

# The Blessed Hope!

***“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)***

*Diamond & Nugget #47*

***“For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.” –(Luke 12:2).***

Iran’s Zarif reacts to US B-52s: *“We do not shy away from crushing aggressors.”*  
Sunday, January 17, 2021.



A handout photo made available by the Iranian Army office on January 14, 2021, shows a Noor long-range anti-ship missile fired during an Iranian navy military drill in the Gulf of Oman.

Iran’s foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has reacted to recent overflights by US strategic B-52H bomber planes, noting that the Iranian nation will never be intimidated by such shows of force. He tweeted, emphasizing that Iranians are not a belligerent nation and *“have not started a war in over 200 years.”* *“We don’t shy [away] from crushing aggressors,”* Iran’s foreign minister, however, added.

Zarif also advised the administration of the outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump not to waste the American taxpayers' money on such empty moves, saying, *"You should have spent those \$billions on your taxpayers' health,"* in a clear allusion to grave situation of the United States in terms of controlling the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, which has so far claimed hundreds of thousands of American lives.

If your B-52H "Presence Patrols" are meant to intimidate or warn Iran, you should have spent those \$billions on your taxpayers' health. While we have not started a war in over 200 years, we don't shy from crushing aggressors. Just ask your BFFs who supported Saddam.

Zarif's tweet came hours after the US Central Command announced that the B-52H "Stratofortress" aircrews conducted a "presence patrol" in the Middle East on Sunday to mark the second such mission in 2021.



Saudi Arabian, US air forces wrap up joint military exercise in Persian Gulf region  
Saudi Arabia's Royal Air Force (RSAF) and the US Air Force conclude a joint military exercise.

*"Bomber Task Force missions are observable ways to demonstrate the U.S. military's continuing commitment to regional security,"* U.S. Central Command's Commander Gen. Frank McKenzie claimed in a Sunday statement.

Last week, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia concluded joint war games, with Saudi F-15SE warplanes flying besides American B-52 bombers and F-16 fighters. These joint flights anger the Iranian government more than does U.S. B-52 flights.

The Saudi air force, the Royal Saudi Naval Force, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Air Force conducted joint air operations in the Persian Gulf between December 17 and 18 last year.

In response to such provocative moves, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps conducted two-days of major drills code-named the Great Prophet 15, in central Iran, in which it tests its latest ballistic missiles and combat drones.

The first round of the drills, code-named the Great Prophet 15, was held with mass launches of ballistic ground-to-ground missiles and operations by combat bomber drones.



Iran's IRGC kicks off missile, drone exercises in massive military drills. The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) kicks off massive military drills in central Iran, testing its latest ballistic missiles and combat drones.

During the second day of maneuvers, Iran's home-grown ballistic missiles destroyed mock enemy warships with pinpoint accuracy, hundreds of kilometers away, in the northern Indian Ocean.

Iran's top military commander, Major General Mohammad Baqeri, described the launch of ballistic missiles to destroy the hypothetical enemy's warships from a distance of 1,800 kilometers as "meaningful," warning enemies against threats to Iran's national interests. Iran flexes its muscle more as a warning than a direct threat to U.S. forces in the region. They are not suicidal by any definition but they do not want anyone to think they are an easy target.



IRGC's ballistic missiles destroy mock enemy warships 1,800 kilometers away during Iran drills.

*“Choosing a barrage of long-range missiles against naval targets illustrates that if the enemies of the Islamic Republic have ill intentions against our national interests, maritime trade routes, and territory, they will come under missile strike and will be destroyed,”* he stated.

On the same day, Fox News reported that long-range missiles launched by the Iranian forces landed 100 miles from the Nimitz aircraft carrier strike group belonging to the United States. This too is deliberate, in the ball park but not too close. The Iranians are sending a message that they can reach U.S. warships if need be. The Iranians targeting and guidance technology is sophisticated enough to be a true threat to naval vessels.

