

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

- For today's prophecy update I want to talk about the impact of the sheer amount of disasters that are taking place in the world.
- One of the affects of catastrophic and decimating events is that they can loosen the tight grip that Christians have on this world.
- As for those who aren't born again Christians these events can have the much-needed affect of waking people up in this world.

- One need look no further than to the major hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires burning out of control and everything in between.
- Lest one think that this is happening just in and to America, let me hasten to say that we're witnessing all this on a global scale.
- Add to this the geopolitical threat of nations and ethnicities rising up against each other and you have a perfect prophetic storm.

Matthew 24:3–8 — 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" 4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

- I would suggest that these signs, like birth pains, coming in greater intensity and frequency, point to the soon return of Jesus.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest God desires to get peoples attention in and through these birth pains before it's too late.
- This because, it's not God's willing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:3–9 — 3 Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

I happened upon an interesting article in Arutz Sheva, written by Jack Engelhard that to me seems to really capture the essence of the aforementioned passage in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. It's titled, "Storms, love and nonsense of biblical proportions." - We think we're so smart. But nature is smarter. Our big beautiful cars roll over like toys when hurricanes blow through – as did Harvey and Irma. In the movie "Out of Africa," taken from the book by Isak Dinesen, a native runs to report a massive brush fire by exclaiming -- "God is coming." We're more comfortable saying, "Nature is coming." Either way, nothing is safe when nature pulls the plug on everything we hold dear, starting with our very lives. We are at the mercy of the elements. Among ourselves it brings out the best and the worst. We saw how Texas and all of America came together with love for Hurricane Harvey. But now we've heard from Hollywood. Actress Jennifer Lawrence, speaking for her kind, blames Trump for Hurricane Irma. In other words, we voted for hurricanes...and the karma is coming. ... What's it all about? We don't know. Maybe it is so -- God is coming. Sure sounds like it all right. Must be tough being an atheist when all you have left is prayer.

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Generic/Generic/SendPrint?print=1&type=1&item=20994>

It seems that the mockers want to cite global warming, when in fact, this is what the Bible calls a global warning! On Tuesday, Fox News published an article written by Anne Graham Lotz in which she asks, "Is God speaking through Irma, Harvey and an earthquake?" – "Within weeks, we have experienced record-breaking fires in the northwest, record-breaking hurricanes in Texas and Florida, and a record-breaking earthquake in Mexico. What is happening? Are these disasters random? Just freaks of nature? Or is something more significant intended? The answer may be found in an incredible Biblical story. The Old Testament book of 1 Kings 19 records a dramatic scene when the Lord God passed by as the prophet Elijah stood in the mouth of a cave. The description is eerily similar to ours, because first there was a great and powerful wind, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a still, small voice--the gentle voice of Father God speaking to His frightened, weary child. God used the earthquake, wind and fire to get Elijah's attention, because God had something to say. Our situation is so similar to Elijah's it begs the question: Is God using these storms to get our attention because He also has something to say to us? Yes, He is. What is it? I believe God is saying in essence what He said to Elijah. His message can be broken into four parts: 1) Be comforted. 2) Be blessed. 3) Be encouraged. 4) Be ready. ...God is speaking through the storms. Are you listening?

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/09/12/anne-graham-lotz-is-god-speaking-through-irma-harvey-and-earthquake.html>

- I'm personally of the belief that this is the question before every single one of us today? God is speaking, but am I listening?
- Perhaps this question can be asked this way, if I am listening, and hearing, am I also heeding God's warning to me personally?
- And, if I am heeding God's warning, what is my response? Is it that I better clean up my act, so-to-speak and get it together?

Sadly, many believe this to be true as evidenced by this Christian Post article that according to a Pew Research Center survey, "About half of Protestants in the U.S. now agree with the "historically Catholic belief" that both faith and good deeds are needed for salvation, rather than faith alone.

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/half-of-protestants-agree-with-catholics-that-good-deeds-and-faith-are-needed-for-salvation-pew-197616/>

- I hope you'll kindly indulge me for the remainder of our time together as I share with you the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Simply put, there is absolutely nothing you or I can do to go to heaven, because Jesus did everything for us and instead of us.
- As we just saw in our Galatians study prior, our salvation comes because of what God did for me and not what I do for God.

The ABC's of Salvation - A is for Admit you're a sinner – Romans 3:23 says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The B is for Believe. Romans 10:9-10 says if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. The C is for Call. Romans 10:9-10 also says if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:13 says that all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.