Look Up: October 2021

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WHY ARE SO MANY prophecy watchers looking up in 2021? One reason is the state of affairs. This year, we are seeing all-at-once: Intensifying volcanism, storms and droughts. A surge of meteors and near-earth asteroids. A pandemic. Supply chain disruptions and product shortages. Skyrocketing inflation. Historic bubbles in financial markets and housing. A weakened US. A US border crisis. Growing distrust in authorities. Populations conditioned to comply with mandates. Police, fire, and healthcare worker shortages. Historic spikes in crime and murder. Heightened racial tensions. Political division. Advancement of gender identity policies. Government acknowledgement of UFOs as something "real."

An expanded and more aggressive Chinese military.

An increasingly belligerent Russia.

Afghanistan reverting to a terrorist state.

Iran on the verge of acquiring a nuclear weapon.

More groundwork laid for Middle East peace via the Abraham Accord Institute.

And more.

It is not exaggeration to say the world has never seen a time like this. What's more, every phenomenon mentioned above can be tied directly to an end-times Bible verse or prophecy.

The stage seems further set for Judgment Day when we consider that, in spite of everything, people are engrossed in regular activities and consumerism. In fact, pent up demand and pandemic stimulus funds have them "buying, selling, marrying, planting and building" at record levels, echoing end-times passages about the days of Noah and Lot (Luke 17:26–30).

It is not only the state of affairs pointing to a prophetic culmination. It is the calendar. No less than 7 eschatological timelines from the Old and New Testaments can be calculated, without stretching dates or scripture, to point to the same seven-year period, 2021–28.

For instance . . .

- Counting one biblical generation (80 years) from when the "fig tree," Israel, put forth leaves in 1948, we arrive at 2028 (Matt. 24:32, 34; Ps. 90:10).
- Counting 1,335 years from when construction began on the Dome of the Rock, an "abomination that makes desolate" the Temple area, in 685–86 AD, we arrive at 2021 (Dan. 12:11, 12).
- Counting 1,335 years from when the Dome of the Rock was completed in 692–93 AD, we arrive at 2028 (Dan. 12:11, 12).
- Counting 7 and 62 weeks (483 years) from the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls in 1537–38 AD, we arrive at 2021 (Dan. 9:25).
- Counting 50 years, or one jubilee period, from 1971 when a master plan to rebuild Jerusalem was approved and implemented, we arrive at 2021 (Dan. 9:25).
- From the commencement of Daniel's Weeks Prophecy in 457 BC to 2028 is 2,520 prophetic years, the same number of days in a prophetic "week," or sabbatical cycle.

• From Jesus' first coming in 28 AD to 2028 is exactly two (thousand-year) "days" (Hos. 6:2).

For a detailed summary of the extraordinary timeline convergence, see my article entitled, <u>"Timeline</u> <u>Convergence 2021–28: What Does It Mean?"</u>

In addition to the timelines, 2021 marks a logical culmination point for a slew of heavenly signs.

Beginning in 2014 we saw . . .

- Four blood moons on the spring and fall harvest festivals (2014–15).
- The reappearance of the Bethlehem-Star, the planetary conjunction that heralded Jesus' first coming (2015).
- A one-of-a-kind solar eclipse on the biblical New Year, Nisan 1 (2015).
- The Great American Eclipse (2017).
- A one-of-a-kind occurrence of the Revelation 12 Sign (2017).

It is significant that the unprecedented cluster of "signs in the sun, moon, and stars" began 7 years ago as God typically gives a 7-day or 7-year warning before bringing judgment (Gen. 7:1, 4, 7, 10; Josh. 6). This pattern seems confirmed by the birth of two cows with distinct number "7s" on their heads around the Feast of Trumpets in 2014. At the time, the cows were interpreted to be a modern-day version of the "cow sign" given to pharaoh, a warning about 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine (Gen. 41).

With all of the above in view, hopes of Jesus' soon return have been soaring throughout 2021 and for some are nearing a pinnacle. The end of October represents in practical terms the end of summer: It is when "daylight savings time," called "summer time" in Israel, reverts back to standard time. It is when the 7-month agricultural season considered "summer" in Scripture concludes and the whole harvest is celebrated at the Feast of Tabernacles (Gen. 8:22; Ps. 74:17; Lev. 23:33–43).

The prophetic significance of summer's end is that it marks the last opportunity to gather in crops, representing believers, and portends judgment for those who have slept through or for whatever reason missed the harvest (Prov. 10:5; Amos 8:1, 2; Jer. 8:20; Mic. 7:1, 2).

Summer's end/October is also when the early rains begin in Israel. Hosea compares Messiah's coming at the end of the age to the early and latter rains: "He will come to us as the early [October] and the latter rain to the earth" (Hos. 6:3).

Finally, the last gasp of summer is when Halloween, a derivative of the Celtic Samhain (summer's end) and similar festivals worldwide pay homage to the dead. While historians speculate about the origins of

Halloween, it is telling that diverse cultures around the globe—from the Aztecs of Mexico to the Aborigines of Australia—observe a festival to the dead in late October–November. According to Genesis, the event that occurred in October–November and wiped out nearly all human life is Noah's Flood. Recall that Jesus says at His return it will be like "the days of Noah" (Matt. 24:37).

Halloween is also when the Sun enters into the Constellation Libra, whose scales of justice denote judgment. The brightest star in Libra is named *Zuben al Genubi*, which means "the purchase, or price which is deficient." According to E.W. Bullinger, this Arabic name points to the fact that the world, just like Babylon on the eve of its judgment, has been "weighed on the scales and found wanting" (Dan. 5:22–28).

The remarkable convergence highlighted here suggests Jesus is coming soon to judge the world. Whether He will arrive in 2021 we cannot say. What can be said is that there have never been more reasons to look up:

"When these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is at hand" (Luke 21:28).



NOTES:

1. Cow Signs of 2014: <u>https://storage.googleapis.com/wzukusers/user-</u> <u>35306783/documents/aa641880872549af9388ff6f86f83a59/Cow%20Signs%20of%202014%20-</u> <u>%20Another%20Reason%202021%20Could%20Be%20a%20Pivotal%20Year%20In%20Bible%20Prophecy.pdf</u>

2. Israel Summer Time:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Summer_Time#:~:text=Israel%20Summer%20Time%20(Hebrew%3A%20%D7 %A9%D7%A2%D7%95%D7%9F,the%20Iast%20Sunday%20of%20October.

3. Scripture divides the year into only two main seasons, summer and winter:

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" (Gen. 8:22).

"It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter" (Ps. 74:17).

4. Astronomically, the biblical "summer" begins and ends at the spring and fall equinoxes around March 22 and September 22.

5. The early and latter rains are such definite seasons in Israel that they are marked on the calendars and almanacs describing the harvest times. The early rains begin in October. The latter rains begin in March.

6. Cultures worldwide have traditions about a day of death and departed spirits around the end of October:

The ancient Aztecs observed the Day of the Dead in November.

The Assyrians had ceremonies for the souls of the dead in October–November.

The Peruvians ended their November New-Year celebration by placing food and drink on the graves of the departed.

The Hindu 'Durga' festival of the dead was originally linked to the start of the year in November.

The Persians began their New Year in November in a month named Mordad, "the month of the angel of death."

The early Anglo-Saxons called November "blood month."

The aboriginal Australians would, at this time, paint white stripes on their arms and legs to look like skeletons.

7. According to Starry Night astronomical software, the Sun enters the Constellation Libra on October 31.

8. Babylon is a symbol of man's sinfulness and God's judgment in Scripture (Rev. 17, 18).