

“The Beginning of Sorrows”

“But when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled; for such things must happen, but the end *is* not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. . . These are the beginnings of sorrows (birth pangs).”
-- Mark 13:7-8.

William F. Dankenbring

June 7, 2017, will be the 50th anniversary of Israel's retaking of its capital city of Jerusalem-

May 2, 2017 is Israel's 70th national anniversary of returning to statehood after a dispersion that lasted nearly 1,900 years.

Nov. 2, 2017, will be the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Balfour Declaration of the United Kingdom's pledge to seek the reformation of the Jewish state in the region of Palestine. This year also marks a major breakthrough in U.S.-Israeli relations with the new leadership in the White House.

The year 2017 appears to be a year of amazing convergences, prophetically speaking, wouldn't you say?

It is also the year of incredible turbulence in American political strife, governmental malfunction, and clashing ideology with Democrats and Republican divided as never before, and growing threats of impeachment against president Donald Trump. The divisions are acute and the left-wing violence is exacerbated by funding from George Soros and his evil socialist empire.

At the same time, the world has witnessed chemical weapons employed in the Civil War in Syria, the U.S. has employed the use of a massive MOAB (“mother of all bombs”) in Afghanistan, and the threat of nuclear war has metastasized in the peninsula of Korea.

Are we suddenly on the brink of a thermonuclear World War III?

***China on US-North Korea Rift:
“Storm Clouds Gathering”***

China issued a warning regarding the tense situation in North Korea, saying storm clouds are gathering in the region and the threat of war is inching closer and closer. “The United States and South Korea and North Korea are engaging in tit for tat, with swords drawn and bows bent, and there have been storm clouds gathering,” said China's foreign minister Wang Yi. “We urge all sides to no longer engage in mutual provocation and threats, whether through words or deeds, and don't push the situation to the point where it can't be turned around and gets out of hand.

“No matter who it is, if they let war break out on the peninsula, they must shoulder that historical culpability and pay the corresponding price for this.”

The U.S. sent a Navy strike group led by the U.S.S. Carl Vinson aircraft carrier to the region to keep a close eye on things. North Korea's vice foreign minister [said](#) his nation is ready to go to war with the U.S. Meanwhile, the U.S. may be sending two more carrier strike groups to the region, the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan and the U.S.S. Nimitz.

Where will it all end? Is nuclear war in the offing?

A ranking U.S. senator said the U.S. should launch a preemptive strike on North Korea if that's what it takes to stop Pyongyang from building a missile capable of hitting America, even though such military action would mean war. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) made the argument during an interview with NBC News, saying that war would be bad for South Korea, Japan and other countries in the region, but won't reach the U.S., while an intercontinental ballistic missile could do.

“It would be terrible but the war would be over here (there), wouldn't be here,” Graham said with a gesture with his fingers. “It would be bad for the Korean Peninsula. It would be bad for China. It would be bad for Japan, be bad for South Korea. It would be the end of North Korea. But what it would not do is hit America and the only way it could ever come to America is with a missile.”

Meanwhile, China warns that 'World War III' is imminent!” (Kashmir Observer, April 15, 2017). China has warned that “conflict could break out at any moment” on the Korean Peninsula, as North Korea and the United States increasingly seem headed for a potential military confrontation.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry censured the United States for the deployment of “huge nuclear strategic assets” to the Korean Peninsula. “This has created a dangerous situation in which a thermo-nuclear war may break out any moment on the

peninsula and posed serious threat to the world peace and security, to say nothing of those in Northeast Asia,” it added.

“Japanese people are buying nuclear shelters because they are scared of North Korea missile strike” according to Yahoo News, April 24, 2017). Sales of nuclear shelters and radiation-blocking air purifiers have surged in Japan in recent weeks as North Korea presses ahead with missile tests.

North Korean missiles have fired with increasing frequency. In March, three fell into waters within Japan’s exclusive economic zone, some 200-225 miles off the coast of northern Akita prefecture. The Japanese government has urged local governments to hold evacuation drills in case of a possible missile attack, heightening a sense of urgency among the public.

China is fearful that the situation could spin out of control. It has sent 150,000 troops to the North Korean border and replaced Korean coal with American coal imports. Russia, meanwhile, has reportedly ordered troops and weapons to be sent to the country’s border with North Korea as tensions continue to escalate.

EMP Attack

Launched from a satellite, a small nuclear warhead only needs to explode 300 miles above the Earth to knock out a power grid – and the US is largely defenseless to such an EMP attack North Korea could potentially deliver.

And if a power grid goes down completely, it’ll take critical, life-sustaining systems down with it: mass infrastructure for banks, hospitals, communications, food, water and the Internet could be disrupted for a year, if not outright destroyed.

“If a nuclear device designed to emit EMP were exploded 250 to 300 miles up over the middle of the country, it would disable the electronics in the entire United States,” said EMP expert Gale Nordling. “That would disable the entire electric grid. It would disable communications, it would disable fuel manufacturing and production, it would disable hospitals and medicines, it would disable 911 call centers.”

Right now, an EMP attack by North Korea poses a potentially greater threat to the US than an intercontinental ballistic missile – and the hermit kingdom already orbited its KMS-3 satellite over the U.S. in 2012.

It’s currently unknown if North Korea has a warhead small enough for a satellite, however, its space program shows more promise than its development of ICBMs.

North Korea claims its space program is designed to provide agricultural images to improve its crop yields; but the country is small enough that aircraft could do the same

with greater flexibility; satellites are only useful to vast nations like Russia. In fact, the KMS-3 made several passes above Russia and the US, but not North Korea.

