

# PROPHECY in the NEWS

- ✓ A **world** facing troubles.
- ✓ A **people** needing answers.
- ✓ A **God** offering promises.

# **Where Are We Headed?**



**Matthew 24**

**Luke 21**

# Foundational Thoughts

God's Word is true because God is true.

God's Word is true when we can understand it.

God's Word is true when we can't understand it.

Reading the Bible while **paying attention** to our modern world will help us understand **both** better.

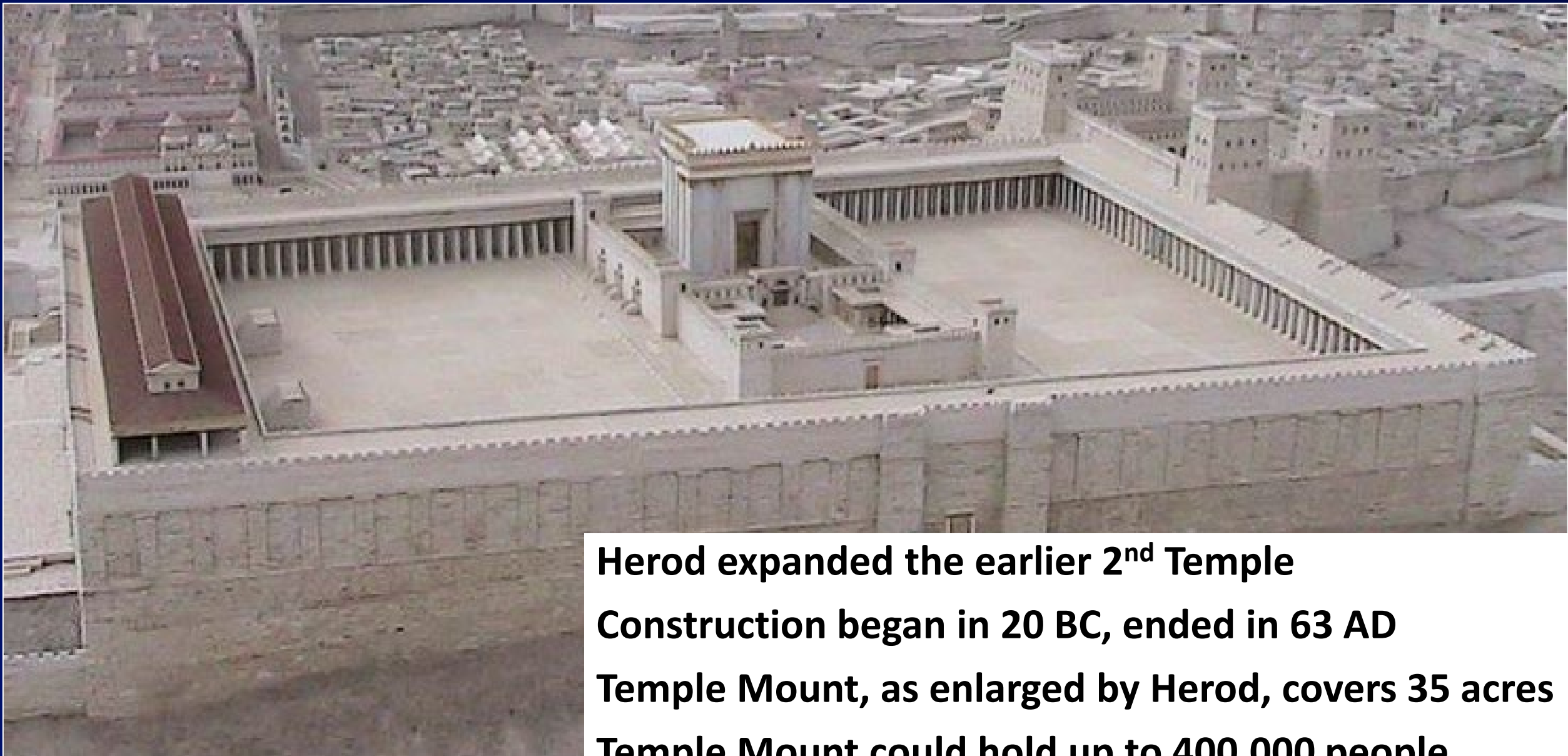
Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. Matthew 24:1



