

ARE THESE THE LAST DAYS?

Be Prepared Men's Retreat

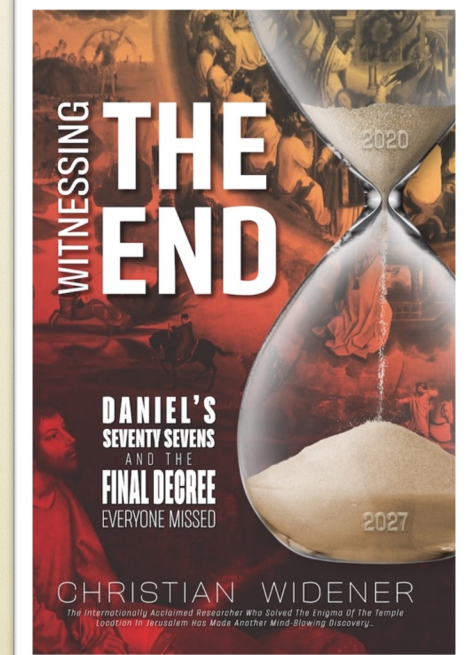
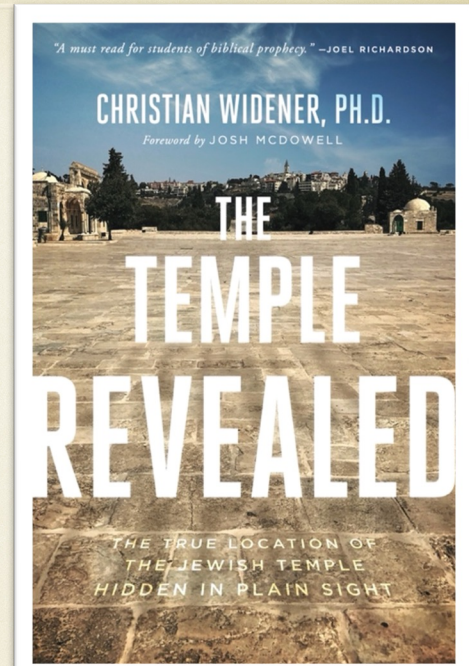
First morning session with

DR. CHRISTIAN WIDENER

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

- Life-long follower of Jesus Christ
- Lifestyle of deep personal Bible study for decades
- PhD in Mechanical Engineering
- Former tenured university professor
- Directed a competitively-funded, multi-million-dollar research institute for 8 years
- Awarded 4 advance material patents, with 3 more pending
- Co-founded a successful, high-tech startup, VRC Metal Systems, which made the Inc. 500 list in 2017.
- Entrepreneur of the Year in South Dakota, 2018

- Author of two books:
- ***THE TEMPLE REVEALED: The True Location of the Jewish Temple Hidden in Plain Sight***
- ***WITNESSING THE END: Daniel's Seventy Sevens and the Final Decree Everyone Missed***



A PARADIGM SHIFT IS UPON US

- Technology is Bringing Absolute Power to Government.
- **The people of this present world cannot remain free, without God's restraint—*Man's evil human nature will not be able to resist the temptation to try and take control of the world.***



GOOD IS EVIL AND EVIL IS GOOD

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. — Isaiah 5:20

- Abortion
- Transgenderism
- Critical Race Theory and Woke-ism
- Communism and Fascism Tearing Down America
- Vaccine, Mask, & Lockdown Mandates
- Loss of Biblical Worldview
- Paganism on the Rise
- Apostasy in the Church
- Widespread Fall of Church Leaders & Ministries
- Perversion of Justice & Loss of Constitutional Rights

THE LAST DAYS

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. — 2 Timothy 3:1-5

SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG

- Have there been times like this before, or is this different?
 - The American Revolution?
 - The Civil War?
 - World War I?
 - The Great Depression?
 - World War II?

During times of universal
deceit, telling the truth
becomes a revolutionary act.

- George Orwell
(1903 - 1950)



**WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH**

REBUILDING THE TOWER OF BABEL

- Man has once again begun to build a tower to heaven.
 - Transhumanism
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Cybernetics
 - Cloning
 - Medically Altering Gender
 - Deleting Aging from our DNA
 - English is the Language of Science



THE RELIABILITY OF PROPHECY

Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels.

Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

*I make known the end from the beginning,
from ancient times, what is still to come.*

I say, “My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”

— Isaiah 46:8-10

JOHN'S REVELATION

- We have been given a vision of the things to come.
- The OT prophets warned of these days, too.
- It behooves us to study the prophetic word so that we will ***Be Prepared.***



EAGER EXPECTATION

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of god to be revealed. — Romans 8:19

All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. — 1 John 3:3

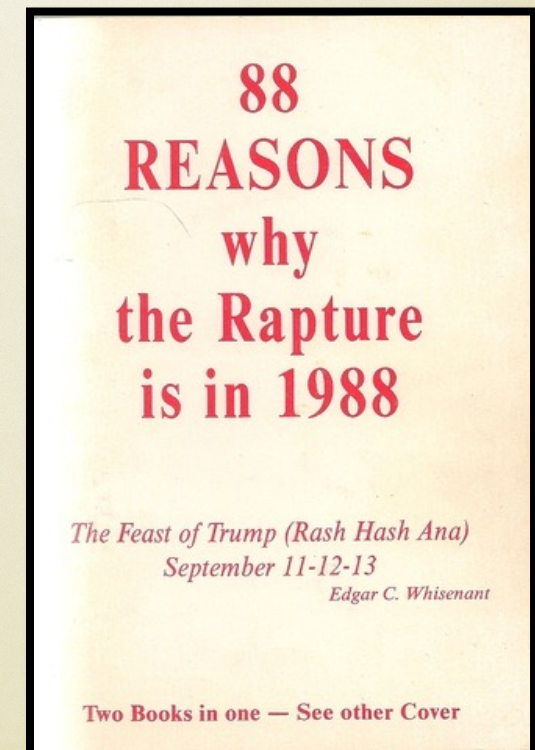
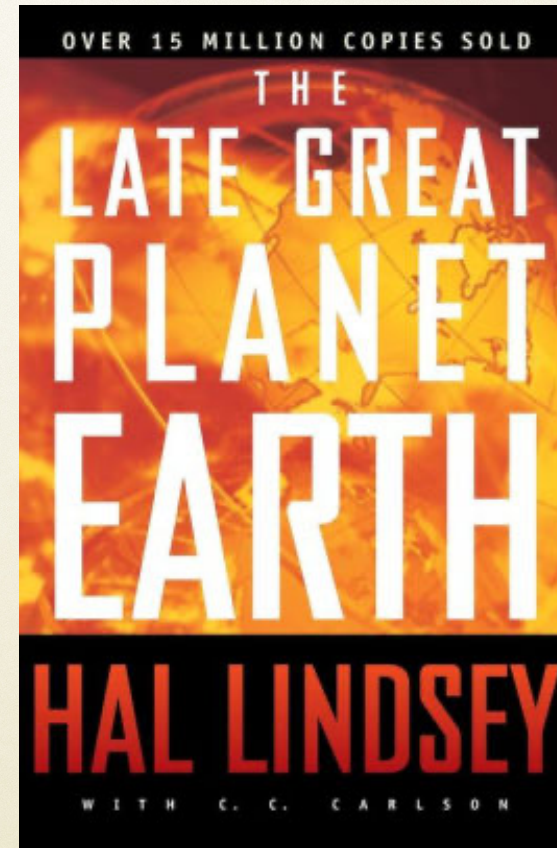
- Throughout its history, the true church has had a faithful, and eager expectation for the Lord's return...

*Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on
that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have
longed for his appearing. — 2 Timothy 4:8*

- We must cultivate a true longing for his appearing.
- The love of this present world is at war with that longing.
- Fear of the tribulations to come are at war with that longing.

DISAPPOINTED HOPE

- Because of such a great longing, many have tried to see the return of the Lord in their day.
- So far, those hopes have been disappointed.
- Could these present times be any different?



THIS TIME THINGS ARE DIFFERENT

- The return of Israel was...
like mountains first appearing on the horizon.
- It was easy to proclaim that the return of the Lord was finally in sight!
- But we were still a long way off.
- However, all the while, they have been growing on the horizon...



