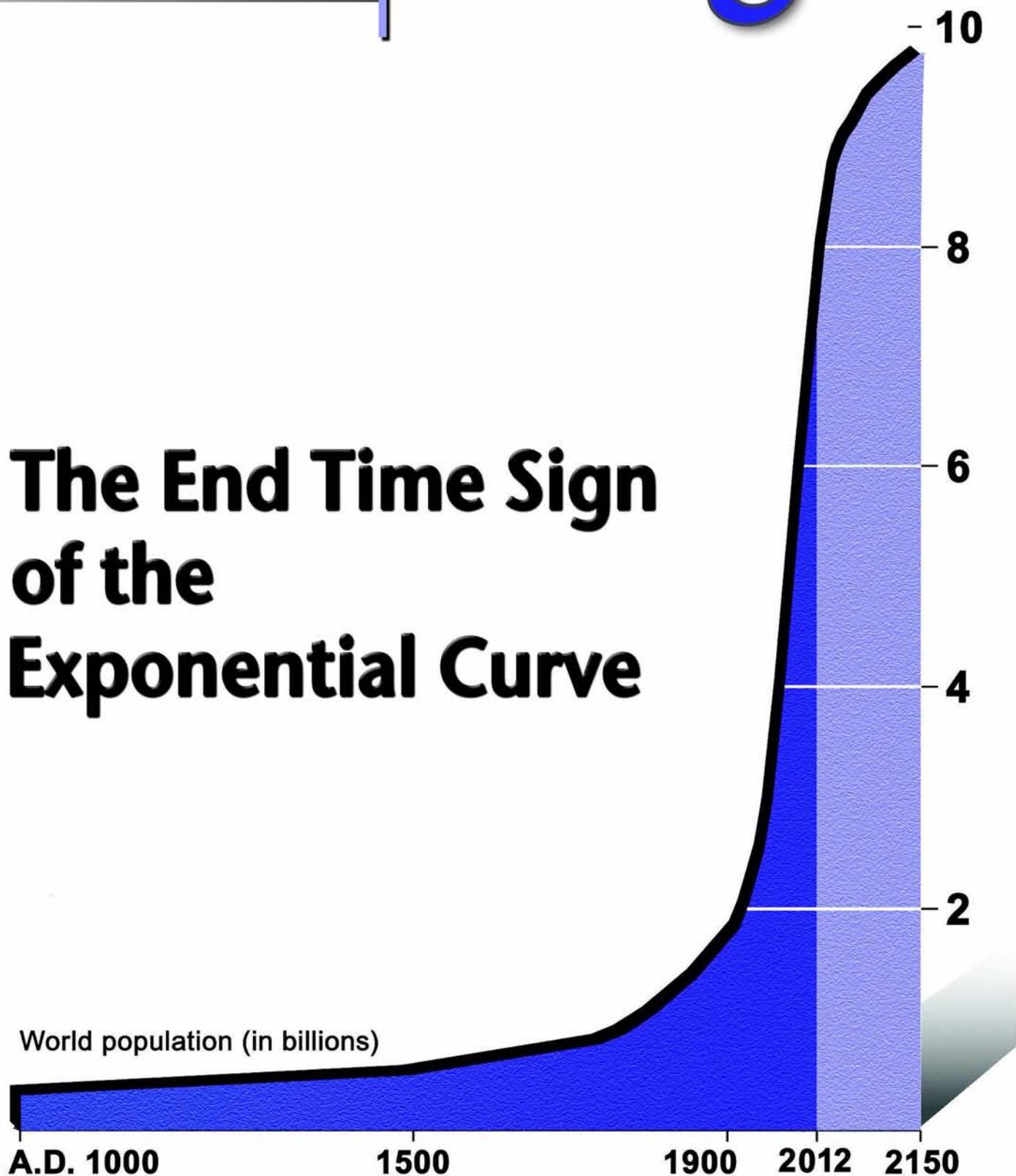


**BIBLE
PROPHECY**

Insights

The End Time Sign of the Exponential Curve





Observations by the Editor

Urgency

Dr. David R. Reagan



Dr. David R. Reagan

There is a sense of urgency in the air. Our nation is on the brink of moral and economic collapse. The world is caught up in an insane frenzy of terrorism. The Middle East is about to explode. And the biblical signs of the times are shouting from the heavens that Jesus is about to return.

In the words of Charles Dickens, "It is the best of times, it is the worst of times."

It is the worst of times because the depravity of Man is manifesting itself in the increasing rejection and blasphemy of God. The result is an exponential increase in violence and immorality.

It is the best of times because the collapse of society worldwide is the fulfillment of end time prophecies that point to the soon return of Jesus.

Jesus Himself said that He would return at a time when society was once again as immoral and violent as it was in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37).

An Exciting But Challenging Time

We are privileged to be living in such an exciting and momentous time when we can witness the stage being set for the triumphant return of Jesus. But it is a time that calls for courage.

We simply must keep our eyes on Jesus, and we must remember that even if our nation has no hope, we as individual Christians have great hope.

But that sense of hope will prevail in our lives only if we consciously and determinedly live with an eternal perspective.

God is in Control

We must keep in mind that as the world falls apart around us, God's Word says that He "sits in the heavens and laughs" (Psalm 2:4). His laughter is not prompted by a lack of concern. Rather, He laughs because He has everything under control, for He has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Man and Satan to the ultimate triumph of His Son.

He has also promised that He will walk with those who are Christians, accompanying us through fire and high water (Isaiah 43:1-3).

And He has promised us an escape before the world totally collapses into absolute chaos (Luke 21:36). That escape is called the Rapture. When Paul revealed this escape in detail in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, he concluded by saying, "Comfort one another with these words."

Additionally, we have the promise of the Millennial reign of Jesus to look forward to. What a day that will be!

Jesus will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords from Jerusalem. David, in his glorified body, will reign as King of Israel. We, in our glorified bodies, will be scattered across the earth to reign over those in the flesh. And the earth will be flooded with peace, righteousness and justice, as the waters cover the seas (Isaiah 2:1-4 and Isaiah 11:3-9).

Maranatha! ❖

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Lamb & Lion Ministries is a non-denominational ministry whose purpose is to proclaim to as many people as possible as quickly as possible that Jesus is returning soon.

The Exponential Curve

Is it a sign that Jesus is returning soon?

Dr. David R. Reagan

Have you noticed how almost everything in life seems to be accelerating? Knowledge has exploded. We are traveling faster and farther than ever before. Instant, worldwide communication has become commonplace. And the power at our disposal is mind boggling.