\*The year was likely 29 AD...  
1,992 years ago

**Model of Jewish Temple  
in the days of Jesus**

# Model of Temple Mount in the days of Jesus



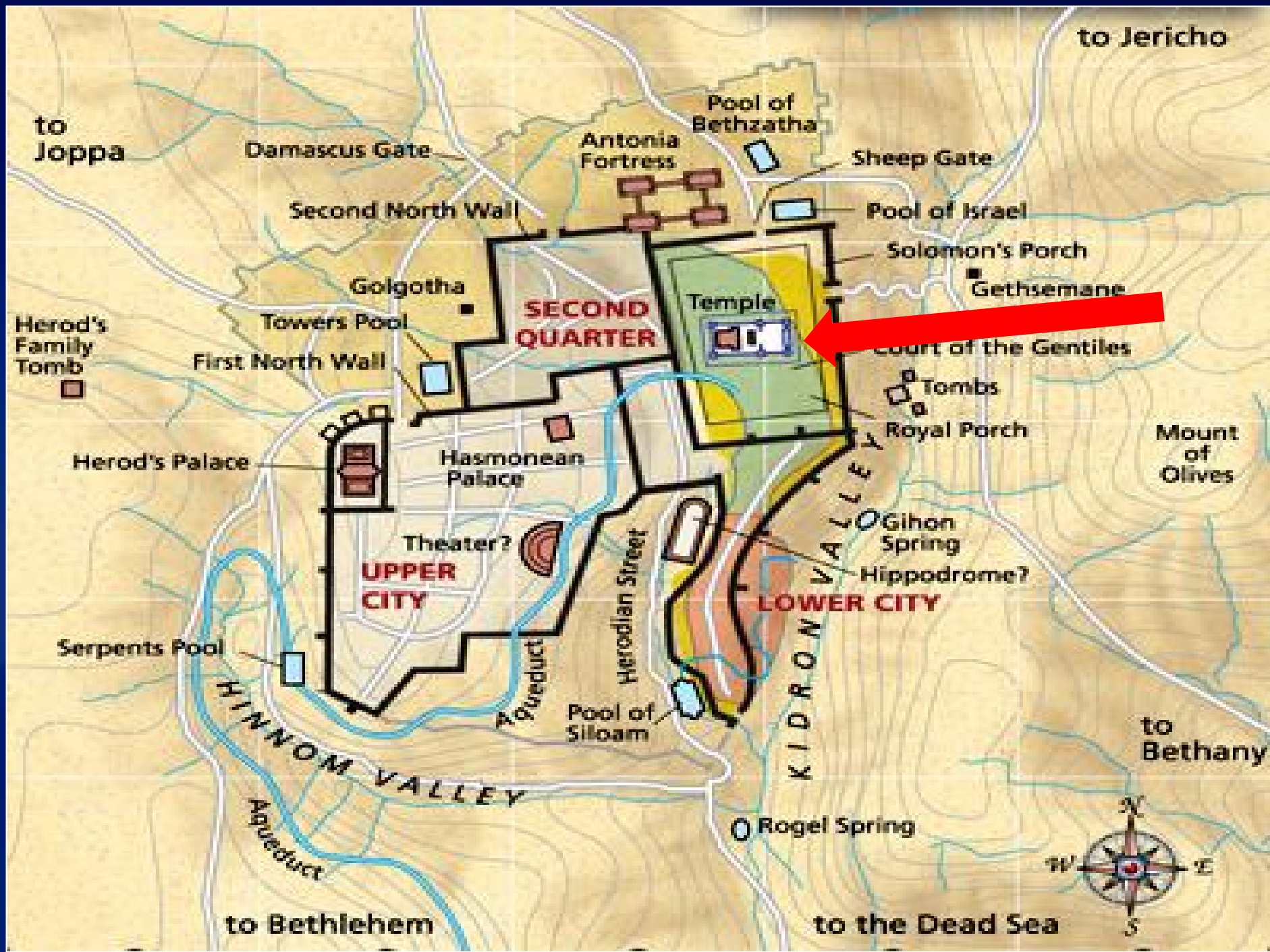
**Herod expanded the earlier 2<sup>nd</sup> Temple**

**Construction began in 20 BC, ended in 63 AD**

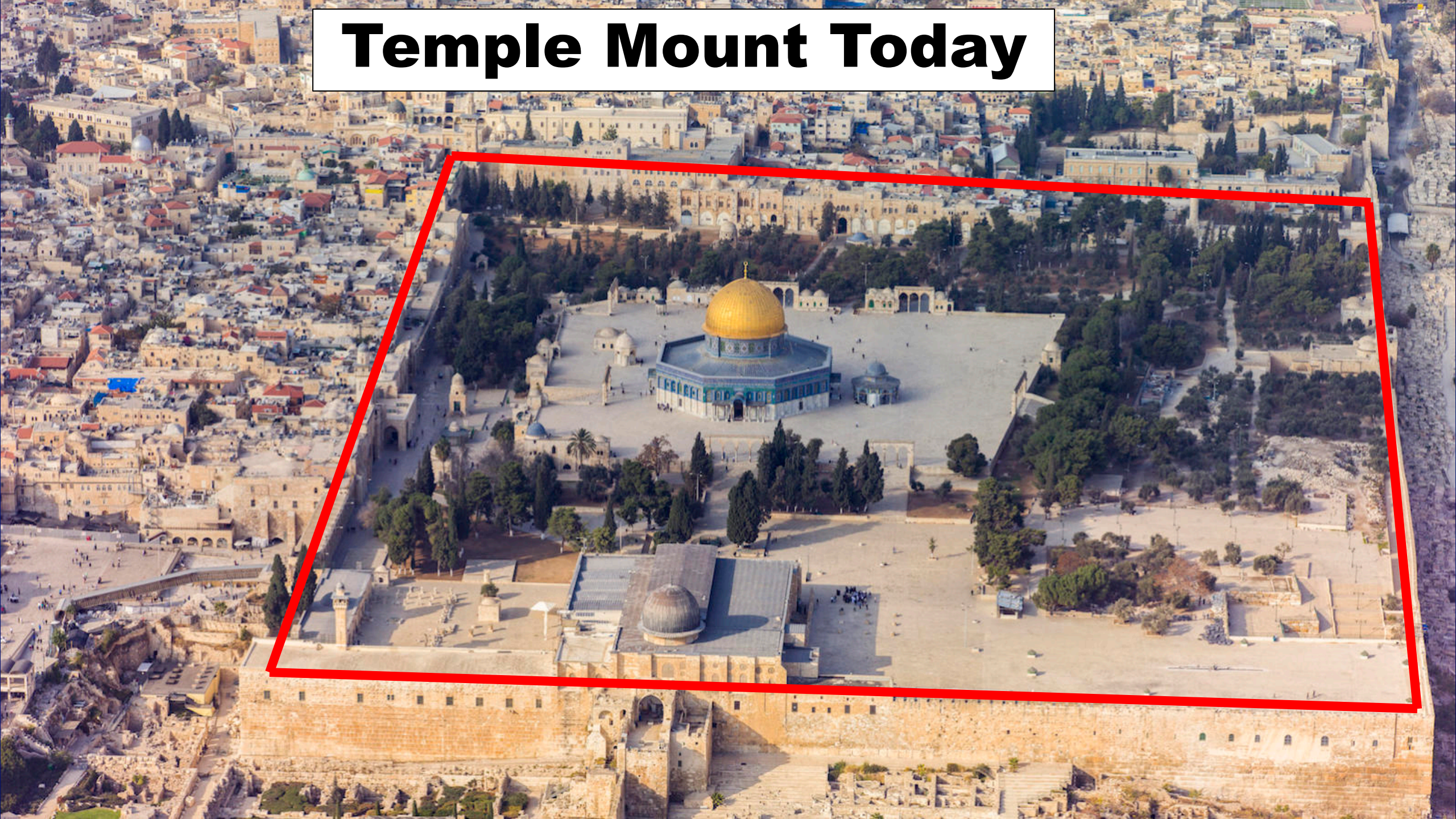
**Temple Mount, as enlarged by Herod, covers 35 acres**

