***How Understanding the End Times Can Change Your Life***

“Have you ever heard of a hydrogen bomb and the damage it can do? There is coming a time when hydrogen bombs will drop and will do extensive damage in the world.”

I remember it vividly.

I was four years old, and my family and I were in the Netherlands.

It was a beautiful brisk evening in the spring of 1977.

It was a rather strange conversation with my childhood buddy who told me these things, but it was the first time my mind got awakened to an apocalyptic scenario.

From time to time I wondered if such a scenario would play out.

As I grew older I began to discover that many people carry apocalyptic images in their hearts, even Hollywood—as seen with movies such as The Terminator, Independence Day, and The Book of Eli—shares this apocalyptic perspective.

Some say that 14% of the world believes in some form of an apocalyptic scenario. The Pew Research Center shows that 39% of the people in the United States believe in the second coming of Jesus and that it will occur in their lifetime.

Many have questions, but we have not been left to our own imagination to envision the apocalyptic landscape. I came to know Jesus at the age of fifteen and soon began to discover that the Bible describes the Apocalypse for us in great detail. It is, however, important to note that the Bible does not speak about the ending of the world, but the ending of an era of darkness that reigned for millennia and the inauguration and consummation of a new one (John 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:7). The ending of this age is marked by the cross of Christ and will culminate at a time of transition with uniquely unfolding dynamics known as the Day of the Lord or the Day of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:11). The cross of Christ dealt a death blow to this present evil age (2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 1:4; Colossians 2:15).

(To be continued.)