A VERY DETAILED SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Israel would return to the Land.
2. The **world will look like** the days of **Noah before the Flood** and like **Sodom and Gomorrah**.
3. Birth Pains (Wars & Rumors of Wars, Earthquakes, Famines & Pestilences, etc.)
4. The Nations Raging Against Israel & Jerusalem
5. Specific countries which will join the War of Gog & Magog
6. A special peace treaty between Israel and the Nations
7. The return of the Jewish temple and sacrificial service

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.”— Matthew 25:1-5

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’”— Matthew 25:6-9

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

— Matthew 25:10-13

LESSONS FROM THE TEN VIRGINS

1. EVERYONE fell asleep.
2. The ten virgins all looked the same.
3. Oil couldn't be shared, just like faith can't be shared.
4. At some point, it was TOO LATE to go buy more oil.
5. Half of them missed the Bridegroom.
6. Missing Him means... ?

WATCH THEREFORE

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. — Luke 12:35-37a

- What does it mean to keep watch?

MANY MISSED THE MESSIAH

- Despite Knowing the Prophecies...
- Few of Israel's religious leaders recognized the Messiah that they had studied about so diligently.



COULD WE ALSO MISS THE SIGNS OF HIS RETURN?

- There were no NEON SIGNS in the days of Jesus announcing His arrival.
- There were PROPHETIC SIGNS, but they were missed or forgotten about.

1. THE SHEPHERDS

2. WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

3. SIMEON AND ANNA IN THE
TEMPLE

4. JOHN THE BAPTIST

5. DANIEL'S SEVENTY SEVENS

6. THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

7. MESSIANIC PROPHECY

- **The Return of Christ in the clouds will not be missed, but for those who aren't ready, it will be too late.**

IT TAKES FAITH

- To recognize prophetic fulfillments.

Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. —

Romans 4:3

Without faith it is impossible to please God. — **Hebrews 11:6**

Prophecy is a sign for believers, not unbelievers. — **1 Corinthians 14:22**

Do not treat prophecies with contempt. — **1 Thessalonians 5:20**

THE FIG TREE

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. — Matthew 24:32-34



- Is the return of Israel the budding of the fig tree?
- And when is the end of “***this generation***”?

A GENERATION

*The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness **forty years** until all the men who were of military age (i.e., over 20 years old) when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. — Joshua 5:6*


*Our days may come to **seventy years, or eighty**, if our strength endures. — Psalm 90:10*

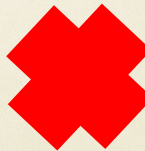
*Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be **a hundred and twenty years**.” — Genesis 6:3*

- ... 40 years? ... 60 years? ... 70-80 years? ... 120 years?

THE RETURN OF ISRAEL

Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children. — Isaiah 66:8

- May 14, 1948 
 - David Ben Gurion declared the birth of the state of Israel.

- June 7, 1967 
 - Israel retakes East Jerusalem in the Six Day War.



COUNTING YEARS

- ~~$1948 + 40 \text{ years} = 1988$~~

- ~~$1948 + 60 \text{ years} = 2008$~~

- $1948 + 70 (80) \text{ years} = 2018 - 2028$

- $1948 + 120 \text{ years} = 2068$

We are
now in
this
window.



ISRAEL REGATHERED IN THE LAST DAYS

*Then it will happen **on that day** that the Lord will again recover with His hand **the second time** the remnant of His people who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from **the islands of the sea**. — Isaiah 11:11*

- The first regathering was in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah when the temple was rebuilt (c. 516-409 B.C.)
- The phrase "a second time" is OUR TIME and "on that day" refers to the last days and the reign of the Messiah, which is COMING SOON.



GOD WILL DEFEND ISRAEL

“This is what the Lord God says: When I gather the house of Israel from the peoples where they are scattered and demonstrate My holiness through them in the sight of the nations, then they will live in their own land, which I gave to My servant Jacob. They will live there securely, build houses, and plant vineyards. They will live securely when I execute judgments against all their neighbors who treat them with contempt. Then they will know that I am Yahweh their God.”— Ezekiel 28:25-26

THE PROMISE TO REBUILD

*The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem;
He gathers Israel's exiled
people. — Psalm 147:2*



THEN THE NATIONS WILL KNOW

Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the Lord have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the Lord have spoken, and I will do it.’ — Ezekiel 36:36

Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.’” — Ezekiel 37:28

And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the Lord.’ — Ezekiel 38:23

WHAT IF WE'RE STILL HERE IN 2028?

- Long before 2028 it will become obvious if present realities do not continue in a prophetically prescribed path.
- Should we wait for the hurricane to nearly make landfall before we get ready?
- While my interpretations will have been shown to be wrong, the Bible will still be true...