Jim Oberg, who is perhaps the only western spaceflight engineer to visit North Korea, warned that North Korea's Sohae launch site is geographically suitable for launching satellites to orbit above America's East Coast.

"On the very first pass around Earth, after crossing near Antarctica, the satellite tracks northwards off the west coast of South America, over the Caribbean, and right up the US East Coast," he wrote. "Sixty-five minutes after launch, it's passing a few hundred miles west of Washington DC, and with a minor steering adjustment during launch it could pass right overhead."

"What might be inside that half-ton package [in the satellite] is literally anybody's guess."

The US, however, is behind Russia, China, Israel and even Iran in EMP preparedness.

World on Brink of Nuclear War

As tensions between North Korea and the US heighten fears of a nuclear war, we should remember that six times the world has come perilously close to annihilation only to be saved by smart diplomacy, incompetence or plain old "good luck."

Here are six times in modern history that the nations of the world veered perilously toward the Abyss of nuclear war.

The Cuban Missile Crisis – This is the closest the world has come to a nuclear war. The Cuban Missile Crisis was a frightening confrontation in October 1962 between the US and the USSR at the height of the Cold War.

Robert Litwak of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars has warned in the New York Times that the current conflict between the US and North Korea is "the Cuban missile crisis in slow motion."

The Yom Kippur War – In October 1973, Egyptian and Syrian forces launched an attack against Israel on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Israel and its Prime Minister Golda Meir were caught off guard and fought back by authorizing the activation and distribution of nuclear warheads to the air force. The Israeli PM actually authorized IDF bombers to load nuclear warheads, prompting the US to move to a DEFCON-3 alert and B-52 nuclear bombers to be prepared.

The UN was able to secure a cease-fire between Egypt and Israel but not before significant casualties for Israel and a heavy military defeat for Syria as Israel gained more territory in the Golan Heights.

Korean Airlines Flight 007 – The September 1, 1983, shooting down of a passenger jet by Soviet fighter jets, in which 269 people died, was one of the great misunderstandings of the Cold War. The tragic incident also highlighted the disturbingly error-prone nature of Early Warning Systems.

Amid intense paranoia in the Soviet region about US spy planes, the USSR was put on high alert when the Korea Air Lines Boeing 747 veered off course from New York to Seoul via Anchorage, Alaska when its autopilot failed. When there was no response Soviet pilot Gennadi Osipovitch was given instructions to fire upon the plane by his command. President Ronald Reagan said the attack was “a crime against humanity” with “absolutely no justification, legal or moral.”

In November 1983, a NATO war game, named Able Archer 83, almost led to a nuclear holocaust. The Soviets were convinced that the large-scale military exercise being conducted in Europe was a ruse for a real invasion and a US nuclear first strike. The exercise simulated a coordinated nuclear war and heads of government were involved. In response, the USSR armed their intercontinental nuclear missiles and put them on the front line, cutting down their standard process times from hours to just 20 minutes.

Pakistan vs. India – Pakistan readied its nuclear arsenal for a possible attack against neighbor India in the Kargil war of 1999, in the disputed territory of Kashmir. As Pakistan’s Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif sought American help to prevent an escalation of the war, he admitted that his country was ready to use their nuclear arsenal against their bitter rivals. Sharif indicated he believed India was ready to do the same. President Clinton convinced Sharif not to use his nukes and to pull his forces out of India-administered Kashmir before he was able to get India to agree to a cease-fire.

Is World War III now ready to break out?

We may be nearing this point, at which time Jesus’ prophetic statement that, at the End of the Age, men’s hearts will be failing them for fear, will actually occur.

North Korea and the Threat of War

“A hair-raising nuclear confrontation in Korea may, towards the end of the period, threaten man's very survival.

-- Peter Lemesurier, *The Armageddon Script*, p. 223.

The North Koreans are striving to develop intercontinental ballistic missiles that could strike the U.S. mainland. Donald Trump has declared that North Korea will simply not be allowed to have ICBMs.

North Korea is “ready to sink” a US aircraft carrier heading for the peninsula, state media have said. A commentary in the Rodong Sinmun newspaper warned that the USS Carl Vinson could be sunk “with a single strike”.

President Donald Trump issued a warning that US “strategic patience” over the North's nuclear ambitions had come to an end. Tension also rose after a recent failed missile test by the North and a massive military parade showing off its latest hardware.

Michel Snyder writes in Economic Collapse Blog, this may be the closest that we have been to war with North Korea since the original Korean War ended in 1953. He writes that if North Korea does not blink, it means that we are literally counting down the days until we go to war. Unfortunately, North Korean leaders appear to literally be insane and they have shown absolutely no signs of backing off.

In 2016, North Korea tested two nuclear bombs and test-fired 24 missiles, and so far this year they have test-fired five ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan.

During a joint press conference with the South Korean Foreign Minister U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson boldly declared that “all options are on the table” when it comes to North Korea. In addition, Tillerson specifically declined to rule out a preemptive strike against the regime.

Needless to say, the ultra-paranoid leadership in Pyongyang was totally freaked out by what Tillerson had to say.

What has brought this crisis to a breaking point is the fact that North Korea has continued to work on developing an ICBM that could deliver a nuclear payload to the United States.

Donald Trump has promised to stop North Korea from doing that before it ever happens.

Just before he took office in January, Trump tweeted: “It won't happen!” when Kim said North Korea was close to testing an ICBM.

So now Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are locked in a very dangerous game of chicken. Both of them are known to be extremely strong-willed, temperamental, and unwilling to back down when threatened.

But if neither of them is willing to back down now, it could potentially spark a major war...

