

# THE APPROACHING CLIMAX

By

Curtis Dickinson

“Greatest Inventions and the Worst Crimes ...  
Unprecedented Prosperity and Shocking Ungodliness”

These are the headlines in a magazine article describing the century in which we live. U.S. News & World Report comments that “Everywhere you look; the earth beset by worry and strife. Obviously we are approaching a climax which most Bible scholars believe will culminate in second coming of Christ.

## **Is there any way to know the exact date of Christ’s coming?**

“But of that day and hour knows no one, not even the Angels of heaven, neither the Son, but the Father only” (Matthew 24:36).

## **But isn’t there some way to know the general time of His return?**

Yes. “And there shall be signs in sun and moon and stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, in perplexity for the roaring of the sea and the billows; men fainting for fear, and for expectation of the things which are coming on the world: for the powers of the heavens shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift your heads; because your redemption draws nigh” (Luke 21:25-28).

## **What then of the “world united in peace” of which we hear so much?**

This is another indication of the approaching climax. The book of Revelation pictures the last days of the world as under control of a “beast”: “and the whole earth wondered after the beast ... and they worshipped the beast saying, who is like unto the beast? And who is able to war with him?” (Revelation 13:3-4)

## **Does this mean world-wide control, politically and religiously?**

“And all that dwell on the earth shall worship him, every one whose name hath not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that hath been slain” (Rev. 13:8). “And he causes all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, that there be given them a mark on their right hand or upon their forehead; and that no man should be able to buy or to sell, save he that hath the mark, even the name of the beast or the number of his name” (Rev. 13:16-17).

## **What will be the Anti-Christ’s attitude toward the Christian and toward God?**

“And he opened his mouth for blasphemies against God ... And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and there was given to him authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation” (Rev. 13:6-7).

### **How could such a one manage to get such control?**

“(His) coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth that they might be saved” (2 Thessalonians 2:9-10).

Note: Paul wrote that our warfare is a battle for men’s minds, to bring them into captivity to the truth of Christ. But the church left off the concern about truth, and fought its battle along political and economic lines, and the world was deceived into following false concepts.

“He does great signs and wonders,” wrote John in Revelation, “and deceives them that dwell on the earth” (Rev. 13:13-14).

### **Then what should the Christian expect in the days ahead”?**

He should expect and BE PREPARED FOR a sharp rise in opposition and hostility to the gospel, the true church, and to all that exalts Christ. The Anti-Christ is described by Paul as “he that opposes and exalts himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped” (2 Thess. 2:4).

### **Is the world-wide machinery actually aimed at wiping out the Christian?**

“And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat upon the horse and against his army.” Rev. 19:19. This war is already on. Millions in other lands have in recent years lost their lives for naming the name of Christ. We have escaped, thus far, because of constitutional safeguards and because of a Christian heritage. The constitution is no longer our safeguard, and the heritage has been thrust aside by the modern generation of materialists and agnostics.

### **But are not the Christians to be delivered from this “great tribulation”?**

The warnings are written so that we might be prepared to stand faithful in the tribulation, although deliverance will come before it reaches full force. “Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments lest he walks naked, and they see his shame” (Rev. 16:15). Thus we are warned to be faithful in spite of tribulation. In Revelation 9:4 we note that the devilish atheists will torture men’s minds (Brainwashing techniques?). But the evil is said to hurt all except “such as have the seal of God on their foreheads.”

Note: Christians in some lands are today suffering severe persecution, torture and martyrdom. Christians are not to expect deliverance from all temptation and suffering, but to follow the example of Jesus “even unto death.”

### **Can we know the outcome of this struggle?**

“And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to naught by the manifestation of His coming” (2 Thess. 2:8). “And to you that are afflicted rest with us, at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus; who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all them that believed (because our testimony unto you was believed”) in that day” (2 Thess. 1:7-10).

### **Then what will happen to the faithful believers?**

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord...” (1 Thess. 4:16-17). “For the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:52-53).

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. The scriptures have always warned us of the final all-out effort of satanic forces to destroy God’s purpose. But today, in the light of world movements, we see it coming to pass. These are not events for the sometime distant future. They are now current events, reported in the daily news.

Christian, “watch and pray.” “Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

“Yea: I come quickly. Amen: come, Lord Jesus’, Rev. 22:20

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