* she was wearing at the time of the bombing.

Regarding the two cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombed in 1945, huge parts of both cities just vanished. The effect of the radiation that came out of those bombs was so widespread. People suffered burns, many bodies were devastated, and the Japanese even came up with a word *Hibakusha* 被爆者 to describe it. That word translates as "explosion-affected people." 200,000 people survived those nuclear bombs, but within a certain area of the sites in both those places the heat was so intense that almost everything or everyone was vaporized. Now you can see pictures in Hiroshima that all that was left of some human beings sitting on benches near the site of the explosion is their outline.

I got intrigued with this because of the release of the photographs. Having worked part of my career as a photographer, I was very interested in these photographs, and these things were not available until recently to see this devastation. A book was recently published by the grandson of the bomber who flew on both those missions. He published a 247-page book introducing some of the survivors.

One of the examples he gives is a schoolgirl on the outskirts of Hiroshima. She suddenly saw that big flash in the sky on the morning of August 6, 1945, fires coming around her and a huge gust of wind that she says knocked her out. Well, you go on to read these stories and the descriptions of what happened when they saw this mushroom cloud - we have all seen that on TV.

“Japanese doctors said that those who had been killed by the blast itself died instantly. But presently, according to these doctors, those who had suffered only small burns found their appetite failing, their hair falling out, their gums bleeding. They developed temperatures of 104, vomited blood, and died. It was discovered that they had lost 86 percent of their white blood corpuscles. Last week the Japanese announced that the count of Hiroshima's dead had risen to 125,000.” — From the article “What Ended the War,” *LIFE* magazine, 9/17/1945



Victims passing, she said, like ghosts, bleeding all over, skin peeling off, hanging from the tips of their fingers.

Now we have science fiction movies but this was real science fiction.

RICK: It was science *reality* and now it is fiction. The United States had the bomb in 1945. Does this mean annihilation is imminent? That's what we want to talk about from a biblical standpoint.

“In the following waves [after the initial blast] people's bodies were terribly squeezed, then their internal organs ruptured. Then the blast blew the broken bodies at 500 to 1,000 miles per hour through the flaming, rubble-filled air. Practically everybody within a radius of 6,500 feet was killed or seriously injured and all buildings crushed or disemboweled.” — From the article “Atom Bomb Effects,” *LIFE* magazine, 3/11/1946

“When the [Nagasaki] bomb went off, a flier on another mission 250 miles away saw a huge ball of fiery yellow erupt. Others, nearer at hand, saw a big mushroom of dust and smoke billow darkly up to 20,000 feet, and then the same detached floating head as at Hiroshima. Twelve hours later Nagasaki was a mass of flame, palled by acrid smoke, its pyre still visible to pilots 200 miles away. The bombers reported that black smoke had shot up like a tremendous, ugly waterspout. With grim satisfaction, [physicists] declared that the ‘improved’ second atomic bomb had already made the first one obsolete.” — From the article, “War's Ending,” *LIFE* magazine, 8/20/1945



Nuclear holocaust, *The Last Days*, YouTube

- (Narrator) The power that gives energy to all of the universe we now understood and replicated. It's an amazing achievement but it carried with it tremendous danger, and that is the paradox. Can we control what we've created?
- (Reporter) From the start, it was clear that we could not. In the 1950's, the Soviets and the United States built over 20,000 nuclear weapons. By the 1960's, the threat envisioned by Oppenheimer (J. Robert Oppenheimer is often called the “father of the atomic bomb” for leading the Manhattan Project, the program that developed the first nuclear weapon during WWII) *had become a reality.*
- (President John F. Kennedy in a speech to the UN General Assembly on September 25, 1961) Every man, woman, and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident or miscalculation.

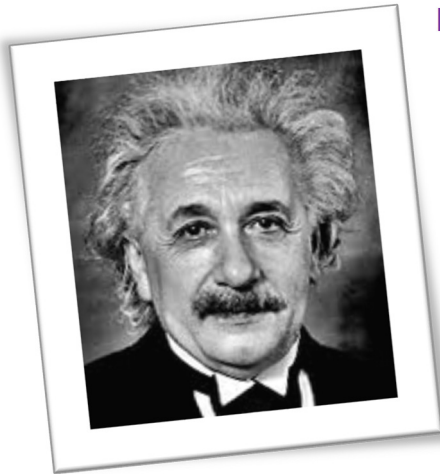


Introduction, *The Aftermath of World Wide Nuclear War*, TheVendor101

- *Imagine a day in the not-too-distant future; a day when your world is turned completely upside down, when the planet we all live on is thrown into a fiery hell. Everything you ever knew burned to ashes. The people you enjoyed your time with, dead and gone - nothing more than a distant memory of the past. This day is when worldwide nuclear war breaks out.*

RICK: He is describing something that physically could happen.

LEN: And you have to feel for someone who is sitting out there seeing these things happen. That is what spurred me on to look at some of these Scriptures. If you are someone wondering where this leads when hearing about nuclear war, it is devastating.



Einstein made a great statement back in 1948 when he saw the power of a nuclear weapon. He said, "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking. Thus, we drift towards unparalleled catastrophe." That was a great statement, but he said elsewhere, "I do not know what weapons World War III will be fought with, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." Einstein was very insightful. He saw man could use this in a very devastating way.

Recently in Philadelphia there was someone on a radio show discussing Bible prophecy. Christian Questions did two programs on Harold Camping and his End Times prophecies. See our programs: "Is Jesus Returning May 21st, 2011?" (May 5, 2011) and "Is Judgment Day Coming THIS Week?" (December 16, 2011). The current radio show host picked up on that and predicted the Lord would return on September 28, 2015 and it would be the end of the world. Well, here we are a month later.

I think it is good for us to look at some of these Scriptures and say, "What is the real message given here? Is it really literal? Is it descriptive? Are we to take something else out of it?"

The return of Jesus is a catalyst for mighty change - what does his return accomplish and what does his return *not* accomplish?

2 Peter 3:10: (KJV) *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

RICK: When we read that Scripture with the backdrop of the last audio clip about fire, a melting of things away plus the literal description of what happened in 1945, this Scripture sure sounds like the earth is headed for becoming this massive ball of nothing because we destroy it! Is that what this Scripture is saying?



