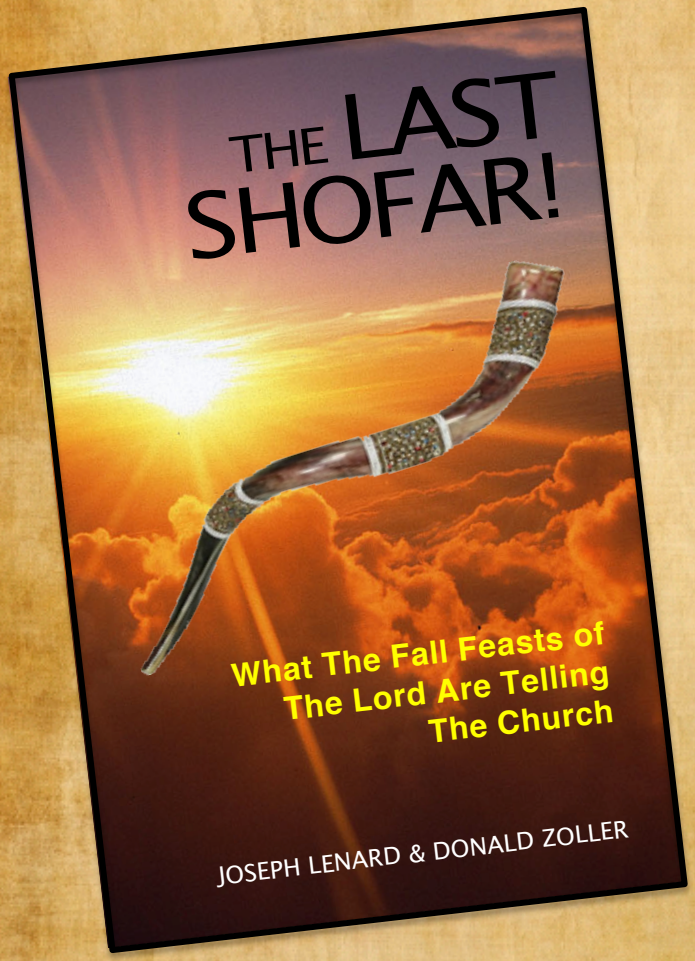

The Last Shofar! is available through the publisher, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble

Slide Presentation
The Last Shofar!

- Based on the 9 chapters of the book
- To be used as a companion study with the book; book page numbers are referenced on each slide
- Suitable for classroom or informal small group studies
- Discussion questions are included at the end of each presentation

Feedback is always welcomed

www.thelastshofar.net

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The Last Shofar! *may be ordered at the Website above*

For Your Information . . .

The following slide presentation is ***incomplete*** and ***inadequate*** to *fully* understand the content of the book, ***The Last Shofar!***

The slides are only a *summary* of the ***nine chapters*** of the book and do not include the **Introduction**, **Epilogue**, three **Appendices**, and **Glossary**. All provide background and build *"the case."*

Therefore, the book is a ***necessary resource*** when viewing the slide presentation, and is ***essential*** to enhance understanding and discussion. It is highly recommended that a copy of the book be obtained for study and reference.

The Last Shofar!

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The Clock is Ticking – What Time is It?

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the Gospel of God?
(1 Peter 4:17)

Joseph Lenard – Donald Zoller © 2014

The Clock is Ticking – What Time is It?

Introductory Comments . . .

God alone is the keeper of the ***last-days' clock***. The clock is ticking, and with each passing moment, He sovereignly moves events and leaders, shaping history toward a pre-determined conclusion.

Through fiery trials, exiles, persecutions and imprisonments; through long years of suffering and conflict; in spiritual wastelands and facing the blade of the martyr's sword, those of the Church have looked longingly for their *blessed hope* with one recurring question—*"How long, O Lord, how long?"*

The Last Shofar! – 8

Near the end of His ministry, Jesus told His disciples that the ***Temple*** would be destroyed. The disciples saw no other conclusion but that the end of world must be *"at hand."* In the space of one brief sentence, they asked Jesus three questions about ***when*** these things would happen and ***when*** would He return (Matthew 24:3).