A Sign of the Times

The Bible teaches that this acceleration of life which we are experiencing will be a sign of the end times — a sign that will signal the soon return of the Lord.

Consider Daniel 12:4. In this verse the Lord tells Daniel that one of the signs of the end times will be an acceleration of travel and knowledge. Here's how the verse reads in the *Living Bible* paraphrase: "Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret . . . Seal it up so that it will not be understood until the end times when travel and education shall be vastly increased."

The same concept of end time acceleration is found in the New Testament. Jesus spoke about it when He talked with His disciples about the signs of the end times that would herald His return (Matthew 24:5ff). He mentioned a great variety of signs — spiritual, natural, societal and world political — and then He said these signs would be like "birth pangs" (Matthew 24:8).

Any mother knows that as the birth of a baby approaches, the birth pangs increase two ways. They increase in frequency and intensity. Thus, Jesus was saying that the closer we get to the time of His return, the more frequent and intense the signs will become. There will be more earthquakes and more intense ones. Likewise, things like famine, pestilence and war will increase in frequency and intensity.

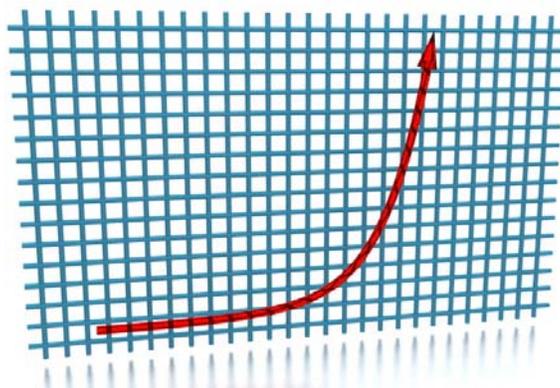
The Mathematical Concept

In mathematics this acceleration is called an "exponential curve." This term comes from what happens when rapid growth is plotted on a chart. When graphing the growth or decline of anything, the rate of change becomes exponential when it starts increasing or decreasing so fast that the plot line becomes vertical.

Now, the point is that the Bible indicates that the exponential curve will be one of the signs of the end times, and my thesis is that we are living in the midst of the exponential curve. Therefore, we are living in the end times.

Examples of the Curve

The 20th Century was the century of the exponential curve. Let's consider some examples.



(i-Stockphoto)

1 Population — Demographers estimate that the population of the world at the time of Jesus was only 200 million.¹ It took 1,650 years for the world's population to double! But thereafter it began to double very rapidly because the Industrial Revolution produced modern medicine, which, in turn, reduced infant mortality rates and increased longevity.

As the statistics below indicate, the rate of doubling has now reached exponential proportions.²

Time of Christ		200 million
1650	1650 years	400 million
1850	200 years	1.3 billion
1950	100 years	2.5 billion
1980	30 years	4.5 billion
2000	20 years	6.0 billion

Again, the key to this phenomenal growth has been modern medicine. Most people do not realize how modern our medicine really is and how radically it has affected our lives. For example, the life expectancy in the United States in 1900 was 47 years.³ At the end of the 20th Century it was 77 years. That's an increase of 30 years in life expectancy over a one hundred year period of time!

Many health problems today that are considered minor were deadly as recent as the 19th Century — appendicitis being a good example. During the horrible Flu Pandemic of World War I (1918-1919) over 40 million people died because the flu usually developed into pneumonia, and there was no guaranteed way for treating pneumonia. That's because the very first antibiotic, penicillin, was not discovered until 1928.⁴

Life before the 20th Century was short and brutal — often filled with suffering. If you are 35 years of age or older, you have lived longer than the vast majority of humanity.⁵ Here's an amazing fact: Two-thirds of all the people who have lived to the age of 65 are alive today!⁶

2 Knowledge — Another area that is increasing exponentially is knowledge. The prophet Daniel was specifically told that knowledge would vastly increase in the end times (Daniel 12:4), and it has. In fact, we have become so overwhelmed with the flood of new information that it is difficult to find wisdom anymore, because wisdom comes from reflection on knowledge.

It is estimated that 80% of all scientists who have ever lived are alive today. Every minute they add 2,000 pages to man's scientific knowledge, and the scientific material they produce every 24 hours would take one person five years to read.⁷ The

scientific journals cannot publish all the academic articles that are being written. Many have to limit the articles to one page abstracts, and even then most articles are rejected for a lack of space.

Consider how rapidly knowledge is increasing:⁸

- From Jesus to 1500 it doubled (1,500 years)
- 1500 to 1750 it doubled again (250 years)
- 1750 to 1900 it doubled again (150 years)
- 1900 to 1950 it doubled again (50 years)

Today, knowledge is doubling every 12 months!

That means encyclopedias are out of date before they can be printed, which is the reason they are no longer printed. *Britannica* stopped printing in 2010 after 244 years.⁹

I read recently where a research organization had determined that one Sunday issue of the *New York Times* contains more information than the normal person in the 19th Century was exposed to in a lifetime!¹⁰

The most amazing thing to me in the area of information is the World Wide Web that can be accessed through the Internet. Using it, I can reach the documents of the Vatican in seconds, and then in a matter of moments, I can go to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, or I can dart back to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. In short, I can access information all over the world without ever leaving my office.

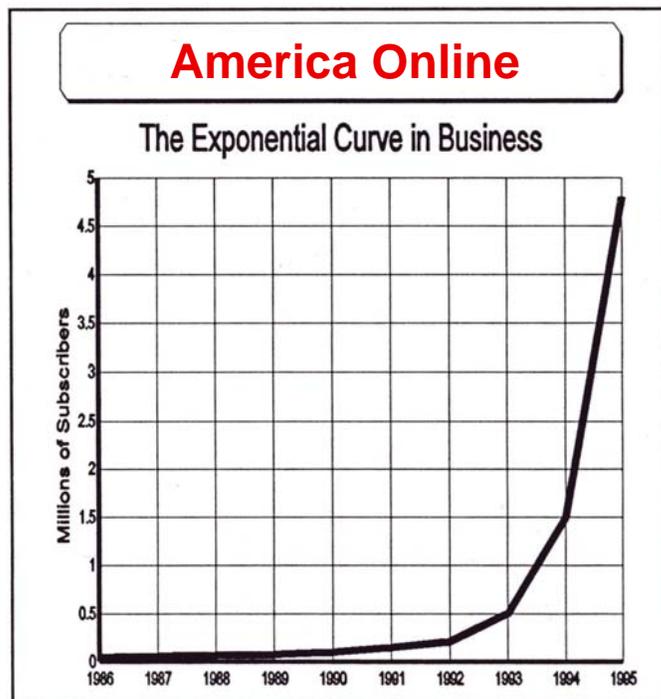
3 Transportation — In 1900 the major means of transportation was what it had always been throughout history — namely, walking and riding a horse. The bicycle had been invented, and the steam engine had been applied to ships and trains. But steam powered transportation was too expensive for most people.