**Temple Mount could hold up to 400,000 people**

# Map of Jerusalem in the days of Jesus



# Temple Mount Today



And He [Jesus] said to them [12 disciples], “Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.” Matthew 24:2

And while some were talking about the temple, that it was adorned with beautiful stones and votive gifts, He said, “As for these things which you are looking at, the days will come in which there will not be left one stone upon another which will not be torn down.” Luke 21:5-6

\*The conversation likely took place in year 29 AD



The Siege  
and  
Destruction  
of  
Jerusalem  
by the  
Romans  
under the  
Command  
of Titus,  
A.D. 70


By David  
Roberts  
(1850)





The Arch of Titus is a 2,000-year-old monument in the heart of ancient Rome. Built in 81 AD, it celebrates his victory over Judea ten years earlier. One panel depicts a triumphal procession of Roman soldiers proudly parading their spoils from the capture of Jerusalem, including vessels they stole from the Jerusalem Temple, most famously the golden menorah. Titus led the Roman siege of Jerusalem in 68-70 AD that culminated in the destruction of the Temple, the enslavement and murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews.

<https://forward.com/opinion/450377/the-arch-of-titus-must-come-down/>



If we know from history that the prophecy given by Jesus in Matthew 24:2 came to fulfillment just as He said... we can trust the sovereign God that the rest of Messiah's prophecies will come true also.

**What else did Jesus say?**

**Stones that fell from the Temple in 70 AD**



As He was sitting on the **Mount of Olives**, the disciples came to Him privately...

Matthew 24:3

## Mountains of Jerusalem

**1. Mount of Olives**   2. Mount Moriah   3. Mount Zion

# Mount of Olives today



As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Matthew 24:3

They questioned Him (Jesus), saying, “Teacher, when therefore will these things happen? And what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?”

Luke 21:7

\*This conversation takes place about 2.5 years into Jesus' 3-year earthly ministry

# Questions we are still asking Jesus in 2021

1. When will these things happen?
2. What will be the sign of Your coming?
3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?

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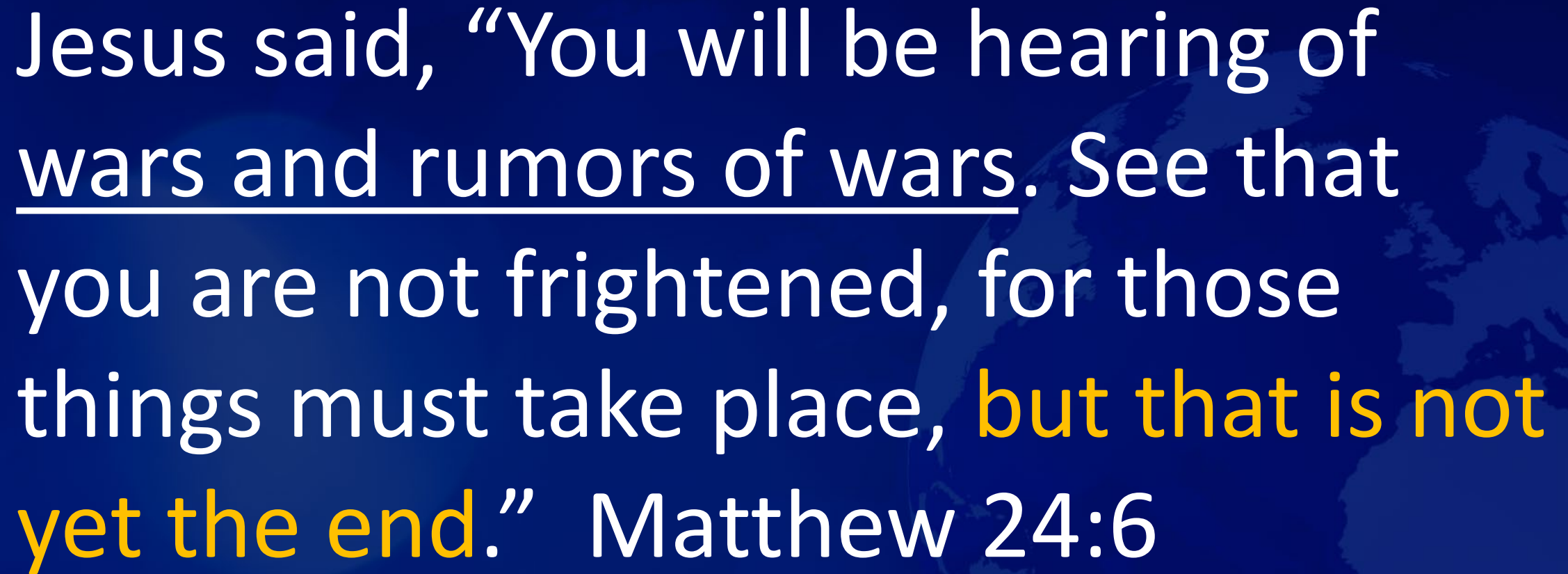
And Jesus answered and said to them,  
“See to it that no one misleads  
you. For many will come in My name,  
saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will  
mislead many.” Matthew 24:4-5