LEN: Well, if you just read the surface, but that is the problem. Sometimes you look at it with a literal interpretation and it sounds like it would be. We need to look at other translations. We are blessed in our day because we do not have to look at just one translation of the Bible. You have discussed this on the program several times with one of our associates, Jim Parkinson. See our program, "So, Where Does the Bible Come From?" (July 19, 2015). Jim has done extensive work on translations and comparing different translations, manuscripts and all those things we have today, which are really prolific. He has tried to find the correct and most accurate portrayal of these pictures.

In this case, it helps us to understand when we look at the more accurate idea behind this. Let me read how that translation reads from a composite of all the manuscripts:

2 Peter 3:10: (Compilation) *But the day of the Lord will have come as a thief, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat. And the earth and the works that are therein shall be exposed or discovered.*

RICK: There are two major differences in what you read. One, it says *the day of the Lord will have come as a thief in the night versus the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night*. Second, the King James translation says, *the earth also and the works therein shall be burned up*, but you said *the earth and the works that are therein shall be exposed or discovered*.

LEN: Right. The translation of the word used there is more accurately meaning "exposed" or "discovered," in other words, being able to understand what is going on and seeing around. *Burned up* we think about as being destroyed. This is more the idea that the earth and the works therein will be "laid open." When we look at it from a composite of the more accurate translators, we are talking about the very day we are in where all the works of the world are being discovered or laid open for everyone to see.

RICK: Okay. But one of the things about this Scripture is it says *the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat*. The heavens passing away with a great noise sounds like an explosion and the elements dissolved with fervent heat sounds like the aftermath of something nuclear. How do you put that into perspective?

LEN: When you think about the two elements - heavens and earth. We talk about the earth being burned up, but how do you destroy the heavens?

RICK: That is a good question. That is why I'm asking you!

LEN: So, we say it must mean something else. It must not mean the literal heavens we see up there because no matter what kind of nuclear device you set off, it is not going to reach 300,000 miles away and destroy the heavens.

We have to look for a different meaning of the word *heavens*. Many times in Scripture something described is a picture, like Jesus talking in parables. Those were not literal people; there was a lesson behind it. We believe the idea is one of the signs that Jesus will have assumed some control over what is



happening on the earth will have to do with *the heavens*. What are the heavens? *Heavens* are the religious elements of our society, because that is what really represents the spiritual realm. Those religious or spiritual elements of our society as well as the works on the earth, the governments and everything else, are going to go through some very significant changes. They are going to be dissolved, broken up. Rick, when you look around today, that is exactly what we see happening.

RICK: To encapsulate what you just said, *the heavens* and *the elements* are symbols of something else. They are not literal.

LEN: If we try to interpret them literally, we have all kinds of difficulties explaining how that would happen.

RICK: We are going to get more deeply into that statement later in the program, because it is easy to look at Scripture and say, "Well, that is symbolic and not literal, we are fine," and move on. *Why* is it symbolic and not literal? More on this soon.

Let's look at the context of this Scripture. My favorite word is "context" because when you understand the body that surrounds whatever statement you are examining, you can get the meaning of that statement much more clearly. The context is going to help us here. The context is 2 Peter 3:8-13. As we read each piece, we will sum up what the Apostle is talking about and where he is going with this conversation.



2 Peter 3:8-9: (NASB) *⁸But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

LEN: When it says *the Lord is not slow* and *He is not wishing for any to perish*, that tells us right there it is not God's plan to wipe out everyone.

RICK: Or the other conclusion would be that God has a lot of wishes but does not have the power to make His own wishes come true.

LEN: Right, but we know God is in control and uses different means to get there. *God is not slow* - we think in terms of seconds and minutes. These days people get a text and they have to pull out their phone and look at it right away.

Think how long God is willing to wait for His plans to be worked out. God, we believe, is infinite. He has all of that time, and He is willing to work that out in the stages necessary to do it. I liken it to driving a car down the road. You can only see what is happening in front of you maybe a couple hundred feet, a couple hundred yards, but when you are in the heavens flying over in a plane going over a road, you can see, boy, that guy is driving up the road and there is a truck coming the other way! If something does not happen, they are going to collide. You can see that in the airplane, but the guys down on the road cannot, so the accident can happen. If you have the power to move that or



change something that would prevent that from happening, you could do it from that standpoint.

I think that's the way we look at the way God works. God works slowly but works powerfully. And He does it in a way that has events occurring that execute His plan, but people perceive He is not doing anything.

RICK: That to me is one of the greatest keys. Our perception is, "Where is God?" The answer is He has that heavenly view and it is a very long-range plan He already has IN PLACE and moving forward.

2 Peter 3:10: (Compilation) *But the day of the Lord **will have come** as a thief, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat. And the earth and the works that are therein shall be **exposed or discovered**.*

RICK: That was the theme Scripture. It is interesting *the day of the Lord will come (or will have come) like a thief*. The Apostle already said *a day with the Lord is like a thousand years*, so we know a day with the Lord is not a 24-hour period but a very long period. And it comes like a thief, which is another odd thing when you think about all of the advertisement of the word of Jesus.

LEN: The idea is a thief creeps in but they spend their time knowing the lay of the land and understanding what is the best time to do things. I used to love the movies with Cary Grant, and he played a jewel thief in one of those movies. He was so meticulous at sneaking in and sneaking out.

RICK: Because he knew everything around.

LEN: The thief comes and no one knows he was there - that is quite different than what we see portrayed in the popular media about a sudden flash in the skies.

2 Peter 3:11-13: (NASB) *¹¹Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*

RICK: So is that saying that God is going to create a new heavens and a new earth?

LEN: Why would God create new heavens? What's wrong with the one He's got? He is not going to create a new physical heavens and new physical earth, but He is going to put a different social order on earth.

RICK: So the context of the 2 Peter 3 verse really does hint toward the idea that heavens and earth are symbolic because a new heavens and new earth replace them. That is something to consider very carefully when you ask the question is the world going to *melt in fervent heat*?



Old Testament prophecy seems to graphically portray nuclear worldwide desolation and destruction - is this God's warning?

