

THE COMETS OF GOD

ONE

Are There Correct Answers and How Can We Be Sure?

After the 1991 Gulf War and again after the 2001 terrorist attack of September 11th, many people became interested in what the Bible had to say about the future. When large scale disasters occur, many people wonder if the event is connected to what the last book of the Bible, the “*Book of Revelation*,” says will precede the end of the world. Fears about such things as earthquakes, global economic crisis, wars, nuclear attack, and plagues suddenly became more tangible.

A *Time/CNN* opinion poll found “that more than one-third of Americans say they are paying more attention now to how the news might relate to the end of the world, and have talked about what the Bible has to say on the subject. Fully 59% say they believe the events in *Revelation* are going to come true...”¹ Interestingly, this figure is significantly up from the numbers in a *Newsweek* opinion poll run several years earlier that “found that 40% of American adults do believe that the world will one day end, as *Revelation* describes in the

Battle of Armageddon.”²

In recent years the increased interest in how the world will end can in part be attributed to the best selling books of the *Left Behind* series. The *Left Behind* books presented an imaginative fictional account of end times Bible prophecy. The phenomenal success of the *Left Behind* books drew the public’s attention to the possibility of a planetary Doomsday. Interestingly, the *Left Behind* series was not the first to capture a large audience’s attention regarding the end times. The *Left Behind* series of books addressed the same end times apocalyptic Bible prophecies as the 1970’s best selling non-fiction book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*. In the 1970’s Hal Lindsey’s *The Late Great Planet Earth* broke sales records with over 15 million copies sold (as of today, over 30 million copies have been sold). Now over twenty years later, the fictionalized *Left Behind* series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins, with over 40 million copies sold, reflected a renewed and increased interest in what the Bible says about how the world will end.

“Eschatology,” the branch of theology that is concerned with the last things, has traditionally been the domain of evangelical Christians; however, only about half of the *Left Behind* readers were evangelical. New interest in what the Bible says will happen during a three and a half year period of great tribulation now comes from a broad spectrum of people. Christians from many different denominations as well as non-Christians want to know what the Bible says the future will bring. Even atheists are interested, if only to argue against the topic and against theological tales.

Today, as more people than ever are concerned about what the Bible has to say regarding the end times, it is important to precisely understand what is being conveyed in the Bible. Concern

over the spectra of end times events has even entered the political arena and influenced decisions. Former president Ronald Reagan, former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, former presidents George H. Bush, and George W. Bush have all made direct reference to Biblical end times scenarios. For many Americans it is a foregone conclusion that the Bible says the world will end someday. However, understanding or knowing the exact nature and sequence of the disastrous events that are to precede this end as foretold in the Bible is another question. Without knowing the origin and true nature of these events, how can we recognize if a disastrous event is actually fulfilling Bible prophecy? How can people honestly say, “This is the finger of God” as was said after one of the plagues in *Exodus 8:19*?

Since the first century, numerous interpretations have been put forth to explain the apocalyptic events prophesied for the future, and the order in which they are to occur. However, these interpretations have had to continually be adjusted in order to reflect new information and modern scientific approaches. As difficult as it is to believe, at one time the Bible’s Scriptures were interpreted to support the theories that the Earth was flat, that the Sun revolved around the Earth, and that the cosmos was a perfect creation with little danger to fear from the heavens or sky. Invention of the telescope in the 17th century encouraged growth in man’s scientific knowledge about Earth and the heavens, and new insights into the Bible’s text were gained as well. During the 19th century, because of excavation and the discovery of ancient writings, archeological knowledge about the ancient Biblical lands increased and new insights into the Biblical text evolved as well. Additionally, insights into *Revelation*’s end times text have come with the fulfillment of certain prophecies. For example, as history has unfolded, empires (such as the Babylonian

and Roman Empires) have risen and fallen, the nation of Israel was reborn in 1948, and a united Europe (the European Community) has come into being. These geopolitical events are now generally recognized as fulfilling Biblical prophecy. However, different and competing interpretations for a number of *Revelation's* end time events are still being presented. While some of these interpretations are plausible, none seem to account for all of the details given about the many specific and perplexing apocalyptic events; nor do they fit with all of the other perplexing events called for in *Revelation*. Also, many of these interpretations are in conflict with Biblical principles such as multiple witnesses, sowing and reaping, and there being nothing new under the Sun (which requires precedent for future events - *Ecclesiastes 1:9* and *3:15*).

