

Global System Decline and What it Means to This Generation

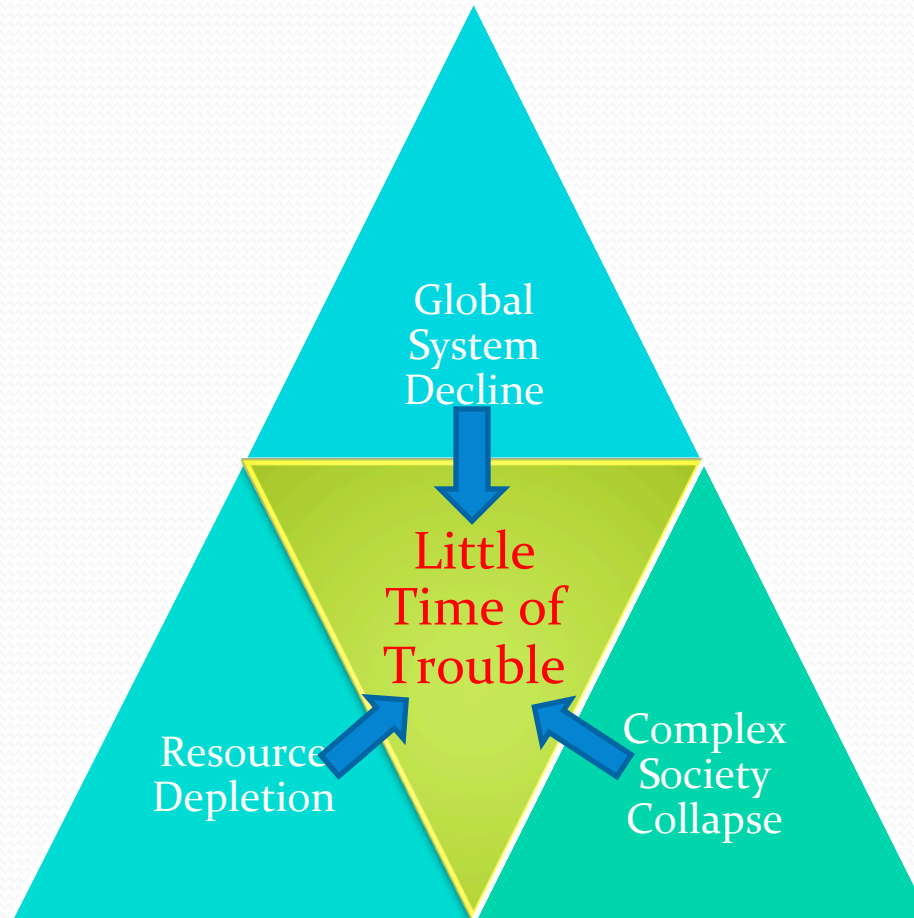
-Session Three-

A Presentation by Scott Christiansen

Sabbath Afternoon, 13 July 2013

Advent Hope Group, Loma Linda, California

Multiple Forces Are Driving End-Time Events



We'll Be Talking About Human Society

- Decline of global man-made systems (oil and money).
- Resource shortages and their impact on human society.
- The fragility of complex societies and their tendency to wage war.
- The destruction of false gods through the unraveling of complex society – parallels to the plagues on ancient Egypt.

