

School of Prophecy – Part 2

Lesson 4: Nations in Distress

July 3, 2016

Luke 21:25-28 NKJV - *²⁵ And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; ²⁶ men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.*

"I speak today in an hour of national peril, and of national opportunity. Before my term has ended, we shall have to test anew whether a nation organized and governed such as ours, can endure. The outcome is by no means certain. The tide of events has been running out, and time is not our friend."

~President John F. Kennedy

I. Nations in Prophecy

A. Distress of Nations with Perplexity

1. In the Last Days, the nations will become increasingly wicked and will spiral out of control.

Psalms 2:1-3 NKJV - *Why do the nations rage and the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, ³ "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us."*

Rage (raghash) – to be tumultuous; to be enraged; to plot; to conspire against

2. The rulers of the world "take counsel together." Today there are more international organizations than ever before. There are regional and global alliances, treaties, economic agreements, and the push for globalism. In spite of all that, there is no peace in the world.
3. With all the unrest that is in the world, the world is being primed to receive a very charismatic political figure who will be the miracle worker that brings peace.

Daniel 8:23-25 NKJV - *²³ And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king shall arise, having fierce features, who understands sinister schemes. ²⁴ His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power; he shall destroy fearfully, and shall prosper and thrive; he shall destroy the mighty, and also the holy people. ²⁵ Through his cunning, he shall cause deceit to prosper under his rule; and he shall exalt himself in his heart. He shall destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without human means.*

4. One of the primary factors in the nations of the world would be ethnic wars. Civil wars are the result of tribal disputes, as various people groups turn on those who are not of their tribe.

Matthew 24:6-7 NKJV - *⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.*

Nation (ethnos) – a tribe; a gentile group; ethnic; a non-Jewish people

5. The distressed nations that are current hot spots are now primarily in the Middle East:

Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, Hong Kong, China, Crimea, Chechnya, Serbia, Lebanon, Kashmir, Somalia, Yemen, and Israel.

The Last Days Generation will live in an age of unending commotion and upheaval.

6. There will be an increase of natural disasters, such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and earthquakes. The world will experience food shortages as a result of all these natural disasters.
7. Another factor that will cause distress is that of pestilences. Even now there are fears of Ebola, and other infectious diseases, such as the Zika Virus. At the end of World War I in 1918, an influenza pandemic killed 100 million people in 18 months.

Pestilence – a fatal epidemic disease, such as the bubonic plague

8. Terrorist attacks have more than quadrupled since 2001, with top targets being Iraq, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

B. God said He Will Shake Nations

Haggai 2:6-7 NKJV - *⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: "Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷ and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory," says the LORD of hosts.*

Hebrews 12:25-27 NKJV - *²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven." ²⁷ Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.*

1. When nations turn away from God, God will shake those nations in order to establish righteousness.

Proverbs 14:34 NKJV - *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*

Psalms 9:17 NKJV - *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

2. Even now, God is shaking the political realm, the culture, the economy and all things that people put their trust in.
3. The Word of God emphasizes the goodness of God, but also mentions His righteous judgment.

Romans 9:22-23 NLT - *²² In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction. ²³ He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory.*

4. In the book of Haggai, God told the people that they were too busy building their houses, yet they had no time to build God's house.

Haggai 1:3-4 NASB - *³ Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ⁴ "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses while this house lies desolate?"*

5. The call of God to every believer is to wake up from spiritual apathy. The hour is late and we must not be found asleep.

Romans 13:11 MSG - *But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work He began when we first believed.*