\*Our world needs trustworthy answers today

\*We will discuss the prophecy of false Messiahs in  
detail when we study Matthew 24:11



And He (Jesus) said, “See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am He,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and disturbances, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end does not follow immediately.” Luke 21:8-9



Jesus said, “You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, **but that is not yet the end.**” Matthew 24:6

October 19, 2021  
12:29 PM CDT  
Last Updated 5 hours ago

Asia Pacific

# N.Korea test-fires submarine-launched ballistic missile, S.Korea says

4 minute read

By Hyonhee Shin and Josh Smith

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/nkorea-fires-unidentified-projectile-off-east-coast-skorea-military-2021-10-19/>

## NEWS

Home | Coronavirus | Climate | Video | World | US & Canada | UK | Business | Tech | Science | Sport

Asia | China | India

# North Korea fires suspected submarine-launched missile into waters off Japan

<https://www.npr.org/2021/10/19/1047208684/north-korea-fires-a-ballistic-missile-into-the-sea-in-its-latest-test>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58963654>

ASIA

## North Korea tests a possible submarine missile amid tensions with the U.S.

October 19, 2021 · 12:45 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



China

+ Add to myFT

## China tests new space capability with hypersonic missile

Launch in August of nuclear-capable rocket that circled the globe took US intelligence by surprise

<https://www.ft.com/content/c1452a55-6812-4911-bdae-0b561062034a>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/chinas-reported-hypersonic-weapon-test-raises-security-concerns/story?id=80653383>



VIDEO

LIVE

SHOWS

CORONAVIRUS



## China's reported hypersonic weapon test raises security concerns

*"They now have a weapon ... we can't defend against," one expert said.*

By [Luis Martinez](#)

October 19, 2021, 10:21 AM • 6 min read



# Where are the World's Ongoing Conflicts?

Conflicts are categorized according to the definitions laid out by the Council on Foreign Relations.

We currently live in one of the most peaceful eras in history, but that doesn't mean that there is an absence of violence.

Here's a look at 27 of the world's ongoing conflicts as of 2021.

- Territorial Dispute**
- Russo-Ukrainian War
  - Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict
  - Kurdish-Turkish Conflict
  - Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

- Civil War**
- War in Afghanistan
  - Syrian Civil War
  - Instability in Iraq
  - Yemeni Civil War
  - Libyan Civil War
  - South Sudanese Civil War

- Interstates**
- U.S.-Iran Conflict
  - India-Pakistan Conflict

- Political Instability**
- Instability in Lebanon
  - Instability in Egypt
  - Tigray War in Ethiopia
  - Instability in the DRC

- Transnational Terrorism**
- Mali War
  - Islamist Militancy in Pakistan
  - Al-Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya

- Sectarian**
- Boko Haram Militancy in Nigeria
  - Violence in the Central African Republic

There are only three ongoing global conflicts in 2021 that are caused by **terrorism**.

Around **80%** of the world's current conflicts are concentrated in **Asia and Africa**.

The most prevalent forms of conflict today are **civil wars and territorial disputes**.

## Territorial Dispute

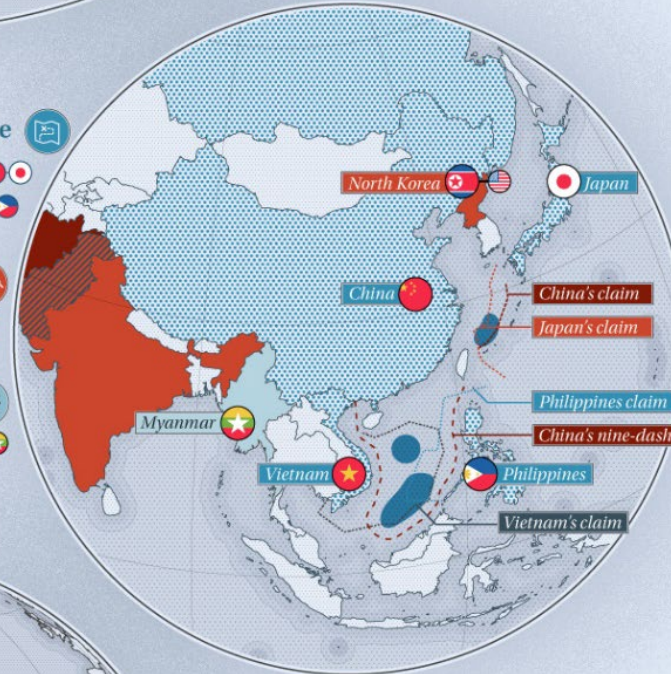
- East China Sea Disputes
- South China Sea Disputes

## Interstates

- North Korea Crisis

## Sectarian

- Rohingya Crisis



## Criminal Violence

- Mexico

## Political Instability

- Venezuela

Around the **Mexican** midterm elections, 89 politicians were killed during the campaigning period.

Source: Council on Foreign Relations



COLLABORATORS RESEARCH + WRITING Avery Koop, Anupa-Iman Ghosh | ART DIRECTION + DESIGN Joyce Ma

Facebook: /visualcapitalist Twitter: @visualcap Instagram: visualcapitalist.com

Jesus said, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.” Matthew 24:7

Then He (Jesus) continued by saying to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great earthquakes, and in various places plagues and famines; and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.” Luke 21:10-11



# Starvation and hunger-related deaths a reality amid worsening food crises, says FAO

News and Press Release • Source: FAO • Posted: 4 Oct 2021 • Originally published: 4 Oct 2021

*Director-General QU Dongyu tells High-Level UN Event on famine that livelihoods assistance must be prioritized*

4 October 2021, Rome/New York - With some of the world's worst food crises in recent years impacting tens of millions of people, there is an urgent need for specifically targeted funding for emergency livelihoods assistance and to build resilience, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) said today.