Making matters worse, this year we have Kim Jong Un on one side: A young, relatively inexperienced and unpredictable leader prone to aggression who could be facing internal turmoil (one explanation for killing his brother).

On the other, we now have President Trump. In such a high-stakes standoff, if we're not careful, these two leaders could prove to be a volatile -- and deadly -- mix.

In short, what we have now is a regional tinderbox ready to be lit by a small spark that could lead to an exchange of fire and subsequently another war.

And actually the truth is that the conflict has already started. It is widely known that the U.S. has already been conducting cyberattacks against North Korea's nuclear program, but if those cyberattacks end up not being enough the Trump administration could order a preemptive military strike.

In recent days, the U.S. military has deployed a 100,000-ton Nimitz-class aircraft carrier to the region. The USS Carl Vinson is carrying more than 40 F-18s, and it is being escorted by a number of very powerful destroyers and cruisers.

And it is also being reported that SEAL Team 6 is being deployed to South Korea in order "to practice incapacitating North Korean leadership in the case of conflict". The following comes from Zero Hedge...

On March 1, the WSJ reported that the options contemplated by the White House in response to recent North Korean acts, include "the possibility of both military force and regime change to counter the country's nuclear-weapons threat."

The review came as recent events have strained regional stability including last month's launch by North Korea of a ballistic missile into the Sea of Japan, and the assassination of the estranged half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Malaysia.

And, according to a report in Yonhap, said "regime change" may come far sooner than expected: the South Korean website writes that U.S. special operations forces, including the unit that killed Osama Bin Laden, will take part in joint military drills in South Korea "to practice incapacitating North Korean leadership in the case of conflict", a military official said Monday.

The U.S. Navy's Special Warfare Development Group, better known as the SEAL Team 6, will arrive in South Korea for joint military drills and take part in an exercise simulating a precision North Korean incursion and "the removal of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un", according to the Ministry of National Defense Monday.

But regime change in North Korea would not be easy, and unless the U.S. was willing to use nuclear weapons in a first strike the North Koreans would almost certainly be able to strike back very hard.

North Korea has the fourth largest army in the entire world, and it is being reported that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has personally ordered his entire military to go into "combat mode" in anticipation of a conflict with the United States...

It's been at least 24 hours since any further sabers were rattled between China, US, South Korea, and North Korea (oh and Japan), but according to DailyNK.com, Kim Jong Un has ordered the entire North Korean army into "combat mode" to tighten security and consolidate sentiment in response to military drills conducted by South Korea and the US, which began in early March.

A source in South Pyongan Province told Daily NK that following the order from Kim Jong Un, every last soldier- even if away on business, on leave, off-base for training, or even those with a recent death in the family-were ordered back to their units.

The authorities have ordered the military police in each region to summon all soldiers back to their bases.

Korea is a flash point of potential nuclear war beginning in the world.

We are moving into a time when war will become much more common, and at some point World War III will erupt.

If we do go to war with North Korea, Trump will get the blame, but the truth is that Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton also deserve much of the blame for allowing things to get to this point.

It is absolutely unthinkable that we would allow the North Koreans to develop ICBMs that could deliver nuclear payloads to U.S. cities. But it is almost as unthinkable for us to go to war with North Korea.

Both possibilities are absolutely horrific, and so let us hope that cooler heads will prevail and that Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will be able to work things out. (see Michael Snyder, Economic Collapse Blog March 22, 2017).

Mystical Rabbi Predicted Today's Top Threat 22 Years Ago

Communist North Korea long has been a threat to world stability, with its parades of military weaponry, nuclear capabilities and its promises of destruction and death for its foes. That rhetoric has surged in recent months, with dictator Kim Jong-un warning he would rain "nuclear thunder" down on the United States.

But none of that should be a surprise, according to *Breaking Israel News*, which reports a highly respected rabbi predicted in 1994 that the biggest threat to Israel would come not from the Muslim-dominated nations of Syria, Iran or Iraq, but from North Korea.

“North Korea has only recently emerged as a major threat to the Western world, but a noted kabbalist predicted 22 years ago that the rogue nation would become the nuclear key to the final war of Gog and Magog,” said features writer Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, who lives in Israel.

“Now that politics have shifted, revealing the prophetic nature of the rabbi’s words, another look reveals a deeper, biblical understanding of the threat that faces us today.”

He recounts how Rabbi Levi Saadia Nachamani, who accurately had forecast both the Six Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973, issued his warning.

Nachamani, a kabbalist, said just a month before he died that the biggest threat was, “Not Syria, not Persia (Iran), and not Babylon (Iraq), and not Gadhafi (Libya).”

Instead, he said, “Korea will arrive here.”

The clash between the repressive and closed North Korea and the U.S. has escalated under President Trump. For eight years under President Obama, North Korea’s threats were virtually ignored.

But Trump, who has made it clear he believes North Korea and Kim are problems that need to be solved, is pressuring China, a Pyongyang ally, to force Kim to back down.

The U.S., meanwhile, dispatched a nuclear-powered submarine to join the fleet of ships it already has in or near the region. The USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier strike group was in the Philippine Sea near Japan.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry has said the North appears ready to conduct such “strategic provocations” at any time,” Fox News reported. South Korean Acting Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn “has instructed his military to strengthen its ‘immediate response posture’ in case North Korea does something significant on the ... anniversary of its military. North Korea often marks significant dates by displaying military capability.”

Breaking Israel News said Rabbi Nachmani’s prediction was shocking for many reasons.

“He had accurately predicted the Six Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973, giving credence to his prediction, but it was inconceivable that the threats he mentioned, all posing the greatest dangers to Israel at the time, would vanish. As time has shown, that is precisely what has happened since the rabbi made his speech.”