Isaiah 34:10: *It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up forever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever.*

RICK: That sounds pretty devastating.



World goes cold, *The Aftermath of World Wide Nuclear War, The Vendor*101

- *Whether it is intentional or maybe even a mistake, nuclear war is a real possibility. Countries such as Russia, the U.S., France, China, the U.K., Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea are all believed to have the weapon - and not just a couple - they are believed to have hundreds, some even thousands. So, what would the after effects of nuclear war be? Well, those at the hyper center of the bombs that were launched would be the lucky ones - they would instantly be vaporized. After the initial destruction and enormous fires created by nuclear explosion in countries across the world cause hundreds of millions of tons of smoke high to rise into the stratosphere. In a short amount of time this smoke spreads like the darkness of night across the world and forms a dense layer blocking the sunlight trying to reach our surface. The thick blanket of smoke remains in the stratosphere for many years, and the world we once recognized becomes cold.*

RICK: *The smoke thereof shall go up forever* is what **Isaiah 34:10** says, and that is what it sounds like the audio clip is describing. Is there an eerie coincidence here or is he actually talking about Bible prophecy coming true?

Let's look at the context:

Isaiah 34:5-10: (ASV) ⁵*For my sword hath drunk its fill in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Edom, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment...* ⁸*For Jehovah hath a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion.* ⁹*And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.* ¹⁰*It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever; from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.*

RICK: This sounds devastating, scary and very real.

LEN: Yes, there is a lot in there. We could talk about all the problems if you tried to interpret this literally. You have a choice: You can either say the whole Scripture is literal or you can say it is partially literal/partially symbolic or the whole thing is symbolic. Obviously, you have a problem in the middle if you say some of it is literal and some of it is symbolic. The choice becomes is it all literal or is it all symbolic? If literal, then you have to start right out with the very first statement *for my sword has drunk its fill in heaven*. What does that mean?

RICK: God has a great big sword?

LEN: In what heaven? Why is there any war in heaven? That is not the place that is the issue, unless it is talking about *another* heaven, which would be symbolic.

RICK: Just like the **2 Peter 3** Scripture.



LEN: Right. That's why I think so many of these, especially the picturesque Old Testament, have a lot of pictures like this. As we go through Isaiah's whole prophecy, so much is symbolic that if you try to interpret it literally, you run into many problems. I think that is why we are given places that are symbols of something else, based on what happened there.

The streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch... - Edom was the area of the descendants of Esau, south of the Dead Sea. This was a place they migrated,

which was a constant source of irritation for Israel. It was eventually devastated. To this day that area is still desolate. So, you would say, well, the prophecy is not about that. It is about something bigger than that.

RICK: You are saying, then, that while there was a literal fulfillment of the devastation of the literal place called Edom, that literal place has a symbolic meaning of something greater, just like the heavens, the sword and the day of vengeance.

LEN: Right. Because Isaiah's prophecy was given *after* that time period. You can go back through Isaiah when he is talking about this. So, it represents something bigger, and that's really God's way of giving a message to us, to examine the Scripture and say, what is He really talking about here? He is not talking about actual brimstone coming down from heaven. He is not talking about burning pitch. Obviously, even in the audio clip, to have that smoke go up for generations and generations, well, you would have to build a continual fire. And we don't see it today in

Edom. I think it is one of those cases where God is not talking about the end of the earth here. At the time of His salvation, there will be evidence when He is ready to deliver the earth. The generation living at that time is going to go through some difficulties as the earth and all its works are exposed for what they are, just prior to the time He is ready to intervene and set up His own established government.

RICK: You are really building on the idea that the earth is representative of something other than the physical trees, rocks, soil and water.

Isaiah 51:6: (KJV) *Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath; for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.*





LEN: If it was literally taking out all the people on the earth, then what is the sense of that last statement, *my salvation shall be forever*? Who is to be saved if everyone is gone? I think that is the issue.

RICK: But somebody can argue that those to be saved are those who have already gone to heaven. But, again, it says the heavens shall vanish away like smoke. That is the issue! How do you deal with these Scriptures that sound so scary when we see the reality around us of the potential for worldwide destruction and the potential for literally seeing these kinds of difficult things happen?

JONATHAN: And we see contradiction constantly if we take it all literally.

Solomon makes a pretty powerful statement:

Ecclesiastes 1:4: (NAS) *A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.*

LEN: That is a prophetic statement in a way because it is true, and I think that is the point - God did not think He made a mistake with the earth. It is the generations that come and go, and His intent is for that earth to be there.

RICK: Let's look at symbolism in Scripture. If the earth abides forever and the earth is going to be melted, the two do not mix.

What about the heavens - literal or symbolic?
Len, you've been saying they are symbolic.
Let's find some scriptural backing for that.

Ephesians 6:12: (NASB) *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*



RICK: We automatically think of heaven as God's realm, but this describes spiritual forces of weakness in heavenly places. Do they live in the closet in God's house?

LEN: Are we talking about ghosts and things like that? I do not think so. I think God was concerned with that. When Paul was making this statement, Paul was talking about the forces that control the higher elements of our life. I think in those cases we have seen in our day - again, go back to that first Scripture - the exposure of all the rulers, the powerful people, those in the religious realm, who really are not operating in the best interest of man. I think that is where he says *we have spiritual forces in heavenly places*, but those *heavenly places* are the ruling powers of our own earth.

RICK: That is important - the ruling powers of our own earth. That is what Ephesians 6:12 just told us.

JONATHAN: So, these are religious powers?



RICK: Even political powers because they are "heavenly." They are ruling. They are powerful from above down to those below.

HEAVENS = Higher or spiritual controlling powers

What about the earth? Is that literal or symbolic? You have that Scripture in Ephesians with the sense of *heavenly places* being a figure of speech. What about the earth?

Psalms 33:8: (NASB) *Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.*

Micah 1:2: (NASB) *Hear, O peoples, all of you; Listen, O earth and all it contains, and let the Lord GOD be a witness against you, the Lord from His holy temple.*

RICK: These two Scriptures both talk about the earth.

LEN: I think they are talking about, again, as Solomon said, the social structure of the world made up of people.