"Today we face unprecedented food crises on multiple fronts. Starvation and hunger-related deaths are a present reality," FAO Director-General QU Dongyu told the [High-Level UN event: Action in Support of Preventing and Ending Famine Now](#). "As we near the end of 2021, the situation has continued to deteriorate."

Over half a million people in four countries (Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Sudan and Yemen) are experiencing catastrophic food insecurity and more than 41 million are on the edge of famine, in emergency conditions (IPC Phase 4 out of 5) - one shock or stress away from a worst-case scenario, QU said. Burkina Faso and northeastern Nigeria are also facing an increased risk of acute food insecurity.

**FAO** is the  
Food and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of the  
United  
Nations





AFRICA TODAY

# Madagascar: Severe drought could spur world's first climate change famine



Published 17 hours ago on October 23, 2021

By Newsroom



Children under five are among the most affected by malnutrition in southern Madagascar. © WFP/Tsiory Andriantsoarana

More than one million people in southern Madagascar are struggling to get enough to eat, due to what could become the first famine caused by climate change, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). The region has been hit hard by successive years of severe drought, forcing families in rural communities to resort to desperate measures just to survive. Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world, has a unique ecosystem which includes animals and plants found nowhere else on the planet. The country experiences a dry season, usually from May to October, and a rainy season that starts in November. However, climate change has disrupted the cycle, affecting smallholder farmers and their neighbors.

Jesus said, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be **famines** and **earthquakes**.” Matthew 24:7

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October 24, 2021  
1:38 AM CDT  
Last Updated 5 hours ago

**Asia Pacific**

# Strong quake shakes Taiwan, no damage reported

Reuters



1 minute read

TAIPEI, Oct 24 (Reuters) - Buildings shook in Taipei on Sunday as an earthquake of magnitude 6.5 struck northeastern Taiwan, but there were no reports of damage.

It had a depth of 66.8 km (41.5 miles), and could be felt across the northern, eastern and western parts of Taiwan, with the epicentre in Yilan county, the weather bureau said.

The Taipei metro was briefly closed for checks, but re-opened shortly afterwards. The state-run power operator said the grid was operating as normal, while the railway administration said it was carrying out track inspections.

Jerusalem Post &gt; Breaking News

**BREAKING NEWS**

# Strong quake shakes Taiwan, no damage reported

The earthquake had a depth of 66.8 km and could be felt across the northern, eastern and western parts of Taiwan.

By REUTERS OCTOBER 24, 2021 10:06



<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/62-magnitude-earthquake-strikes-taiwan-682927>

# Earthquake Today

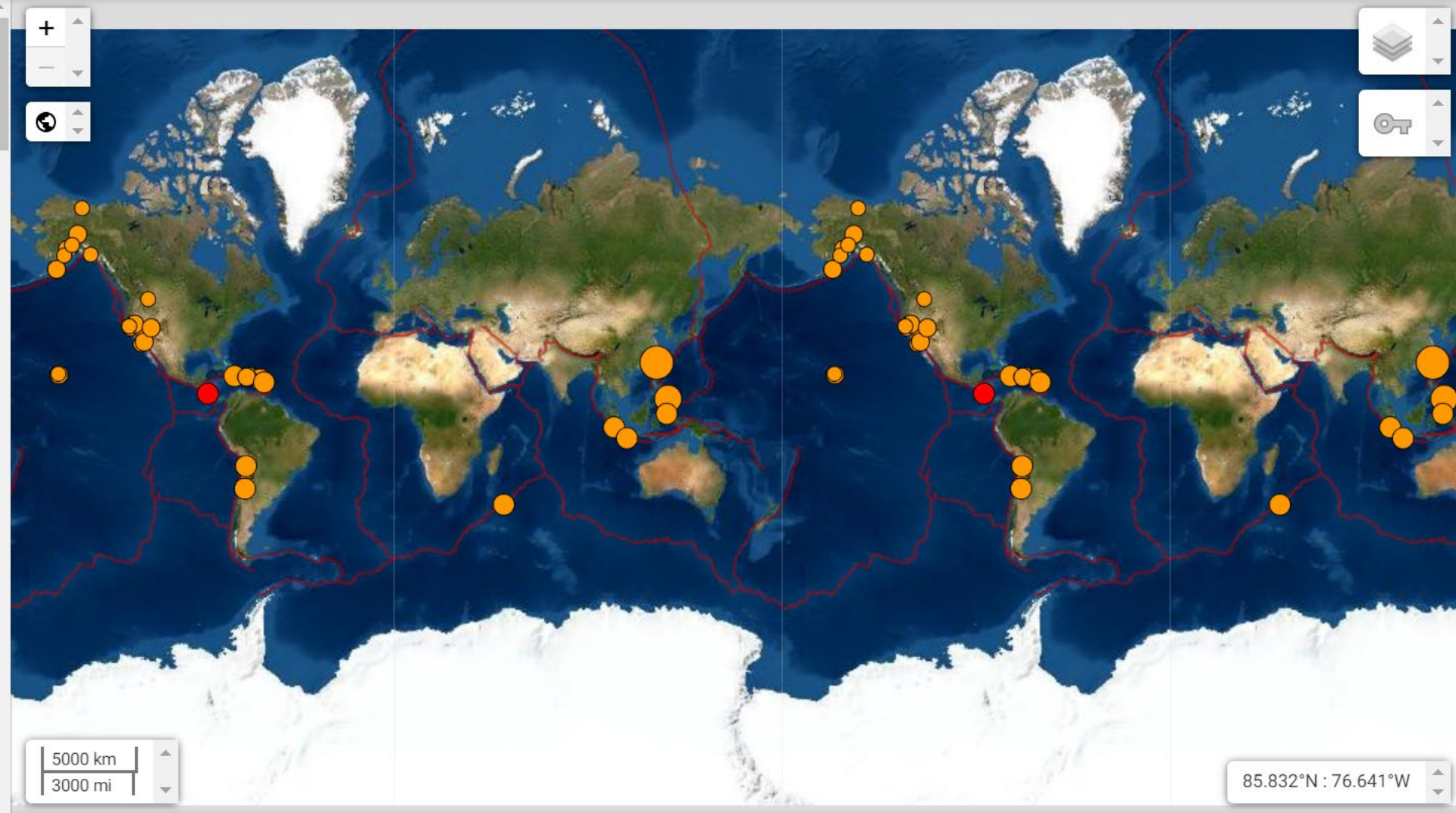
# USGS Magnitude 2.5+ Earthquakes, Past Day