The news site noted that since its first nuclear test 10 years ago, North Korea’s weapons testing has increased in frequency and size.

“Coupled with its missile program, condemned by the U.N. and neighboring countries, North Korea has made its aggressive intentions and capabilities clear. Earlier this month, White House representative Nick Rivero was quoted saying the United States was ‘very close’ to engaging in some sort of retaliation toward North Korea.”

The report said Nachmani’s prediction included a biblical reference, to She’ol, which is Hebrew for hell, “but it is spelled the same way in Hebrew as Seoul, the capital of South Korea.”

A blogger who specializes in biblical prophecy, Dov Bar Leib, said Nachmani “was hinting that God’s fire cited in the verse is a nuclear war that would begin between North and South Korea.”

“North Korea will attack Seoul, the capital of South Korea, conquering it. It will become one nation, She’ol, under the rule of North Korea, which will then come to threaten Israel,” Breaking News Israel reported he said.

He also cited references to North Korea in Jewish mysticism and explained that North Korea has been close to Iran. And while that alliance may seem unlikely, they are united “in their hatred for the Western World.”

When those two countries work together, as suggested in mysticism, the blogger said, “It will be the final war of Gog and Magog, as described by Rabbi Nachmani.”

VosizNeias, a site for Orthodox Jews, reported back in 2009 of the growing threat from North Korea, which had just set off its second nuclear explosion.

“This development is a direct challenge to the leader of the world’s remaining superpower, Barack Obama, who proclaimed to his citizens: ‘I strongly condemn their actions. N. Korea’s actions endanger the people of Northeast Asia, they are a blatant violation of international law and they contradict North Korea’s own prior commitments,’” the report said at the time.

The rabbi said there’s not going to be sudden peace, as some hope. “We are in a very difficult situation,” he said. “Do you think there will be peace? ...

“Total fools.”

A nuclear war could break out at any moment on the Korean peninsula.

Several experts say the U.S. should not ignore the possibility of a serious threat from North Korea.

WND has been reporting on the threat to America from an EMP, the electromagnetic pulse from a nuclear explosion high in the sky, since early in the 2000s when former CIA chief James Wooley, former Defense Department staffer F. Michael Maloof and former Congressional EMP Commission member Peter Vincent Pry were sounding the alarm.

Pry has told WND he's concerned that two satellites North Korea has orbiting in paths that cross above America could have nuclear warheads aboard.

Pry is executive director of the Task Force on National and Homeland Security, director of the U.S. Nuclear Strategy Forum. He served on the congressional EMP Commission as well as the Congressional Strategic Posture Commission.

"All of us," he said, referring to a team of experts in the field, "have written we think that the threat, the possibility of a super-EMP warhead is so great, the United States should take them [North Korea's satellites] down," he told WND.

"We ought not tolerate them orbiting," he said, because nobody knows for sure what's on the satellites.

The problem is that a significant EMP attack properly carried out in the skies over the United States could take down the nation's entire electronic infrastructure, including computers, networks, communications and systems that provide fuel, electricity, food, banking and health care.

The estimates range widely, but there easily could be multiple tens of millions of fatalities across the U.S. following such an attack.

"The dark ages can come back ... literally. ... It's that stark: A cliff waiting for us to fall over," he said.

The EMP threat, he said, is the one way in which a rogue nation like North Korea could inflict horrible damage on the U.S., possibly even neutralize it. After all, if the electronic controls were gone, would it even be possible for the nation to respond to an attack militarily?

The U.S., he said, would be "blind and defenseless." (wnd.com/2017/04/mystic-rabbi-predicted-todays-top-threat-22-years-ago/).

Earthquakes!

"And there will be earthquakes in various places . . ."
-- Mark 13:8.

“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?’” (Rev.6:14-17, KJV).

Scientists Warn Megaquake Could Plunge Parts of California into Ocean

Over the years, many people have been shown that someday a giant earthquake will cause significant portions of California to fall into the ocean.

But up until now, most scientists have disputed the idea that this could ever actually happen.

Well, now all of that has changed.

According to a brand new study, a megaquake along the west coast "could plunge large parts of California into the sea almost instantly".

In fact, the researchers that conducted this study say that it is almost certain to happen eventually. Of course they probably don't believe that such an event is imminent or else they would be moving out of the state like so many other people are.

When I came across news stories about this brand new study I was absolutely astounded. Here is a short excerpt from one of them...

The Big One may be overdue to hit California, but scientists near LA have found a new risk for the area during a major earthquake.

They claim that if a major tremor hits the area, it could plunge large parts of California into the sea almost instantly.

The discovery was made after studying the Newport-Inglewood fault, which has long been believed to be one of Southern California's danger zones.

Could you imagine what such a catastrophe would do to our nation and how many lives would be lost if that were to happen today?

According to the study, a California megaquake would potentially cause some sections of southern California to suddenly drop by as much as 3 feet, and that could result in vast stretches of land "ending up at or below sea level"...

In total three quakes over the last 2,000 years on nearby faults made ground just outside Los Angeles city limits sink as much as 3ft. Today that could result in the area ending up at or below sea level, said Cal State Fullerton professor Matt Kirby, who worked with the paper's lead author, graduate student Robert Leeper.

And we are not talking about something that would happen over a period of weeks or months. According to these scientists, it would be a "very rapid sinking"...

"It's not just a gradual sinking. This is boom -- it would drop. It's very rapid sinking," Robert Leeper, lead author of a new study published in Nature, carried out with the help of the US Geological Survey, told the LA Times.

So could a substantial portion of southern California someday actually slide into the ocean like we see in the movies?

