

Are we at the very “end of the Age”?

Part 1 of 2



March 26, 2022

Philip Shields

www.LightontheRock.org

All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

KEY WORDS: *last days, end of the age, end of the world, return of Christ, the world has changed,*

** *** *****

Summary: *With Russia/Ukraine war underway, and the violence we see -- get the answers you're seeking on commonly asked questions like "ARE we in the very end of days? Are we on the brink of World War 3? Are we going to see Christ return at any moment now? Has the Great Tribulation started?" and more. **Find out roughly where we are in prophecy right now.***

** *****

With Russia attacking Ukraine, people are asking me: "Does this mean we're in the very last days and Christ could come at any time now?" People are very interested in this and lots of other questions.

Welcome all of you. I'm Philip Shields, with the good news that no matter how bad it gets, every day is a day closer to the glorious return of Jesus Christ to take over the reins of control over this planet. This is part 1 of a 2 part teaching series on where we are in the end time.

Has "The" great tribulation started? For people in Mariupol, Ukraine – trying to survive the genocide against their city by Russia, it can sure FEEL like the great tribulation. But "the" Great tribulation for the whole world (**Revelation 3:10**) and especially believers in the Messiah, is not here yet, but we know many individuals around the world are already being persecuted mercilessly and for them, they feel they're already in that time.

Is Christ returning at any time now? Many are expecting the RAPTURE to occur any moment now – and I guarantee you, they won't see it. MANY things have YET to happen, according to Yeshua/Jesus himself –

before Christ returns. Watch **my sermon “When will Christ return”** for more information and all the scriptures that explain what must happen first!

*It IS true that it wouldn't take much to turn this local war between Russia and Ukraine into a Europe-wide war or **even World War 3?** Though I'm not expecting that just yet, that could happen! So let's cover all that and where we are in prophecy and what we might expect.*

Speakers are all over the map on this topic. I will use lots of scriptures, but this I suspect very strongly: *when it's all said and done, I believe a lot will happen very differently than most of us ever thought. There are speakers out there who are very dogmatic that it will be this way or that way, but that dogmatism doesn't make them right. We'll have to wait and see.*

What follows is how I see it. I am not a prophet, and do not pretend to be. But I hope you'll see and hear the careful thought led by prayer into this teaching.

The World HAS changed A LOT in the last 2 years

Certainly the world has CHANGED dramatically especially in the past 2 years. I will say this: We're watching the stage being set for the New World Order finally. President Biden even said that today March 23.

- NOW, a nominated Supreme Court judge **can't define what a “woman”** is. Shocking. That attitude will have profound ripple effects.
 - The Supreme Court also some years ago struck down the law of 32 states who said **marriage is between a man and a woman.** Now marriage is between anyone. The Constitution does not define marriage. It was left up to the States. Not anymore.
 - **We have a male body declaring he's now female Lia Thomas who swims against female swimmers** – and cleaning up! When he swam as a male against male swimmers, he was ranked #462 among swimmers. Now as a “female” swimming against women swimmers, he's #1. That's confusion and unfair. This confusion will have far-reaching effects if it's not reversed.
 - We have our children being taught that **if they're white, they are automatically oppressors.** And if they are black or Hispanic – they are the oppressed by the white supremacists. This will affect race harmony if it's not stopped.

- And we have thieves being told in CA that if they steal less than \$950, it's OK. No charges or arrests will be made. Total idiocy.
- **Our president has NO REGARD for our nation's BORDERS** – and who knows how many of the “got away” illegals are terrorists? They aren't all tested for health. Many bring diseases and long criminal histories. Some are sex slaves. This will not bode well.
- **USA was the sole remaining true super power. Not anymore. The world recognizes that the USA-Dominated world is ending and the world is seeking new world leaders** – maybe China/Russia will be part of the new order, but also certainly a strong and **vigorous Europe** made up of Eastern and Western bloc nations.
- **Covid19 helped every country experiment with emergency executive orders** – without law being passed. Now they know, they can create enough fear and panic that they can order everyone to give up their constitutional guarantees like **freedom of peaceful assembly** (churches closed for a long time; mandated maximum numbers allowed); **freedom of Speech** (you get cancelled if you speak up against what government says we must believe, say and do). **Freedom of Religion. Freedom to bear arms.** These are all being eroded. *And they MUST BE eroded before the Beast Power and False Prophet can do their “thing” and controlling who buys and sells and thrives, and who does not.*
- **This means our very U.S. Constitution, and its freedoms like the 10 Bill of Rights, are on the chopping block.** Basically the same thing is happening around the world as well.