Below is a photograph of 5th Avenue in New York City in 1905. As you can see, the only means of transportation visible is the horse-drawn carriage.



I have a similar photo that was taken in my home town of Waco, Texas in 1912. It shows the city square, and like the photo above, all that can be seen are horse-drawn wagons and carriages.

Today we have automobiles (usually two or more to a



The chart above shows the exponential growth during nine years (1986-1995) of the pioneer Internet provider, America Online. In 1986 the company had 50,000 subscribers and 55 employees. At the end of 1995, it had grown to almost 5 million subscribers and had more than 3,000 employees. (Source: *Dallas Morning News*, January 11, 1996.)

family!) and airplanes. We have bullet trains that travel 150 miles per hour and planes that travel faster than the speed of sound. And then, of course, there are rocket ships that take astronauts into orbit around the earth.

In 1866 Mark Twain traveled to the Holy Land. It took him three months to get there. Today, a group can get on a jet plane in New York and be in Tel Aviv in 13 hours (and most will complain about how long the trip took!).

During the 19th Century, the average number of miles traveled per year by a person in the United States was 500. Many lived and died and never got outside the county they were born in! By 1900 the average number of miles traveled per year by a person inside the United States had risen to 1,000. Today it is 25,000 miles per year, and some of us put twice that much mileage on an automobile in a year's time.

4 Communications — At the beginning of the 20th Century the telegraph had sped up communications considerably, and the telephone had been invented. But the fundamental means which most people used to get information was still the newspaper.

Today our communication resources are overwhelming. We have telephones, radio and television. We have exotic devices like electronic tablets and smart phones. And we can communicate worldwide through satellites.

I never cease to be amazed when I see someone use a credit card at an Arab shop in the Old City of Jerusalem. The shop may be nothing but a primitive hole in the wall, but over in some dark corner there will be a machine where the merchant can swipe the card. A few moments later he receives an authorization. During

those few moments, the card number has been transmitted to Tel Aviv, from Tel Aviv to New York by satellite, from New York to the credit card processing center somewhere in the States, and then back to the Arab shop in Jerusalem!

I am equally amazed at the way I can sit down at a computer at my home or office and use the Internet to send a letter in seconds to almost any place in the world. In 1995 when I got on the Internet, there were only 16 million people using it. Three years later, in 1998, there were 150 million. Today there are 4.1 billion users worldwide!¹¹

Once again, we have the exponential curve.

5 Computers — Computer technology has contributed to the rapid acceleration of many aspects of life, and, of course, the exponential curve applies to the development of computers as well. Anyone who tries to stay on the cutting edge of what is new in computer equipment knows that it is a never-ending battle that requires a lot of money. Advances are so rapid that equipment is out of date within a few months.



Sunway TaihuLight — As of May 2018 this Chinese computer became the world's fastest. It tripled the speed of China's previous number one super computer, from 33.8 petaflops to 93. That means it can carry out 93 quadrillion calculations per second! To achieve this speed, it has 10,649,600 computing cores. The United States has the third fastest super computer operating at "only" 17.3 petaflops.

In 1970 I was a professor at a college where we bought an IBM computer for \$100,000. It operated off punch cards, it was so large that it filled a room, and it generated so much heat that we had to have the room equipped with additional air conditioning. The computer's memory was 64K!

Now, if you are not a computer buff, that may not mean much to you, but keep reading because I'm going to make it understandable; and in the process, I'm going to illustrate how rapidly computer technology has developed.

Ten years later in 1980, this ministry bought one of the first desktop computers made. It was a Tandy TRS 80, Model II. It cost \$4,800 (equivalent to \$12,500 today!). When I turned it on, I was astounded by the first thing that appeared on the screen: "64K Memory." In ten years' time we had gone from a computer that weighed more than a ton to one that sat on a desk top, and the price had dropped 95%. But the memory was the same!

Ten years later in 1990, I went to Radio Shack and bought an electronic Rolodex small enough to fit into the palm of my hand. It cost \$90. And when I turned it on, guess what? The first message that appeared on the screen was "64K Memory."

Today, you can purchase a computer with 8 gigs of memory

and a 1 terabyte hard drive operating at 3.9 gigahertz for less than \$500!

The exponential curve also applies to data storage units. The first floppy disk that we used in the TRS 80 was 8" in size. It held 300,000 bytes of information. A few years later the 5¼" disk appeared. It would hold 700,000 bytes. Then came the 3½" disk. Its capacity was 1.4 million bytes! The next hottest thing to come along was the CD Rom disk. I recently read an advertisement for a CD that contained 134,000 pages of theological documents — the equivalent of 1,400 pounds of books!

Today, my data storage device of choice is a tiny thumb drive or flash drive that holds 60 gigabytes!

6 Military Power — Throughout most of recorded history, the maximum power at man's disposal consisted of bows and arrows, spears, and catapults. Even at the beginning of this century, war was still primitive. World War I turned into a stagnant war of attrition because neither side had sufficient power to break out of the trenches.

Eighty years later, we have air power, armored power, nuclear weapons, and sophisticated bacteriological and chemical weapons. We have ICBM's that can deliver a nuclear payload halfway around the world. We have laser-guided missiles that can guide a bomb down a smoke stack hundreds of miles away. We have drones that can deliver air strikes from a command center located on the other side of the world. And we have nuclear submarines that can circle the globe without surfacing. Incredibly, just one of those subs today has more firepower than all the bombs dropped in World War II!¹² It is no wonder the Bible says that in the end times "men will faint with fear" over the expectation of "the things which are coming upon the world" (Luke 21:26).

7 Violence — I don't think I have to emphasize that violence and lawlessness have been increasing. But it is hard to comprehend how rapid the increase was during the 20th Century.



