

THE BULWARK

COULD THIS BE IT?

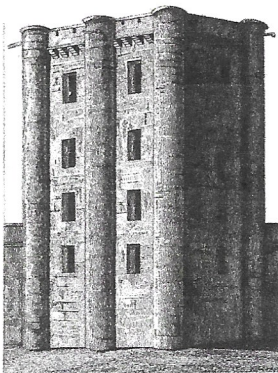
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*"Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following"*
Psalms 48:13

"And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must place, but that is not the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes." (Matthew 24:6-7). Jesus had just been asked a question that centered on the destruction of the temple and the Abomination of Desolation of which Daniel prophesied (see Matthew 24:15). A thoughtful reading on Matthew chapter twenty-four will keep in mind the time frame and events of which Jesus was speaking. However, with events escalating across the globe many are speculating that this "could be it". In all honesty, it could be. But then again it "could have been it" in October 1962 with the Cuban missile crisis. Or September 1, 1939 when Germany invaded Poland thus triggering World War II. Then again it could have "been it" on any date following the first century.

Recently there has been a lot of talk centered around the "red horse" of Revelation chapter six and how it most likely represents Russia. Interesting, but keep in mind the time frame expressed in Revelation. In the very first verse, *"the things which must shortly take place"*. In verse three of chapter one *"for the time is near"* is seen. Then in verse nineteen of chapter one, *"write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things."* The time frame for Revelation; was, is and shortly to come to pass seems to be what it is being set forth.

The church in Thessalonica was convinced the return of Christ was on the door step. Paul laid out such wasn't the case, and that they needed to get back to work. Likewise they needed to live in such a way as to be ready whenever that time might come or they naturally pass from this life (see 1Thessalonians 5:1-11).

In the second epistle Peter composed. He as well touched on the time frame of the consummation of all things. What Peter does show is that indeed God does a have day prepared wherein He will send forth His Son and bring an end to the present heaven and earth. *"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up."* (2Peter 3:9-10)

Inasmuch as mankind really has no control over "if this could be it", the larger question that should be addressed is being prepared for when that time comes. Here in Southern California we live in an active earthquake area. As a result we ideally stay in a state of readiness, extra drinking water, non perishable food, first aid kit handy and so forth. Here is the take away we should embrace, *"Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness"* (2Peter 3:11) Live in a state of expectation and readiness (wbe)