In this slide set, we will provide the *framework* to answer these questions. We will consider briefly the ***last-days' clock*** through the visions of Daniel; we will also review what Jesus and the Apostle John said.

In addition, we will look selectively at current and coming events to determine where we might be on God's ***last-days' clock***. However, the important thing is not to excite and satisfy human curiosity but to *be ready* and *alert* for the coming of Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:42).

The Last-Days' Clock – What Daniel Saw . . .

- As we discuss future events found in **Daniel**, or anywhere else in Scripture, we need to apply caution to avoid undue speculation and avoid reading into the biblical text what is not there, causing error in our understanding.

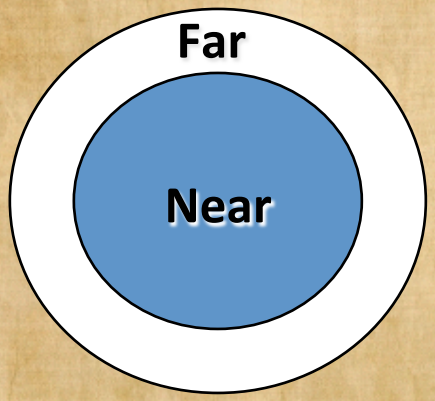
- **Daniel** is viewed by many to be the "go to" source for future events found in the Old Testament. Although it contains many foundational prophecies about end-of-the-age events, it is not the only source in the Old Testament that informs us of end-time events (cf. Isaiah 6:6-22; Joel 2:1-11, 3:1-21; Zechariah 14:1-21, etc.).

- **Daniel** saw a series of complex visions that will be played out on the stage of human history. These visions may appear confusing, but, in fact, provide a ***near/far*** telescopic view of the future (See **Chapter 2**, "Prophecy – *A Misunderstood Message*").

The *"Near/Far"* Inferences in Predictive Prophecy

How Prophetic Time is Perceived

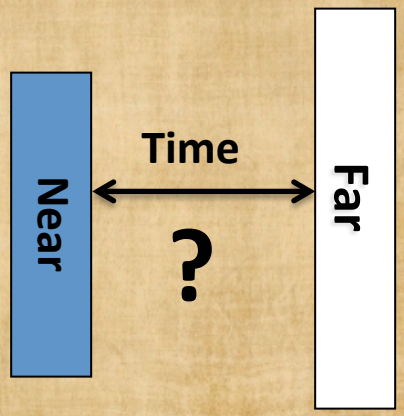
A Telescopic View



Often the
Prophet's View
All Perceived as "Near"

(Isaiah 9:1-7)

A Linear View



God's View
Two Separated Fulfillments

(1 Peter 1:10-12)

The Four Beasts of Daniel's Vision:

- Daniel saw ***four great beasts*** coming out of the sea—each representing a kingdom or empire arriving consecutively on the stage of history—a *lion* (***Babylonian***); a *bear* (***Medo-Persian***); a *leopard* (***Greek***), and *a beast*—terrifying, dreadful and strong (***Roman***) (Daniel 7:1–7).

- With crushing military power and exploitation, the ***fourth beast*** subdued the known world (Daniel 7:19–20).

- Remnants of this ***fourth beast*** continue throughout history *". . . until the Ancient of Day came . . ."* (Daniel 7:22)

The Vision of The "Little Horn" (Antichrist):

- At the end of Daniel's vision, he sees a terrifying individual represented by the ***little horn*** (one of four) of the ***fourth beast*** (Daniel 7–8). He will be shrewd, cunning and promote deceit, building his power and global dominance by seduction, flattery and treachery (Daniel 8:23–25).

- This ***little horn*** is later identified in the New Testament as the ***Antichrist***. Through intrigue, he uproots the other three horns (nations) and **confirms a peace and security agreement** with Israel for *seven years* (Daniel 9:27), which Isaiah identifies as the *"covenant of death"* (Isaiah 28:15, 18), beginning the *70th Week of Daniel.* This agreement is the next event to watch for!

