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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

IS IT A SIGN?

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia has sparked several emotions including anger, fear, distress, and compassion for those whose lives are in danger. Protests against Putin's war have been raised all across the globe. It is one more reminder that evil exists in this world. It makes one think about the future and what it will come next.

This writer is certain that at least some premillennialists will be crying that this is the beginning of the end – that Putin's war is a "sign" of the coming of world-wide "tribulation" preceding the so-called battle of "Armageddon" and the Lord's return. In every major world conflict, there have been those who come to such conclusions based entirely upon a false doctrine. We would remind our readers that the Bible clearly states that the coming of the Lord will **NOT** be preceded by any "signs of the times." After discussing the signs which would proceed the then coming destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans which occurred in 70 A.D., Jesus then answered the second question of His disciples, "And what will be the sign of **your coming** and the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3b). Jesus answered, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying, and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, **and did not know** until the flood came and took them all away, **so also will the coming of the Son of Man be**" (Matthew 24:36-40). Other passages tell us that the second coming of Christ will be like that of a thief, no warning as to the time nor any signs which will proceed it (Matthew 24:42-43; 1 Thess. 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10).

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a travesty, but it is not a sign of the so-called "end times." God has appointed the day of our Lord's return and no human knows when it will occur. We should each live our lives in anticipation of the Lord's return, submitting our will to His in preparation for His coming. Let us follow these divine instructions, "Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior" (1 Timothy 2:1-4). greenplaincoc@gmail.com