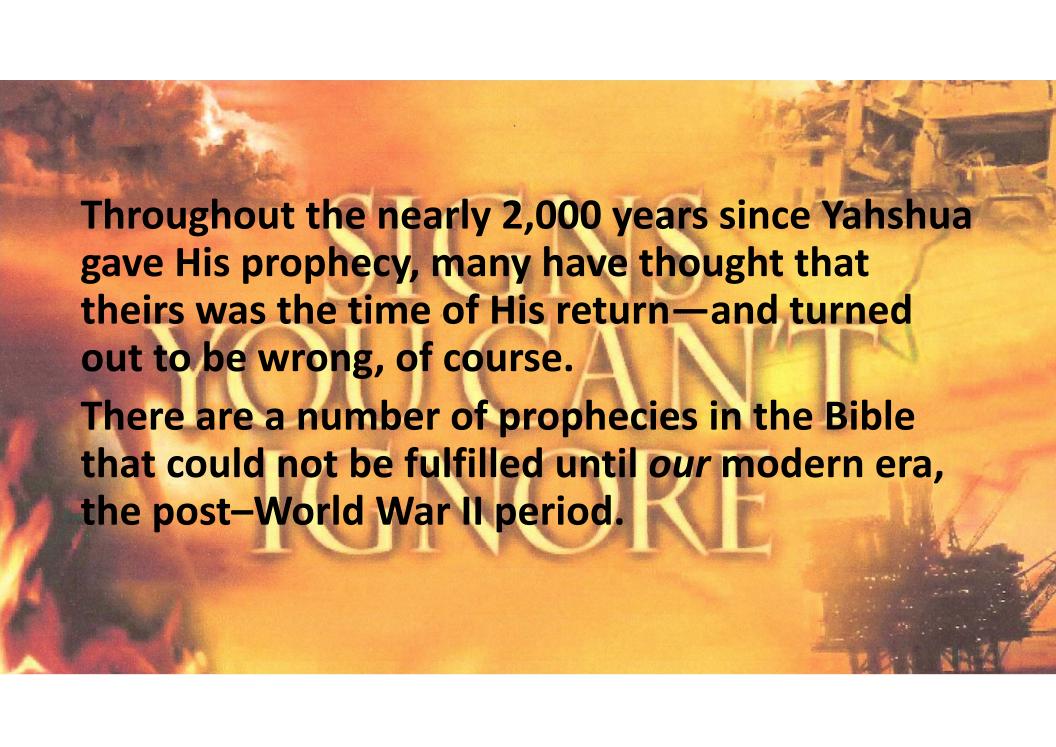


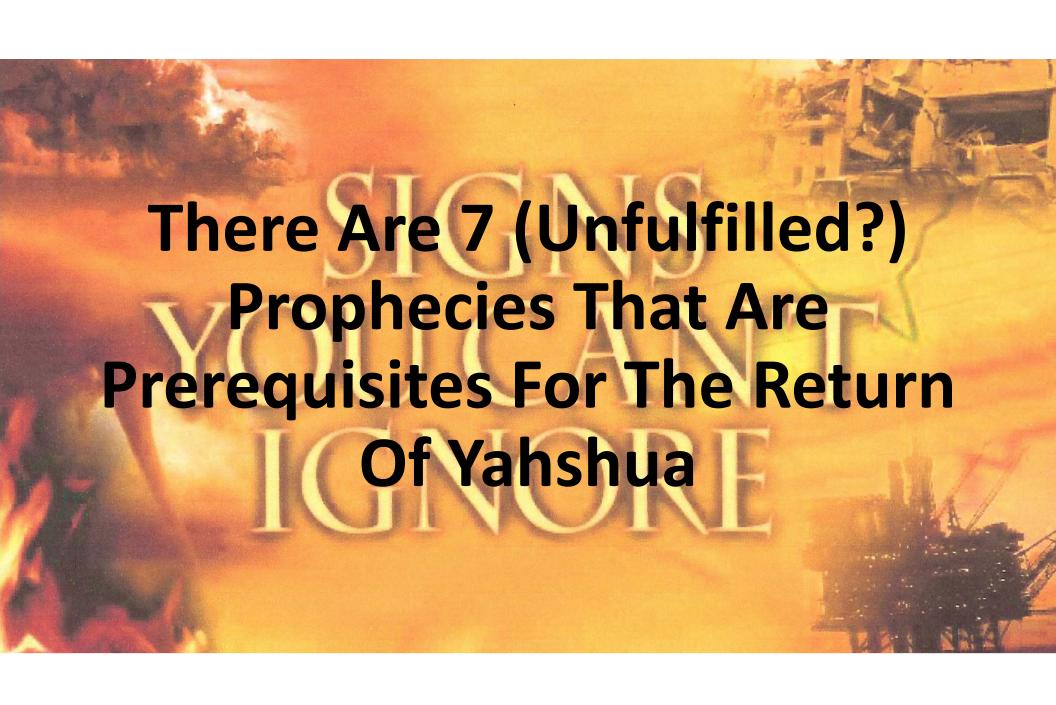
Yahshua's disciples asked: "When will these things be? And what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3).