*“At least two Iranian ballistic missiles exploded on impact when they hit the ocean, sending shards of debris in all directions,”* claimed the report.

We are seeing an ongoing war of words and show of force threatening one another as the clock ticks off the days until the approach of the Ezekiel 38/39 war commences. There are many flash points in the Gulf of Hormuz and regional targets which could set off in quick fashion a regional war. Two weeks ago two tankers loaded with oil and preparing to depart from the area near Kuwait were discovered with underwater magnetic mines attached to their hulls were disarmed and removed by divers checking for magnetic mines before departing with their cargo of oil transiting south and exit at the Straits of Hormuz. It was unknown or undetermined as to who placed the mines. The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard are on heightened alert status 24/7.



What you will be hearing shortly, if not already released by the time I am finished with this, will truly turn the world upside down. In the past ten years, it has been mind-boggling of what has come to light in the public medium as nothing seen in my lifetime. As an octogenarian I have been witness to an amazing period of history.



Baron Benjamin de Rothschild (Center), his wife Baroness Ariane de Rothschild and their daughter Noemie attend the dinner of Conseil des Grand Crus Classes of 1855 hosted by Chateau Mouton Rothschild on June 16, 2013 in Pauillac, near Bordeaux, France. The banker and chairman of the Edmond de Rothschild Holding S.A. company, one of the many Rothschild's businesses. Benjamin de Rothschild, has passed away at the age of 57, his family revealed to French media.

*“Ariane de Rothschild and her daughters are deeply saddened to announce the death of husband and father, Benjamin de Rothschild, following a heart attack in the family home in Pregny (Switzerland) in the afternoon of January 15, 2021”* the family said in a press release on Saturday.

The Chateau de Pregny, sometimes called the ‘Rothschild Castle’, where the banker spent his last hours, is located near Lake Geneva. The estate has belonged to the family since the middle of the 19 century.

Born on July 30 1963, Benjamin de Rothschild was the son of Edmond and Nadine de Rothschild. He headed the group created by his father since 1997. Benjamin de Rothschild was chairman of the board of directors at Edmond de Rothschild Holding SA, the umbrella entity of the Edmond de Rothschild Group, specializing in private banking and asset management. The House of Rothschild has a division for every economic activity imaginable. In 2001, I was surprised to learn they have a lending branch that specializes in pawn shops. It explained for me how a pawn shop could stay open on Braddock Ave., back in Braddock, PA in a several block section of town with boarded up shops in once a busy retail area near U.S. Steel’s Edgar Thompson Works. My curiosity came from watching the TV show “Pawn Stars”.

The financial group also confirmed his death on Saturday, offering condolences to his wife and children. In a statement on its website it said that the entrepreneur developed the entity *“in an exceptional way during all these years.”* It also noted that the late businessman was also *“an active philanthropist,”* as he developed *“innovation within the Adolphe de Rothschild Foundation Hospital.”*

The timing of the death of Benjamin de Rothschild is concerning and from other events taking place the past two weeks in the Vatican, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Germany, there might be an even bigger story. All of these named sovereign states along with China were involved in the “stealing” of the 2020 presidential election. At least six countries and the Vatican were involved in stealing the 2020 presidential election.

Arrests and resignations have been reported in the highest level of those governments. Their departures have nothing to do with the state-imposed lockdown of citizens, who are rebelling in greater and larger numbers as they are being told Covid will not go away and may be around for several years. The evidence is growing that both popes, Francis and Arturo Sosa [known as the Black pope] and Superior-General of the Jesuits have been arrested and are awaiting prosecution. Pope Francis was arrested on an 80-count indictment for Child Trafficking and fraud in March 2020. He was part of a terrorist organization many years ago before he became pope. As pope, Francis is the head of the 9<sup>th</sup> Circle Child Sacrifice Cult. The Black Pope has also been arrested. There is only working staff at the Vatican right now. There was a Vatican Blackout on January 10. Five senior ranking Cardinals along with many bishops in recent weeks have died just in the past week, of Covid-19, of course this is the word from St. Peters. The Vatican is the kingpin state in the sex-trafficking around the world.