JONATHAN: Society.

LEN: Society, that is right. So, *the inhabitants of the world* are what God is focused on, and the earth itself is God's creation. Man and the earth as it currently is, is governing that creation, but not in the way God would have it do.

RICK: *Listen, oh, earth* - The earth can't listen. That is why when you look at Scriptures like this, you say there is a sense of symbolism. *Listen, oh, earth*, the social structure of man, all the things you have built up around you and the way you operate in society, listen to the word of God.

It does fit to have *the heavens* and *the earth* as a symbol.

EARTH = the social structure of man, the stable portion of mankind.

Another Old Testament text using the symbol of smoke:

Psalms 37:20: (NASB) *But the wicked will perish; and the enemies of the LORD will be like the glory of the pastures, they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.*

RICK: *They vanish like smoke* - smoke does not have to necessarily mean something is burning, but rather something is vanishing. The heavens (the ecclesiastical and government systems of the earth) are going to vanish away *like smoke*.

recap
recap

LEN: In each of the Scriptures we looked at, *the heavens* and *the earth* were a common theme. We tried to show how heavens and earth could not be literal because it would not make sense. We believe *the heavens* represent the spiritual powers governing the people, religious or nonreligious. *The earth* represents society, whether it is capitalism, socialism, however earth is organized. If you look at these Scriptures consistently and apply those rules of interpretation for each, it makes sense that the works of the earth are being exposed so everyone can see what happens in our day. These Scriptures do not say it is the time of the end of the physical earth, but they indicate it is a time when God is going to act on things. That is really the whole point. These are



not just random events, but there is a message behind it that says this earth and the way it is today - society and its governing powers - is not how God intends for it to be for the future.

RICK: Just a side note - *the seas* are often a picture in Scripture of the restless masses of humanity. If you have the established social order as *the earth* and *the seas* as the restless masses of humanity, the message of these prophecies is: Even the best of what man has set up socially has to be dismantled and be replaced by Christ's kingdom.

Please see the two-part programs from November 9, 2014 and December 14, 2014 called, "*Can We Know the Mind of God.*" In the first part, we talk about Bible symbolism and how important it is to understand prophecy by understanding the symbols used. Sometimes the Bible clearly tells us what those symbols mean.

Prophecy seems to depict the personal human torment and destruction produced by nuclear fallout - is this God's warning?

Zechariah 14:12: (KJV) *And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet; and their eyes shall consume away in their holes; and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.*



Prophetic warning - billions will die soon, Levi Price

- You can call me crazy if you want. You're going to see catastrophes like the world has never seen and billions of people are going to die on this earth. Time is running out. Suddenly and quickly mass destruction and mass catastrophe are coming. Billions of people are going to die on this planet and you may get caught in it before you have a chance to get your heart right with God and that is the fear that I have for you.*

LEN: Isn't that a great message?

RICK: No, as a matter of fact.

LEN: It is scare tactics, saying such bad things are going to happen; you better get yourself right. We read in the Scriptures God is love. Obviously, God does not want you to serve out of fear or make changes out of fear. It is because what is in your heart calls you there. So that is the challenge. Any time someone preaches fear as a motivator, we know from behavioral psychology that does not work.

RICK: One thing we probably have not talked about enough is God's character. Is God's character one to say, "I am almighty! I am all powerful! Let them all be dissolved in this massive mushroom cloud of radiation, heat and destruction!" Is that the character of God? Len, you keep saying no, it is not because the language is symbolic.

LEN: What is the best way we can determine what God is like? By looking at Jesus. Jesus said, *I and my Father are one.* He did not mean they are the same person, but rather their motivation and what they do is the same. He said, *I do the will of the Father.*



Jesus was only expressing love in his ministry; he was not about destroying people. What did he say to the people? He rescued them from their despair and said, *Go and sin no more*. That's really what he wanted. He was captivating their hearts, and that is what God is after.

RICK: So let's look at Zechariah 14:12, with flesh falling away and eyes falling out of their sockets...really gross stuff! Let's look at the context of that Scripture in Zechariah 14:9-15.



Literal? Symbolic? Both? When?

Zechariah 14:9: (NASB) ⁹*And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.*

RICK: *In that day* - where are we in terms of prophecy?

LEN: *In that day* can be explained with 1 Thessalonians 5:2. We read earlier 2 Peter 3:10 describing Jesus' return as *a thief in the night*.

This has almost the exact statement:

1 Thessalonians 5:2: (Compilation) *For yourselves know perfectly the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.*

LEN: Now, that is important because what comes as a thief? *The day of the Lord*. What does that mean? Isn't every day a day of the Lord? There is a specific thing attached to **THIS day of the Lord**.

Continuing:

1 Thessalonians 5:3: (Compilation) *When they are saying peace and safety, then sudden destruction comes upon them as travail upon a woman with child. And they shall in no wise escape.*

Again, *sudden destruction*, what does that mean?

But also a key: *come on them like travail upon a woman*. All of us have gone through childbirth with our wives, and you know what happens there. You go through a series of really devastating events until the actual birth.

That is exactly what we have seen in our day as we have looked at these other Scriptures - things being exposed, threats coming and people worried, each issue seems to get resolved and patched. But once we get to the point where everything in the world looks fine, no problems, this Scripture says things really are NOT fine, because there are hidden sources behind them; there are problems that just do not go away.

RICK: And the baby hasn't been born yet. The new day has not been born yet.

Zechariah 14:10-11: (NASB) ¹⁰*All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. ¹¹People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security.*

RICK: This sounds literal with a very specific location and so forth.



LEN: This is associated with Jerusalem. That gives us a key, because Jerusalem we know is God's city. God says it is His city. This means we should look to that area. Jerusalem is a symbol of the entire realm of Israel and God's concern over that nation. Here Zechariah identifies this *day of the Lord* specifically with what we would call today the Middle East, the area of Jerusalem. *Benjamin's Gate* and so on were all part of the original Temple in Jerusalem. The description is associated with God's city, meaning God is active in this. So, somewhere God's activity takes place when it is evident something is happening around the nation of Israel and Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:12-13: (NASB) ¹²*Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth. ¹³It will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another.*

RICK: It is not talking about a bomb, rather a plague. What about the eyes and the sockets and all that gross stuff happening?