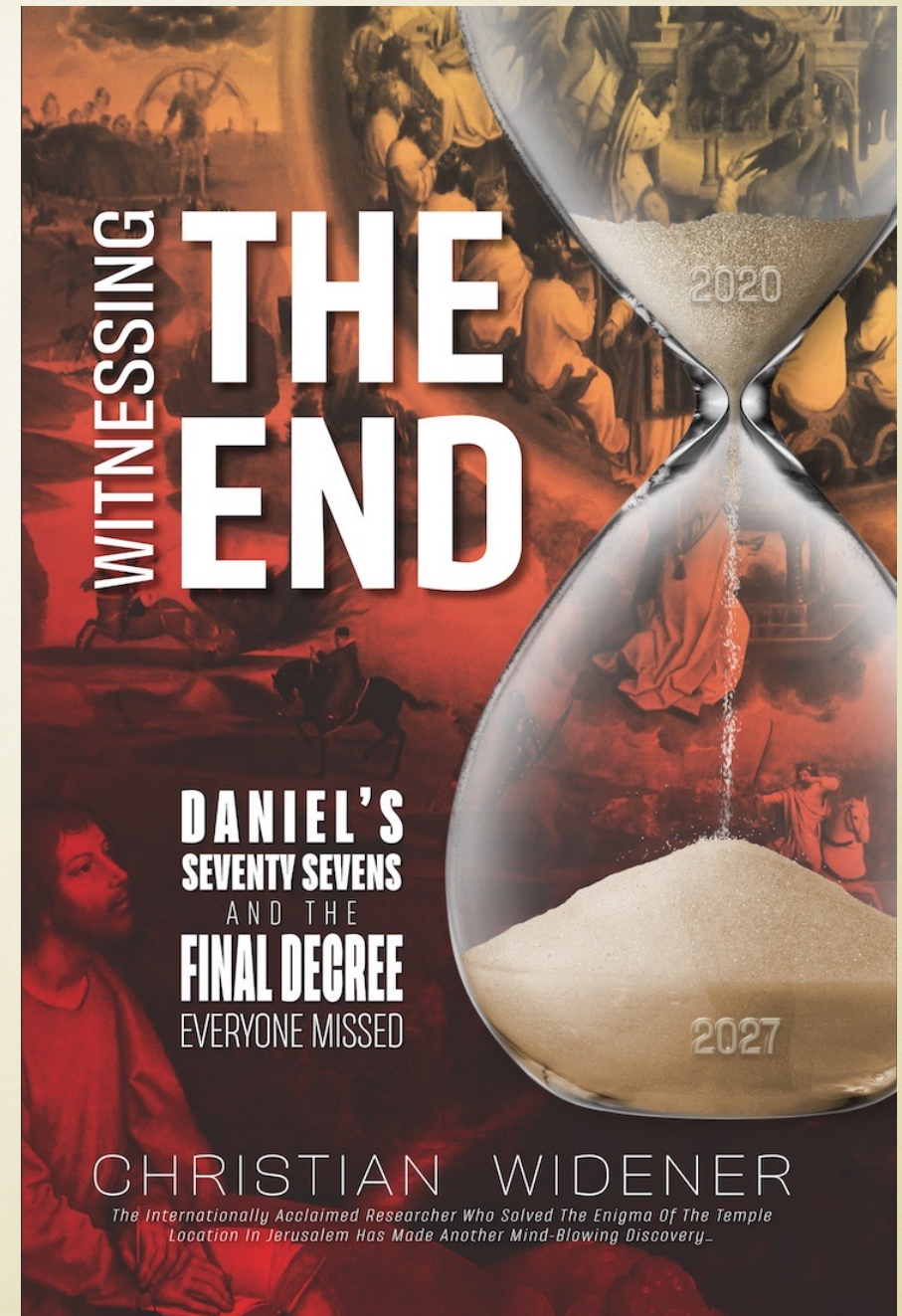


DON'T WORRY, HE'S GOT THIS!

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”— Matthew 6:25-26

WITNESSING THE END

- There's much more in chapter 4 of my book...
- There are literally dozens of verses promising and describing the return of Israel as a sign to Israel and the nations that the Last Days have arrived.
- **Also available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)**



TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND A BREAK

- Good Place to ask any QUESTIONS and for taking a short BREAK!
- In the Next Session we'll start looking at more very specific prophetic signs that these really are the last days...