



# ESSAYS IN APOCALYPSE

*Foreword by Jan Markell*

## TERRY JAMES

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE END OF DAYS

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Dedicated to my brother  
Philip Robin James

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— Terry James

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## Foreword

Dare I say I am a fan of Terry James? I am — at least of his insight and writing style. I am always checking the Internet for his latest article so that I can post it to my various website locations. He and I have watched the same events unfold over a few decades. But only in the last decade have they “converged” and filled each day with anticipation as I would wonder what the breaking story might be as it concerned eschatology.

No one outlines these issues quite like Terry. He has issues analyzed even before the story breaks. Once it breaks, he connects the dots in simple language with concise and easy-to-understand logic.

We need more thinkers and writers like this. Many want to get lost in the weeds rather than keeping to the point.

In the last 20 years, we’ve seen an increase in aberrant eschatological theologies. In 2005, Hal Lindsey personally told me that those who would disagree with the basics of pre-Trib dispensationalism would do so in a very contentious way. One of the most grievous ordeals of ministry life has been contending with the contentious who are always coming up with a new way of doing Bible prophecy. And the new way is seldom biblically solid. It has been sad to see that, upon disagreement, division follows, and even unkind words are publicly spoken.

Sure, we should expect this when we take a stand for anything, but this world is falling apart, and we need to stick together and encourage one another. Thus, I am comforted that there are some teachers and writers who have not wavered in their theology and who faithfully encourage the flock with the truth. That is what Terry does with his writing.

Terry James may be physically blind, but he has eyes to see things spiritually that few do. You will see that in this book as he tackles the predicted issues that are coming to life. He will make sense of a lot of things.

Pay attention to his warnings and his writings. The world is spinning with things to come, just as predicted.

The King is returning, perhaps today.

— Jan Markell

## **A Note from the Author**

As many readers know, I write a weekly “Nearing Midnight” column for the Rapture Ready website. When reviewed over time, these essays provide a unique opportunity to look back through issues and events to see ongoing, dated snapshots of the progression of stage-setting for fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

Beginning with chapter 4, the chapter titles reflect material I wrote *at the time of the chapter title date*, so when you see words like “last week” or “next month,” please keep in mind that the references are to past, not current, events.

## America: Babylon's Mirror Image

One of the most frightening descriptions of judgment found in Bible prophecy is set within the 17th and 18th chapters of Revelation. God's wrath is foretold to fall upon history's most blasphemous and wealthiest religious, political, and socioeconomic humanistic system.

*Babylon the Great* will be destroyed in a single hour. It will take place at some point during the last seven years of the age leading up to Christ's Second Coming.

One of the most asked questions by those interested in end-times matters is: "Is America in Bible prophecy?" — or "Why isn't America, certainly considered the greatest nation to this point in history in terms of wealth and material achievement, not in Bible prophecy?"

The most common answer given by teachers and others who view prophecy from the pre-Millennial, pre-Tribulation, *futurist* perspective is: "No." America is *not* found in Bible prophecy. That has most frequently been my own answer to that basic question. The United States of America isn't found within the pages of God's prophetic Word.

I can't answer for others who deal with biblical eschatology (the study of end things). I can only say that my own meaning within my answer is that the U.S. isn't mentioned *by name* anywhere in prophecy.

Whether this most materially blessed nation in history, despite the absence of its name, is or is not somewhere in prophecy is another matter. Regarding that matter, my thinking, based upon study of God's Word, has trended in more recent times toward "perhaps."

Babylon, the city second only to Jerusalem as far as the number of times it's mentioned in the Bible, is, of course, at the center of most controversy in the question of whether America is implied in Scripture. Is the United States *Babylon the Great*?

Despite the adamant answers to this query by some of my colleagues and friends on both sides of the America/Babylon matter, I must say they

cannot — nor can I — know for certain. Only history playing out can provide the answer. We don't know the future in detail when speculating upon such peripheral prophetic issues. Such is reserved exclusively for the God of heaven.

Time's unfolding, however, always draws things to come into focus so that prophetic detail can be more clearly discerned. It seems to me that recent times have provided ever-increasing magnification, showing America's possible inclusion within these "end-of-days" prophecies, as the secular world terms them.

I am not declaring that I think America is Babylon the Great. Like this chapter's title implies, however, our nation, in many ways, looks to me to be more and more like a *mirror reflection* of that prophesied entity.

### **Babylon the Great**

Let's look here at the mysterious entity God called "Babylon the Great." Its total destruction assuredly describes how it will be the apex nation/city/commercial and religious system of human history:

And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,

Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. . . .

The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing,

And saying, Alas, alas that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls!

For in one hour so great riches is come to naught. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off,

And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate (Revelation 18:9–19).

There have been great religious and commercial centers throughout history. Some of these were, no doubt, seen by the merchants of the time and others as wielding great seductive and controlling power like that described above. Some of these have been destroyed, usually by military action. Others — such as in the case of Pompeii, destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius — have been almost instantly decimated by what many consider the judgment of God.

But, these were all in the past — mostly in the ancient past. There has been no such total devastation to such a powerful city or nation in modern times. And the destruction of Babylon the Great is prophetically scheduled to take place at a future time set within the context of the last seven years leading up to Christ's Second Advent.

If God's Word is true — and it is truth in every respect — there must be a city, nation, and commercial influence of tremendous magnitude during the time of what John was told to call the Apocalypse, the "Revelation of Jesus Christ."

We must then, if trying to understand whether the present generation is near the time of Christ's "Revelation" or Second Coming, ask whether a city-state commercial system as described in Revelation chapter 18 exists.

As a matter of fact, there is indeed such an entity. It is the only one on the scene as of right now. Far beyond that fact, the one presently on the scene is one unlike any to have ever existed throughout the history of mankind.