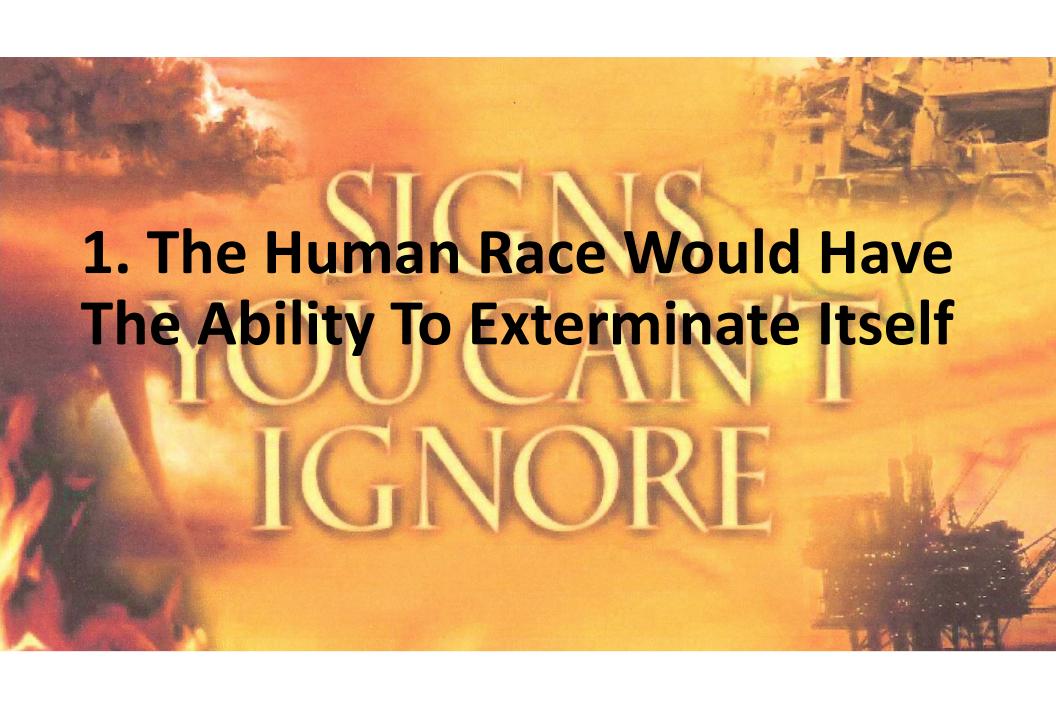
Yahshua responded with a description of conditions and events that would lead up to His second coming. Moreover, He said that when these signs became evident, His return would occur within one generation (Matthew 24:34).

What Is Discussed In Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21?

The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age The Great Tribulation **Abomination of Desolation** The Coming of the Son of Man No One Knows the Day or Hour The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant Jesus Predicts the Destruction of the Temple The Coming of the Son of Man The Destruction of Jerusalem







1. The Human Race Would Have The Ability To Exterminate Itself

Matthew 24:22, describing world conditions prior to His second coming, Yahshua said that "if that time of troubles were not cut short, no living thing could survive; but for the sake of God's chosen it will be cut short"

Matthew 24:22 shows us that if Yahshua does not intervene in world affairs, the human race will be faced with extinction.

Today at least eight nations have nuclear warheads and the number looks set to increase with a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

1. The Human Race Would Have The Ability To Exterminate Itself

The good news in all this is that Christians have an assurance that Yahshua will intervene to save mankind from annihilation.

