

# COVID-19, THE UKRAINE WAR AND ISRAEL

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## What does the Bible say about the future of the world?

There has never been an epoch in the long history of mankind that really corresponds to what the Bible describes as the 'end times'. Of course, there have always been periods which enthusiasts and fantasists have claimed to be the end times. However, solid proof that the end-time prophecies of the Bible were fulfilled at that time could not be demonstrated in any one of those cases. The arguments were always weak and untenable. They never corresponded to the findings of the biblical statements about the end times.

Catastrophes and wars have always existed. In and of themselves, such events are no proof of the end times. According to the Bible, the end times are fundamentally characterised by the return of the Jews from

worldwide diaspora to the forefathers' land and by the re-founding of the state of Israel after almost 2,000 years of interruption. Any catastrophe or war in human history could not be an indication of the end times unless they coincide with the return of the Jews and with all the numerous other end-time events announced in the Bible.

The linking of events is of fundamental importance. If numerous specific events (which according to prophecy were to occur in the same epoch) actually take place, one can reasonably exclude a coincidental fulfilment from the point of view of the small mathematical probability!

What about the topic of the 'end times' at present? Nowadays, countless preachers of the Bible worldwide emphasise that we are currently living in the end times. This

raises the question: Is it possible to prove this rationally so that others can logically understand it? Or is it a repetition of what fantasists have sufficiently practised in other eras?

Clearly, our age—I am talking in particular about the period from 1882 to the present day—is unique! Yes, there is solid evidence that our era corresponds to what is prophetically described in the Bible as the age of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. No one has ever refuted these arguments for the end times.

I have written a book titled ‘Are We Really Living In The Last Days? More Than 175 Fulfilled Prophecies’. In it, I discuss the fulfilment of a large number of end-time prophecies that have been verifiably fulfilled from 1882 to the present, i.e. from the beginning of the first modern wave of Jewish immigration to the land of the forefathers (1882) to the present. This provides unequivocal proof that we live in the ‘end times’. As I said, terrible wars and horrible catastrophes are not in and of themselves an indication of the end times at all. However, when coupled with the fulfilment of numerous other very precise prophecies concerning specific end-time events, this matter looks completely different!

Covid-19, the Ukraine war, and Israel's current events all have end-time significance. But watch out! These things have no probative value in isolation. They have to be seen in connection with more than 175 prophecies that have already been fulfilled. This connection makes it clear

that these current events are indeed of salvation-historical significance.

In the end-time discourse on the Mount of Olives (Mt. 24; Mk. 13; Lk. 21), the Lord Jesus referred to more than 20 end-time signs, which He described as ‘birth pangs’ (Mt. 24:8).

It is very important to understand why ‘birth pangs’ are spoken of here. Birth pangs are known to occur at the end of pregnancy. As soon as they occur, they announce with clear and unambiguous language (at least for those who understand this ‘language’) the end of the long wait for the birth. Therefore, contractions are a kind of ‘end-time sign’ at the end of the period of pregnancy.

Just as pregnancy is a long period, the time between the first and second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ should also be a long period.

Just like how at the end of a pregnancy, there is a time of pain, at the end of the present period between the first and second coming of the Messiah, there is also a time of very painful events for this world.

At the very end of the pregnancy, it is like this: Following the climax of the distinctly painful labour pains, there is a great joy: A longed-for human being comes into this world! This is exactly how it will be with the so-called present age after the great tribulation (Mt. 24:21)—Jesus Christ, ‘the Son of Man’, will come into this world on the clouds of heaven for the joy of those who believe in him (Mt. 24:29–30).



The birth pangs of the pregnant woman are not a one-off phenomenon. After all, birth pangs occur cyclically. They are constantly repeated, becoming more intense. This gives an important clue to the character of the end-time signs in the Olivet Discourse. These signs are supposed to be events that occur repeatedly.

In Luke chapter 21 verses 9 to 11, we read: ‘But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately.’ Then He said to them, ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences [or: epidemics]...’

Just within the period from 1882 until today, two world wars have taken place—wars in which all five continents of the world were affected. There has never been anything like this before in world history!

The First World War took place between 1914 and 1918. Why do we call this war the ‘First World War’ and not, for example,

the ‘27th World War’? Quite simply, in the years 1914–1918, for the first time in world history, all five continents of the earth were affected by the war in a very comprehensive way! It was a time of mass warfare described precisely by the Lord in His speech: ‘nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom’.

The wide geographical extent of the field of war is indicated by the phrase, ‘But ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars’. The wars to be heard of would be close to the listeners. The rumours of war, on the other hand, refer to distant battles.

For the first time in history, chemical weapons of mass destruction were used at large scales during the First World War. In total, this outbreak of human madness claimed about 17 million lives!

Also, isn't it impressive that the worst mass war in human history broke out just a few years after the beginning of the first Aliyah (Jewish mass immigration 1882–1903)?

After the end of the war, people all over the world were determined to never allow such a catastrophe to happen again. It was in this spirit that the League of Nations was founded at that time.

But just 2 decades later, the phenomenon of a war affecting all five continents occurred for the second time in the history of mankind, in an unprecedented escalation of evil. For the first time, nuclear weapons were used. The war in the years 1939–1945 claimed some 50 to 70 million lives.



But that was not enough. In numerous other wars since then until today, tens of millions of people have been annihilated again and again.

The current war in Ukraine is in fact a war between the great power, Russia, and the West. It has the potential to develop into a Third World War! The great power of Russia was foretold in the Bible under the name Rosh from the far north (as seen from Israel). Read Ezekiel chapters 38 to 39. Russia will play a very important role in the events that will come after the rapture of the church. All the big players of the end times mentioned in the Bible are ready to slam into each other in the coming tribulation period so that all mankind will come to the brink of self-destruction (Mt. 24:22).

What about the significance of Covid-19 in the end times? This issue must also be seen in the context of all the devastating epidemics from 1882 until today. Epidemics are also birth pangs of the end times, according to Luke chapter 21 verse 11. In the long list of devastating epidemics of the end times from 1882 onwards, Covid-19 plays a very significant role:

Russian Flu 1889/1890:

1 million dead

Third Pest Pandemic 1896–1945:

12 million dead

Sixth Cholera Pandemic 1899–1923:

> 800,000 dead

Russian Typhus Epidemic 1918–1922:

25 million touched, 3.5 million dead

Spanish Flu 1918–1920:

50–100 million dead

Asian Flu 1956–1958:

1–4 million dead

Hong Kong Flu 1968–1969:

800,000–2 million dead

Russian Flu 1977–1978:

around 700,000 dead

AIDS since 1981:

37 million dead (today: > than 33 million sick persons; 2.6 million infections/year; 1.8 million dead/year)

Small Pox in the 20th century:

300 million–½ billion dead

Tuberculosis in the 20th century:

100 million dead (today: 1.5–2 million dead/year)

Measles 1870–2011:

200 million dead

Hepatitis B or C:

½ billion sick (every 12th human being); 1.5 million dead/year

Nicotine addiction in the 20th century:

100 million dead (according to WHO)

Covid-19 Pandemic 2019–2022:

5 million dead

God is speaking to all humanity through all these end-time events! And it is so wonderful to meet people who have come to faith in Christ precisely through these recent events because they have been awakened by them and have recognised the importance of our time.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we must not allow ourselves to be spiritually asleep. Let these events keep us awake! Let us await the Lord Jesus every day for the moment of rapture. He will save us from the wrath to come (1 Thes. 1:10)!