

The Bossy Church Lady's Take On The End Times

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Forward

In case you didn't know already, I'm a MAJOR fan of horror; however, *the* most frightening book that I've ever read is the book of Revelation. Why? Because it's real... not one word is make believe. No. Everything written within the book of Revelation will happen sometime in the future. Some say that they doubt the tribulation will happen, others claim that it has already happened. But let me point out second Peter 3, which tells us that though God would rather have us all come to repentance so that none of us will perish, He *will* do what He promised.

Why did I write this book? Because understanding the end times takes a LO-O-O-NG time, a LOT of note taking, and a whole lot of dedication, I wrote this book for people like you (Yes you!) who lack the time to sit down and learn about the end times on your own. Hopefully, if you are running around like a chicken with its head cut off—like I used to do—trying to make ends meet, taking care of your young children, or your aging parents, you can take a little time out of your busy day to read this book. And rather than write book that's dry and lacks personality (there are plenty of them out there) I wrote this book to be as simple and straightforward as possible in order to teach you all about the end times in common, everyday language without you having to do the hard work. Also, I figured, what the heck? Since I had so many notes on the subject anyways, I might as well share those notes with others.

One other thing that I'd like to quickly establish: I'm not pious. God alone knows that I'm far from perfect (there's plenty of clutter in my back yard, if you know what I mean) but I love the Lord and you so much that I'm doing what He has called me to do, which is write.

All whining about my sore wrist and fingers aside, if you've already read my testimony on my website at <http://www.thebossychurchlady.net>, then you already know the next part. But for those of you who don't know, I'll retell the story here. Back when I was a new Christian—back before God made the hills...LOL—I was full of questions about Jesus, especially about end times, and no one to sit down with me and answer my questions. I was so ravenous for the Word of God that I faithfully attended church every Sunday, attended Bible study on Wednesday evenings, and read the Bible at home.

One Wednesday evening, after Bible study wound to a close, I asked the pastor what the woman clothed with the sun in Revelation 12 meant.

Want to know what he said?

Nothing! He simply shrugged his shoulders and stared at me blankly.

“What do you mean?” I asked, staring back at him.

“I don't know,” he stated simply.

“Say whaaaat?” I thought as I gazed back into his eyes.

You got it! The pastor didn't know what the verse meant. Since then, I've discovered that some people feel that the tribulation is too horrible to talk about; others (like my husband, bless his heart) feel that since they won't be

here, there's no sense in learning or talking about it; and then there are people like me: the eternally curious who want to know what it all means.

Most leaders today are afraid of running their congregants off by preaching fire and brimstone, they're too scared to give people a wake up call. They wouldn't dream of holding a match under someone's bottom to rouse them into action.

But I say...

"HEY! We BETTER be too afraid NOT to obey God's Word! We all need to reach out to the unsaved and warn them about what's sure to come 'cause if we don't HERE'S what will happen to them if we don't!"

At some point in the future, the tribulation *will* happen and if we don't do something to get the truth out, we're all gonna be in serious trouble.

As Christians, our biggest job is the Great Commission. If we're to love our neighbors as we love ourselves then how can we do that if we're not concerned enough to witness to him or her. If this book will wake people up by lighting that fire under their rear ends, if it'll cause them to climb up onto their rooftops and shout out the living Gospel, I'll be satisfied.

When you're finished reading this book, I want you to pass it around to as many people as you can. Go and scare others out of their wits, especially unbelievers, by telling them all about what you've learned by reading this book. Maybe, just maybe, if they know how horrific the end times will be, they'll become so terrified that they'll run straight into the arms of the Lord.

I've got my fingers crossed.

If you're an unbeliever who is reading this, I hope that by the time you're finished reading this book, you'll come to believe in Christ Jesus as your Savior.

One thing you'll notice throughout the book is that I have paraphrased a lot of Bible verses. Since one of my goals is to teach you how to discern the truth from a lie, which is vitally important for *all* Christians, you're going to have to pick up a Bible and read the verses for yourself.

If you have a Bible handy, pick it up and get ready to use it. If you don't have a Bible, two great places to look up scriptures are

<http://www.biblegateway.com/> and <http://www.blueletterbible.org>

At either site, you can look up verses in any version of the Bible.

Ready to get started?

Let's go!

Chapter 1... What's The Point Of The Tribulation? Is God A Cruel God Or What?

Though the day of the Lord is not a new idea, the time of the end, otherwise known as the tribulation, which was spoken of by many Old Testament prophets and confirmed by Jesus in the New Testament, many people have a hard time believing that a loving God could so ruthlessly torment the people that He loves. After all, isn't He all about love and flowers and chocolate?

Um, no.

God is not a doormat. And the fact that God is slow to wrath doesn't mean that He's a pansy. Though He *is* nothing but love, and He *is* slow to anger, He's perfectly capable of wrath. Put another way: God formed us in His image. We have likes, dislikes, and we hate some things and love other things. If we humans are capable of wrath, what could possibly make anyone think that God isn't?

Hebrews 12 and Proverbs 3 tell us that just like any loving parent would punish his or her child for behaving badly, God chastises those He loves. In first Thessalonians 5, the apostle Paul proclaims that God wants all of us to come to repentance and rely upon His Son, Christ Jesus, to make us righteous in His eyes; however, if He must go to such extremes to get our attention, then He will do so.

Though God is slow to wrath, His perfect justice must be satisfied. Before Jesus comes and personally rules the world for a thousand years at the end of the tribulation, His Holiness demands that the world be free of sin.

Because our sense of justice vastly differs from the Lord's, being only human, we have no way of knowing the condition of a man's heart or soul. Our justice is purely circumstantial: we look at the conditions surrounding the actions of a person and then pass judgment. God's justice does not see the circumstances surrounding each individual or the why's behind what we do, He judges each of us on the condition of our hearts and souls. An outwardly good person, someone who we humans would deem as being worthy of residing in heaven for eternity after he or she dies, could have a heart and soul that's beyond redemption. And when really tested, such as during the time of the tribulation, his or her *real* character would surface.

God established this seven-year period of time called the tribulation for four reasons: to punish the wicked; to purge mankind of sin; to bring all who will believe in His Son to repentance; and to make the Jewish remnant see the truth—that Jesus is the true Messiah.

In Biblical prophecy, 1 week equals 7 years. A quick look at Daniel 9:27 will tell us that the tribulation will last for seven years. A few verses in the book of Revelation corroborate the verse in Daniel. One in particular can be found in Revelation 11 where it says that two witnesses will have power for “a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.” That's forty-two

months according to the Jewish calendar. Forty-two months equals three and a half years, which is half of the tribulation. And if you read the book of Revelation, you're certain to find a few more verses.

Because there are so many scriptures in the Bible that tell us what will happen during the time of the end, it's difficult to know where to begin (or maybe it's just me). To explain this as simply as possible, I have broken this chapter down into two sections: What will people be like, and ready or not.

What will people be like?

Many people think that we Christians are lying about the end times. They say: "Sure, you say that He's coming, but where is He now?" Trust me, He's coming and it won't be pretty.

In Matthew chapter twenty-four, Jesus told His disciples that everything will be just like it was in the days of Noah: everything was business as usual and no one suspected that anything was about to happen, and then...

BAM! The flood began.

Only Noah and his family were saved because Noah was righteous and he obeyed the Lord.

In his second letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul paints an abysmal picture of mankind as the last days approach. To paraphrase what he wrote to Timothy: people will be so busy satisfying their own lusts and chasing after the almighty dollar that they won't care what's going on around them. The care of their children, their aging parents, spouses, and community will be put on a back burner while they make as much money as they can. The type of people that Paul describes will be so self-centered that they won't give a second thought to the downtrodden or the oppressed. As long as they're happy, well fed, and content, life is good.

If you're a parent, you already know what it's like when your child disobeys on occasion; however, you nip the problem in the bud and bring your child back in line. Life with the kids who will be living near the time of the end will give their parents nothing but grief, and parents will be helpless to do anything about it. These kids will be so out of control and act like such jerks that their parents will be wondering why they even had children in the first place. Due to the laws in effect at the time, parents will literally be forced to allow their children to run the house.

Cussing on TV will be the norm and regular, prime time shows will be little more than x-rated porn. People will not flinch when they hear others misuse the name of the Lord.

Already beginning to sound familiar? I figured it would.

Paul went on to tell Timothy that mankind will refuse to hear the truth about God. They'll want to hear that anything goes; that God will not punish them for their wicked deeds. Leaders who sugar coat the truth and put on an elaborate song and dance routine in order to entertain the congregants will replace the preachers who advocate the truth. Granted, church is a business

and businesses must do what is necessary to keep their doors open, however, churches should be in the business of saving souls, not filling their coffers to support the preacher's lavish lifestyle.

Jesus said that false Christ's will be everywhere. You name it, they'll do it. Because Satan himself can appear to be an angel of light, these counterfeit Christ's will perform so many miracles, heal so many people, and work so many wonders that even the heartiest, most dedicated believers in the real Christ would be fooled by them were it not for the Holy Spirit.

Want to hear something *really* scary? 2 Thessalonians 2 says that the Lord will cause those who are too stubborn to believe in Jesus to be convinced that the antichrist is the Messiah; they will follow him straight to hell.

Don't believe me? Go look in second Thessalonians 2:8-12! I'll wait here while you go and look it up for yourself.

Satisfied?

Since God hardened Pharaoh's heart in the book of Exodus, there should be no doubt in our minds that He can do it to any of us simply for being too willful to listen to the truth.

I think that gives us a good enough picture of what mankind in general will be like.

Ready Or Not!

Even though we can find solid evidence that a rapture will happen all over the place in the Bible, there are those that claim that it won't take place before the start of the tribulation... they say that Jesus won't come back to get his faithful until after the tribulation ends. Knowing that the tribulation will last for seven years, and if Jesus will only come back at the end of the tribulation to get His faithful, why do you suppose that He said in Matthew 24: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only"?

How much more clearly could Jesus have said it? If the above verse isn't compelling enough for everyone to understand that Jesus will come back suddenly, and without warning, then I don't know what is.

Furthermore, I am inclined to ask anyone who does not hold a pre-trib view why they think that God would promise to keep His own safe from the coming judgments 1 Thessalonians 1:10 and then in Revelation 3:10 and then make the same people, who He promised to keep safe, suffer through any part of the tribulation?

In Genesis 5, we learn that Enoch was raptured by the Lord and in 2 Kings 2, we can read the account of how the Lord took the prophet Elijah.

In addition to the aforementioned verses, there are several other verses that point to a pretribulational rapture, one of which can be found in Matthew 16, where Jesus told His disciples that some people will not even taste death before they see the Son of man coming in His kingdom. The apostle Paul stated in First Thessalonians 4 that the believers who remain on earth, along those

who have died in Christ, will be caught up together to meet with the Lord.