These competing interpretations have been the subject of heated debate, particularly those involving catastrophe on a global scale and worldwide warfare. Since the 1950's, the advent of the atomic bomb has made nuclear weapons and nuclear war the centerpiece of most Bible prophecy interpretations. However, what is described in *Revelation* requires far greater energy than the detonating of all the nuclear arsenals of the world at once. Nevertheless, impressed and intrigued by the awesome power released by thermonuclear blasts in the 1950's, many argued that here, at last, were sufficient means to accomplish the massive destruction called for in apocalyptic Scripture. This became the reigning theory in spite of the fact that nuclear explosions cannot produce the amount of shaking and ground movement nor the horrific global waves of destruction described in *Revelation*. In addition, it is important to recognize that there is no Biblical precedent for man's weapons (being used or) serving as God's instruments. To the contrary, the destruction

of the Egyptian army at the Reed (Red) Sea, Joshua's great victory over the Amorites in the Valley of Gibeon, and the blast that killed 185,000 invading Assyrians outside the gates of Jerusalem during the reign of Hezekiah all speak of the God of the Bible using nature or seeming supernatural means to accomplish His ends. Nevertheless, the nuclear theory has persisted. A 1984 Yankelovich poll found that 39% of those responding said Biblical prophecies of the Earth's destruction by fire referred to a nuclear war.³

Today's best selling prophecy books present readers with some very trying interpretations and explanations for some of the cryptic verses in the *Book of Revelation*. These prophecy books present no logical explanations for determining when verses are literal or symbolic. Rather than trying to determine the true meaning of the cryptic verses and bringing them into alignment with reality, these interpretations add to the confusion by calling for unprecedented and unworldly nightmarish scenes.* For example, the imagery of the Fifth Trumpet (*Revelation 9:1-11*) has been interpreted to describe never seen before demon possessed, locust like scorpions that fly out of a bottomless pit to sting and torment men with unimaginable suffering for five months. The imagery of the Sixth Trumpet (*Revelation 9:14-21*) has been interpreted to describe never seen before creatures, in this case an army of 200 million evil spirits astride horse like creatures riding across the sky to kill one-third of the world's population with the fire and smoke and brimstone that spews out of their mouths. A popular alternate interpretation for the Sixth Trumpet says that the imagery represents helicopters and cruise missiles, and a Chinese army of 200 million men riding astride mobilized ballistic missile launchers that kill one-third of the world's

* *I Corinthians 14:33* says, "God is not the author of confusion."

population with fire and smoke and brimstone. The question here is why should one believe in an improbable 200 million man army when there are so many other details given for the Sixth Trumpet that simply do not fit with this ballistic missile interpretation?

Along with the questionable interpretation of *Revelation's* events and what causes them, nearly all prophecy books of today have incorrectly assumed one of the "bad guys" of the end times would be Russia. Most prophecy books still claim that based on its origins, Russia is the evil empire of *Ezekiel 38-39* that will invade the Holy Land during the end times. This idea can be traced back to a small group of 18th and 19th century theologians, who based their assertions about Russia's origins on historical references that had been purposefully altered (see Chapter 9 and Appendix B for details). Even now, in spite of what professional archeologists and historians have to say, and in spite of the fact that Russia is not one of the nations of *Ezekiel 38-39*, this theory persists. Many years ago one had to be a scholar to correctly know about Russian origins. However, over the last ten years, the irrefutable truth about their origins has been embraced and celebrated by the Russians, featured in a number of television documentaries, published in *National Geographic* magazine, and covered in high school world history text books.