- Empowered by Satan, ***Antichrist*** will annul the treaty with Israel, enthrone himself as God in the Temple and seek to destroy the people of God, both Jews and Christians.

The Last Shofar! – 8

- Daniel sees the end of the ***Antichrist*** (Daniel 8:25; 11:45; Revelation 19:20–21) and the coming dominion of the ***Ancient of Days*** *(God),* which shall not pass away (Daniel 7:13–14).

The Last-Days' Clock – What Jesus and the Apostles Said . . .

What Jesus Said About the Last Days' Clock:

- Jesus' words about end-time events are primarily associated with what is called the *Olivet Discourse* (Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21).
- In response to their questions about the end time, Jesus told His disciples that as things go from bad to worse (*birth pains*) the most important thing to watch for is ***deception*** from false teachers.

The Last Shofar! – 8

- As ***deception*** becomes pervasive, people will begin betraying and hating one another. Lawlessness and absence of normal human love will characterize this time of *birth pains*—God's people will be persecuted and put to death.

- Then Jesus speaks of the ***Great Tribulation,*** beginning at the mid-point of the *70th Week of Daniel* (Matthew 24:15, 21), unlike anything that has ever been before—*unique* in its intensity and scope with millions of God's people being persecuted and killed.

- With **cosmic signs** and the **blast** of ***The Last Shofar,*** the *Great Tribulation* is shortened for the Church with the appearing of the **Son of Man** in the clouds to rapture His Church (Matthew 24:29-31).

What the Apostles Said About the Last Days' Clock:

- The Apostle John, in exile on the Island of Patmos, was given a view into the future—the ***end of the age***. There he sees the breaking of the *seven seals*, the blowing of the *seven trumpets* and the pouring out of the *seven bowls*—all judgments of God as the ***last days' clock*** begins to strike midnight.

- He described the *sealing* of God's earthly people, *the Jews*, for their protection during the ***Day of the Lord*** (God's wrath). He sees multitudes—beyond number—praising the Lamb upon the Throne.

- He described ***Two Witnesses*** sent by God at the beginning of the *Great Tribulation* to call down judgments upon the inhabitance of the earth and to call them to repentance.

- The Apostles Paul and Peter likewise wrote of the ***last days' clock***, which we have discussed previously in **Chapter 5**.

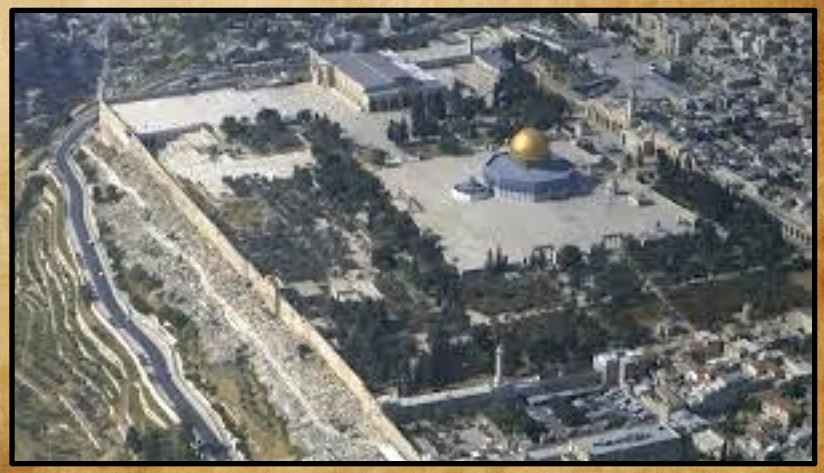
Current Events and The Last-Days' Clock . . .

The nation of **Israel** is the flash point for major issues facing the Middle East today. This fact does not surprise most Bible scholars. As predicted for several millennia, **Israel** has been and will continue to be the *thorn in the flesh* for many non-Jewish people in the Middle East.