40 earthquakes.

Only List Earthquakes Shown on Map

Format: Magnitude | Sort: Newest First

- 4.4 72 km SW of San Juan del Sur...  
2021-10-24 05:22:21 (UTC-0... 35.0 km
- 4.3 251 km S of Kawalu, Indonesia  
2021-10-24 04:43:56 (UTC-0... 10.0 km
- 4.4 85 km ESE of Beauséjour, Gu...  
2021-10-24 03:20:21 (UTC-0... 38.3 km
- 2.5 24 km E of Susitna North, Ala...  
2021-10-24 02:43:48 (UTC-0... 13.8 km



# United States Geological Survey

Jesus said, “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be **famines** and **earthquakes**.” Matthew 24:7

Then He (Jesus) continued by saying to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be great **earthquakes**, and in various places **plagues** [loimos λοιμός] and **famines**; and there will be terrors and **great signs from heaven**.”

Luke 21:10-11

# Biblical Words for Plague

- Hebrew word **dever** דֶּבֶר is commonly translated as “pestilence” or “plague” – used 49 times in Tanakh / Old Testament.
- Hebrew word **nega** נִגַע is mostly translated as “plague” – used 78 times in Tanakh / Old Testament.
- Hebrew word **makkah** מַכָּה is sometimes translated as “plague” – used 48 times in Tanakh / Old Testament
- Greek word **plege** πλῆγη is often translated in English versions of the Bible as “plague” and is used 21 times in the Greek New Testament.
- Greek word **loimos** λοιμός is used 3 times in the Greek New Testament. It is used twice as the English word “pestilences” in King James Version.

October 2, 2021  
8:16 PM CDT  
Last Updated 22 days ago

## World

# Global COVID-19 deaths hit 5 million as Delta variant sweeps the world

# COVID-19 may have killed up to 180,000 health care workers worldwide

The World Health Organization called on countries to prioritize vaccinations for those on the frontlines of the pandemic.

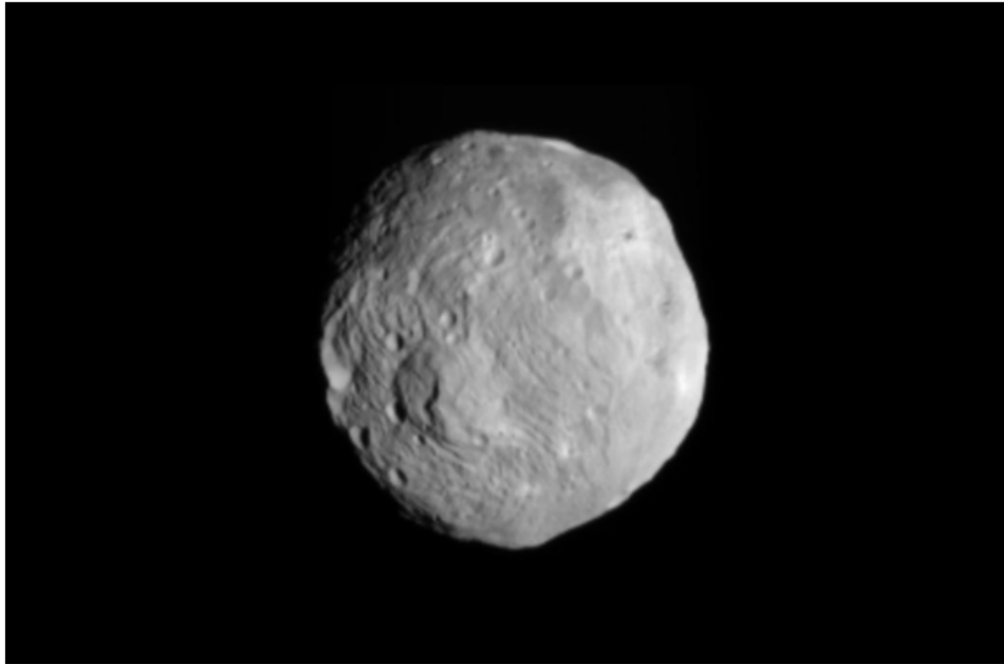
*By Joseph Guzman | Oct. 22, 2021*





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Science

## **ROCKY REMNANTS** What are the top five biggest asteroids and do they pose a threat to Earth?

by Alice Fuller 23 October 2021

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/science/16513551/top-five-biggest-asteroids-threat/>

Most of the 1,113,527 asteroids orbit the sun between Mars and Jupiter within the main asteroid belt. They range in size - from a whopping 329 miles in diameter to a comparatively measly 33 feet across, according to NASA. Though it is possible that an asteroid could hit Earth one day, the chances are pretty slim as they are so far away. Astronomers monitor the sky and regularly track asteroids to establish the risk, and we would likely know about an imminent hit years in advance. A spokesperson for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory said: "NASA knows of no asteroid or comet currently on a collision course with Earth, so the probability of a major collision is quite small. In fact, as best as we can tell, no large object is likely to strike the Earth any time in the next several hundred years." NASA is monitoring an asteroid called Bennu which has a 1/2700 chance of impacting Earth between 2175 and 2195.