March 1981

It is estimated by experts that the number of people killed in all the wars fought from the time of Jesus until 1900 was 40 million. In the 20th Century 231 million people died in wars, making it a century of unparalleled carnage.¹³

There are currently a total of 70 wars or civil wars raging worldwide.¹⁴ And then, of course, there has been the advent of international terrorism, resulting in the loss of tens of thousands of lives. In 2016 alone there were 11,072 terrorist attacks worldwide, with 25,625 casualties.¹⁵

Within the United States, violent crime increased 430% between 1960 and 2010. During the same period, the country's population increased only 67%.¹⁶

8 Society — The disintegration of society has multiplied in speed as violence, wickedness and immorality have increased exponentially. Jesus prophesied this would happen when He said that end time society would be like it was in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37-39), when violence and immorality prevailed (Genesis 6:11).



April 1976

Paul prophesied about the disintegration of society in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 where he wrote that in the end times people would be lovers of self, lovers of money, and lovers of pleasure. The love of self is Humanism, and it is the religion of the world today, masquerading under many different labels. The love of money is Materialism, and money is the god of these times. The love of pleasure is Hedonism, and that is the prevalent lifestyle of today.

But God cannot be mocked or deceived. When a society makes Humanism its religion, Materialism its god, and Hedonism its lifestyle, there is always a payoff, and that is Nihilism, or despair. And thus it is no accident that we see societies around the world wallowing in despair.

I have witnessed the exponential decay of society with my own eyes. I was born in 1938. When I was born:

- Abortionists were sent to prison.
- Pregnancy out of wedlock was thought of as scandalous.
- Homosexuality was considered unnatural and immoral.
- Pornography was despised as a perversion.
- Marriage was sacred. Living together was taboo.
- Divorce was a disgrace.
- Homemaking was honored, and daycare was provided by mothers in their homes.
- Child abuse was unheard of.
- Ladies did not curse or smoke.
- “Damn” was considered flagrant language in a movie. (A 1992 film called, “Glengarry Glen Ross,” had the “f-word” in it 138 times in 100 minutes!)¹⁷

I could go on and on about the many ways in which our society (and societies around the world) have decided to “call evil good and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). But the most dramatic way I can think of to illustrate how rapid the deterioration of society has become in America is to consider the results of two polls concerning public school discipline problems, one taken in the 1940s and the other in the 1980s. Both were taken in the Fullerton, California School District. Consider the drastically different results (and weep!):

The Top Public School Discipline Problems
Mid-’40s

- 1) Talking
- 2) Chewing gum
- 3) Making noise
- 4) Running in the halls
- 5) Getting out of turn in line
- 6) Wearing improper clothing
- 7) Not putting paper in wastebaskets

Mid-’80s

- 1) Drug Abuse
- 2) Alcohol Abuse
- 3) Pregnancy
- 4) Suicide
- 5) Rape
- 6) Robbery
- 7) Assault

(Source: *Time Magazine*, February 1, 1988)

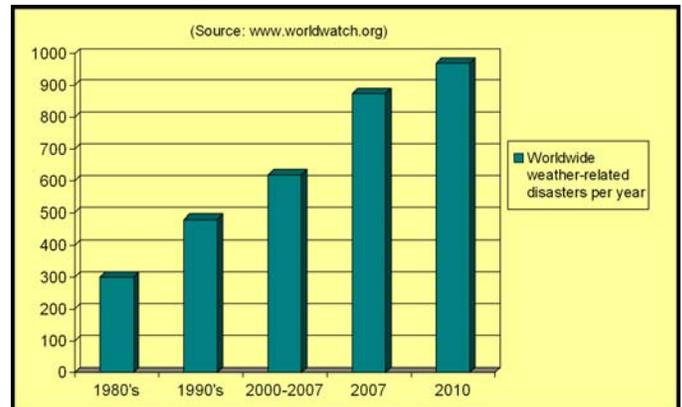
9 Natural Disasters — The Bible says that natural disasters will also be increasing exponentially in the end times, and that is exactly what is happening.

Consider these statistics for natural disasters within our nation between October 1991 and November 2004, a period of 13 years:¹⁸

- 9 of the 10 largest insurance events in US history.
- 5 of the costliest hurricanes in US history.
- 3 of the 4 largest tornado swarms in US history.

And all that was before Hurricane Katrina in 2005!

Putting together all types of natural disasters worldwide, you can see on the chart below how rapidly they are increasing, from an average of 300 per year in the 1980s to almost 1,000 in 2010.



Incidentally, this is a better way of considering natural disasters, as opposed to plotting individual types of disasters. That’s because one type of natural disaster can restrain another type.

Let me illustrate what I mean. In 2012, our nation experienced its worst drought in modern history, with over 61% of the nation affected.

But one side effect of the drought is that we experienced the lowest number of tornadoes in 60 years. After all, you can’t have tornadoes without thunderstorms. The drought also greatly reduced the amount of flooding.

10 The Economy — This brings us to a man-made disaster — namely the out of control spending that has come to characterize the modern welfare state.

The exponential curve illustrated in the diagram on the next page is leading to the destruction of our nation.

there are 2,150 with 2,500 in progress.²¹

Incidentally, those statistics are a little misleading because they leave the impression that many people still do not have a Bible in their language. The fact is that the existing translations cover all the major languages of the world, representing more than 90% of the world's population. The translations currently in progress are for tribal languages spoken by 100,000 or less people.

In March of 1995, Billy Graham broadcast a gospel message from Puerto Rico that was carried by 37 satellites to 185 countries and territories in a total of 117 different languages! Over 1.5 billion people viewed the program. It is estimated that more people heard that one sermon than had heard the Gospel since it was first proclaimed by the Apostle Peter 2,000 years ago!²²

With regard to world mission activity, I attended a mission conference in the mid-1990s where one of the key speakers told us that 70% of all mission work in history had been done since 1900, and 70% of that since 1945, and 70% of that since 1985 — all due, of course, to the implementation of modern technology.²³ The results have been overwhelming:

There were 10 million Christians in Africa in 1900.
Today: 599 million²⁴

There were 700 thousand Christians in China in 1949.
Today: 234 million²⁵

There were 50 thousand Evangelical Christians in Latin American in 1900.
Today: 70 million²⁶

And, according to Muslim sources, every day 16,000 Muslims convert to Christianity, for a total of 6 million per year!²⁷