Actually, archeologists and historians know the exact identity of the nations of *Ezekiel 38-39* based on the dealings these ancient nations had with the Assyrian Court. In fact, the records of the ancient Assyrian Court talk about these ancient nations the same way that the Bible does.⁴ Correctly identifying the nations of *Ezekiel 38-39* is essential to understanding who will be at the Battle of Armageddon, an important end times battle and what is to take

place at this Battle.

Years ago Dewey Beegle, a professor at Wesley Theological Seminary, wrote that many Christians were uneasy about the prophetic systems being taught to them, and were searching for better alternatives.⁵ Even now, despite the popularity and abundance of prophecy books, many Christians are still searching for better answers about what the Bible has to say regarding the different events that are to take place during the end times. Interpretations of end time prophecy that are mainly based on current events; call for the appearance of armies of demon (evil spirit) possessed creatures; misidentify the nations of *Ezekiel 38-39*; ignore and contradict Biblical principles; or make shaky connections between nuclear weapons and portions of apocalyptic Scripture, have left some Christians and theologians unconvinced. Among those who are skeptical about apocalyptic disaster brought by nuclear warfare are those who see prophetic fulfillment as solely God's responsibility and say, "God does not need man's modern inventions" to work his will.⁶

An article in *Time* magazine titled "Is the Bible Fact or Fiction?" noted that as knowledge continues to increase, Jewish and Christian believers around the world have become more attuned than ever before to the significance of scientific evidence "in establishing the reality of the events underlying their faith."⁷ As people are looking to strengthen their faith and understand the Bible's prophecies for the end times, there is a strong desire for better explanations and scientifically based answers as to what end times Bible prophecies are really saying. Yet, most current Bible prophecy books do not reflect the latest archeological, geological, and astronomical knowledge and discoveries that relate to Bible prophecy. Dr. Mark A. Noll, Professor of Christian Thought at Wheaton College in his book *The Scandal of*

the Evangelical Mind (the Evangelical Book of the Year for 1995 and “*Christianity Today’s*” Book of the Year for 1995) in part explained this scarcity of scientific information. He wrote, “Goaded on by the questionable use of science in the larger culture, fundamentalists and their evangelical successors dropped the nineteenth century conviction that the best theology should understand and incorporate the best science. . . they gave up the nineteenth century belief that it was important to make a positive adjustment to an era’s best science.”⁸

While 19th century theologian, Charles Hodge, a professor at Princeton Seminary cautioned scientists about advancing cosmological theories that contradicted the central teachings of the Bible; he also defended “the proposition that the Bible must be interpreted by science.”⁹ Hodge wrote that:

Nature is as truly a revelation of God as the Bible (*Psalm 19:1*); and we only interpret the Word of God by the Work of God when we interpret the Bible by science When the Bible speaks of the foundations, or of the pillars of the Earth, or of the solid heavens, or of the motion of the Sun, do not you and every other sane man, interpret this language by the facts of science? For five thousand years the Church understood the Bible to teach that the Earth stood still in space, and that the Sun and stars revolved around it. Science has demonstrated that this is not true. Shall we go on to interpret the Bible so as to make it teach the falsehood that the Sun moves around the Earth, or shall we interpret it by science, and make

the two harmonize? ¹⁰

In a 1941 Symposium entitled, “Science, Philosophy and Religion” the great physicist Albert Einstein said, “Science without religion is lame, and religion without science is blind.” Accordingly, we must not be afraid to look at the Bible through the modern eyes of science, where science is about understanding nature and the reasons for things. We must go beyond beliefs based on 18th and 19th century ideas and interpretations of *Revelation* in order to see what the Scriptures reveal for us now. It is important to remember that the Bible itself says that certain words and prophecies were sealed or kept secret. The Bible says certain words and prophecies were closed up until the end times, when knowledge will have increased enough to properly understand what was being said (*Daniel 12:4, 9, Jeremiah 23:19-20 NAS, and Jeremiah 30:23-24 NAS*). If the Bible is what it claims to be, then new discoveries from science and history should constantly be confirming the Bible and making end times prophecy more understandable and more believable. For faith based believers who take the Bible to be without error, it is not a case of science contradicting Scripture nor of science threatening the prophetic system they may subscribe. Instead it is a case of science helping to harmonize specific scriptural texts with science and reality. * New