The scientists that were involved in this study say that the answer is yes...

Cal State Fullerton professor Matt Kirby, who worked with Leeper on the study, said the sinking would occur quickly and likely result in part of California being covered by the sea.

"It's something that would happen relatively instantaneously," Prof Kirby said. "Probably today if it happened, you would see seawater rushing in."

But scientists are also telling us that a tremendous amount of seismic tension has built up in southern California, and that this tension could cause a major earthquake at any time.

In fact, in my recent article about why people are moving out of California, I included a quote from an ABC Los Angeles story about how researchers are warning that a major earthquake in southern California is "way overdue"...

A recently published study reveals new evidence that a major earthquake is way overdue on a 100 mile stretch of the San Andreas Fault from the Antelope Valley to the Tejon Pass and beyond.

Researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey released the results of the years-long study warning a major earthquake could strike soon.

Today, more than 38 million people live in the state of California, and as a population density map of the state shows, much of the population is concentrated along the coastline.

So if large sections of the California coast did end up plunging into the ocean, what would the death toll be?

Would it be in the millions? And what would such a disaster mean for the rest of the country?

The west coast of the United States sits along "the Ring of Fire".

Roughly encircling the Pacific Ocean, this vast seismic zone contains approximately 75 percent of the active volcanoes in the world and it produces more than 80 percent of all major earthquakes.

In other words, anyone that lives near the Ring of Fire would be foolish to assume that they are immune from massive natural disasters.

In 2011, a major earthquake along the Ring of Fire on the other side of the Pacific Ocean caused a massive tsunami to wash inland in Japan for many, many miles.

If such a thing were to happen in Los Angeles or San Francisco, the death and destruction would be on a scale that would be absolutely unimaginable.

When the big Hollywood film entitled "San Andreas" came out in 2015, a lot of people mocked the idea that the things portrayed in that film could ever happen in real life.

But now scientists are telling us that a megaquake could cause large portions of California to plunge into the ocean and that it is quite likely that this will actually happen someday. (By Michael Snyder/Economic Collapse Blog March 27, 2017).

The Extinction Protocol

If it seems like earthquakes and erupting volcanoes are happening more frequently, that's because they are. Looking at global magnitude six (M6) or greater from 1980 to 1989 there was an average of 108.5 earthquakes per year, from 2000 to 2009 the planet averaged 160.9 earthquakes per year: that is a 38.9% increase of M6+ earthquakes in recent years. Unrest also seems to be growing among the world's super-volcanoes. Iceland (which is home to some of the most dangerous volcanoes on the planet), Santorini in Greece, Uturuncu in Bolivia, the Yellowstone and Long Valley calderas in the U.S., Laguna del Maule in Chile, Italy's Campi Flegrei – almost all of the world's active super-volcanic systems are now exhibiting some signs of inflation, an early indication that pressure is building in these volcanic systems.

When they will erupt is guess work, but in the meantime, activity is growing in Central America's volcanoes such as Costa Rica's Turrialba Volcano, Asia's volcanoes such as Kamchatka, Alaska and Indonesia are also more active. Magma chambers are growing as pressures increase, the numbers of tremors are increasing as are related

‘quake-clusters’. If any one of these major volcanic systems has a large scale eruption, it would be a global event. Iceland is considered by many scientists to be the next likely place for a global level volcanic event. The last major event, actually relatively minor, was in 2010 when an Icelandic volcano (Eyjafjallajökull volcano) made headlines around the world by spewing mega-tons of ash into the atmosphere, cancelling and re-routing thousands of flights and costing airlines and passengers more than \$7 billion+ in lost revenues.

The latest research connects the Sun to the Earth in fascinating new ways. A 1967 study published in the Earth and *Planetary Science* journal, stated: “Solar activity, as indicated by sunspots, radio noise and geomagnetic indices, plays a significant but by no means exclusive role in the triggering of earthquakes.” A 1998 report by a scientist from the Beijing Astronomical Observatory... “Earthquakes occur frequently around the minimum years of solar activity.” As reported on NewScientist.com and numerous other science sites, including Space.com, the sun has recently entered into its lowest (minimum) active levels in four centuries, coinciding with an increase in global seismic activity. “Solar activity is declining very fast at the moment,” Mike Lockwood, professor of space environmental physics at Reading University, UK, told New Scientist. “We estimate faster than at any time in the last 9300 years.”

Current Solar science looks at Sunspots, Solar Flares (charged particles), Solar Wind speed and density, Magnetic Field Shift, Shifting Ocean and Jet Stream Currents, Extreme Weather (including earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes or other extreme natural events), and have concluded that the Earth and the Sun are far more connected than previously thought. The most recent study by the USGS finds there were more than twice as many big earthquakes in the first quarter of 2014 as compared with the average since 1979. “We have recently experienced a period that has had one of the highest rates of great earthquakes ever recorded,” said lead study author Tom Parsons, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in California. It seems that earthquakes and volcanic activity is on the rise and according to many scientific experts we can expect more in the near future.

Why Is This Happening?

Although earthquakes and volcanoes have claimed millions of lives in the past 500 years, the danger is now greater than ever since the population has dramatically increased during the last two centuries, and some of the world’s most earthquake-prone regions have become the most densely populated.

Currently, a worldwide network of seismographs detects about one million small earthquakes annually. In addition, the U.S. Geological Survey predicts about 18 major earthquakes (7.0-7.9-magnitude) and one great earthquake (8.0 or higher) every year.

But soon more powerful earthquakes will shake the earth, awakening giant volcanoes that will affect the security and stability of the whole world! These powerful events will not just alter the face of single mountains, but that of the whole earth!

