



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 39 YEARS
1982- 2021



THE CORNERSTONE

February 2021

Happy Valentines Day!

Beloved of God, He has showed you what love is. He chose you from the beginning, not that you loved Him, but that He has loved you with an everlasting love that goes beyond all measure. His loves never fails. His gift of Love flows through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. His loves reaches to the highest Heaven; His loves rejoices over you with gladness; His love rejoices over you with singing. His perfect love casts out fear. Love is the more excellent way—Now abides faith, hope, and love. All these are good but the greatest of these is Love. Faith enables us to come to God (Heb. 11:6) Love enables us to Imitate God. (Deut. 10:12; Jer. 31:3; 1 John 4: 10; Zeph. 3:17; 1 Cor. 13)

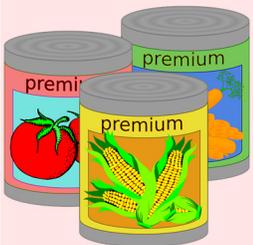
Missions for the Month



Second Mile Mission Center— Fort Bend County



Second Mile Mission Center helps Fort Bend County residents in poverty and crisis by providing basic needs and opportunities to take next steps in their lives. While people are drawn to Second Mile for immediate needs such as food or health care, many begin to shift their focus to long-term goals of self-sufficiency for themselves and their family. Our approach is to develop relationships of dignity, honor and respect. Through these relationships, people in need renew hope and develop as leaders. Second Mile has grown to provide equipping programs such as financial education, job training, and English as a Second Language. Special services offered during the year include back-to-school supplies and a Christmas toy store. We are committed to listening to the people we serve, improving and refining our services, and leveraging resources as we collaborate with other organizations. We have tested and proven processes to serve a high volume of families with a personal touch, to manage in-kind donations, and to coordinate volunteers.



CURRENT NEEDS: Canned veggies Canned meat (tuna, chili, salmon) Pinto Beans Peanut Butter Rice Pasta/dry noodles

Second Mile is running low on food supplies and has been feeding 600-800 families each service day. Your help is needed to fill the gap!

Baskets are in the foyer for you to place your love offerings of canned goods and Pasta, Rice and dry noodles.



**Andy Woods—Pastor**

Signs of the Times for 2021 (Part 12)

In our first installment, we observed that the Bible places much emphasis on the signs related to Christ's return (Matt. 24:33; Luke 21:28; Heb. 10:25, etc.). Observing these signs helps us ascertain that general time of human history in which we find ourselves. We noted that if the signs of the Tribulation period are rapidly approaching, and the rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation period, then the rapture must be coming even faster. Thus, we began to ask ourselves, what are some of these signs that are now setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period? We selected the following *seven* signs as deserving of analysis to be covered in this series:

1. Signs related to Israel
2. Signs related to international politics
3. Signs related to economics
4. Signs related to technology
5. Signs related to spirituality
6. Signs related to society
7. Signs related to understanding Bible prophecy

Therefore, this series is dedicated to exploring the *seven* signs related to the soon return of Jesus Christ. As a result of this teaching, may we all grow in our understanding of the unique time in which we now live. As dealt with in the prior installments in this series, there are several signs meriting discussion concerning the modern state of *Israel* and *international politics* and signs related to *economics*. Moving away from these categories, we here discuss signs related to *technology*.

4. Signs Related to Technology

The Bible has much to say about the technological climate that will characterize the world at the time of Christ's Second Advent. While there is much to consider, for our purposes we will limit ourselves to just three categories. These include the advent of *microchip technology*, *satellite television*, and *weapons of mass destruction*.

Microchip Technology

Revelation 13:16-18 says, "¹⁶ And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the freemen and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, ¹⁷ and *he provides* that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, *either* the name of the beast or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six." Revelation 13:16-18 predicts that the day in history will arise when no one will be able to buy or sell unless they first receive a mark, of some kind, on their right hand or forehead. Bible readers have been puzzled throughout the centuries exactly how such a prediction could ever be fulfilled? In our day, we do not really wonder any more, do we? Look at where technology is today. Look at the tiny chips that can be placed into pets or prisoners to keep track of them. In fact, our media is routinely filled with commercials where they boast of the ability to access one's phone and bank records simply with a number electronically embedded under one's skin. Certainly, the rapid quest for an accessible and identifiable verification of vaccination amid the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly contributed toward surpassing the technology barrier in this regard. Notice the following recent news source:

MIT researchers have now developed a novel way to record a patient's vaccination history: storing the data in a pattern of dye, invisible to the naked eye, that is delivered under the skin at the same time as the vaccine. "In areas where paper vaccination cards are often lost or do not exist at all, and electronic databases are unheard of, this technology could enable the rapid and anonymous detection of patient vaccination history to ensure that every child is vaccinated," says Kevin McHugh, a former MIT post-doc who is now an assistant professor of bioengineering at Rice University. The researchers showed that their new dye, which consists of nanocrystals called quantum dots, can remain for at least five years under the skin, where it emits near-infrared light that can be detected by a specially equipped smartphone. [Anne Trafton. *Storing medical information below the skin's surface: Specialized dye, delivered along with a vaccine, could enable "on-patient" storage of vaccination history.* <https://news.mit.edu/2019/storing-vaccine-history-skin-1218>]

However, some have argued that the Greek preposition *epi* that is translated "on" in Revelation 13:16 does not indicate a chip placed inside of a person or something beneath a person's skin as is depicted in the above article. Rather, it indicates a mark upon someone's skin. Well, that objection is really no issue at all today because of the advent of tattoos that now contain the technology necessary to monitor people electronically. Again, the quest for a COVID-19 vaccination has contributed to erasing any former technology barrier. According to another recent article:

