

Discerning the Dispensations  
LWCF: Studies in Eschatology  
January 18<sup>th</sup> 2009

I. Introduction (1 Chr 12:32) (Luke 12:56) (Eph 5:11-20)

(1 Chr 12:32) men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—

(Mat 24:33-34) Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. {34} I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

(Mt. 16:1-4) The Pharisees...came testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven...2 Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. 4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign...

(1 Thes. 5:1-6) Concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night (the unprepared suffer unnecessary loss)...4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief...6 Therefore...let us watch and be sober.

Dispensation defined: a general state of ordering or arranging the affairs of the world in a divinely established time. A specific arrangement or system by which events are dispensed

**Dispensation Categories**

1. Environmental & Social Dispensations
2. Kingdom and Moral Dispensations
3. Globalization and technological Dispensations
4. The Nation of Israel, Political and International Dispensations

II. **Environmental & Societal Dispensations**

(Mat 24:5-8) For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, ' and will deceive many. {6} You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. {7} Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. {8} All these are the beginning of birth pains.

(Luke 21:7-18) "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?" {8} He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. {9} When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away." {10} Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. {11} There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. {12} "But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. ... {14} But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. {15} For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. {16} You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. {17} All men will hate you because of me. {18} But not a hair of your head will perish.

a. Increase in earthquakes, hurricanes and other natural disasters (Luke 21:11)

12-Year Worldwide Earthquake Trend

| <u>Magnitude</u> | <u>1996</u>   | <u>1997</u>   | <u>1998</u>   | <u>1999</u>   | <u>2000</u>   | <u>2001</u>   | <u>2002</u>   | <u>2003</u>   | <u>2004</u>   | <u>2005</u>   | <u>2006</u>   | <u>2007</u>   |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 8.0 to 9.9       | 1             | -             | 1             | -             | 1             | 1             | -             | 1             | 2             | 1             | 2             | 4             |
| 7.0 to 7.9       | 14            | 16            | 11            | 18            | 14            | 15            | 13            | 14            | 14            | 10            | 9             | 14            |
| 6.0 to 6.9       | 149           | 120           | 117           | 116           | 158           | 126           | 130           | 140           | 141           | 140           | 142           | 173           |
| 5.0 to 5.9       | 1,222         | 1,113         | 979           | 1,104         | 1,345         | 1,243         | 1,218         | 1,203         | 1,515         | 1,693         | 1,712         | 1,962         |
| 4.0 to 4.9       | 8,756         | 7,903         | 7,303         | 6,972         | 8,045         | 8,084         | 8,584         | 8,462         | 10,888        | 13,917        | 12,838        | 12,193        |
| 3.0 to 3.9       | 4,923         | 4,513         | 5,945         | 5,605         | 4,784         | 6,151         | 7,005         | 7,624         | 7,932         | 9,191         | 9,990         | 9,884         |
| 2.0 to 2.9       | 2,391         | 2,400         | 4,091         | 4,201         | 3,758         | 4,162         | 6,419         | 7,727         | 6,316         | 4,636         | 4,027         | 3,593         |
| 1.0 to 1.9       | 295           | 388           | 805           | 715           | 1,026         | 944           | 1,137         | 2,506         | 1,344         | 26            | 18            | 42            |
| 0.1 to 0.9       | 1             | 4             | 10            | 5             | 5             | 1             | 10            | 134           | 103           | -             | 2             | 2             |
| No Magnitude     | 2,186         | 3,415         | 2,426         | 2,096         | 3,120         | 2,938         | 2,937         | 3,608         | 2,939         | 864           | 828           | 1,805         |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>19,938</b> | <b>19,872</b> | <b>21,688</b> | <b>20,832</b> | <b>22,256</b> | <b>23,665</b> | <b>27,453</b> | <b>31,419</b> | <b>31,194</b> | <b>30,478</b> | <b>29,568</b> | <b>29,672</b> |

b. Increase in wars: (Luke 21:11)

- An unprecedented escalation of war has occurred in the twentieth century making it the bloodiest time in history (over 100 million people killed).
- Since World War II, over 150 major wars have occurred with a death toll of over 25 million.
- There were over 70 wars in 1995 (double from 1989).