How about the one in Luke 17 where Jesus said that there will be two in a bed and one will be taken while the other one is left behind?

Could it be any clearer than that? To me, the Lord has stated quite plainly that He will keep those who love Him from the terrible things that are to come. In heaven, we will have new bodies, perfect bodies! I know I'm excited for the Lord to come and get me, how about you?

Do I know when this will happen? Nope! And if you ever hear someone say that it will happen on such and such date, don't believe it. Remember: Jesus said in Matthew 24 that no one, except God, knows when the rapture will happen.

In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus warns us to keep our lamps full of oil AT ALL TIMES! Since none of us knows the timing of the rapture, we are to anxiously await the Lord's return as though it could happen at any moment, because it will!

In case you misunderstood somehow, I will reiterate the worst things that will happen to everyone who is too stubborn to believe in Jesus before the rapture happens: Those who will be left here will suffer through seven years of absolute mind-boggling hell on earth—if they survive the entire tribulation period that is. It will be worse than anyone can ever imagine. The majority of the people that are left after the rapture will not survive for the full seven-year tribulation period.

As Christians, it's our duty to try and reach out to the world before it's too late. It says in the Bible that God will wipe all our tears away, but why do you suppose we'll all be crying? Think about all of the people that you love: now imagine them enduring seven years of hell on earth and then residing in hell for eternity all because you were too afraid to speak up. Ouch!

[Need some encouragement in your walk with Christ?](#) Face it, we, the ever-encouraging Christians, could use a little reinforcement at times. Get The Bossy Church Lady's Newsletter for New Christians **FREE!** Go to <http://www.thebossychurchlady.net/signup.html>

Chapter 2... The Lord Pays John A Visit

In Revelation 1, John tells us that while he was in prison on the island of Patmos for preaching the Word of God, the Lord paid him a visit. Then he passes on a greeting from God, from the seven spirits who are before His throne, and from Christ Jesus. Following that, John tells us about Christ Jesus standing among the seven lamp stands and the seven stars that he saw in the Lord's right hand. The Lord tells John that the lamp stands represent the seven churches and the stars signify the angels of the churches. The fact that Jesus was standing amid the lamp stands tells us that He is amongst all of the churches.

In the beginning of Revelation, Jesus gives specific messages to several churches in Asia. Are the messages really directed at the churches? Or could the messages really be directed to His followers?

Some theorize that the churches in Revelation chapters 1-3 are periods of time while others speculate that the churches are actual churches that will be present during time just before the end. I believe that the churches represent the people who will be attending church just before the tribulation begins. Either way, below is a quick summary of each church that Jesus addresses:

- **The church of Ephesus in Revelation 2:1-7:** Jesus mentions the good characteristics by saying that though they will suffer hardships, they will never grow weary. Additionally, because they test the spirits, they cast out false teachers. Nevertheless, they will desert their first love: Jesus. Malachi 2:15 warns us not to break up with the wife of our youth. In other words, we should never lose the zeal that we had when we first became a Christian...we need to keep the fire kindled.
- **The church of Smyrna in Revelation 2:8-11:** Jesus encourages them to be faithful and to patiently endure the hardships that are to come. When we're being persecuted, we need to remember that the world hated Jesus long before they hated us.
- **The church of Pergamum in Revelation 2:12-17:** Though they won't renounce their faith in the Lord, they allow false teachings to infiltrate the church. Since a little yeast goes a long way, it can cause an entire batch of dough to rise. By the way, the yeast that I'm talking about are false beliefs that can corrupt an entire congregation.
- **The church of Thyatira in Revelation 2:18-29:** Though the church members will mature and become more active than they were at first, the Lord admonishes them for allowing poison to leak into their church by way of a prophetess who will lead members astray. If they continue to follow her teachings, their souls will be in peril. However, to those who refuse to be swayed by her false teachings, the Lord encourages them to hold on until He

returns.

- **The church of Sardis in Revelation 3:1-6:** Few things are worse than a dead church. Evidently, this church will pretend to be a Christ-led church where the members are filled with the Holy Spirit, but it will only be an act. For the few who will follow Christ wholeheartedly, He promises that they will be dressed in white and will be with Him in heaven after they die.
- **The church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3:7-13:** Though they are weak, they will never turn away from the Lord. They will have such strong faith that hell won't stand a chance against them. While Jesus promises to keep these people from the hour of trial, He promises to write the name of God and the name of the new Jerusalem on them.
- **Finally, we read about the church of Laodicea in Revelation 3:14-22:** Because they're lukewarm, or riding the fence, the Lord promises to spit them out. Because they think more of the things of this world than their spiritual wellbeing, He urges them to purchase gold from Him, which is pure, so they can become rich spiritually.

Chapter 3...Where Did John Say He Went?

Upon reading Revelation 4, we see that a doorway into heaven is opened and a voice tells John, "Come up hither." Because all who see the Lord in the flesh will die, John was instantly in the throne room of God in the spirit. Incidentally, this is the same voice that will call out to the two witnesses in Revelation 11:12, just before they float up to heaven on a cloud much like what happened when Jesus ascended into heaven.

John describes the twenty-four elders who are sitting on thrones and are wearing crowns of gold. The gold crowns mean that they overcame something during their lives. I'm going to venture a guess here and say that they were either saints of old or prophets who led the children of Israel at one time or another.

Following that, John tells us about the seven blazing lamps that are before the throne of God, which are the seven spirits of God. These seven spirits, which are also mentioned in Revelation 1, 3, and 5, are the different aspects of God. A look at Isaiah 11 will give us some understanding as to what these seven spirits are:

- 1) The spirit of righteousness
- 2) The spirit of wisdom
- 3) The spirit of understanding
- 4) The spirit of counsel
- 5) The spirit of might
- 6) The spirit of knowledge
- 7) The spirit of fear of the LORD.

A little further down, we read about the sea of glass that is before the throne of God. In the Bible, a sea is commonly referred to as people.

After that, John describes the four beasts that he saw near the throne. The fact that the beasts are covered in eyes means that God sees *everything*; nothing is hidden from Him. These beasts are spiritual leaders for whenever they give glory to God, the elders follow suit by placing their crowns at the feet of God and worshipping Him. Within these verses, we get a reminder that all things were created for God's pleasure.

In chapter 5, John tells us that a sealed scroll is presented and when an angel asks who is worthy of opening the scroll, since John assumed that no one in heaven or on earth was worthy of opening it, he began to cry. However, when one of the elders gently reminds him that Jesus is worthy of opening it, his joy returns.

When he looked at the throne again, he saw the Lamb of God standing in the center of it. Because the Lamb has seven horns and seven eyes tell us that He possesses all of the different aspects of God. Giving us another hint that

this is Christ Jesus sitting on the throne, the elders and beasts fall down and worship Him.

I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see Him in all His glory.

Need some encouragement in your walk with Christ? The Bossy Church Lady's Newsletter for New Christians will be a big help in sustaining you, the new Christian, in today's hectic world and you'll never have to pay a dime to receive this life-altering newsletter in your email inbox.

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Chapter 4...The Seal Judgments

Because God did what He promised to do in Genesis 6 and 7 and then in Exodus 7:1 through 12:36, and did what He promised to do for the Israelites after that, there's no reason to think that He won't do what He promised to do in the books of Daniel, Micah, Jeremiah, Isaiah and Revelation. In other words, because the LORD is not slack in fulfilling what He promised, we can trust in the fact that all of the judgments in the book of Revelation will come to pass.

When Christ breaks the seals on the scroll, He will unleash seven terrifying judgments upon the world called the seal judgments.

When the Lord cracks open the first seal, a man riding a white horse will appear. This verse is meant to be a general description of what this man will do and what he will be like. Though the Lord is pictured riding a white horse near the end of Revelation, this horseman is not the Lord. The horseman in the first seal judgment none other than the antichrist.

“Who exactly is the antichrist?” you ask.

He's the person that will rule the world for the entire tribulation. Now that the Lord has raptured the church, and the restrainer, the church, is out of the way, the beast, or the antichrist, will be in control of the entire world for seven years. If you read Revelation six verse two, you'll notice that he has no arrow meaning that he will come in peace. In contrast, when Jesus returns, peace will be the last thing on His mind.

The antichrist will come on the scene promising peace and because scripture says that he's wearing a crown, he will be granted authority. So by promising peace and using his superb diplomatic skills, he'll gain control of the entire world.

One of the reasons why he'll come into power so easily is because the world will be in such a sad state that everyone will be looking for a Savior. And when the antichrist comes around, he'll do everything that he possibly can to mimic Jesus. Because the antichrist will perform the signs that everyone demanded to see *Jesus* do when He was here (He knew that they wouldn't have believed in Him anyways) everyone whose name isn't written in the Book of Life, will worship the antichrist thinking that he's actually the long awaited Messiah. On top of healing the sick and feeding the hungry, Daniel 9:27 tells us that the antichrist will confirm a covenant of peace with the nation of Israel. Signing the seven-year peace treaty will kick off the beginning of the tribulation.

“What's so bad about healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and confirming a peace treaty?” you ask.

Boy, you sure do ask a lot of questions! ☺ Since this dude is *not* the *real* messiah, *everyone* who follows him will go straight to hell right behind him.

How do I know that he'll lead them to destruction? Because at the end of the book of Revelation, it says that after the White Throne Judgment, the devil and anyone else who's name is not written in the book of life—the people who never believed in Jesus—will be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity.

The real messiah would never murder His followers; however, the antichrist, the future ruler of this world, will insist upon killing Christians for refusing to denounce the Lord. Revelation twenty, verse four, tells us that the antichrist will behead all who will not follow him. Revelation chapter six, verse nine says that people will be killed for the Word of God. Later, in chapter seven, verses nine through fourteen, it says that 'a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues' will be killed during that fateful seven years. So, whoever becomes a believer during that seven years will not only be trying to survive the judgments of God, but he or she will be busy trying to avoid capture by the antichrist.

Christ Jesus will send another horseman into the world when He opens the second seal. Because this horse is red and it says that power is given to the horseman to take peace from the earth, wars will be going on everywhere. In addition to that, if you think there is too much murder now, just wait, during that time, there will be so many murderers running amok that an unimaginable amount of people will be slaughtered. I imagine that those who are murderous by nature will mindlessly butcher others like anamatrone.

The third seal unleashes a black horse with a rider that's holding a pair of scales. Verse six tells us that as a consequence of the wars, and due to inflation being so high, the common man won't be able to afford to eat much, if at all. When it says, "See though hurt not the oil and the wine", it means that the rich will only get richer while the poor will become even more destitute. Some writers depict Christians and the impoverished during that time digging through dumps and trashcans for food. I don't think they're far off.