The Bible foretells that this single greatest period of earthquake and volcanic activity in history lies just ahead. God will use earthquakes, volcanoes and even tsunamis to reveal His presence, His deliverance, His wrath and His power. He will also use them to announce Christ's Return, to accompany prophetic events, and to reshape the earth's surface.

Great Famines!

“And there will be famines and troubles.”
-- Mark 13:8.

Right now there is a desperate need for food in South Sudan, Somalia, northeast Nigeria, Eritrea and Kenya.

And Yemen, even though it is not technically part of Africa, is being affected by many of the same factors that are crippling nations all over eastern Africa. The United Nations says that more than 20 million people could die from starvation and disease if nothing is done. The UN says it is the Worst Food Crisis Since WW2.

Many believe that we could never possibly face this kind of food crisis in the western world, but unfortunately wishful thinking will only get you so far.

The United Nations was formed in 1945, and the UN has just announced that what we are facing this year is “the largest humanitarian crisis since the creation of the UN.” According to CNN, 20 million at risk of starvation in world's largest crisis since 1945. The article declares, “We stand at a critical point in history. Already at the beginning of the year we are facing the largest humanitarian crisis since the creation of the UN, said UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien.

“Now, more than 20 million people across four countries face starvation and famine. Without collective and coordinated global efforts, people will simply starve to death. Many more will suffer and die from disease.”

It would be hard to overstate the level of human suffering that we are witnessing in many parts of Africa at this moment.

In Somalia, the UN estimates that more than 6 million people are in desperate need of food aid. As Somalia inches closer to a calamitous famine, the prospect of utter devastation and colossal loss of human life is once again becoming an imminent reality.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia is deteriorating by the day with up to 6.2 million people in need of urgent aid.

People across Somalia have been forced to walk hundreds of miles in search of food, water and shelter – with women and children disproportionately affected.

Over 300,000 children under the age of five are severely malnourished, with over 200,000 more children at risk of acute malnutrition.

In South Sudan, close to half the population is in dire need of assistance, and things have gotten so bad there that people will literally eat grass if they can find it.

Across South Sudan more than one million children are believed to be acutely malnourished and UNICEF have said that if urgent aid does not reach them, many of them will die.

“There is no food, we eat anything we can find,” one South Sudanese mother told ITV. “We will find grass, we will eat it. That’s just the way it is for us now.”

Over in Yemen, there are about seven million people in need of food help, and authorities are warning that if nothing is done “millions of children” could starve to death...

“The numbers affected are absolutely extraordinary,” said Mark Kaye, Save the Children's Yemen spokesperson.

“We keep on talking about a country that’s on the brink of famine, but for me these numbers highlight that we’re at the point of no return.”

If things are not done now we are going to be looking back on this and millions of children will have starved to death, and we’ll all have been aware of this for some time. That will shame us as an international community for years to come.

Eritrea was not specifically included in the recent UN alert, but it should have been. Much of the country has been hit by a crippling drought, and approximately half of all children in Eritrea are stunted.

But we cannot understand why Eritrea is not included in the appeal. Unicef has confirmed what we know from our friends and families inside the country.

In a report in January, the agency said that the El Niño drought has hit half of all Eritrea's regions. Acute malnutrition is widespread.

As Unicef put it: "Malnutrition rates already exceeded emergency levels, with 22,700 children under five projected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2017.

Half of all children in Eritrea are stunted, and as a result, these children are even more vulnerable to malnutrition and disease outbreaks."

We have been warned that there would be famines in diverse places in these times. But here in the western world we tend to be lulled into a false sense of security by

our comfortable lives, not realizing that the massively inflated standard of living that we have been enjoying has been fueled by the largest mountain of debt in the history of the planet.

In Kenya, a national emergency has been declared due to drought and famine.

For those of you that are parents, what would you do if your children were crying out for food but you didn't have anything to give them? The following story from Kenya is beyond heartbreaking.

Emmanuel Ayapar is three years old and can no longer walk. The flesh on his legs, which dangle from his mother's hip as she carries him around, is wasting away. He seems listless and sad, tongue flicking repeatedly in and out of his mouth.

'We do not have enough food,' said Veronica, his 28-year-old mother. 'We eat only once a day.' The little boy is suffering from severe malnutrition and is at risk of starving to death. He weighs just 15lb – half the typical weight for a boy of his age.

In the western world we can be so incredibly self-absorbed that we don't even realize that children are literally starving to death on the other side of the planet.

Hopefully those of us that live in “wealthy” western countries will step up to the plate and aid those in need, and hopefully this crisis will also help us to understand that we need to prepare for the day when things get difficult in our own nations too. (from Michael Snyder, Economic Collapse Blog March 22, 2017).

According to Bible prophecy, this is just the beginning. The famines are destined to grow more severe and become worldwide in scope.

We read in the book of Revelation, “When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, ‘Come and see.’ So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, ‘A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine.’” (Rev.6:5-6, NKJV).

Because of mounting worldwide lawlessness, and wickedness, God declares, “I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.” (Lev.26:19-20, NKJV).

The punishment will grow more severe. “When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied” (verse 26).

“And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. And the LORD will change the rain of your land to powder

and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed” (Deut.28:23-24).

Hard times are indeed coming. Jeremiah describes the coming horror in Lamentations, saying, “The tongue of the infant clings to the roof of its mouth for thirst; the young children ask for bread, but no one breaks it for them. Those who ate delicacies are desolate in the streets; those who were brought up in scarlet embrace ash heaps. The punishment of the iniquity of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, which was overthrown in a moment, with no hand to help her!” (Lamentations 4:4-6).