So YES, things have changed **and so put on your seat belt because the world is going to get FAR more violent**, far more anti-God's laws, far more dangerous and anti-Christ and anti-believers in Christ. *“In the last days perilous times will come” (2 Timothy 3:1).*

But there's still far more. As far as Jesus Christ's exact day of return, he himself said that was up to his/our Father (**Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:8**) *But I'm absolutely confident we're NOT seeing Christ return real soon, or even in the next 3-4 years.*

When He *does* return, it's going to appear SUDDEN, like a trap springing shut.
Luke 21:34-36

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

(MOUSE TRAP Illustration on video.) When the very end of the age comes, it will be so frantic and sudden that Yeshua tells those in Judea, and the principle for all of us, not to even go back to your home for a jacket.

That's the word of Christ for us today. Don't get down. Don't get distracted. Don't let life's issues – the cares of this life – make you get caught off guard. And DO PRAY you be counted worthy to escape these things. SOME will be protected from the worst of times, and some will be made to go through it.

The disciples of Yeshua had just marveled with Christ about the beauty of Herod's temple – which even Christ called "My Father's House." Jesus mentions the time is coming when not one stone... let's read it.

Matthew 24:1-2

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. 2

And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."

Then in verse 3, He is asked 3 questions:

Matthew 24:3

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

(NOT, "end of the world" as KJV, ASV, have it. It's not the end of the planet!)

So Yeshua's answer is 3-fold –

1. When will the temple be destroyed (70 AD)

2. When will be your return and 3. The end of the age?

Matthew 24:4-8

And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.

See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be **famines, pestilences**, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are **the beginning of sorrows.**"

The Greek word there for "nation" rising against nation is "**ethnos**" – a race of people, ethnic groups could be intended, NT:1484, a group of people who belong and live together. But Christ says – It will be bad, but it's not the end yet. Read "pandemics" where it says "pestilences".

**This corresponds to the SEALS of REVELATION 6 –
Once a seal is opened, it stays open – as you move on to Seal 2,3,4.**

It IS true that we have always had false religion, war, famines and pestilences, but never have we seen ¼ of the world, or the world's population, DIE in all of this as Rev 6:8 says. If it means 1/4th of world population, that's almost 2 BILLION people.

Seal #1 of Rev. 6 - White horse – false religion. This matches Matthew 24:4-5; This is NOT Christ coming for his people in a Rapture. It's NOT that.

Revelation 6:1-2

"Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."

2 And I looked, and behold, **a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him**, and he went out conquering and to conquer."

Seal #2 – FIERY RED HORSE – WAR everywhere.

Revelation 6:3-4 ties to Christ's prophecies Matthew 24:6-7

When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."

4 Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it **to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another**; and there was given to him a great sword.”

So wars, lots of horrible warfare probably including biological, chemical warfare and nuclear warfare – are likely coming. Fiery red is the color of FIRE.

Isn't it interesting that **the main instigators of war at FIRST will be the RED ARMY of Russia**, and the **RED** army of Communist China taking over Taiwan and other countries. Muslim countries will attack each other and then Jerusalem/Israel too.

The **big square in Moscow with the Kremlin is called RED SQUARE**. It's going to get worse and worse – but we must not panic.

FLAG OF RED CHINA



I would say to us all: **let's be prudent and wise and get out of the way of danger when we see it coming.**

WHY on earth did the Ukrainian people keep acting like there would be no war up to the day it all started!? In December 2021 and Jan 2022, I kept asking my wife, “What are they waiting for? Russia's already attacked Ukraine and took Crimea in 2014, and 2 provinces of Georgia in 2008! And they even claim eastern Ukraine's Donbas area.”

So a wise man sees danger approaching and either prepares – or leaves. (**Proverbs 22:3; 27:12**). Of course there are times to stand up to danger too.

FAMINE – and then pestilence/plagues/pandemics usually follow war. Why? Because people can't plant, can't harvest. Food gets confiscated by the soldiers.

And Ukraine is a big food producer for the world. Russia is trying for repeat of starvation famine of 1932-33 when Russians starved Ukrainians by destroying their food supply. It was **called the HOLODOMOR**. Look it up! **It means “to kill by starvation”**.

Agriculturally, **Ukraine is 2nd in the world in barley production, 3rd in corn, 4th in the world in potato, 8th in wheat.** If those crops don't get planted and harvested, it can impact a lot of countries and will certainly cause FAMINE in Ukraine itself and many other countries. If the USA's production is also affected, then famines are definitely coming soon. Bare minimum, our food prices will skyrocket as Rev. 6:6 predicts.

Seal 3 =BLACK HORSE – Rev. 6:5-6 FAMINES

Revelation 6:5-6

When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." **So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand.**

6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine."