* Note that the discussion of the role of science here is apart from the ongoing controversy of a “young Earth” versus an “old Earth.” The question being addressed here is how the disasters of the end times are to happen. The contenders represent phenomena for which we have had the benefit of direct observation; phenomena such as the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Good Friday Alaska Earthquake, the eruption of Mount Saint Helens, the tidal wave that flooded Krakatoa, the multiple impacts of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 on the planet Jupiter, and the Indonesian tsunami of December, 2004. The great Jewish Biblical scholar

interpretations of Scriptures should not be rejected solely because they may require change or revision to beliefs about events in the *Book of Revelation*. One's personal beliefs must not be held so tightly that the actual truth found in the Bible is strangled. Therefore, the question here is not whether we should see what science tells us about end time events. Rather the question must be why science is not being consulted when interpreting the Bible and understanding events in the *Book of Revelation*? Ironically, in this book a number of instances are cited where the Bible gives amazingly accurate scientific information long before modern science came to discover or verify this important information.

So, is there scientific evidence that will help explain the apocalyptic Scriptures and in turn help establish credibility for the events prophesied to occur? Are there any common denominators or patterns in play? If science decodes some of *Revelation's* cryptic passages to reveal detailed scientific information, what does this say about the inspiration behind the Bible's end times prophecies?

People want credible explanations about what the Bible says will take place during the end times. Believers want scientific explanations that they can share with unbelieving friends and not worry about being viewed as irrational. Over the years, various fields of science have made significant advancements, and instead of these findings proving the Bible fictional, science has moved to substantiate the reality of the Bible's stories. In order to look at the book of *Revelation's* cryptic and horrifying passages and find solid scientific information and incredible scientific insights, we must

Maimonides (1135-1204, Spain) in *The Guide for the Perplexed* said, "Conflicts between science and religion result from misinterpretations of the Bible."

enhance our study of the full context of these passages. Indeed, disaster scenarios like those found in *Revelation* have already drawn the interest and concern of scientists. Since the types of disaster found in the *Book of Revelation* are now being discussed in popular science books, and portrayed in Hollywood movies, one could say that the writing is now on the wall about how the world will end.*

The prophecies of *Revelation* involve a number of very frightening images and scenarios. Here we encounter things far scarier than the “lions, tigers, and bears” that worried poor Dorothy in the Land of Oz. For example, *Revelation* tells of a great dragon being cast onto the Earth; a beast with seven heads and ten horns rising up out of the sea; and a beast with two horns rising up out of the Earth. Also described are bizarre locust like creatures with teeth and the power of scorpions coming upon the Earth, and an army of 200 million horsemen out of whose mouths come fire and smoke, and brimstone, riding across the heavens and killing a third part of all mankind. *Revelation* also tells of painful sores falling upon men; a great earthquake such as never seen by humanity before; stars falling from heaven; a bottomless pit; the air rolling back as a scroll when it is rolled together; lightnings; thunders; and the Sun turning black as sackcloth. Finally, *Revelation* also tells of the Moon becoming as blood; the armies of the world gathering together to battle at a place called Armageddon; giant 100 pound hailstones mixed with fire and blood being cast upon the Earth; the cities of the nations falling; mountains disappearing; and every island fleeing away.

These are extraordinary events! Who wouldn't want to know

* The Bible's *Book of Daniel* (5:5-31) tells how writing mysteriously appeared on one of the palace walls in Babylon. The writing prophesied the fall of the Babylonian Empire, which then came to pass.

the causes for all of these frightful incidents? What types of social and physical events would produce such strange imagery? To find explanations and answers with some degree of credibility, we must begin deciphering or decoding the strange imagery used in *Revelation*. If we are uncertain about the imagery, then how can we be certain of the events that are prophesied to occur during the end times? Could part of the decoding process of this imagery come by determining *exactly* how the words in these descriptions were used when the Book of *Revelation* was written? In these verses, which words are to be taken literally, and which words are to be taken symbolically? What insight will we gain by understanding how the contemporaries of the people of the Bible wrote about catastrophic physical events and dreadful political events? Have we also considered that the Biblical authors, who are said to have been inspired by God, were at times communicating more accurate scientific information than they or their initial audiences realized? Most important in this process is determining the *original* meaning of certain key words used in the Bible.