“Now their appearance is blacker than soot; they go unrecognized in the streets; their skin clings to their bones, it has become as dry as wood” (verse 8).

How bad will it get? Jeremiah laments, “The hands of the compassionate women have cooked their own children; they became food for them in the destruction of the daughter of my people” (Lam.4:10).

There will appear to be no hope. “Still our eyes failed us, watching vainly for our help; in our watching we watched vainly for a nation that could not save us. They tracked our steps so that we could not walk in our streets. Our end was near; our days were over, for our end had come” (verses 17-18).

And to think – all this is just the beginning of troubles and sorrows!

World Debt Bomb Ready to Explode!

“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave
to the lender.”

-- Proverbs 22;7, NIV.

Is an economic “Armageddon” at our door? Is America and the whole world teetering on the brink of global insolvency? How long will the growing indebtedness continue to pile up by the trillions, before the day of reckoning arrives? Are we headed pell mell down the road to disaster in the next few years?

Michael Snyder reports that according to the International Monetary Fund, global debt has grown to a staggering grand total of **152 trillion dollars**. **Other estimates put that figure closer to 200 trillion dollars, but for the purposes of this article let’s use the more conservative number.** **If you take 152 trillion dollars and divide it by the seven billion people living on the planet,** you get \$21,714, which would be the share of that debt for every man, woman and child in the world if it was divided up equally.

So if you have a family of four, your family's share of the global debt load would be \$86,856.

Very few families could write a check for that amount today, and we also must remember that we live in some of the wealthiest areas on the globe. **Considering the fact that** more than 3 billion people around the world live on two dollars a day or less, the truth is that about half the planet would not be capable of contributing toward the repayment of our 152 trillion dollar debt at all. So they should probably be excluded from these calculations entirely, and that would mean that your family's share of the debt would ultimately be far, far higher.

Of course global debt repayment will never actually be apportioned by family. The reason why I am sharing this example is to show you that it is literally impossible for all of this debt to ever be repaid.

We are living during the greatest debt bubble in the history of the world, and our financial engineers have got to keep figuring out ways to keep it growing much faster than global GDP because if it ever stops growing it will burst and destroy the entire global financial system.

Bill Gross, one of the most highly respected financial minds on the entire planet, recently observed that *“our highly levered financial system is like a truckload of nitro glycerin on a bumpy road”*.

And he is precisely correct. Everything might seem fine for a while, but one day we are going to hit the wrong bump at the wrong time and the whole thing is going to go KA-BOOM.

The financial crisis of 2008 represented an opportunity to learn from our mistakes, but instead we just papered over our errors and cranked up the global debt creation machine to levels never seen before. Here is more from Bill Gross:

“My lesson continued but the crux of it was that in 2017, the global economy has created more credit relative to GDP than that at the beginning of 2008's disaster. In the U.S., credit of \$65 trillion is roughly 350% of annual GDP and the ratio is rising. In China, the ratio has more than doubled in the past decade to nearly 300%. Since 2007, China has added \$24 trillion worth of debt to its collective balance sheet. Over the same period, the U.S. and Europe only added \$12 trillion each.

“Capitalism, with its adopted fractional reserve banking system, depends on credit expansion and the printing of additional reserves by central banks, which in turn are lent by private banks to create pizza stores, cell phones and a myriad of other products and business enterprises. But the credit creation has limits and the cost of credit (interest rates) must be carefully monitored so that borrowers (think subprime) can pay back the monthly servicing costs. If rates are too high (and credit as a % of GDP too high as well), then potential Lehman black swans can occur. On the other hand, if rates are too low (and

credit as a % of GDP declines), then the system breaks down, as savers, pension funds and insurance companies become unable to earn a rate of return high enough to match and service their liabilities.”

There is always a price to be paid for going into debt. It is amazing that so many people – even intelligent Americans – seem to have forgotten or never learned or understand this very basic foundational principle of life!

Is a Financial Armageddon Approaching?

The world is spiraling into a vortex of unimaginable debt and economic catastrophe. Michael Snyder warns of the extreme danger the United States is in today in terms of financial stability. In his Economic Collapse Blog on December 29, 2015, he wrote this dire warning:

Did you know that there are 5 “too big to fail” banks in the United States that **each** have exposure to derivatives contracts that is in excess of 30 **trillion** dollars? Overall, the biggest U.S. banks collectively have more than 247 **trillion** dollars of exposure to derivatives contracts. That is an amount of money that is more than 13 times the size of the U.S. national debt, and it is a ticking time bomb that could set off financial Armageddon at any moment. Globally, the notional value of all outstanding derivatives contracts is a staggering 552.9 trillion dollars according to the Bank for International Settlements. The bankers assure us that these financial instruments are far less risky than they sound, and that they have spread the risk around enough so that there is no way they could bring the entire system down. But that is the thing about risk – you can try to spread it around as many ways as you can, but you can never eliminate it. And when this derivatives bubble finally implodes, there won’t be enough money on the entire planet to fix it.

A lot of readers may be tempted to quit reading right now, because “derivatives” is a term that sounds quite complicated. And yes, the details of these arrangements can be immensely complicated, but the concept is quite simple. Here is a good definition of “derivatives” that comes from Investopedia...

A derivative is a security with a price that is dependent upon or derived from one or more underlying assets. The derivative itself is a contract between two or more parties based upon the asset or assets. Its value is determined by fluctuations in the underlying asset. The most common underlying assets include stocks, bonds, commodities, currencies, interest rates and market indexes.

I like to refer to the derivatives marketplace as a form of “legalized gambling”. Those that are engaged in derivatives trading are simply betting that something either will or will not happen in the future. Derivatives played a critical role in the financial crisis of 2008, and I am fully convinced that they will take on a starring role in this new financial crisis.

And I am certainly not the only one that is concerned about the potentially destructive nature of these financial instruments. In a letter that he once wrote to shareholders of Berkshire Hathaway, Warren Buffett referred to derivatives as “financial weapons of mass destruction”...

The derivatives genie is now well out of the bottle, and these instruments will almost certainly multiply in variety and number until some event makes their toxicity clear. Central banks and governments have so far found no effective way to control, or even monitor, the risks posed by these contracts. **In my view, derivatives are financial weapons of mass destruction, carrying dangers that, while now latent, are potentially lethal.**

Since the last financial crisis, the big banks in this country have become even more reckless. And that is a huge problem, because our economy is even more dependent on them than we were the last time around. At this point, the four largest banks in the U.S. are approximately 40 percent larger than they were back in 2008. The five largest banks account for approximately 42 percent of all loans in this country, and the six largest banks account for approximately 67 percent of all assets in our financial system.

So the problem of “too big to fail” is now bigger than ever.

If those banks go under, we are all in for a world of hurt.

Yesterday, I wrote about how the Federal Reserve has implemented new rules that would limit the ability of the Fed to loan money to these big banks during the next crisis. So if the survival of these big banks is threatened by a derivatives crisis, the money to bail them out would probably have to come from somewhere else.

In such a scenario, could we see European-style “bail-ins” in this country?

Ellen Brown, one of the most fierce critics of our current financial system and the author of *Web of Debt*, seems to think so...

Dodd-Frank states in its preamble that it will “protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts.” But it does this under Title II by imposing the losses of insolvent financial companies on their common and preferred stockholders, debtholders, and other unsecured creditors. *That includes depositors, the largest class of unsecured creditor of any bank.*

Title II is aimed at “ensuring that payout to claimants is at least as much as the claimants would have received under bankruptcy liquidation.” But here’s the catch: under both the Dodd Frank Act and the 2005 Bankruptcy Act, *derivative claims have super-priority over all other claims*, secured and unsecured, insured and uninsured.

The over-the-counter (OTC) derivative market (the largest market for derivatives) is made up of banks and other highly sophisticated players such as hedge funds. OTC derivatives are the bets of these financial players against each other. Derivative claims are considered “secured” because collateral is posted by the parties.

For some inexplicable reason, the hard-earned money you deposit in the bank is not considered “security” or “collateral.” It is just a loan to the bank, and you must stand in line along with the other creditors in hopes of getting it back.

As I mentioned yesterday, the FDIC guarantees the safety of deposits in member banks up to a certain amount. But as Brown has pointed out, the FDIC only has somewhere around 70 billion dollars sitting around to cover bank failures.

If hundreds of billions or even trillions of dollars are ultimately needed to bail out the banking system, where is that money going to come from?

Looming Financial Bloodbath

The “shattering” of America and the world’s global financial banking system is near – even at the door. An economic “Armageddon” is staring us right in the face – like a horrifying spectre, a ghostly image of terrifying doom!

The handwriting is clearly written in indelible letters on the wall. God in heaven thunders,

“MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

“This is the interpretation of each word: MENE: God has numbered your kingdom, and finished it; TEKEL: You have been weighed in the balances, and found wanting; PERES: Your kingdom has been divided . . .”

-- (Dan.5:25-28).

The world is definitely spiraling out of control. Madness is reigning among the nations. Hostility and hatred are increasing by leaps and bounds. Are you ready for America’s own economic apocalypse and financial “Armageddon”?

Troubles are increasing on every side. The fateful words of Jesus Christ are rapidly coming to pass before our very eyes!

“There will be signs (attesting miracles) in the sun and moon and stars; and on the earth [there will be] distress *and* anguish among nations, in perplexity at the roaring *and* tossing of the sea and the waves, people fainting from fear and expectation of the [dreadful] things coming on the world; for the [very] powers of the heavens will be shaken” (Luke 21:25-26, Amplified Bible).

“Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN A CLOUD with [transcendent, overwhelming] power [subduing the nations] and with great glory. Now when these things begin to occur, stand tall and lift up your heads [in joy], because [suffering ends as] your redemption is drawing near” (verses 27-28).

“But be on guard, so that your hearts are not weighed down *and* depressed with the giddiness of debauchery and the nausea of self-indulgence and the worldly worries of life, and then that day [when the Messiah returns] will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who live on the face of all the earth. But keep alert at all times [be attentive and ready], praying that you may have the strength *and* ability [to be found worthy and] to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man [at His coming]” (verses 34-36).

Indeed, Almighty God thunders to His people, and all the people of the world, in this generation, the time of judgment has come. He cries out, “Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11).

“Therefore this is what I shall do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, *Prepare to meet your God* [in judgment], O Israel!” (Amos 4:12, Amplified Bible).

God says to every one of us, in a final warning:

“If I shut up the heavens so that no rain falls, or if I command locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence *and* plague among My people, and My people, who are called by My Name, humble themselves, and pray and seek (crave, require as a necessity) My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear [them] from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer *offered* in this place” (II Chron.7:13-15, Amplified Bible).

The prophet Joel beseeches all people:

“Now, therefore, says the LORD, Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning. So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.

“Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him—a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?” (Joel 2:12-14).

Indeed. Who knows? God is a God of love. But He is also a God of justice – and judgment! Will we repent of our sins, and transgressions, and wicked behavior, and turn to Him and show deep remorse for our sins, and set ourselves to keep His law, and obey His commandments – before it is forever too late?