

CONVERGENCE of End-Time Prophecies

What are the signs that the return of Jesus Christ is near? What Evidence will prove beyond doubt that His return to the earth Is drawing close? What specific things should we look for? How close is the “end of all things” as we know them?

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What are the signs more than any other, that point to the soon return of Jesus Christ?

When the disciples asked Christ, “Tell us the signs of your coming and the end of the age” (Matthew 24:3), Jesus detailed a number of things to look for which would herald His second coming as King of the earth.

He then said, “When you see *all these things*, you can know my return is near. I’m right at the door” (Matthew 24:33).

He also declared, “When all these things begin to happen, look up for your salvation is near!” (Luke 21:28).

This means the number one sign of Jesus' return is *all the signs appearing together*.

Both Jesus and the prophets told us what signs to look for, and the appearance of just one is reason enough to take notice.

But the arrival of one sign after another should really get our attention. This convergence of signs is the number one prophetic sign – the number one reason to believe the coming of Jesus Christ is going to be very soon – He is right at the door!

The Convergence of Signs

The Bible tells us a number of events will take place just prior to the return of Jesus. Generations of Christians lived and died without witnessing one of these signs.

Yet our generation is witness to all of them. Those signs include:

1 -- Israel Back in the Land

God promised to bring the Jewish people back into the land of Israel before He returned (Jeremiah 23:7-8). He said He would call them from “among the nations” (Ezekiel 39:28), from “the farthest corners of the earth” (Isaiah 11:12), and from “north, south, east, and west” (Psalm 107:3).

He promised to welcome them home from the lands where they were scattered (Ezekiel 20:34). When they did, He promised to return and establish His everlasting kingdom (Isaiah 11:11-12).

As Israel prepares to celebrate its 69th birthday, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced Thursday that the Jewish state today has 8.680 million citizens, 10 times more than at its founding in 1948. According to the report, the Jewish population in the country represents 6.484 million residents – 74.7 percent of the total population – and the Arab population stands at 1.808 million people – 20.8% of the country’s inhabitants. There are now estimated to be 14.4 million Jewish people in the world and 43% of them are in the Jewish state.

2 -- The Jews Back in Jerusalem

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples . . .”
-- (Zechariah 12:3).

Jesus said armies would surround Jerusalem, destroy the city, and enslave its citizens. This happened in A.D. 70 when the Roman legions did exactly that.

Jesus then said people other than the Jews would control Jerusalem for a time, then the Jewish people would once again control Jerusalem. When they did, Jesus promised to return (Luke 21:24-28). Since 1967, the Jewish people have been in possession of Jerusalem and will be celebrating their 50 year reunification this June.

3 -- The Moral Collapse in America and World

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”
-- Matthew 24:12 (NKJV)

“How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me and sworn by those that are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, then they committed adultery and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots’ houses.”
-- Jeremiah 5:7, NKJV.

America in 2017 is in accelerating cultural collapse. With a 60%+ divorce rate, families are disintegrating – with most American children now growing up in fatherless

homes. Promiscuity (sex outside of marriage) is exploding, and is over 95% among the younger generation – many of whom are now opting for cohabitation instead of marriage. Marriage rates are dropping like a rock. Abortion (led by Planned Parenthood) is still rampant, with few Americans (including Christians and conservatives) even taking notice, let alone actively opposing the murder of babies – now close to 70 million since *Roe v. Wade*.

The homosexual movement is exploding in America (with the advocacy and mandates of the US government, the educational system, the media, and the entertainment industry) and now in the wake of the Supreme Court homosexual marriage ruling a few years ago, the powerful gay/lesbian movement is aggressively pushing transgenderism (i.e., you can be a man or woman at any time, or change back and forth).

This sick concept is being taught throughout the US public school system from kindergarten through university, is advocated and legislated by the US government and various state and local governments, is promoted by the US entertainment industry, and can even be seen in the recent Disney film “Beauty and the Beast.” We are truly becoming a modern Sodom and Gomorrah, and students of the Bible or history know that did not end well.

Americans are now killing each other and themselves in record numbers. While the overall 2016 murder rate for the nation ended up increasing about 8% year-over-year, the surge within US cities is absolutely staggering. Chicago suffered a 59% increase in homicides during 2016. Murders were up 56% in Memphis, 61% in San Antonio, 44% in Louisville, 36% in Phoenix, and 31% in Las Vegas. Bakersfield, California had 51 drive-by shooting murders in the past 12 months.