As of Fri, April 9, 2020, Dr. Fauci states that Coronavirus immunity cards are being discussed by the Whitehouse...Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation proposes quantum dot digital tattoo implant to track CoVid-19 vaccine: "By selectively loading microparticles into microneedles, the patches deliver a pattern in the skin that is invisible to the naked eye but can be scanned with a smartphone that has the infrared filter removed. The patch can be customized to imprint different patterns that correspond to the type of vaccine delivered. Tests using human cadaver skin showed that the quantum dot patterns could be detected by smartphone cameras after five years of simulated sun exposure." [Anita Hoge. April 18th, 2020. Quantum Tattoo and a Digital Scannable Vaccine. <https://newswithviews.com/quantum-tattoo-and-a-digital-scannable-vaccine/>]

Would humanity ever collectively reach a point where they are willing to receive such a tattoo on their individual bodies? When I grew up, there was always a negative social stigma associated with tattoos. Interestingly, today, such a stigma seems to be a thing of the past. Not only have almost all the youth of today received tattoos of one kind or another, but they are also quite proud of their bodily markings. What I am trying to get at is simply to say that both technology and societal standards have finally caught up to the time that the Bible indicates would characterize the world of the last days. We are living in an era when the specifics of Revelation 13:16-18 could easily find a literal fulfillment.

Satellite Television

What about satellite TV? Revelation 11:8-9 makes the following prediction concerning the two witnesses: "And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified [Jerusalem]. Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations *will* look at their dead bodies for three and a half days and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb." Apparently, there will be two prophets, servants of the Lord, lying dead in the streets of Jerusalem for three and a half days. This event will be visible to the entire world.

Now, think about people trying to interpret the book of Revelation for the last 1900 years. How could such a prophecy like this ever be fulfilled? How can the whole world see what is happening in Jerusalem? Once again, in our generation, we do not wonder any more, do we? With the advent of cable television, skype, live streaming, and all the electronic and technological innovations that we have today, we see very easily how the whole world can see something happening in the city streets of Jerusalem. In fact, I can take you to websites right now that will show you exactly, in both live feed and real time, what is happening in the city of Jerusalem, in the temple area, and near the wailing wall.

Let us also briefly examine the biblical prediction of last days satellite television technology from another area of Scripture. When the Antichrist enters the rebuilt Jewish temple to desecrate it halfway through the tribula-

tion period (Dan. 9:27; 12:11), his actions, in the enclosed inner sanctuary of the temple, will be visible to those outside the temple. This is why Jesus, speaking of the antichrist's future activities in the temple, says in Matthew 24:15, "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand)." The term "holy place" is a reference to the inner sanctuary within the temple. In other words, those living in Judea will be able to see what is taking place within the holy place. Like the prophecy of Revelation 11:8-9, this prophecy also cannot be fulfilled without the innovation of modern satellite television technology since without it, it would be impossible to see what is transpiring within the enclosed holy place. Such a prophecy can be fulfilled only if television cameras are installed inside the temple. Because television camera technology is a relatively modern innovation, these prophecies could not have been fulfilled 100 or perhaps even 50 to 75 years ago. Only in our general time is the potential fulfillment of such a prophecy even imaginable.

Weapons of Mass Destruction

What about biblical predictions of weapons of mass destruction? Zechariah 14:12 says, "...their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth." It seems plausible to conclude that modern nuclear or atomic weaponry, with its accompanying radioactive poisoning, must first be in place before such a prophecy could ever come to pass. Consider also the prophecies indicating that near elimination of the entire human race at the end of the age. In Isaiah 13:12, God promises in the last days, "I will make mortal man scarcer than pure gold..." Jesus, in Matthew 24:22, similarly indicates, "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short." These verses are both talking about a time when humanity is almost extinguished.

Similarly, when you read Revelation 6:8, you see that a quarter of the world's population is destroyed. When you read Revelation 9:15, 18 you see that of the remaining three-quarters of humanity, a third will then be destroyed. In other words, by the time the world passes through the sixth trumpet judgement as depicted in Revelation 9:13-21, half of the world's population will have been wiped out. How exactly is this horrific event going to happen? Perhaps God will do it directly. After all, God did a rather good job destroying Sodom and Gomorrah without the assistance of nuclear weapons (Gen. 19:24-25). God does not need nuclear weapons to destroy most of the human population in the end times.

However, perhaps God is going to do so indirectly by somehow allowing man to destroy himself through nuclear weapons. Under such a scenario, God would simply release His protective restraint and allow man to execute what already exists in his warlike heart (Mark 7:20-23). For most of human history, how have battles been fought? Such ancient artillery involved bows, arrows, canons, muskets, etc. While these are certainly deadly weapons, it is interesting to note that there is not in most of world history weapons having the ability to destroy humanity several times over. However, within our generation, what do we now have? The governments of the world possess at their fingertips chemical weapons, atomic weapons, and nuclear weapons all with the ability to wipe out the world's population of today several times over just with the push of a button. In other words, once again, history has finally caught up to the period that the Bible predicts.

In sum, according to prophetic Scripture, the last days technological scenario will involve a trend toward *microchip technology* and *satellite television* as well as a world characterized by *weapons of mass destruction*. In our next installment, we will begin to discuss the *spiritual* signs of the last days.

(To Be Continued...)

Scripture for the Month

1 Corinthians 13



Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part.

But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