If you are a skeptic, you need to remember, the Jesuits are not one of the regular religious orders in Roman Catholicism. They began as the pope's army to fight the Counter-Reformation of 1517. When they were disbanded they vowed to destroy the Vatican from within. Cries against the Jesuits rose louder and louder until on July 21, 1773, Pope Clement XIV dissolved the order completely. It had already been abolished in France and Spain. Clement refused to condemn the Society but merely noted he was making an administrative move for the peace of the church. Historically, the Jesuits have been expelled from 80 countries and world cities. Since 2013, the Roman Catholic Institution has been in full control of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits. The Papacy has been in a downward spiral since Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope! Since the Jesuits were restored in 1814 by Pope Pius VII, they focused on education and government, which allowed them to infiltrate centers of power.

This and the larger story will explode on the mainstream and alternative news in a matter of days to weeks. Moving on, the closeness of our "Departure" may be on the back burner of many minds, but do not let that fool you. We are in something akin to a parallel universe. By that I am referring to the unfolding drama taking place in Washington, D.C. Joe Biden just fired the presidential Secret Service team a few days before his illegal inauguration because of possible conflict of interest/loyalty. There is an incredible story yet to be told.

I've been following the story which really goes back to the assassination of John F. Kennedy. It has to do with getting the country out from the clutches of the House of Rothschild. This is why I said the sudden death of Baron Benjamin de Rothschild may not have been strictly natural! President Kennedy was taken out by CIA agents of the Catholic Intelligence Agency, acting on behalf of the Jesuit-Vatican/Rothschild financial dynasty. President Kennedy had authorized shortly before his fatal trip to Dallas, \$5-billion in "Silver" certificates in the denomination of \$5 and \$2 bills. This printing of money was constitutional and would have broken the choke hold the U.S. Federal Reserve had on our credit and money supply. Lyndon B. Johnson following his swearing in on Air Force 1 ordered the recall of those \$5 and \$2 bills, and we know who did not want them in circulation.

The Jesuit-Vatican in 1823/24 commissioned the House of Rothschild the "Fiduciary Agents" for the Vatican. This act is the equivalent of being a "Power of Attorney" like an older son or daughter for their elderly parents. They are joined at the hip as they say. They share billions yearly from the interest paid on the National Debt. The U.S. paid to those holding the U.S. debt, **\$522,767,299,265.34** for fiscal year 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020). This ^ is **\$522 billion** in interest on a National Debt of \$27 trillion and growing. The Federal Reserve Act expired in 2013, but has continued to control our money system in abeyance. President Trump transferred the Federal Reserve into the Department of Treasury this past February. Few people knew what this meant. It was done as a step to free the country from the Federal Reserve System, which is owned and control by the House of Rothschild. Whether you realize it or not, President Trump was doing you and the country a favor by taking that action

I believe that President Donald J. Trump was liberally running up the tab, like someone maxing out their credit cards just before filing bankruptcy of the Corporate USA! From what I know from before the 2016 election, there was a planned goal all along to default on the National Debt and break the Jesuit-Vatican/Rothschild ownership and control of the U.S. Federal Reserve. The House of Rothschild owns the controlling stock of the 10 major European banks that own the stock in the Federal Reserve which cannot be sold outside of these ten banks.

The larger agenda was to bankrupt the Corporation known as the USA, and return the country to the organic Republic of the [united states of America](#). Everything changed in 1871, with the Act of 1871, establishing the District of Columbia, of which all States at the time were obligated to assume the debts created by President Lincoln and his successors. The U.S. Civil War had bankrupted the Treasury. As you can realize the National Debt has grown by leaps and bounds, and only one president every zeroed out the National Debt. President Andrew Jackson did this on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1835. President Jackson's portrait was on the wall of the Oval Office to the left of the president's desk, and served as a reminder of his goal. Provided that he is not assassinated like President Kennedy was, there are major changes afoot. As promising as these changes seem, I find no reference to such an event in the Bible that would validate or confirm any of this in the Bible. While they may portend of a Camelot world, in the course of history, they fit best with the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

President Trump has been the spearhead of a massive sting operation to expose corruption, from the stolen election to the treasonous leaders loyal to the Chinese Communist Party. They have had five or six years to plan and implement for what is to happen this week and coming days. President Trump and General Flynn hold an "Ace" Card in that they held control of the NSA, monitoring all electronic communication.