The fourth seal brings us to the pale horse. The name of the rider on that horse is Death and hell is right on his heels. God will allow him to kill ¼ of the earth's population via murder, starvation, and regular death. The scariest of all is that common household pets will suddenly become suspect while this rider does his work.

The souls of those who are slain for the Word of God are highlighted when the Lord opens the fifth seal. However, when they ask the Lord when He will avenge their deaths, He gives them white robes to wear and tells them to wait until all of their number is murdered.

When the Lord cracks open that sixth seal, look out because you know what is going to be hitting the fan, big time. If this particular judgment hits during the day, it will become pitch-black outside when the sun suddenly turns as black as the ace of spades. Not only that, but the moon will look like a huge blood clot that's stuck to the night sky, giving everything a bloody hue.

Lovely thought huh?

Anyhow, as the earth begins to shake with such violence that the mountains and islands are moved out of place, stars will pummel the earth resulting in worldwide catastrophic damage. Thinking that they'll be able to escape the wrath of the Lamb if they die, men and women everywhere will be praying that they'll be crushed to death by boulders. Following that, heaven will literally roll up like a scroll.

And yes, I do believe that it will happen. If God can create the earth, the heavens and everything between just by a mere thought, I should think that causing the sky to roll up like a scroll would be nothing for Him. This judgment will be the most terrifying so far and there are many more to go, which are even more horrendous.

Revelation chapter 7 begins by saying that four angels will be entrusted to stop the wind from blowing upon the earth. It's going to be very hot during that time. Even on super hot days, God still blesses us with a little breeze that cools our skin, but not during this time. No.

Following that, another angel tells the four angels to hold on before they do anything nasty to the earth until he seals the Jewish remnant. They are the ones who will repent and ask for Christ's forgiveness just before the war of Armageddon.

After that, in verse nine, John saw a "great multitude" of people standing before the throne of God. Since Jesus has already raptured all of the believers, this chapter tells us that so many people will become saved and killed during the tribulation that it will be impossible to count them all. However, God has wiped away all their tears; they will never hunger nor will they ever thirst again. They will be with Christ Jesus for eternity.

Can you imagine having such a bad storm that you hear voices in the sky? That's what it says will happen when the Lord opens the seventh seal in the beginning of chapter eight. After the opening of the seventh seal brings about silence in heaven for a short time, an angel will fill his censer with fire from the altar and hurl it at the earth. When he does that, there will be such a terrible storm that as the thunder roars through the heavens and lightning strikes everywhere at once, voices will be heard coming from the sky. To top off this magnificent display of power, God will cause a massive earthquake to strike the entire world.

It is my belief—and you can take it or leave it, it's up to you—that all of the volcanoes in the world will erupt at the same time leaving the entire world blanketed in thick, grey ash. When this happens, because the sun won't be seen for quite some time, there will be MAJOR food shortages resulting in mass starvation. Cannibalism will most likely be on the rise as well.

***If you really don't want your name on the guest list for the hellish seven-year party that's been planned for mankind, if you're not a believer in Christ Jesus, I'm urging you to become one now before its too late. ***

Chapter 5...The Trumpet Judgments

When the first angel blows into his trumpet in verse 7 of chapter eight, there will be a hailstorm that's certain to make headlines. This storm will be like none other: it will have blood and fire mixed within it. The verses tell us that exactly one third of the trees and all of the grass on the earth will burn up. Since we need trees to breathe, the amount of oxygen will drop by one third.

When the second angel blows his trumpet, a gigantic hunk of burning rock will be cast into the sea. This won't be just any regular meteor or comet. Not by a long shot! This one in particular will take everyone by surprise because it will come out of nowhere. It says that after it hits the earth, a third of the creatures in the sea will die and a third of the ships will be destroyed.

Yuck! If you can't imagine the overpowering smell that this judgment will create, just go to the nearest dead animal and take a good, long whiff. That should give you a tiny hint of the stench that will cover the earth at that time.

When the third angel blows into his instrument, seeing massive amounts of dead people lying around certain bodies of water should be a pretty good indication of which bodies of water to avoid. Another ginormous, burning hunk of rock will come from nowhere and will break apart as it hits our atmosphere and land in a third of the water causing the water, even the rivers and the fountains to become poisonous. This one will be Wormwood.

By the way, this judgment will be a stinky one too. I imagine that people will be so into themselves they won't be bothered during this time to bury their dead.

The fourth trumpet judgment in verse 12 will be interesting, to say the least. It says in the Bible that a third part of the moon, a third part of the sun, and a third part of the stars will be stricken from the sky. I can't even begin to imagine the noise from all of that happening, but it will probably look like giant, invisible beings are playing a game of pool using the sun, moon and the stars as pool balls. Naturally, some of these loose chunks of rock will strike the earth and when that happens, I'll be glad not to be here.

One third of the days and nights will be dark. So instead of having 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness, there will be eight hours of daylight followed by four hours of utter darkness. The nights will be the same. Vegetation, animals, and mankind will suffer. Rickets, which is a disease that strikes when one is lacking in vitamin D, which our bodies naturally make when exposed to the sun will be on the rise.

Sometime after that, an angel will fly overhead to pronounce the next three judgments, which are so bad that they are called woes. Three judgments are confirmed when he says "Woe, woe, woe." I believe that everyone will hear this angel and his proclamation. Indeed, the following three judgments will be even uglier than all the judgments before.

When the fifth angel sounds his trumpet in the beginning of chapter nine, an angel with the keys to the bottomless pit falls from heaven. A parallel can

be seen in Luke 10:18 where Jesus told his disciples: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." In verse 11 of Revelation chapter nine, the angel is referred to as Apollyon, which means destroyer. The destroyer is Satan.

Upon opening the pit, there will be so much smoke that whatever's left of the sunlight will be darkened. Seemingly out of nowhere, scorpion-type creatures will appear and torment mankind. Because it says that the creatures aren't permitted to harm those who have God's seal on their foreheads, Christians will be sealed by God just before this judgment begins.

This judgment will be so bad that once stung by these things from the pit of hell, victims—or unbelievers—will be tormented for five straight months. They'll seek death, but it will elude them. Many will try to kill themselves to end the pain, but they won't succeed.

The noise that these creatures will make will be tremendous. Not only will these things be shaped like horses, but their wings will sound like horses hooves. Imagine hearing billions upon billions of horses running around your head. That's what they'll sound like. These critters will be wearing crowns of gold, signifying power, their faces will be like men, they'll have long hair and their teeth will be razor sharp. To top it all off, they'll have breastplates of iron and tails like scorpions. I imagine that each victim will be stung several times and since there's no telling where they'll be stung, people will be running around with swollen lips, eyes, bottoms, cheeks, ears and more! What a lovely picture that will be!

Two more woes are coming John tells us in verse 12.

Once the command comes from on high to loose the four angels who are bound in the Euphrates River, one-third of mankind will be killed by two hundred million men on horseback. These aren't just ordinary men or horses we're talking about here; these horses will have blue, red and yellow breastplates and heads like lions. They'll breathe fire and brimstone and smoke from their mouths, and their tails will consist of poisonous snakes. As the snakes are spitting poison in every direction, the mouth of these horses will either vaporize their victim immediately or choke him or her to death with smoke.

Undoubtedly, these things are very real and they're led by four real-life angels.

Unbelievably, when this judgment ends, those whose names aren't in the Book of Life won't repent. They'll still go about their everyday business of murdering, stealing, worshipping false gods... you name it, they will not stop sinning against the Lord.

Chapter ten describes a mighty angel coming down from heaven. "He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars." (NIV) When this angel shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke; however, when John begins to write what was said, he is told not to write it down. I can't begin to imagine what will be said, but this prophecy promises to be exciting.

The powerful angel announces that the mystery of God will be accomplished now and then John is ordered to take the scroll and eat it. The angel warns him

that though it will taste as sweet as honey, it will be bitter in his stomach. Following after Jesus can be that way too. We take in His Words with gladness, but when it's time to walk the walk, we tend to become a tad bit bitter.

John is told that he must prophecy about many people, nations, languages, and kings next. Moreover, it's up to him to ensure that the book of Revelation is given to everyone.

Chapter eleven tells us about the two witnesses who will speak the Word of God for half of the tribulation, 3 ½ years. Because we're told that they're in a place "which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" they will be in Jerusalem. My advice: be nice to these guys because they'll have the power to curse mankind any way they wish, to cause drought, and to turn bodies of water into blood. If anyone tries to harm them, fire will shoot out of their mouths and devour their enemies. I believe that these two men will appear in the beginning of the tribulation and remain where they are until the halfway point.

Because it says in Genesis 5:24 that God raptured Enoch, and the apostle Paul confirms this fact in Hebrews 11:5 and then in 2 Kings 2:11, we can read the exciting account of how the Lord raptured Elijah, some people try to say that they'll be Enoch and Elijah. However, your guess is as good as mine as to the identity of these two. Since it doesn't say who these two men will be, I don't care to speculate.

At the midpoint of the tribulation, God will allow Satan to destroy them. Revelation 11 says that because the world will hate the two witnesses, they'll leave the two men lying where they dropped dead for three and a half days, all the while, unbelievers the world over will have a gigantic, gift exchanging party. Sort of like a sinister Christmas. At the end of three days, the men will be resurrected and the entire world will be terrified of the men. Following that, a voice will call from heaven: "Come up hither." And, in front of the entire world, they'll float up to heaven on a cloud just like Christ Jesus did when He ascended into heaven.

Immediately after that, another earthquake strikes, except this one will only affect the city of Jerusalem. It says in verse 13 that seven thousand people will perish and a tenth part of the city will fall during this earthquake. One good thing that will come of this: the survivors of that city will be so terrified that they'll give glory to God.

Two woes have passed and another is on the way.

When the seventh seal is opened, John proclaims that there were voices in heaven saying: "The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." (KJV) The elders begin to worship and the temple of God is opened.

I would love to say that the entire world will see and hear what will happen, but I can't. Verse 19 tells us that another terrible storm will strike.

Chapter 6...About The Woman Clothed With The Sun

Revelation chapter 12 is a highly controversial chapter in the book of Revelation. Whether the woman clothed in the sun signifies the nation of Israel or the Virgin Mary is debatable. However, three things are not up for debate: Revelation 12 pertains to Israel, Christ Jesus and to believers.

Because it's easiest to break Revelation 12 down and examine the chapter verse by verse in order to understand what each means, that's what we'll do here.

In verse 12:1, a woman is depicted wearing a crown of twelve stars. The stars are in reference to the nation of Israel. More specifically, the stars are the twelve tribes of Israel. If we look in Genesis 37, we can read the account of Joseph telling his family about a dream he had involving the sun, the moon and eleven stars, which pertained to the nation of Israel.

