

# HOPE FOR HUMANITY

## REVELATION TODAY

### PRESENTATION 1 • HOPE, PROPHECY, AND 2025

**SLIDE • PLANET.** We've long looked at the world and wondered where we were heading.

**SLIDE • HOUSE.** This is not our grandparents' world. For many, not our parents' world.

The march of progress has been relentless. It wasn't until 1879 that (**SLIDE • EDISON**) Thomas Edison and his team produced a workable, practical lightbulb. The wizard of Menlo Park, as he was known, didn't invent the light bulb, but he perfected it.

**SLIDE • PROHIBITION.** 100 years ago, when America was still locked in prohibition, just 35% of Americans had electricity in their homes. In 1930, more homes had radios than telephones,

**SLIDE • OLD PHONE.** Speaking of which, there was the invention of the telephone.

**SLIDE • PHONE ON WALL.** On the wall of a home.

**SLIDE • OLD MOBILE PHONE.** Then mobile phones.

**SLIDE • CELL PHONE.** Then cell phones that have cameras and GPS and on an on.

**SLIDE • APPS.** And now everyone is using apps, of course and we woke up a couple of years ago to the slightly unnerving idea that many apps track your movements, wherever you go. Make of that what you will, but this is a changing world.

**SLIDE • OLD HOME.** Back when Edison perfected the lightbulb, homes in the US didn't have electricity. People went to bed when it got dark. In fact, 100 years ago, just 35% of Americans had electricity in their homes. We've gone from having no power, to having hydro-electric and nuclear and solar power. The industrial revolution took place just 200 or so years ago. So Planet Earth went from 5800 years of relatively primitive living, to suddenly being incredibly advanced.

**SLIDE • Pollution** And it's not like it's all been good news. It seems sometimes that we might have outsmarted ourselves. Progress has come at a cost. You can heat your home or power a factory, but there's a price to pay. Few people would rather walk than drive, but

**SLIDE • FORD FACTORY.** Henry Ford couldn't have imagined that mass-producing the automobile would create (**SLIDE • CITY AND SMOG**) some of the challenges we face today.

**SLIDE • PANDEMIC.** Now, the pandemic. Not the very first we've ever seen. The plague in Europe in the middle ages. In some places, a third of all people were killed. Now, they didn't understand the way disease spread so they were sitting ducks. (**SLIDE • SPANISH FLU**) Spanish Flu in 1918, millions killed. Now, COVID-19, which is a... [explanation here.]

People have looked at the world the relentless march of progress. The world is groaning under the weight of pollution and ecological disasters. Sickness. You know, some people have considered what we're going through right now and imagined a different world. During the pandemic, when

society shut down in many parts of the world, fish returned to the canals in Venice and (**SLIDE • CLEAR SKIES**) the skies above New Delhi cleared up for the first time in living memory.

**SLIDE • KLAUS SCHWAB/WEF.** In 1971, a foundation was established in Switzerland by a German economist and engineer named Klaus Schwab. The group eventually became known as the World Economic Forum. Their annual meetings are held in the remote Swiss town of (**SLIDE • SWISS TOWN**) Davos, and over the years have attracted a Who's Who of the rich, famous and influential. People such as (**SLIDE • BILL GATES**) Bill Gates speak there.

**SLIDE • MANDELA.** Nelson Mandela and (**SLIDE • ARAFAT**) Yasser Arafat have attended, as well as a raft of other major political and economic figures. And it fascinated many people when Schwab said this in relation to the pandemic.

**SLIDE • SCHWAB QUOTE:** "The pandemic represents a rare but narrow window of opportunity to reflect, reimagine, and reset our world."

In fact, there's a website dedicated to the idea of a global reset, and on that website you'll find this statement.

**SLIDES (2) • WEBSITE QUOTE ONE.** "The COVID-19 crisis, and the political, economic and social disruptions it has caused, is fundamentally changing the traditional context for decision-making. The inconsistencies, inadequacies and contradictions of multiple systems—from health and financial to energy and education—are more exposed than ever amidst a global context of concern for lives, livelihoods and the planet. Leaders find themselves at a historic crossroads, managing short term pressures against medium and long term uncertainties."

Here's another.

**SLIDE • WEBSITE QUOTE TWO.** "The Great Reset initiative has a set of dimensions to build a new social contract that honors the dignity of every human being."