This prophecy could not be fulfilled until man had the potential for self-extinction through weapons of mass destruction.

Again, only in the last 50 years has this become possible.



Geopolitically, the central focus of end-time events is Jerusalem and its environs, what many people refer to as the Holy Land.

Yahshua showed that Jerusalem would be the central focus of the political and military upheavals that would immediately precede His return:

"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near... For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled" (Luke 21:20-22).

In Zechariah 12:2-3 God says: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah [the Jews inhabiting the land of Israel] and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it."

In Zechariah 12:9 He adds, "It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."

Reading these verses, it is possible to think that they apply to ancient events, as Jerusalem has been fought over repeatedly down through the ages. However, chapter 14 makes clear that this is talking about future, not past, events. The time setting is immediately before Yahshua's return.

"Behold, the day of the Lord is coming . . . For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken, the houses rifled, and the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity . . . Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. (Zechariah 14:1-2)

Further in this same chapter we read of how those nations that came against Jerusalem will have to go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Yahshua (Zechariah 14:16).

These chapters of Zechariah are a prophecy about the events that precede and include the second coming of Yahshua. A Jewish-controlled Jerusalem is notice-ably the central focus.

Daniel speaks of the Jews' daily sacrifices being cut off in the end time (Daniel 12:11; see Daniel 12:1-13)—an event that had a forerunner in the temple defilement under Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes in the second century B.C.

However, Yahshua confirmed this as a *future* event to precede His return (compare Daniel 11:31; Matthew 24:15). This means that these sacrifices must first be reinstituted in Jerusalem—requiring Jewish rule over the city.

One hundred years ago such developments were hard to imagine for the simple reason that no independent Jewish political entity existed in the Middle East.

Since its establishment, Israel has had to fight wars for survival in 1948, 1967 and 1973 and has suffered countless terrorist attacks and threats of annihilation from hostile neighbors determined to eliminate the Jewish state.

Once again, here is a prophecy that can now be fulfilled in our time.



3. The End-Time King Of The North And King Of The South

In Daniel 11 we find an amazing prophecy about two leaders, the kings of the North and South, the heads of regions that were geographically north and south of the Holy Land.

God revealed to Daniel that after Babylon, Persia would arise as the greatest power of the region, to be followed in turn by Greece.

The prophecies regarding the rise of Greece are centered on Alexander the Great, one of the greatest conquerors.

Daniel 8 gives a vivid account of the coming clash between Persia and Greece.

3. The End-Time King Of The North And King Of The South

When Alexander died, his empire was eventually divided between four of his generals. Two of these established dynasties would have a profound effect on the Jewish people, caught in the middle between them.

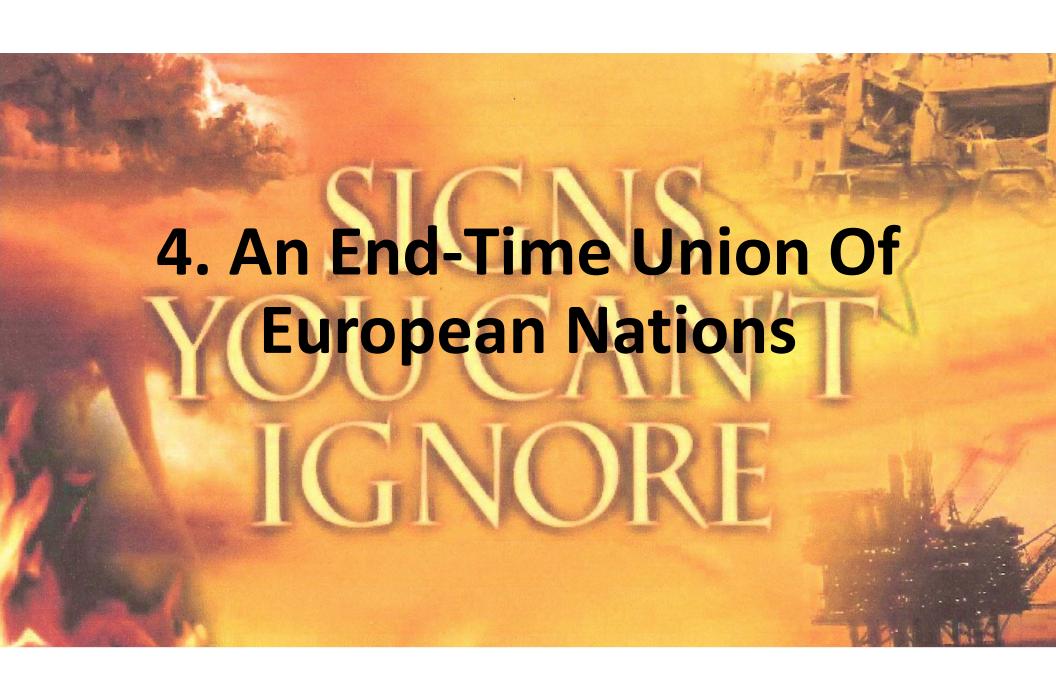
These two dynasties were the descendants of Seleucus, who ruled a vast empire from Antioch in Syria, north of Jerusalem, and Ptolemy, who ruled Egypt from Alexandria.