In this book, the latest scientific information will provide answers to questions raised by the *Book of Revelation*. For the first time science, ancient literature, physical evidence, linguistics, and clues hidden within the Bible itself are all brought together to present unrivalled and compelling explanations for the prophecies of the *Book of Revelation*. By using forensic methods, the cryptic symbols of *Revelation* are revealed, showing how they “fit” together to present a clear and detailed picture of events prophesied for the end times. Recent information from the fields of geology, archeology, and astronomy is used to understand Scripture and reveal amazing scientific explanations for the prophesied events. Which is more

intriguing - that so many of the verses in *Revelation* actually convey scientific information, or that the Bible contained this wealth of reliable (scientific) information 1,500 years before the so-called modern scientific community discovered it?

Most Christians today would readily acknowledge that Jesus was spoken of throughout the Old Testament (*Luke 24:27*). However, few seem to recognize the numerous Scriptures throughout the Old Testament that speak of the end times. Fewer still have looked closely at the great catastrophes of the Old Testament to see what they can tell us about the catastrophes of the end times. In addition, newly discovered physical evidence on Earth, including a two mile wide impact crater associated with enormous dust deposits and an eighteen mile wide impact crater beneath the sea associated with widespread tsunami deposits, corroborates some of these Old Testament events, and for the first time ties these events to the historical record.

The most recently discovered impact site is called the Burckle Crater. It lies on the sea floor 12,500 feet below the surface of the Indian Ocean, and it is comparable in size to the entire island of Manhattan! On November 13, 2006 a feature story appeared in the *New York Times* titled "Ancient Crash, Epic Wave – Did Catastrophe fall from above in 2807 BC?" This article announced the discovery of an eighteen mile wide impact crater.¹¹ The article told how the impact that caused the crater also generated a series of mountain high tsunamis that went out in all directions from the impact site. Physical evidence of these tsunamis comes from chevron shaped deposits of marine sediment and impact debris that were carried inland by the powerful waves of these mega tsunamis. Some of these chevrons are over 600 feet high. (*See Illustration D*)

Dr. Ted Bryant, a geomorphologist and Associate Dean of

science at the University of Wollongong in Australia said, “We’re not talking about any tsunami you have ever seen . . . Aceh (the deadly Indonesian tsunami of 2004) was a dimple. No tsunami in the modern world could have made these features. End-of-the world movies do not capture the size of these waves.”¹² Dr. Bryant notes that “There are chevrons around the Indian Ocean that all point back to this one crater site.”¹³ Chevron deposits in Madagascar, Western Australia, and India all point to the Burckle Crater.

Four of these chevron shaped deposits lie in southern Madagascar, and study of these deposits showed that they contain unsorted marine sands, shells and micro fossils mixed with materials characteristic of a cosmic impact, such as impact glass, impact spherules, and shattered rock fragments. These deposits also contained high levels of iron, nickel and chrome, metals associated with cosmic impacts. Tiny bits of these metals were even found fused to the types of marine micro fossils found in the area, such as foraminifera.¹⁴ Core samples taken near the impact crater have a marine and cosmic composition similar to samples taken from the distant chevrons.¹⁵

Burckle Crater and the chevron shaped tsunami deposits were found by Dr. Dallas Abbott, a research scientist at Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Observatory in New York and her scientific associates. These scientists call themselves the “Holocene Impact Working Group.” Members of this international research group are recognized experts in geology, geophysics, geomorphology, tsunamis, tree rings, soil science, and archeology. Up until the last decade, astronomers generally believed that cosmic impacts were very rare and only occurred once every 500,000 to one million years, but scientists in the Holocene Impact Working Group “calculate that

catastrophic impacts could happen every 1,000 years.”¹⁶

Based on the ages of the sediments found in three separate deep sea cores taken near the crater, Dr. Abbott and her associates estimate that the Burckle Crater impact occurred around 2,500 to 3,000 BC. Dr. Marie Agnès Courty, a geoscientist at the European Center for Prehistoric Research in Tautavel, France has been studying soil deposits from around the world for evidence of dust from cosmic impacts and she believes that there was a major impact around this same time period – 4,800 years ago.¹⁷ In addition to Burckle Crater, the chevrons and the dust deposits, there are a number of other lines of physical evidence that call for a large scale catastrophic event of some sort around 2500 to 3000 BC. More importantly, a date of 2500 to 3000 BC is around the time the Bible gives for Noah’s Flood.

