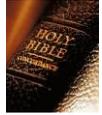


The DEFENDER— January 2026

“ . . . defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S Desk: The Year of Our Lord 2026

Happy New Year! At least that's the wish. But in reality, this may be a year of turmoil and chaos around the globe, leading to changes that will make the world of January 2027 look far different than it does today. I'm not a prophet, but I feel fairly comfortable in making that prediction. I don't think I'm going out on a limb.

The world is entering a new geopolitical era, as evidenced by war, coups, and youth protests on every continent. Things that were once regional in nature have now become worldwide. And the future trajectory of it is still unfolding. But no matter the uncertainty, Christians should remain calm. We're not tied to the things of this world. We may be in it, but we're not of it, evidenced by the peace which lives within us through the power of the Holy Spirit. The apostle John's reminder that "greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4) is meant to remind us that we are the survivors in a world crumbling around us.

As Christians, we shouldn't be alarmed at the existential threats of nuclear war, pandemics, or advancing AI. Our treasure in these fast-changing times is tied to God's mercy. We don't hope, as the world does, that everything will turn out for the best. Their hope is nothing but misplaced wishful thinking. As believers, our hope is what awaits us on the other side of the inevitable grave. Whereas their hope is an action verb, choosing to remain resilient in their ability to bring about a desired end, our hope is a noun. Our hope refers to an actual destination that awaits us, as God's eternal gift to whosoever believes (John 3:16).

The world is convulsing physically because it lost its compass. The crises we face aren't tangible, they're spiritual. And before God lifts His hand of mercy, the church has a wide open window of opportunity. But it may be closing quickly. So what do we do? We begin by calling sin, sin. Doing that may not be popular by the world's standards, but God expects nothing less. We call it out, and then we share with the world the only effective solution—the gospel. This world will one day be destroyed. The unbelievers will be judged and separated from God forever. We who are trusting in Christ will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. The window of mercy is open. The only question left to answer is: what will **You** do?

Rev. David R. Lewis

Prophecy: Our Pearl of Great Price
Part II – Knowing the World We Live In

Compiled by Robert Luthardt, Sr.

There are certain aspects of prophetic truth that are beyond understanding until the time of the end or the "LATTER DAYS." Daniel was told, "But thou O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book ... till the time of the end: many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased ... But go thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest ... at the end ..." (Dan. 12:4,13).

Much revealed to Daniel could not be understood in his day (like modern conveyances and modern weaponry). Indeed, though the Book of the Revelation was itself NOT sealed, there is much hidden from John and his contemporaries.

Consider the Kings of the East and their attacks upon western powers (Rev. 16:12-16). There we read, "And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up so that the way of the Kings of the East might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs came out of the mouth of the false prophet ... spirits of devils, working miracles which go forth unto the Kings of the earth ... to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth ... And He gathered them together into a place called ... Armageddon."

Who are the Kings of the East that are animated by the unclean spirits under the power of the Dragon (SATAN) the beast and the false prophet? Armageddon involves the clashing of Eastern and Western Empires contending for the possession of Palestine (Israel since 1948). This clash is in the future but still beyond WWI and WWII and before we are "caught-up" to meet the "Lord in the clouds" (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

Why is this required? After we are taken with the Lord to heaven to be evaluated for rewards, attend the Wedding Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9), we then return to earth with the Lord (vs. 11-14) and the victory of Armageddon (vs. 19-21).

Since the trumpet and vial judgments run parallel (simultaneously – Rev. 8:6 and 16:1), the same spheres of groups of people are referred to and are the Kings of the East that are leaders of a tremendous Asian Army God will bring down into Israel in the Last Days. "And the four angels were loosed ... to slay the third part of men" (Rev. 9:15-21). We see before us a highly figurative vision couched in symbolic language as is throughout Christ's Revelation which He ... "sent and signified by his Angel unto His servant, John" (Rev. 1:1).

Dr. Ironside lived before and during WWI when Turkey controlled all of Israel but lost it all in the aftermath of WWI. Great Britain then assumed control of Israel's Promised Land. Ironside noted that others came to believe that one day the Euphrates would run dry at some points. This has already happened since several dams have been added and can be so again, to allow for armies to cross over. This becomes more ominous as the DAY OF THE LORD draws nearer.