Daniel 11 is a long and detailed prophecy about the dynastic conflicts between these two powers, their respective leaders being referred to as "the king of the North" and "the king of the South."

3. The End-Time King Of The North And King Of The South

In Daniel 11:40 we read: "At the time of the end the king of the South shall attack him; and the king of the North shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter the countries, overwhelm them and pass through. He shall also enter the Glorious Land [the Holy Land], and many countries shall be overthrown" (Daniel 11:40-41).

The latter part of Daniel's prophecy of the North-South conflict describes a clash of civilizations between the leader of a soon-coming European superpower—a revived Roman Empire (successor to Seleucid Syrian rule)—and a leader who is the successor to the Ptolemaic rule of Egypt, which is now part of the Islamic world.





In Daniel 2 and 7 we see prophecies about four great gentile empires that would arise in the period between the time of Daniel and the coming establishment of the Kingdom of God (Daniel 2:44).

Following the fall of Babylon in 539 B.C., Persia would become the greatest power, to be followed by Greece (Daniel 7:5-6). After Greece came the Roman Empire, "dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong."

This empire was to have "ten horns" and would continue in some form until the establishment of God's Kingdom at Yahshua's return (Daniel 7:7-9).

4. An End-Time Union Of European Nations

Horns represent leaders or governments.

Here these 10 horns symbolize 10 attempts to restore the Roman Empire to the power it had in ancient times. Various attempts at a restoration have taken place since the fall of the Western Roman Empire in A.D. 476.

A final attempt is to be made shortly before Yahshua's return.

They will also "make war with the Lamb [Yahshua], and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14).

Again, it is clear that this prophecy is still future.

4. An End-Time Union Of European Nations

Previous attempts to forge a united European empire, from Justinian in the sixth century through Charlemagne, Napoleon, Mussolini and Hitler, all involved force. The final resurrection of the Roman Empire will not be attempted in the same way.

Revelation 17 suggests this will be a voluntary union. When these 10 leaders receive power, they will then give their authority to a single leader. Scripture refers to both this individual and the new superpower he leads as "the beast"—acknowledging it as the continuation of the four gentile empires prophesied in Daniel, each one depicted as a beast or wild animal.

Only now is it possible for this to be fulfilled.

4. An End-Time Union Of European Nations

Some have speculated that the 10 kings referred to in this prophecy will be leaders of 10 regions of the EU that will redraw the boundaries of Europe, ending the present nation-states.

The Bible is not clear on exactly which 10 regions or nations will configure the final revival of the militaristic Roman superpower—only that this new superpower will indeed emerge just before Yahshua's return.

However, it wasn't until the 10th nation, Greece, was admitted in 1981 that any conceivable fulfillment of this prophecy was even possible.



5. End-Time Rise And Fall Of Israel And Judah

Israel is referred to as the northern kingdom and Judah as the southern kingdom.

About 200 years after the kingdom split, the northern tribes of Israel fell to Assyria and were deported by the Assyrians to the northern parts of their empire. They are often referred to now as the lost tribes.

The kingdom of Judah fell to Babylon more than a century after Israel's deportation, but its people were not lost to history. We know them today as the Jews.

5. End-Time Rise And Fall Of Israel And Judah

In Hosea 5 we read a prophecy that mentions Israel, Ephraim and Judah: "The pride of Israel testifies to his face; therefore Israel and Ephraim stumble in their iniquity; Judah also stumbles with them" (Hosea 5:5). The prophecy continues: "With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the Lord, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn Himself from them. They have dealt treacherously with the Lord, for they have begotten pagan children. Now a New Moon shall devour them and their heritage" (Hosea 5:6-7).