Man-Made Global Systems – Oil and Money



Oil Has Given Man More Power Than He Has Ever Had



We Have Built Complex Societies and Pushed God Aside

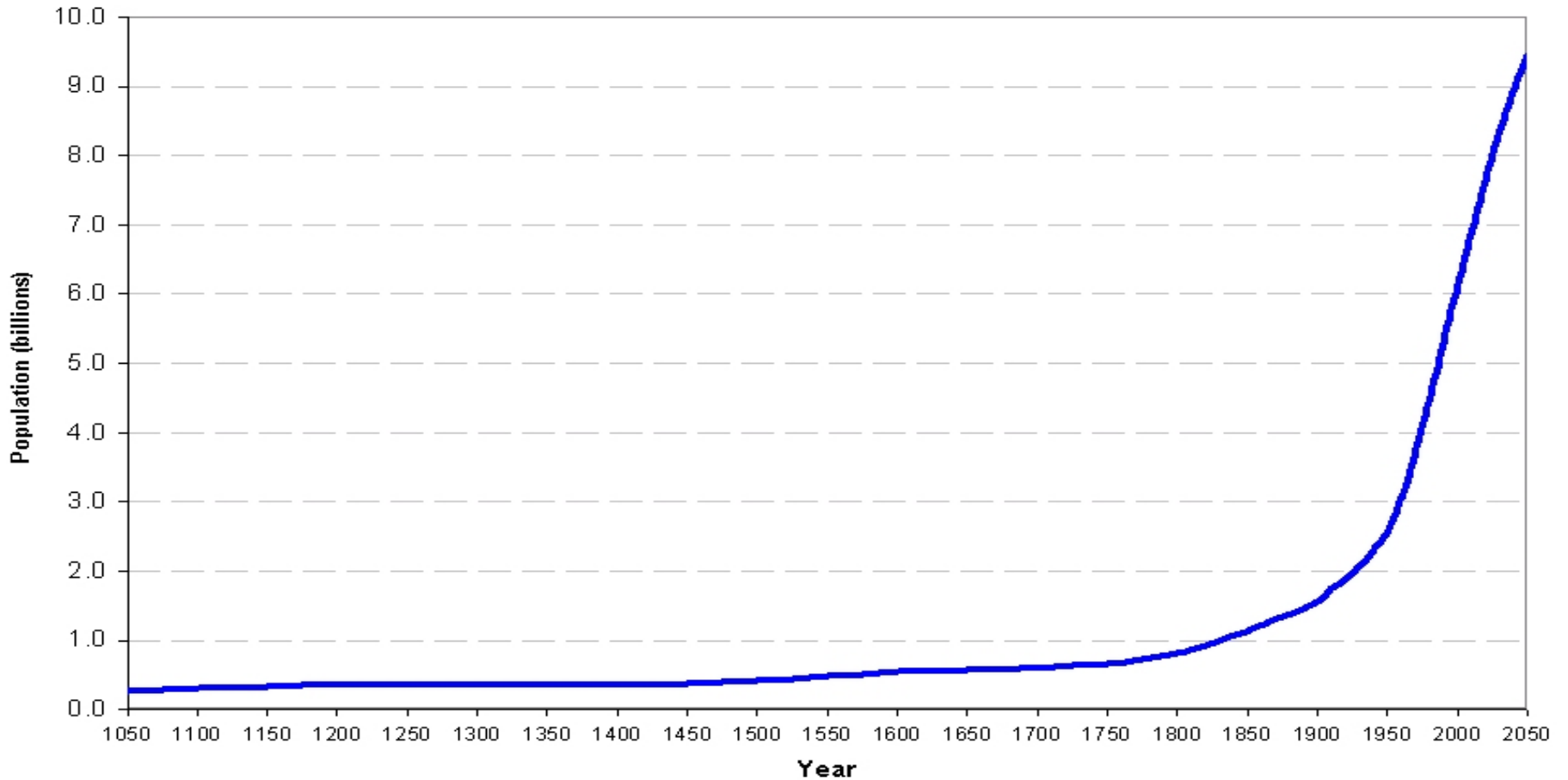


Man Has Used Oil-Derived Power to Pursue the Desires of His Heart



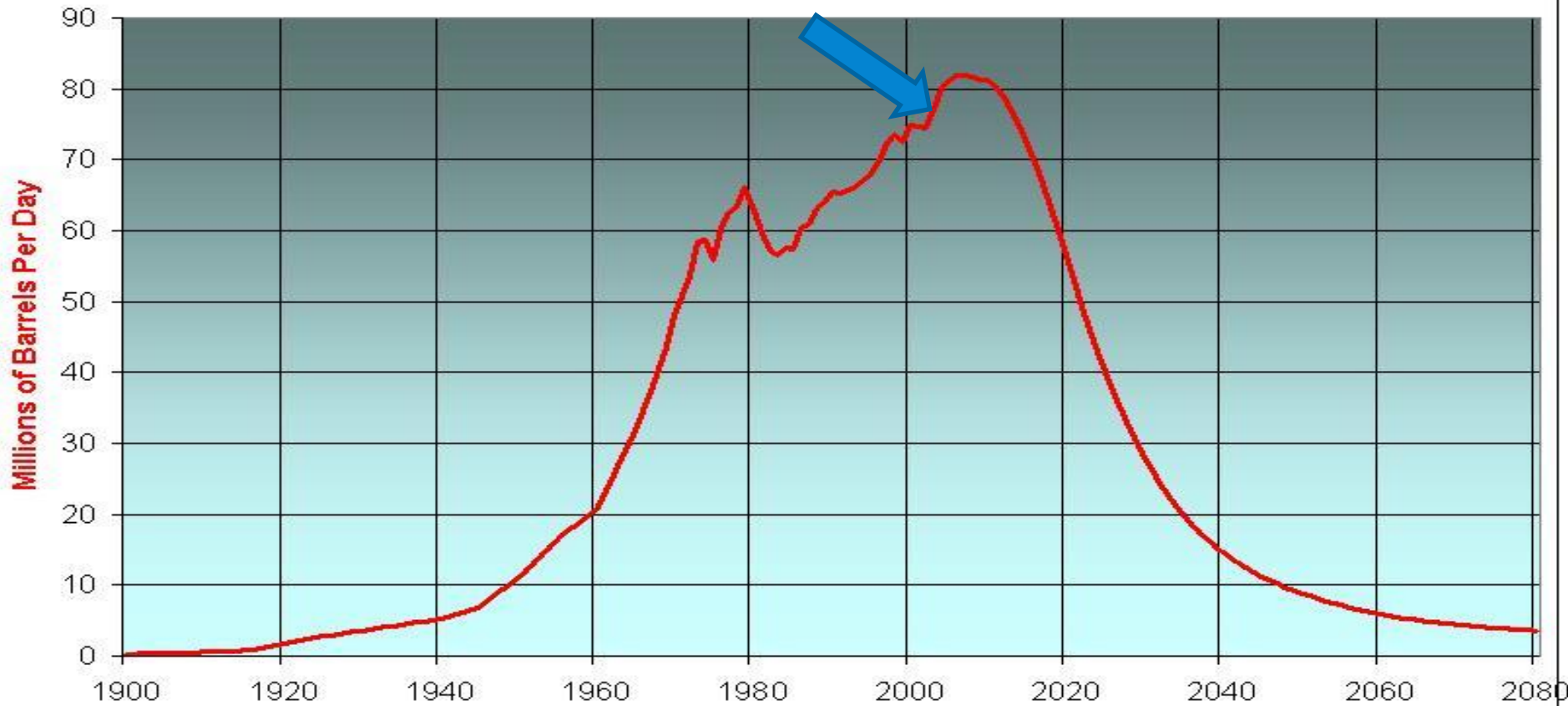
7 Billion People

World Population and Growth Rate



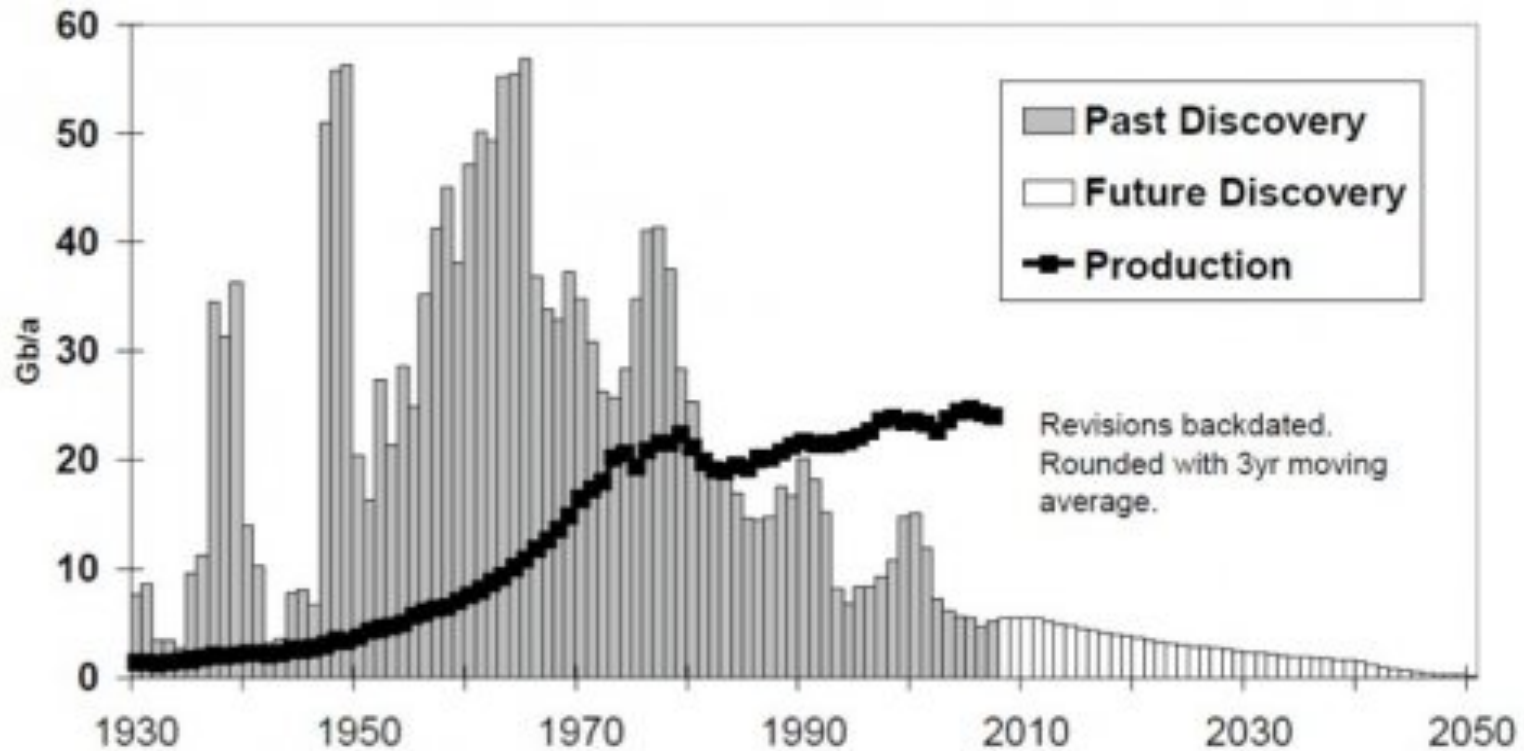
Every Society on Earth is Dependent on Oil, and is Therefore Fragile