Remember our hope from the words of our Lord, "lift up your head" for "your redemption draweth nigh" (Luke 21:28). Since Ironside's time, several huge dams have been built that have temporarily

interrupted the rivers flow and could be used again on short notice. The world of Christ's enemies will soon hear the tocsin of war again.

While we recognize the unsaved world's opposition to God's Word, we must stand with the Apostle Paul who wrote contrary to those who only claim to believe in and love the Lord Jesus Christ but fail to discern the mysteries God revealed to Paul (Ep. 3:1-11). We read that all are to put on the "NEW MAN" (4:24) and to not grieve the Holy Spirit ... whereby ye are sealed (vs. 30) by the grace of God (Ep. 1:8-10).

John came preaching the nearness of the Kingdom of Heaven and the King who is to rule over it. The offer of this King and Kingdom was now open provided the people were ready to receive it. After its thorough rejection by Israel's leadership (Matt. 23) the gospel of the Grace of God was instead received by the Body of Christ (Ep. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:5): The regeneration of Israel "AND" Gentiles brought to faith by the grace of God (Ep. 2:8-13).

God, from the beginning of Christ's ministry, dealt with man by sovereign grace in the mystery of taking from both Israel AND Gentiles (Mark 4:11; Rom. 11:25; Ep. 3:1-9) a people for His name. He is gathering out a company to be for all eternity the body and bride of His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7, 21:2). In due time, God will fulfill all promises, especially to Israel and Abraham (Gen. 17:1-8, 12:1-3). Dr. Ironside always wondered when Palestine would be again the Promised Land with Mt. Zion and Jerusalem as the seat of Christ's Throne.

Ezekiel 37 has been partially fulfilled in the Valley of the Dry Bones, "So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived ... an exceeding great army" (verse 10 and 24-28). What awaits is Israel's rescue by the return of Christ to rule forever. Jeremiah also wrote of a future time when the scattered tribes of Israel would return home out of their exile across the whole earth (30:1-18). This was not the return under Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah for in lack of faith few returned at that time.

But in coming days, God will exercise judgment over Israel instead of Babylon, Medes, and Persians or of Alexander's Empire nor of Roman Caesars. God declared, "... I will bring them from the north country ... from the coasts of the earth ... a great company ...". "I am a Father to Israel ... Hear the Word ... He that scattered Israel will ... keep him as a shepherd doth his flock ... they shall not sorrow anymore at all" (Jer. 31:31-40).

God promised, with the restoration of the people to the Promised Land, a NEW COVENANT for Israel. The blood of this COVENANT has already been shed. Our blessed Lord held the communion cup in His hand and said, "This cup is the NEW COVENANT in my blood." This is the basis of all blessing both for Jew and Gentile. In this age all who believe are united in one body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27; Ep. 1:22-23).

There are scores of passages that clearly and definitely declare that He that scattered Israel will re-gather them to their land. We are to trust God for all His promises especially for our own nation, "... And I WILL bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen 12:3). Why? Because our Savior came from Abraham!

We have the whole history of Israel for 1900 years epitomized in one verse (Hos. 3:4) and the future in the next: "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king ... or a sacrifice,

an image, an ephod and without a teraphim.” Afterward shall the children of Israel return and seek ... their God, and David their King ... in the LATTER Days (verse 5).

This has been awaiting fulfillment since 1948 (Ez. 37). One would have thought that Israel without the temple, without Jerusalem, would have disappeared centuries ago. Instead, God kept them to begin again as a vibrant nation on May 14, 1948. They are no longer a divided nation and will no longer be worshipping idols when the Lord returns. For those nations that fail to bless Israel, Jerusalem shall become a “cup of trembling” and a “burdensome stone.” Pray God our present leadership in America is compelled to “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Zech. 12:2-3).

We find in Genesis 12 the beginning of the nation of Israel as the real “Jehovah Witnesses” chosen by God to prove that He was the living God speaking through chosen prophets (Is. 43:10).