New moons occur a month apart. A new moon "devouring" them would seem to mean that Israel, Ephraim and Judah will all fall within one month.

This prophecy was not fulfilled in ancient times. As already mentioned, ancient Judah fell to Babylon more than a century after Israel fell to Assyria. Yet in the end it appears they will fall together—within one month of each other.

This prophecy remains to be fulfilled.



Many feel this is a prophecy regarding three nations—the United States, Britain and Israel (Judah). According to this prophecy, it appears that all three will fall within the span of a month. Hosea 5:6 shows these nations turning back to God, but finding it's too late. Because of their sins, He will let them suffer defeat and collapse.

This prophecy could not have been fulfilled until after the rise of Britain and the United States as world powers in the 19th century and the formation of the Jewish state of Israel in the 20th.



6. The Gospel Will Be Preached In All The World

In His major end-time prophecy, Yahshua answers the question posed by the disciples: "When will these things be? And what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3).

After listing a number of signs of the nearness of His coming, He reveals that "this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

The gospel is the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. This message could not be preached around the world without the Bible and freedom of religion. Both came gradually with the ascendancy of the English-speaking peoples from the 16th century until the present day.

6. The Gospel Will Be Preached In All The World

However, it was only with the technological advances of television and radio and other means of mass communication after World War II and their widespread acceptance that it became possible to reach hundreds of millions of human beings with the message of the Bible.

The Internet is changing everything. It is much harder for governments to control. The gospel message of the coming Kingdom of God is still going out to the world. It will finish when God has decided that His work is completed and the time is right for the final end-time events to take place.

This is yet another prophecy that could not be fulfilled until recent times.



7. Instant Worldwide Communications And God's Final Witnesses

At the time this prophecy was given, it could be many months or years before people heard about various disasters—and many they would never hear about at all, much less be able to put together the fact that catastrophes were on some kind of global increase.

Only with the proliferation of newspapers and other forms of mass communications did this become remotely possible. Yet the level of awareness and consequent fear in many that Yahshua speaks of implies an even *greater* availability of information—possible only since the development of rapid electronic communications.

7. Instant Worldwide Communications And God's Final Witnesses

In any case, only with the technological advances of the last few years has it become possible for the events in Revelation 11 to occur—for people around the world to see the fate of God's final two witnesses.

These two witnesses, reminiscent of other biblical prophets like Elijah and Elisha, will carry God's final warning to the world in the last 3 ½ years leading up to Yahshua's return.

"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days . . . When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

7. Instant Worldwide Communications And God's Final Witnesses

"Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth" (Revelation 11:3, Revelation 11:7-10).

Note that people the world over will be able to see their dead bodies during the 3 1/2 days that they lie on display in Jerusalem. This was not possible before satellite television, portable communications devices and the Internet.

Again, only in the last few years has it become possible for this prophecy to be fulfilled. It still lies in the future, of course, but only now it is clearly possible for this to take place.

Will This Generation See God's Kingdom Established On Earth?

We have seen how seven biblically prophesied circumstances could not have come to pass until recent times. In fact, the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 was clearly a major turning point in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, as was the acquisition of the hydrogen bomb by the two superpowers of the 1950s that led to the period of mutually assured destruction.

Will This Generation See God's Kingdom Established On Earth?

All has now become possible. This, in turn, makes it much more likely that our generation will live to see Yahshua return and establish the Kingdom of God on earth. After all, Yahshua Himself said that once these things begin, the generation alive at that time "will by no means pass away till all these things take place" (Matthew 24:34).

Will This Generation See God's Kingdom Established On Earth?

It's both sobering and encouraging to think that we appear to be living in the generation that will ultimately witness the most important event in the history of mankind. As Yahshua tells His followers in Luke 21:28, "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

7 Prophecies

"Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

- 1. The Human Race Would Have The Ability To Exterminate Itself
- 2. A Jewish Homeland Had To Be Reestablished In The Middle East
 - 3. The End-Time King Of The North And King Of The South
 - 4. An End-Time Union Of European Nations
 - 5. End-Time Rise And Fall Of Israel And Judah
 - 6. The Gospel Will Be Preached In All The World
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