The fact is the World Economic Forum is not a large group. It isn't the United Nations. But it is very influential, and one wonders what the wealthy and powerful have in mind when they speak about a "great reset." And this question has many people wondering. We live in a world where the gap between the rich and the poor has never been greater. We still live in a world where armed conflicts break out and global conflicts threaten. Is it time for a great reset? And if it is, who decides what that should look like?

Let's remember: humans have been trying to fix the world's problems for a long time. How are we doing with that? Environmentally, socially, politically, economically, we're not in especially great shape. It's as though humans haven't been able to get ahead of the challenges we face.

What I'd like to suggest to you tonight, is that a great reset IS coming to this (**SLIDE • BIBLE**) world. Look at this from a Biblical perspective, and you see two pictures of a perfect earth. The first is found in (**SLIDE • CREATION**) Genesis where God creates the world in six days and pronounces the world "very good." but we know what happened next.

**SLIDE • SIN.** Sin entered the world, and everything turned to custard pretty quickly. But get all the way down to the last couple of chapters of the Bible, and things are different. Here's the second picture of a perfect Earth.

**SLIDE • REVELATION 21:1.** "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away."

**SLIDE • REVELATION 21:4.** “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

**SLIDE • REVELATION 22:3.** “And there shall be no more curse.”

**SLIDE • RESET BUTTON.** So, clearly, God is going to hit the Reset button, and make the world new. But between now and then? Well, the Bible makes some interesting statements.

**SLIDE • DANIEL 12:1** says there’s going to be “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time.”

We read that there are going to be seven last plagues before this world is Reset, there’ll be something referred to as the Mark of the Beast, where people will not be able to buy or sell unless they have this mark. In fact, it says that those who don’t receive the mark of the beast shall be killed. Jesus spoke about that same thing in Matthew 24. He talked about iniquity abounding and the love of many waxing cold, and He said that (**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:7**) “nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places” (Matthew 24:7).

**SLIDE • DATES.** But we may be getting ahead of ourselves. So let’s step back. Before we get too much into tribulation and trials and troubles and marks and seals and beasts and plagues, let’s look at this a little more broadly. We want to understand the future, and we’re going to look into the future, but in order to do so, we’re going to look back, and then forward. During these presentations, we’re going to answer challenging questions. We’ll do our level best to find out where we are in the world today and where we are in the stream of time. We’re going to find out what we see in the world means in the big picture, and we’re going to understand thoroughly what’s going on behind the scenes. Because that’s what many people are missing.

**SLIDE • BALL PARK.** You know that if you watch a football team or a baseball team for example, what you see on game day doesn’t reveal to you all the preparation and practice and the work of team doctors and transportation people and nutritionists and workouts and all of that. What’s going on behind the scenes in this world? (**SLIDE • BIBLE**) The only book on the planet that answers that question in any sort of reliable way is the Bible. It gives an overview of this world that extends back before creation and goes way on down to when the Earth is going to be made new. So it’s imperative we look at the Bible and see what’s really happening. We see trouble in Afghanistan, but what does the Bible say is really going on? We see terrorism, or natural disasters, we see the shifting moral sands, we wonder how long the economy can go on like it has been.

Let’s open the Bible tonight, in this introductory presentation. As we do, we’re going to see some remarkable things. We might not recognize them as terribly remarkable, or maybe we will. But we’re going to step back and look at—in particular—an incredible Bible story that allows us to look into the future. Let’s turn to the book of Daniel.

Some background. God’s people, Israel. Attacked by Babylon.

**SLIDE • ANCIENT CITY.** Babylon was a massive, mighty, powerful kingdom. It was led at the time by a man named Nebuchadnezzar, and the capital city was in

**SLIDE • MAP OF AREA.** Babylon, not far from Iran, not far from Jordan and Syria and Saudi Arabia. 300 miles or so from the Persian Gulf. Babylon became the most powerful kingdom in the Middle East, and in around 605 BC, attacked Jerusalem. That attack is mentioned in the book of 2 Kings.

**SLIDES (3) • 2 KINGS 24:10–11, 13–14 KJV.** “At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it.” “And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king’s house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the Lord, as the Lord had said. And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land” (2 Kings 24:10–11, 13–14).

Over in Daniel chapter 1, it puts it like this.

