John envisions—now represents the United Nations. John says that this eighth king “goes off into destruction,” after which no further earthly kings are mentioned.*

16 Fourth, we are living in the period symbolized by the feet of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image. The prophet Daniel interpreted this mysterious dream of an enormous image in human form. (Daniel 2:36-43) The four metallic parts of the image represent various world powers, beginning with the head (the Babylonian Empire) and extending down to the feet and toes (the governments that are ruling today). All the world powers represented in that image have made their appearance. We are living in the period symbolized by the feet of the image. No mention is made of other powers to come.*

17 Fifth, we see a global preaching work being accomplished, which Jesus said would take place just before the end of this system. Jesus stated: “This good news of the kingdom...”

* See Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!, pages 251-4.

16. How do the facts in fulfillment of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream image indicate that we are living in the last days?

17. How does our Kingdom-preaching activity provide further evidence that we are living in the time of the end?

Do You Recall?

- What Scriptural examples can help us to keep on the watch?
- How did Jesus illustrate the need for watchfulness?
- What six lines of evidence prove that we are living in the last days?

will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14) Today, that prophecy is in the course of fulfillment on an unprecedented scale. True, untouched territories still exist, and it may be that in Jehovah’s due time, a large door leading to greater activity will open. (1 Corinthians 16:9) Nevertheless, the Bible does not state that Jehovah will wait until every individual on earth has received a personal witness. Rather, the good news must be preached to Jehovah’s satisfaction. Then the end will come.—Compare Matthew 10:23.

18 Sixth, the number of genuine anointed disciples of Christ is dwindling, though some will evidently still be on earth when the great tribulation begins. Most of the remnant are quite elderly, and over the years the number of those who are truly anointed has been getting smaller. Yet, referring to the great tribulation, Jesus stated: “Unless those days were cut short, no flesh would be saved; but on account of the chosen ones those days will be cut short.” (Matthew 24:21, 22) Evidently, then, some of Christ’s “chosen ones” will still be on earth when the great tribulation begins.*

What Lies Ahead?

19 What does the future hold for us? Exciting times are yet to come. Paul warned that...

* In the parable of the sheep and the goats, the Son of man arrives in his glory in the period of the great tribulation and sits in judgment. He judges people on the basis of whether they gave support to Christ’s anointed brothers. This standard for judgment would be meaningless if at the time of judgment, all of Christ’s brothers had long since left the earthly scene.—Matthew 25:31-46.

18. Evidently, what will be true of some of the anointed when the great tribulation begins, and how may this be determined?

19, 20. Why is it more urgent for us now than ever before to stay awake and keep on the watch?
Do you know the symbolic significance of Jehovah’s ancient temple?

(1 Corinthians 15:44, 50) Since Jesus’ human flesh was a barrier, it was well symbolized by the curtain that separated the Holy from the Most Holy in God’s ancient temple. (Hebrews 10:20) But three days after his death, Jesus was resurrected by God as a spirit. (1 Peter 3:18) Then he could enter the Most Holy compartment of God’s spiritual temple—heaven itself. And this is precisely what happened. Paul writes: “Christ entered, not into a holy place [evidently referring to the Most Holy] made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us.”—Hebrews 9:24.

10 In heaven, Jesus ‘spattered the blood’ of his sacrifice by presenting the ransoming value of his lifeblood to Jehovah. Yet, Jesus did more. Shortly before his death, he had told his followers: “I am going my way to prepare a place for you. Also, if I go my way and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you home to myself, that where I am you also may be.” (John 14:2, 3) So by gaining entrance into the Most Holy, or heaven, Jesus opened the way for others to follow. (Hebrews 6:19, 20) These individuals, who would number 144,000, would serve as underpriests in God’s spiritual temple arrangement. (Revelation 7:4; 14:1; 20:6) Just as the high priest of Israel first took the blood of the bull into the Most Holy to atone for the sins of the priests, the value of Jesus’ shed blood was first applied to these 144,000 underpriests.*

Modern-Day “Desirable Things”

11 It seems that by the year 1935, the general ingathering of the anointed was complete.* But Jehovah was not finished glorifying his house. No, “desirable things” would yet come into it. Remember that the high priest of Israel offered two animals—a bull for the sins of the priests and a goat for the sins of the non-priestly tribes. Since the priests pictured the anointed ones who would be with Jesus in the heavenly Kingdom, whom did the non-priestly tribes represent? The answer is found in Jesus’ words recorded at John 10:16: “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; those also I must bring, and they will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock, one shepherd.” Hence two groups of people whose hope is to and second, those lasting life on a path this second group skilable things” of 4:1, 2; 1 John 2:1.

12 These “desirous Jehovah’s house. have been lifted to the skies, and other later of God’s establishments hitherto untouchable ones come into their in turn stables, in obedience to their 28:19, 20). 12. How are many to God’s house too?