World Oil Production 1900-2080



Long Term, We Are Using More Oil Than We Are Finding

The Growing Gap – Regular Conventional Oil



Note: "Regular Conventional Oil" excludes heavy oil (tar sands, oil shale, etc.), deepwater oil, polar oil, NGLs and refinery gain.

Source: Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas

Five Year Oil-price Chart



Many Impacts of Global System Decline Threaten Oil Delivery



Nations are Competing for Oil



Critical Commodities are Running Out



No Substitute



Nations *Must* Have:

- Phosphate Rock
- Metals/Minerals/Rare Earth Metals
- Energy Supplies (oil and gas)
- Water
- Land/Sea Food

Nations Are Very Willing to Go to War for Their Critical Supplies



Man's Global Financial System is Fully Reliant on Failing Global Systems



What God Made and What Man Made are Linked Together

- The health of every economy around the world is dependent upon the health of the global systems God created to sustain life on earth.
- As global systems become more unstable, financial systems become more unstable.

Around the World, Financial Systems are Unsound

- No major country or group of countries in the world today has a sound financial system:
- The US is deep in debt and has a stalled economy
- The EU continues to teeter on the brink
- China is dealing with major corruption and under-reported losses
- Japan is deep in debt and has a stagnant economy

The Global Financial System is Fully Interlinked

- Man's global financial system is so interlinked that if there is a great loss or collapse in one place, all countries will be significantly impacted.
- The interlinked system was designed to be strong and shock-proof, but instead it is fragile.
- People who put their faith in money will be very distraught in the days ahead.

There is No “Extra” Money to Pay for Disasters or “Adaptation”



Complex Society = Fragility

- A society is “complex” when some or all members are specialists.
- Nurses, doctors, lawyers, teachers, mechanics, farmers, carpenters, artists, soldiers, etc., are all specialists.
- When a society has specialists, it tends to create more and more specialists, who in turn require more and more resources.
- Specialists solve problems with technology.

Global Complex Society = Global Risk of Collapse

- For the first time in post-flood history, we have an integrated, global, complex society - throughout history, complex societies have collapsed.
- According to Tainter, the root cause of the collapse of complex societies is a consistent over-investment into complexity in an environment of declining marginal returns.
- Our complex society is in the advanced stages of resource depletion and spiraling complexity.

A Complex Society Will Go to War Before it Accepts Collapse



Large Risks, Numerous Triggers

- Complex societies follow an arc of growth, maturation, decline, and collapse.
- Our global complex society seems to be in the “decline” phase, awaiting stresses and triggers that signal the beginning of the collapse phase.
- There are an abundance of triggers visible now, including resource shortages, financial stresses and collapses, disasters, and the continued decline of the earth’s supporting systems.

A Global Ponzi Scheme

- Our global complex society is something like a Ponzi scheme – continuous growth and new resources are required to sustain the whole affair. Without these steady inflow of new resources, the risk of collapse increases greatly.
- When nations reverse their development, the whole global Ponzi scheme grows weaker.
- Examples of such nations include Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Mali, Syria, Madagascar, Haiti, etc.

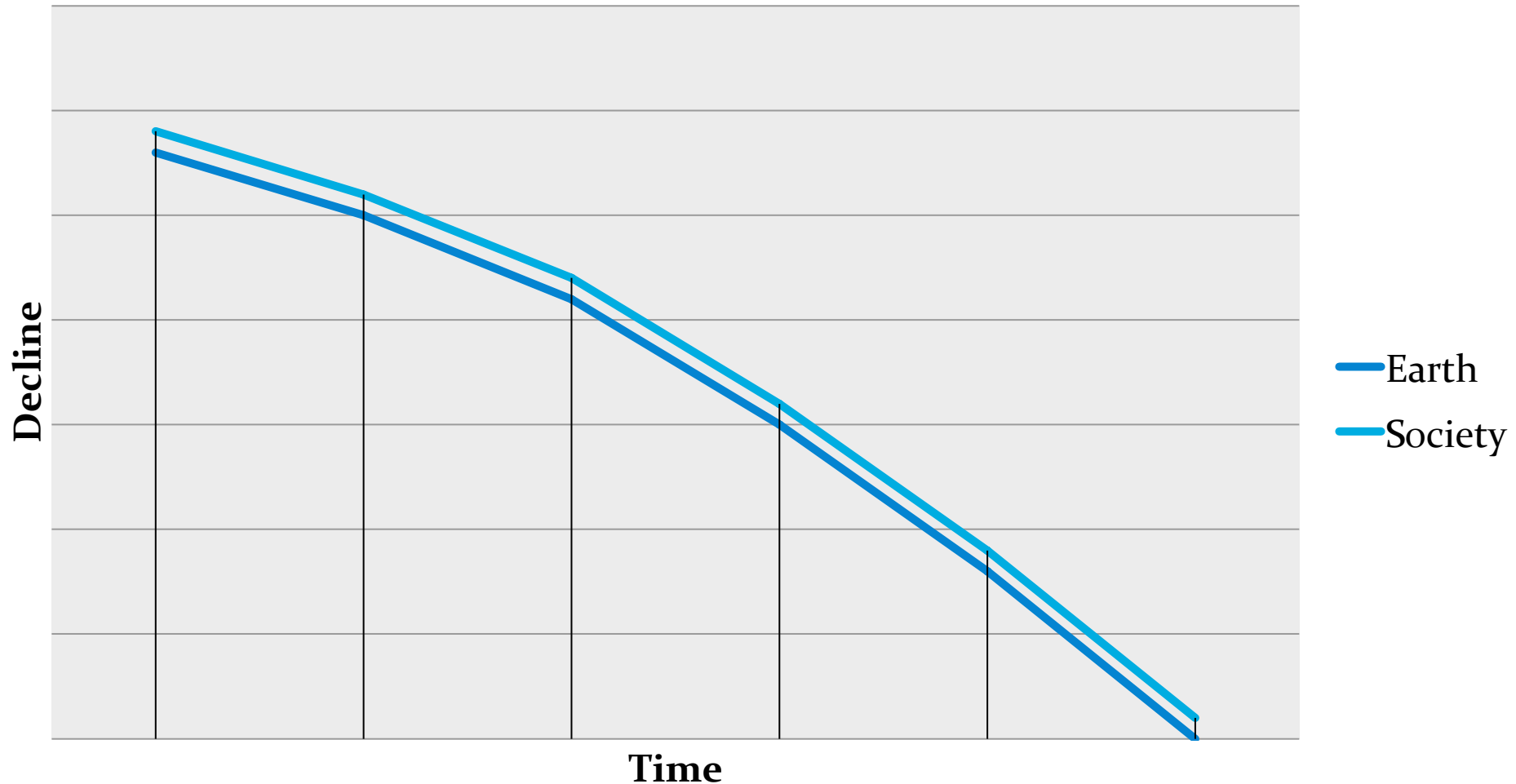
But Won't Technology Save Us?