**SLIDES (2) • DANIEL 1:1–2 KJV.** “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god” (Daniel 1:1–2).

**SLIDE • 1 CORINTHIANS 10:11 KJV** says, “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”

What this means is that we are to learn from what happened to Israel of old. Their experiences are recorded for us as an example. So let’s learn here.

**SLIDES (2) • DANIEL 1:4, 6.** The king asked for captives to be brought back to Babylon, “Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.” “Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah” (Daniel 1:4, 6).

Now I want you to see something. Verse 7 says,

**SLIDE • DANIEL 1:7.** “Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.” Nebuchadnezzar’s name meant something like, “May [the god] Nabu protect the son.” Something very much like that. Back in those Bible times, a war between one nation and another was seen to be a proxy war between one god and another. So when Nebuchadnezzar brought these boys back to Babylon, he wanted to re-program them. They were in a new town, he wanted to give them new food, he educated them in Babylonian ways, and he even gave them new names, which it appears were names in honor of Babylonian gods. In this story, we’re seeing that there’s a battle going on behind the scenes, to establish the superiority of one god over another. Since the Garden of Eden we’ve been seeing that play out. And what we see going on in the world today is connected with that same idea.

Soon after he arrived in Babylon, Daniel impressed the king so much that the king brought him and three of his friends into the king’s inner circle of advisers, which was a very big deal. They were captives, but they were part of the king’s inner circle. There’s a lesson here. You don’t have to be restricted by your station in life. No matter where you were born, no matter who your parents are, no matter what side of the tracks you lived on, God can use you, elevate you, lift you up, promote you, bless you...! That’s what God does. And it’s just as well that happened, because it saved their lives.

**SLIDES (4) • DANIEL 2:1–4.** Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar’s reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams.

So they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream." Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation."

**SLIDE • NEBUCHADNEZZAR.** This is one of history's most famous cases of insomnia! The king had a dream, forgets what it was, couldn't rem. what it meant. Made profound impression on Neb. Dreams were important to the people like him way back then, because they believed gods revealed their will through dreams. (Records of ancient Mesopotamia tell of many important royal dreams.)

The King employed counsellors to solve such mysteries, but here they ask Neb tell them what he had dreamed so they could interpret.

**SLIDES (2) • DANIEL 2:5–6.** The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation."

Nebuchadnezzar meant what he said. It's impossible to underestimate how powerful this man was. Anything that happened was merely the echo of his royal will.

So now let me ask you: can people read the future?

Listen: palm readers, mediums, fortune tellers, psychics, they can't read the future at all. And that's not God's way of doing business. There is no need to consult a spirit medium, or the horoscopes, or a palm reader to get a sense of security about the direction your life is heading.

Regarding horoscopes, they're apparently booming in popularity. A British publisher made this statement about them earlier this year.

**SLIDES (2) •** "Looking outside of the wellness trend, if one thing's for certain, it's that we are living in an age of great uncertainty. Zero-hour contracts, an impossible-to-climb-onto property ladder, Brexit, climate change and the throwing around of small phrases such as 'sixth mass extinction', all add to feelings of ambiguity and insecurity in our lives. As humans, we're hardwired to dislike and avoid uncertainty, and it produces acute stress responses\*\*, so when we cannot know how our futures will play out, it's understandable that we should turn in ever greater numbers towards astrology for clues."

**SLIDE •** "Of course, the information our horoscopes proffer is not steadfast in its accuracy by any means, but astrology does give some sense of control over our lives."

What you'll see tonight is that you can go to God, trust Him, commit yourself to following the leading of the One who made you. You can sleep at night knowing you're getting the best direction you possibly could.

**SLIDE • ZODIAC.** These Babylonian wise men, they probably were practiced in the art of astrology, predicting the future based on the movement of the stars. They likely practiced "extispicy" where they'd inspect the internal organs of slaughtered animals and they'd check for patterns and certain anomalies. No surprise they weren't able to interpret the King's dream.

**SLIDES (2) • DANIEL 2:7–8.** They said to Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:7–8), "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation. The king answered and said, I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm."

You know why they asked the King to tell them the dream, don't you? So they could invent an interpretation! No doubt these 'wise' men were only as wise as their best stories. So they started stalling for time. And it didn't work out too well.

The King says (in verse 9), (**SLIDES (4) • VERSES 9–12**) "If you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation." **10** The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. **11** It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." **12** For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon."