The fact that the woman is wearing the sun and standing on the moon, which is only a mere reflection of the sun, means that Jesus will rule from Zion during the Millennial Reign. During this time, the nation of Israel will finally be what they were meant to be from the beginning: glorified. In Jeremiah 3:17, it says that Jerusalem will be "the throne of the Lord"; Jerusalem will be covered with God's Holy splendor during the thousand years and in the ever after. As it says in Isaiah 2:2-5, Jerusalem will forevermore be above all other nations.

Verses 2-4 tell us that as the woman was prepared to give birth, a great red dragon was waiting to devour the child as soon as it was born. The dragon is none other than Satan himself and Daniel 7:20-21 confirms his identity. Matthew 2 gives the account of how Satan used King Herod to try to kill Christ Jesus when He was born, but upon discovering that his plan was thwarted, the king gave the order to kill all children that were age two and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. An interesting parallel can be drawn between Revelation 12:4 and Matthew 13 where Jesus describes new believers who are excited upon hearing the Word, but shortly after, their fire is snuffed out by the cares of this world.

In verse 4, when it says that this dragon tail cast a third of the stars down to earth, this gives us further confirmation that the dragon is none other than Satan for when he rebelled, he took a third of the angels with him. The stars in this verse are angels. In Luke 10:18, Jesus said that he saw Satan fall from heaven, and Isaiah 14:12 proclaims that Lucifer was cast down to the earth.

Verse 5 is referring to Jesus. He was caught up to heaven when he was killed on the cross. It has been prophesied that Jesus will rule the nations with an iron rod and Psalm 2 speaks about the Lord breaking the nations with a rod of iron. Read Revelation 2:27 for more.

Verse six means that God will protect Christianity; there will always be believers to spread the truth, it will never die. Another interesting to note is that Jesus' ministry only lasted three and a half years, which corresponds with

the “thousand two hundred and threescore days” mentioned in this verse.

Verses 7-9 are talking about the devil and his followers again. Only this verse describes a war between Michael and his angels against the devil and his cronies and verse 10 tells us that the devil will never be allowed to accuse believers day and night before the throne of God again.

Verses 11-12 are about the believers who defeated the devil by following after Christ. They gave their lives for Him and they will be rewarded with eternal life.

Even Satan knows the scriptures. The next verse says that because Satan knows that after he's permanently cast out of the presence of God, because he'll only have three and a half years to do what he can to destroy God's creation, he'll really turn the heat up. So many people will be killed during this time that it's impossible to number them all.

However, God will protect the Jewish remnant—AKA the woman—from the devil for three and a half years as it says in verse 14. It's commonly believed that the place in the wilderness that God has prepared for the Jewish remnant will be Petra. Also, since the woman who brought for the man child could possibly be referring to Christianity, some people believe that God will also protect Christians from Satan during this time. Either way, the devil will be so angry that he'll go after the Jews and Christians like never before.

In verses 15-16, the devil will send a flood after the woman, which means that he'll send a lot of people after her. What happens after that promises to be fascinating: more likely than not, when the earth swallows up an entire contingent from the army of the antichrist, it will make front-page news.

And verse 17 reiterates the fact that the antichrist will go after Christians.

Please do not take any of this lightly. The Lord promised that all of these things will happen. If you haven't turned to Christ Jesus, please do so now before it's too late.

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Chapter 7...And It Only Get's Worse From Here

Now that we're approaching the mid-point in the tribulation—which is three and a half years, only half of the seven longest, most horrendous years ever where maybe three or four people will still be alive in the end because everyone else has been killed—we come to Revelation 13 where John saw a beast coming out of the sea. Prophetically speaking, the sea refers to people.

Notice that the beast in chapter 13 has seven heads and ten crowns? Quick! Go back and re-read Daniel 7:20 and Revelation 12:3. We're still talking about the antichrist and his kingdom, by the way. ;)

Yes, I know you already knew that... but just in case, I thought I'd mention it.

Daniel 7 verse 7 tells us about a fourth kingdom, which will ultimately be ruled by the beast that came out of the sea, or the antichrist. Similar to the Roman Empire, this kingdom will come upon the scene and literally take over the entire world. When that happens, the world will be divided up into ten smaller segments or kingdoms ruled by ten kings or presidents.

I'll be nice this time and tell you what Daniel 7:8 says, "I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things." The little horn in this verse tells us that the antichrist will be a man who will come from a small country who will become leader of these ten segments or kingdoms. Based upon what we already know about him, he'll gain power by using his supreme diplomatic skills and by promising peace. This is also the same person who will "confirm the covenant" with many for one week and then renege on the deal halfway through. (Daniel 9:27)

However, because verse eight above says that three of the horns were plucked up by the roots, after the antichrist comes into power, he will knock down three of the kings or kingdoms. Most likely, he will go after the three kings because they oppose either him or his ideas. Either way, these three kings will be completely crushed, never rise again, and the kingdoms will come under the dictatorship of the beast. John confirms this in Revelation 13:1 where he says that he saw a beast with seven heads and ten crowns.

Side note: Because so many people think that Antiochus Epiphanies already fulfilled the prophecy in Daniel 9:27 in the year 168 BC, it's worth mentioning. Antiochus indeed occupied Jerusalem, entered the Holy of Holies within the Temple and desecrated it with filthy animals all before he erected a statue of Jupiter Olympius and dedicated the Jewish temple to that false god, he still never confirmed a seven year treaty with the nation of Israel. Therefore, Antiochus Epiphanies has not fulfilled the prophecy in Daniel 9.

I have to say too that I highly doubt that Antiochus Epiphanies was resurrected after a massive head wound killed him. Further, I have a hard time buying the fact that the entire world saw him resurrected and then followed

him, but I could be wrong, mind you.

Which brings us to Revelation 13:2-3 where it says that Satan himself will give this beast power and great authority. After someone, I don't know who, kills the antichrist via a hard knock on the noggin or some such thing, he will rise again. Since we know that the antichrist loves to mimic Jesus, he will probably arise again on the third day.

Talk about some freaky stuff. After someone bludgeons him to death by bashing in his skull or maybe even slicing his head clean off, this world leader, will probably sit up in his coffin.

Similar to what Dr. Frankenstein said when his creation came to life, people all over the world will be rejoicing because Mr. Wonderful, the man of their dreams, will once again be alive.

"It's aliiiiive! It's aliiiiive!" Frankenstein shouted when his monster sat up.

Only it won't be him; he'll be indwelt by Satan himself. Oh yeah baby, only now, the antichrist will be out for blood. Remember in the last chapter when we talked about the antichrist being ticked because he's been booted out of heaven? This will coincide with the antichrist being killed and resurrected.

Due to the fact that the master of trickery and deceit will come back to life, the world will follow after him. They'll be so convinced that he's Christ Jesus Himself that they'll gleefully take to the streets to kill all who oppose him.

On top of that, Satan, er uh, I mean the antichrist, I mean the world leader... whoever he will be, will desecrate the recently rebuilt temple of the Jews and set himself up as God in the Holy of Holies. I don't know about you, but I'm imagining a few human sacrifices or something just as sick.

Around that time, another beast, A.K.A the false prophet, which will be a religious leader, will appear. Not only will the devil's sidekick perform miracles and wonders—including making fire rain down from the heavens—for the entire world to see, but he'll commission a statue or two that resembles the antichrist. The nifty thing about the images is that they'll be able to speak and kill whoever won't worship them.

Sounds like a fun party huh?

Doesn't matter though. Remember that strong delusion mentioned in second Thessalonians 2:6-12? You got it: since it's still in effect, everyone in the world, who will refuse to repent, will mindlessly worship the statues of the antichrist. If they can't hide good enough, then the rest of humanity, who will refuse to worship the antichrist and his images, will be killed, plain and simple.

Now here comes the mark of the beast. Many people wonder if their social security number, ID implants and whatnot are the mark of the beast. Let me assure you, they are not.

The people who are here during the tribulation will *know* that it's the mark of their leader. On top of that, they won't be able to buy or sell without that mark and anyone who doesn't get the mark will be beheaded.

At this point, we're still free to refuse ID implants and such without being killed... at least I think.

When the mark of the beast is introduced, everyone will be forced to take

that mark or die by beheading. Yet I don't think that will be happening at first: I can just see people lining up for miles to get their mark so they can prove to their (false) messiah how devoted they are. Upon receiving the mark either on their right hand or on their forehead, they'll unwittingly give their soul to the devil. Once they do this, there's no turning back. It isn't like someone can get a divorce from the devil citing irreconcilable differences when he or she changes his or her mind. No. Once he or she pledges his or her soul to Satan by getting his mark, they're his for eternity. If you're curious, read Revelation 14:9-11 to get a preview of the punishment for taking that mark.

Not too pretty eh?

A little later, when the government catches up to the people who won't take the mark, they'll behead them. That's right! They'll slice their noggin's clean off! At the very least, whomever refuses that mark will most likely starve to death because he or she won't even be able to buy or sell without it. The only comfort than be taken from all of this is that believers will go to heaven when they die.

Revelation 13:18 is another *hotly* debated verse in the Bible. In studying the subject of the dreaded three numbers of the beast, it is my understanding that some of the scholars out there can't agree on what the three numbers really are. Some say it's 616, others say it's 888, still others swear the three numbers are something else entirely.

Throughout history, people everywhere have been pointing the finger at one famous person or another, swearing up and down that he or she is the antichrist. But since I have no idea whom God predestined to fill the role of the antichrist, I won't even venture a guess. Personally, I wonder if the number 666 is in reference to the *unholy* trinity: Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet, but again, since I really don't know, I'm not going to say for sure.

Since we trust God to take care of us, let's just leave the name or number of the dreaded antichrist up to Him, shall we?

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Chapter 8...A New Song

In order to understand who the 144,000 are in the beginning of Revelation chapter 14, we're going to take a trip back in time to Zechariah 13:8-9 and to Revelation chapter 7. The 144,000 men and women have been chosen from the twelve tribes of Israel to be brought through the fire, so to speak. This group of people have the name of the Father on their foreheads, which corresponds to the seal that was placed upon their foreheads back in chapter 7:3. They will be the purest of the pure, the firstfruits of God. An amazing group of people in this day and age, they are virgins who have never lied, stolen or cheated anyone. They follow Jesus even to death.

They are so pleasing to the Lord that they will sing a new song before the throne of God that they alone will learn. Even the elders and the four creatures will be hearing this new song. We can see from chapter seven that only the tribe of Dan is missing.

The Lamb of God is ever present with this group and He leads them wherever they go. They will preach the living Gospel and I believe that they will be the group who will be directly responsible for bringing the Jewish remnant that is mentioned in Zechariah 13 to repentance.