- Every complex society relies on technology.
- Every previous complex society has collapsed as a result of this strategy.
- Our global complex society is in a pre-collapse state

If the Earth Were a Plane....



Physical Earth & Human Society: Locked in an Accelerating Decline



Normalcy Bias Hinders Us

- “Normalcy bias” is a state of mind that many people enter when faced with a large disaster. People tell themselves that since disaster X has not previously happened, it will not now happen. When people do finally recognize the disaster, they panic.
- The pattern: Denial, accompanied by a total lack of preparation, followed by panic and anger.

We Keep Looking for One Big Event

2012

A golden Aztec calendar stone, also known as the Sun Stone, is the background of the lower half of the image. The stone is intricately carved with various symbols, including a central face with a wide-open mouth. The year '2012' is overlaid in large, white, 3D-style numerals across the center of the stone. The background behind the stone is a fiery, orange and yellow glow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

In Reality, Each Small Event Matters



The Welder's Apron Model



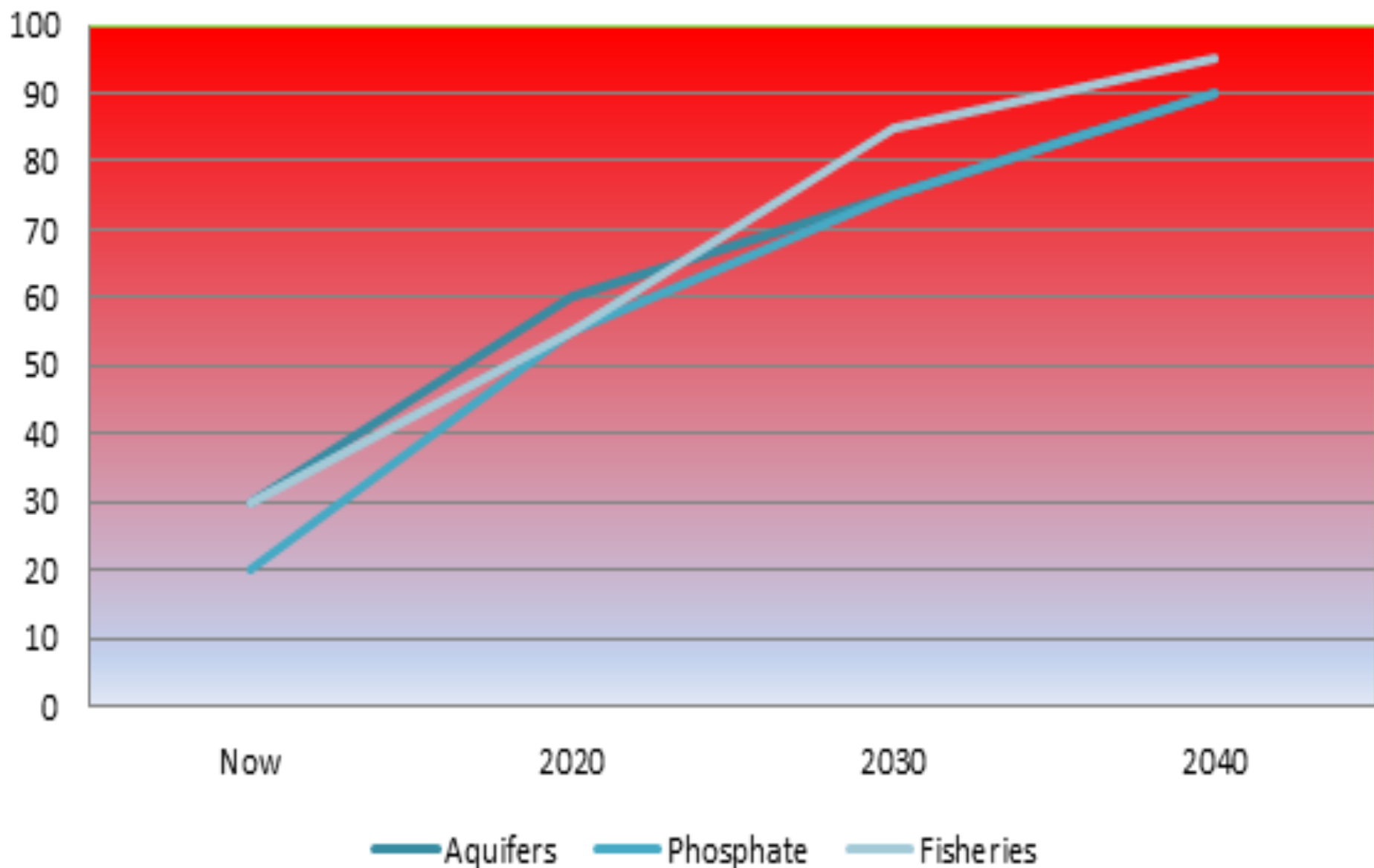
Isaiah 51:6

“For the heavens will vanish away like smoke,
The earth will grow old like a garment,
And those who dwell in it will die in like
manner; But My salvation will be forever,
And My righteousness will not be abolished.”