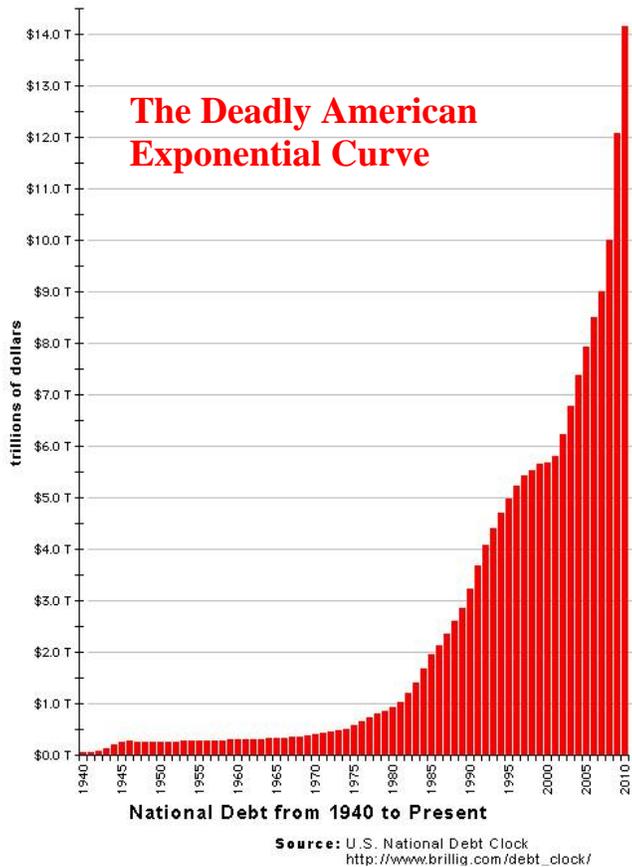
Worldwide, the number of Christians has nearly quadrupled in the last 100 years, from about 600 million in 1910 to more than 2.3 billion in 2012, constituting one-third of the world's population.²⁸

The conversion rate is on the exponential curve:²⁹

1800	100 per day
1900	1,000 per day
1950	4,000 per day
1980	20,000 per day
1990	86,000 per day
1995	100,000 per day
2010	175,000 per day

12 World Politics — The exponential curve also applies to world events. Habakkuk 1:5 is as relevant today as if it were written yesterday: “The Lord replied, ‘Look, and be amazed! You will be astounded at what I am about to do! For I am going to do something in your own lifetime that you will have to see to believe.’”

I took a Sabbatical in 1987 and wrote a book called *Trusting God*. Seven years later, in 1994, I took



It took over 200 years for our nation's debt to reach one trillion dollars in 1980. Thirty years later, in 2010, it had soared to 14 trillion. Today (2018), it has just topped 21 trillion. It is increasing at the rate of 1.15 million per minute, or about 69 million per hour. That totals over 600 billion per year.¹⁹

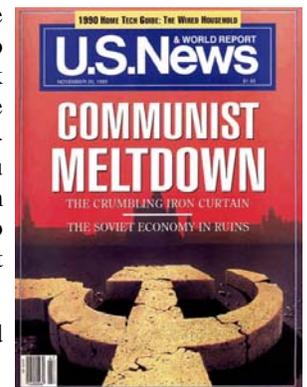
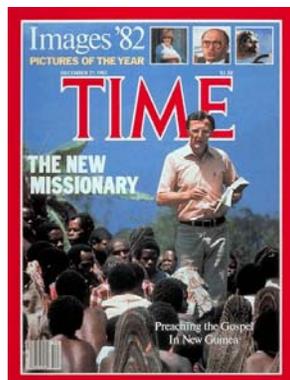
A good way of illustrating the impact of this overwhelming debt is to consider how much it represents per person in the United States. At a Tea Party Rally in 2010, a little girl about 4 years old was seen wearing a sign that read: “I'm already \$38,375 in debt, and I only own a doll house!” Since that time, our individual share has increased to \$65,000.²⁰

In short, our nation is bankrupt, and our economy could collapse any minute.

11 World Evangelism — Not all the exponential curves are bad. Modern technology has made it possible for the Gospel to be preached to billions of people through the use of such media as short wave radio, motion pictures, and satellite television.

And, again, this phenomenal development is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Jesus Himself said: “This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations and then the end shall come” (Matthew 24:14).

Consider translations of the Bible. In 1800 there were 71 in whole or in part. By 1930 that number had risen to 900. Today



another Sabbatical and completely rewrote that book. The exercise gave me an opportunity to reflect back over the seven years between the two Sabbaticals. I was astounded — even overwhelmed — by the rapid and stupendous nature of world events.

Who could have dreamed in 1987 that within the next seven years any of the following events would have occurred? —

- The tearing down of the Berlin Wall.
- The peaceful liberation of Eastern Europe from Communism.
- The collapse of the Soviet Union.
- The reunification of Germany.
- The resurgence of Islam and its emergence as the greatest threat to world peace.
- The sending of 500,000 American troops to the other side of the world to defend a country most Americans had never heard of (Kuwait).
- The handshake between Rabin and Arafat that has led to Israel surrendering portions of its heartland to the PLO.

In 1987 if you had predicted any of these developments, you would have been written off as “nuts.” The rapidity of these events and their radical nature is breathtaking. They underscore the possibility of the impossible. And they certainly reveal that man is not in control.

The Significance of the Curve



So, what does all this mean to you and me? I would mention at least three things.

First, the exponential curve is proof positive that Bible prophecy is true. The Lord has told us what He is going to do in the end times, and we had better pay attention to what He has said.

Second, the fulfillment of prophecy related to the exponential curve shows that God is in control. Even when it appears that everything on this earth is out of control, we can be assured that God is orchestrating all the chaos to the ultimate triumph of His Son in history (Psalm 2).

Third, the exponential curve is very strong evidence that we are living on borrowed time. It points to the fact that Jesus is at the very gate of Heaven, waiting for the command of His Father to return.

A Warning and an Illustration

I want to conclude by issuing a strong warning against taking time for granted.

Many people are doing that today. They are saying, “I’m going to get serious about the Lord when I get out of school;” or “after I get a job;” or “after I’m established in my career;” or

“after I get married;” or “after I get my children raised.” Time is precious. There is very little left. **Now** is the time to get serious about the Lord.

Let me illustrate how critical the timing is by returning to the exponential curve. Suppose you put one bacterium in a jar, and assume it doubles every second. How many bacteria do you think would exist in the jar at the end of 30 seconds? The answer, incredibly, is 1,073,741,824. That’s more than a billion in thirty seconds! That’s the *ferocity* of the exponential curve.

Now, let’s carry the illustration a step further. If at the end of 30 seconds the jar is half full, how much longer will it take for the jar to become full? The answer is one second (because it will double in the next second). That is the *suddenness* of the exponential curve.

