The Prophetic Stage Is Set

T.W. Tramm – (09/09/22)

TWO THOUSAND years ago, Jesus told His followers what it would be like in the last days:

"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places" (Matt. 24:6, 7).

Today, we are seeing all these things:

Wars and rumors of war in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

A pandemic, and unexpected outbreaks of other diseases.

Earthquakes and extreme weather worldwide.

Famine and shortages, due to the above.

Another important sign of the Lord's return is a booming economy. Despite increasing conflicts, disease, natural disasters, and famine, Jesus specifies that people will be "buying, selling, planting, building, eating, drinking, and marrying" when Judgment Day arrives (Luke 17:26–30).

Remarkable to consider is the way in which the pandemic has intensified these activities. While covid restrictions threatened to crash the world's leading economy, the largest government stimulus package in US history, roughly 5 trillion dollars, sent it into overdrive, resulting in 40-year high inflation.

Even sales of luxury items, such as exotic cars, have soared to new highs in 2022. This is because the pandemic-related housing and stock-market surges bolstered the spending power of those in upper-income brackets, the ones who do most of the "buying, selling, and building."

The social activities mentioned by Jesus, "eating, drinking, and marrying" are also seeing a postpandemic boost. Since the lifting of covid restrictions in early 2022, people have returned to bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues in droves. At the same time, thousands of marriages postponed due to the virus are being held this year: experts forecast weddings to hit a 40-year high in 2022, before numbers normalize again in 2023.

That inflation (buying and selling) and weddings are peaking simultaneously—both at a 40-year high in 2022—is striking as these are the activities the Lord said would be prevalent at His return.

Yet another crucial sign that Judgment Day is imminent is talk of "peace and security" among world leaders:

"While they are saying, 'Peace and security,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape" (1 Thess. 5:3).

The intergovernmental organization associated with "peace and security" is the United Nations. Established in the wake of World War 2 and the Holocaust, the mission of the UN is to "maintain international peace and security." To promote this agenda, when the UN convenes each year, it observes the "International Day of Peace" on September 21, followed by the "International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons" on September 26.

From a prophetic perspective, it is significant that the UN was established exactly 11 Sabbatical cycles, or 77 years, ago this autumn. Biblically, the number 11 signifies the rebellion of human government, and judgment. The number 7 signifies an endpoint, or conclusion.

Also noteworthy, the UN's official birthday, October 24, 1945, corresponds to the Jewish calendar date Cheshvan 17—the anniversary of the biblical flood. Seeing how the Flood is associated with the number 8, via Noah's family, it is striking that exactly 8 Sabbatical cycles after the UN was established, in autumn 2001, the 9/11 attacks rained down destruction mere blocks from the organization's headquarters in New York.

With the above timetable and symbolism in view, one wonders if the UN's annual assembly is what God had in mind when He inspired the words in 1 Thessalonians, "While they are saying 'Peace and security.'" Could September 2022 mark an end or turning point for the organization that, for 77 years, has promulgated this prophetic phrase?

SUMMARY AND FINAL THOUGHTS

Scripture says Jesus will return at a time of . . .

- Wars and rumors of war.
- Famine and pestilence.
- Earthquakes and extreme weather.
- Buying, selling, and building.
- Eating, drinking, and marrying.
- People saying peace and security.

While there is nothing new under the sun, 2022 is seeing a unique intensification of these and other foreboding phenomena, including:

- A perfect financial storm of debt, 'bubbles,' and inflation.
- Crops worldwide ravaged by extreme weather.
- Supply-chain problems.
- A looming energy crisis, particularly in Europe, as Russia squeezes gas supplies.
- Police, fire, and healthcare worker shortages.
- Soaring drug abuse, homelessness, crime, and murder rates.
- Inept and corrupt rulers leading the most powerful nations.

One of the most ominous developments in 2022 is government UFO disclosure. In May, the US Congress held its first hearing on UFOs in over 50 years, perpetuating the narrative that earth is being visited by advanced "ETs," when in reality it is a foreshadowing of the demonic–angelic invasion described in the Book of Revelation.

The stage is set.

While no one knows the day or hour, conditions suggest that the Rapture is imminent. When all true Christians suddenly vanish into the clouds, chaos will ensue as at no other time in history as earth is pummeled by every type of calamity one can imagine: fires, floods, storms, meteorite and asteroid impacts, and an axial pole shift in which the planet's crust slips around its molten core (Matt. 24:21; Rev. 8–10; Isa. 24:1, 20 KJV).

To escape the judgment reserved for a God-rejecting world, one must be in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. If you have not yet done so, call on His name and believe that He is the Son of God who died for your sins and was raised from the dead (Rom. 10:13). Do it today. Time is running out.

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NOTES:

1. The Greek word translated "earthquakes" in Matthew, *seismos*, also refers to "tempests," or storms. <u>https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g4578/kjv/tr/0-1/</u>

2. 2022 a year of ravaged crops:

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/the-summer-drought-s-hefty-toll-on-american-crops/ar-AA11tEX3 https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/24/china-issues-alert-drought-heatwave-put-crops-at-risk https://www.cnbc.com/2022/08/31/europes-extreme-weather-risks-smaller-harvests-and-higher-food-prices.html https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/historic-drought-followed-by-flooding-threatens-crops-and-farms-in-eastafrica

3. 2022 a record year for luxury car sales: <u>https://www.wsj.com/articles/americans-snap-up-teslas-bentleys-lamborghinis-as-the-luxury-auto-market-booms-</u> 11662497382

4. 2022 a record year for vacations: https://fortune.com/2022/02/18/summer-2022-busiest-travel-season-ever-expedia-ceo-covid-19-restrictionsmask-mandates/

5. 2022 a record year for concert attendance: <u>https://www.digitalmusicnews.com/2022/08/05/live-nation-highest-concert-attendance-ever/</u>

6. 2022 a record year for weddings:

https://www.cbs58.com/news/2022-is-being-called-the-year-of-the-wedding-as-a-record-number-of-couples-tiethe-knot#:~:text=MILWAUKEE%20(CBS%2058)%20%2D%2D%2D%20Some,the%20knot%20in%20the%20US. https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20220517-covid-cut-2020-us-wedding-numbers-to-lowest-since-1963 https://news.yahoo.com/2022-could-be-the-biggest-year-in-the-wedding-industry-211031020.html

7. Peace and Security at the UN:

https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/peace-and-security

https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace

https://www.un.org/en/observances/nuclear-weapons-elimination-day

8. Number 11 in Scripture: https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/11.html

9. Number 7 in Scripture: <u>https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/7.html</u>