

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

Are we on the threshold of a brave new world with peace and plenty for all? Or are we tottering on the brink of unprecedented disaster? — Or both?

The Future Foretold meets these questions head-on. Ancient prophecies coupled with up-to-date documentation from respected news sources present a compelling case that we are living in the era the biblical seers called the Last Days.

Awareness of the predictions in this booklet will give you a new perspective on the radical transformation the world is currently undergoing, as well as prepare you for the cataclysmic changes to come.



aurora
auroraproduction.com

A-EN-BA-ET-004-P

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

SCOTT MACGREGOR

THE FUTURE FORETOLD



SCOTT MACGREGOR

THE
FUTURE
FORETOLD

**Ancient Prophecies
Now Being Fulfilled**

2008 Edition

**First edition by Michael Roy
Updated and revised by Scott MacGregor**

Acknowledgments

The authors extend a special thanks to Joseph Reed, whose painstaking research made this booklet possible.

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *New King James Version*®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover illustration: Kristen Dufrane

ISBN 13: 978-3-03730-097-3

Copyright © 1999–2008 by Aurora Production AG

All rights reserved. Printed in Taiwan by Chanyi Printing Co., Ltd.

Visit our Web site at: www.auroraproduction.com

Contents

The Future Foretold.....	ii
A World at War.....	1
“Mommy, I’m Hungry!”	6
A Plagued Planet.....	14
The Big Shake-up	21
Our Violent World.....	24
The “Me” Generation	31
The Good News Goes Global	35
Globetrotters and Jetsetters.....	38
Information Overload	43
The Pagan Revival.....	48
The Beast That Is to Come.....	54
The “Mark of the Beast”	60
The Second Coming.....	68
Faith to Face the Future	72

The Future Foretold

AS EVENTS UNFOLD IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM AD, is our planet on the threshold of a brave New World Order, with peace and plenty for all, or are we tottering on the brink of unparalleled chaos and disaster?—Or *both*?

This book provides answers that will prepare you for what's ahead.

Biblical prophets foretold many things that concern today's world. Within the pages of this book we will examine specific predictions and prophecies—two to three thousand years old—which accurately depict conditions and events that have taken place, or are soon to take place—quite possibly during our lifetime.

Among the prophecies we will be looking at are ancient predictions describing our modern rapid transportation systems, today's unprecedented increase in world travel, as well as the contemporary explosion in knowledge of all kinds. Other technological advances, such as electronic banking, as well as a soon-to-be-implemented global financial system, were likewise predicted with uncanny accuracy.

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

The effects of climate change and outbreaks of lethal epidemics were also foretold.

Awareness of the predictions covered in this book will give you a new perspective on the radical transformation the world is currently undergoing, as well as prepare you for the cataclysmic changes to come.

THE BIG QUESTION

Throughout the ages a number of great religious teachers and seers have received special insight into the future. A discourse that is regarded by many as the most profound and detailed of its kind was given 2,000 years ago on a hillside just outside the ancient city of Jerusalem. There, a small band of truth-seekers gathered around their teacher, a carpenter-turned-preacher, known as Jesus of Nazareth. The question they asked Him prompted a response that spanned the centuries and then zeroed in on the days in which we are now living:

“As He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?’” (Matthew 24:3).

What His followers were asking Him about is often referred to as the “Second Coming,”

The parenthetical references following Bible quotations indicate the book, chapter, and verse where the passage may be found.

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

the dramatic return of Christ prior to His takeover of the world and the establishing of the kingdom of God on Earth. The term “the end of the age” is used here not to signify the end of the planet, but the end of the unjust and inhumane reign of man.

Jesus answered their question by not just pointing out one sign that would indicate when “the end” would be near, but He gave *many* specific indicators to be on the lookout for. Outstanding predictions by a number of other biblical writers help fill in the picture. It is these prophesied “signs” that we will now focus on.

THE EVEN BIGGER ANSWERS

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. ... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.”—Jesus (Matthew 24:6–8)

“Sorrows” is the English translation of the Greek word *wdi/nwn* [transliterated as *odin*] that appears in the original text of Matthew’s Gospel. This word more commonly means birth pangs, the painful muscle contractions that a pregnant woman experiences during labor and subsequent childbirth.

The world has experienced these birth pangs of wars, famines, plagues, and

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

earthquakes for millennia. The apostle Paul noted: “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now” (Romans 8:22). But labor only goes on for a limited amount of time.

