



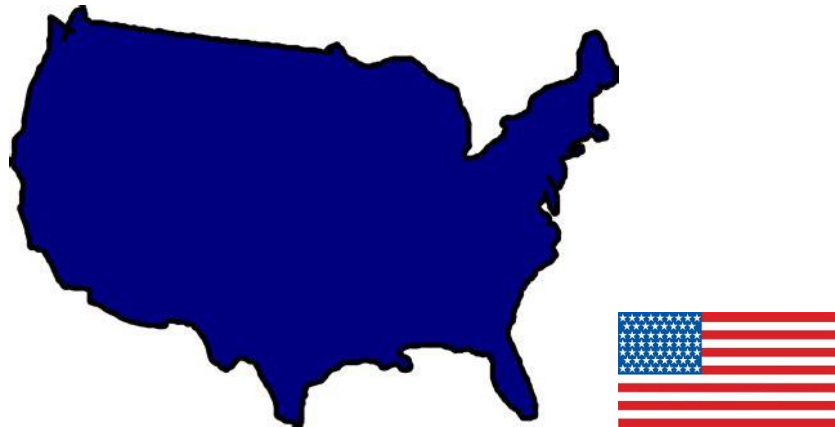
Last Days Beacon

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WILL THE TRIBULATION BEGIN IN AMERICA?

“THEY WERE GIVEN POWER OVER A FOURTH OF THE EARTH TO KILL BY SWORD, FAMINE AND PLAGUE, AND BY THE WILD BEASTS OF THE EARTH.” - **Revelation 6:8**

(c) Paul-Warren Dinger, founding editor of the Boston Review of the arts



Twenty years ago, the Library of Congress bought the only surviving copy of a 500-year-old map of the world for an unprecedented map price - \$10 million. This government agency declared the map “America’s birth certificate” and called America “the fourth part of the earth.” Echoing the Library’s words, the Smithsonian Institute called America “a fourth of the earth.”

In 1784, after America’s peace treaty with Britain, James Madison, “father of the constitution,” and America’s fourth president addressed the new nation as, “this quarter of the globe.”¹ Just prior to the turn of the 20th century, a textbook, “The Leading Facts of American History,” lists one of those important facts, that America is “the fourth quarter of the world.”² This is the very term used in the book of Revelation identifying where the 7-year Tribulation era will begin.

POLLS - HALF OF AMERICA BELIEVES WE ARE LIVING IN THE “END TIMES”

Despite the media’s ridiculing prophecy beliefs as antique superstition, polls over the last 50 years have shown that nearly half of Americans believe they are living in the “end times” of history.³ And, as we will see, modern American culture is seriously wrapped up with the ancient book of *Revelation*.

¹ p. 366, “Empire of Liberty,” Gordon Wood, 2008

² “The Leading Facts of American History,” D. H. Montgomery, 1895

³ 2022 Pew Center Survey

The *first* name of America, 270 years before it emerged as a nation, was geological - “a fourth of the earth” - the very term Christ used in *Revelation 6:8* around 1400 years earlier. However, at its discovery, what became known as the Western Hemisphere had two names, the fourth part of the earth - and - “America.”

WHY IS AMERICA NAMED FOR AMERIGO?

Columbus is honored as America’s discoverer with a national holiday that oddly celebrates his discovery of Bermuda. He never even saw what is now called America. America was named for Amerigo Vespucci by Martin Waldseemuller, a German geography professor-mapmaker. That is who named the Americas - and by extension, America. But three centuries later, Columbus acquired a giant spiritual reputation in America for being the first to claim the Americas are forecast in Bible prophecy.

In the early 1790s, approaching the 300th anniversary of Columbus’ discovery of the Americas, there was a movement to name America, “The United States of Columbia.” The compromise was to name the nation’s capital, “District of Columbia” (D.C.) after Columbus. It was a South American country, Columbia, that got Columbus’ name.

Waldseemuller, among many other Europeans, believed Vespucci’s story that he discovered what he called “Novus Mundi” (“the New World”) a year before Columbus. Columbus believed that he had reached the India he promised Spain he would locate. This is why South and Central America and the Caribbean islands were first called “the Indies” - and why native Americans are called, “Indians.” It was Waldseemuller who believed Vespucci’s debatable discovery story and labeled what is now known as South America “America” on his map. It was the first to show the American continents as separate from Asia.

In his textbook, “Introduction to Cosmography,” Waldseemuller wrote that the new land his 1507 map depicted, should be “called Amerigen - the land of Amerigo...or America.” However, in one of those strange twists of history, the name, “America” providentially migrated up to North America and became the title of what evolved into History’s Great Nation. Latin America (South and Central America) was parceled up into 17 nations.