LEN: It is pretty graphic, isn't it? If you think about this being symbolic language, what do these things represent - flesh, eyes, tongue? Flesh is people. What do you use eyes for? To get information, to see, to operate. A tongue is what you say and the actions taken.

I think it is again symbolic of all those things being said and done surrounding something associated with the final battle of earth around Jerusalem.

RICK: The Battle of Armageddon!

LEN: The plague is also important because we do have information about plagues. The plagues of Egypt, for example, came from God. Think about how those plagues worked - the people did not necessarily see they were from God. Pharaoh said, "This is something my magicians can duplicate," but there are examples in history where certain miracles have happened through natural means. God is going to take this very seriously at some point.

Zechariah 14:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*Judah also will fight at Jerusalem; and the wealth of all the surrounding nations will be gathered, gold and silver and garments in great abundance. ¹⁵So also like this plague will be the plague on the horse, the mule, the camel, the donkey and all the cattle that will be in those camps.*

RICK: There is a plague spreading to the mule, the camel, the donkey and all the cattle. What is going on there?

LEN: Those are all means of transportation, of activity, of war in the day of Zechariah. It is a picture of all the elements used in battle against God's enemies, just like the plagues of Egypt used what things Egypt had.

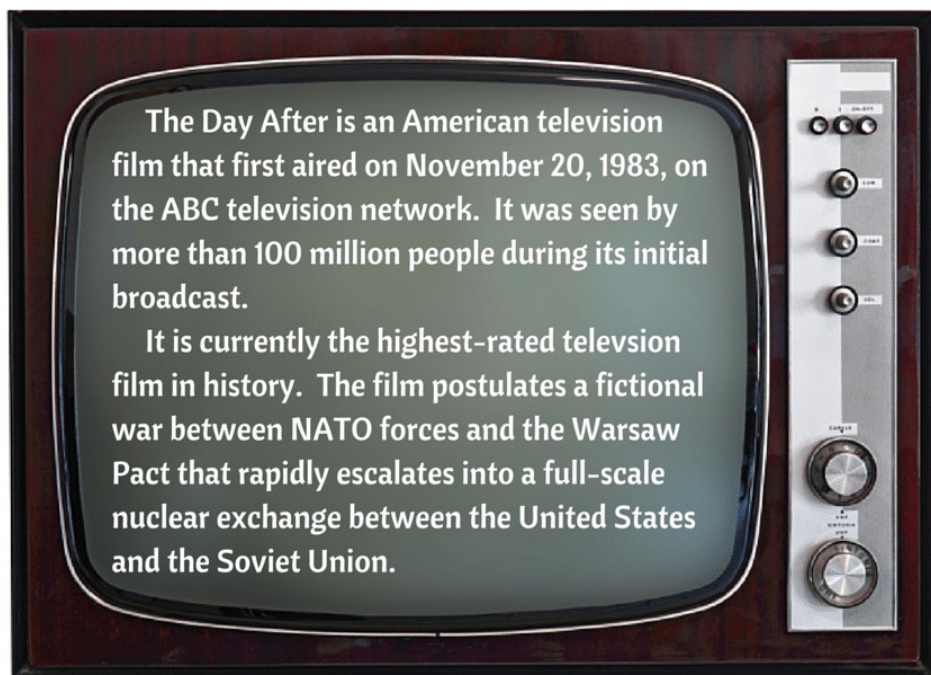
RICK: So, God is using these plagues and protecting Israel, protecting Jerusalem. That is the message of Zechariah. It is not about a bomb or an explosion, but rather God's literal protection for the glory of His plan to continue.



Armageddon! We all know about Armageddon - but do we REALLY all know about Armageddon?

RICK: We want to get into what Armageddon IS and what it IS NOT because you can read into all kinds of dramatic things out of the Bible that do not really exist. God does not need dramatics to make His plan happen; He just makes it happen over time.

There was a movie back in 1983 called *The Day After* showing the fear of nuclear war.



This was such a dramatic film that right after it aired, news personality Ted Koppel assembled a panel to discuss it.

 *The Day After, Ted Koppel, Nightline, November 20, 1983*

- (Reporter) *This is an ABC News special edition of Viewpoint. Here now reporting from Washington, Ted Koppel.*
- (Ted Koppel) *There is - and you probably need it about now - there is some good news. If you can, take a quick look out the window...it's all still there. The neighborhood is still there, so is Kansas City and Lawrence and Chicago and Moscow and San Diego and Vladivostok. What we all have just seen, and this was my third viewing of the movie, what we've seen is sort of a nuclear version of Charles Dickson's Christmas Carol. Remember Scrooge's nightmare journey into the future of Christmas-yet-to-come? When they finally return to the relative comfort of Scrooge's bedroom, the old man asks the spirit the question that many of us may be asking ourselves right now, whether the vision we have just seen is the future as it will be or only as it may be? Is there still time?*





RICK: That is a great way to sum up this whole conversation we are having: Is this nuclear holocaust a vision of what will be or what could be? What is actually in God's plan?

Ezekiel 39:6: (KJV) *And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell careless in the Isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord.*

RICK: A *fire*. Nuclear war has an association with very devastating fire. Is this part of God's plan?



A caller from Connecticut suggests: This kind of question blew my mind. I never heard of "nuclear and Armageddon." For some reason my religion does not want me to read Revelation, but I have. Do you believe global warming, bad hurricanes, bad floods, bad fires, all these catastrophes - is this is the beginning of the end?

RICK: Are all these things signs of End Times? Good question.

LEN: That last Scripture we read takes us to a time when the Bible says there is a great war coming against Israel and against Jerusalem. It calls this the time of *Armageddon*, a place where God brings nations together to deal with them. *Magog* is mentioned, a mysterious term people have been trying to figure out for a long time.

Simply go back to Genesis 10 for a list of the sons of Noah and the nations descended from them. *Magog* are those countries who descended from Noah's son Japheth, known today as the Western World: the western nations of Europe, including the Americas, maybe Australia, New Zealand, all those that became the western part. It represents just a part of the world, in other words, everyone is going to be involved at the end. It is going to be a demonstration for everyone when God deals with the political and social elements of our world today.

