

# HOPE FOR HUMANITY

## REVELATION TODAY

### PRESENTATION 2 • THE UNSEEN ENEMY AT YOUR DOOR

**SLIDE • WIZARD OF OZ.** In the 1939 movie, The Wizard of Oz, a girl named Dorothy, along with her dog, Toto, along with a scarecrow, a tin man and a lion, travel to see the wizard of Oz. He had presented himself as powerful, and as the only man capable of solving their problems. But when together they visit him, they hear a voice but see no wizard. (**SLIDE • DOROTHY AND TOTO**) Dorothy's dog takes hold of a curtain and pulls it aside, revealing that the "wizard" is only a con man, pulling levers and operating a machine producing what today we'd call "special effects." And the so-called wizard hollers, "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain." To all appearances, the wizard was a significant figure, feared by many people. But behind the scenes, the reality was very different.

Let's consider some of the things we see, and then the things that we don't see.

**SLIDE • COVID.** And so today - a pandemic still causes great trouble.

**SLIDE • US CAPITOL.** There are great political tensions around the world.

**SLIDE • FIRES.** Incredibly destructive fires in the western part of the country.

But what do these things mean?

Well, the Bible helps us to get to the bottom of that. We begin in Matthew chapter 24, where Jesus' disciples say to Him,

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:2.** "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:2). And Jesus goes about answering that question, telling them about signs they would see in the world before things wrap up on Planet Earth. And we're told they will.

**SLIDE • 2 PETER 3:3-4.** Peter wrote this: "There shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (2 Peter 3:3-4). He went on to write

**SLIDE • 2 PETER 3:10.** "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). From a Biblical perspective, this world isn't going to just go on and on and on just as it always has.

**SLIDE • PLANET.** The very good news is that God has plans for this world, and if you can understand those plans you'll have confidence for today and for the future.

**SLIDE • SECOND COMING.** According to the Bible, Jesus is going to return. We saw last time that the kingdoms of this world will be swept away, and God's eternal kingdom will be set up.

Now, I understand that if you're not wired to welcome ideas like this you could think this kind of talk is fantasy. I get that. Someone unfamiliar with the Bible might say it's all a fairy tale, and let's be honest, the behavior of some Christians and even some churches has turned off a lot of people. But I'll tell you this.

**SLIDE • MAP OF GUATEMALA.** A few years ago in Guatemala, there was a lady named Rosa who shared an astonishing story. She was a volunteer whose task it was to go door-to-door would warn people in her community when a volcano,

**SLIDE • VOLCANO.** Volcán de Fuego, appeared to be about to erupt. The volcano had cause a lot of destruction over the years, and now, the concern was that the 13,000 feet high mountain would explode and then destroy the town of San Miguel Los Lotes. When the authorities sounded the alarm, Rosa went from home to home, building to building, alerting people that danger was about to rain down on them.

**SLIDE • ROSA.** She said with tears in her eyes that many people told her that they weren't going to move, they weren't going to relocate, they weren't going to leave town, but that they'd lock their doors and wait it out. She went to a church. It was a Sunday. June 3, 2018. The people in the church told her they would pray and trust God to deliver them. If you go to the town today, you won't see the church, because it is about 25 feet beneath your feet. Hundreds of people died who didn't perceive the danger, and therefore didn't move. You can choose to ignore the Bible, but doing so doesn't change the reality. It changes neither the danger, nor the love of God for you. The Bible reveals the great love of God for this world, and shows us that God's way is the very best way.

So what does the Bible help us see?

**SLIDE • WORLD.** The Bible predicts the rise of a global power in the last days of the Earth's history.

**SLIDE • 2 THESSALONIANS 2:3–4.** "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 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" (2 Thessalonians 2:3–4).

Mark of the Beast. Seven last plagues.

**SLIDE • SIGN.** So let's look briefly at some of those signs Jesus mentioned. Remember the question: What will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age? Jesus answered by saying,

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:4.** "Take heed that no one deceive you." It's important to read, to keep your eyes open. It isn't hard to be deceived.

Then, the things we see, according to Jesus.