In ancient times, the Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Grecians, Romans and a host of other smaller nations saw **Israel** as a nation to be eliminated. Today, **Israel** is surrounded by Islamic nations who share with their ancestral cousins their common hated for the Jews and the desire for their destruction.

Reviewing Recent History:

- For over 1800 years, *"Palestine,"* the geographic boundaries of present-day **Israel**, was considered by most who lived in the area a wasteland of no particular value or interest, except for Bedouins who tended their livestock and a few Jews.
- In the late 1800s, the Zionist movement began to define **Israel's** territorial rights to the land, culminating on May 14, 1948 when the United Nations formally established those rights.
- The most significant and presently the most contentious piece of territory is the **Temple Mount,** reclaimed by the Jews during the 1967 War.
- Both Jews and Muslims now claim this piece of real estate as theirs.



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- As a negotiated compromise, the Israeli government left the control of the **Temple Mount** in the hands of the ***Waqf***, a Jordanian Muslim religious authority, who has subsequently removed much evidence of Jewish claim to the Mount.

- **Israel's** claim to the **Temple Mount** pre-dates Islamic claim by *several thousand* years (Genesis 22:2; 2 Samuel 24:18–24), although this claim is rejected by Muslims as being "untrue and fabricated."

- The Koran affirms that the ***"Holy Land"*** belongs to the Jews (Koran, Surah 17:104; 5:20–21). The Muslim holy book also describes the construction of even the First Temple and the destruction of both Temples (Koran, Surah 34:13 and 17:7).

Prophetic Implications of Current Events:

- Many Bible scholars believe the declaration of the Jewish state as a nation (May 14, 1948) and the 1967 War of reunification started ***the last-days' clock***.

- Fulfillment of many end-time prophecies presupposes a Jewish-controlled Jerusalem and Temple Mount (Ezekiel 38 & 39; Joel 3:1; Zechariah 14:2).

- Two organizations in Israel, *The Temple Institute* and *The Temple Mount Faithful*, are preparing for a future **Third Temple**—with architectural drawings, scale models, furnishings, priestly apparel, vessels—even siring a suitable *red heifer* needed to purify the new Temple.

The Last Shofar! – 8

- Some say that present day **Israel** may not be the Israel of Bible prophecy. Others, more emphatically, say **Israel** has no place on the political or prophetical landscape of present-day history.

  But what does God's word say? Old Testament passages provide unquestionable evidence that **Israel** will play a major role in the end times to fulfill God's final plan for redemption. The New Testament affirms this to be so (Romans 10 & 11; Hebrews 8:8–12).

  Hebrew scholars argue that, once reestablished, the nation of **Israel** will not pass away again (Amos 9:13—15; Ezekiel 36:8—12).

Israel *has not been set aside from future blessing and redemption. It does have a future in God's redemptive purposes.*

So, Where Are We? . . .

The unanswered question is: Where are we on God's ***last-days' clock***? No one knows for certain. The only thing that is certain is *Jesus will return*. In the meantime, He has told us to "Watch!", "Be on our guard!", "Be ready", and "Look up!"

There will be no question as to when that time arrives. ***Cosmic signs*** and the ***blast*** of ***The Last Shofar!*** will herald His appearing (Matthew 24:29–31).

Now when these things begin to take place,
straighten up and raise your heads,
because your redemption is drawing near.
(Luke 21:28)

Let's Talk About It

1. Why is the book of Daniel important to your understanding of the ***last-days' clock***?

2. In His *Olivet discourse* (Matthew 24), what important thing did Jesus teach His disciples to watch for in the end times? Why is this important?

3. As you relate current events to the ***last-days' clock***, what would be the *next event* you would watch for as you approach the end times?

Looking Ahead . . .

No one knows where we are on God's ***last-days' clock***, but we are called to *be ready*, to *watch* and to *be on our guard*. **Chapter 9** prepares us for what may be the future for many in the Church living on earth today.

Chapter 9 discusses what is needed to be prepared *spiritually*, *emotionally and physically* for the most challenging and devastating time ever known in human history . . .