That's all I want to say about what is taking place on the global and national scene. Stay alert to the terms NESARA and GESARA, as they may well become common vocabulary, and could impact our world, but I want to wake you and deal with our greatest hope, the "Departure" "**Harpazo**" or Rapture in this Diamond & Nugget.

Many within the Pre-Tribulation group of believers some seem to think the Bible teaches that other events need to occur before the Rapture. This confuses people to put it mildly. Then the voices of those like 'want-to-be' theologian Dr. Ted Broer who reject the Pre-Tribulation Rapture completely have muddied the waters. As a result I need to make it crystal clear that there is nothing now on the table of events from a Scriptural point of view that needs to occur before the Rapture. The issue of sequence or order of events can easily be compounded by such things as events occurring concurrently, or at the same time as others. These potentialities require that any passage of the Bible addressing the issue of End Times has to be included or factored into the larger puzzle of Bible prophecy. Yet in doing so, one can create new questions in the process.

I am totally persuaded on this question. What prophesied events must happen before the Rapture? Absolutely nothing! But that is not the view held by a Messianic Jew



seems to claims. In 1997, I bought two books by Messianic Jewish author Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *'Israelology: The Missing Link in Systematic Theology'* and *'The Footsteps of the Messiah'*. The first is a huge book but one that is certainly needed by its title in seminary theological education. The second book, *'The Footsteps of the Messiah'* offers a number of chronology charts which have caused concern among a number of my fellow pastors in recent years. I hold Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum in high regard but I disagree with some of his assumptions.

Dr. Fructenbaum claims there are events that must precede the Tribulation. If this is the case then the Bible does not teach Christ's return is imminent as does Dr. Ron Rhodes, Dr. Ronald Reagan, or Dr. Ed Hindson, and many others. According to Dr. Fructenbaum's we should not be living in expectation of the Lord's return to receive His Bride but rather we should be looking for the following events which he says must precede the Tribulation and therefore must precede the Rapture:

1. Jerusalem to come completely under Jewish control
2. Russia to invade Israel
3. One-world government to be established
4. The one-world government to collapse and ten kingdoms surface
5. Antichrist to appear followed by a period of peace
6. A seven-year covenant to be signed between Antichrist and Israel
7. And finally, a world-wide blackout to occur when the sun and moon will be darkened.

If all of the above events must happen before the Tribulation then it could be years before the Rapture and every exhortation to watch for the Lord to come should be ignored. We should never again say the Lord could come at any moment if we are to believe Dr. Fruchtenbaum is correct.

If all these events must happen before the Rapture then we should be looking for these events and not for the Lord. The net effect of this kind of teaching is to cause believers to take their eyes off the Lord and to be counting the years that must occur before the Lord comes into the air to call His bride to the marriage of the Lamb. I reject this and will explain why so.

The Lord warned us about the servant who said in his heart, ***"My Lord delayeth his coming ... The Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of..."*** -(Matthew 24:48-50).

Such teaching is not only unscriptural and can be easily shown so, but it is dangerous because it removes any thought of the imminent return of Christ. A number of fellow retired pastors and several other scholars, all of us were teaching at Bible colleges or seminaries about the same time between 1999 and 2007; most of us are retired today and a couple are still teaching and we have discussed Dr. Fructenbaum's analysis over the past two decades, concluding it is not based on sound exposition of Scripture but on the opinion of its author. We have examined the points in coming to our conclusion one by one.