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:5.** "For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." We see that. There's been no shortage of religious figures who have deceived people over the years.

**SLIDE • FALSE MESSIAH.** A report on an Australian news site detailed seven men in various places around the world who right now believe themselves to be Jesus. It seems some of them might be

mentally unwell, maybe others are in on the joke, and none of them seem as though they're about to take the world by storm. But false teachers are no laughing matter. There are thousands of different religious groups in the world right now, and we all know they can't all be right. There's something like 2.5 billion Christian believers in the world right now, and something like 4 billion who identify with non-Christian religious groups. Among Christianity there's a wide divergence of belief. It's not rational to suggest everyone is headed in the right direction. It's clear there's a lot of confusion in the Christian world.

**SLIDE • BOOK OF REVELATION.** In fact, over in the book of Revelation God speaks about Babylon. The word is mentioned four times. And it's important to remember that Babylon has its origin at the Tower of Babel, and that Babel means "confusion." So God even specifies that there will be confusion in the religious world in Earth's last days. This is an important sign of the end. There's confusion in the religious world.

People have been concerned about the end of the world forever, it seems. People from all over the religious spectrum - mainstream, less mainstream, evangelicals, you name it - they've predicted the end of the world to come. Authors who have sold a lot of books, people who have their own television programs. A lot of predictions have been made. Obviously, none of them have been accurate. The end of the world hasn't yet come.

The second sign Jesus mentioned is in Matthew 24:6.

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:6.** "And you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars." Well, we hardly need to comment on that. There's unrest, even though we're thoroughly convinced that war is hell, as Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman said almost 150 years ago. It says something about human nature that

**SLIDE •** Soldiers 6000 years after creation, we can't stay away from war. And notice what Jesus went on to say.

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:6-7.** "See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24:6-7). Don't be troubled. Don't be "frightened." The end is not yet. So we've seen warfare over the last 160 years or so, from

**SLIDE • CIVIL WAR.** Gettysburg and Chickamauga to World War 1, (**SLIDE • WW2**) World War 2, Korea, Vietnam, the (**SLIDE • WAR VEHICLES**) Gulf War, Afghanistan, and so many others. We can check that off the list.

And this is interesting.

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:7.** "And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places." We hardly need to spell this out.

**SLIDE • EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE.** In 1976, an earthquake in China killed 255,000 people. In 2010, in Haiti. 222,000 died. The world is waxing old. Bodies are wearing out. New diseases are running amok.

**SLIDE • COMPUTER SCREEN.** Every 36 seconds someone in the United States dies from cardiovascular disease. Heart disease. One in every four deaths is due to heart disease. Every year, 805,000 Americans have a heart attack. More than one in ten Americans has diabetes. About 90 million Americans have pre-diabetes. These are astounding figures. And we don't always think

about these as pestilences, even though that's exactly what they are. And now we think of SARS and MERS and Ebola and now of course

**SLIDE • HOSPITAL PATIENT.** COVID-19 with the 220 million cases worldwide so far and almost 5 million deaths. If Jesus wasn't talking about this day when he spoke of disease, it's impossible to imagine what else He might have been referring to. Famines? Yes. Earthquakes? Absolutely. In 1976, an earthquake in China killed 255,000 people. In 2010, in Haiti. 222,000 died. And of course earthquakes are happening all the time.

**SLIDE • TSUNAMI SIGN.** We can't forget the tsunami the day after Christmas in 2004. More than a quarter of a million people died. And then, only seven years later, on the afternoon of March of 2011, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake struck 231 miles northeast of Tokyo. \$300 billion of damage was done. Worse, 22,000 lives were lost. It was the largest earthquake to ever hit Japan, and it triggered a **SLIDE • TSUNAMI.** 1 tsunami that caused massive devastation.

**SLIDE • NEWSPAPER.** In June of 2021 year, the Baltimore Sun reported that between 2019 and 2020, the homicide rate in this country increased by 25%. In one year.

**SLIDE • CRIME SCENE.** In Chicago, the murder rate increased by 55%. Memphis, up 48%. Atlanta, up 38%. Phoenix, up 46%

**SLIDE • CHATTANOOGA.** In Chattanooga, the murder rate is almost four times the national average. Rape is twice the national average. Assault, 3.5 times the national average. Theft, 3 times the national average.