Dr. Bruce Masse, an archeologist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico is a member of the Holocene Impact Working Group and he thinks that the Burckle Crater impact may tie to one of the many ancient stories, legends, and myths about a flood from around the world. However, critics do not see the relevance of a flood story that does not give definitive information about the flood being caused by a cosmic impact. While a flood story may tell of devastating rains, hurricane force winds, darkness, and people dying, it still needs to clearly tie the flood to a description of an impact that would have caused towering walls of water to wash over the land. Dr. Masse recognizes that “extraordinary proof” is needed to connect a particular flood story to the Burckle Impact and tsunami.

Among the flood stories of the world, only the Biblical Flood story gives “extraordinary proof” that can connect it to the Burckle Impact and tsunami. Beyond the fact that the date of the Biblical

Flood and the date of the Burckle Impact match, when properly translated, the Bible in fact talks about a cosmic impact and a tsunami. This is because the Bible *specifically* says that the Flood was caused by comet bombardment and then tells of a number of events that can only be caused by towering walls of water from an impact driven tsunami washing across the land. (*See Illustration F*)

When properly translated, Scripture tells of comets being “loosed” and “broken up,” and describes how the waters of towering tsunami waves quickly covered all the high hills and mountains, and then how the waters left behind by the tsunami left the land flooded. This of course, brings to mind the devastation brought by the 2004 Indonesian tsunami, where the thirty foot waves coming in left behind a flood with less than ten feet of standing water.

Amazingly, a passage in the Babylonian Talmud dating to the third century AD says that when the Holy One wanted to bring a flood upon the world he used two stars or comets to bring the Flood. This in effect, tells how the Flood was the result of an impact driven tsunami and supports the translation presented in Chapter 4. This idea is not new; a number of astronomers and geologists have long called for a comet impact being the cause of the Flood. For example, Dr. Benny Peiser of Johns Moores University in Liverpool, England, an expert on cosmic impact, while discussing the Biblical Flood said, “Before we did not know of any phenomena that could trigger such a massive flood disaster . . . Now recent research on ocean impacts shows that a large body hitting one of the world’s oceans could trigger the kind of massive tsunami capable of wiping out coastal cities.”¹⁸ Astronomers Victor Clube of Oxford, and Bill Napier of the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, “see a clear astronomical association” between the break up of a “giant comet” and “the Biblical Flood

at the start of the third (millennium BC).”¹⁹ These comments by scientists about the Flood being caused by cosmic impact were all made before the discovery of the Burckle Crater.

A second new impact site is called the “Amarah Crater,” and it is over twice the size of famed Meteor Crater in Arizona. In an article now available on the web entitled, “Meteor Clue to End of Middle East Civilization” from the *Sunday Telegraph* (November 4, 2001), British Science Correspondent Robert Matthews wrote:

Studies of satellite images of southern Iraq have revealed a two mile wide circular depression which scientists say bears all the hallmarks of an impact crater. If confirmed, it would point to the Middle East being struck by a meteor with the violence equivalent to hundreds of nuclear bombs.²⁰ (*See Illustration B*)