A FOURTH QUARTER OF THE EARTH IS AN ANCIENT IDEA THAT IGNORES ARITHMETIC

Skeptics raise two objections to America as the fourth quarter of the earth. Although America is the fourth largest nation on earth, scientists have estimated the United States is less than 17 percent of the earth’s land. These skeptics point out that the entire Americas were originally called “the Fourth Part of the earth.” The Western Hemisphere-Americas comprise in total slightly more than a quarter of the earth’s dry land - around 28 percent. However, the idea of a fourth quarter of the earth is an ancient one that ignores arithmetic. The ancient Bible divides the earth into quarters (North, South, East, West) with west being the last quarter (Isaiah 11:12). Nearly 1400 years before the Western Hemisphere was “found,” Christ had already prophetically named The Fourth-Part-of-the-Earth as the first target of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

And around 1500 years ago today, Isidore of Seville, known as “the last scholar of the ancient world,” wrote, “Apart from these three parts of the world [Asia, Africa and Europe] there exists a fourth part beyond the ocean, which is unknown to us.” Vespucci and then Waldseemuller designated the “fourth part of the world” according to *the trajectory of the sun*. It rises in the east, traversing different time zones and sets in the West.

JESUS STARTS THE TRIBULATION BY SENDING THE FOUR HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE TO THE “FOURTH PART OF THE EARTH”

Keeping in mind that many Americans believe America is now in the last days of the world, and that the next nuclear bomb attack will hit the United States, let’s look at *Revelation*, the only Bible book with Christ’s signature on it. *Revelation* begins speaking of Christ and his people (the Church). Then Jesus evaluates seven churches of Asia Minor, the last of which, Laodicea, is the worst. It has locked Christ out. Many theologians interpret Laodicea as a symbolic representative of the last, *apostate* state of the church age.

In the early 20th century, President Woodrow Wilson revised the founders’ definition of the United States as a “Republic” into a “Democracy.” Prophetically, or coincidentally, “Laodicea” and “democracy” mean pretty much the same thing - *the power, or rule, of the people*.

Shouldn’t we remember that the Bible doesn’t show the power, or rule of the people as a good thing, but typically as a rebellion against God. And isn’t a rebellion against Christianity, the Bible and God happening right now in American “Democracy” on its 247th birthday month?

Immediately after “Laodicea,” John, *Revelation’s stenographer*, is snatched up into heaven where for the next three chapters he watches Christ in his heavenly personality finally opening the Judgment Books (Seals). In the middle of chapter 6, John sees Christ giving “power” to the Four War Horsemen and sending them *to a specific location*. Revelation 6:8 reads, “They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague and by the wild beasts of the earth.”

HAS *REVELATION* 6:8 BEEN MISINTERPRETED FOR CENTURIES AS PEOPLE RATHER THAN LOCATION?

The term used in John’s original Greek text for “a fourth of the earth” is “tetarton,” a common Greek word used by Homer and Aristotle. It carries variations on the idea of “four” - including fourth part, fourth quarter and four times. Have *Revelation* scholars for centuries misinterpreted “tetarton” as *a fourth of the earth’s population* even though the word directly refers to the “earth.” It says nothing about population. Clearly, literally, *Revelation* 6:8 refers to geography (a location) not demography (people).

WHY IS THE MODERN WORLD SO FASCINATED BY THE LAST BOOK OF THE BIBLE?

Revelation is said to have been written 1,928 years ago and it has always had a powerful influence on the world. For example, the great Roman Church intellect, St. Augustine misinterpreted *Revelation* in the Greek imaginative-allegorical tradition he was raised in. He located the Roman Empire Church in the *Revelation* chapter 20 *Millennium*, relegating most of the letter to the past. This interpretation error was exposed in the year AD1000 when the 1000-year-Millennium ended and Islamic Jihad appeared - but Christ didn't. From then on, the Millennium was viewed as a future event.

The Muslim Holy War against Christianity began in 1009 and ran for most of the Second Millennium (1009-1683). It ended a few months after William Penn established America's birthplace - Philadelphia. Significantly, from the early days of America's colonial period, *Revelation* and the Millennium had a magnetic effect on the colonial mind. The central idea of colonial America's First Great Awakening - *the spiritual foundation of America's Revolution* - was that America was the vestibule to Christ's Second Coming and the Millennium he would bring along.

