

## WHAT DOES THIS NEW YEAR HOLD?

Greetings precious people, this week we will look at what this New Year may hold for us. Previous New Years often held hopes of new beginnings, New Years Resolutions of getting into a lesser pant or dress size; quit smoking or drinking; becoming less of a procrastinator; becoming physically fit; and many other “good intentions”. Some will be realized if even for a short few weeks others will progress no further than just a thought.

This year of 2009 unlike those of the past holds a number of uncertainties and actual fears for many. The economy and all that is involved with it is occupying most people’s thoughts. Some have lost or in danger of loosing their jobs; others have lost some or all of their retirement. We are being told of massive food shortages so people are storing up for themselves food and water. And of course we cannot forget the increasing and constant threats of terrorism as the Jihadist are promising to take over the world.

And then we have our own increase of senseless cold hearted violent crime on the rise. To say nothing of the constant threat of unrest in the Middle East as Iran is threatening to wipe Israel off the face of the earth and then the United States.

These events and others are just what the Word of God the Bible warned would precede the rise of the anti-Christ. The stage is being set before us as many are anxiously awaiting someone to step onto the scene that will seemingly have all the answers to the world’s problems. He will come as a man of peace but it will be a temporary peace at best and a false peace at worst.

The following verses warn of this time, Matthew 24:4-12 “And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.... And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places....Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.” 2 Timothy 3:1-5, “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power.”

2 Thessalonians 2:3-12, “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin (anti-Christ) is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God... For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

For those who are not trusting in Jesus Christ this year has the potential of being the most troubling year ever but for those who know Jesus Christ personally as Lord and Savior it can be the most fruitful and exciting time as we live for Christ and let His love and light shine through us.

I leave you with these words of Solomon from Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not unto your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths”

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