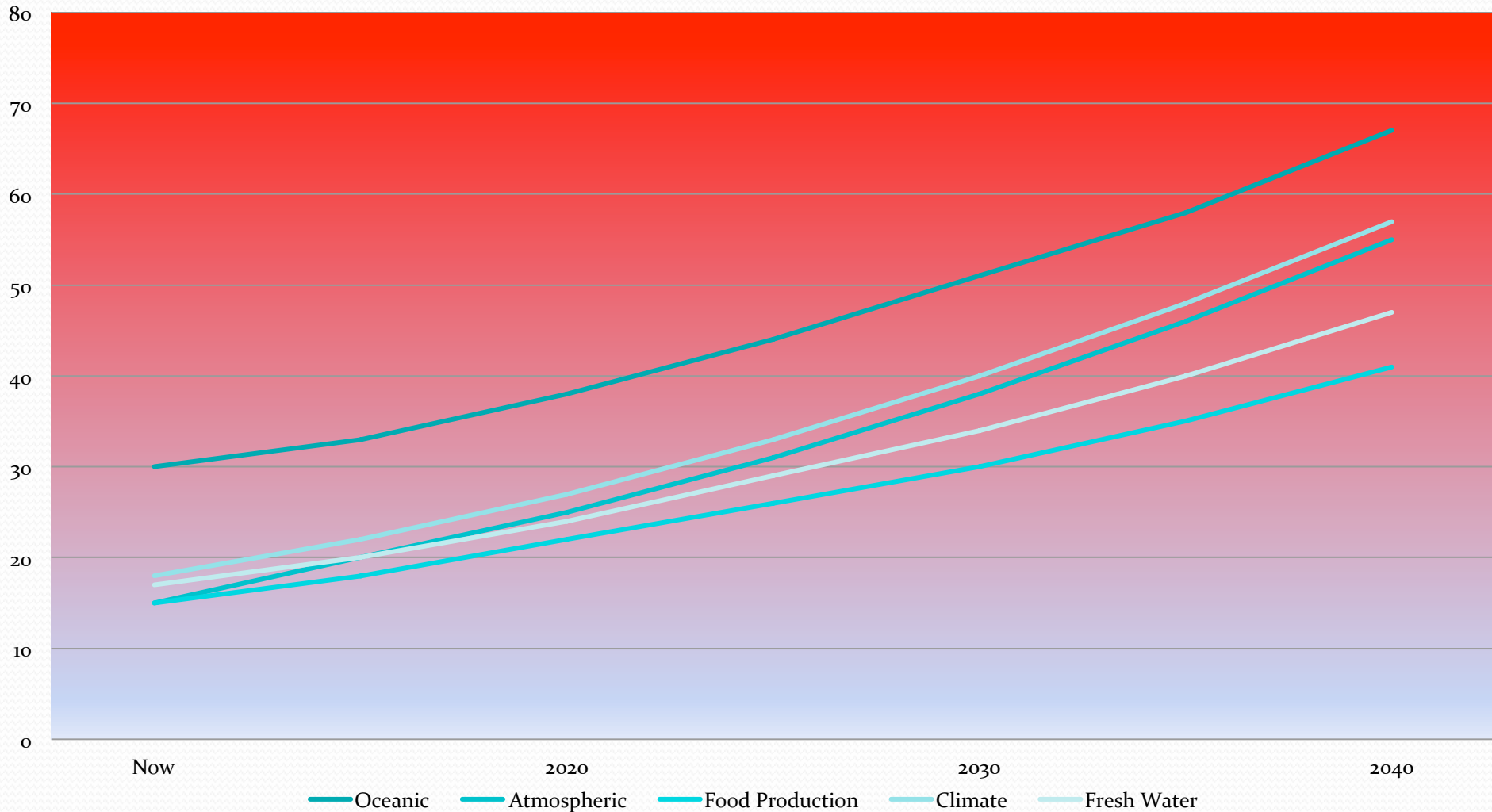
When Will It Get Bad?



Percentage of Resource Depletion



Degree of Global System Degradation



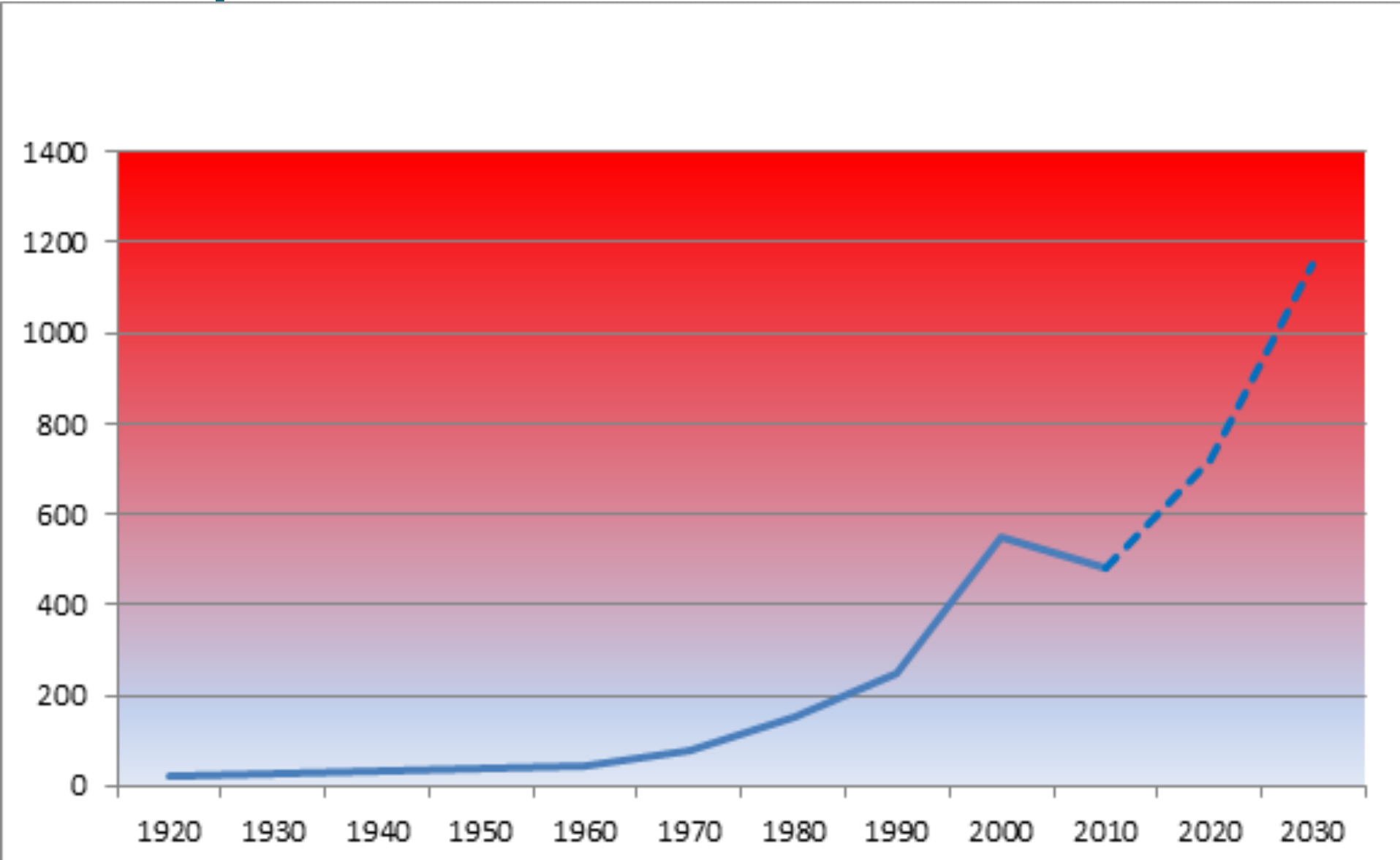
Will We See Global Devastation?