# NASA's DART mission will deliberately crash into an asteroid's moon in the name of planetary defense



By **Ashley Strickland**, CNN

🕒 Updated 10:01 PM ET, Tue October 5, 2021



A spacecraft that will deliberately crash into an asteroid is preparing to launch. The DART mission, or **NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test**, will lift off on November 23 aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. After launching in November, NASA will test its asteroid deflection technology in September 2022 to see how it impacts the motion of a near-Earth asteroid in space. The target of this asteroid deflection technology is Dimorphos, a small moon orbiting the near-Earth asteroid Didymos. This will be the agency's first full-scale demonstration of this type of technology on behalf of planetary defense. Near-Earth objects are asteroids and comets whose orbits place them within 30 million miles of Earth. Detecting the threat of near-Earth objects, or NEOs, that could potentially cause grave harm is a primary focus of NASA and other space organizations around the world.

Jesus said, “But all these things are merely the **beginning** of birth pangs [ὠδίν *odin*].”

Matthew 24:8

- The Greek term ὠδίνες refer to the birth pangs a woman experiences while in labor.
- In Hebrew, this is referred to by the phrase “chevlei Moshiach” חבלי משיח, literally “the birth pangs of the Messiah.”

# Birth pangs in the Old Testament / Tanakh

- They will be terrified, pains and anguish will take hold of them; they will writhe like a **woman in labor**, they will look at one another in astonishment, their faces aflame. Isaiah 13:8
- As the pregnant woman approaches the time to give birth, she writhes and cries out in her **labor pains**, thus were we before You, O Lord. Isaiah 26:17
- “Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her **pain** came, she gave birth to a boy. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.” Isaiah 66:7-8

# Birth pangs in the New Testament

- Jesus said, “For nation will rise up against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will also be famines. These things are merely the beginning of **birth pangs**.” Mark 13:8
- While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like **labor pains** upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:3

Jesus said to the disciples, “Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.”

Matthew 24:9

# THE WORLD WATCH LIST

The top 50 countries where its most difficult to follow Jesus

## Top Ten

1. North Korea
2. Afghanistan
3. Somalia
4. Libya
5. Pakistan
6. Eritrea
7. Yemen
8. Iran
9. Nigeria
10. India



**Open Doors®**

**\*2021 World Watch List reporting period**

In just the last year\*, there have been:

- Over 340 million Christians living in places where they experience high levels of persecution and discrimination
- 4,761 Christians killed for their faith
- 4,488 churches and other Christian buildings attacked
- 4,277 believers detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned



Jesus said, “But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, delivering you to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for My name’s sake.

It will lead to an opportunity for your testimony.”

Luke 21:12-13

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/16-americans-1-canadian-among-kidnapped-christian-missionaries-haiti-ministries-2021-10-17/>



The image shows a screenshot of a Reuters news article. The Reuters logo is in the top left corner. The article is dated October 17, 2021, at 1:42 PM CDT, and was last updated 3 days ago. The article is categorized under 'Americas'. The headline reads '16 Americans, 1 Canadian among kidnapped Christian missionaries in Haiti- ministries group'. The article is attributed to Reuters and has a '1 minute read' indicator.

REUTERS®

World ▾ Business ▾ Legal ▾ Markets Breakingviews ▾ Technology ▾ Investigations

October 17, 2021  
1:42 PM CDT  
Last Updated 3 days ago

**Americas**

**16 Americans, 1 Canadian among kidnapped Christian missionaries in Haiti- ministries group**

1 minute read

Reuters

Jesus said, “So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for I will give you utterance and wisdom which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute.” Luke 21:14-15

\*Followers of Jesus in today’s culture are desperate for wisdom

# WISDOM... PLEASE

- **Pray** – ask God for wisdom, courage, hope, discernment
- **Learn** – spend as much time studying God's Word as you do learning about today's culture
- **Explain** – tell the truth about today's struggles and what is happening in our world
- **Act** – offer positive, helpful, biblical solutions to today's problems
- **Stop** – avoid actions and words that dishonor God, attack others, create fear, or cause disunity
- **Encourage** – tell people how they can know and follow the Savior who has all the answers

Jesus said, “At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.” Matthew 24:10