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:12.** Jesus said that: "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12).

There are more signs of the nearness of the end of this world in the Bible, and one of them is found in Daniel 12:4.

**SLIDE • DANIEL 12:4.** "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." You perhaps ought to see that as spiritual knowledge increasing, and that's surely what has happened over time. It wasn't especially long ago and the Bible couldn't even be accessed. But in recent decades, more and more people have begun focusing on Bible study, more and more people have studied the prophecies of the Bible. No doubt, knowledge is increasing. And secular knowledge is increasing too.

**SLIDE • OLD COMPUTER.** In the 1940s, a computer could weigh as much as 27 tons. Today, your laptop weighs just four pounds. It was in the year 1844 when Samuel Morse sent the first telegraph message: "What hath God wrought?"

**SLIDE • NEW PHONE.** Today you can speak a text message on a phone that takes photos, video, and records messages, you probably haven't used a road map in 15 years, and you can ask your Voice-Activated Assistant to play music for you, or make a donation or start your car. Knowledge has increased. To the extent that when the Bible says there's coming a time when people won't be able to buy and sell, we don't need to wonder if that's an actual possibility. The future has arrived.

So these are the signs Jesus spoke about, and He said they are the "beginning of sorrows." The word translated "sorrows" basically means "birth pains." Jesus is saying that just as birth pains increase in frequency and intensity the closer a woman gets to the main event, the intensity and frequency of these signs will increase the nearer we get to the return of Jesus. While one

earthquake doesn't mean too terribly much in the grand scheme of things, the increasing in frequency and intensity of these things indicates that we're headed for something significant.

**SLIDE • MATTHEW 24:15.** In verse 15 we read something interesting. "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." This has a dual application, as most of these signs do. Remember, the disciples asked Jesus about two things: the destruction of Jerusalem, and the end of the world. Here he talks about the Roman armies entering Jerusalem and destroying the city of God. In the context of Earth's last days, we can expect to see something that parallels that: something pagan, counter to Bible teaching, entering into... the Christian faith to do great damage and lead people away from the teachings of the Bible.

So we see signs in the world, and we could say, "Earthquakes!" "Diseases!" "False religious teachers!" But let's go a bit further, a bit deeper, and look behind the curtain. See, that's what Satan doesn't want you to do. He would say, "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain." You see, there's a man behind the curtain, a dark force behind what is going on in the world today.

People are looking at conspiracies, shadowy figures for forces, perhaps individuals or groups that are affecting the world in which we live. And maybe they have great power. But if we focus on what's on the surface, and if we focus on the secular, we're missing what the man behind the curtain is doing.

I want to take you back to the first book of the Bible written. The Bible says that

**SLIDE • JOB 1:1.** Job was "perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1).

**SLIDE • JOB 1:8.** "Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" (Job 1:8)

**SLIDE • JOB 1:11–12.** Satan replied saying, "Stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord." (Job 1:11–12). What followed was extremely difficult for Job. Those who looked on believed he had to have done something truly sinful to be suffering as he was. But in reality, there was something going on behind the scenes.

**SLIDE • JOB 2:5–6.** "Stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life" (Job 2:5–6).

**SLIDE • JOB 2:7.** "So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head." What played out in the following 40 or so chapters of the book is a tremendous story showing that things are not always as they appear. Behind the scenes there's a spiritual battle going on. Remember where Paul said this in Ephesians 6?

**SLIDE • EPHESIANS 6:12.** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Paul was saying, "We're in a spiritual war. There are things going on behind the scenes that we can't see, and yet that's the greater reality." Satan says, "Pay no attention to that man pulling the

levers.” But that’s the one we should be looking at. We make a mistake when we focus TOO much on what we see, if we forget that the real action is taking place where we cannot see. That’s why the Bible is so helpful. It lets you see beneath the surface.

I’ll give you another example of that. From the book of Daniel. Daniel has been praying about an important matter for some time. An angel speaks to Daniel and says,

**SLIDE (2) • DANIEL 10:12–14.** “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to make you understand what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision refers to many days yet to come” (Daniel 10:12–14).

