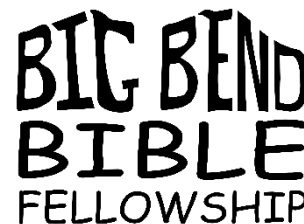


Not Normal Times

By Scott Huckaby
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Is the world suffering from a normalcy bias today?

Normalcy bias is a cognitive bias which leads people to disbelieve or minimize threat warnings. Consequently, individuals underestimate the likelihood of a disaster, when it might affect them, and its potential adverse effects.

What does God's Word have to say about normalcy bias as it relates to the Lord's return?

It is a sign of His coming...

Matthew 24:37-39 – *as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

When the Lord returns, most people will be oblivious to the Lord's return carrying on business as usual.

The Apostle Paul put it this way:

1 Thessalonians 5:2 – *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.*

Most people will be surprised when the Lord returns, as they would be surprised by a thief.

The Apostle Peter made it clear that even the end-times church would be caught-up in normalcy bias:

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 will characterize the time prior to the return of Jesus?

The time prior to Jesus returning will be characterized by scoffing – people will deny Jesus is returning and ridicule those expecting His return.

Who will the end-time scoffers be?

1. Certainly unbelievers
2. But also "professing" believers who claim to be Christians but also deny the fundamentals of the faith (apostasy)
3. And immature Christians Paul calls carnal Christians (a.k.a. also babes in Christ). These are content with the superficial milk and not the solid food of Scripture as mature Christians. Consequently, they are quick to embrace false doctrine so that they may be more accepted by the world (like amillennialism and theistic evolution).

I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)

How do those who scoff justify their scoffing?

- By saying, "*all things continue as they were from the beginning*"
- They say, "every generation of Christians have expected Jesus to return in their lifetime and He hasn't so why should our generation be any different?"

Note that scoffers embrace Theistic Evolution... the idea that God used an evolutionary process to bring about the creation.

- By saying, "*all things continue as they were from the beginning*" they reveal that they are uniformitarians which require great periods of time for evolutionary changes to take place via God-directed mutations.
- This is a compromise with the doctrine of the world that is made to be more accepted by men.

Why didn't God use an evolutionary process to create mankind?

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. (Genesis 1:31, NIV)

- Morning and evening do not apply to day-ages
- Creation could not be described as “very good” if survival of the fittest was used
- There was no death prior to Adam & Eve’s sin

How do we know we’re not living in normal times, that we’re close to the restoration of all things?

Acts 3:20-21 – Jesus Christ, ...whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things

The death of someone close to you who was taken to heaven sooner than you’d have expected certainly makes this personal.

What other indications do we have that we’re not living in normal times?

Matthew 24:4-9 – Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

We are seeing the birth-pangs of the Tribulation...

- Deception – rampant propaganda promoting the globalist narrative
- Wars, rumors of wars – Russia vs Ukraine & Western Civilization, China vs Taiwan, North vs South Korea, India vs Pakistan, Iran & Hamas vs Israel
- Nation vs nation, (ethnos) racism being promoted as the solution for racism (CRT)
- Famines – food & fuel prices driving inflation
- Pestilences – COVID, Ebola, monkey pox, polio, etc.
- Earthquakes increasing, volcanoes more prominent
- Persecution, even in the USA... Christians seen as holding society back from where it wants to go... ESG (environmental, social, governance) scores will be used to create second class citizens and CBDC money will be used to punish the noncompliant

How have we seeing globalism emerging as a religion crushing all other philosophies?

Revelation 13:3-4 – all the world marveled and followed the beast ...saying, “Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?”

- Man-caused global warming is seen as the great threat for humanity justifying all manner of painful population controlling initiatives.
- The spirit of antichrist began at the tower of babel, the beginning of organized religious opposition to God... *“Indeed the people are one ... now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them” (Genesis 11:6).*
- The nations establish by God has to be erased with open borders... *He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings (Acts 17:26).*
- Nationalism is demonized
- Lock-step COVID response in the mandates and protocols... any alternative ideas were censored.
- The USA’s demise as a superpower... no nation can stand in the way of the coming global authority.

How have we seen the deconstruction of the USA as a superpower?

- Disgraceful exit from Afghanistan
- Run-away inflation caused by worship of the “green dragon” (Brandon Holthaus)
- Rule of law giving way to rule of man... Constitution seen as being flawed having been written when slavery was tolerated.
- Rise of fascism, collusion of rulers with private corporation circumventing due process of law.
- Freedoms of speech, religion, defense under attack
- Capitalism is maligned, socialism is embraced
- Debased minds insisting of transgenderism being promoted
- Serious, unreconcilable political polarization; really the maturation of spiritual division (wheat & tares, Matthew 13:24-30)

What geopolitical evidence is there that we're not living in normal times?

Habakkuk 1:5 – *Look among the nations and watch— Be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you.*

- Israel maintaining cultural identity despite Diaspora... *For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.* (Malachi 3:6)
- Return of the Jews to the land... *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.* (Ezekiel 36:24)
- Restoration of the Hebrew Language... *For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language* (Zephaniah 3:9)
- Alignment of Russia, Iran & Turkey (Ezekiel 38)

What applications come to mind from our discussion?

- As we see evidence that we are close to the end of the Church Age, Christians should have a sense of urgency to get on with what God is calling them to do...
John 9:4 – I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.
- People know things are not normal and wonder if they'll ever return to "normal" ... Christians should be ready to help with what the Bible has to say about it all.