

End Times?

by Lynn Andrew

We are not as near the end of the age as it might appear from current events. As I pointed out in my essay “The Differential Deception,” there is no absolute scale against which events that stress the world’s systems can be measured. Jesus classified such things as “birth pains” preceding the Kingdom of God on earth. “The end is not yet,” he said.

The Bible gives three very clear and easily recognized signs that must occur before the end of the present age: 1) rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem; 2) rebuilding Babylon in Iraq; 3) rebuilding the empire that was Rome. Various movements toward bringing about these reconstructions exist, but none has gotten very far.

Curiously, progress toward all three is being held up by Islam, and the case could be made that the stalemate has been going on since Mohamed first aspired to overhaul religion and remodel Western civilization in his own image. Thus a defeat of Islam must come first. With this point of view, the modern explosion of militant Muslim jihad can be interpreted as death throes of a cranky religion making itself intolerable. Apparently it was destined to self-destruct after its obstructing work was done (becoming incompatible with the world at a certain point). After that, the three signs could be fulfilled quickly.

If there are objections to literal Babylon being rebuilt to fulfill Revelation 18, *The Day and the Hour: Tuesday* offers a scenario that may answer them. At least UNESCO has an interest in Babylon. A parallel to this existed in the widespread belief before 1948 that Israel’s rebirth was unrealistic. At least the dry bones have stood up now, and some of them are making noise about rebuilding the temple. Maybe Islam’s deathbed will be Europe’s revival. The end is in view, dimly.