There was something going on behind the scenes. Daniel couldn’t see it. All he knew is that he was praying and waiting for an answer. But behind the scenes, behind the curtain, there was a battle playing out, a battle between Christ and Satan. Gabriel tells Daniel that God heard his prayer, but because someone was hindering him he was not able to come sooner. There was a spiritual battle taking place. Daniel was living in the physical world, but events taking place in the spiritual world were impacting his daily life. That’s how it is for us today. We might not see angels, the working of God’s Spirit. We might not see the spiritual war taking place, but we see its effects. They’re seen all around us.

**SLIDE • REVELATION 12:17** says, “And the dragon was wrath with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” You’re going to find that a woman is a symbol of the church, when you get to the book of Revelation.

**SLIDE • COUNTRY CHURCH.** And so here, the devil is angry with the church and has gone to make war with God’s people in the end of time.

**SLIDE • DARWIN.** This will explain many things to you. When Charles Darwin sailed on the HMS Beagle, the world in which he lived was viewed largely through a Christian prism. Creation was the accepted explanation regarding origins. After his journeyings in the 1830s, Darwin wrote “On the Origin of Species,” which laid the foundation for what would become a major rejection of Christian principles.

**SLIDE • PARIS.** The French Revolution had taken place less than 50 years after Darwin sailed, in which atheism was embraced as the state religion in France. Even before Darwin wrote On The Origin of Species,

**SLIDE • KARL MARX.** Karl Marx wrote his Communist Manifesto. Marx disparaged faith in God, calling Christianity “the opium of the people,” looking forward to a day when faith in God was unnecessary. So you see what was going on here. Europe had been a Christian continent. The Christianity came to be of a form that people did not find palatable, setting the scene for revolution, uprising, and then the rejection of religion altogether.

**SLIDE • CATHEDRAL.** Visit beautiful cathedrals in Europe today and you’ll find that they’re essentially museums, and that the churches that built them are starving for members and relevance.



There was a move away from faith in God. And do you think that was an accident? No, it was not. It was carefully crafted, designed, and it was carried into effect by a devil who is at war with God and His people.

**SLIDE • GARDEN OF EDEN.** Shortly after the creation of the world, Adam and Eve were minding their own business in the Garden of Eden when Eve was tempted. A serpent spoke to her and told her to eat the fruit that grew on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now, God had told her not to do that. The serpent told her she should. Right there - you see something you don't want to forget. Satan was undermining God. God said one thing, the devil said another. And Eve had a choice. It's the same choice people have today. To surrender their will to God, or to listen to the devil. Right back there in the beginning, the devil was seeking to usurp God's authority. So - why would he want to do that? Where would he be headed with that? The Bible tells us.

In fact, it tells us how this rebellion got started. Revelation says,

**SLIDES (2) • REVELATION 12:7-9.** "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:7-9).

**SLIDES (2) • ISAIAH 14:12-14.** And here's why Isaiah tells us: "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'" Satan wanted to sit in the place of God. "I want to be like the Most High," he said. You know that in heaven, 1/3 of the angels turned against God and stood with Lucifer.

**SLIDE • REVELATION 12:4.** "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth" (Revelation 12:4). When he came to the Earth, Satan was determined to get the worship he could not get in heaven.

A moment ago I asked you where this was leading. I'll show you right now.

**SLIDE • REVELATION 13:3-4.** "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" (Revelation 13:3-4). And it goes even further.

**SLIDE • REVELATION 13:8.** "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

So what we see is that a fallen angel who wanted to sit in God's place was evicted from heaven. He came to the Earth determined to receive worship, and this all culminates in an issue in the last days of this Earth's history in which the devil receives the worship of the world. I'll show you how that happens later in this series of presentations.

And we find ourselves caught up in a spiritual war. Someone is going to say, "Why doesn't God just put His foot down and stop the devil from doing his thing and fix up the Earth?" Or, "Why doesn't God just stop sin and suffering?" Listen to this: For God to destroy the devil right now and sweep away sin right now, would jeopardize the security of the entire universe. I'll tell you why.