First, where in Scripture do we read that Jerusalem must come completely under Jewish control before the Rapture? There is not one verse to even suggest such a thing. For this to happen the Temple Mount would have to be vacated by Muslims and the Dome of the Rock and other mosques removed. There is ample space for a Jewish Temple to be built on the Temple Mount without touching the mosques.

The Bible clearly states that the courtyard of the Temple is ***“given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot 42 months”*** -(Revelation 11:2).

So we can forget the first point that requires the Temple Mount to completely come under Jewish control! It is a foregone conclusion that the Muslim faith will never give up their section of East Jerusalem under any circumstance.

The Temple is not a large structure and would not take long to erect. The best construction time needed has been estimated to be 18 months, a few optimistic developers say as short as a year. Some are saying there is an underground Temple already, yet that fails to meet the Scriptural design specifications. We know that following the Six Day War of June, 1967, the Grand Orient Lodge of Freemasonry ordered and purchased 60,000 tons of pre-cut Bedford, IN limestone. My son would not remember this, at the time he was three years old, and we would watch the freight trains arriving at the Pennsylvania Railroad yard in Pitcairn, PA east of Pittsburgh. Every morning for a steady nine months, between 8:30am and 9am, a scheduled freight train arrived from St. Louis, MO and six to eight gondola cars were coupled on the head-end behind the diesel-electric locomotive consist. The gondolas were loaded with three to five of the limestone pre-cut, and pre-numbered stones for the Temple Mount. The loaded gondolas were picked up in Indianapolis, IN, having been loaded at Bedford, IN on what is known as the Madisonville Branch that terminates in Bedford, IN southeast of Madisonville, IN a distance of 80 miles or so.

As I have noted in other articles, I was able to see up and close the stone markings with orange-neon spray paint, as well as the freight waybills and gondola exterior placards which yard switching crews use in switching freight cars. The cardboard placards stated: “Destination: Kearny, NJ for Export to Israel.” This puts to rest any idea there is not going to be a third Temple. In fact, the story of the order was published in ‘*Christianity Today*’. In my view the only unanswered question is where the 60,000 tons of pre-cut and pre-numbered have been kept the past fifty years.

The Temple Institute has been preparing the furniture and garments for years. The northern courtyard is located on a rock shelf and foundations need nothing more than levelling of the rock base. With modern construction machinery, stones could be lifted off semi-trailers and placed in position very quickly. This was obviously taken into the scheme of things when the stones were pre-cut to size and every block had an alpha-numeric identity in orange neon spray paint.

Secondly, the Russian invasion cannot occur before the Tribulation begins. We believe the time between these events [the Rapture and the Antichrist signing the covenant with

the many of Daniel 9:24-27] will be a short span of time. The whole nation of Israel is converted when Russia invades Israel. Ezekiel specifically states: **“So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward... Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel”** -(Ezekiel 39:22-29).

If Israel turns to Jesus Christ before the Tribulation then they would become a part of the Church and as part of the Church they would all be raptured and there would be no Jews here for the Tribulation to be persecuted by the Beast or to welcome Messiah at His return to reign! Also, because of the curse on the Jews, we know they are defiant of God and their true Messiah. So, when would this Day of the Lord begin, because it comes as a thief? It couldn't be in the great Tribulation, the end of the Tribulation, or the end of the millennium, or whatever. I think it has to be [begin] at the Rapture. **“It comes,”** Christ said, **“at such an hour as you think not the Son of man cometh,”** (that is, to take us to heaven). Of course, the Second Coming - you would know when that was, because even the Antichrist knows, Revelation 19, and he goes out with his armies to do battle against the Lord.

So, we think the Rapture of the church, taking us out of the earth, at a time when no one expects it will happen, when they are quite content. Like Luke 17: **“As it was in the days of Noah, in the days of Lot . . . ,”** they are buying and selling and building and planting and partying and marrying and so forth - then, He is going to take His Bride away, and we think that begins the **“Day of the Lord.”** Now, it's not a twenty-four hour period as often suggested, but rather the beginning point. It goes through the great Tribulation, it goes through the Millennial reign of Christ and He doesn't say this is at the moment that it begins but he says, **“. . . in which the heavens shall pass away.”** The issue is more one of semantics here and nuanced wording of the Greek text.

