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# END TIMES DAWNING

# **GET READY!**

**BY STEVE ASHBURN** 



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## INTRODUCTION

This book is a sequel to *The Next Nuclear War: Are We on the Edge of the End Times?* (Deep River Books, 2014). The subject is the same—endtimes prophecies in the Bible—but told from the perspective of Isaiah. The book of Isaiah, which contains end-times or millennial prophecy in most of its sixty-six chapters, is a rich source of information about these future events, and mainly is meant to be used in conjunction with the rest of Scripture taken as a whole. By itself, it serves as an in-depth reference guide, providing the student of the Bible with more detailed information of the end times which more generally is presented in other books in the Old and New Testaments. The present book presents a detailed analysis of end-times and millennial prophecies in Isaiah, with sections also quoted from other books in the Bible in order to "fill in the gaps."

A familiarity with the general sequence of events of the end times (recounted in *The Next Nuclear War*) is assumed. These events begin with a nuclear war in the Middle East (generally outlined in Psalm 83, with more specific descriptions of the nations involved in other books in the Old Testament, e.g., Isaiah 19); a third coalition invasion of Iraq (Isaiah 13); a period of complacency, followed by the rapture (Isaiah 18); a northern invasion of Israel (Ezekiel 38-39); the tribulation; the glorious second coming of Christ; and the Millennial Kingdom. Many of these events are prophesied in Isaiah, although some—in particular concerning the tribulation and millennium—tend to be scattered throughout the book. The purpose of the present work is to arrange and describe these prophecies sequentially and concisely, within the context of the end times. A chapter summary of Isaiah also is provided in the last section. The signs marking the beginning of this time period continue to accrue: Israel is surrounded by hostile nations which progressively are becoming more Islamist; a rare four lunar and two solar eclipses occurred in 2014–2015, all on Jewish holy days; a magnitude 7.3 earthquake recently struck Japan's southern island of Kyushu; a multiyear drought has continued to extend across the US; the pine beetle epidemic continues, ravaging forests across the Western US; the porcine epidemic diarrhea virus continues to spread, resulting in the deaths of millions of pigs across the US; the deadly, mosquito-borne Zika virus has appeared in Europe and South America; our national debt is over \$20 trillion and continuing to increase, resulting in forced austerity, unemployment, and deflationary depression in our country, and with a similar economic picture in others; and there is political paralysis in dealing with fiscal problems. All these are signs Jesus predicted would occur at the beginning of the end times.

The Bible fortunately gives us an important definition in Ezekiel 29 and also Micah 7 of the forty-year period known as "the time of the end." This period begins with the nuclear destruction of Egypt and nearby nations in the Middle East; includes the rapture and the Ezekiel 38–39 invasion of Israel; and has the tribulation as its final seven-year segment, culminating with the physical, glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign upon the earth for one thousand years. The present book describes these events from the point of view of Isaiah, which adds fascinating details of this time period not found in other books in the Bible. It systematically and concisely goes through these prophecies and puts them in their proper place in relation to the end times, along with a proper timeline of this period and definition of terms.

Understanding this period requires a study of several books in the Old Testament, for in them is contained a somewhat detailed if fragmented—description of the beginning of the end times leading up to the tribulation, with the book of Revelation providing a detailed description of the tribulation itself. It is the purpose of this book to provide for the reader a description of this end-times period compiled from the various Old Testament prophecies, and in particular those in Isaiah; this covers a forty-year time span culminating with the battle of Armageddon. A description of the millennial kingdom of Christ also is provided, with Israel as our Lord's chief nation and Jerusalem as his capital—which is a recurring theme in Isaiah.

Perhaps the reason why many end-times prophecies in Isaiah have not been understood until now—in addition to their being fragmented—can be found in Daniel 12:4: "shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end." This means that many Old Testament prophecies relating to the beginning of the end times—for example, the regional nuclear war in the Middle East, and subsequent coalition invasion of Iraq (Isaiah 13) which begins this time period have been "sealed" thus far because the time was not yet at hand. With the publication of this book (and its predecessor, *The Next Nuclear War*), many of these prophecies which God commanded Daniel to "seal" now can be clearly understood. This means, by implication that the end times are at hand.

I personally was amazed, while reading these prophecies, to discover that many of them fell neatly into place in the context of a forty-year time period—which begins with an Arab attack on Israel (met with nuclear retaliation), and subsequently includes a third US-led coalition invasion of Iraq, the rapture of the saints, the tribulation, and ends with the glorious second coming of Christ. I also was amazed to read the many descriptions of the future millennial earth which include, for example, the restoration of the primeval ice canopy around the earth (which Genesis called the "waters which were above the firmament"), the complete absence of thorns or briers, and the docility of formerly carnivorous animals.

I hope that the reader will gain a broader understanding of the end times from Isaiah, and in particular the reality of the future millennial kingdom of Christ, when our Lord will in fact rule over the earth from his capital of Jerusalem; and that his covenant nation of Israel after having long rejected him as their Messiah—will be a nation of ministers and priests before God in Christ, and administratively will be chief of the nations of the world. This, more than any other, is a recurring theme in Isaiah. Finally, in view of the imminent fulfillment of Scripture, including the return of our Lord for his church, the reader is advised to stand firm in his witness for Christ, bearing much fruit in this present wicked world, and work "while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).