



AP/WideWorld Photo

Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, left, signs a document in Tel Aviv, Palestine, proclaiming the new Jewish State of Israel at midnight on May 14, 1948. Witnessing the ceremony at right is Israel's first Foreign Minister Moshe Sharet, Zionist pioneer and leader in the establishment of the state of Israel. The man at center is not identified. The Jews declared independence in the new state of Israel as the 25-year British mandate over Palestine ends.

Five Signs Jesus is Coming Soon

BY IRVIN BAXTER JR.

Jesus told us that a wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign. Yet He also stated in Mark 13:29, "...when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors."

What's the balance here? Simply stated, our relationship and loyalty to God should not be based on the latest prophet-

ic sign. At the same time, however, when we see the prophesied signs of the Lord's Second Coming reported in our newspapers, it should instill in us an added sense of urgency to fulfill the great commission. The Apostle Paul said, "...knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

So, lest we fall asleep, let's take a look at five prophetic signs that literally scream to us, "His coming is near, even at the door!"

1. Prior to His coming, the nation of Israel will be re-gathered to her homeland from the nations of the earth into which she has been scattered. (Ezekiel 37:21-28)

On May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion stepped to the podium at the Tel Aviv Museum to accept the UN's decision forming a Jewish state and to announce that the name of the newborn nation would be Israel.

Even the most elementary Bible stu-

dent knew that the prophecy of Ezekiel 37 was being fulfilled. There had been no Jewish nation on the earth since the Romans had forced the dispersal of the Jewish people in 70 AD. Now, almost 2,000 years later, the “chosen nation” was reborn. Could there be any doubt that the era in which the kingdom of God would ultimately be established had begun?

2. His coming will occur during a time when a mark or a number can be used to control buying and selling. (Revelation 13:16-18)

The dreaded prophecy of the mark of the beast has lurked menacingly in the last few pages of the Bible since John’s revelation in 95-96 AD. How could every man, woman, boy and girl be given a number or mark that would be used for participation in the world’s economic system?

The implementation of the Social Security number was the first harbinger that the prophesied numbering system was beginning to rear its ugly head. Still, it seemed farfetched to think that every person on earth could be tracked and controlled in the fashion seemingly described in the Bible.

In the 1950’s, we began to hear about the marvels and the potential of the computer. As the computer revolution picked up speed, computers that previously filled whole rooms, soon sat on our laps.

Less than ten years ago, believe it or not, the Internet entered our lives. The latest news has just announced that one-half billion people are now connected to this amazing worldwide technology. The computer revolution has been absolutely astounding!

Then came the proliferation of credit cards. It suddenly became clear just how easy it would be to set up the prophesied “cashless society.”

As this article goes to press, the Federal Drug Administration is poised to approve the injection of computer chips under the skin for ID and medical purposes.

Can the mark of the beast prophesied for the endtime be far behind?

3. He will return during a time of world government. (Revelation 13:3, 7-8)

In case you haven’t noticed, we are being inundated with “world” organizations. We have the World Trade



Carla Del Ponte, United Nations chief prosecutor, gestures during a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland in this May 17, 2001 photo. Del Ponte on Thursday, June 29, 2001, commented on the transfer of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic to The Hague with: "This day will be remembered as an important milestone for international justice".

Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the World Food Program, the World Tourism Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, and the World Intellectual Property Organization—just to name a few.

Oh yes. There’s one more that cannot be left out...the World Court, presently being made famous by the trial of Slobodan Milosevic. The question must be asked—Is it possible to have a world court if you don’t have a world government? Isn’t it the function of any court system to uphold the laws of the government it represents? The time has come to dispense with all the double talk. We have a world court because we have a world government. And it is the world government prophesied in the Bible for the endtime!

4. There will be a revival of the Holy Roman Empire at the time of His coming. (Daniel 2:41-44 & Revelation 17:1-3)

On March 1, 2002, twelve nations that were formerly part of the Holy Roman Empire forsook their national currencies, adopting one currency—the euro. This is the first time Europe has had a single form of money since the reign of the Roman Empire 2,000 years ago.

On the same day, a constitutional con-

vention was opened for the purpose of creating a federal constitution for the anticipated United States of Europe. This constitution is to be completed and adopted by 2004.

Make no mistake about it. We are presently witnessing the prophesied revival of the Holy Roman Empire.

5. The West Bank in Israel will be a very dangerous place to live. (Matthew 24:16-21)

The West Bank area is the biblical area of Judea and is referred to as Judea by Israelis today. Jesus prophesied in Matthew 24:16-21 that those living in Judea would have to flee for their lives because the persecution would become so severe.

During the week prior to writing this article, over 300 have died in this area because of the Arab-Israeli conflict. And things promise to get much, much worse. The present dispute over Judea is exactly what Jesus foresaw when He gave the prophecy 2,000 years ago.

These five prophetic fulfillments merely scratch the surface of those prophecies in the process of fulfillment at this present time. The abundance of prophetic fulfillment in our time leaves absolutely no doubt that the return of our Messiah, Jesus, is at hand. □