- More accurately, will we see global devastation before the close of probation?
No.
- We will see very, very significant impacts that will strongly disrupt societies around the world. But we will not see global devastation before the close of probation, thus fulfilling Matthew 24:37-39.
- The US, however, will see unprecedented disasters.

Increased Disasters Precede the National Sunday Law

Men in responsible positions will not only ignore and despise the Sabbath themselves, but from the sacred desk will urge upon the people the observance of the first day of the week, pleading traditions and custom in behalf of this man-made institution. They will point to calamities on land and sea—to the storms of wind, the floods, the earthquakes, the destruction by fire – as judgments indicating God's displeasure because Sunday is not sacredly observed. These calamities will increase more and more, one disaster will follow close upon the heels of another; and those who make void the law of God will point to the few who are keeping the Sabbath of the fourth commandment as the ones who are bringing wrath upon the world. (*The Southern Watchman*, June 28, 1904)

Reported Disasters Per Year

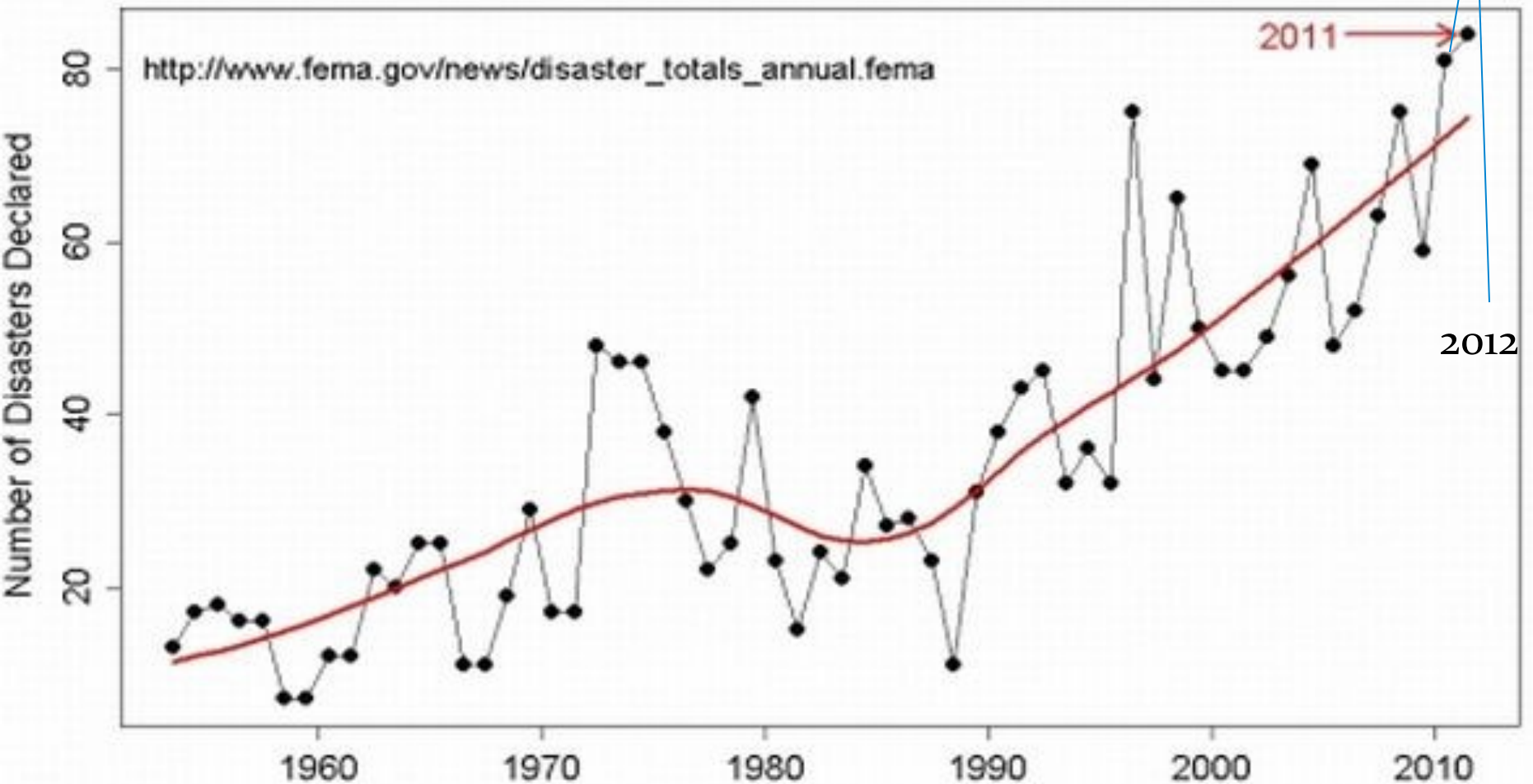


We Forget Quickly

- A disaster makes an impression on the national/world conscious for about three weeks – longer if the disaster is truly spectacular.
- Thus, disasters in the US will need to be approximately triple from where they are now in order to make a constant impression on society and underpin the call for a Sunday law.