That was it. They were doomed. And the problem for Daniel was that he and three of his friends were considered to be among the wise men of Babylon. Not because they were magicians and fortune tellers, but because of the way they had proven themselves in Daniel Chapter 1, when they first arrived in Babylon. When Neb. sentenced the wise men to death, that included Daniel, and his friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Their lives were on the line too.

So they did what everyone should do when confronted with a crisis like this. What is that? *They prayed*. And look what happened.

**SLIDES (2) • DANIEL 2:17–18.** Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

**SLIDE • PRAYER.** If you need answers, you can be sure you can get them from God, who is always ready to answer prayer.

I want to encourage you to get in the habit of praying, talking with God. Take your cares to God. Peter wrote that we can cast all our cares upon Him because He cares for us.

(Prayer stories.)

Isn't that something? This universe is vast. Huge.

**SLIDE • STARS.** Our Milky Way galaxy is at least 100,000 light years across. That means that if Adam started traveling at the speed of light when he was created 6,000 or so years ago—186,000 miles per second—he'd be only 1/20th of the way across the Milky Way. Huge! And yet the Milky Way is one of billions of galaxies that exist.

The universe is so vast, yet when Daniel and his friends prayed, the God who made it all heard them, and answered their prayer. Isn't God great?

Daniel 2:19, the Bible says that the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven

**SLIDE • DANIEL.** God reveals the dream to Daniel, and he comes to the fabulous courts of the planet's greatest monarch and reveals his great dream to him..

**SLIDES (5) • DANIEL 2:31–36.** "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its



feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

Imagine his astonishment as Nebuchadnezzar heard described the very dream that so troubled him. Yes! That's it! he would have said. That's exactly what I dreamed. But he also wanted the interpretation of the dream. So now Daniel tells the king not only what it was he dreamed, but what the dream meant.

**SLIDE • BIBLE.** In a few verses, God reveals to us what will take place over the next 2,500 years of human history, and beyond. Now realize this: God puts Himself on the line here. If what God says isn't true, I'd encourage you to walk away from the Bible and not look back. This prophecy actually provides the basis for the major apocalyptic prophecies of the Bible. Daniel and Revelation are based on Daniel 2. So if Daniel 2 isn't reliable, the whole Bible collapses like a house of cards.

Which loops us back around to what we see going on in the world today. Prominent voices are saying it's time to hit the reset button, to do things fundamentally differently to how we've been ordering society so far. There's nothing inherently wrong in that. Society might always look to improve. But what we cannot leave out of the equation is that while humanity is heading towards the precipice, there is a God whose hand is ultimately over this world. HE has a plan that will be worked out, and He wants us to get on board with that plan. We haven't done well in 6,000 years of ignoring God, and the direction we're headed now is not good. So let's look at this dream, and see how this show's God's hand in history, and therefore in our future.

**SLIDES (2) • DANIEL 2:37–38.** "You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold."

**SLIDE • HEAD OF GOLD.** Babylon 605 BC–539 BC Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon. Known as the Golden Kingdom. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, you are this head of gold.

**SLIDE • BABYLON.** 10 miles around. Bigger than Rome or Athens. Altar and throne made from 8 and ½ tons of solid gold.

**SLIDE • QUOTE.** A letter from Nebuchadnezzar said of Babylon... "The whole earth was prostrate at Babylon's feet." He wrote, "Babylon, the city which is the delight of my eyes, which I have glorified. May it last forever!"

But for all that, Babylon was going to fall.

**SLIDE • VERSE 39.** But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours;

**SLIDE • MEDO PERSIA.** This was the kingdom of Medo-Persia. Ruled from 539 BC–331 BC. Just as silver is inferior gold, so Medo-Persia was inferior to Babylon. Represented by chest and arms.

Notice how the Bible is interpreting itself. We're not guessing what it means.

**SLIDE • DANIEL 2:39.** Then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth (Daniel 2:39).

Then 3rd kingdom of brass. Next world-ruling power? Greece,

**SLIDE • GREECE.** Greece ruled 331–168 AD. Under Alexander the Great Greece conquered world. What then?

**SLIDE • DANIEL 2:40.** And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

Vanquished by armies of Rome, depicted in Nebuchadnezzar's dream by legs of iron. Historians refer to Rome as the iron kingdom.