Seal #4 will be a cascading series of pandemics and earthquakes that will cause death of possibly close to 2 billion! We have almost 8 billion on the earth right now.

Revelation 6:7-8

"When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." 8 So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him.

And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."

"A fourth of the earth". Is that saying almost 2 billion people? Or that it affects only a fourth of the world land mass? Many believe it means a fourth of the total world population. The worst-ever pandemics – one after the other, will be like WAVES at the seashore, getting worse and worse, or 2-3 pandemics together, or in a row. Covid19 will seem tame by comparison. Covid was just a shot across the bow.

And with the pandemics will come less and less freedoms and more and more government control and takeover.

Prepare as much as you can right now:

- Seek a stronger, closer, personal relationship with God and Christ. Come to know and feel like you know them very personally. This is MOST vital.
- Stock up on food that can be stored, water, batteries, cooking options (propane grill?), have extra gas/petrol. Rely on God – but also do all you can to be prepared. This will also help us help others in need.
- Pay off debt as much as you can.

When hard times are coming, fill up your bathtub with water if need be. Be able to at least survive a couple months if need be.

I believe all of us – believers and non-believers will go through the wars, the famines, the pandemics that come before the Great Tribulation – together. I also believe we will ALL go through at least some of, or part of the early persecutions leading up to the 3-1/2 year GREAT Tribulation, time of worst trouble the world has ever seen (Matthew 24:21-22; Daniel 12:1). Here's Jesus – continuing his private teaching now.

Matthew 24:9-14

"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations *for My name's sake*. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."

All of that happens BEFORE Christ returns. The persecution will not be limited to people in your group or fellowship, but probably to anyone who believes in Christ and in Biblical and family values.

PROTECTION from the GREAT TRIBULATION

Let's get this straight. Sooner or later ALL of God's children will be persecuted for their belief in Christ (2 Timothy 3:12). But I do strongly believe we're shown in scripture that SOME of God's people at the very end of the age are offered protection, IF – IF they've shown themselves zealous, seeking after God and worthy of his protection.

Luke 21:36

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Look at what Yeshua/Jesus says to the church at Philadelphia – a church to whom he also says “behold, I am coming QUICKLY”

Revelation 3:10-12

“Because you have kept My command to persevere, **I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world**, to test those who dwell on the earth.

11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”

But to the Laodicean church he says this: He strongly implies they have to go through the fire and be refined more. And in verse 20 he says he’s here!

Revelation 3:17-20

Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked —

18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”.

Be sure to watch my upcoming sermon coming up about **not being Laodicean. But to them, Christ says, “don’t think I’ll be on my way soon; no, I’M HERE! I’m at your DOOR.” So these are people living when Christ returns.**

There are more scriptures that indicate at least SOME of God’s children are protected. *Keep in mind, being a MARTYR is an honor. Even the 2 last witnesses* in Jerusalem are martyred, after all.

Daniel 12:1

"At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time.

And at that time your people shall be delivered, Everyone who is found written in the book”.

Some of you believe in a Rapture – especially a “pre-trib rapture”. We will be gathered up to Christ, no question of that – but scripture clearly says that the gathering of Christ’s people is AFTER the Tribulation.

Those who speak of rapture, call it “Post-Trib rapture”. I just call it the resurrection of those who died in the Lord and/or the change to spirit for those of us who remain alive -- when Christ returns. All of that is in **1 Thess. 4:16-18, and the end of 1 Cor. 15**. But it certainly won’t be a “SECRET Rapture”. We read of loud shouts and with a “great sound of a trumpet”.

Matthew 24:27-31

“For as **the lightning comes** from the east and flashes to the west, so also **will the coming of the Son of Man be**. 28 For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

29 **Immediately *AFTER* the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 **THEN the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven**, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and **they will SEE the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory**.

31 **And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

We can show 1 Thess 4:16-17 briefly too:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven **with a SHOUT, with the voice of an archangel, and with the TRUMPET of God**. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

SOME WORLD CONDITIONS Leading up to Return of Christ

So let’s now step back and look at world conditions leading up to the very end of years before Christ lands on the Mount of Olives. I’ll elaborate on these more in part 2 as we go along, *but here’s the high overview first*:

- **The tragic, awful war in Ukraine could easily suddenly become a wider war, even World War 3.** I hope not. Putin is desperate. He certainly could cause another death by starvation – another Holodomor, where at least 5 million died from starvation; many say 2x that many.
- **WATCH NEWS WITH a suspicious eye.** We're being told what the "elites" want us to see. Putin is being a terrorist and killing thousands of civilians, women and children. On the other hand, is President Zelensky as lily-white as everyone is saying? No. Ukraine has been well known as a very corrupt government. Remember the Bidens have had very questionable dealings with Ukraine – especially Hunter Biden.