In verses 6 and 7, John sees an angel flying about the world proclaiming the everlasting gospel and warning people to fear God, not man. There is another angel to follow who will pronounce judgment upon Babylon; however, this angel won't be seen or heard until later, just before the war in Armageddon—we'll get to that later.

Finally, a third angel is introduced. This one gives the inhabitants of the world a stern warning not to worship the beast or his image or get the mark of the beast and in verses 9 through 11, he paints a very clear portrait of the punishment that those who follow after the antichrist will receive.

A reminder for the saints to remain patient, to keep the commandments of God, and to remain faithful to Jesus follows. Just hang on a little more and you'll be rewarded, this angel tells the tribulation saints.

We can compare verses 14 through 19 with Matthew 13:30. Nearly all of Matthew 13 is devoted to repentance and the kingdom of heaven. Several times, Jesus repeats what will happen to the unrepentant or unbelievers and then in verse 30, He gives those who will not repent a warning: "At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."

Now we've come to the crux of the tribulation where God will separate the wheat from the chaff, call all who will to repentance, and to sift through Israel and separate the remnant, those who will become purified, from the rest of the Jews.

The last half of verse 19 and all of verse 20 are in reference to the battle of Armageddon. At the end of that battle, 180 miles of land will be covered with so much blood that it will reach up to the horse's bridles.

Chapter 9...Even More Horrific

As we head into Revelation chapter 15, we still have one more woe to go. There are many differing opinions as to what the third woe may be. I think from here until the beginning of the Millennial Reign of Christ is nothing but one gigantic woe after another.

In verse 1 of chapter 15, John describes another vision. In this one, he sees seven angels who are holding the last seven plagues. These are known as the bowl judgments. In its own way, each is as horrific as the others are, as each will inflict utter torment upon all who do not look to Jesus as his or her savior. These judgments will wrap up the tribulation and usher in the final conflict between Jesus and Satan.

In verse two, John sees a sea of glass mingled with fire. Again, a sea is a multitude of people. In this context, the people have passed through the fire and have been made pure and holy. They have worshipped neither the antichrist nor his image and they have refused to take his mark, even though it cost their lives. Before God, they sing "the song of Moses" and make music to the Lord.

Verse 5 says that the tabernacle was opened and the seven angels came out. All of them are wearing pure, white clothing and they are wearing golden girdles signifying purity and authority.

As it says in verse eight, God is royally ticked by this point and He has every right to be. People everywhere are still refusing to repent. Rather than take responsibility for their sins, they continually cuss at God and blame Him for the horrors that they brought on themselves.

When we read Revelation chapter 16 and the rest of the chapters in the book, we can see that this train of horrors will be making no more stops. Like a snowball only grows larger the farther down the hill it rolls, these judgments will only become more dreadful as each one comes. If the final plagues do not cause mankind to repent, then I don't know what will. Perhaps that is the reason why they have been doomed to perdition from birth, but that's another subject for another book or article.

When God orders the first of the angels to pour his or her vial upon the earth, whoever is styling the mark of the beast will be covered with awful sores. These won't just be simple pimples or boils, these things will be **HORRENDOUS**. They will be so painful and huge and so full of infection that the people who are afflicted with them will look like monsters.

Surely, you've seen someone affected with terrible acne and I'm sure you've noticed what their pimples look like with the pus coming out. Imagine something ten times bigger on their upper lip, their eyelid, oozing out of their nose, peeking out at you from underneath the hem on his or her pants, perhaps screaming for attention from just above the neckline of their shirt, maybe from just behind the ear a little...

By the way, if you think I'm overdoing it with the descriptions, just you wait and see! It'll be even more gruesome than even I could ever envision.

When the second angel pours out his bowl, the seas will become pure blood, killing everything within them. If you thought that any of the other judgments were smelly, wait till this one comes along. Indeed, the entire planet will reek worse than rotten, overripe meat that's been long since forgotten in the refrigerator.

The third angel dumps the contents of his vial causing the rest of the water to become blood. Even more sea life will die during this judgment. Along with them, people and other mammals will die of thirst because the world's supply of drinking water will quickly become depleted.

The reason for the remaining waters being turned to blood is given in verse six where the angel of the water says that because the world has killed the saints, the world can have blood to drink.

The next judgment, mentioned in verse eight, is a beaut. On top of having no water to drink, the sun will literally scorch everyone. Because it says that they blasphemed the name of God and refused to repent, I'm relatively certain that this judgment will only pertain to the unsaved.

If the world hasn't been driven mad by this point, the next plague just might send them over the edge for when their world is plunged into utter blackness, they'll be in so much pain that they'll literally be chewing on their tongues. Verse 11 tells us that though they still have the sores and even more pain to boot, they'll refuse to repent.

The Euphrates River is affected by the next bowl judgment. The reason it will dry up is so that the kings of the east will have a way to meet with the rest of the army of the antichrist.

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Chapter 10...The Beginning Of The End

Revelation 16:13-14 describes three “unclean spirits” that will go forth from the mouth of the devil, out of the mouth of the antichrist, and out of the mouth of their helper, the false prophet. The role of these spirits is to convince leaders everywhere that they have a chance at defeating God in battle, which has been the plan of the devil from the beginning as we can see in Isaiah 14:12-21.

Yeah, believe it or not, the devil will have everyone so certain that they can defeat God with their silly weapons, which are useless against the Lord, that everyone in the world will begin to make weapons out of everything imaginable. Washers and dryers, cars, tools, Tonka toys, you name it, if it's made of metal, they'll melt it down and turn it into a weapon.

But what they'll fail to realize is that this is really God's plan, not their own. Joel 3:9-11 and Revelation chapter 17, verse 17 tell us that God has put His plan on the king's hearts to achieve His purpose with the intention of using the kings to punish the harlot mentioned in chapter 17 before Christ Jesus defeats them.

During the battles that are to come, whether they wield a weapon against the Jews, assist in the vaporization of Babylon, or pray that the Lord will return, everyone in the world will participate in one way or another.

Revelation 16:16 tells us that the army of the antichrist will be heading toward a place called Armageddon or the Mount of Megiddo. Joel 3 gives us a little more info on this.

While the armies are still marching toward the Jezreel Valley, which is south of Lower Galilee in the North District of Israel, in order to do battle with the Almighty for the battle of Armageddon, several verses in Jeremiah, verses: 50:28, 51:50, 51:45, and finally, Revelation 18:4-5, tell us that God's people will be warned to flee Babylon.

As soon as God's people are clear of the city, it says in Revelation 18:1-3 that an angel, who will be heard by everyone, will pronounce God's judgment upon the city.

Jeremiah 51:45, Revelation 18:1-24, and Isaiah 22-23 tell us that Babylon will be utterly and completely destroyed. Total destruction has never happened to that city, but it will at this time. The destruction will be so complete that not a single living human being will remain alive within and afterward no one will live there, ever again. Revelation 18:10 says that Babylon will be decimated within one hour. Isaiah 13 tells us that God will use the gentile believers to destroy Babylon and Jeremiah agrees.

Revelation 18:9-19 says that three types of people will lament over the destruction over Babylon: The kings or the political rulers of the world, those who shared in her luxury; the merchants who were made rich by trading everything imaginable within that city; and everyone who earned a living transporting cargo to and from her. In contrast, Revelation 18:20 says that

three types of people who will rejoice over the destruction of Babylon: the saints, apostles, and the prophets.

After the sudden and total destruction of Babylon, in order to purge the rest of the land of the antichrist and his followers, God will use the armies of the antichrist to fulfill another purpose: to punish the harlot spoken of in Revelation chapter 17. Because Isaiah 1:21-31 specifically mentions that the faithful city—Jerusalem—has become a harlot, the identity of the harlot in Rev. 17, in my opinion, is Jerusalem.

However, take heart because the Lord must do this in order to cleanse Zion and make her ready for His Son to return to her where He will rule the earth with His rod, His staff of righteousness.

Because the antichrist will be so angry that Babylon is in ruins, he'll order his armies to lay siege upon Jerusalem. But before this happens, several verses in the Bible, including Jeremiah 6:1 and 50:28 tell us that the Lord will use a few people who have escaped Babylon to warn others within Jerusalem to flee, but hardly anyone will listen.

The siege of Jerusalem will be a nasty fight. In Hosea 6:1-2, it says that this battle will last for three days where in the end, not only is the leader of Jerusalem humiliated in front of everyone, but the women will be raped, and half of Jerusalem will be taken captive.

With the plans to kill the rest of the Jews, the army will take their prized captives to Petra, where the remnant of Israel has been kept safe from the enemy for the last three and a half years.

While the army of the antichrist is trying to capture Petra, Ezekiel 39:22-29 says that after the Remnant confesses their sin of rejecting the Holy One of Israel, Jesus will come and destroy the armies of the antichrist. Matthew 24:29, Isaiah 13:10 and 34:4 tell us that the sun and the moon will become darkened and on the heels of that, the stars will begin to fall from the sky.

What happens next will be nothing short of miraculous. In Matthew 24:30, Jesus told His disciples that after the sky is wiped clean of everything, the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. Revelation 19 verses 11 through 16 describe the Lord with His army appearing when heaven opens. Trust me, no one will miss these events.

Revelation 19:12 says that the eyes of the Lord will be full of fire and in verse 11, it says that the Lord is not here to promote peace; He's here to make war. More specifically, He'll destroy the antichrist and his army. Because everything is under His feet, He's conquered everything, He'll be wearing many crowns. On His thigh will be written: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

The army behind Him is holy and pure; they're all wearing white and all of them are on white horses. Rather than accompany Him to the battlefield, they'll remain behind.

Revelation chapter 19:17-18 describes an angel standing in the sun ordering all the birds to gather above the army of the antichrist so they can eat them. Ezekiel 39: 4 and 17-22 and back this up. This part will be so gruesome that it's almost beyond recounting. However, I have told the tale in an upcoming book called: *The End Of All Things As Told By Jason Shaw*.

Just before the birds chow down on their feast of fresh flesh, Revelation 19 verse 20 says that the Lord will cast the antichrist and the false prophet into the lake of fire.

Following that, the Lord will kill the army. After the delectable “feast of fowls” an angel will come down from heaven and throw the devil into the abyss and lock him in there for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:1-3)

Now we come back to Revelation 16 verse 17 where it says that after the seventh angel pours out his vial, a voice will sound from the temple in heaven, “It is done.”

Revelation 16:18-21 describes an awesome storm. As the voices are resounding in the heavens, thunder is tearing the universe asunder, and lightning is striking everywhere at once, a powerful and terrible earthquake will not only split Jerusalem into three parts, but it will cause the islands to flee and the mountains to collapse into nothingness. Hailstones, weighing about a hundred pounds each, will begin to fall to the earth and crush mankind.

Believe me, you don't want to be here when that happens!