For the last century, the Media-Education Complex has been slogging the Big Lie that the ancient book of Revelation is a superstitious fantasy that has nothing to do with the modern world. Out of one side of their mouths, journalists scoff at Bible prophecy beliefs as dim-witted fairy tales. But out of the other side, they are obsessed with *Revelation*. How did two words from the most-ridiculed book of the Bible get all over the Media and modern culture? "Apocalypse" is the original Greek title of *Revelation* - "Apokalupsis." And "Armageddon" is the Hebrew term for the *Revelation* 19 final battle between Christ and Satan's army.

How did these fundamentalist prophecy words saturate the modern Media, pop culture and movies? Why do Bible-scoffing journalists regularly use "Apocalypse" or "Armageddon" to describe a nasty presidential election, a football competition, or a corporate takeover? Why do TV weather forecasters call a blizzard "Snowmageddon?" If Bible prophecy is nonsense, why won't journalists stay away from it?

THE BEST-SELLING BOOK OF THE ENTIRE 1970s DECADE CONNECTED *REVELATION* WITH NUCLEAR WAR

The fact is, that Last Days prophecy beliefs have strangely migrated out of fundamentalist Bible preaching into Modernist culture in a big way. For example, the best-selling book of the entire decade of the 1970s was "The Late Great Planet Earth," which interpreted the earthshaking events of Revelation as forecasts of nuclear war. Both Christian scholars and secular Elites poured contempt on the Mega-selling book, but Americans took it seriously to the point where today, journalists portray World War III in Revelation terms - "Nuclear Armageddon."

THE SECOND WORLD WAR ENDED WITH A FIRE-AND-BRIMSTONE ATOMIC BOMBING

It was the apocalyptic-end of World War II, 78 years ago that looked like the cataclysmic scenes out of the book of *Revelation*. This put *Revelation* in America's collective mind. The out-of-the-sky-Fire-and-Brimstone nuking of Japan, the land of the rising sun, by America, the land of the setting sun, inspired an Atomic Bomb doomsday that looked like scenes from Revelation.

President Truman's apocalyptic firebombing of Japan was subliminally justified as God's righteous fire-from-heaven judgment on a pagan nation for attacking the Modern World's most biblically Christian Nation. Then, ever since the Soviets and many other nations unfriendly to the United States developed the bomb, America's fear of Nuclear Armageddon coming to the nation that first dispatched nuclear bombs has metastasized. Many years ago, referring to America's ripe state of corruption, Billy Graham said that if God doesn't judge America (i.e., with Fire-and-Brimstone), He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.

THE ATOMIC SCIENTISTS' "DOOMSDAY CLOCK"



The Atomic Scientists' "DOOMSDAY CLOCK" was presented in the ashes of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan that ended World War II. It measures how close the world is to Nuclear Armageddon, the unleashing of the multitude of Atom Bombs held around the world. Doomsday is symbolized by *midnight* on the Doomsday Clock.

It measures how close the world is to Nuclear Apocalypse, the end of the world, or in Bible terms, "the Day of the Lord." The hands on the Doomsday Clock are closer to Midnight-Doomsday in 2023 than they have ever been since the clock was introduced. Interestingly, midnight represents "the Day of the Lord" on the Doomsday Clock. In Jesus' prophetic parable of the Ten Virgins, (Matthew 25: 1-13) midnight represents his Second Coming, not Armageddon. However, the parable shows the five virgins that are left behind frightened, pounding at the door. They seem to understand that they are facing something very bad. Could that be *Revelation's* Tribulation?

BIBLE PROPHECY IS THE MOST ACCURATE FUTURE FORECASTER

Let's pause a minute to remember some of the world's great, *hidden* truths. The Bible's authority rests on the fact that it is history's most accurate future forecaster. At least 1,000 prophecies have been fulfilled in real time over thousands of years. From the first prophecy of Jesus in Genesis 3:15 to the twin resurrections of (1) Israel, immediately after World War II, and (2) the Roman Empire rising again in the form of the *European Union*, the Bible has predicted history before it happens.

Two major ignored historical facts - (1) the world counts time according to Jesus' Revelation vow to return and end the dark history of this fallen world. (2) In a 1935 *Readers Digest* article, famous historian H. G. Wells, while acknowledging he is a confirmed atheist, wrote that he had to admit that Jesus is history's most globally-historically-influential figure. So, it is this Jesus - history's great man, the clock by whom the world counts time - who seems to be saying that the 7-year Tribulation Era will begin in "the fourth part of the earth" - a.k.a. the USA.

NEXT MONTH - THE GOOD NEWS - A RESCUE IS COMING

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