c. Famine: (Luke 21:11)

- Nearly a billion people worldwide world suffer from malnutrition.
- Over 25,000 people die every day worldwide from hunger related causes.
- Over 500 million people do not have enough drinking water.
- The numbers increase to 2 billion by 2025 (greatest famine in history).

d. Pestilences (*disease*): (Luke 21:11)

- The rise of diseases such as **tuberculosis**, **Aids**, the **Avian bird flu**, pneumonia, meningitis, are becoming unstoppable as some are becoming more resistant to inoculations.
- Deadly **new strains of malaria**, tuberculosis and **cholera** are becoming resistant to all known antibiotics and are killing millions. Diseases are growing in an unprecedented way globally especially viral killers like AIDS and Ebola. There are nearly 35 million people living with AIDS (2007).

### III. Kingdom & Moral Dispensations

- a. Increase in cultural lawlessness, cold love, violence and immorality. (As in days of Noah & Lot) (Mt. 24:12; Rev. 14:18, Mt. 24:37; Gen. 6:11-13; 2 Tim. 3)

(2 Tim 3:1-5) But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. {2} People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, {3} without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, {4} treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- {5} having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

- b. Increase of persecution, mocking and scoffing against believers that will result in a great falling away from the faith (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3)

(2 Pet 3:3-4) First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. {4} They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

(Mat 24:9-13) "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. {10} At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, {11} and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. {12} Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, {13} but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

- c. Increase in global (24 hour) prayer & worship, and an end time outpouring of the Holy Spirit prior to the return of Jesus (Lk. 18:7-8, Isa. 62:4-7)

(Lk. 18:7-8) Shall God not avenge (bring justice) His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8...He will avenge them speedily (Tribulation). When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith (agreement in prayer) on the earth?

- Isaiah prophesied of **24/7 prayer ministries** continuing until Jesus' Coming (Isa. 62:6-7)
- The recent surge of **24/7 prayer with many stadium prayer** events occurring worldwide is a sign ...

(Isa. 62:4-7) As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. 6 I have set watchmen (intercessors) on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night...7 and give Him no rest till He establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.

- **Global worship movement** (Isa. 42:10-13): Jesus is coming back in context to the greatest worship movement in history. The current explosion of worship and music combined with intercession is a sign of the times. Isaiah prophesied of the prominence of singing in the End Times (over 100 verses).
- See Isa. 5:1-7; 6:3; 9:3; 12:1-6; 14:3-27; 24:14-16; 25:1; 26:1-6; 27:2-5, 13; 29:19; 30:29-30; 35:1-10; 38:19-20; 42:10-17; 43:21; 44:23; 48:20-21; 49:13; 51:3, 11; 52:8-10; 54:1; 55:12; 56:7-8; 60:18; 61:3, 7-11; 62:6-7, 9; 63:7; 65:13-14; 66:10-14, 21.

## **Holy Spirit outpouring**

(Acts 2:16-18) No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: {17} "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. {18} Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

- The number of Pentecostal/Charismatic believers has exploded from approximately 1 million in 1900 to over 500 million today. (Acts 2:17; Jer. 31:9; 23:20; Dan. 11:33-35; Isa. 26:9; Rev. 11:3-6; 18:20; Mt. 17:11; Mal. 4:6).

### d. Before the return of Jesus, the gospel will be preached to all nations (Mat 24:14)

(Mat 24:14) And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- Mission organizations project from statistical data that the gospel will be heard by every people group and language on the earth for the first time by 2025.
- Churches exist in all 232 nations and territories of the earth. The greatest harvest of souls in history is occurring now.
- The Bible has been translated in over 2,000 languages (used by 98% of the world's population). Wycliffe plans to have it translated in every language by 2040.

## IV. **Globalization and Technology Dispensations**

### a. Culture and societies will move toward a one world government, economy and religion (Rev 17-18).

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2009/01/16/business/16banking.php>

### b. Technology must be in place for the mark of the Beast and a cashless society (Rev. 3:16-18)

- **Internet technology**: has allowed knowledge to increase in an unprecedented way. The mark of the Beast imbedded chip technology has a one-world economic system with a cashless society

(Rev. 13:16-17) <sup>16</sup> He causes all...to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast...

