I. Introduction
   A. Psalm 119:105; John 12:46
   B. In many generations, people have believed that the end of the age was approaching. The significant difference in our day is that Israel has been restored as a nation to her own land. This set the stage for the fulfillment of all end-time prophecy.
   C. In this message we get a clearer picture of where we are today, and we receive direction for survival and success in the midst of the pressures that confront us.

II. Basic Principles
   A. Applied pressure (Jer. 18:1–6)
      Israel—and the church—are being shaped by God as “the pot is in the hand of the potter”
   B. Negative pressures
      1. Satanic spiritual forces (1 Tim. 4:1–2)
      2. Degeneration of human character (2 Tim. 3:1–5)

III. Comparison With Days Of Noah And Lot—Luke 17:26–28
   A. Noah
      1. Satanic intervention from supernatural realm (Gen. 6:1–4)
      2. Corruption of thought-life (Gen. 6:5)
      3. Sexual corruption (Gen. 6:12)
      4. Earth filled with violence (Gen. 6:13)
   B. Lot
      Brazen, aggressive, violent homosexuality (Gen. 19:4–11)
   C. Positive Encouragement
      1. God’s servants forewarned (Heb. 11:7)
      2. Angels sent to help and deliver (Gen. 19:10–11)

IV. General Picture Of Present Day
   A. Matt. 24:7–12
      2. Illustration of birth pangs (Matt. 24:8)
      3. Worldwide persecution of Christians – handed over to secular authorities (Matt. 24:8)
      4. (Related) apostasy and betrayal among Christians (Matt. 24:10)
      5. False prophets – Cults (Matt. 24:11)
      6. Lawlessness leading to lovelessness (Matt. 24:12)

V. Our Response
   A. Optimism (Luke 21:28 [See also 1 Peter 1:19])
   B. Commitment (Psalm 110:3)
C. Identify with God’s purposes (1 John 2:17)

VI. Two Main Purposes Of God
   A. Restoration of unity in the church (John 17:20–23)
   B. Aggressive gospel outreach (Matt. 24:3, 14)

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