

God promises us that *"the whole world will be filled with [His] glory."* This can only happen when Christ is the king over world government. The Bible tells us that when Jesus returns to rule the nations of this world will understand: *"For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand"* (Isaiah 52).

Yes Reader, we're drawing near to the day of Christ's personal return to this troubled planet. As he left the earth his disciples heard this promise:

*"This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:11).

No doubt some of the things you've read in this leaflet may be new to you. Don't take our word for them, check the Bible references quoted.



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# TIMELY TOPICS

## Number 1

### Dear Reader

The few minutes it will take you to read this may reward you with a better understanding of the problems facing humans and the solutions offered to these problems by the Bible. While this article discusses some of the problems affecting humanity, it's not designed to make you feel upset. On the contrary, this article intends to lay out some sound and proven reasons why you should feel happy about the future prospect of "peace on earth and goodwill toward all men".

Amazingly, the Bible has foretold the very conditions that we witness on earth today. These conditions tell us that we are near the return of Jesus to the earth, the battle of Armageddon, and the promised rule of Jesus Christ. When Jesus rules Jerusalem will be the capital city of all nations (Jeremiah 3: 19). The apostle Peter emphasises how important prophecy is for us when he says:

*"Take heed to the sure word of prophecy, it is as a light that shines in a dark place"* (2 Peter 1:19).

## Bible Prophecy and Our Time

A few weeks before Jesus ascended to his Father (God) he warned that just before he returned to earth there would be *"...distress among nations, with perplexity....men's hearts will fail them for fear and for looking upon those things which are coming on the earth"* (Luke 21: 25).

You do not need to be reminded of the seemingly insurmountable obstacles and worries that world leaders now face. Whether the problem is global warming, rising fuel prices, or famine and disease, it's difficult to see a solution. There is, as Jesus Christ said there would be, *"no way to escape these evils."* However, Jesus didn't leave us without hope, as you'll see if you keep reading.



## An Unfair World

Our world should be a place of happiness and contentment for all; but it's not. In 2006, it is estimated that US\$1204 billion was spent on military weapons worldwide. If the time, energy, and resources people are now putting into the manufacture of military equipment was spent on food, housing and healthcare, there would be more than enough for everyone. Something must be wrong with human government. There's plenty of wealth, yet whole nations are living in poverty.

## Rich but not Happy

One would think that people who lived in wealthier societies with better access to food, housing, and healthcare would be happier. Ironically, this is not the case in New Zealand, or in other rich nations. Even those living in relatively wealthy countries are often unhappy. To illustrate, a 2006 survey from Britain showed that while English people were generally earning more and living longer than ever, the majority of people were unhappy with their lives. In 1973 about 86% of British people were satisfied with their standard of living; while in 2006 85 % of people were dissatisfied (New Zealand Herald, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008).

## The Only Solutions to the World's Troubles

You might recall how God destroyed the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, and the people in Noah's time, because he saw *"how great man's wickedness on the earth had become"* (Genesis 6: 5). Similarly, Jesus Christ said that just before he returned to the earth, conditions would be the same. However, Jesus also said that he would return to overthrow all world governments and set up a new fair government. Jesus will

*"...judge [the] people in righteousness, [the] afflicted ones with justice. He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations"* (Psalm 72).

Could you wish for a better, more peaceful world to live in? Jesus will *"make wars cease to the ends of the earth"* (Psalm 46).

## God's Promise will Happen

Now if this beautiful picture of a coming age of blessing seems too amazing to be true, then we appeal to you to read your Bible. This will show you just how accurate all of the Bible's previous predictions (prophecies) about world events have been. If the Bible has predicted the future correctly many times before, why couldn't it do so again?