That’s what the Bible means when it says that people will be saying, “Peace and safety!” when “sudden destruction” will come upon them (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

A Call to Action

Are you taking time for granted? Don’t do it. The Exponential Curve is just one of many signs God is giving us to warn of the soon return of His Son. The Bible says that the only reason Jesus has not returned is because God does not wish that any should perish. 2 Peter 3:9 says:

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

In other words, the lovingkindness of God has restrained Him from sending His Son back to this earth. But that restraint is soon coming to an end for our God is a God of justice, and as such, He must deal with the sinful rebellion of this world.

The signs of the times are shouting from the heavens that Jesus is returning soon to pour out the wrath of God on those who have rejected His love and grace. Are you ready for His return? Have you placed your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Do you understand that God deals with sin in only one of two ways?

Consider John 3:36: “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Are you under grace or wrath? God deals with sin in one of those two ways. It is a glorious thing to be under the grace of God. It is a dreadful thing to be subject to His wrath.

Do not turn a deaf ear to the signs of the times. The time to act is now. If you are not a Christian, then reach out in faith and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you have already done that, then commit your life to holiness and evangelism. ❖

Note:

We do not have sufficient space to list all the reference notes for this article. You can find them listed with the copy of the article that is posted on our website at www.lamblion.com.

Modern Day Signs of the Times

A review of signs unique to our day and time.

Dr. David R. Reagan

Whenever I present an overview of the signs of the times that point to the soon return of Jesus, I am often confronted by someone — often a professing Christian — who will say, “Come on David, these signs you are talking about have always existed in one degree or another, so what else is new?” They will then proceed to point out that there have always been wars and rumors of war, there have always been natural calamities, and throughout history Christians have always been persecuted. Then comes the inevitable challenge: “Show me something really new and unique that clearly points to our day and time as the season of the Lord’s return.”

The challenge is understandable, but it is not entirely legitimate. That’s because Jesus said the end time signs would be like “birth pangs” (Matthew 24:8). In other words, the signs would increase in frequency and intensity as the time draws near for Jesus to return. There would be more earthquakes, and more intense ones. Wars would be more frequent and more horrible in their degree of devastation. And that, of course, is exactly what happened in the 20th Century. The signs began to increase exponentially in both frequency and intensity, and they continue to do so to this day.

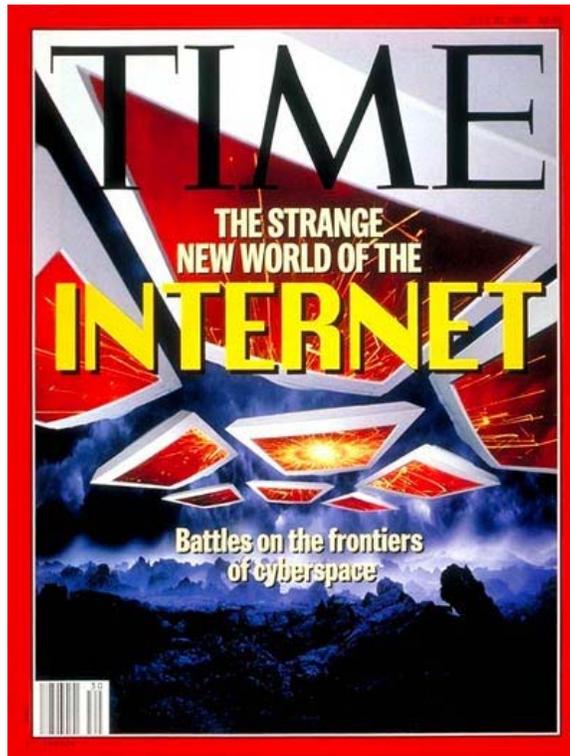
But still, it is legitimate to ask if there are any signs that are truly unique to our day and time — signs that have never existed before. Are there new signs that clearly point to this period of history as the time of the Lord’s return? The answer is yes.

A Key Prophecy

A verse that immediately comes to mind in this regard is found in Daniel 12. Daniel was given many prophecies by the Lord. Those relating to his day and time he clearly understood. He even seemed to understand prophecies that the Lord gave him relating to distant times, such as the succession of Gentile empires that would ultimately lead to the establishment of the Roman Empire. But when it came to prophecies about the end times — the period leading up to the Lord’s return as King of kings and Lord of lords — Daniel did not understand what was revealed to him.



An artist’s concept of the prophet Daniel.



July 25, 1994

He wrestled mightily with the prophecies and finally cried out to the Lord in despair. “I have heard,” he said, “but I do not understand! What do these events mean?” (Daniel 12:8). The Lord, in effect, responded by saying, “Cool it, Daniel, because it is not for you to understand!” The Lord’s actual words were: “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time” (Daniel 12:9). It was Daniel’s responsibility to deliver the prophecies, not to understand them.

Note that Daniel was told the prophecies would not be understood “until the end time.” In fact, in the very next verse the Lord told Daniel that at the proper time “those who have insight will understand” (Daniel 12:10).

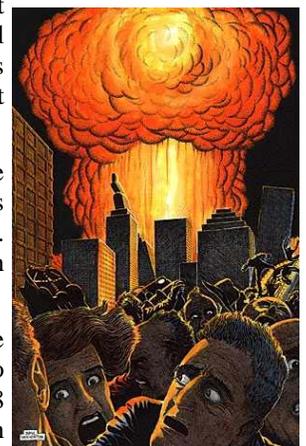
Accordingly, there are many end time prophecies that have never been understood until now, either because their understanding depended on historical events or because they were dependent upon technological developments. The fact that these prophecies have become understandable in recent years for the first time ever is proof positive that we are living in the end times. Let’s look at some examples from the book of Revelation.

Revelation Examples

1 The Tribulation Slaughter — Revelation 6 says that the Tribulation will begin with a series of judgments that will result in the death of one-fourth of Mankind. The world’s population recently topped seven billion. If one billion are taken out in the Rapture, one-fourth of the remaining 6 billion would be 1.5 billion, reducing the world’s population to 4½ billion. The next series of judgments, recorded in Revelation 8 and 9 will kill another third of Mankind. One-third of 4½ billion is another one and a half billion. Thus, in the first 3½ years of the Tribulation, a total of 3 billion people will die. That’s half the population that will be left behind after the Rapture!

Is this possible apart from the use of nuclear weapons? Only if it is a supernatural intervention of God. But God normally works through natural processes.