FEMA Chart – US Disasters

FEMA



We are Rapidly Approaching the Time of Little Trouble

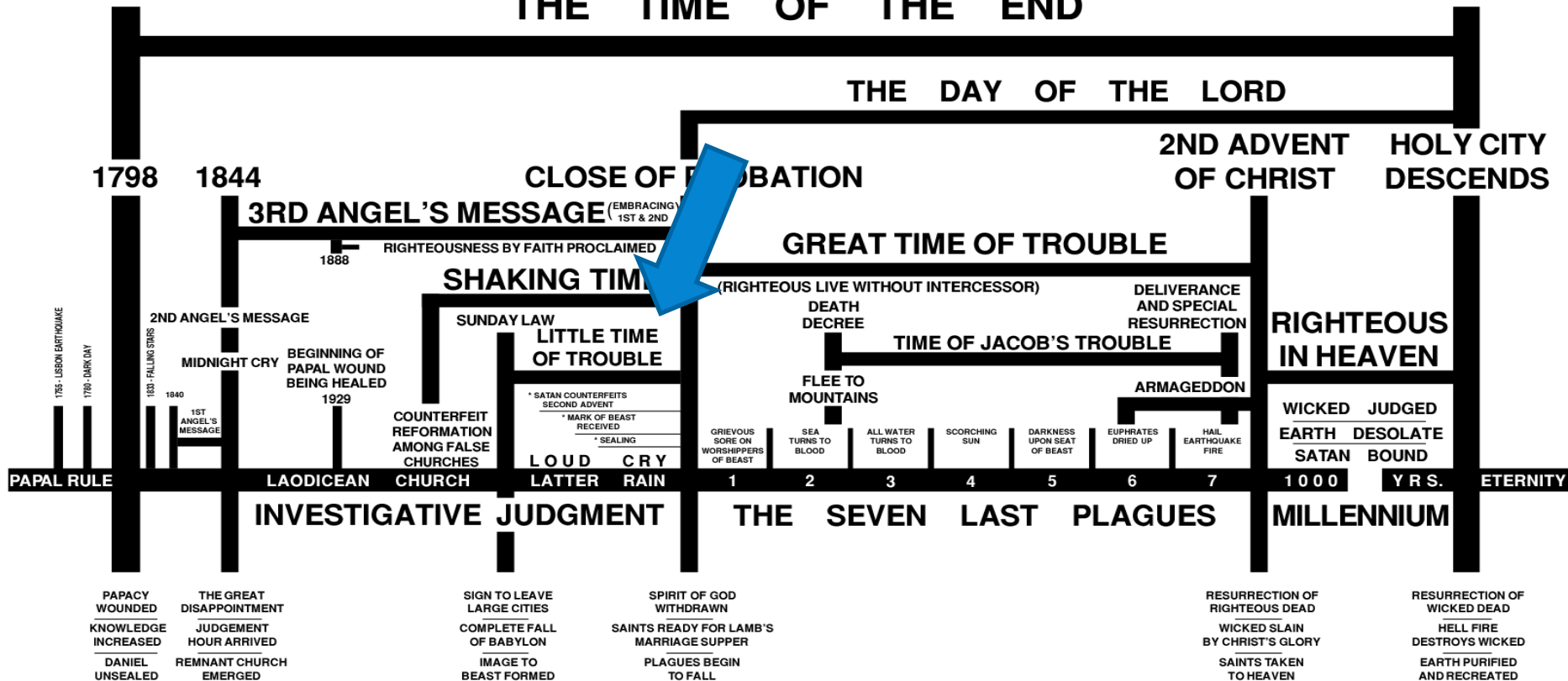
CHRONOLOGY OF LAST DAY EVENTS

(Note: Length of lines on chart are not proportionate to actual time involved.)

“Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

Habakkuk 2:2,3

THE TIME OF THE END



Christ's Prophecy in Matthew 24:6-8 is Already Fulfilled in Some Nations

Haiti, Syria, Mali, Chad, Madagascar,
Sudan, Libya, Pakistan, Equatorial Guinea,
Eritrea, North Korea, Egypt, Libya,
Somalia, Western Sahara, South Ossetia
(Georgia)

Even End-Time Events Show God is Merciful

- God is “tarrying” as long as He can, adding every soul possible to His kingdom and giving mankind the maximum opportunity to claim salvation.
- To understand how even end-time events can be merciful, we need to go back to Exodus for context.

Egyptian Plagues and End-time Events – Striking Parallels



The Plagues Systematically Crushed and Humiliated Egyptian gods



In the Process, God Defined and Differentiated Himself

- The Egyptians had gods for a wide variety of areas and specialties.
- God systematically destroyed each god, showing that He is God of everything, that He is all-powerful.
- God also showed that He keeps His word and follows through on what He says He will do.

God Turned gods Into Curses...



God Turned gods Into Curses



We Have Made gods for Ourselves



Our gods Will Become Our Curse



Our gods Will Become Our Curse



Our gods Will Be Destroyed



The Bridegroom Has Tarried



The Tarrying Time is Almost Over

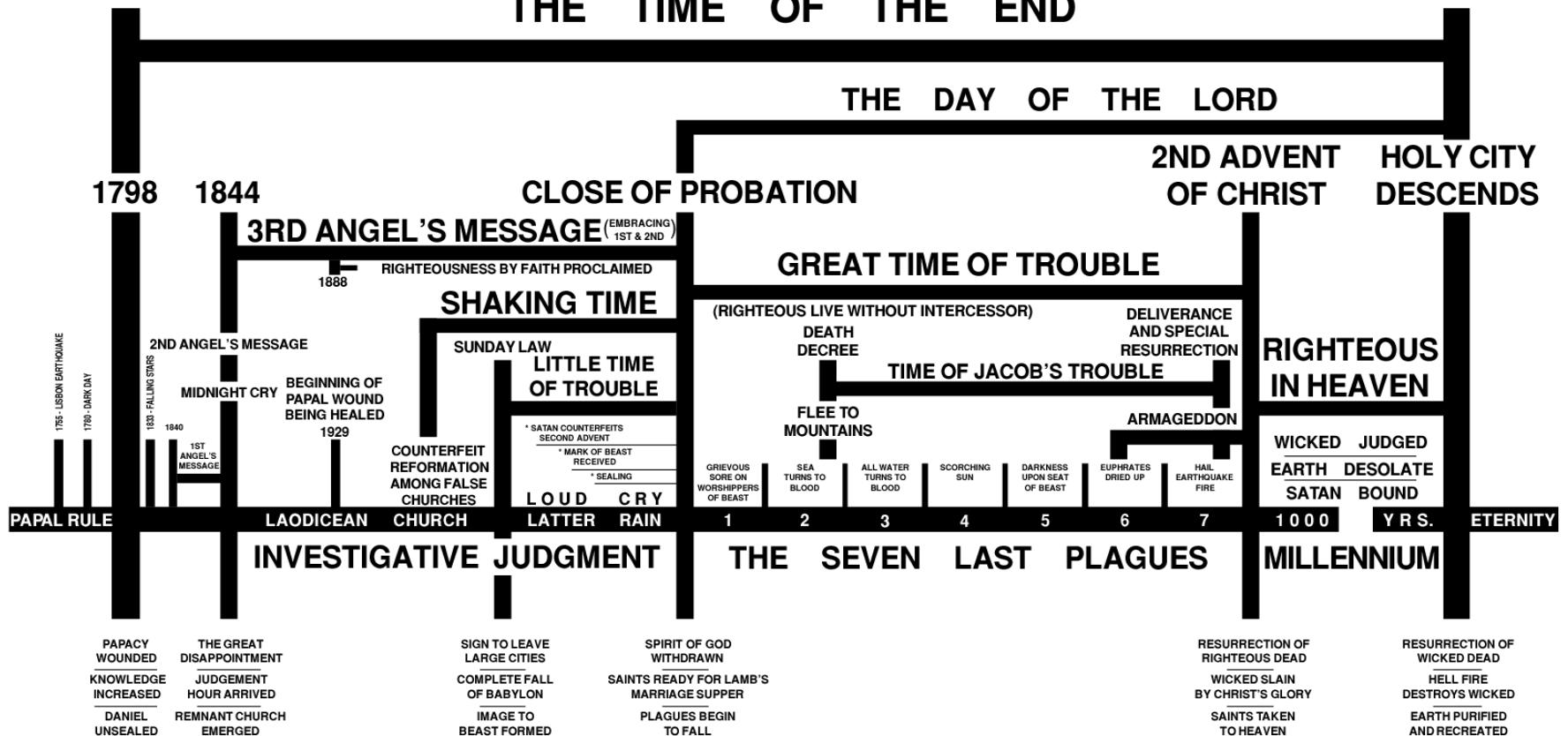
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THE TIME OF THE END