The birth of the “baby,” which in this case is Jesus’ return and the end of this age, is not going to wait forever. And you may be surprised to learn just how these birth pangs have progressed in recent years. Take the first part of this passage, for example. ...

A World at War

“You will bear of wars and rumors of wars. ... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

WAR HAS BEEN A SCOURGE OF THE WORLD and mankind since time immemorial, but no period in history has witnessed a greater number of wars or greater destruction brought about by them than has the last hundred years

Prior to 1914, war had never been universal, but in both World War I and II, *global* war was waged. In the latter, all but 12 small nations of the world were militarily or technically involved, and 93 million people served in the armed forces of both sides. Of these, 25 million died. Civilian casualties were unprecedented: In the Soviet Union alone, over 20 million civilians died as a result of the war. The *Washington Post* noted:

[The] 20th-century wars have been “total wars” against combatants and civilians alike. ... The barbarian wars

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

of centuries past were alley fights in comparison.¹

Other newspapers and commentators have also described the carnage:

Since the end of World War II, there have been at least 130 wars, killing more than 23 million people directly and another 20 million through famine and other war-related disruptions. Whereas the number of major wars—killing at least 1,000 persons—stood at around a dozen in any given year during the fifties, and rose no higher than 20 a year during the sixties and seventies, it surged at the beginning of the eighties to more than 30.² In the 1990s there were 56 wars in 44 countries. Most were civil upheavals for control of the government or territory.³

As of 2007 there were 34 armed conflicts being waged around the world.⁴ Three times as many people—110 million—fell victim to war in the 20th century as in all the wars from the first century A.D. to 1899. And 70 percent of all war casualties since World War II have been civilians, rising to more than 90 percent in the 1990s.⁵

The innocent have paid the greatest price in wars, the data show. Between

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

1990 and 2000 alone, 2 million children were killed. Since 1945, wars have produced 35 million refugees.⁶

Since the War on Terror was declared after 9/11, till July 2007 an estimated 832,962 people were killed, and 1,590,895 seriously injured in Afghanistan and Iraq, regarded as the two principal theaters of that war. That is 16 times as many people as have been killed in all terrorist attacks in the world since 1968.⁷ Further studies put the death toll in Iraq alone at 1.2 million.⁸

The world hoped that the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 would not only signify the end of the Cold War between the superpowers, but usher in a new era of global peace. Unfortunately, this has not been the case.

Ethnic Cleansing and Tribal Terror

The Greek word for “nation” originally used in this prophecy, “nation shall rise against nation,” is *ethnos*, which is more accurately translated “a race” or “a tribe.” In other words, Jesus was saying that ethnic groups would rise against each other. This has been tragically fulfilled in recent times. Pulitzer prize-winning historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. (1917–2007) warned, “The 20th century [was] a century of the warfare of ideologies: democracy vs. fascism,

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

democracy vs. communism. But the end of the Cold War has released long-buried national, racial, ethnic, and linguistic antagonisms around the world. ... The 21st century promises to be a century of the warfare of ethnicities.”⁹

The Associated Press (AP) reports that during the 20th century the murders perpetrated by nations against their own people exceeded the deaths caused by wars with rivals outside their borders. Citing Stalin’s purges, Mao’s Cultural Revolution, Pol Pot’s killing fields, the so-called ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, the horrors of Rwanda, etc., the grim verdict is reached:

War aside, the 20th century [was] awash in blood. On every continent but North America and Australia, governments have murdered those they governed by the thousands and millions, often by turning neighbor against neighbor. In this most civilized century, by one estimate the killing rage has extinguished *170 million* lives. ... [The 20th century] is the century that coined the term “genocide.”¹⁰

Conflicts within states now make up more than 95% of all conflicts.¹¹ Prominent among this type of conflict is the perennial Palestinian/Israeli conflict that has now gone on for sixty years, resulting in thousands of deaths, many

THE FUTURE FORETOLD

more casualties, and millions of refugees, some displaced now for generations.

Although the outlook may appear bleak, the day is soon coming when God Himself will intervene in this violent world, and war shall be forever abolished. The Bible tells us that when Christ returns to rule the Earth, “He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (Isaiah 2:4).

More about this future reign of world peace later, but now, back to the pressing realities of the present.