The next thing the world will see is the beginning of the end of Gentile world rule (Daniel, chapter 2). The Church of Jesus Christ is to be ready for the any moment return of Christ for His Bride.

Keep looking up.

Chief Source:

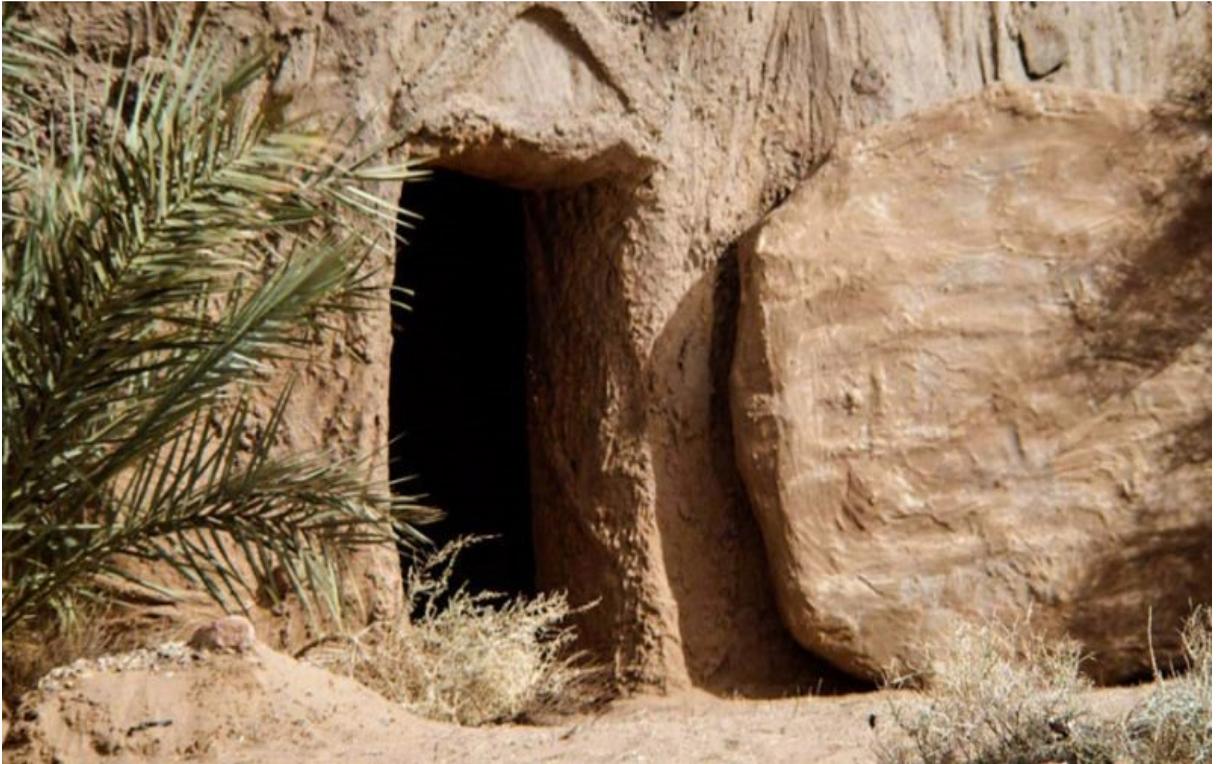
Author:

Publisher:

The Lamp of Prophecy

Harry A. Ironside

Zondervan Publishing House (1940 ed.)



Matthew 5:17-18: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

Christ Came to Fulfill the Law and the Prophets

By Joseph Burghauer

“The Law and the Prophets” refers to the entire Old Testament. (See Matthew 7:12; 11:13; 22:40; Luke 24:27; John 1:45; Acts 13:15; 24:14; Romans 3:21.) “Destroy” may mean to put an end to, or it may mean to ruin. The second meaning can be found in Matthew 10:28. “Fulfil” means to put into effect, to bring to an end, or to satisfy. In Matthew 2:15, we read of a completion of a prophecy: “And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called My Son.” Matthew 11:13 states, “For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John”. So, even the law, the first 5 books of the Scriptures, written by Moses, includes prophecies of Christ and His Kingdom. Some prophecies will not be fulfilled until even the Millennium and Eternal State, but His incarnation had to happen (“I am come”), so that “all be fulfilled”. So, Christ came to fulfill all that was written in the Scriptures. He came to bring about the realization of all of God’s decrees, promises, and prophecies.