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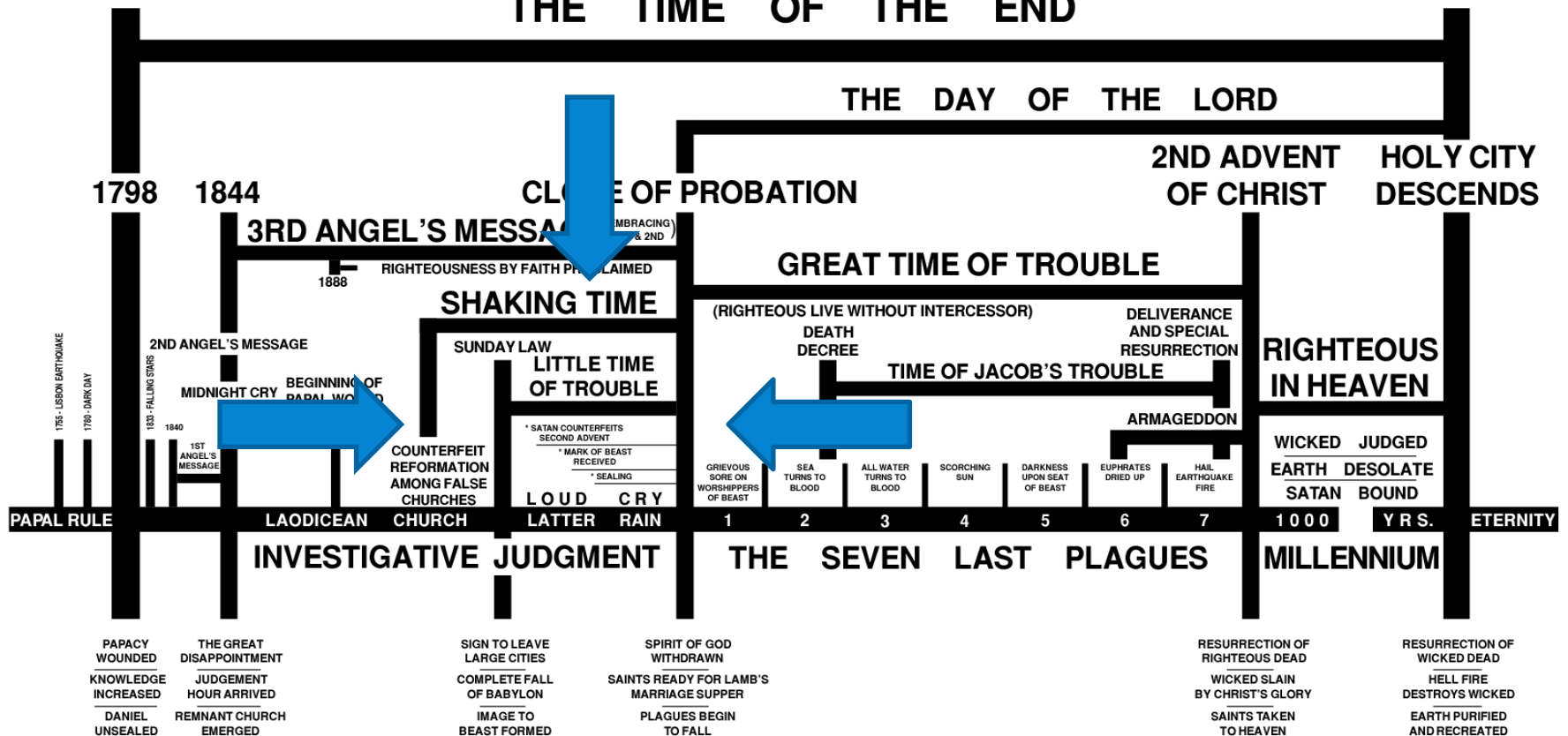
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THE TIME OF THE END



“And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars:”



“See that ye be not troubled, for these things must come to pass:”



“But the end is not yet.”



“Nation shall rise against nation
and kingdom against kingdom:”



“And there shall be famines,”



“Pestilences,”



“And earthquakes in diverse places.”



With All That is Coming On the World, What Will You Do?



What to Do to Prepare Yourself

- Develop and deepen a personal relationship with Christ – get to know Him as a friend
- Study the Bible and store it up in your heart
- Develop a vigorous prayer life
- Familiarize yourself with prophecy and end-time events

What to Do to Prepare Your Family

- Decrease your dependency on the world
- Withdraw from the influences of the world, from the pursuit of “things” and from fascination with celebrity
- Get out of debt and practice simplicity and economy
- Raise more of your own food and spend more time in the garden and/or in nature

What to Do to Prepare Your Neighbors and Friends

- Draw close to Christ so that people see Him in you
- Hold up friends and neighbors in prayer and ask God to create opportunities for you to witness
- Give of yourself and interact frequently
- Have a store of books or articles that you have read and that are appropriate to varying situations – hand them out when it is appropriate to do so
- Offer to pray with people and present their problems before the Lord

A Ministry for Everyone

- Food price spiral/food shortages = Garden and greenhouse ministry with food preservation clinics
- Decreased health care availability/affordability = health ministry as per EGW's Ministry of Healing
- Increased global catastrophies = community/international service opportunities
- Increased questioning/hunger for answers = internet/publishing/ social media ministry opportunities
- Increased poverty/disease/hunger, decreased resource availability and decreased jobs = service opportunities

Core Message:

- Sin is destroying the world – the actual, physical world.
- Man's global complex society is fragile and needs more resources than the world can sustainably supply.
- From what we know, it is possible to forecast the wars, famines, pestilences, and disasters that lay ahead.
- The present and coming state of the world align seamlessly with Christ's prediction in Mathew 24 and with EGW's Chapter 36 in Great Controversy.
- Christ really is coming. The time of trouble really is coming. The forces that will shape our last-day events are clearly visible. Men's hearts are fainting for what is coming, but we must become on fire for the Lord!

Revelation 22:12

- “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Jesus *Really* Is Coming Soon!





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