**SLIDE • CREATION.** When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them freedom of choice. In fact, when God created angels, He did the same thing. Satan - for reasons we cannot understand - rebelled against God and used his God-given freedom unwisely. Could God have stopped him from doing that? Yes, but then God wouldn't be God. Why? Because God is love. And love doesn't remove a person's free moral agency. Love doesn't make an angel a slave, or a person a robot. Love doesn't do that. So God gave Adam and Eve free choice. And what if they misused that? They could choose to sin. They could rebel against God! Well, they did. And what was God's plan? It was to forgive them, and offer them a way back to the heart of God. Remember when they sinned? They hid from God. But God went after them, and made them clothing to cover their nakedness. Animals died so they could be clothed. This all represents something incredible. Sin separates us from God, but God in His mercy makes us a covering. It's the righteousness of Jesus. He offers us faith in Jesus. Who had to die to provide us with that covering. Adam and Eve's sin would cost God far more than it would cost humanity, because sin would mean that Jesus would willingly die so that we could be brought back into harmony with God. The book of Job tells the story. Those who hang on to God by faith are healed from their suffering,

But today on Planet Earth, we see nation rising against nation, and it speaks of the division and chaos the devil has inspired in our world. You see racism, and injustice, and the devil is trying to pit people against people. False Christs and false prophets, because of course the devil is trying to lead people astray. And not only those he tries to confuse with false teaching, but also those he tries to fill with disgust and contempt against some of the terrible things that happen in the name of Christianity. You see ecological disasters, and you remember that Paul wrote,

**SLIDE • ROMANS 8:22.** "For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now" (Romans 8:22). What we're experiencing now is a spiritual war, the descent of the world into chaos is setting us up for the last great crisis that will present itself to the world. And it seems as though that day is not far off.

Hyatt Regency Hotel opened on July 1, 1980 in Kansas City. 45 floors, 733 guest rooms.

**SLIDE • INTERIOR OF HOTEL.** It's now a Sheraton hotel, about 500 yards - in a straight line - from Union Station.

A year after it opened, 1600 people were crowded into the atrium of the Hyatt taking part in a social event, a "tea dance." Music and dancing, an afternoon/evening event one reporter described as a "weekend phenomenon" in Kansas City. That Friday evening, everything went unimaginably wrong.

Since they had started in May, the dances were one of "the" places to be in Kansas City. The Hyatt was Kansas City's newest hotel.

In the atrium were three "skywalks", walkways connected the second, third and fourth floors between the north and the south wings. But

**SLIDE • BROKEN SKYWALKS.** At 7:05 pm, the fourth-floor skywalk collapsed onto the second-floor skywalk, and both of them - 64 tons of steel, concrete and glass - collapsed onto the crowd below.

**SLIDE • DISCUSSION.** 114 people died and more than 200 were injured. It was a terrible disaster. And, of course, when it happened, investigators didn't just say, "Oh, a couple of floors collapsed." Everyone looking on could SEE what had happened. What they wanted to know was WHY? Why did this disaster occur? Investigations revealed there had been an engineering error. The rods supporting all three of



**SLIDE • BROKEN RODS.** The walkways weren't secured correctly. They were virtual time bombs. When enough weight was on them for long enough, they gave way. And all of those people died and were injured for the simple reason that those walkways - each of them weighing 32 tons - weren't being held in place. They didn't have the support they needed. It was the deadliest structural engineering failure in US history. The outward effects were obvious. But what did it mean? What was the disaster telling those who looked on?

**SLIDE • LUKE 21:26.** Jesus spoke to this speaking of a time when "Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth."

**SLIDE • LUKE 21:28.** But he went on to say: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

And that's what we do. There's something going on behind the scenes, while we meet here tonight. We're caught in a spiritual war. A real one. But there's a good God who loves the human family and wants the very best for you.

Appeal

Final prayer



Copyright © 2025, It Is Written, Inc. All rights reserved.  
It Is Written and Revelation Today are registered service marks and/or trademarks of It Is Written, Inc.

**HopeforHumanity.info**