There were also 44,193 suicides in the US in 2016, with the percentage increase in suicides rising the most for females age 10–14 and for males age 45–64. The suicide rate has risen 24% over the past 15 years, and is now the highest recorded rate in 28 years. But it isn’t just violent deaths that are exploding in the US: An incredible 52,404 Americans died from drug overdoses in 2016 – more than double the amount experienced in 2002.

Revealing the shocking decline in morality and behavior, consider the following statistics:

Approximately one-third of the entire population of the United States (110 million people) currently has a sexually transmitted disease according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Every single year, there are 20 million new STD cases in America. America has the highest STD infection rate in the entire industrialized world. Americans in the 15 to 24-year-old age group account for about 50 percent of all new STD cases each year.

It costs our nation approximately 16 billion dollars a year to treat our sexually transmitted diseases. According to one survey, 24 percent of all U.S. teens that have STDs say that they still have unprotected sex. In Chicago, public school kindergarten teachers are now required to set aside 30 minutes a month for sex education.

The United States has the highest teen pregnancy rate in the entire industrialized world. At this point, one out of every four teen girls in the U.S. has at least one sexually transmitted disease.

According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, there are 747,408 registered sex offenders in the United States. There are 106,216 registered sex offenders in the state of California alone.

18 percent of all women in the United States say that they have been raped at some point in their lives. More than 50 percent of all rapes take place within one mile of the home. Teens that are in the 16 to 19-year-old age bracket are 3 1/2 times more likely than the general population “to be the victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault.” 60 percent of male sex abuse victims and 80 percent of female sex abuse victims “are abused by someone known to the child or the child’s family.”

It is estimated that one out of every four girls will be sexually abused before they become adults. An astounding 30 percent of all Internet traffic now goes to adult websites. 70 percent of all men in the 18 to 24-year-old age bracket visit at least one adult website each month. The average high school boy spends two hours on adult websites every single week.

Law enforcement officials estimate that about 600,000 Americans and about 65,000 Canadians are trading dirty child pictures online. It has been estimated that 89 percent of all pornography is produced in the United States.

The marriage rate in the United States has fallen to an all-time low. Right now it is sitting at a yearly rate of 6.8 marriages per 1000 people. In the United States today, more than half of all couples “move in together” before they get married.

America’s ex-president Bill Clinton is reportedly dying from AIDS, and infected a young Washington, D.C. call girl (prostitute) with it during a bout of unprotected sex in April 2015. He was the only client she catered to during that week between tests. So says “Mandy Cloud” in her Memoir entitled *Red Light District*. The two met at the swanky Hay-Adams Hotel across the street from the White House. Cloud “serviced” him several times during the week.

Crescendoing immorality is a devastating sign that the judgment day of the Almighty is near and rapidly approaching! Incredible filth and violence is saturating the internet, television, and American homes as never before. Lust and sexual violence have co-opted the home, classroom, and permeated all modern society.

4 -- Gospel Preached Throughout the World

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”

-- Matthew 24:14, NKJV).

When asked about the end of the age and the signs of His coming, Jesus said to look for a very specific sign. He said the gospel will be preached throughout the entire world. Every nation will hear it. And then? And then, the end will come (Matthew 24:14). For centuries after the crucifixion, the gospel was confined to a small area surrounding the Mediterranean Sea.

In the past two centuries, Christians have brought the gospel to every nation in the world. Today, missionaries are in every nation.

The Bible is translated in hundreds of languages, and the message of Jesus is sent around the world by radio, TV, satellite, and the Internet. Our generation is literally on the verge of spreading the gospel to every last person on earth.

5 -- Vast Increase in Travel and Knowledge

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

-- Daniel 12:4, NKJV.

Six hundred years before Jesus, an angel gave Daniel a special message. He said “travel and knowledge” will increase in the end times. For centuries of human history, dramatic gains in travel and knowledge did NOT take place.

Yet the last two hundred years have seen explosions in the speed and frequency of travel as well as the amount and availability of knowledge.

6 -- Arrival of the Exponential Curve

Jesus said a variety of global signs will come before His return and the end of the age. These signs will be spiritual, natural, societal, and political in nature. And He said they would appear in a distinct way - "like birth pains" (Matthew 24:3-8).