As ridiculous as this sounds, after seeing all that the Lord has done thus far, people will cuss at God! They'll continue to blame Him for their troubles!

Now that the world has been purged of the unrepentant... well mostly, Jesus is ready to separate the goats from the sheep. Matthew 25:31-46 paints a picture of the Lord placing the sheep on His right side and the goats on His left. Upon pronouncing that the goats were so self-centered during their lives that they aren't worthy of everlasting life, the Lord sends them to everlasting punishment while the sheep are assigned to everlasting life.

Chapter 11...The Millennial Reign of Christ Begins

In Revelation 20 verse 4, John describes the souls of everyone who has been beheaded for the Word of God. These people will be part of the first resurrection. Everyone else won't be resurrected for a thousand years. Upon coming back to life, the victims of the antichrist, who never gave up hope in the Lord, will rule with Christ for a thousand years.

In the twinkling of an eye, animals, people, and the planet will become what the Lord intended from the beginning: gorgeous, perfect, without flaw or blemish. There will be no sickness.

In Psalm 110:1-3, we can see that the Lord will rule from Zion. 2 Kings 19:30-31 says: "Once more a remnant of the house of Judah will take root below and bear fruit above. For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors." (NIV) These people are the Jewish remnant who will live in Jerusalem during the millennial reign.

Isaiah 2 tells us that Jerusalem will be exalted above all. The rest of humanity will learn about the Lord from the Jewish remnant. There will be no more wars and no more tears. While Lord Christ Jesus rules the planet for a thousand years, there will be no hunger.

There will be no need for the sun as the light of the Lord will be the light. Because people are people and people will always do what they've always done, people will still sin. Most people will live to be a thousand years; the cursed, or the rebellious, will only live for one hundred years. (Isaiah 65:17-25)

Revelation 20:7-10 tell us that at the end of the thousand years, the Gog/Magog war will take place. After Satan is on the loose again, it says that he'll go around and deceive the nations. Incredibly, multitudes of people, more than the sand on the shore, will go with him to try to defeat God, but God will destroy them for good this time.

The Great White Throne Judgment happens next. This is where the rest of the dead are resurrected and judged according to their works. If anyone isn't found in the Book of Life, he or she will go to hell for eternity, where there are no second chances.

A new earth and a new heaven come into being now. Everything will be glorious. Think of the Garden of Eden.

The God who made the majestic mountains with their contrasting, snowy peaks, the gorgeous seas (especially under the light of the full moon) adorned the beautiful flowers and dressed the earth an amazing amount of beauty, will be making another Jerusalem and it will be breathtakingly beautiful. (Revelation 21:10-27) None of the unsaved will be permitted entrance into this new city and rightfully so! We don't want perfection tainted with ugliness, do we?

This city will be a mere reflection of the glory of God. If you love precious, sparkling stones, this place will simply steal your breath away. There will be

twelve gates, made of solid pearl, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Remember the woman clothed with the sun back in Revelation 12 and the twelve stars that crowned her head? You got it! This new city will be a crown jewel more spectacular than any of us could ever imagine. The city will have twelve foundations, signifying the twelve apostles. For their undying service to the Lord, the twelve apostles have earned their rightful place as the foundation of the new Jerusalem.

The new Jerusalem will be HUGE!!!! 1400 square miles huge. All of God's children will reside there, along with His Holy Angels, and Christ Jesus. It says in Rev. 21:3-4: "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." God, the maker of all things and His Son, Christ Jesus, will be with us forevermore.

Can you imagine waking up in the morning, looking over and there sits God watching over you? We'll get to see Him in person! When we worship Him, we'll get to see His face for all time. I hope to see you there!

*** If you haven't given your life to the Lord, I'm pleading with you to do so now. Please don't be too stubborn to do this one, simple thing. Life is too short and we never know when God will decide to end our lives! I promise, you won't regret turning to the Lord. When I gave my life to Him, I admitted that I was a sinner, asked Jesus for forgiveness, and gave my entire life to Him. Following that, I've been doing my very best to not sin and when I do, I confess it to Him knowing that He will forgive me. ***

Look for my next two books: *The End Of All Things As Told By Jason Shaw* and *The Bossy Church Lady's Official Guide For Today's New Christian: The Ultimate Handbook for New Christians*

Following is a short and sweet synopsis of each upcoming book.

The Bossy Church Lady's Official Guide For Today's New Christian: The Ultimate Handbook for New Christians will equip new Christians with the necessary armor and weaponry to be an effective warrior for the army of God.

Regardless of denomination, it will quickly bring you, the new Christian, up to speed so you can be an effective team member in the Kingdom of God. While the topics broached within *The Bossy Church Lady's Official Guide for God's Newly Adopted Children* range from predestination to what God's Word—

the final authority—says about sorcery and fall anywhere between, the book will answer your tougher questions such as: “Why did God allow His Son to die such a horrible death?” And, “Why does God allow such terrible things to happen in this world?” This non-fiction book invites all believers to forge a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Because this book is educational in nature, thought provoking questions, a short list of verses to read, and space to take notes are at the end of each chapter in *The Bossy Church Lady's Official Guide for God's Newly Adopted Children*.

It all begins on a sweltering Wednesday in *The End Of All Things As Told By Jason Shaw*. Summer is coming to a close; fall is just around the corner in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. The stage is set for the most important event that will happen to mankind.

With the UN disbanded, the world is on the brink of exploding into chaos; world war is imminent, poverty and starvation remain the issues of the day. President Faris Sayed has made some radical changes in his country. Seemingly overnight, he has transformed the nation of Syria into a model for diplomacy. Also headed by Faris Sayed, is the new alliance called the Associated Nations for Peace (AN), which promises to be the ultimate resolution for the concerns that are plaguing society. The catch: upon joining the AN, each member nation must adopt the AN Constitution, which prohibits freedom of speech and religion as their own Constitution.

Fast-forward a few weeks and every nation in the world has joined the AN except four: the United States, Turkey, Iraq and Israel. Now that the AN has given the United States, Turkey and Iraq a one-week deadline to join the AN willingly or by force, the United States has officially declared war in all fifty of the states to repel the coming AN invasion.

When Jason Shaw and eight other people accidentally discover the truth about what really happened to the millions of people that vanished, they embark upon a heroic journey to save billions of souls by exposing the lies of the AN.

Because Rick, Tim and Danny have the knowledge to build another laser-equipped satellite like the one that was used to vaporize Russia, the White House, and the Pentagon, the AN has all the more reason to want them all dead. Through it all, despite the horrifying judgments of God affecting the earth and mankind disastrously, the human element remains.

Okay, okay, you've talked me into it: following is a **FREE preview** of *The End Of All Things As Told By Jason Shaw*

Chapter 1

A piece of paper sliding across the desk interrupted the newscaster. Fierce concentration replaced the normally pleasant expression on her face as she quickly read the bulletin. Looking up, she said, "This just in! Moments ago, Israel launched several nuclear weapons and wiped off the map! "Stay tuned for further developments. Remember, you heard it here on NewsFix first!"

The ticker at the bottom of the screen read: *Breaking news... Israel uses nuclear weapons to decimate Russia... Boeing 747 crashes into the Bronco Stadium in Denver, Colorado...*

Across the room, my dad sat straight up from his slouching position, turned the volume up, and began to listen intently.

How could a little bitty country like Israel get away with destroying a huge country like Russia? I remembered thinking

"Too bad it wasn't the other way around: freaking Jews," my dad said.

To impress our dad, Mark said, "Yeah, get the Christians and Blacks too."

I was terrified. If Russia was powerless to defend against such a horrific attack, then the United States would be just as vulnerable. We could be next. "Dad, aren't countries like Russia equipped with radars to detect nuclear weapons?" I asked.

"Yeah, they are," he answered. Judging by the look on his face, he must have been thinking the same thing I was.

"Then how come Russia didn't see the nukes coming and fire back or even try to stop them?" I asked.

"Those Jews are sneaky," dad answered and immediately, he dove into his usual lecture about how treacherous that he thought that they were. When my dad started in on Native Americans, Blacks, Hispanics, Jews, or even politics, anyone that he decided to talk to about them might as well have just kissed the next few hours goodbye. He could be downright ridiculous at times while he rambled on and on about how stupid that they were, about how they hoard all of the money, how they would rip everyone else off. Other than that, my dad was a decent fellow. Well... mostly.

Since it was always best to change the subject if at all possible, the instant he paused, I seized the opportunity to keep him on the subject that I wanted to talk about. "Dad, do you really think that we'll really go to war with the AN?"

"I hope not... I really don't think that'll happen, son," he answered, taking the bait. He quickly glanced over at me and in that split second, I saw my own feelings reflected in his expression: pure, raw terror. "Everything will be fine, Jason. You'll see," he croaked.

Deep down inside I was panic-stricken at the idea of the entire world invading the U.S. On a deeper level than that, being a young, healthy male, I felt utterly impotent. I knew that I was powerless to help dad protect the family from harm. I almost asked him what we would do if the AN invaded the United States, but I didn't want to paint the devil on the wall, as the old saying

goes. "I hope so," I said to my dad. Another moment of uncomfortable silence passed before I said, "Well dad, I'm going into the kitchen to see if mom needs any help."

As I stood to head into the kitchen, Mark ran in front of me and even before he reached the kitchen, he blurted, "Mom! Russia just got totally wiped out by the Jews!"

"Are you serious?" she asked incredulously.

"Yeah, no kidding they just said it on the news," I told her as I entered the room.

So that she could hear the news herself, mom went into the living room and sat down in front of the TV. "You know... someone was bound to destroy someone else with all of the wars going on," once she received confirmation that we weren't lying.

"But mom, I heard that the AN was supposed to put a stop to all of the wars over there," I said.

"You know, it was only a matter of time before that supposedly miraculous peace plan of theirs fell apart," my mother commented pessimistically.

"We are going to have to interrupt this news segment to listen to an important announcement from the President of the Associated Nations for Peace, which is already in progress," the anchorwoman on the news said.

"Shush!" dad said because Mark and I were talking.

"...for joining me here tonight," Syrian President Faris Sayed said. "This announcement is in regard to the sudden and total destruction of Russia. For those of you who do not already know, due to the fact that Israel's largest commodity has been oil for nearly a decade, Israel has rapidly become one of the world's richest countries. Because of this, Russia was planning to invade Israel and claim the country as its own.