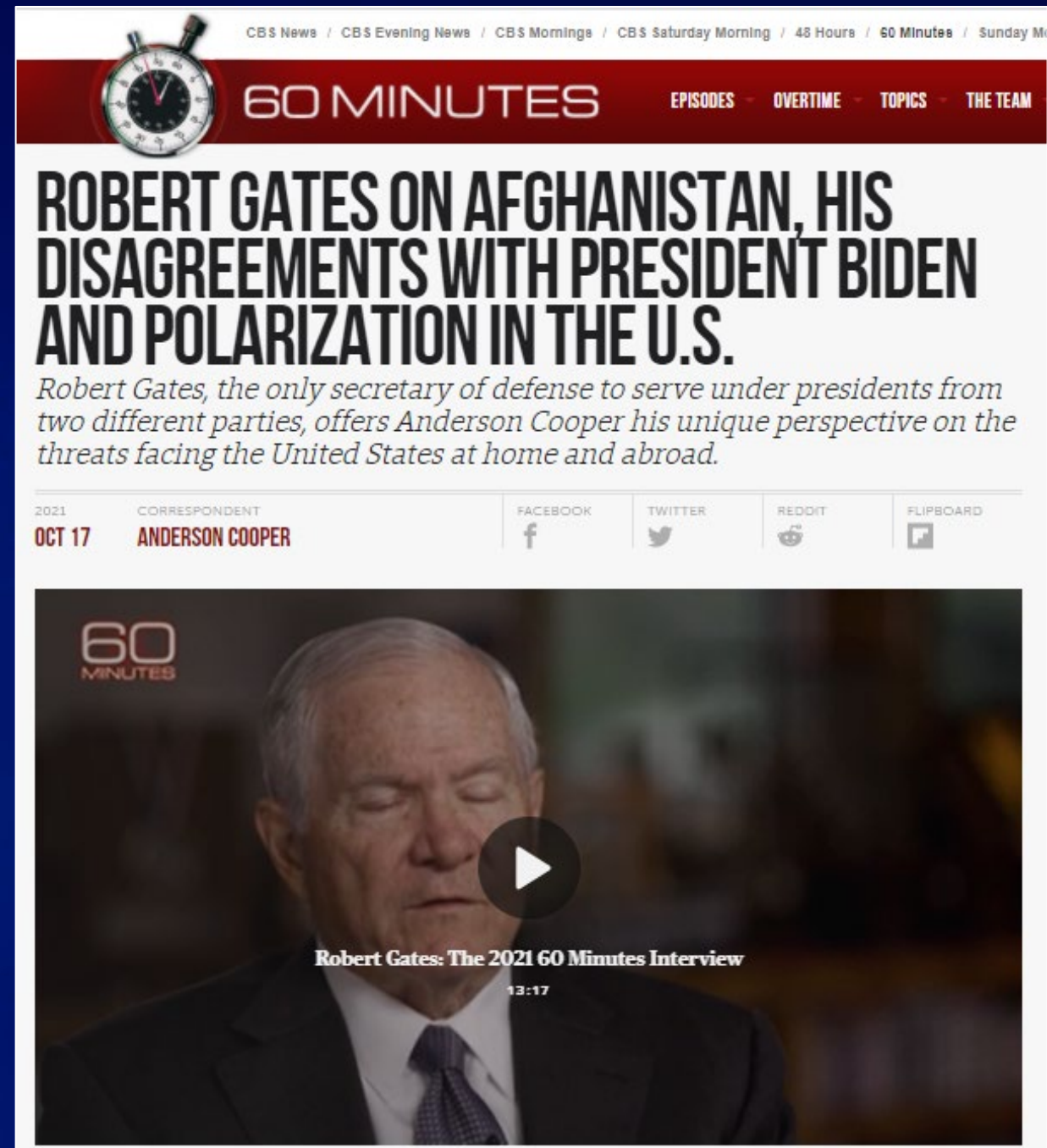
Jesus said, “But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all because of My name.”

Luke 21:16-17

Robert Gates worked for 8 U.S. presidents from 1966-2011 as Secretary of Defense and Director of the CIA, among other positions.

Gates said on *60 Minutes* last Sunday, “The whole of our society seems to be coming unhinged... I've never seen so much hatred.”

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/robert-gates-60-minutes-2021-10-17/>



The screenshot shows the top portion of a CBS News article. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the CBS News logo and links to various news programs: CBS Evening News, CBS Mornings, CBS Saturday Morning, 48 Hours, 60 Minutes, and Sunday Morning. Below this is a red banner with the '60 MINUTES' logo and navigation links for EPISODES, OVERTIME, TOPICS, and THE TEAM. The main headline reads: 'ROBERT GATES ON AFGHANISTAN, HIS DISAGREEMENTS WITH PRESIDENT BIDEN AND POLARIZATION IN THE U.S.'. A sub-headline provides context: 'Robert Gates, the only secretary of defense to serve under presidents from two different parties, offers Anderson Cooper his unique perspective on the threats facing the United States at home and abroad.' Below the headline, there is a metadata section showing the date '2021 OCT 17' and the correspondent 'ANDERSON COOPER'. To the right of this are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Reddit, and Flipboard. The main content area features a video player with a play button overlay. The video title is 'Robert Gates: The 2021 60 Minutes Interview' and the duration is '13:17'. The video player also displays the '60 MINUTES' logo in the top left corner.

# Important Reminders

- Haven't these kinds of events happened throughout the centuries?
- Yes, but the fact that they ALL seem to be happening at once in our generation should garner our attention.
- We cannot say when The End is coming but we can say that the necessary ingredients seem to be present in our generation.

Jesus said, “But **when these things begin to take place**, straighten up and lift up your heads, because **your redemption is drawing near.**” Luke 21:28

- Today’s date is October 24, 2021
- Along with 10 verses in Matthew chapter 24, we have discussed 16 different news articles today
- All 16 articles were published in the news media **THIS MONTH**

“Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the **sign** of Your coming, and of the end of the age?” Matthew 24:3

## **14 Signs of the Second Coming of Jesus**

1. Rebirth of the nation of Israel
2. Re-unification of Europe
3. Rise of radical Islam
4. Revealing of the antichrist
5. One-world government and religion
6. Rebuilding of the Jewish Temple
7. Gospel will be preached in the whole world
8. Ease of worldwide travel, technological advances
9. Increase in deadly diseases
10. Worldwide earthquakes
11. Possession of Jerusalem disputed
12. Return of Jews to their homeland
13. Worldwide Famines
- 14. All of the signs coming together**



# What's Next?

So far, we have only studied 10 of 51 verses in Matthew chapter 24 (and only 17 verses out of 38 in Luke 21).

Jesus has so much more to say to us.  
Don't miss next Sunday!

# Today's Assignment

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near. Hebrews 10:23-25

**Do you know the Savior who knows the future?**