The Russian invasion is clearly presented by Joel as the major event of the first half of the Tribulation. Chapter 2 of Joel describes the first half of the Day of the Lord when Israel is invaded by a “northern army” and the Jews cry out to God and the Spirit is poured out upon the nation. The second half of the Tribulation is described in Joel chapter 3 when “all nations” come against them. Zechariah chapter 12 clearly indicates that Israel will fight in the Tribulation with the Lord on their side. That can't happen unless Israel repents. It happens after Israel repents! Joel concludes with the return of Christ and Israel established in Christ's kingdom.

Israel has to be converted before the mid-point of the Tribulation because at the mid-point of the Tribulation, the Beast receives his power from the 10 kings and he goes forth to persecute the Jews who **“keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ”** -(Revelation 12:17).

If Israel has the testimony of Jesus Christ halfway through the 7 years then they must be converted in the first half of the Tribulation. And they can't be converted BEFORE

the 7-years or they would be raptured with the Church. This securely fixes the Russian invasion in the first half of the Tribulation!

Thirdly, is there to be a “one-world government” before the Rapture? The Bible does not teach such a specific thing. Not one verse even suggests it. Some might imply it but the Bible does not say it is so. Unfolding global events provide us a basis for analysis. Global events suggest a one-world government is close, but even this term might be at least a number of years before it comes to fruition.

If **“nation is rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom”** in the first half of the Tribulation, there can’t be one world government! In the first half of the 7 years there is the Russian/Islamic invasion of Israel and this is opposed by **“the merchants of Tarshish and the young lions thereof”** together with the Arabian nations of **“Sheba and Dedan”**. That suggests that there is no one-world government in the first half of the Tribulation.

Also, in the first half of the 7-years there is the great Asian war that slays one third of mankind when the 6th trumpet judgment sounds. That also indicates there is no one-world government before the mid-point of the Tribulation. What we are seeing in regard to the Great Reset is a preliminary or transitional phase that will lead to the one-world government. The UN is the instrument by which global government becomes fully implemented. The heavy-handed agenda to establish a so-called “Vaccine Passport” is further example of how this one-world government will function and control society. The Covid-19 vaccine is a preliminary first step in changing human DNA into a trans-human hybrid that will manipulate and control everyone. Anthony Patch has a YouTube on how the patent describes the process of vaccination changing human DNA into what is the “Mark” of the Beast and creation of a trans-human beast. You can view it at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9hcdspzX63s> .

The last three segments (parts 12, 13, & 14) of my series **“666, 5G and the UPC Code”** deal exclusively with the most recent developments of Bill Gates vaccine delivery system. The video link above is a presentation of what and how the **QuantumDot/Hydrogel ID2020** and **LUCIFERACE** system will function.

If you have any doubts about the claim the Covid-19 vaccines are not the “Mark” of the Beast in Revelation, you must watch the Anthony Patch video. I’ve viewed it twice and will view it again several times. It compliments well with my three segments on **“666, 5G, and the UPC Code.”** The book of Revelation makes six references to the “Mark” – 13:17; 14:11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20, and 20:4. These specific six references when analyzed in their collective meaning and insight speak succinctly to the Creator’s ability to sum up the important points as a warning to us: DO NOT TAKE THE VACCINE. It is uncanny, but for more than five decades I have been saying this topic was the single greatest proof one could offer up as evidence confirming the Bible is the Word of God! As the 14 part series covering 6,000 years on the origin and history of “666” enables the reader to comprehend the metamorphosis in the most profound of the natural and spiritual means.

As Russia and the Isles are burned and Islam is destroyed we can watch the Roman prince step up as the Saviour of mankind and demand the worship of the world under a one-world government. A starving world will be crying out for a man to deliver them. Every morning when I get up I anticipate every day that Prince Charles of Wales will do just that! The Sustainable Prince Charles has stated that he was born to save the world.