"Upon joining the Associated Nations for Peace, all member countries, including Russia, wholeheartedly agreed to adopt the AN constitution as their own. In doing so, every member country has sworn to abide by the laws that are in the AN constitution. Under article five, section two it clearly states that if a member country initiates any form of unprovoked hostility or aggression toward another country, the AN will destroy the aggressor immediately. While knowing of their plans in advance, I authorized the complete destruction of Russia via a laser-equipped satellite the moment that they began to ready their planes of war. Though Israel is not a member country, I chose to protect Israel from invasion. Had Russia reconsidered and forestalled their deplorable plan, this unfortunate series of events would not have taken place. It is my intention to use Russia as an example of how sincere that the AN is about keeping peace. Though regrettable, the AN would not hesitate to utilize our satellite weaponry to decimate yet another country that acts aggressively toward another country. Again, we regret—"

"We are going to have to interrupt this interruption to bring you an emergency announcement from the President of the United States," the newswoman said as the station cut Sayed's speech off suddenly.

Standing ramrod straight behind the podium, President Darnell Jackson

waited to begin his speech. He was a black, God-fearing man whose composure commanded respect. His voice was pleasant, fatherly even, and his gaze was steady. Perspicacious and astute, during his highly distinguished career as a U.S. Senator, and then as Secretary of State, he solved problems that were too complex for even the most sagacious at times, thereby earning him the esteem of his peers. What's more, while he served as Secretary of State, he never capitulated; he employed his diplomatic skills to tactfully encourage even the most enthusiastic warmongers to consider alternatives to hostilities. Though he had attempted to resolve this particular issue at hand by diplomacy, the AN refused to compromise.

When all was quiet, he began, "Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank you for joining me tonight as I have a very important announcement to make. As you all know, not long after the UN disbanded six months ago, nations began to gather and form their own alliances. Shortly thereafter, wars began to erupt between the different factions. As a solution to the dilemma, Mr. Faris Sayed, the President of Syria, formed the Associated Nations for Peace with himself as leader.

"On the surface, the AN promise of peace and protection for the member countries, and for individual citizens, the promise of equality and the right to live as one feels sounds like a dream come true. However, upon closer examination of the AN constitution, we have discovered that the countries wishing to join the AN must be willing to relinquish their sovereignty and implement the AN constitution; moreover, upon joining the AN, the countries as well as *their* citizens become *property* of the Associated Nations for Peace. Throughout the world, every country has joined the Associated Nations for Peace, except four: the United States, Turkey, Iraq and Israel."

It was obvious that he was upset. While he spoke, he pounded on his podium, leaned over it, and raised his voice to nearly shouting in order to elaborate certain points. One after the other, he looked each reporter in the eyes and told them, "The AN constitution is virtually identical to the United States' Constitution with certain exceptions: under the United States' Constitution, *everyone* has the right to *free speech*. In stark contrast, there are *no* such rights for citizens within the AN Constitution... *the right to free speech is illegal in the AN Constitution!*" He paused for a moment to allow the last bit to sink in.

While the majority of the reporters simply stared at him, a few were jotting down questions to ask.

"Within the Constitution of the United States," the President said, "*each and every citizen* is afforded the right to worship freely and practice any religion that he or she shall choose. Conversely, it states within the AN constitution, and I quote: '*No religion other than the official AN religion will be tolerated. Those who are found to be non compliant with the aforementioned AN laws will face severe penalties...'* *The penalties are appalling to say the least!*" While he said the last, he pounded his palm on the podium to further stress his point. "There are other issues as well—"

Two reporters interrupted him with questions and he silenced them by

putting his hand up with his palm facing them. “Listen to me!” he hollered angrily like a fed up parent would say to a spoiled child. “Just seven days ago, the Associated Nations for Peace issued the United States a one-week deadline to decide upon an ultimatum: either become a member country of the AN willingly or by force!” He spit out the word Peace with heavy sarcasm. It was understandable that the President was irate: The AN was invading the United States for refusing to relinquish the liberties that made the country so unique and wonderful. “Had the United States made the choice to join the AN, the AN Constitution would have legally superseded the Constitution of the United States. Freedom of religion—with the exception of the official AN religion—freedom of speech, the right to privacy, the right to due process, as well as certain other liberties that we’re all accustomed to would have become illegal *effective immediately!* Also, the United States as well as each person living within its territory would have become *property* of the AN.” He paused for a moment and then said, “Last week, I called for Congress to put the *not so nice* offer to join the AN to vote, and it was *unanimously* rejected!

“In order to comply with article four, section four, AND in accordance with the first amendment of the Constitution of the United States, also in compliance with the Constitutional Provision, article I, Section 8 which states, ‘The Congress shall have Power: To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water.’ Additionally, ‘To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections, and repel Invasions.’ Immediately following the rejection of the not so nice offer from the AN, I solicited Congress to vote on another issue: in order to protect each citizen’s freedom of religion, freedom of speech and to retain our sovereignty, I asked the Congress to authorize an official declaration of war in order to protect all fifty of the United States from invasion. Namely, to protect this wonderful country of ours from invasion from invasion from the AN. Understandably, that vote was unanimous in favor as well” He paused for a second and then quietly said, “The time limit that the AN had given the United States to join the AN had ended one hour ago.”

Speechless, stunned, the reporters had stopped taking notes and simply stared at the president as though he was suddenly speaking to them in an unintelligible language. What he had just told them was that the United States was officially at war with the Associated Nations for Peace, meaning that combat could begin at any moment, if it hadn’t already.

“But please do not panic, the AN has assured me that they will not engage the U.S. in combat until daybreak tomorrow,” the president added in an effort to try and reassure everyone. Because the president realized that what he’d just said was a lot for anyone to absorb within just a few moments, out of consideration for the media as well as the people who were listening on TV, he paused once again to allow them a small amount of time to process what they’d just heard before he continued.

Slowly, the journalists began to stir. Abruptly, one of them stood and blurted, “Are you telling us that we’re already at war?”

Calmly, President Jackson said, “Hold on sir... we’ll get to that in a minute,

but after I finish speaking.” Before they had a chance to interrupt further, he quickly moved on, “There will be no lottery with the Selective Service: *Everyone who is able bodied*, whether they are in school or not, that has registered for the selective service and is between the ages of eighteen and twenty five will be immediately inducted into the United States military. Let me reiterate: Due to the extreme nature of this national emergency, every able bodied male who is between the ages of twenty-six and thirty-five, will also be conscripted straight away into the United States military. Immediately following this announcement, there will be a number at the bottom of the screen. Without delay, all men who are of good health, whether they have registered with the selective service or not, and are between the ages of seventeen and a half and thirty-five are *required* to call the number at the bottom of the screen to find out where he will be stationed. Non-participation will result in severe penalties including imprisonment and fines. I will add that *all* healthy citizens, whether male or female, are strongly encouraged to call the number and enlist.”

The media erupted. Sounds of shock went throughout and questions began to shoot forth from nearly all of the correspondents at the same time. Rather than answer any of their questions, the President roared, “If you’ll just be quiet, you can hear the rest of what I have to say!” Eventually, the media settled and afterward they began to scratch notes and questions in their notebooks. As he looked about the room, the President took a deep breath and steadied himself. In a more calm, even voice, he said, “Several departments and agencies within the Federal Government will be exercising all rights under the law that is contained within Article I, Section 9, which reads, ‘The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.’” In his usual, fatherly tone, he said, “Now, that means that governmental control will be established over *all* US citizens and in order to protect the citizens in all fifty of the United States, Martial Law has been ordered by congress in *all fifty* of the United States *effective immediately* and will continue until the crisis is past.”

Being only sixteen my worst fear was actually happening. What the President was saying was impossible for any of us to believe and as I listened to the speech, I wondered if our government had gone out of their minds. I couldn't fathom how they could have ever imagined that the United States would possibly stand a chance at resisting an invasion by the entire world at once. I had a hard time believing that the president as well as congress could ever be so callous as to deliberately and superciliously disregard the billions of lives that they were empowered to protect. Yet, there it was, staring all of us boldly in the face. That led me to wonder if the government was expecting the people, the regular citizens, people like my dad and me, to take up arms. If we continued on that course, I knew that we were soon to experience a slaughter on a scale such as never been seen or heard of before. If we surrendered, certainly, our right to free speech as well as other inalienable rights would be lost, and we'd have to talk and worship in secret, but at least we'd be alive. I looked over at my dad and he looked bewildered.

Once again, the correspondents were in turmoil. Sympathetically, the President looked on and waited quietly for them to calm before saying, "Please, for your safety, stay inside of your homes from dusk until dawn until further notice. Any citizen found to travel outside their homes from dusk until dawn will be considered the enemy or agents of the invaders and will be immediately shot."

"Mom, what's Martial Law?" Mark asked.

"Shh, Mark, listen!" dad shouted with his eyes glued to the TV.

Again, the newsmen and women stood and began to rapid-fire their questions at the president. But by then, what little patience that he'd gained over the last few moments was lost. Jaws clenched, he firmly said, "Settle down now or I'll have every one of you removed from this room!"

Immediate silence ensued. The media plopped back down into their seats and remained for a few moments.

"FEMA will be controlling all government agencies as well as all buildings during this time of emergency," he said to them. "All businesses, churches, vehicles, buildings both public and private, agriculture, railways, airports, and excess food during this time of war will be under the control of this agency. Be assured that, in the best interests of the public, we will exercise the utmost caution and care."

Bracing himself for impact, the president said, "The Federal Government will be utilizing the media to coordinate communications and to keep the public updated. Effective immediately, all communications media will be surrendered to government control and for security reasons, the First Amendment will be suspended until we are no longer at war."

For a second or two, there was silence.

Then pandemonium exploded: all sense of order unraveled as the crowd of reporters went wild. Camera flashes assaulted the president from every direction and the chatter and questions from the media rose to a full-fledged uproar. While one reporter began to ask a question, another reporter raised his or her voice to interrupt the first reporter and then a third interrupted the second and so on. Instead of joining the madness of their contemporaries, three reporters gathered their belongings, their photographers and equipment, and simply fled from the room.

The president had had it with them by now. Loudly, he yelled, "Ladies and gentlemen of the press! *I remind you again that you will be forced to join the reporters who have already left this meeting if you do not settle down!*"

Finally, after a minute or two, the reporters regained their composure, just enough to remain seated. For the most part, they were calm and not another peep was heard out of them; however, the chorus of noise created by the pencils and pens that they were swiftly moving over their paper was exceptionally noisy.

Despite the racket, the president resumed, "All electrical power, fuels, and minerals will be utilized by the federal government on an as needed basis. I assure you that the United States government will not seize these resources unless it becomes absolutely necessary. That is all, thank you for listening."

Without warning, he turned and left the room. The astonished reporters sat perfectly still and silent as they watched him go.

When the regular news came back on, two military representatives, who were wearing BDU's, were in place of the regular newscasters. Evidently, the military hadn't wasted a precious second before seizing control of the media.