This means the frequency and intensity of these signs will increase as we near His return. Our generation has seen the exponential increase in war and famine Jesus said to look for.

In the 20th Century alone, more people died from war and famine than lived on the earth when Jesus spoke these words.

7 -- Israel Surrounded by Enemies

“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.”
 -- Luke 21:20, NKJV.

The Bible says enemies will surround Israel in the end times. Those enemies will say "Come, let us wipe away the nation of Israel. Let's destroy the memory of its existence" (Psalm 83:4) and "Let us take for ourselves these pasturelands of God" (Psalm 83:12).

Ezekiel said Israel's neighbors will say "God has given their land to us" (Ezekiel 11:14-17), and "Israel and Judah are ours. We will take possession of them. What do we care if their God is there?" (Ezekiel 35:10).

Ever since the rebirth of Israel in 1948, the daily headlines have included these Bible verses. Israel's Muslim neighbors claim the land of Israel for themselves, and they have no regard for the God of Israel.

8 – Israel's Exceedingly Great Army

“In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a firepan in the woodpile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place.”
 -- Zechariah 12:6, NKJV.

Ezekiel said, in the end times, Israel will field "an exceedingly great army" (Ezekiel 37:10). Zechariah said Israel will be like a fire among sheaves of grain, burning up the neighboring nations (Zechariah 12:6) and even the weakest Israeli soldier will be like David (Zechariah 12:8).

Since 1948, Israel has fought no less than four conventional wars against its neighbors. Despite being outnumbered more than 50 to 1, Israel has achieved overwhelming victory every time.

9 – Wars and Rumours of War – Korea

“And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all^[a] these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.” – Matthew 24:6-7, NKJV.

President Donald Trump said a major conflict with North Korea is possible in the standoff over its nuclear and missile programs, but he would prefer a diplomatic outcome to the dispute.

"There is a chance that we could end up having a major, major conflict with North Korea. Absolutely," Trump told Reuters in an Oval Office interview ahead of his 100th day in office on Saturday.

Nonetheless, Trump said he wanted to peacefully resolve a crisis that has bedeviled multiple U.S. presidents, a path that he and his administration are emphasizing by preparing a variety of new economic sanctions while not taking the military option off the table.

“We’d love to solve things diplomatically but it’s very difficult,” he said.

The Trump administration declared North Korea “an urgent national security threat and top foreign policy priority.” It said it was focusing on economic and diplomatic pressure, including Chinese cooperation in containing its defiant neighbor and ally, and remained open to negotiations.

U.S. officials said military strikes remained an option but played down the prospect, though the administration has sent an aircraft carrier and a nuclear-powered submarine to the region in a show of force.

Any direct U.S. military action would run the risk of massive North Korean retaliation and huge casualties in Japan and South Korea and among U.S. forces in both countries.

Trump, asked if he considered North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to be rational, said he was operating from the assumption that he is rational. He noted that Kim had taken over his country at an early age. “He’s 27 years old. His father dies, took over a regime. So say what you want but that is not easy, especially at that age.

“I’m not giving him credit or not giving him credit, I’m just saying that’s a very hard thing to do. As to whether or not he’s rational, I have no opinion on it. I hope he’s rational,” he said.

Perhaps no administration wants to acknowledge that North Korea is an existential threat on their watch. Whatever the motives for obfuscating the North Korean nuclear threat, the need to protect the American people is immediate and urgent.

American bombers have been placed in Guam ready to strike on North Korea if the call comes.

Beijing: 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.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also said there would be “no winner” in a potential war, and that the party that triggered conflict would “pay the price.”

Donald Trump has repeatedly promised to “solve” the North Korean problem, and the North Koreans have repeatedly promised to use nuclear weapons in response to any attack by the U.S. military.

Michael Snyder of Economic Collapse blog writes, “So what happens if both sides are not bluffing?”

“In order for any attack to be successful, the U.S. military would have to locate every single North Korean nuclear device and either destroy or retrieve them all in the initial assault, because Kim Jong-Un has promised to use nuclear weapons if the U.S. strikes.

“Unfortunately, that would not be easy. North Korea’s cities are honeycombed with underground tunnels and bunkers, and simply locating where all of their nukes are being held would be just about impossible. And so destroying or retrieving all of those weapons is going to take time.” He notes that . . .