### c. Increase in knowledge, transportation and media communication to simultaneously witness worldwide events(Dan. 12:4, Rev 11:9-10)

- **Knowledge and travel** (Dan. 12:4): Daniel prophesied of a remarkable increase of knowledge (communication) and travel (transportation) as many "run to and fro" to obtain it.

(Dan. 12:4) <sup>4</sup> Seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro (unprecedented travel), and knowledge shall increase (information age).

- The collective sum of all printed knowledge is doubling every four years. Knowledge of biological science is doubling every 6 months. Over 500,000 new books are published every year.

(Rev 11:9-10) For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

- d. Technological advances which will include modern warfare.

(Mark 13:20; Rev 6:8; Rev 9:18; Zech 14:8,12)

## V. The Nation of Israel, Political and International Dispensations

- a. The nation of Israel must be scattered and then birthed, before the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming (Isa 66:8, Luke 21:29-32)

(Isa 66:8) Who has ever heard of such a thing? Who has ever seen such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children.

(Luke 21:29-32) "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. {30} When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. {31} Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. {32} "I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.

- b. Jerusalem will be the center of world politics and controversy (Micah 4:1 Zec 12:1-5 )

<http://www.memritv.org/video.html>

- c. A 10 Nation military power will emerge that will resemble the revitalized Roman Empire (Rev 17:12; Dan 2:44; Dan 9:26-7; Matt 24:15)

- d. The political stage must be set for the antichrist to appear and establish peace in the Middle East before the return of the messiah (Dan 9:26-27)

(Dan 9:26-27) After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. {27} He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

- e. There must be a global alliance with Russia (Gog) and Persia (Iran) and other allies to fulfill the invasion of Israel in (Ezekiel 38)

| Bible Prophecy | Modern Day Nation           |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Rosh           | Russia                      |
| Persia         | Iran (Name changed in 1935) |
| Ethiopia       | Sudan                       |
| Put            | Lybia                       |
| Gomer          | Parts of Turkey-Ukraine     |
| Meshech        | Turkey                      |
| Tubal          | Ex Soviet Union             |
| Cush           | Ethiopia                    |

- f. Nations must emerge in the EAST that is able to field a 200 million man army (Revelation 9:16; 16:12)
- g. Babylon (Iraq, Bagdad) must be restored as one of the headquarters for the Antichrist
- Rebuilding city of Babylon: in Iraq (50 miles south of Baghdad).
  - Babylon will be restored and used as one of the headquarters for the Antichrist. It will function as the center of the worldwide demonic religious and economic networks (Rev. 17-18).

## Summery

- **Watch for**: the emergence of a worldwide economic system.
- **Watch for**: globalization in the United Nations calling for the political identity of a new World Order to minimize national boundaries and establish one currency, military, political process, etc.
- **Watch for**: a distress in the nations that leads to a counterfeit worldwide peace and safety
- **Watch for**: the emergence of worldwide religious network of toleration and syncretism with great wealth that hates true Christianity (salvation only in Jesus and the infallibility of Scripture)
- **Watch for**: the rebuilding of the city of Babylon in Iraq as the center of the Harlot religion
- **Watch for**: Israel to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and reestablish animal sacrifice
- **Watch for**: anti-Semitism to grow rapidly on a worldwide scale
- **Watch for**: the emergence of a European Superstate (Europe/Middle East) in the area of the ancient Roman Empire that leads to a worldwide power base with a 10-nation confederation
- **Watch for**: for one man to rise up from obscurity (as a regional political leader) with unusual diplomacy who initially works with a 3-nation coalition. He will lead a ten-nation confederation (Superstate) and confirm a peace treaty with Israel and the Middle East bringing peace.
- **Watch for**: the rise of the kings of the East as an Asian confederacy of nations
- **Watch for**: a significant increased Arab hostility towards Israel
- **Watch for**: the emergence of oil rich Islamic nations in alliance with a global leader (Antichrist)
- **Watch for**: the stage being set for the Armageddon Campaign as all nations gather against Israel