The United States of America is, in terms of human achievement and attainment of every conceivable development of material convenience, the absolute apex of all nations of all of history! This isn't being boastful of my nation. It's simply fact that even the most ardent America-hater can't truthfully deny. As my fellow Arkansan, that great philosopher Dizzy Dean, said, "It ain't braggin' if you can do it."<sup>1</sup>

America, blessed beyond all nations, materially speaking — and even spiritually speaking, in some sense — has done it. The United States has achieved greatness that is the envy of the world . . . and the hatred of the world as well, in many cases.

It is deflating, after that statement, to have to say that this once-great nation has become, perhaps, among the most debauched and debased of human history. Lord Edward Acton said it well: "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely."<sup>2</sup> America has achieved power like no other nation-state. She has corrupted herself, possibly beyond redemption.

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1. [https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/dizzy\\_dean\\_379853](https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/dizzy_dean_379853).

2. <https://acton.org/research/lord-acton-quote-archive>.

The primary cause of the fall into corruption is that American society and culture — its people, for the most part — have collectively turned their backs on God. The nation has grown rich and insensitive to God's blessings, His great purposes for bringing into existence this most unique experiment in liberty. Like the Lord's indictment of Babylon the Great, it might be said, "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" (Revelation 18:3).

America is the richest nation that has ever been upon this fallen planet. Jesus told us that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to "see" the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:24). The spiritual heart — the minds of the rich — are easily turned from thoughts of the true God of heaven. These have a difficult time even "seeing" or recognizing things of the Kingdom of heaven. They, therefore, certainly have an almost impossible challenge in finding the only route to salvation — that found in Romans 10:9–10: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Thankfully, Jesus followed up that dire "camel through the eye of a needle" assessment by stating that "with God all things are possible," meaning that the rich can attain salvation, because of God's love and grace.

The United States of America experienced that love and grace as a nation with the 2016 presidential election. This is a view I realize isn't shared by a vast number of Americans, even necessarily Americans who voted for the winner in that election. But my view is that God's grace, love, and patience are the reason for the sudden, unexpected turn of events in the direction the election took that night of November 8.

The 2 Chronicles 7:14 Scripture was on full display: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Some theologians will argue adamantly that this declaration by God was only for the Jewish people — the nation Israel. It has, at best, only unknowably uncertain, peripheral application for today's Age of Grace (Church Age), they insist.

I disagree. God tells us that He does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The 2 Chronicles 7:14 promise has not been abandoned by the God of heaven.

The essays within this book detail my view on how God's praying people helped cause the surprise — even shock — politicians, pundits, and people across the nation and world received when the election results became known at around 9:00 p.m. eastern time on November 8, 2016.

Not to be misunderstood, I am not saying or even hinting that I think the winning candidate for the presidency is a *godly* person. I am saying, however, that the winning candidate is *God's man* for this critical hour as this generation moves ever deeper into the last of the last days.

The United States — the world — received a sort of reprieve. The phenomenal turnabout in direction America took was like a child playing with a battery-operated toy car, reaching down and picking the toy up, turning it around, and letting it run in the opposite direction.

Well . . . that might be a bit of a weak analogy to what happened, but maybe it will suffice for illustrative purposes here. We consider at this juncture only the moral issues of the most basic sort, just to, hopefully, further make the point. America's obstinate turning from God's prescriptive way for humanity was on full display during the previous presidential administration. God said, through Paul the Apostle in Romans chapter 1 and in numerous Old Testament passages, that homosexuality is a sin. God seems to consider man lying (engaging in sexual acts) with man and woman with woman as among the most egregious of sins. Such is termed an "abomination" in God's Holy Word.

Not only did the practice of homosexuality ramp up during the years of the previous administration, it was given government sanction at every turn. We recall that the president had the White House bathed in the rainbow colors to show his support for those on the side of gay rights.

We remember, too, that Christian business owners were prosecuted and fined for refusing to bake cakes for homosexual "marriages."

And, to that point, the United States government, with full backing of the court system, slapped the Creator of mankind in the face by saying marriage is not the way God ordained. We infer from that decision that God was wrong in the opinion of America's court system. Same-sex marriage was normalized — or that was the attempt that was made.

God made male and female, we are plainly informed in Genesis. The courts and the "progressive" minds of America and the world tell us that, regardless of our birth gender, we can be whatever we want to be. The psychologists, psychiatrists, and other psychoanalysts of today agree. Some textbooks on such matters have been rewritten. They now say that homosexuality, transsexuality, and all other formerly aberrant sexual identities are now normal, alternative lifestyle choices.

While the new president — again, as I see as not a *godly* man, but as *God's man* — hasn't addressed to any great extent the particular issue of immorality concerning sexuality within the American culture, he has indicated strongly that he intends to see that Christianity is treated fairly. He has said he saw that the Christian faith was under assault and that he intends to rectify that inequity. I believe the Lord has seen fit to surround the president with a number of Christian men and women who will help guide him in the effort to "rectify" the inequities.

America has corrupted herself, as delineated above. However, she has been an instrument for righteousness in the hand of God as well.

From its beginning, despite the problems of infiltration by esoteric influences, America had at its conception principles that obviously were put in the minds of the Founding Fathers by the God of heaven. Those Judeo-Christian principles served the nation well. The gospel of Jesus Christ flourished as the dominant faith without its proponents acting dictatorially by suppressing or oppressing other religions.

While some such oppression might have on rare occasion attempted to so dominate, the Constitution was there to assure freedom of religious practice and expression. In the matter of sharing the gospel message of Jesus Christ, America was indeed that shining light on the hill about which President Ronald Reagan and others have proudly spoken.

Second only in importance to spreading the gospel around the world through missionary effort and through the fantastic technologies she developed is the nation's other divine purpose, in my view. America served as midwife for Israel's rebirth into modernity.

America was the primary mover in supporting the fledgling Jewish state when much of the world was indifferent or even antagonistic to Israel becoming a nation. The most powerful country on earth just happened to be there with a president, Harry S. Truman, who saw prophetic significance in what was taking place. It was a divine appointment, there is no doubt.