A recent Pentagon war game against the fictional country of “North Brownland,” a country whose dynastic family regime had nuclear weapons that had to be recovered during a regime collapse, found that US troops didn’t fare well in retrieving those weapons.

V-22 Osprey aircraft were cut off from the rest of the allied forces and surrounded by the enemy.

The result was the United States would have to fight through the countryside to the North’s estimated 100 nuclear-related sites. In all it took the US 46 days and 90,000 troops to secure those weapons.

Says Snyder, “If North Korea was able to fire off a single nuke, the operation would be a total disaster for Donald Trump and the U.S. military.

“And even if we somehow got all their nukes, North Korea also has one of the largest arsenals of chemical and biological weapons on the entire planet.

“Could you imagine how the world would view Trump if footage of thousands of people in Seoul and Tokyo choking on nerve gas started circulating all over the planet?”

“If Trump bungles this thing and a scenario such as that plays out, we will lose South Korea and Japan as friends forever.” (See Michael Snyder/End Of The American Dream April 13, 2017).

10 – Unparalleled World Tribulation and Distress

“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.” -- Matthew 24:21-22.

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.

Nevertheless, as Fox News reported, North Korea on Tuesday conducted a huge live-fire drill using hundreds of pieces of artillery.

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 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 N. Norea'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." (By Bob Unruh, *World Net Daily*).

11 – The Back to the Stone Age EMP Threat

Many have 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 2000's 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."

For those who are skeptical about North Korea's capabilities, there is an excellent article presented by The Hill, entitled "How North Korea could kill 90 percent of Americans."

The article is authored by none other than R. James Woolsey, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and by Dr. Peter Vincent Pry, the Executive Director of the EMP Task Force on National and Homeland Security and a former analyst with the CIA.

Here are some excerpts from the article that readers should keep in mind:

"The mainstream media, and some officials who should know better, continue to allege North Korea does not yet have capability to deliver on its repeated threats to strike the U.S. with nuclear weapons.

False reassurance is given to the American people that North Korea has not "demonstrated" that it can miniaturize a nuclear warhead small enough for missile delivery, or build a reentry vehicle for an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of penetrating the atmosphere to blast a U.S. city.

Yet any nation that has built nuclear weapons and long-range missiles, as North Korea has done, can easily overcome the relatively much simpler technological challenge of warhead miniaturization and reentry vehicle design.

These two paragraphs clearly state that North Korea can miniaturize a warhead.

Once again, the naysayers will only be satisfied that they "can" when either an EMP (Electromagnetic Pulse) weapon and/or a nuclear warhead is delivered with either complete loss of power in the U.S. and/or the loss of an American city. When such occurs, the naysayers will then say nothing.

The same article says, "The notion that North Korea is testing A-Bombs and H-Bomb components, but does not yet have the sophistication to miniaturize warheads and make reentry vehicles for missile delivery is absurd."

The threat could not be made any clearer than that. The article goes on to describe assessments made in February and March of 2015 by former senior national security officials who warned: "North Korea should be regarded as capable of delivering by satellite a small nuclear warhead, specially designed to make a high-altitude electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack against the United States."

In April Admiral William Gortney, former Commander of North American Aerospace Defense (NORAD) warned at a press conference that the KN-08 mobile ICBM missile system of North Korea could strike the United States with a nuclear warhead.

Exactly six months later, Gortney declared (based on intelligence analyses) that North Korea has nuclear weapons, the capability to miniaturize them, and is capable of placing them on a missile that can reach the continental United States.

According to the Congressional EMP Commission, a single warhead delivered by North Korean satellite could blackout the national electric grid and other life-sustaining critical infrastructures for over a year – killing 9 of 10 Americans by starvation and societal collapse.

Two North Korean satellites, the KMS-3 and KMS-4, presently orbit over the U.S. on trajectories consistent with surprise EMP attack.

12 – the Great Apostasy and End-Time Rebellion

“But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.” -- II Timothy 3:13, NKJV.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” -- II Tim.4:3-4, NKJV.

“Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction.” -- II Thess.2:3, NLT.

Christianity is on the decline in America, not just among younger generations or in certain regions of the country but across race, gender, education and geographic barriers. The percentage of adults who describe themselves as Christians dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years to about 71 percent, according to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center.

