

ILLINOIS LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

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Here in the United States, over the past few months, we've seen, and we continue to see, numerous floods and fires, as records are being broken. Additionally, the COVID plague remains as variants multiply. Furthermore, involvement in war activities persists, including the recent pull-out from Afghanistan after 20 years, while violence continues. The floods, fires, and other weather events are frequently blamed on climate-change, which man's science attributes chiefly to fossil fuel emissions. Therefore, this month's topic for consideration is: **Why changes in climate, sicknesses, and wars are increasing.** As usual, we will learn the answers from the Holy Bible which provides the only 100% correct information.

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” (Matthew 24:37-42 KJV)

“And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.” (Luke 17:26-30 KJV)

Comment: Observe that the same facts are related by both St. Matthew and St. Luke, for when Holy Scripture repeats information it's emphasizing those particular truths. Think about the days of Noah, and what moved the Lord God to destroy the earth with a world-wide flood: “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.” (Genesis 6:5-8 KJV) Is it not the same today as it was in those days with evil continually flaunted and promoted? Sure it is! And what about the days of Lot, for Holy Writ relates: “And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.” (Genesis 18:17-21 KJV) Sodom was the “gay capital” of the area in those days, for

the vast majority of its residents proudly indulged in disgusting sexual sins, perversions, not unlike numerous individuals in modern day America— but, as we read moments ago in Luke chapter 17, so shall it be immediately preceding the visible return of Jesus Christ to judge the world. Therefore, it's quite obvious why changes in climate, sicknesses, and wars are increasing. However, note well that in the past the Lord always took care of His faithful few. Likewise, the Lord will take care of His Christians today.

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.” (Luke 21:25-36 KJV)

Comment: Consider the signs mentioned in the above Bible verses and compare them to what is going on right now in our country and the rest of the world. The sea and the waves are certainly roaring. Observatories are reporting different things they are seeing in the sun, moon, and stars. People are freaking-out over various occurrences. Nevertheless, we Christians are to keep looking up in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior, for He will visibly return as He has promised when the time is just right— GOD'S WORD STANDS TRUE FOREVER! We must not become entangled with the things of this world, such as amassing worldly-wealth, partying and the like, for Jesus says: “Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21 KJV) Indeed, we must keep our focus on the Lord and His Holy Word, for: “...the holy scriptures... are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:15-17 KJV)

“But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not

from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.”
(Mark 13:14-37 KJV)

Comment: Observe that things in this world are NOT going to grow better as the end approaches; no, things will grow worse and worse as the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. False prophets shall be on the rise with their false doctrines and false religions— all of which are certainly evident more and more right here in the USA, as Muslim influence grows along with “churches” which glorify man’s science falsely so-called. Such was already happening many years ago, albeit on a smaller scale, for the Apostle Paul wrote by inspiration of God: “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.” (1 Timothy 6:20-21 KJV) We Christians need to be alert and aware of the signs of the times! We must always be ready for Christ’s coming in judgment by clinging to Him in heart-deep faith as our personal Savior and Lord. Realize the entire New Testament era is the end-times, for long ago St. Peter wrote: “the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” (1 Peter 4:7 KJV)

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.” (2 Peter 3:10-14 KJV)

Comment: A huge global-warming event is coming, and it won't be because of fossil-fuel emissions; rather, almighty God will burn things up in a big way. But, we Christians look for new heavens and a new earth which will be holy and sinless. Never-ending joy awaits us who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!

“But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you. For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 KJV)

Comment: When men think they've finally achieved peace and safety throughout the world, look out. We must remain ever alert and watchful, standing firm in the faith of Jesus Christ, loving Him and loving one another. We Christians have no need to fear changes in climate, sicknesses, and wars increasing, for our Lord has appointed us to salvation according to soul and body. Praise and glory be to Jesus forever!

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