One of the military spokesmen began, "Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for joining us. For those of you who don't know, Martial Law has been declared in all fifty of the United States. Furthermore, all government buildings and regular businesses will remain closed until further notice. *During daylight times*, you are being urged to only go out and do only what is necessary, such as gather food for your family or to see a doctor. Unless you are in desperate need of immediate medical help—for your safety—from *dusk* until *dawn*, you are being advised to stay inside your homes. If you *must* go out after dusk, stand on your front porch until a member of the military approaches you and escorts you to wherever you need to go." He stopped talking and waited for the other spokesman to continue.

"Under any circumstances," the other newsman said, "*DO NOT* return to work or school until the current crises is past. For those of you who are male and between the ages of seventeen and a half and thirty-five, I am ordering you to call the number that is at the bottom of the screen immediately. Failure to comply will result in immediate court marshal upon capture."

"Dad, does that mean we're really going to war?" Mark asked.

"Yeah son, it does," Rick answered.

"Does this mean that we're going to have war on our streets, in our houses or schools? Are we going to war with the whole entire world?"

"Yes, Mark, the war is coming to us," Rick disdainfully answered.

Excited, Mark looked at me and said, "OhMyGod, we're going to get to see people shooting guns and everything... way *cool!*"

I shuddered as I envisioned the soldiers, who would surely commandeer the house and shoot at the enemy from within. In my mind's eye, I saw the disgusting arrangement of dead bodies that they would leave lying on our lawn when they were finished.

"Kelley, I want you to take the kids to Dumas and stay at your mother's place," dad said.

"We're not going without you, Rick," she protested.

"Hon, I can't go with you. I need to be here when RS reopens," he told her. Sometimes it seemed like all dad cared about was his company, RS Manufacturing.

"Rick, you can always come back when this Martial Law is over."

"I'm not going, but the three of you are. That's final," he said.

For a few minutes, mom didn't say anything. She stared at the TV and listened to the representatives while she tried to think of a way to get him to go with them. Finally, after failing to come up with a valid argument, she said, "All right. Fine, we'll leave first thing in the morning."

When mom picked up the phone and called her sister, she was in tears when aunt Brenda refused to go with us to grandma's house. When she hung up the

telephone, she told us that aunt Brenda figured that the U.S. would back out before the war began. Dad offered to call and talk to her, but mom told him not to.

When Danny arrived home after work, he turned on the TV to the news. Absently, he picked up his telephone and dialed the number for the Chinese Restaurant that he had scrawled on his telephone book years before and ordered Chinese food for delivery. Hanging up the phone, he turned up the TV so he could listen to the president's speech and when it was over, he immediately called the number at the bottom of the news screen. Once he received his orders for deployment, he called his parents to tell them goodbye.

"Hi mom, it's me, I'm just calling to see if you've been watching the news," Danny said when his mother answered.

Excitedly, she said, "Yes. Isn't it weird... can you believe it? The United States is going to war with the Associated Nations for Peace! I hope that the United States will back down before this starts because we'll never win! We're up against the whole world. If we'd just get rid of religion all together... it's what causes most of the wars anyways."

"I hope they call it off too, especially before I have to report for duty."

"Oh, I forgot you're a weekend warrior! Danny, I'm so sorry," she halfheartedly apologized.

A second or two of awkward silence passed before he said, "Well, mom, I just called to let you know what is going on and to say goodbye."

Condescendingly, she said, "Don't you worry son, we'll see you when it's over... you'll come back right as rain."

"I know, but just in case." Almost as an afterthought, he asked, "Hey, is dad around?"

"No, he stepped out and went to the store. Do you want him to call you when he gets back?"

"No, that's all right," he said, trying to sound disappointed. "Can you tell him goodbye for me?"

"Are you sure? He'll call you right back," she offered.

"No, that's okay... I have to get going right away. I love you mom."

"I love you too."

"Goodbye."

"Bye son."

He hung up and then called Tim Smith at home. Because Tim was his friend as well as his boss at work, he wanted to let him know what was going on. When Tim's answering machine picked up, Danny said: "Hey Tim, this is Danny, and I'm calling—"

Tim picked up the phone and interrupted Danny's message. "Danny! Sorry I almost missed you," he said. "I was on the other line with Rick. Can you believe what's going on?"

"I'm surprised myself," Danny said. "Actually, what I'm calling about is that I wanted let you know that since I'm in the National Guard and we're being mobilized immediately, I might be missing some work once we reopen."

"Oh God Danny, I forgot all about you being in the National Guard! Sorry about that comment I made," Tim said, both shocked and embarrassed that he'd forgotten about Danny being in the National Guard, especially since he'd known Danny for more than five years.

"Oh, don't worry about it," Danny said sincerely. "I know we're probably going to lose... I mean, come on, the US is big, but not *that* big."

"Hey, don't worry about your job, Danny, the news said not to go to work and Rick just called and told me that everything's shut down until this Martial Law is over. Everyone else is shut down too." A moment of silence passed before Tim said, "Be careful out there, okay."

"I'll try," Danny promised.

Following another bout of silence, with a huge lump in his throat, Tim said, "Danny, you know I've always thought of you as a good friend as well as an excellent employee. I hope you come back soon because I'll miss you and I know that everyone else will too."

"Thank you," Danny said. "I have always thought of you as a good friend too, as well as a great boss. I'll be back as quickly as I can."

"God Bless and Godspeed, Danny."

"You too, Tim!" Danny said surprised because he knew that Tim didn't believe in God.

Neither knew what to say after that. Tim didn't want Danny to be in any danger and Danny really wasn't expecting to survive. But what could one say? At last, Danny said, "Well, I should get off of the phone so I can get going. Goodbye Tim, tell Rick, Kelley and the kids I said to take care."

Choking back his tears, Tim said, "Will do, Danny. Please be careful out there."

"I'll try," Danny promised.

"Okay, I'll let you go now... goodbye," Tim choked. The word goodbye sounded so final to Tim. He knew he would never see his friend again. Danny would die out there. In Tim's mind, none of them would make it.

Danny called Rick next and let him know that he'd been called up for duty and when Rick mentioned that he was sending his family up to his mother-in-law's house in the mountains, he urged Rick to accompany them.

Finished saying their goodbyes, Danny hung up the phone and then wrote his landlord a note explaining that he was called up for duty and explained that the two checks in the envelope were for the next two month's rent. After that, he did the same for his auto insurance and for the electric company and once he had the letters stamped and addressed, he placed them into his jacket pocket so that he wouldn't forget to drop them off on his way to the armory.

With that business taken care of, he went into his kitchen, opened his refrigerator and threw out anything that would spoil soon-which was just about everything. As soon as his Chinese food arrived, Danny paid for it and tipped the delivery driver generously. Before he ate, he said a prayer of thanksgiving for the food and for the delivery driver's safety. Quickly, he ate his fill of his dinner and then threw away the rest.

As fast as he could, he put on his BDU's and his jacket and on the way to

the front door, he double-checked his jacket pocket to make sure that the envelopes were there. With his personal duffle bag and his trash in his arms, he headed out the door.

Under normal circumstances, Danny would have arrived at the National Guard facility within a half of an hour, but due to the extremely heavy traffic, the trip took more than two hours. In addition, because the facility was taking in so many new people, parking spaces were extremely difficult to find. Finally, after finding a parking spot he got out of his car, grabbed his knapsack, and then double-checked his BDU. He straightened it out more out of a force of habit than necessity and then headed toward the building. Soon, he began to notice that someone had put up several huge glow-in-the-dark orange signs with big black arrows painted on them. Apparently, they were to guide the new arrivals to the registration line. He followed the signs and as soon as he saw the line, he was amazed by how long it was.

A few minutes later, while Danny stood in the line, he imagined that it was moving so slowly that the war would probably be over by the time that he reached the front. Here and there, he noticed that several men and women were sitting on their behinds on the ground. As the line shifted forward, they kept up by scooting forward on their rear ends.

Later, when Danny looked at his watch and saw that he'd been standing in line for nearly an hour, he looked back and was surprised to see that the line had nearly doubled. Because of time constraints and necessity, he knew that it would be virtually impossible to fully train the new recruits. Other than being shown how to wear their Battle Dress Uniforms properly and how to use the M-4 rifles that they'd be issued, he wondered how much more training that they would receive. As he looked at the faces of the other people who were waiting in line, he wondered how many of them would survive the war that they'd soon be facing.

Close to another hour passed and he looked back again and noticed that the line had grown so much that he couldn't see the end of it right away. He followed it visually and discovered that it had snaked out to the parking lot.

At long last, he reached the front of the line and immediately after getting signed in, he headed toward the barracks. Once there, he noticed that there were two large, self-supporting signs had been placed across the walkway from the doors: one read New Recruits and had a giant arrow beneath it that pointed right, and the other sign read Enlisted and had an arrow under it that pointed left, toward the main courtyard. He quickly went inside, placed his personal belongings into his footlocker, and then headed out to the courtyard. While they waited to be called to attention, he visited with some of the other men and women that he knew.

The Staff Sergeant called everyone to attention at eleven o'clock in the evening. Immediately, everyone turned and faced forward. While pacing back and forth, he spoke to the soldiers just loudly enough to be heard by everyone. "Men and women of the 154th Infantry, I thank you... your country thanks you for doing your duty and coming here tonight, and for what you'll have to do to protect this glorious country," he said and as he continued to speak, a few

more men and women scurried in to join the others. As he looked at their faces, he noticed that they seemed ashamed of the fact that they were late. "To the men and women who arrived late, thank you for joining us," he told them to assuage their fears, to let them know that they wouldn't be reprimanded for coming in late. To everyone he said, "You may or may not have noticed that the line out there is exceptionally long and because of that, many more men and women will be joining us as fast as humanly possible. There are many more who have not arrived yet and I hope that they will soon."

The Sergeant stopped pacing and looked them all over for a moment. On top of feeling responsible for their well being he hoped that he'd done his job of ensuring that they were prepared to do whatever was necessary in order to protect the country while keeping themselves alive. More than that, even though he didn't know each one of them intimately, they were like family to him. He felt like a father to them. He loved each and every one of them dearly, and nearly told them so right then; however, because his position required that he be tough on them, he decided to keep his feelings to himself.

That evening, just before he had come out to address the troops, he was on his knees praying for them. He prayed that the men and women who were in his charge would all return to him safely. And once again, he prayed that each of them would find Salvation somehow, some way, before it was too late because more than anything else, the thought of any one of them suffering for an eternity without the Lord frightened him, terrified him in ways that he couldn't begin to articulate. In the past, when the government decided to modernize the face of the military, he tried frantically to keep the position of chaplain in place. At the same time, he tried to have a measure enacted that would ensure that, along with the other standard equipment such as uniforms and boots, each soldier received a Bible. To the government, he contended that faithful soldiers always performed to higher standards than the others, however, the real reason was because it was his hope that if soldiers read the Word, then they might find Salvation. His idea was shot down after the military eliminated the role of chaplain on the basis that their function was outdated.

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