A different interpretation is that in verse 18, “the law” is used alone to refer to the Mosaic Law. And the claim by some is that the Mosaic Law will not pass away until “heaven and earth pass”. Some teach that this means that even the ceremonial laws, such as dietary restrictions and 7th day Sabbath keeping, are still required of Christians today.

However, it is my view that verse 18 teaches that all of the Scriptures are or will be fulfilled by our Lord, including His Perfect Obedience to the Mosaic Law. (John 8:46; I Peter 2:22). He taught obedience to the Law (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 1:44). The Mosaic Law was to show us our sin and misery and lead us to Himself (Galatians 3:24). Christ also observed the ceremonial law and fulfilled what the ceremonial law was pointing to: Himself and His Work. When He said “It is finished” (John 19:30), He announced that He completed or fulfilled His Perfect Obedience for His people so His Righteousness would be imputed to them, through God’s gift of faith, and that His prophesied sacrificial death to pay for their sins was about to be accomplished as well. Many types and shadows of the Old Testament were also fulfilled in Christ (Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:1-10).

Luke 18:31 and 24:25-27 supports the view that our passage in Matthew is not affirming the continuation of the Mosaic Law for the church age. The fulfillment of messianic prophecies of His suffering and glory is primarily in view. Our Lord fulfilled hundreds of prophecies made in “The Law and the Prophets” concerning Himself in His First Coming. Matthew uses “fulfilled” to refer to the accomplishment of prophetic predictions of our Lord in Matthew 1:22; 2:23; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4; 26:54,56; 27:9,35.

To try to better understand our passage, we need to briefly consider Matthew 5:19:

Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

“These least commandments” most likely do not refer to the Mosaic Law because much of the New Testament (such as 2 Corinthians 3:6-11 and Hebrews chapters 8-10) tells us that the New Covenant has replaced the Mosaic Covenant. Further, our Lord in Matthew 5:21-48 altered the allowance for divorce and the law of retribution given through Moses. This does not seem to support that “these least commandments” refer to the Mosaic Law. Our Lord’s words in Matthew 5:19 may refer back to 5:18. He could be saying that our good status in His kingdom comes from doing and teaching what is in all of the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16). Another possible view is that “these least commandments” refers specifically to Jesus’s commandments (see Matthew 5:21-48; 7:24-26; 17:5).

Christ was falsely accused of breaking the Mosaic Law (Matthew 12:1-21; Luke 13: 10-17). He did oppose man-made additions to God’s Law (Mark 7:8). He opposed nullifying the Law, as He upheld it and gave the proper meaning of the Law, as we read in Matthew chapter 5. He did not come to ruin the Law or to dispose of it. Christ came as the One better than Moses, Who became the New Covenant Law-Giver (see Deuteronomy 18:15-18). Christians are no longer under the Mosaic Law. We are under “the Law of Christ” (see Galatians 6:2).

Christ did not say that all of the Scriptures would be fulfilled at His First Coming. The remainder will be fulfilled even as “Heaven and earth shall pass away.” (Matthew 24:35), and He gives us “a new heaven and a new earth” (Revelation 21:1).

Luke 24:25-27:

Then He said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.

John 3:14-15:

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.



*Happy
New Year!*

In the Year of Our Lord 2026 Consider God

Psalm 103:1-13

BLESS the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits;

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.



Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

FIND US ON THE WEB AT
www.cubhillchurch.org
& www.facebook.com/cubhillchurch

Listen to our sermons and broadcasts
online at cubhillchurch.org

Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"
airing Monday through Friday on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.
You can support IDOT on PayPal at cubhillchurch.org

DEFENDER CONTRIBUTORS

Rev. David R. Lewis, MDiv., Director, IDOT
Robert Luthardt, Sr., Elder, CHBPC
Joseph Burghauser, Elder, CHBPC

WRITE TO US!

Rev. David Lewis &
In Defense of Truth
2927 Cub Hill Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 am
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm