

The image is a composite graphic with a dramatic, apocalyptic theme. At the top, a bright sun is partially obscured by dark, stormy clouds with several lightning bolts striking. Below this, the title "WATCHING THE SEASON" is written in large, bold, golden-yellow serif capital letters. Underneath the title, the subtitle "ISRAEL, THE CHURCH, & THE MARKERS OF THE END" is written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters. The background shows a cityscape at sunset or sunrise, with a prominent domed building in the center. The sky is filled with orange and yellow light, and there are faint, glowing lines and patterns in the lower left. In the foreground, an open book lies flat, with a bright light emanating from its center, suggesting a source of divine light or prophecy. The overall mood is one of intense, divine revelation and the end of an era.

WATCHING THE SEASON

ISRAEL, THE CHURCH, &
THE MARKERS OF THE END

WATCHING THE SEASON

- **Israel, the Church, and the Markers of the End**
- **Matthew 24:4**
- “Take heed that no man deceive you.”
- **πλανάω — planaō (plah-NAH-oh)**
Meaning: to lead astray, wander from truth, drift off the correct path.
- This word was used for travelers who **wandered off the road and became lost.**

- Every generation of Christians has wondered if they were living near the end.
- But our generation lives in a moment that looks remarkably similar to what the prophets described.
- prophecy can easily become imbalanced.
- Some believers ignore prophecy because it seems confusing.
- Others become obsessed with prophecy and chase headlines rather than Christ.
- But Jesus gives us the correct posture.
- **We watch the season, but we fix our eyes on the Savior.**

- **Luke 21:28**
- “When these things begin to come to pass, then look up.”
- **ἀνακύπτω — anakýptō (ah-nah-KOOP-toh)**
Meaning: to lift up, rise with expectation.
- **Hebrews 12:2**
- “Looking unto Jesus.”
- **ἀφοράω — aphoraō (af-or-AH-oh)**
Meaning: to fix one's gaze away from everything else.
- Jesus never told believers to stare at chaos.
- He told them to **look up**.
- Prophecy should produce **hope**, not panic.

What is Prophecy?

- Church, prophecy was never meant to turn believers into professional news analysts.
- It was meant to keep us spiritually awake.
- The danger in prophecy teaching is that people can become fascinated with darkness.
- They know the wars, the alliances, the theories, the predictions.
- But they forget the central figure of prophecy is **Jesus Christ**.

5 Sections

- 5 Sections or “MARKERS”
- Think of signposts that are heading or leading to a destination.
- **SECTION 1**
- THE FIRST MARKER: DECEPTION
- **SECTION 2**
- ISRAEL REMAINS THE PROPHETIC CENTER
- **SECTION 3**
- THE TWO RINGS AROUND ISRAEL
- **SECTION 4**
- THE DAMASCUS WATCHPOINT
- **SECTION 5**
- FIX YOUR EYES ON THE LORD

THE FIRST MARKER: DECEPTION

- Matthew 24:4
- “Take heed that no man deceive you.”
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3 — “that day will not come unless the falling away comes first.”
- ἀποστασία — apostasia (ah-pos-tah-SEE-ah)
Meaning: departure from truth.
- 1 Timothy 4:1 — “some will depart from the faith giving heed to deceiving spirits.”
- 2 Timothy 4:3–4 — “they will not endure sound doctrine.”
- 1 John 2:18 — “many antichrists have come.”

Remember the context in verse 24

- The disciples asked Jesus about **signs of the end**.
- Jesus first warned about **deception**.
- Because if believers are deceived, they will misinterpret **every other sign**.
- Not instantly.
- But gradually.
- The danger is not only darkness outside the church.
- It is corruption **inside the church**.

A STRONG BIBLICAL PATTERN

- People often do something like this:
- See a war or crisis
- Assign prophetic certainty too quickly
- Identify a leader as “the Antichrist”
- Stir fear
- Later prove false

Repeated false alarms can:

- harden hearts
- create mockery
- weaken trust in prophecy
- distract from holiness
- **Matthew 24:23** — “If anyone says, ‘Here is the Christ,’ do not believe it.”
- **2 Peter 3:3–4** — “scoffers will come in the last days.”
- **1 Thessalonians 5:21** — “test all things; hold fast what is good.”

THE DANGER OF PROPHECY HYPE

- **People Become Exhausted**
- Constant alarm eventually produces fatigue.
- After enough false alarms people think:
- “None of this is real.”

- **Hype Gets Confused With Truth**
- Faith built on dramatic predictions instead of Scripture becomes unstable.

- **Cynicism Develops**
- Satan does not always need people to believe lies forever.
- Sometimes he just needs people to stop believing.

- Church, the danger is not just misinformation or lack of.
- The danger is losing the **love of truth**.
- When believers chase excitement instead of Scripture, they slowly lose the appetite for real Bible study.
- **Amos 8:11–12:**
- “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord GOD,
“That I will send a famine on the land,
Not a famine of bread,
Nor a thirst for water,
But of hearing the words of the LORD.
They shall wander from sea to sea,
And from north to east;
They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD,
But shall not find it.”
- **What kind of famine is this?**
- It is not a famine of **information**.
It is a famine of **hearing from God**.

When teaching disappears, people weaken

- Hosea 4:6
- “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...”
- God rebukes shepherds who do not feed the flock
- Ezekiel 34:2–3, 8 speaks against shepherds who feed themselves and not the sheep.
- When sheep are not fed truth, they become easy prey for:
 - deception
 - hype
 - false prophecy
 - spiritual confusion

HOW WE BATTLE DECEPTION

- **Anchor Yourself in Scripture**

- Matthew 22:29 — “you are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures.”
- Psalm 119:105 — “your word is a lamp to my feet.”
- Matthew 4:4 — “man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God.”

- **Test Everything**

- 1 John 4:1 — “test the spirits whether they are from God.”
- δοκιμάζω — dokimazō (doh-kee-MAD-zoh)
Meaning: examine carefully.
- Acts 17:11 — “they searched the Scriptures daily.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21 — “test all things.”

- **Know God's Character**

- Numbers 23:19 — “God is not a man that He should lie.”
- Genesis 3:1 — “has God indeed said?”
- James 1:17 — “with whom there is no variation.”

- **Walk in the Spirit**

- John 16:13 — “the Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth.”
- ὁδηγέω — hodēgeō (hoh-day-GEH-oh)
Meaning: guide along the road.

- **Stay in the Light**

- John 3:19 — “men loved darkness rather than light.”
- 1 John 1:7 — “if we walk in the light.”

- **Be Humble**

- 1 Corinthians 10:12 — “let him who thinks he stands take heed.”
- James 4:6 — “God resists the proud.”

- **Stay Connected to the Body**

- Proverbs 11:14 — “in the multitude of counselors there is safety.”
- Ephesians 4:11–14 — “so we are no longer tossed by every wind of doctrine.”

Marker 2

ISRAEL REMAINS THE PROPHETIC CENTER

- Zechariah 12:3 — “Jerusalem will become a burdensome stone to all nations.”
- Jerusalem will become a heavy stone / load-bearing stone that injures those who try to lift or move it.
- If you want to understand prophecy, watch Jerusalem.
- Not because every headline is fulfillment.
- But because God attached His covenant purposes to that city.

TWO RINGS OF PROPHETIC CONFLICT AROUND ISRAEL

Inner Ring: Psalm 83 Neighbors | Outer Ring: Ezekiel 38 Coalition

Marker 3 THE TWO RINGS AROUND ISRAEL

- Prophetic conflicts around Israel appear in **two geographic rings**



Ring 1 | Psalm 83 — Surrounding Nations

Edom • Ishmaelites • Moab • Hagrites • Gebal • Ammon
Tyre • Philistia • Tyre

Ring 2 | Ezekiel 38 — Northern

• Magog • Meshech • Tubal • Gomer
• Persia • Cush • Put

Ring 1 – Immediate Neighbors

- Psalm 83:4 — “come let us cut them off from being a nation.”
- When Psalm 83 is placed on a map, the nations listed form a ring around Israel.
- Ancient names
- Edom
- Moab
- Ammon
- Philistia
- Tyre
- Sidon
- Assur
- Modern regions
- Jordan
- Gaza
- Lebanon
- Syria
- Iraq

Ring 2 — Regional Powers

- Jeremiah 49:34 — “the word of the Lord against Elam.”
- Hebrew
עֵלָם — Elam (AY-lahm)
- Modern Iran.
- Ezekiel 38:5 — “Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them.”

Ring 2 – The Northern Coalition

Name in Ezekiel	General historical region most scholars connect
Magog	north of Israel (often associated with Anatolia / steppe regions)
Rosh	debated
Meshech	Anatolia (modern Turkey region)
Tubal	Anatolia
Persia	Iran
Cush	Sudan/Ethiopia region
Put	Libya / North Africa
Gomer	Anatolia / possibly Cimmerian peoples
Beth-Togarmah	Armenia / eastern Turkey

SECTION 4

THE DAMASCUS WATCHPOINT

- Isaiah 17:1 — “Damascus will cease from being a city.”
- Damascus is one of the oldest cities in the world.
- Yet Isaiah says it will become ruins.
- No city stands outside God’s authority.
- **The historical setting**
- In Isaiah’s time (around 700 BC), Syria (Damascus) and Israel formed an alliance against Judah.
- Later, the **Assyrian Empire destroyed Damascus in 732 BC.**
- This event is recorded in **2 Kings 16:9**:
- “The king of Assyria marched up against Damascus and took it, carrying its people captive to Kir and putting Rezin to death.”
- Because Damascus was conquered and devastated, some believe **Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled then.**
- However, there is a problem with that interpretation.

- Damascus was **not permanently destroyed**. It continued to exist as a city afterward.
- And today it is still one of the **oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world**.
- So some people feel that event **does not fully match the prophecy**.
- BUT Isaiah 17 also links the fall of Damascus with the **weakening of Israel (Ephraim)**.
- So the prophecy is not only about Damascus—it is about **both Syria and the northern kingdom of Israel losing power together**.(Isa 7:1-2)
- The connection is:
- **Syria (Damascus)**
- **and northern Israel (Ephraim)**
are both being brought low in the same prophecy.
- Damascus and Ephraim are linked in Isaiah 17 because they were linked politically in Isaiah 7.

Marker 5

FIX YOUR EYES ON THE LORD

- Hebrews 12:2 — “looking unto Jesus.”
- ἀφοράω — aphoraō (af-or-AH-oh)
Meaning: fix your gaze.
- It means to deliberately turn your eyes away from something in order to concentrate on something greater.
- Colossians 3:2 — “set your mind on things above.”
- Luke 21:28 — “look up and lift your heads.”
- Titus 2:13 — “Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of Jesus Christ.”

Verses the World Should Watch

- Zechariah 12:3 — Jerusalem burdensome
- Psalm 83:4 — Trying to erase Israel
- Isaiah 17:1 — Damascus judged
- Ezekiel 38:5 — Persia (Iran) in coalition
- Jeremiah 49:34-39 — Elam prophecy

Verses the Church Should Focus On

- Matthew 24:4 — Beware deception
Hebrews 12:2 — Fix eyes on Jesus
Titus 2:13 — Look for His appearing
1 Thessalonians 5:6 — Stay spiritually awake
- 2 Thessalonians 2:15 — “Therefore, brethren, stand fast.”
- στήκω — stēkō (STAY-koh)
Meaning: *to stand firm, hold your ground, remain unmoved.*
- Church, one of the most overlooked commands in prophecy teaching is this one:
- **Stand fast.** hold your ground, remain steady, and refuse to be moved.

Verses Concerning Israel

- Genesis 12:3 — covenant blessing
- Establishes that Israel is not just another nation in Scripture, but a people bound to God by covenant promise
- Romans 11:25 — partial hardening
- Israel's present blindness is **partial** and **temporary**, not total and not final.
- Ezekiel 37:21 — regathering (more than just politics, restoration unto God)
- Zechariah 12:3 — Jerusalem central
- Jerusalem becomes the focal point of international pressure and controversy. The verse presents the city as a **burdensome stone**

In Closing

- Watchfulness and sobriety
- The believer is to stay awake instead of being careless.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:6 — “let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.”
 - 1 Peter 4:7 — “the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”
 - Mark 13:33 — “Take ye heed, watch and pray.”
- Jesus did not teach prophecy so believers would become curious. He taught it so they would become alert.

- The answer to deception is often not “figure out more details,” but stand fast.
- BY Holiness and separation
- These keep prophecy from becoming mental only.
- 1 John 3:2–3 — “every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself.”
- 2 Peter 3:11–12 — “what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”
- Romans 13:11–14 — “now it is high time to awake out of sleep.”
- Titus 2:11–13 — grace teaches us to live soberly, righteously, godly, while looking for His appearing.

- MAIN VERSES
- Matthew 24:4 — discernment
- Hebrews 12:2 — fixation on Christ
- 1 Thessalonians 5:6 — spiritual wakefulness
- 2 Thessalonians 2:15 — “Therefore, brethren, stand fast.”
- Guard your mind, fix your eyes, stay awake and STAND.
- One last thing
- Enoch He lived in a generation moving toward corruption and judgment, but his life was marked by **communion**, not panic.
- Not merely to study signs.
Not merely to discuss prophecy.
Not merely to identify nations.
- But we must **walk with God**.



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