Global warming is an issue, but it has been an issue for a long time off and on, like many issues. I think that is the way we have to look at it. We could go back 2,500 years and global warming was an issue then and global cooling was an issue. All these things are issues and really are just part of what we deal with as a world.

God is looking at a much broader view. What God is doing to prepare elements for His future to have man in an ideal situation is what we cannot see behind the scenes. We see the surface of it, and whether or not there is some kind of a local war, those are all possibilities. What we are seeing here is the big picture, knowing that God is not going to destroy the physical earth. God is going to deal with the social order of things today and rectify it in a way that will demonstrate to everyone that THIS is not His world, but His world is coming.

RICK: Do you think that there is a nuclear event in the future of earth?

LEN: I would not rule out some rogue group having a bomb. All we know is God is not going to allow that to devastate the whole earth. Other than that, we cannot be certain, because whenever we try to predict something, it is



usually going to be wrong. Predictions don't work out, just like we talked about at the beginning of this program with Hiroshima and Nagasaki. That was a very devastating blow. What that does in some scenario could be on a limited basis, but what we do know is God is not going to allow the earth to be destroyed in the way we saw in that program, *The Day After*, where the whole world is devastated in a nuclear war. We know that is not going happen.

RICK: The interesting thing about that movie was it was the United States versus Russia, two super powers, but now we have a very different scenario.

LEN: Think about the analogy of two big battleships in the water. You can see your enemy and everything that enemy does, you can counteract. That is what happened in the days of the Cold War. What about today? We do not have super powers. The last of the super powers, the United States, has not demonstrated the capability anymore to really control.



We have all these little PT (Patrol Torpedo) boats out in the water, and they are all going in different directions.

RICK: And they all have a nuclear weapon.

LEN: There is a danger of clash much more than when you had these two battleships, but the thing is, they are small boats.

RICK: The danger actually is greater at this point, because instead of having the checking of the balance of power, between two great super powers, you have a lot of rogue powers who can wield the same kind of power.

Let's get back to fire, an important symbol in Scripture, and then let's get to Armageddon and what you think Armageddon looks like and what it is not. If you read the book of Revelation without a sense of understanding biblical prophecy, it is downright scary. You are not going to understand it without the background of understanding how biblical prophecy works. That's why we try all the time to let the Bible interpret itself.

Psalms 21:8-9: (NASB) *⁸Your hand will find out all your enemies; your right hand will find out those who hate you. ⁹You will make them as a fiery oven in the time of your anger; The LORD will swallow them up in His wrath, and fire will devour them.*

RICK: It really is a symbol of destruction there.

LEN: Not literal fire, but a symbol of getting rid of them somehow. Fire is destruction.

RICK: Scripturally, fire does two things, it either destroys or purifies. When you have gold tried by fire, gold is purified through intense heat because it needs to have impurities separated out.

LEN: Remember in Isaiah 34:10 we talked about smoke. Smoke comes out of fire. Once something has been destroyed, the smoke dissipates because there is no longer any fire.



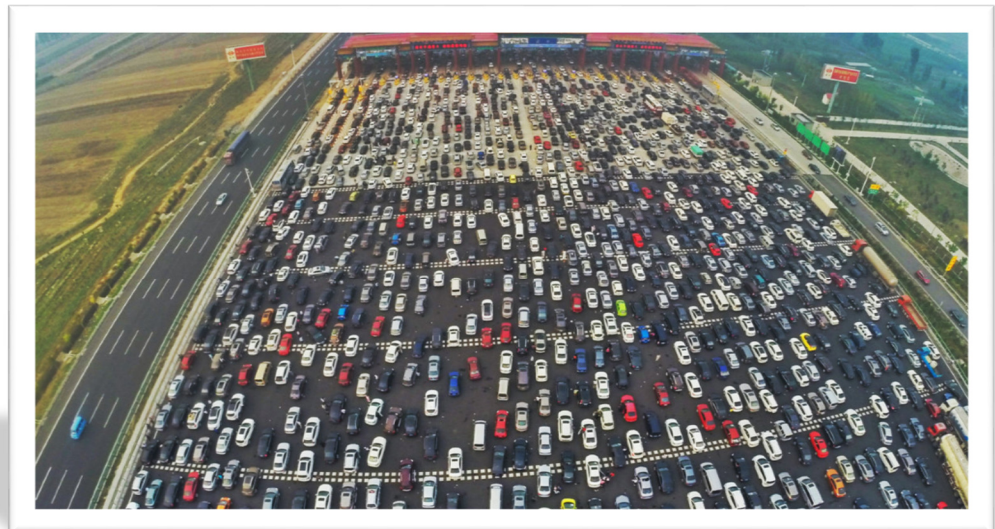
Malachi 4:1: (NASB) *For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.*

RICK: There will be *chaff*, meaning they have been reduced to absolutely nothing. Fire is not a biblical symbol of torture and torment, but rather destruction.

LEN: Right. And it is not indicating a nuclear bomb necessarily either.

RICK: That is another important point. Armageddon, what is it? What is it not?

LEN: Armageddon is not destruction. It is generally thought about as conflict between nations and ideologies. Armageddon has become a term we use for everything! We use it in all kinds of ways, even the recent tie-up in China for 12 days when all the cars were on the highway. They called it Carmageddon, because it represents something you cannot escape.



Armageddon has been a symbol of worldwide turmoil. The news media uses it a lot when it talks about "battles to end all battles" and destroying the earth. There was a recent movie depicting it, but people do not really understand the origin.

Armageddon is a biblical term used in Revelation, the closing book of the Bible, associated with the very thing we have been talking about - the battle of the great day of God Almighty.

Revelation 16:14: (ESV) *For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.*

Revelation is a book of symbols. Names are used for a purpose to point out something associated with it historically. Interpreting Revelation literally just runs you into all kinds of problems.

RICK: You are saying the battle of Armageddon is not where the world converges in this great battle and ends in total utter complete destruction.



LEN: Right.

RICK: It is a smaller thing. Is that what you're saying?

