

Convergence

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6/16/2024

**BIG BEND
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FELLOWSHIP**

For Discussion: Why Does The World Seem To Be In A Constant State Of Crisis?

(prophecynewswatch.com, 4/18/2024)

Why Does The World Seem To Be In A Constant State Of Crisis?

This is understandable. Over the past four years, we've endured COVID, the government response to COVID (lockdowns, passports, mandates, etc.), global supply chain issues, global inflation, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel, the shutdown of Red Sea shipping lanes, and numerous rumors of other major events set to break at any moment. So what's next?

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What makes it seem like the world today is in a constant state of crisis?

Over the past four years, we've endured COVID, the government response to COVID (lockdowns, passports, mandates, etc.), global supply chain issues, global inflation, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel, the shutdown of Red Sea shipping lanes, and numerous rumors of other major events set to break at any moment.

So, what's next? Will it get worse before it gets better?

Yes, because we are living in the times of the signs.

Matthew 24:3 – *what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*

What signs of His return did Jesus give us?

In His Olivet Discourse, He said that deception, war, racial conflict, famine, pestilence, earthquakes, persecution, lawlessness, and hatred would grow in intensity and frequency (birth pangs).

- The exponential increase of the signs of His Coming is how we'll know He's near

Jesus also gave the Parable of the Fig Tree which makes Israel preparing to bear fruit as an important sign of the times... Fruit bearing is being used by God; they are getting in a position for that by being back in the land.

Besides birth pangs, what else characterizes the signs Jesus gave?

Matthew 24:33 – *when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!*

Convergence... you see all the signs occurring at the same time. This convergence of signs confirms our generation will witness the Second Coming.

What is the most significant of all the signs Jesus gave?

The leaves coming on the fig tree (symbolic of Israel)...

Ezekiel 37:21-22 – *Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.*

Israel is back in the land as one, unified nation. Also, they are back in the land as a nation of unbelievers...

Ezekiel 39:25-28 – *Now I will bring back the captives of Jacob, and have mercy on the whole house of Israel... When I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and I am hallowed in them in the sight of many nations, then they shall know that I am the Lord their God*

Israel as a nation recognizing Jesus as their Savior will come later, during the Tribulation.

What is the sign of Jerusalem that Jesus gave us?

Jesus said armies would surround Jerusalem, destroy the city, and enslave its citizens. The Roman legions fulfilled this prophecy in A.D. 70. Jesus then said non-Jewish people (Gentiles) will control Jerusalem for a time, until the Jewish people once again control Jerusalem, and then He would return...

Luke 21:24 – *they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

The Jewish people have controlled Jerusalem since the Six-Day War in 1967.

- Of course, the heart of Jerusalem, the Temple Mount, is still trampled on by Gentiles but there will be a Jewish temple there during the Tribulation.

Has Israel become "an exceedingly great army" (Ezekiel 37:10)?

Zechariah said Israel will be *like a fire among sheaves of grain*, burning up the neighboring nations (Zechariah 12:6) and even the *weakest Israeli soldier will be like David* (Zechariah 12:8). Since 1948, Israel has fought four conventional wars against its neighbors. Despite being outnumbered more than 50 to 1, Israel has achieved overwhelming victory every time.

What will be Israel's political standing in world prior to Jesus returning?

They will be surrounded by enemies who say *"Come, let us wipe away the nation of Israel. Let's destroy the memory of its existence"* (Psalm 83:4) and *"Let us take for ourselves these pasturelands of God"* (Psalm 83:12).

Zechariah 12:3 – it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Even the USA is now abandoning support for Israel... that will not turn out well for us.

How is what is happening among the nations a sign?

Luke 21:29 – Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.

Rise of Magog – A military alliance of Russia, Iran, Turkey, and other Muslim nations will attack Israel *"in the latter days"* (Ezekiel 38:8). Today, we see those very nations coming together for the first time in history.

Rise of Global Government – The Bible says a single government will rule the world politically (Revelation 13:7), religiously (Revelation 13:8), and economically (Revelation 13:16-17) in the last days.

- It will rule over *"all people, tribes, and languages"* on the face of the earth (Revelation 13:7).
- Its authority will be so complete no one will be able to buy or sell anything without its permission (Revelation 13:16-17).
- The infrastructure for control is forming (Internet, Artificial Intelligence, CBDCs)

For centuries, a true global government was impossible. Today, world leaders openly discuss it.

Has the gospel been preached to all the world?

Matthew 24:14 – this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

The ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy will be during the Tribulation (Revelation 14:6) but this has been foreshadowed as the Church Age nears its end...

Today, missionaries are in every nation. The Bible is translated in hundreds of languages, and the message of Jesus is sent around the world by radio, TV, satellite, and the Internet.

What other signs are converging today?

People will be oblivious to the coming wrath of God...

Luke 17:26-29 – as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

Also, violent, no thoughts for God, gross sexual deviancy, mixing it up with demons, and changing human DNA (transhumanism).

The long-dead language of Hebrew has been unprecedentedly resurrected to unite the people of Israel foreshadowing this Millennial Kingdom prophecy...

Zephaniah 3:8-9 – All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy. For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord.

Apostasy of the church...

1 Timothy 4:1-3 – Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

Denial of the signs...

2 Peter 3:3-4 – scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

What applications do we see from this discussion?

This should give us a sense of urgency to get on with whatever the Lord is calling us to do...

Luke 21:28 – Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.