Zelensky – banned all 11 opposition parties on Monday March 21. One of the opposition has been jailed for months. Then Zelensky made all media to be run by the government. No more independent TV, or other media. Does this sound like a democracy? The very definition of democracy includes freedom of speech and assembly. I know it's war time... but still! So remember that all world leaders have their own agenda.

- **World events will get far worse for a few years first. Our KING says not to be troubled by all that, as that's just the beginning of sorrows!** There may a peace treaty of sorts involving Jerusalem. **The first 4 seals of Rev 6, have to definitely be under way. The seals continue to remain open once the scroll is opened.**
- **Before the Great Tribulation starts, The 3rd temple is built in Jerusalem and animal sacrifices restarted.** I do not believe it will be just an altar or a tent. Israel *has* the required red heifers to cleanse the area. This is before the Great Tribulation starts 3-1/2 years before Christ returns. The Tribulation ushers in the worst time ever and stops the sacrifices. The Great Tribulation is the 5th seal of Revelation 6.

Scripture clearly uses the Greek word for "temple" – not the word for tabernacle or tent. 2 Thess 2:3-4 speaks of the great man of sin setting himself up in the temple. Revelation 11:2 speaks of the temple. It also says Jerusalem is recaptured or given to the rule of the Gentiles before Christ returns.

Certainly Revelation 11, about the 2 witnesses, speaks of a temple and how the city of Jerusalem is overrun by Gentiles.

- **Then the 6th seal of Revelation 6 is about the many** frightening events from the sky like near misses from asteroids, meteor hits, solar flares and then the 7 Trumpet plagues and then 7 final plagues of the 7th Trumpet -- then finally Christ comes. I didn't read this on the video, but here's the scripture about the 6th seal.

Revelation 6:12-17

“I looked when He opened the SIXTH seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.

13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.

15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains,

16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

17 For the great day of His WRATH has come, and who is able to stand?"

Yes, the “Day of the LORD” is the one-year final period before Christ returns. In that one-year period, the Day of the Lord, it's a time of God's wrath on the world and all those who have terribly persecuted his people. See **Isaiah 34:8**.

- Then in **Revelation 7, there's the “sealing” of the 144,000** representing 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel. Judah – modern day “Israel” – is just one of those tribes. 12,000 each will come from each of the other tribes and they are protected from any harm. They are not all just Jews!

PLUS, we're told there will likely be millions – innumerable multitude – who come to Christ out of the Great Tribulation from all nations and languages (Revelation 7 covers both groups).

- **Then there are still 7 trumpets and what happens.** This is probably the resurrection of the dead in Christ, but then there are STILL the final 7 last plagues of the 7th trumpet, which you can read about in b.
- There will be the first resurrection to spirit bodies for Christ's Bride at the Last Trump. AFTER that last trump, there are still 7 last plagues that will last a total of at least several months. What I believe we'll be doing

during that time is revealed in my sermon on “When will Christ Return?”. Just type that title in the Search Bar.

- Christ in turn destroys millions who will gather to fight him and then, finally, a new reign can start, but not before some horrific times come first.

IN a nutshell, that’s an overview – with still a lot one could say to fill in details – of what we can expect. Whether all that happens within a decade – or takes longer – is up to our Father in Heaven. I hope we see this all wrap up within a decade, but we just can’t know yet for sure.

WHAT’S COMING in Part 2 of this Teaching

There are several reasons why I really believe we’re close. More in part 2.

I also say this: ALL of us will be surprised how suddenly things wrap up when they do. It will be as in the days of Noah and days of Lot. **That means a lot of things, but also in terms of how much or how little time they had when it got “down to the wire”... Lot had a few hours at most, to act and move. Noah had one week for his final notice** to get all the animals and food and water settled in the ark. When the time comes to act, we must act quickly.

There’s so much more to say and cover – so that will all be in Part 2 of this teaching, when we cover more detail about the coming temple, Jerusalem being overrun by Gentiles in more detail, the 2 witnesses – you might be surprised by what I say, and more on the coming BEAST power – who is that likely to be? And who is the WOMAN who rides the Beast (Revelation 17:7-18)? What will bring this BEAST to power?

Where does CHINA fit in to all of this? How about Russia?
How might the Russia-Ukraine war play into this?

What will happen to the USA in the coming years... and what do we see already? Will the US dollar collapse as the world currency? And if so, what will that do to our 401k and investments?

Who are the 300 ELITES who would like to rule the world through the WEF (World Economic Forum)? They meet in Davos, Switzerland and what they plan is not good.

Where should our focus be now and what should WE each be doing – all that and more in Part 2.

Closing prayer.