The Amarah Crater is a “smoking gun” that establishes that a cosmic impact of enormous size took place in the Holy Land region during Biblical times. The explosion was more than 1,000 times as powerful as the atomic blast of about fifteen kilotons of TNT that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945. It was one of the greatest catastrophic events ever witnessed by mankind in recorded history. The Amarah Crater was disguised as a big lake in the midst of a vast swampy area in Southern Iraq. The crater was found by Dr. Sharad Master, a geologist with the Impact Cratering Research Group at the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Dr. Master reported on his findings in the November 2001 issue of the journal, ”*Meteorites and Planetary Science*.” He wrote that the “strikingly circular shape” of this lake was in marked contrast with the “highly irregular shapes” of the other

lakes in the marsh region, which were also much smaller.²¹ Only after Saddam Hussein had the lake drained in his campaign against the Marsh Arabs, did satellite photos reveal the lake's true identity. His description reveals that the circular depression was enclosed by an elevated rim and an annulus, a ring like feature produced by material ejected by an impact, which are the textbook features of an impact crater.²² Dr. Mike Baillie, a professor of paleoecology at Queens University in Belfast, says that just a single comet impact large enough to create the Iraqi Crater "would have caused a mini nuclear winter (colder temperatures and less rainfall) with failed harvests and famine, bringing down any agriculture based populations."²³

While these two new impact craters, the Burckle and the Amarah, are currently causing great excitement in the scientific community, they are generally unknown to those who have tried to prove the reality of the miraculous events of the Bible and to those who have worked to interpret end times Bible prophecy.

As a result of new evidence and information, a clearer and more scientifically sound interpretation of what really happened during some of these Old Testament events is possible. Then the connection between these past events and the end times events described in the *Book of Revelation* becomes clearer. For example, when Jesus spoke of the end times, he said "the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken" (*Matthew 24:29 NIV*), and he likened the day of his return to the days of Noah and the Flood and to the day of Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (*Luke 17:26-30*). When we know the ancient meaning of the word "star," the common denominator among the three events Jesus spoke of becomes evident: cosmic impact! As we see the prophecies of *Revelation* connected to a number of other prophecies found in both

the Old and New Testament, *THE COMETS OF GOD* systematically builds a multi-dimensional case for interpretations of end times events that is difficult to dismiss.

In *THE COMETS OF GOD* we see how Scriptures throughout the Bible work together to reveal what things are to happen during the end times, and why these things are to happen. This provides a more comprehensive picture of what the Bible says is God's plan for mankind, God's activity in history, and God's plans for the end times.²⁴ The disastrous end time events appear to be part of a number of long standing Biblical patterns that relate to the God of the Bible's plans for man and the Earth. The more we understand these patterns and plans, the better we recognize the scientific causes of disastrous events prophesied for the end times.

Once the causes of the disastrous events of *Revelation* and the nations of the end times are correctly identified, a distinctly different picture of the end time events emerges than provided by popular prophecy books. While a number of prophecy books have some correct information about the mysterious events of *Revelation*, they do not provide scientific connections or Scriptural support for their interpretations. Interpretations and explanations of *Revelation's* disasters should involve connections to scientific realities, Old Testament catastrophes, other Old and New Testament prophecies, and be consistent with Biblical principles. This book's explanations of end times events will not ask its readers to have blind faith or to suspend their intellect. This book shows that what the scientific community now knows about mankind's history, Earth's geology and the astronomy of our solar system is now in alignment with end times Bible prophecy.

In one sense, comprehending the *Book of Revelation*, the

last book of the Bible is like dealing with a textbook. To be able to answer the test questions at the back of the book, one must know and understand what is in the front and middle of the book. In other words, the *Book of Revelation* represents the culmination of what has been taught throughout the Bible.

The new interpretations and explanations of Scripture presented in this book allows the prophecies of *Revelation* to be more understandable, more logical, and more believable. Many of the theologians and scientists who have gone over early drafts of this book have praised it for its originality and “goodness of fit” in interpreting important Biblical events and prophecies. One prominent Christian educator, Dr. Clifford Kelly, from *Focus on the Family* wrote, “After reading only one chapter of your work, I went back and reread chapters eight and nine of *Revelation*, texts I’ve studied for almost twenty years and found myself saying, ‘Of course!’ You really are onto something monumental here. . . .” *

* Personal communication from Dr. Clifford Kelly, Director of Academics for Dr. James Dobson’s “*Focus on the Family Institute*,” letter dated May 1, 2001.