“It’s remarkably widespread,” said Alan Cooperman, director of religion research for the Pew Research Center. “The country is becoming less religious as a whole, and it’s happening across the board.”

At the same time, the share of those who are not affiliated with a religion has jumped from 16 percent to about 23 percent in the same time period. The trend follows a pattern found earlier in the American Religious Identification Survey, which found that in 1990, 86 percent of American adults identified as Christians, compared with 76 percent in 2008.

Apostasy means to fall away from the truth. Therefore, an apostate is someone who has once believed and then rejected the truth of God. Apostasy is a rebellion against God because it is a rebellion against truth. In the Old Testament God warned the Jewish people about their idolatry and their lack of trust in Him. In the New Testament the

epistles warn us about not falling away from the truth. Apostasy is a very real and dangerous threat.

There is an apostasy occurring in the Christian Church, but people are generally not aware of it unless they first examine the Bible closely and then compare the present day Church to the Word of God. The great apostasy can only be seen and appreciated if we measure it by the standard of truth – the Bible itself!

13 -- Earthquakes, Volcanic Eruptions, Fukushima and the Blob

“Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Yisrael; so that the fishes of the sea and the fowls of the heaven and the beasts of the field and all creeping things that creep upon the ground and all the men that are upon the face of the earth shall shake at My presence.” (Ezekiel 38:19-20, The Israel Bible)

A series of unusual and threatening phenomena including volcanoes, radioactive waste, and a mysterious marine anomaly called ‘the Blob’ have all appeared in the waters of the Pacific Northwest in the last month. Something is brewing in the cold coastal waters, and though scientists are struggling to understand, one rabbi sees right through it all.

Trouble bubbled up from the bowels of the earth last month as volcanic activity increased off the coast of Alaska. Bogoslof volcano, about 60 miles northwest of Dutch Harbor, erupted more than 37 times in the last three months, sending volcanic ash up to 30,000 feet. The eruptions are accompanied dramatically by violent lightning strikes. The volcano remains in a heightened state of unrest and could erupt again at any time.

In the Bible, volcanoes and seismic activity are connected with God’s anger, especially in the context of the End of Days.

“Therefore I will make the heavens to tremble, and the earth shall be shaken out of her place, for the wrath of Hashem of hosts, and for the day of His fierce anger” (Isaiah 13:13).

The Bogoslof volcano is one of the 160 active volcanoes in that section of the Pacific Ring of Fire, the world’s most seismically active region. This section also includes Mount St. Helens, which erupted cataclysmically in 1980, in the deadliest and most economically destructive volcanic event in the history of the United States.

Though most of the volcanoes in the region are in relatively unpopulated areas, many of Alaska’s volcanoes are in the major trans-Pacific aviation lanes. Volcanic eruptions can shut down overhead air-traffic as the abrasive ash may cause jet engine failure and interfere with electronics.

Science has made great advances, but volcanoes, along with the other phenomena that struck recently, bear the clear message that much of nature is beyond our control. Rabbi Yosef Berger, the rabbi of King David's Tomb on Mount Zion, notes that this is a particularly relevant message in our era.

“What is happening is very clear,” Rabbi Yosef Berger told *Breaking Israel News*. “Men of science think they govern the world, but these events show how much that is not true. The Messiah will be God revealing that fact in the most undeniable manner, so that men will see this with their very eyes. The word *olam* (world) comes from the root ‘hidden’. God hides behind the veil of nature. We see nature, but we don’t see the One who actually rules over and guides nature.”

As if volcanoes are not enough, meteorologists are gravely concerned about what they have called ‘the Blob’, an unusual lingering mass of warm water 310 miles off the Oregon coast. The Blob appeared in late 2014 and was welcomed by residents of the chilly Northwest, as it was linked to unusually warm and sunny weather. But a recently released study revealed that what first seemed like a blessing was actually a curse.

Dan Jaffe, an atmospheric scientist at the University of Washington Bothell, reported last week in a study of the Blob in *Geophysical Research Letters* that record levels of ozone have been registered throughout the West Coast. He attributed the phenomenon to the unusual weather conditions caused by the warmer ocean temperatures by the Blob.

“Ultimately, it all links back to the Blob, which was the most unusual meteorological event we’ve had in decades,” Jaffe said in an interview with *UW Today*, the news source for the University of Washington.