The unparalleled carnage of the Tribulation seems to me to point to nuclear weapons. Revelation 8 speaks of one-third of the earth



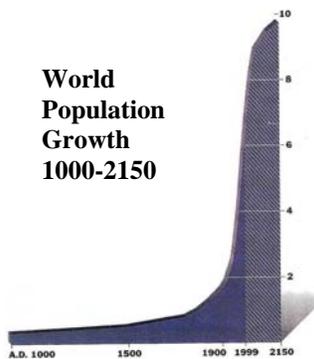
being burned and one-third of the seas being polluted (Revelation 8:7-8). Later in the Tribulation, near the end, we are told that people will suffer from “loathsome and malignant sores” (Revelation 16:2). That sounds like one of the effects of radiation poisoning.

The advent of nuclear weapons makes possible for the first time the overwhelming Tribulation carnage portrayed in Revelation. I think nuclear power was what Jesus referred to in His Olivet Discourse when He said that the end times will be characterized by “men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; *for the powers of the heavens will be shaken*” (Luke 21:26, emphasis added).

The prophecies concerning the Tribulation carnage have clearly depended upon a major technological breakthrough for their understanding. That breakthrough occurred on July 16, 1945 when the first atomic bomb was exploded in New Mexico. When the first hydrogen bomb was exploded in 1952, we entered the era when, for the first time in human history, we could inflict upon ourselves the kind of carnage described in the book of Revelation.

2 The Army of 200 Million — Chapters 9 and 16 of Revelation state that an army of 200 million soldiers will march “from the east” toward Israel. Daniel 11 indicates that this will be an army representing nations in revolt against the Antichrist (Daniel 11:44).

Demographers estimate that the total population of the world at the time the Apostle John wrote Revelation (95 A.D.) was only 200 million. How could an army that size march out of the east? It made no sense. In fact, it took 1,650 years for the world’s population to double to 400 million! At the beginning of the 20th Century the total world population was only 1.6 billion, still too small for an army of 200 million to march from the east.



But the 20th Century witnessed an exponential increase in population. The population count is now at 7.5 billion, and just one country to the east of Israel — namely, China — could field an army of 200 million.

Here we have a clear example of a prophecy about the end times that could never be understood apart from historical developments.

3 The Two Witnesses — Revelation 11 reveals that two great witnesses of God will preach in the city of Jerusalem during the first 3½ years of the Tribulation. Then, in the middle of that terrible period, the Antichrist will kill them.

We are further told that their dead bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for 3½ days and that all the people of the world will look upon them. How could that be? Prior to 1957 that prophecy was not understandable in natural terms. There was just no way that all the people of the world could look upon two dead bodies in the streets of Jerusalem.

All that changed on October 4, 1957 when the Russians sent

up the first satellite called Sputnik. Today, 60 years later, our planet has many man-made satellites circling it, making possible all sorts of instantaneous communication.

When those two prophets lie dead in the streets of Jerusalem, all someone will have to do is point a TV camera at them, send the signal up to a satellite, and all the world will be able to look upon them. Once again, modern technology has made an ancient prophecy understandable for the first time.

4 The Nation of Israel — Revelation 12 focuses on the nation of Israel. It makes clear that in the middle of the Tribulation Satan will motivate and empower the Antichrist to annihilate the Jewish state and its people. A remnant of the Jews will flee into the “wilderness” where they will be supernaturally protected by the Lord (Revelation 12:14).

At the time the book of Revelation was written, Jerusalem had already been destroyed by the Romans and the worldwide distribution of the Jews had begun. Until the 20th Century, there was never any prospect that the nation of Israel would ever exist again. There were, of course, prophetic scholars who pointed to the many promises in Scripture that say the Jews will be regathered in the end times and the nation of Israel will be reestablished once more. But people laughed at these scholars and wrote them off as “dreamers” who were out of touch with reality.

Then, on May 14, 1948, the “dream” came true. The independence of the nation of Israel was proclaimed, and the Jewish state came back into existence for the first time in almost 2,000 years.



David Ben Gurion reads the Israeli Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv on May 14, 1948.

All the end time prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures make it clear that the Lord will return when the Jews are back in the land (Ezekiel 37) and back in their capital city of Jerusalem (Zechariah 12). Jesus emphasized these two events in His teaching. He pointed to the reestablishment of the state in his fig tree parable (Matthew 24:32-35), and He stressed the importance of the reoccupation of Jerusalem in His Olivet Discourse (Luke 21:24). He stated point blank that when Jerusalem is no longer under Gentile control, all the end time events would take place. Jerusalem ceased to be under Gentile control on June 7, 1967.

The central piece of the end time world political puzzle is now in place for the first time.

5 The Image of the Beast — Revelation 13 says that the Antichrist's religious leader, the False Prophet, will make an image of the Antichrist that will appear to come alive and speak. This trickery will amaze most of the world's population and will cause many of them to give their allegiance to the Antichrist.

What is the explanation of this event? Many have concluded that Satan will empower the False Prophet to give the image life. But Satan does not have the power to create life. Satan is a liar and a deceiver.

So, again, how can the False Prophet give an image life? I don't see any way for him to do it apart from modern technology. The illusion can be created in several ways through the use of modern robotics or holograms.

In 1967 I took my family to Disneyland. We went into a theater where we saw a man who looked exactly like Abraham Lincoln get up out of his chair in stage center, walk to the edge of the stage, grab the lapels of his jacket, and proceed to quote the Gettysburg Address. When he finished, a lady behind me exclaimed, "Wasn't he a good actor!" He was not an actor. The "actor" was a robot.

That was 50 years ago. Think what could be done today with the advances that have been made in robotics and computer technology.

A couple of years ago the *Dallas Morning News* reported that the governor of Texas had "appeared" at a technology conference being held at the University of Texas at Dallas. Actually, the governor's appearance consisted of a three dimensional hologram that was projected from his office in Austin, Texas!

I recently shared this hologram story at a Bible prophecy conference. When we opened up the session to questions, a man in the audience made the point that the hologram technology was nothing new. When I asked what he meant, he replied, "They've been doing that for years on Star Trek. Haven't you ever seen them stand on a special platform and say, 'Beam me up, Scotty'?"

6 The Mark of the Beast — Another prophecy in Revelation 13 that is dependent on modern technology is the famous one that states the Antichrist will control the world's economy by requiring people to bear his mark or name on their hand or forehead in order to buy or sell anything.

Again, how could this be possible before the invention of laser and computer technology combined with the positioning of orbital satellites?

