

## CHAPTER 15

### AIDS

For the last several years the eyes of the world have been increasingly riveted on a deadly plague, a disease that has been named "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome" or AIDS. It is an awful disease, and there is little likelihood of a cure in the foreseeable future. It may have been diagnosed in the past as a rare disease, but in the last few years it has afflicted people by the thousands.

AIDS particularly afflicts homosexuals and through homosexuals it appears to have spread to many parts of the world. It is exceedingly contagious. It has spread from homosexuals to many who are sexually promiscuous, to some who have received transfusions of AIDS-tainted blood, and to some from infected needles. Babies of diseased parents are vulnerable. As with all plagues, the innocent suffer with the guilty.

Disease resulting from sexual misconduct is not a new phenomenon. For hundreds of years, venereal diseases have scourged mankind. AIDS is unique in that it has been heavily identified with homosexual behavior. Because of its terrible nature, it has received a lot of publicity. In our land, it has such a high profile that virtually every citizen is aware of it.

#### **AIDS: An End of the World Sign?**

This plague has come when many signs seem to indicate that the end of the world is close at hand. One cannot help but wonder if it is related to the final tribulation period. Does the Bible contain language that identifies a disease like AIDS as an important ingredient of the final tribulation period?

Many biblical passages describe the character of the final tribulation period, but insofar as can be determined, none of these passages has language that specifically describes a plague like AIDS. The focus of Bible prophecy concerning the final tribulation is on the church. The AIDS plague is only incidentally in the church. AIDS is a dreadful plague that particularly assaults those outside the church where sexual perversion is rampant and where the drug culture flourishes. However, one passage in the Bible appears to contain prophecy concerning this disease, and this passage will be carefully studied to discover its relationship to end-time events.

Romans 1 discusses the fact that mankind does not want to