The Blob brought with it a disturbing Biblical phenomenon: the warm waters created some of the worst-ever toxic red tide algal blooms.

“And the fish that were in the river died; and the river became foul, and the Egyptians could not drink water from the river; and the blood was throughout all the land of Egypt” (Exodus 7:21).

As in the Biblical plague, the red tides led to massive numbers of marine mammals dying, as they are unable to find their cold-water food, normally plentiful in the Pacific Northwest.

A third plague has also struck the region. It was announced last month that nuclear waste has finally made its way from Japan to the United States coastline. Officials revealed that Cesium-134 from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster was detected off the coast of Oregon and has been found in seafood from that area.

The nuclear reactor in Japan suffered a catastrophic meltdown after being hit by an earthquake-generated tsunami, spewing nuclear-tainted water into the ocean. Despite

public alarm, officials insist the radioactive pollution is not a cause for concern. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a 2015 report that evidence showed the levels “fall well short of posing any U.S. health or environmental risk.”

The list of problems grows, but scientists are coming up short in their search for answers. Biologists are still scratching their heads over a massive die-off of marine birds in Alaska last year. In a report released last month, Heather Renner, a supervisory wildlife biologist, told *KTUU* that the birds died from starvation, but they had no idea what brought this famine on.

“Seabirds are top predators,” Renner said. “They’re sort of sentinels for our environment. They have definitely let us know that there’s change going on in the ocean ecosystem.”

Renner inadvertently paraphrased the sentiments of Job, who warned that birds can serve as messengers bearing a divine message.

“Who teacheth us more than the beasts of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?” (Job 35:11).

“In the days before messiah,” Rabbi Berger concluded, “God is going to be revealed through nature in exactly this manner: one event after another.” (By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz, *Breaking Israel News*).

14 – By 2020 Two-Thirds Of Wild Animals Will Have Been Wiped Out – As Mass Die-Offs Accelerate All Over The Planet

“Then the second angel poured out his bowl on the sea, and it became blood as of a dead man; and every living creature in the sea died.”
-- Revelation 16:3, NKJV.

It has been called “the long extinction”. Our planet is in the process of dying, and as you will see below, this process of death and destruction appears to be accelerating. According to a report that was put out by the World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London, the number of wild animals around the globe appears to be decreasing at a rate of about 2 percent a year. 2 percent may not sound like a lot to you, but over 10 years that would mean that 20 percent of all wild animals in the world would be gone. And according to that same report, it is being projected that the total loss of wildlife during the 50 year period from 1970 to 2020 will be a staggering 67 percent.

In other words, we are watching a global slow-motion extinction event which will ultimately claim hundreds, if not thousands, of species. In recent years, mass die-off events have been popping up in the headlines with startling regularity. Fish, birds and animals are dying off all over the planet in absolutely frightening numbers. One website that tracks these things says that there have been 152 mass death events in 48 different countries so far this year.

There is also concern about inundation into all coastal areas by the ocean from tectonic movements in the ocean floor and/or volcanic activities.

Flooding, whether due to tidal waves hitting the coast or from rivers expanding due to excessive raining and/or melting of heavy snow, puts a heavy weight onto the land that could generate adjustments deeper underneath the accumulated water.

Of greatest concern, the means of generating earthquakes on purpose ranges from fracking to advances on a Tesla technology demonstrated a century ago. It is thought by many that those in power are secretly using such technologies periodically for various reasons.

Volcanoes in various locations have been increasing in activity in the last few years. A massive volcanic eruption anywhere in the world could generate a cloud of ash in the atmosphere that blocks the sun.

As a result, we could suddenly have year-round winter for a few years, making it difficult or impossible for crops to be grown outdoors. It could be too polluted for people to breath outside without special masks, and necessitate a good air filtration system indoors.

Also, this ash might make it too dangerous for jets to fly. A volcanic eruption in Iceland interrupted European air travel for more than a week about seven years ago.

Several large volcanoes and many lesser ones are currently becoming very active. The Icelandic volcanoes are still active and could blow anytime. The major caldera volcano at Yellowstone National Park, found not long ago to be larger than previously known, is also anticipated to explode at some point. It has become more active than normal recently, and so has Mount St. Helens in Washington, which had a major eruption in 1980.