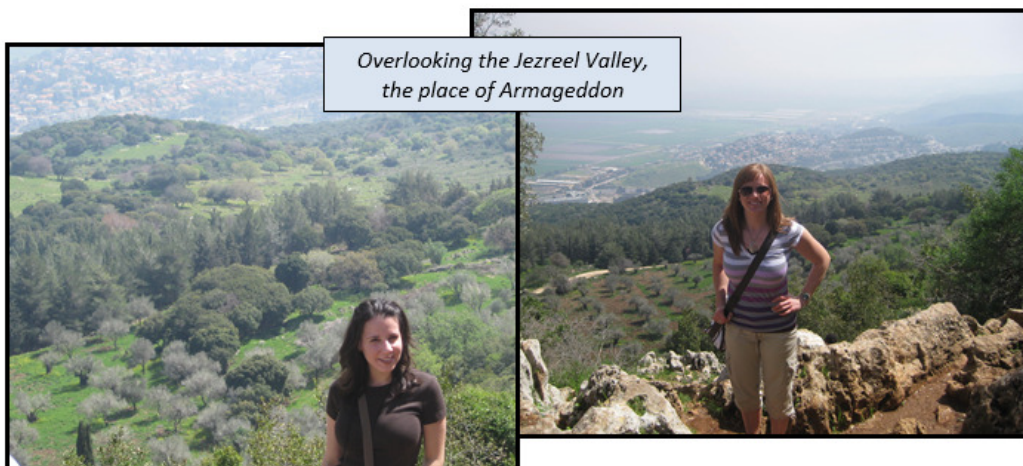
LEN: I am saying it is a much *greater* thing than that because it involves God.

*"More people have died on the battlefield of Megiddo than anywhere else on earth."
Dr. Paul Mali, Professor Emeritus- Graduate School,
University of Hartford; Hebrew University of
Jerusalem, Israel and others*

The word Armageddon is of Hebrew origin. Now, that's a signal to ourselves because Revelation was written in Greek. So it is something associated geographically and historically with an area in the land of the Middle East called Megiddo. Megiddo was a strategic position in the Holy Land. It was an important pass into the country beyond it.

The general locality was a great battleground when Israel with Gideon and his 300 men routed and defeated the Midianites and King Saul defeated the Philistines.

Historically looking back at what happened, for example, we say "Napoleon met his Waterloo," and use that in conversation today, "Well, Jonathan met his Waterloo." What does it mean? That is where Napoleon lost his battle, and it was the end of Napoleon. It means a sudden and unexpected defeat. Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo was of such significance it was attached to that battleground.

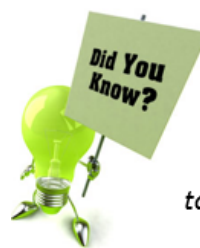


Battles were fought in this area of Megiddo, and that is Armageddon. It was a place associated with Israel's battleground. With the symbolic meaning of Revelation, we know Armageddon is somehow associated with Israel and her deliverance at the end of our age.



RICK: It is focused on Israel - not the world at war - but much of the world against Israel. There is a focus on deliverance.

LEN: There was one really outstanding characteristic of Israel's battles and it never has been true of any battles fought between other nations: The hand of God overruled the victories and defeats for them in miraculous ways. That is the key to understanding the future in the battle of Armageddon.



The only place in the Bible where the term "Armageddon" appears: **Revelation 16:16: (KJV)**
And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

RICK: The greatness of Armageddon is in the hand of God moving to protect and deliver Israel - not in the drama we like to create in the movies. Once you have Armageddon and you do not need a nuclear war, what comes after all of that?

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NASB) ⁸*Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, for the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal. ⁹For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.*

LEN: Next is the deliverance of the whole world through Israel. Following Armageddon, the Scriptures say after God had devoured all the opposition (terms used include *fire* and *jealousy* meaning zeal), God is active. It says He is going to turn to the people a pure language. That is very important. So things do not end with Armageddon.

RICK: There has to be people left.

LEN: Right. The purpose is to get rid of the old and bring in a new. Does that mean He is going to teach them a different language? You and I are going to be speaking some other language other than English? I do not think that is what He means. Pure language, as opposed to the things we have been talking about here - the evil language, the difficulties, the tongues that we talked about earlier, the pictures that speak of evil, all those things are changed. That message Zephaniah gives us states, *all will call on the name of the Lord to serve Him with one consent*. That is God's purpose - get rid of what is there now and bring the people to be able to serve Him in the way He intended.

RICK: So often biblical thinking goes along the lines of destruction and then that is the end. But you are saying there is a better, new chapter.

LEN: Armageddon has a happy ending!

RICK: And that is so unorthodox.



Post Armageddon - Resurrection -> Day of Judgment -> Peaceable Kingdom:
What happens "the day after tomorrow?"
What is the final solution that God has for this world and its people?



"New World Coming," (Verse 2), Mama Cass Elliot

*There's a brand new morning
Rising clear and sweet and free
There's a new day dawning
That belongs to you and me
Yes a new world's coming
The one we've had visions of
Coming in peace, coming in joy, coming in love*

LEN: You got to love it! But the vision was great, and that is really what people want, and that is what they are going to get.

RICK: Armageddon you have clearly said is not the last chapter. It is simply a chapter, and there is a new chapter. When Mama Cass sings about a new world coming, coming in peace, coming in joy, coming in love and it is just around the bend and all of that stuff, it almost sounds corny. It almost sounds like a childish dream, like, oh, if only we could live in peace and harmony. But the Scriptures actually tell us that childish dream that may sound corny is actually a reality coming down the road.

Let's take a look at some Scriptures that show us the rest of the story.

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NASB) ⁸*Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, for the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.*

RICK: Wait a minute. I thought we were reading about the nice happily ever after!

LEN: Boy, if you stopped there, you'd say, oh, wow, that is it. But that is why context is so important in the very next verse...

⁹*For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.*

LEN: The destruction is not for the purpose of just pouring out God's anger on everything and taking a handful of people and saying, "You are okay, but the rest of you are done." This says the earth is there. The purpose of gathering those people together is so that God can show them who He is.