Fourthly, Antichrist appears as a man of peace when he signs the 7-year covenant. Paul indicated that the **“day of the Lord”** i.e., the Tribulation, would begin with men saying **“Peace and safety”**. That is when the 7-years covenant is signed and that peace is immediately broken by **“sudden destruction”** coming upon men -(1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:3).

But when Russia and Islam invade Israel, the Roman prince (Antichrist) has to stand back until half-way through the 7 years when the nations are crushed. He doesn't come in peace at the mid-point of the 7 years, for he immediately seeks to wipe out the Jews and they flee from Jerusalem into the wilderness -(Matthew 24:16).

Finally, the idea of a **“world-wide blackout”** before the Tribulation is nonsense. The blackout described in Joel chapter 2 is at the time of the conversion of Israel in the first half of the Tribulation when Russia and Islam are destroyed. The “northern army” is removed when Israel seeks the Lord and God will send **“great hailstones, fire and brimstone” upon them**. Joel tells us **“the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood BEFORE the great and terrible day of the Lord come”** -(Joel 2:31).

The Tribulation is divided into two parts. The first half will see wars involving nations and kingdoms, and the Russian invasion is used by God to bring Israel to repentance. But the second half is described by the Lord as **“great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world...”** -(Matthew 24:21). Joel chapter 2 describes the first half of the Tribulation and Joel chapter 3 describes the second half. Joel explicitly states that the sun will be darkened BEFORE the **“great and terrible day of the Lord come” and in chapter 3 we have the “great and terrible day of the Lord”**. **“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision...”** -(Joel 3:14).

The **“sun and moon shall be darkened etc”** -(Joel 2:31 & 3:15) on two occasions. The first will be when the Russian invasion is destroyed and later when the Beast is destroyed at the coming of the Lord. Both occasions are when God rescues His people Israel.

Dr. Fruchtenbaum has failed to see the timing of these two signs in the heavens. In the Book of the Revelation the **“sun became black as sackcloth and the moon became as blood”** at the 6th seal judgment. This is in the first half of the 7 years at the time of the Russian invasion when God sends **“great hailstones, fire and brimstone”** -

(Ezekiel 38:22). These signs are a part of the Tribulation and not some event that happens before the Tribulation.

It is understandable that various minds will see and interpret Scripture based upon their own perception and study. As I noted earlier, I am but one of eight Bible prophecy students, who have wrestled with Dr. Fruchtenbaum's interpretations. We hold Dr. Fruchtenbaum in high esteem and respectfully disagree with his interpretations. We wish it were possible to be in agreement with but we believe that Dr. Fruchtenbaum has failed to understand the sequence of events in the 7-year Tribulation. He has missed completely the conversion of Israel at the time of the Russian invasion and what it implies.

Also he has not understood the cadence with which events will unfold in the Tribulation. John was told to write of ***“things which must shortly come to pass”*** -(Revelation 1:1). The word “shortly” has the sense of “quickly” and that is exactly how it will happen. Dr. Fruchtenbaum thinks there is not enough time for the events of the Tribulation to fit into 7 years but Jesus said they will swiftly happen and all within 7 years. The Temple will be built before the Russian invasion in the first half of the Tribulation. One world government, Antichrist's reign, and his appointment by the ten kings will all begin at the mid-point of the seven years. The sun and moon will be darkened when the Russian army is destroyed and also when the armies of the Beast are destroyed. Dr. Fruchtenbaum's theories deny the doctrine of imminence and ask us to believe that the coming of the Lord for His Church is a long way off in the future. We live in perilous times and there are factors for which we have no control of as they spiral out of control.

Events can turn on a dime, but like daybreak, the light of the sun is not brighter than that of the noon-day zenith. The reason we are told to watch the signs is raise our attention and focus our concentration on His instructions to watch, to be alert, and at work!

Blessings,

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