This nation, then, was once a *great* nation, considering the two main purposes it has served. In that sense, the desire to "make America great again" is a worthy and even noble ambition. However, it will never be made great again through political manipulations or economic revival. Only the God of heaven who gave the nation its commission in the first place can truly "make America great again."

When looking at the America/Babylon the Great question, do we see in Scripture any indication that the doomed religious and commercial city-nation system ever had redeeming qualities?

Perhaps — and it is a big "perhaps."

Based upon the fact that Bible prophecy often has dual reference, usually to a local or immediate circumstance and secondly to a distant circumstance, it is appropriate to wonder if the Babylon mentioned in Jeremiah is a future reference to the Revelation chapter 18 Babylon in the following: "Babylon hath been a golden cup in the LORD's hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad. Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so she may be healed" (Jeremiah 51:7-8).

There is the possibility that this is a reference to mention by the Lord that the Babylon to be judged was once used by God in a good way. Babylon has been a "golden cup." Of course, the next statement is that Babylon nonetheless caused the whole world to drink of her evil, thus making all earth-dwellers "mad." There also seems to be some room here to believe that there is still hope for redemption. Jeremiah says, "Howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed."

I believe the declaration that this Babylon referenced has been "a golden cup in the Lord's hand" could easily describe America's usefulness in the matters of exporting the gospel and of serving as midwife in Israel's rebirth in 1948. I'm not prepared to say this is *definitely* describing the United States, but that it would serve as an apt description of the way God has used this nation. In that sense, America is a mirror image of the Babylon mentioned in the Jeremiah declaration.

It is easy then, as one who loves America, to take some comfort from the following words of the prophet: "Howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so she may be healed."

Admittedly, it is nigh impossible to see how Babylon the Great might ever have a chance of redemption from her gross sinfulness, as described in excruciating detail by John. But we remember that Saul, the mass murderer of the earliest Christians, found redemption by God's grace. As a matter of fact, we can look at our own sinfulness before coming to Christ to understand that the redemptive process is far above our own thoughts and ways. Praise God!

In the same way, we might take comfort from the thought of a balm for the healing of America. If it is indeed a mirror image of Babylon the Great, it is equally troubling to consider the corruption-laden imagery that reflects from that mirror.

### **America the Not So Beautiful**

John announces the vision as he sees the crashing down of Babylon the Great:

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies (Revelation 18:1–3).

Babylon, if it was indeed once a “golden cup” in the hand of the Lord, certainly is here described as having collapsed to rubble. We don’t know exactly who this city-nation commercial system was (prophetically will be) in its glory days that made it Babylon the *Great*. It is part of the description of a “mystery” and is called just that in its hellish, religious aspect:

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (Revelation 17:1–5).

It seems obvious that this future Babylon the Great has at its core a satanic religion. In its final throes of collapse, this religion has become an integral, inseparable part of doing business worldwide. All merchants, kings, and everyone else are required to worship within this religious monstrosity as directed by its religious leader.

We go to Revelation 13 to better understand this blasphemous relationship. This describes earth’s last and most horrendous tyrant, Antichrist:

And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. . . . And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed (Revelation 13:7–12).

We can understand from this prophecy that the final führer will have a sidekick, called here “the second beast.” This will be a false religious leader who will force all the world to worship Antichrist, who controls all buying and selling. All of this is rolled up into the entity called Babylon the Great.

Looking in the mirror of the future at Babylon the Great, can we see resemblance to the current apex nation of history, the United States of America? Our country has put forth the gospel as no other nation-state. This is true if only because we have been blessed with the amazing technologies to get the message of Jesus Christ to the whole world.

America has been the champion of Israel, seeing to it that the modern Jewish state was reborn in the 20th century.

The U.S. has been at the forefront of kindness and generosity to the unfortunate peoples of the world at every turn. Whether in war-torn, post-war Europe and Japan or in the regions devastated by any given natural disaster around the globe, this country has been the first on the scene with tremendous amounts of money and supplies to help relieve the suffering.

Until the mid-20th century, America had at its core morality based upon Judeo-Christian values emanating from the Holy Scriptures.

Even though there was much immorality within the nation, and there was increasing corruption at every level of society and culture during the first half of the 1900s, any aberration or severe deviation from that core morality was so ostracized that such evil stayed locked in the shadows for the most part except for the era known as the Roaring Twenties.

If not a “golden cup” in the hand of the Lord, America was a nation that still embraced His way of comportment for the most part.

All changed, it seemed to me, in 1962–1963 and 1973.

Prayer in public schools was banned. Bible reading, too, was banished from the classrooms of America. Abortion became the preferred way of handling unwanted babies still in the womb with *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

From the time of those years, most every form of evil seems to have been loosed upon America. It was as if Daniel the prophet's words burst in their beginning of fulfillment during that 11-year era from 1962 to 1973. Of the wrap-up of human history prior to Christ's return, Daniel said, "And the end thereof shall be with a flood" (Daniel 9:26).

A flood of evil has descended, to be sure.

John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, followed by the start of the sexual revolution, and the Vietnam War that took more than 50,000 American lives. The drug culture exploded on the national scene and two prominent Americans in the news were shot to death, ostensibly for their political views — Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy. The national debt arose to astronomical heights with Lyndon Johnson's Great Society, which unleashed unprecedented spending into his War on Poverty.

The liberal mindset swiftly overwhelmed more conservative thinking, bringing about legislation and judicial appointments and decisions that moved America away from the God who had so richly blessed the country.

That inevitable, future, national train wreck has not been stopped, or even slowed. It has accelerated, as a matter of fact. Upside down thinking of politicians, judges at every level, and presidents and their administrations have helped bring at least half of the American populace to the point described by Paul the Apostle:

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them (Romans 1:28–32).

The United States of America does not present a "beautiful" picture early on in the 21st century. Her image, sad to have to report, could be said to, in many ways, be a mirror image of end-times Babylon. Our nation's sins are reflective of the many things that God's Word prophesies will bring Babylon the Great crashing from its prideful heights.