When I rise up as a witness - What is a witness? It is how you reveal yourself, how you teach people the right thing. That is what God is really doing in Armageddon. He is witnessing He is there. He is all-powerful, but His power is not for destruction, but rather to lead the people to what is right.

RICK: The witness to God's character is the willingness, the plan and the ability to destroy that which is evil so God's character can bring in that which is good - which was His original design and intention.



LEN: Right. Zechariah 14:9 tells us that. *He says Jehovah shall be king over all the earth. In that day shall God be one and His name one.*

RICK: *King over all the earth* is a very broad statement. It means there is no part left out. That gives us a sense that nuclear holocaust cannot wipe out the earth, because you have something happening *after* all of the destructive parts of the plan God allows. God is not bringing the destruction of mankind upon mankind. God is allowing mankind to bring the destruction upon mankind. Satan uses the tool of fear and misapplication to take what God has given us in prophecy, so it can be misapplied and misinterpreted to create fear and anxiety. That is not the way God Almighty works.

Psalm 22:25-28: (NASB) ²⁵*From You comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.* ²⁶*The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!* ²⁷*All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You.* ²⁸*For the kingdom is the LORD'S And He rules over the nations.*

LEN: Well, that's exactly what it says there in Zechariah, and here is David prophesying of it and singing to it: What is the purpose? God's purpose ultimately is to bring a peaceable kingdom, where everyone can have that kind of joy we heard in Mama Cass' song.

JONATHAN: I cannot wait. Finally God will get the praise He deserves!

RICK: And that is the thing that gets so lost in all of the interpretations. You go to YouTube and type in "Armageddon" or "nuclear war," and there are thousands and thousands and thousands of scary things that come up. It is all about the fear and "what if." But what they do not see is the after effects of all of this because it is all under God's control. God allows evil and He allows it to develop in whatever way it wants to develop so that it can be shown to be evil, shortsighted and unrighteous. Then God puts it away.

Micah 4:1-4: (NASB) ¹*And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it.*

RICK: It is talking about mountains here.

LEN: Jesus used mountains to represent kingdoms. We have that pictured over and over in Scripture. A mountain represents a kingdom of some kind.

RICK: If you use the Bible keys for prophecy understanding what means what, these prophecies are no longer obscure, but they speak very loudly and very plainly. So, the mountain, the kingdom of the house of the Lord, will be the chief kingdom of the world.

²*Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

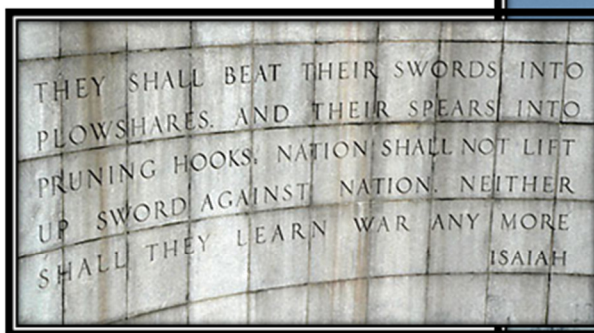
RICK: What is developing from the governmental standpoint? You have God's kingdom here.

LEN: We see the process: God is going to give the Word from Zion. Zion is another popular Bible term. It generally means the heavenly realm of God's kingdom will dictate the laws, and those laws will go out on the earth. Jerusalem is always a picture of God's city, so it goes to the earth (from Zion to Jerusalem) and out from the earth (Jerusalem) to the other nations.

RICK: If you get the symbolism, now you are seeing a clear depiction of how God's kingdom is going to work. This becomes a really exciting prophecy because we can see the step by step details of what is going to happen. What is next?

³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. ⁴Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.

LEN: That Scripture is on the outside of the United Nations building. It says they turn their swords into plowshares. What does that mean? The weapons of destruction will be gone and in their place will be reaping a harvest of the earth. Pruning and plowshares are meant to show good things, not bad things. Man will have finally what he wants - the ability to govern himself under laws of equality coming from God.



We should not fear. Armageddon is for the purpose of bringing about true hope. It is a promise showing us this is not the way God intended the world to be. There is a purpose behind all of the suffering, but when it is over, it will bring about blessings, not destruction.

RICK: We know this if we understand how to view Bible prophecy. You can read a prophecy and get scared to death, but once you read the prophecy when understanding its symbols, it begins to fit into a logical, sequential picture of the unfolding of God's plan.

Armageddon is a scary term in our world. Do not let it frighten you. Nuclear war is a legitimately scary thing, and what the Scriptures are telling us is that whatever happens in this time, in this age, the things that mankind has created for destruction are under the watchful eye of God Almighty and will not get out



of hand to a point that is not recoverable. There is great hope! That hope is scriptural and it is God's plan for the world of mankind.

Isaiah 35:4-10: (NASB) *⁴Say to those with anxious heart, take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, But He will save you. ⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. ⁶Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. ⁷The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, Grass becomes reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

**So, are nuclear war and Armageddon coming soon?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Len!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**

What other biblical phrases describe Armageddon?

Great tribulation:

Matthew 24:21: (KJV) *For then shall be **great tribulation**, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*

A Time of Trouble:

Daniel 12:1: (KJV) *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a **time of trouble**, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*

The Day of Vengeance:

Isaiah 63:4: (KJV) *For the **day of vengeance** is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.*

Isaiah 34:8: (KJV) *For it is the day of the **LORD'S (JEHOVAH's) vengeance**, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.*

Day cometh that shall burn as an oven:

Malachi 4:1: (KJV) *For, behold, **the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven**; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*

The Day of the LORD (JEHOVAH):

Joel 2:1,2: (KJV) *¹Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for **the day of the LORD** cometh, for it is nigh at hand; ²A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.*

Amos 5:20: (KJV) *Shall not **the day of the LORD** be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?*



The earth shall tremble:

Jeremiah 10:10: (KJV) *But the LORD (JEHOVAH) is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting king: at His wrath **the earth shall tremble**, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.*

A controversy with the nations:

Jeremiah 25:31-33: (KJV) ³¹*A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath **a controversy with the nations**, He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. ³²Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. ³³And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.*

God's strange work:

Isaiah 28:21: (KJV) *For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, He shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that He may do his work, **His strange work**; and bring to pass His act, His strange act.*