**SLIDE • ROME,** 168 BC–476 AD Keep in mind all predicted 600 yrs before birth Christ, and we've seen unfold exactly as God said it would. God pred. rise four world kingdoms, and what God predicted came to pass.

**SLIDE • VERSE 41.** Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided, yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

God says Rome would be divided. Not conquered, but divided. What happened to Rome? Rather than being conquered or overthrown by another nation, after being attacked repeatedly by barbarian tribes, Rome was divided into 10 nations, many of which became the nations of Europe recognize today.

**SLIDES (2) • VERSES 42–43.** Rome was finally and irrevocably divided in 476 AD.

**SLIDE • TRIBES OF EUROPE.** Remarkably, God said Rome would divide into 10 nations, saying that after the legs of iron—Rome—there would be the feet of iron and clay, the 10 toes representing the 10 divisions into which Rome fell.

And notice, God says, although people would again try to reunite the European kingdom, it would never happen. They would not cleave one to another. Over the years, many have tried.

**SLIDE •** Napoleon, Hitler, Kaiser Wilhelm and others—all were on a quest to reunite Europe.

**SLIDE • QUEEN VICTORIA.** Queen Victoria was known as the grandmother of Europe, and King Christian IX of Denmark was known as "The father-in-law of Europe". 8 European monarchs were grandchildren of one or the other of those two. But the Bible said the nations of Europe would not cleave one to another.

And look at what is happening in Europe today. The Eurozone is in chaos. Economies are tanking. There's disunity. God has said "they shall not cleave one to another." But can we expect there to be political changes? Yes, we can. Will there be further developments? Yes there will. But where is all this leading?

**SLIDE • MONEY.** People and corporations are amassing not only great wealth but enormous influence today. Where's that heading?

**SLIDE • ICE FLOES.** You don't have to be an environmentalist to know that the environment is going through some great changes. Are they temporary? Are they permanent? We'll know in time. What's important is that these ecological challenges are in many ways galvanizing the world and setting us on a certain course. The global economy is so intertwined today that when a



**SLIDE • CARGO SHIP.** Ship gets stuck in the Suez Canal, it has a major effect on supply chains and prices in multiple countries.

**SLIDE • PANDEMIC.** Nations around the world are struggling with a pandemic, and people are divided over the question of what to do about it. Does anyone really think this won't impact the way the world acts going forward? Mandates and governmental influence and peer pressure? In fact, the book of Revelation presents that very scenario playing out, although regarding another issue. It seems that the world is being set up for the global crisis the Bible talks about.

Let's go back and complete that great prophecy of Daniel 2

**SLIDES (2) • DANIEL 2:44–45.** And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

So what's the best way forward? Given what we read in the Bible, you'd have to be confident that there is a God with a perfect plan. Thousands of years ago He forecast the coming ages, and gave us a look into the future. And think with me about where we are in the stream of time. God spoke of four kingdoms.

**SLIDE • SYMBOLS.** Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome. They've come and gone.

**SLIDE • TEN.** God said Rome would divide into ten nations. That happened. Three of them no longer exist. And he said that “in the days of these kings”, the Earth as we know it would cease to be as God presses the cosmic reset button. Talk about a great reset. It's coming soon, and God wants you to be part of it.

**SLIDE • CHINESE BOY.** In 1997 a two-year-old boy was abducted near his home in eastern China, apparently by a couple who sold the boy to traffickers. Police investigated, but they couldn't find the boy. The boy's father followed up the leads he uncovered, and searched for his son ... and searched for his son. He rode 310,000 miles on ten different motorbikes, spending his life's savings as he desperately sought to locate him. Two dozen years after he was abducted, the boy—26 years old—was reunited with his parents.

You know what we've got, don't you?

**SLIDE • PLANET EARTH.** A world that is lost, and largely doesn't know it. And a God who is searching for his children, doing all He can to bring them back to His heart. The prophecy of Daniel shows us that God has an eternal plan, that His desire is to give you the VERY best, FOREVER.

**SLIDE • SECOND COMING.** As we near the final moments of Earth's history, we see God wants you to be part of His future. It looks like we're heading towards self-destruction, unless you believe the path we're on is tenable. God has the future we most want, and He wants you to be part of it.

We're just starting tonight, and there's a lot ahead. We'll dig much deeper into the prophecies of the Bible, and see where the world is going, and...

Let's pray.