## How Near Is Christ's Return?

Today, there is an increased number of observers of prophecy who insist that America is scheduled to be the Babylonian entity of Revelation 18. Still, there remain the majority who hold to Babylon the Great as a city-nation religious and commercial system yet to form and be centered in the geographical area where ancient Babylon was located.

Both sides of the issue seem rather insistent that their view is correct. There are few I've noticed who hold that an alternate view could be found. Both sides use Scripture effectively as a basis for their viewpoints. Both sides have logical arguments to validate their perspectives.

As stated at the beginning of this chapter, my own thinking in answer to the question is a "perhaps," which I know is wishy-washy at first glance. I would, however, ask consideration of my reason for switching from "absolutely not" to "perhaps." I would like to try to explain why I think there is a possibility that America could be the mysterious entity that will absolutely dominate the world for a brief time.

There are great scholars, living and some now with the Lord, who have held that the Word of God places the Babylon of Revelation 18 in the land of Shinar. They present scriptural reasons they believe this. I respect them and their findings. However, I must say that, upon careful study, I don't find absolute, 100 percent assurance that this end-times, humanistic, conglomerate system can't be located, at least in part, in regions other than ancient Babylon.

Rather than go into all the scriptural reasons for supporting my thesis that "perhaps" Babylon the Great could turn out to be the United States, I will just offer what I believe to be a most logical speculation in that regard. I could present many Scriptures brought to the forefront of scholarship over the years to back any of the points of view, including my "perhaps." There are a number of fine works from which to glean such scholarship.

But, I'll postulate a logical argument, with one caveat. I'm convinced that the preponderance of evidence presented by the issues, events, and conditions of today's world indicate exceedingly that the time of Christ's Second Coming is very near. This is the premise upon which I base what follows.

Remember my words earlier in this chapter: "Time's unfolding . . . always draws things to come into focus so that prophetic detail can be more clearly discerned. It seems to me that recent times have provided ever-increasing magnification, showing America's possible inclusion within these 'end of days.' "

How near is Christ's return? Most relevant to the question we are examining regarding Babylon the Great is what is the present disposition of America, particularly in the geopolitical and socioeconomic global configuration? These are questions we need to look at in order to understand the common-sense logic I'll try to present.

In consideration of the first question — “How near are we to Christ's Second Coming?” — here are some facts.

1. There is today a turning away from God and His prescription for living, even among born-again believers. Apostasy has infected this generation. The seeker-friendly forms of service that are designed to increase church enrollment, but at the expense of sound doctrine, are rampant.

2. Nations are in the process of alignment and are continuing to align in the order they are prophesied to present at the time Christ's return nears.

Gog-Magog forces, including Russia, Iran (Persia), and even Turkey (Togormah) are coalescing. They are doing so north of Israel, just as God's Word predicts in Ezekiel 38 and 39.

3. Syria is in the news, at the heart of which is its capital city, Damascus. The Isaiah 17:1 prophecy could easily be fulfilled in the days, weeks, or months just ahead.

4. Israel is back in the land God promised to it, with Jerusalem in contention by all the nations of the region. Israel's enemies are threatening to destroy her, but have been thwarted at every effort to do so.

5. Globalists are foaming at the mouth to form a new world order that will forever throw off the shackles God has placed on mankind exactly as Psalm 2 foretells.

6. The economies of the world are in total disarray, causing great distress and perplexity as to how to solve the many problems caused by the global fiscal crisis.

7. Technologies exist that can track every individual on earth, if employed as is apparently planned in the near future.

8. That technology, linked by satellite from continent to continent, will undoubtedly be used to put all the world in electronic chains and at the same time create a system of EFT (electronic funds transfer), providing a solution to the financial problems of current monetary crises. Undoubtedly, this will eventuate in the Antichrist 666 marking system of Revelation 13:16–18.

Those of us who hold to the futurist, pre-Millennial, pre-Trib perspective believe Christ's return to be soon.

All of this combines to show that this generation is very near the time of Christ's Second Advent, in my estimation.

The thought I wish to share is that since Christ's return is so near, the entity known as Babylon the Great has to be on the scene in some major form. For this great system of influence on world commerce and in every other area to have its beginning now, then come together and grow to such influence in the last seven years of human history leading up to Christ's Second Coming, just doesn't make sense.

The region where ancient Babylon sat is for the most part undeveloped. Nothing is there to indicate any sort of potentiality for a suddenly developing, grandiose world center springing from that basically barren place.

Babylon the Great, as described in the Revelation 18 prophecy, is a religious, commercial, and cultural behemoth of monumental influence on the whole world. That influence could not possibly attain that degree, couldn't reach that spectacular height, within less than several decades. I believe it would take even much longer than that to become as all-encompassing as described.

However, the world has become exceedingly wicked. In this sense, the saturation point for blasphemy and evil behavior has already been reached. Sadly, as a nation, America leads the way in the perpetration of much of that evil. No caring American who loves the nation wants to think of her in terms of being guilty of producing the sinfulness Babylon the Great will export. But, there are things about this once God-influenced country that are frightening to consider.

My friend Dr. David Reagan, of Lamb and Lion Ministries and Christ in Prophecy television programs, provides troubling facts we must face. He wrote this in 2012:

Think about it. Since 1973, we have murdered our babies in their mothers' wombs at the rate of 4,000 a day, totaling nearly 60 million, and their blood cries out for vengeance.

We consume more than one-half of all the illegal drugs produced in the world, yet we constitute only 5% of the world's population.

We spend \$2.8 billion dollars per year on Internet pornography, which is more than half the world total of \$4.9 billion.

Our rate of cohabiting partners has increased tenfold since 1960, totaling over 12 million unmarried partners today.

Our divorce rate is the highest of any nation in the world.

Forty percent of our children are born to unmarried women.

We spend over \$100 billion per year on gambling.

Our number-one drug problem is alcohol, producing over 17.6 million adults who are alcoholics or who have alcohol problems.

Our nation has become a debt junkie, leading the world in both government debt and personal debt.

Blasphemy of God's name, His Word, and His Son has become commonplace in our media.

We are the moral polluter of planet Earth through the distribution of our immoral, violent, and blasphemous television programs and movies.

We have forsaken the nation of Israel, demanding that they surrender their heartland and divide their capital city.

We have become a nation that calls good evil and evil good. And we are paying the price:

Our schools have become arenas of deadly violence.

Our prison population is increasing exponentially, from 500,000 in 1980 to over 2.5 million today. Over 7.2 million of our people are under some form of correctional supervision.

Over 1.5 million of our women are reported victims of domestic violence each year, and it is estimated that the majority of cases are never reported.

We are currently averaging over 3 million child abuse cases each year, involving 6 million children.

We experience more than 12 million crimes every year, more than any other nation in the world.

Teen violence has increased exponentially, with youngsters killing each other over tennis shoes.

Gangs are terrorizing our cities.

Even the nicest of our neighborhoods are no longer safe, requiring us to protect our homes with security systems and weapons.

Our money is becoming increasingly worthless.

Our economy is being choked to death by a pile of debt that is beyond comprehension.

Our major corporations and labor unions are in bondage to greed.

Our society has become deeply divided, splintered among competing groups defined by racial, religious, and economic factors.

Our families are being destroyed by an epidemic of divorce.

Our entertainment industry consists of vulgarians amusing barbarians.

One of our fastest growing businesses is the pagan practice of tattooing and body piercing.

Our universities and media outlets are controlled by radical leftists who hold God in contempt.

Our federal government has become top-heavy with bureaucrats who are insensitive to taxpayers.

Our politicians have become more concerned with power than service.

All levels of government have become increasingly oppressive, seeking to regulate every aspect of our lives.

Taxation has become confiscatory in nature.

Our legal system has been hijacked by activists who desire to impose their will on the people, regardless of what the people desire.

Our freedom of speech is being threatened by "hate crime" legislation.

Our forms of sports are becoming increasingly violent, reminiscent of the gladiators of ancient Rome.

Our society has become star-stuck, more interested in celebrities than people of integrity.

Our churches are caught up in an epidemic of apostasy as they set aside the Word of God in an effort to cozy up to the world and gain its approval.

We are experiencing one major natural disaster after another in unprecedented volume and ferocity.

We have become afflicted with a plague of sexual perversion, producing an army of hard core militant homosexuals.

In summary, we are a people who have become desensitized to sin, and in the process, we have forgotten how to blush.<sup>3</sup>

Assuredly, the Tribulation, Armageddon, and Christ's Second Coming could be many years in the future. Such an extended period could provide time for Babylon the Great to develop from the ground up.

Again, however, the signals of Christ's return are converging at a phenomenal pace. Israel is in the land and at the center of great controversy. The potential conflict with its Muslim neighbors harbors the strong

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3. Dr. David R. Reagan, "A Prophetic Manifesto: The Death of America," <http://www.lambliion.us/2013/06/a-prophetic-manifesto-death-of-america.html>.

possibility of the initiation of nuclear conflagration and World War III. Zechariah's prophecy of chapter 12:1–3 seems on the verge of exploding into the headlines of today's news.

Only one conclusion can reasonably be reached, therefore. Jesus is at the very door of heaven for His return to planet Earth. All these end-of-age prophecies must come to pass quickly.

One and only one nation-state in the world at present comes anywhere near matching the description of Babylon the Great as far as potential influence. As a matter of fact, America already has achieved similar influence and holds sway in a way not unlike that attributed to that end-times entity of Revelation 18.

Dr. Reagan's masterful exposé on America's contribution to planetary wickedness is self-explanatory. Tragically, in the comparison to Babylon the Great we've undertaken in this chapter, his findings show clearly that our nation is in many ways indeed a mirror image.

The United States of America is here and now, and fits much of the description of Revelation 18. Ancient Babylon at present is basically a land decimated by the likes of ISIS. Building any sort of worldwide commercial, religious, and socioeconomic headquarters like that prophesied to be destroyed isn't even on the drawing board of new world order architects, so far as has been released for public consumption.

It is true that Dubai and other cities of the Middle East have been constructed in amazingly short time. The great technological know-how and construction capabilities have accomplished astonishing building projects. But the outreach these sites have achieved so far as worldwide influence comes nowhere near that predicted for the doomed Babylon the Great.

Building from scratch such a city and national infrastructure could conceivably take place within relatively few years. But the building of such powerful influence on the merchants and kings of the world would take far, far longer.

Is America the nucleus of that great, humanistic system of religious and socioeconomic control? I don't know. But I think, based upon the fact that it is in many ways a mirror image of that prophesied entity, it's perfectly legitimate to conclude "perhaps."

## The Building Economic Boom

There is coming an economic boom perhaps unlike any other in history. An economic *boom*, not a financial *bust*, the opposite of which you have been led to believe.

What I will propose here will, I hope, challenge things you've been induced to think about the immediate, biblically prophetic future. My neck, proverbially speaking, is stuck out there, I guess. My proposal is on firm grounds, however, so I'm not shy about sticking my neck out in presenting my thoughts on what I believe to be most immediately relevant in terms of Bible prophecy about to be fulfilled.

My confidence comes from the fact that the God of heaven — the Lord Jesus Christ — gave the prophecy upon which my proposal is constructed.

The matters I will present have not just recently emerged to the top of my thinking. Much of it I covered in what I wrote in 2010 and 2011 through a series of essays for our “Nearing Midnight” column on [raptureready.com](http://raptureready.com).

The series was entitled “Scanning a Fearful Future.” Some of those articles were excerpted for my book *Rapture Ready . . . Or Not: 15 Reasons Why This Is the Generation That Will Be Left Behind*. Since the time of the publication of those essays, so much has taken place that I sense we must once again address the prophecy Jesus gave while sitting with His disciples that day upon the Mount of Olives. It is vital, in my view, that we do so.

A good deal of these things are chronicled, in detailed analysis, through the essays that follow. In these, I dissect much of the day by day, week by week, and month by month issues and events in the news that I believe have relevance, prophetically speaking.

### Prepare for Economic Collapse

There has been for the past number of years the constant urging by those supposedly in the know for people to prepare for the imminent collapse of the national and world economies. “Preppers,” as they are called, have set

in supplies for the great financial catastrophe that hovers like the Sword of Damocles. Planet Earth is moving into the worst fiscal disaster in perhaps all of history, these believe. Certainly, it will be the worst since the Great Depression of the 1930s — so the warning goes.

As I wrote in the series of articles, I received at the time (and still do) emails that express fear that the collapse will come at any moment. I will say, though, that since so much time has now elapsed from the time the warnings began to first cause panic, the incoming emails have become fewer with each passing day. The little boy who cried wolf syndrome applies, I suppose.

Now, let me say that by all common logic, the world and American economies should have already come crashing down. The fiscal laws are in a state of surreal suspension. This isn't my opinion. The dynamics of how economics work at such stratospheric levels are far above me. But some of the great thinkers in such matters say even they are dumbfounded at how things can hold together as they are doing at present.

So, I'm not poking fun at the preppers. They, in most cases, are certainly wise to make some preparation for any emergency that might arise due to economic problems. All pointers indicate that the dam holding back world financial collapse should have long ago burst.

The astonishing fact, however, is that the horrendous collapse hasn't happened. The U.S. stock market gurus show no fear as they trade at all-time highs. Governments tax and spend at rates unseen in the annals of history.

Of course, the answer from the standpoint of supposed reality is that their wizardry through electronic manipulations can perpetuate the status quo indefinitely. The perception is that all is well. Everything is secure while they juggle the economic balls within the building bubble of trillions of dollars in debt.

There certainly appears to be no panic, despite underlying stresses that should tell the "experts" that they are like Wile E. Coyote in one of those *Road Runner* cartoons. They and their financial dealings are suspended in midair over a precipitous chasm. Nothing appears to be keeping them from plummeting into oblivion.

Despite the historical fact that every situation in the past with the troubling, economic indicators of warning prevalent today has bought calamity, the juggling continues. And the bubble grows. Everything should, by accident if not by purposeful action, have by this time brought a monumental financial collapse.

Running along a parallel course with the strange, midair suspension of an economic implosion is the matter of the rumors of war. Notice I say "rumors of war," not "war."

The Middle East is a powder keg. Asia is rife with situations that could explode into conflict. From Syria and the genocidal actions of dictator Bashar al-Assad to Iran and its Israel and America-hating ayatollahs to the North Korean despot Kim Jong-un who threatens South Korea and the United States with nuclear weapons, the world should have erupted in major war by now. But it hasn't.

In looking at things through the lens of Bible prophecy, it is incumbent to ask: What's up? What do these suspensions of cataclysmic results mean?

Man himself is incapable of preventing things from deteriorating and disintegrating into all-out economic turmoil and all-out war. Mankind's record in maintaining tranquility in these areas is abysmal, as the history books show.

Tremendous tensions exist that threaten world financial collapse and portend war at any moment — war of potentially catastrophic scope and scale. Yet there seems to be an unseen force that keeps Wile E. Coyote suspended above that chasm.

Only one force can suspend the physical laws, whether fiscal or other in nature. Jesus Christ is His Holy name. He is God the Son. He walked on the waters, instantly calmed the raging sea, and defied all laws of nature by performing countless miracles.

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist (Colossians 1:16–17).

Diplomats, scientists, presidents, potentates, and others in authority in the humanistic sense might believe they, collectively or individually, are holding things together. But it is the Creator of all things, God the Son, who is doing so.

Jesus Christ is preventing the world systems from dissolving and sending all of humanity into the abyss of eternity. God the Holy Spirit (third person of the Godhead) is holding back absolute evil, according to 2 Thessalonians 2. He will do so until He removes from His present office of restrainer.

The time for the consummation of history is not yet. Jesus told His disciples as much when He sat upon the Mount of Olives and they asked Him when He would come back to earth and when would be the end of the age (world system):

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet (Matthew 24:4–6).

God Himself, in the flesh as He faced His execution through crucifixion on the Roman cross as supreme sacrifice for the sins of mankind, made it plain for them and for our present generation. God alone will determine when the end will come. Man will not destroy the planet or himself through nuclear war or any other way. God's prophetic plan will run its course undeterred.

### **God's Next Direct Intervention**

So, perhaps we can begin to answer the questions. Why haven't the world and American economic systems come crashing down already? Why hasn't major war erupted in these tremendously tense times when nuclear weapons threaten our very existence? Why is all of this — like Wile E. Coyote — still suspended in midair above that deadly chasm?

I am convinced that the answer to these gravity-defying matters involves the extreme nearness of God's next direct intervention in the affairs of mankind.

Jesus, I believe, again gave the explanation while prophesying before His little group of disciples on the Mount of Olives.

He explained in considerable detail the exact world conditions at the time He would next be "revealed" on the earth. That is, He told of His coming back following His ascension into heaven. The disciples, of course, had no idea at that time that Jesus would die on the cruel Roman Cross, or that He would come back following His death, burial, and Resurrection — even though He had told them He would have to die and be raised to life in the eternal sense.

Jesus' prophecy giving these details is key to why worldwide economic collapse hasn't happened. The truth contained within this prophecy is the reason major war that would again devastate the world has not broken out. All of this revolves around the fact that His next direct intervention in the affairs of rebellious mankind is on the verge of taking place.

But what about all the other things Jesus prophesied in His Olivet Discourse? The seven years of Tribulation, with 21 specific judgments that will decimate the earth . . . doesn't all that horrendous wrath have to unfold before His Second Coming?

This is where the pre-Tribulation view of Christ's two-phase return to earth makes understandable the things I propose as cocooned within the title of this chapter, "The Building Economic Boom."

The fact is that Christ, in His Olivet Discourse, is the same Lord who gave the Apostle John the details of judgment and wrath as John wrote the Revelation. John gave the glorious description of Christ's return to put an end to the war of Armageddon (read Revelation 19:11–12).

The carnage of the seven years leading up to that final war of the age will be so damaging, Jesus said, that all flesh on earth would die if He didn't intervene to put an end to that final battle.

But Jesus, as He sat with His disciples atop the Mount of Olives that day, gave another, completely different prophetic description about how world conditions will be when He next breaks into human history. The time He speaks of leading to the moment He is "revealed" in this case indicates no worldwide devastation prior to His return.

There is no mention of the four riders of the apocalypse — of huge, celestial bodies slamming into the sea, killing all life therein — and no mention of earthquakes that flatten entire cities. Nor is there reference to 100-pound hailstones that crush everything they strike. He says quite the opposite, in fact.

Let us look at this prophecy concerning earthly conditions immediately preceding His return. It is a prophecy that indeed describes conditions much different than those foretold by John leading up to the Second Advent as recorded in Revelation 19:11–12.

Jesus, rather than giving a fearful description of great Tribulation, said the following:

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come (Matthew 24:36–42).

Compare this passage with the description given by John the Revelator in writing about the time leading up to Christ's return at Armageddon:

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great (Revelation 16:17–21).

God's Word is absolute truth. It doesn't contradict itself. So, how to conflate these two entirely different descriptions of the times leading up to Christ's Second Coming is the task before us.

Jesus prophesies in His Olivet foretelling that things will be relatively business as usual when He next intervenes. Exactly like in Noah's day and Lot's day when those men were taken to safety, with business going on pretty much as normal, Jesus will at that future time make Himself known. Judgment, like in Noah's day and Lot's day, will begin to fall upon the world of rebellious people at that very moment.

Jesus, in His resurrected form, gave John the prophecy to put into the book we call the Revelation.

So, the Lord of heaven — God Himself — gave both prophecies for us to consider.

He tells us through John in the Revelation that when He comes back with the armies of heaven (Revelation 19:11–12), almost unimaginable judgment will be inflicted upon earth-dwellers. Jesus, through John, foretells in other places in this great book of prophecy that men will hide themselves in the clefts of rocks and even beg the rocks to fall on them in fear of facing God's wrath. No flesh — meaning all life — will survive that time, Jesus had John prophesy, if He doesn't return as He is expected to do at Armageddon.

These two distinctly different descriptions by the Lord Himself can't be adequately explained except through the pre-Tribulation Rapture

position, in my view. Jesus is saying that His Second Coming consists of two separate phases. The first phase will be the Rapture of all believers at an unknown time while it's business as usual — in a fraction of a second, the “twinkling of an eye.” The second phase will take place at least seven years later at Christ's Second Advent, when God's judgment and wrath have all but decimated the planet.

Jesus Christ will return above the planet in the clouds in the first phase, where He will receive all believers of the Church Age (Age of Grace), living and dead, and then take them back to the Father's house (John 14:1–3).

He will return all the way to the planet's surface at least seven years later, when He will put an end to the war of Armageddon. He will continue toward Jerusalem, where He will set up His Millennial Kingdom.

I believe a primary reason we can be certain that the Rapture will be pre-Tribulational is that Jesus tells us more in the Book of Luke account about the days of Noah and Lot:

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed (Luke 17:26–30).

In this account, Jesus says that Noah and Lot were taken out first, and judgment began that very day. It will be exactly like that, He said, when He makes His presence known.

Just as Noah and Lot were removed, so will believers be. Then judgment will begin. The believer will not have to endure any part of the Tribulation, which is God's judgment upon the wicked (read 1 Thessalonians 5:9 and Revelation 3:10). The Rapture is a *pre-Tribulation* event.

### **Business *Better* Than Usual!**

Now we come to the crux of the reason for this chapter's title, “The Building Economic Boom.”

We've asked the questions: Why have the American and global economies not collapsed? Why hasn't world-devastating warfare broken out?

Another relevant question is in order, based upon the strange developments of our specific time in human history. It is a question that has the mainstream media and political pundits of every stripe bumfuzzled, if that's a word. Certainly, they are perplexed!

But to me, the answer to this question peculiar to our current circumstance is simple. The question: Why did Donald J. Trump win the U.S. presidential election against all odds? To understand the answer, I'm convinced you must believe in and understand Bible prophecy. More specifically, I believe you must understand it from the pre-Tribulational, dispensational viewpoint.

The Trump success, defying all odds, fits perfectly within the prophecy Jesus Christ gave in His Olivet foretelling. The strange, unexpected win also fits neatly within the mystery that is at the heart of the questions posed above.

Why haven't the national and world economies collapsed? Why hasn't global war broken out?

Essays within the following sections of this book — articles surrounding the time of the presidential election — dissect some of the dynamics that I think explain the Trump victory. A chief reason is that God's people — called by His name — prayed in the manner prescribed in 2 Chronicles 7:14. God honored those prayers. The election results make that absolutely clear.

Even though those essays cover the matters involved, I want, here in this chapter, to attempt to lay out what it all means in terms of where I believe we stand as a generation on God's prophetic timeline.

In that regard, it is the *business-as-usual* aspect of the "days of Noah, days of Lot" prophecy that I wish to explore with you.

Remember that for years many economic experts have been warning of the imminent collapse of the American and world financial systems. Those warnings continue, even though most are now scratching their heads in wonderment over what is preventing that collapse. Every crisis before — all of less magnitude — has resulted in a bubble burst that brought deep recession at the very least. At least one such crisis brought on world depression.

Again, few if any of these economic gurus understand what Bible prophecy has to say. None of the financial experts in the secular world I know of have any idea of the pre-Trib view of things to come. Few, if any, who are considered authorities on economics at that high level within the Christian world have any idea, either — or if they do, they haven't expressed that knowledge.

All mainstream business news “experts” I know of don’t even address the impending economic catastrophe. They go on pontificating with their punditry as if no such crisis exists.

The mystery of what’s going on with our Wile E. Coyote analogy (the American and world economies) hanging in mid-air rather than crashing into the chasm, I contend, cannot be understood apart from what Christ foretold that day on the Mount of Olives. Likewise, neither can it be adequately explained — apart from that prophecy — why Donald Trump is now president despite all the hate-filled forces of the world arrayed against him.

Recently, I heard Les Feldick, host and teacher of *Through the Bible with Les Feldick*, teaching about the Book of Isaiah. He was comparing the nation composed of Judah and Benjamin, which fought with the northern tribes called Israel, with America.

The United States, he believed when teaching that lesson in the early years of this century, was running in a parallel course to ancient Judah. They each moved in a direction away from God — and paid the price for it.

He said that he talked with someone who said that if God didn’t slow down the things that were sweeping America in the wrong direction, the nation would go into total depravity.

Les then said that with everything else in view — the prophetic signs of the times — there didn’t seem time enough to turn things around. The best that could be hoped for, he said, was that God would slow that movement into depravity.

Considering I was listening to his words at least ten years after he gave them, I was struck by their prescience. I am convinced this is precisely what is now happening with the strange presidential election results of 2016.

It all revolves around the prophecy Jesus gave that day on the Mount of Olives about the days of Noah and of Lot.

The previous administration had observably been complicit in moving America down a track directly opposite to God’s prescribed way for individuals and nations. Most obvious was that the previous president not only championed the gay rights movement, he went to the ultimate limit of anti-God movement.

Homosexuality was officially made the equivalent of or even superior to heterosexual marriage. As mentioned before, President Obama even had the White House bathed in the rainbow colors of the gay rights movement to show solidarity and to honor his commitment to their depravity. It was as if the president and those he praised for their debased activity were

saying that, while God gave the rainbow to show He would not again judge rebellious earth-dwellers for their evil with floodwaters, they were showing their defiance. They seemed to be mocking any impending judgment whatsoever that the God of heaven might bring.

America was on the fast track to total depravity. That movement certainly wasn't halted. But it definitely seems to have been slowed.

Again, this is in answer to many Christians praying the prayer at the heart of 2 Chronicles 7:14, I have no doubt.

Donald J. Trump has surrounded himself with many who appear to be born-again believers in Christ. This is a welcome fact while, admittedly, the president often expresses himself in ways not in alignment with ideal Christian comportment. He has, however, vowed to defend the Christian faith as once again representing that upon which America was at least partially based at its founding.

At the same time, I believe this movement into total depravity was slowed purposely by force of heavenly edict.

God alone determines when things will reach their consummation, just as Jesus told His disciples. The end will come when God, not any of the world diplomats or others, decides. He alone knows the end from the beginning. Call it His prophetic plan, or just His foreknowledge of the future; He has put in His Word how things will be as the time of His Son's return to planet Earth nears.

The Lord doesn't give specific detail about how things will play out in most cases. But, in the case of Jesus' "days of Noah and days of Lot" prophecy in the Olivet Discourse, I believe enough detail is given to postulate a relatively sensible possibility about prophecy likely to unfold in the near future.

According to God's Word, in Noah's day, "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage." In Lot's day, they "did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded" (Luke 17:27-28).

Business was being conducted in a more or less normal manner in both cases. The times seemed to be in a state of upturn, not downturn, speaking strictly of economic circumstance. As a matter of fact, I suggest that business is going on much better than in normal times.

Jesus gave the disciples — and us — all the signals to look for as His return nears. He indicated that the signs of things going on would be so magnified in their reality that they would be unprecedented in violence and virulence. His Second Advent at Armageddon would prevent the destruction of all flesh. It would be far beyond normal destructiveness taking place.

In the “days of Noah and of Lot” prophecy, the Lord likewise, I am convinced, is indicating more than normal times. His words indicate a time of business — human activity — going on that is somewhat or even significantly elevated, economically speaking.

There is no worldwide economic collapse, no worldwide depression, as some “experts” are saying. There is predicted here, I think, a great economic uptick at the very moment Jesus next reveals Himself to the world. It will be in a catastrophic way, but unlike His intervention at Armageddon.

In the days that will be analogous to the days of Noah and Lot, His judgment will begin falling. When He returns at the end — Armageddon — He will put an end to the judgment and wrath, as well as to Satan’s and Antichrist’s evil.

As stated before, the election of Donald Trump surprised everyone. He is a businessman, an entrepreneur, an economic empire-builder. God obviously put Trump in the most powerful office on the planet — despite tremendous odds. With all the other signals of Christ’s return in place, there must be significance to the strangely profound way this election unfolded. The Lord is up to something big with the selection of this particular man.

Satanic forces are in a rage against the Trump presidency as the news media — also against Trump’s administration — fully attests, if you have been listening and watching. I believe this is because Satan’s one-world plans have been stymied. The globalists who are desperate to build their long-awaited new world order are enraged. Yet Trump seems oblivious to their attacks. Although he can’t be classified as a *godly* man, he is most definitely *God’s man* for the hour.

Stock markets hit all-time highs following the Trump election. This, of course, is all on optimistic speculation. The economic bubble is at an all-time, precipitous state. All the economic structure should burst and bring the world down to rubble, fiscally speaking.

However, instead, we sense a growing optimism, even euphoria in some quarters, that a financial boom is building. I believe it will happen. Rather than the bust long feared to devastate the economy, I believe we are about to see a boom in national and worldwide economies.

It is just in the middle of such a boom that I believe Christ will call the Church (all born-again believers) to be with Him. It will be at a “think not” time (Matthew 24:44). It will be just like in the days of Noah and Lot!