

## 1 The Coming Apocalypse

## 2 What is Apocalypse?

- The word apokalypsis comes from the greek and literally means to reveal that which is hidden.
- In the English Bible, it is always translated as the word revelation.
- In fact, the last book of the Bible, which we know as Revelation is actually the book Apocalypse.
- The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John . . . (Rev 1:1 NIV)

## 3 Special Blessing

- Amazing at it may seem, the book of Revelation is the only book of the Bible that promises a blessing for just reading it.
- Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. (Rev 1:3 NIV)
- While the book of revelation is a difficult book to read and understand, it is not impossible. It just takes work and as we get closer to the time of the end it will get a lot easier.
- In fact, in the book of Daniel a statement is made that the meaning of Daniel's visions are sealed up (hidden), until the time of the end.
- Then things that have been hidden will be made known and people will run like crazy to buy them up like shoppers at Kmart responding to a "blue light" special.

## 4 Amnesia Test

- In my last sermon, I gave three suggestions that I thought Christians should do in which to prepare for the last days.
- Can anyone remember what those points were?
- Hints . . .
  - Become a student of \_\_\_\_\_ prophecy.
  - Pay attention to what is happening in the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Understand, that nothing can \_\_\_\_\_ us from the love of Christ.

## 5 Middle East Empires

- According to the prophet Daniel, the last empire in the Middle East will be a 10 nation confederation.
- While it will be politically divided, it will be a major and powerful force to contend with.
- According to the book of Revelation, a "little horn" will arise out of this confederation who will subdue three of the other nations and take control of the empire.

- Breaking a peace treaty with Israel, he will show himself to be god and unleash a war of annihilation against the Jews.

## 6 Middle East Empires

## 7 Arab Spring/Winter

- If out of this present chaos in the Middle East,
  - we start seeing a popular call for the restoration of an Islamic Caliphate,
  - and/or the formation of an Islamic confederation,
  - we may in a few years find ourselves in some very stormy weather.

## 8 New President in Egypt

- In a recent state election in Egypt, Dr. Mohamed Morsy was named the fifth and current President of Egypt by taking 51.7% of the vote.
- Dr. Morsy was a leading figure in the Muslim Brotherhood and was the chairman of its political party called the Freedom and Justice Party (FJP).
- The Muslim Brotherhood's credo is . . .
  - Allah is our objective.
  - The Quran is our law.
  - The Prophet is our Leader.
  - Jihad is our way.
  - Death for the sake of Allah is the highest of our aspirations.
- It is the goal of the Muslim Brotherhood to reinstate the Caliphate (Muslim Empire) in the region and make Jerusalem its capital.

## 9 Historical Events

- In the past 100 years we have seen some very remarkable things in the Middle East.
  - The old Ottoman Empire (1299–1922) fell after WW1 and the Caliphate was annulled in 1925 by the Turks.
  - In 1928, the Muslim Brotherhood was formed and has for its main purpose to reorganize the muslim countries under a new Caliphate.
  - In 1948, Israel became a nation again and in 1967 Israel captured Jerusalem and made it her capital.
  - In late 2010, the secular governments of Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen started to fall to elements of the Muslim Brotherhood.

- In 2012, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood was elected President of Egypt and on 9/11/2012 major protest broke out all over the Middle East condemning America for a bad movie and killed one of our ambassadors.
- Waving “Black Flags,” many muslims urge for the creation of the Caliphate and death to all who insult Islam.

## 10 My Point

- It seems to me that the war drums are beating in the Middle East where a reinstated Muslim Empire is seeking to position itself to destroy Israel.
- However, while they may get close, God will rise up and destroy them.
- This is the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic. Each man will seize the hand of another, and they will attack each other. (Zech 14:12-13 NIV)
- Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zech 14:16 NIV)

## 11 The Feasts of the Lord

- In the Bible there are seven major convocations that God’s people were to celebrate and observe.
- Four of these “special days” were in the spring, and three in the fall.
- In Jesus’ first coming the four “special days” were fulfilled by his death, resurrection, and sending of the Holy Spirit .
- The three in the fall have not as yet been fulfilled and are expected to be fulfilled at Jesus’ second coming.

## 12 Biblical Holidays

### 13 Considerations

- When the four spring feasts were fulfilled by Jesus’ first coming they are fulfilled in the same year.
- So the question is will all remaining feasts be fulfilled in the same year as well?
- So if the Feast of Trumpets is the Rapture, and the Feast of Atonement is the Second of Coming of Christ, and the Feast of Tabernacles the celebration of God’s victory over Israel’s enemies, then a lot has to happen in a short period of time (21 days).

- It would also mean the Rapture and the Wedding Feast of the Lamb occur at the end of the tribulation period.
- Some have suggested that the Feast of Trumpets where the Rapture occurs is at the beginning of the 7 year tribulation period.
- Others have even mentioned that the Rapture does not occur at any of the Fall Feast, as the day and the hour is unknown.

#### 14 The Pre-wrath End Time Chart

#### 15 Feast of the Lord

#### 16 Pastor McCowan's End Time Chart

#### 17 Pastor McCowan's End Time Chart

#### 18 Watch & Pray

- As we get closer to the Day of the Lord, great stress will come on the earth.
- In fact, Jesus tells his disciples, “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.” (Luke 21:34 NIV)
- Then Jesus commands them, “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” (Luke 21:36 NIV)
- So why should we watch and pray? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. (Mark 14:38 NIV)

#### 19 Last Day Encouragement

- Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. (Heb 10:23 NIV)
- And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. (Heb 10:24 NIV)
- Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb 10:25 NIV)
- Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. (Matt 24:12-13 NIV)
- However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8 NIV)

## 20 Conclusion

- How are we all doing when life's troubles and problems come our way.
  - Do we get frustrated, angry, and point fingers?
  - Do we look for sensual highs to make us feel better?
  - Do we spend money we don't have and max out our credit cards?
  - Or do we have a relationship with God that keeps us in perfect peace?