Such technology is already greatly advanced. In the year 2000 when I was in London, I discovered that taxis in that city were being tracked by satellite. Semi-trucks here in America are being tracked in the same way. Veterinarians are advertising that they can implant microchips under your pet's skin. These chips can be read by a scanner in the event your dog or cat gets



lost. It is now possible with a more advanced chip for your pet to be traced by satellite.

We have almost become a cashless society, with most purchases being made by credit card. The problem with the cards is that they can be lost or stolen. A good solution would be to use a laser to put your credit card number on your hand in such a way as to be capable of being read by a scanner.

The point is that for the first time ever the technological tools are in place for the Antichrist to exercise control over the world's population.

7 The Euphrates River — Since all good prophecy teachers always have seven points, let me add another modern day sign from the book of Revelation.

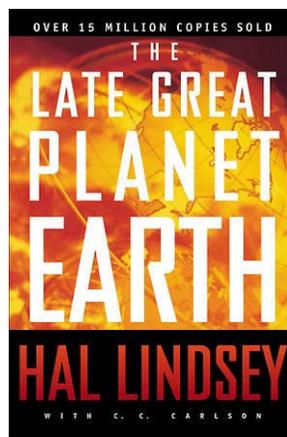
As I mentioned previously, in chapters 9 and 16 we are told that an army of 200 million led by "the kings from the east" will march across Asia toward Israel during the Tribulation, most likely in revolt against the Antichrist. Revelation 16:12 indicates that this army will be held up at the Euphrates River until its water is suddenly dried up, enabling them to cross and proceed to the Valley of Armageddon.

Now, the Lord could dry up the water of the Euphrates River without any trouble at all, just as He parted the Red Sea for Moses and dried up the Jordan River for Joshua. But I think it is very interesting that this can now be accomplished over night through natural means. In 1990 Turkey completed the construction of the massive Ataturk Dam on the Euphrates, and they in fact cut off the flow of the river in order to fill up the lake behind the dam. This action almost resulted in a war with Iraq.

Conclusion

The list of modern day signs given above is not an exhaustive one. They are simply some that I have pulled from the book of Revelation. There are others that are unique to our day and time that can be found in prophetic scriptures outside the book of Revelation.

After reviewing the prophecies listed above, I don't think we need any handwriting on the wall to indicate to us that we are living in a unique age. Again, historical developments and technological inventions are making it possible for us to understand many end time prophecies for the first time.



Even the phenomenal success of Hal Lindsey's book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, is a modern day sign of the times. Keep in mind that this book was the number one best seller in the world, with the sole exception of the Bible, for ten consecutive years, from 1970 to 1980 (as authenticated by *Time Magazine*). What was it that the Lord told Daniel? — "Seal it up to the end of time when those who have insight will understand."

The bottom line, my friends, is that we are living on borrowed time, because Jesus is coming soon! ✚

Maranatha!

In-Depth Resource Materials for Further Study

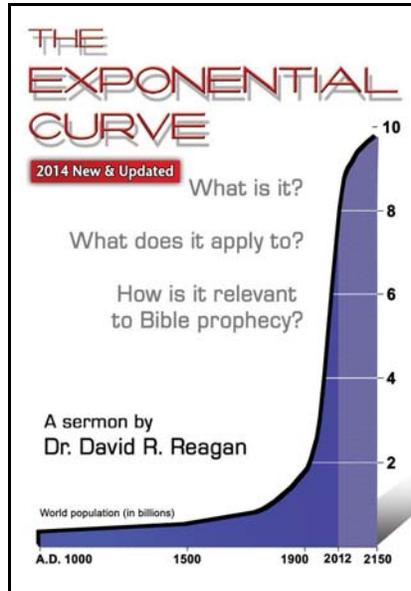


An exhaustive study of the signs of the times that clearly indicate that we are living in the season of the Lord's return.

The book contains an overview of all the categories of biblical signs plus chapters on each of the major signs. The thesis is that although we cannot know the date of the Lord's return, we can know the season because the Bible gives us signs to watch for.

One of the unique features of the book is a prophetic forum in which 22 Bible prophecy experts respond to 11 questions about the signs of the times.

This book features the basic message that Dr. Reagan has been preaching since he founded Lamb & Lion Ministries in 1980. 310 pages. \$20, including the cost of shipping.

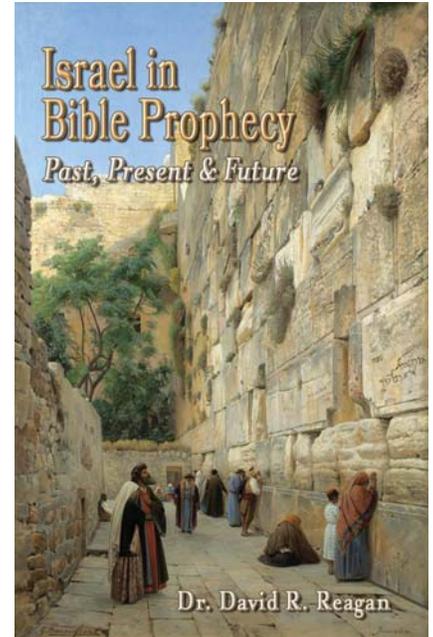


This video program is one of Dr. Reagan's most fascinating and popular presentations.

It presents in much greater detail the information contained in the lead article of this *Insights* publication. Like the article, it focuses on the impact of modern technology on both every day life and world events. It also shows how technology helps us to understand prophecies we have never understood before.

In the process, Dr. Reagan shows how all of life was on the exponential curve during the 20th Century, in fulfillment of end time Bible prophecy. The presentation clearly demonstrates that we are living in the season of the Lord's return.

The program comes on a DVD that runs 50 minutes. \$20, including the cost of shipping.



A comprehensive overview of end time Bible prophecy concerning the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.

The book shows how four prophecies were fulfilled before the beginning of the 20th Century and how seven others were fulfilled in whole or in part during the process of that century.

In conclusion, the book presents a sweeping summary of the prophecies yet to be fulfilled between now and the Lord's millennial reign.

The book concludes by explaining why the fulfillment of God's promises to the Jewish people are relevant to Christians today.

256 pages. \$20, including the cost of shipping.

You can order any of these individual resources through our website at www.lamblion.com. Or you can place your order by calling 972-736-3567 Monday thru Friday between 8am and 5pm Central time. All three items can be purchased by phone for \$50 including the cost of shipping. Ask for special offer number 395.