

# World Peace

We are living in exciting times. The Cold War seems to have ended. Perhaps now we can start solving our social problems. Some modern-day prophets are talking about an age of world peace, perhaps beginning in the new millennium - the year 2000.

At the same time, many problems remain on the earth. There is still a very real possibility of nuclear war, destruction of the ozone layer, the "greenhouse effect," pollution, nuclear meltdowns, and many other such evils. Thousands of babies are born to crack-addicted mothers, physically and mentally retarded, and thousands of people are dying in our streets from drug wars and gangs. Our milk cartons show pictures of some of the over one million missing children, many victims of sexual abuse and murder. And the majority of our children now grow up in broken homes, victims of an epidemic of divorce.

Around the world, we still hear reports of starvation threatening over a million people in a single nation. And wars con-

"When they shall say, Peace and security; then sudden destruction will come upon them...and they shall not escape" 1 Thess. 5:3. Today many people are talking about a time of world peace, but there will only be lasting peace on this earth when the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, rules on earth and in our lives. The reason we continue to have wars between nations and between one another is because of our greed and selfishness. God has given us His law, including the Ten Commandments, to provide us with a code to live by. According to these commandments, we are not to lie, steal, take God's name in vain, dishonor our parents, or covet after material things. If we obeyed these rules, we would have no wars or crime. But we have all broken these and other commandments many, many times. Just as a human judge will punish us when we disobey man's law, God has declared that He will punish all those who disobey His law. "When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven...He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord" 2 Thess. 1:7,9. This is truly

the forehead of their pet so a lost pet can be identified. We now have all the technology needed for this Bible prophesy to be fulfilled. Imagine the power a dictator could have with the help of modern technology!

According to the Bible, the last war will take place in the land of Israel, in a place called Armageddon. Armageddon is to be the site of the final war between the forces of the "Beast" or "Antichrist" and the kings of the east. However, the Bible states that this war will be interrupted by a far more momentous event: the physical return of Jesus Christ to this planet. "If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive...They will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory" Matthew 24:22,30. Jesus Christ stated almost 2000 years ago, that He would return at a time when the world was on the verge of destroying itself. For over 1900 years, until the production of nuclear weapons, we lacked the ability to destroy ourselves totally and Jesus' statement could not have been fulfilled. Today, the annihilation of the human race is a very real possibility.

a frightening prospect. However, God in His mercy has provided a way we can be forgiven for our wrongdoing and brought into a right relationship with our Creator. If we put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, ask Him to forgive us for our transgressions and turn away from them in our heart, making Him our Savior and Lord, we will no longer be afraid of the day of Christ's return. Instead, we will be looking forward to that day.

Right now you can get your life in right relationship with God. Admit that you have sinned against God. Believe that Jesus Christ paid for your sins and rose from the dead. Decide to let Jesus Christ be Lord of your life and to allow Him to guide and direct you. Ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and come into your life and make you the kind of person He wants you to be. God wants to put His Spirit inside you so that you will have the ability to live for Him. "Jesus, I know that I have sinned against you. I believe that you died for my sins and rose from the dead. Now I ask you to be Lord of my life. Come into my life and make me the kind of person you want me to be. Show me each day what you want me to do. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life with you."

States, Russia, and Europe into a third world war. One ancient book has turned out to be amazingly accurate in predicting these events: the Bible. Much of the Bible is concerned with God's relationship with His people Israel. The prophet Ezekiel said, "I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them into their own land" (Ezek. 37:21) No other people is the history of the world has ever been taken out of their land for more than one generation and returned to that land. "On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves" Zechariah 12:3. The annexation of Jerusalem by Israel has been condemned by every nation on earth.

The Last War

The Bible says that a world leader will soon arise who will "cause every person to put a mark on their right hand or forehead so that nobody could buy or sell anything without that mark" (Rev. 13:16-17). Today, most of the things we buy have a bar code on them that is read by a computer. We can pay for most things with a bank card or credit card. Pet owners can now place a computer chip in

time to erupt in one place after another. Many observers believe that the world is headed for a major war, perhaps even World War III. Many of the tensions that could lead to a world war are centered around a small nation in the Middle East: Israel. Although Israel has only been a nation since 1948, the people of that land, the Jews, have had a very long and remarkable history. Although they lived in the land that is now Israel for thousands of years, the Jewish people have been scattered throughout the world for 1900 years. They have faced terrible persecutions in many countries, culminating with the great holocaust by the Nazis in which 6,000,000 Jews were killed. After World War II, the United Nations voted to establish the state of Israel as a place of refuge for the Jews. Since that time, the Arab nations surrounding Israel have tried in four different wars to destroy Israel. But each time Israel has won quickly and decisively, even though their army was greatly outnumbered. Today, with most of the world's nations dependent on Arab oil, Israel has very few friends. Virtually every Arab state continues to call for the destruction of Israel, and the new Arab-Israeli war could well draw the United