There is some evidence that elite powers are playing with long established technologies to purposely set off the Yellowstone caldera. One theory is that they may be trying to create offsetting intentional disasters -- a cooling volcanic ash cloud to counter the release of warming methane from the artic ice, allegedly due to geo-engineering.

There are presently several volcanoes around the world on Level 8 Alert, the highest level. Just one of them could cause a "volcanic winter" with its ash plume if there is a massive eruption. Winter conditions could continue through summertime with bitter cold conditions and limited crop production resulting in famine.

For some while there has been a highly dangerous volcanic situation in the Canary Islands near Africa. This volcano is expected to start an underwater landslide any time from now to beyond our own lifetime, that would cause a "Mega Tsunami". A wall of water as much as 150 feet high or more and a few miles deep would be generated,

traveling across the ocean to hit the entire seaboards of eastern North and South America, western Africa and western Europe. Civilization would be destroyed for miles inland.

At the same time, we have seen the number and intensity of earthquakes increase all over the planet in recent years. Thankfully, the U.S. has not seen “the big one” strike yet. But everyone knows that it is going to happen at some point.

One of the areas that to be most concerned about is the New Madrid fault zone. A massive earthquake along that fault zone would deeply affect millions of lives. The following is from a recent article by Michael Fitzgerald of the CNHI News Service...

It’s a bleak scenario. A massive earthquake along the New Madrid fault kills or injures 60,000 people in Tennessee. A quarter of a million people are homeless. The Memphis airport – the country’s biggest air terminal for packages – goes off-line. Major oil and gas pipelines across Tennessee rupture, causing shortages in the Northeast. In Missouri, another 15,000 people are hurt or dead. Cities and towns throughout the central U.S. lose power and water for months. Losses stack up to hundreds of billions of dollars.

Fortunately, this magnitude 7.7 temblor is not real but rather a scenario imagined by the Mid-America Earthquake Center and the Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management at George Washington University. The goal of their 2008 analysis was to plan for a modern recurrence of quakes that happened along the New Madrid fault more than 200 years ago, in 1811 and 1812.

And remember, the scenario discussed above is just for a 7.7 earthquake. Much more powerful earthquakes have happened in the New Madrid fault zone in the past, and that is exactly what many are expecting to happen in the years ahead.

Meanwhile, the “Ring of Fire” continues to heat up. Over the past few years, there have been major earthquakes in almost every area along the Pacific rim except for the west coast of the United States. We should be very thankful for that, but that good fortune will not last indefinitely.

And it is not just earthquakes that we need to be concerned about along the Ring of Fire. We are also seeing a significant increase in volcanic activity.

Most Americans don’t realize it, but a major volcanic eruption is going on up in Alaska right now. One of Alaska’s most active volcanoes, which has been belching ash and spewing lava, has forced regional flight cancellations and dusted some nearby communities with ash.

Pavlof Volcano has sent up ash as high as 22,000 feet, with the cloud blowing eastward and the eruption showing no signs of abating, according to the federal-state Alaska Volcano Observatory. The lava from its 8,261-foot (2,518-metre) peak has also created huge steam clouds on meeting the mountain’s snow.

And there are several volcanoes along the west coast of the United States that people should be keeping their eyes on as well. One of them is Mt. Saint Helens. The following is what one scientist recently said about Mt. Saint Helens...

“We know magma is forming, we see little earthquakes, and we know it is reloading. We know it will erupt again and we know we may have as little as a week’s notice.”

Mt. Rainier has started to become unstable, and a full-blown eruption would be absolutely catastrophic. (Economic Collapse blog, Michael Snyder).

16 – Persecution of Christians

“Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” -- Mark 13:12-13, NKJV.

“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.” -- Revelation 6:9-11, NKJV.

On Palm Sunday, twin bombings by jihadists at two Egyptian churches killed at least 45 worshippers and wounded more than 100 others in the latest of a long string of deadly attacks targeting Christians throughout the world.

The attacks were directed specifically to Christian in their houses of worship to avoid any ambiguity regarding the intent. As has been noted, this was “an attack on Christians simply because they are Christians.”

On Saturday, the Pakistan military said it has thwarted a “major terrorist attack” against Christians planned for Easter Sunday after a successful overnight raid just hours after Christians celebrated Good Friday services.

On Easter Sunday 2016, an Islamist militant took the lives of more than 70 people and injured over 320 more after detonating his suicide vest in a park in Lahore that was full of Christian families celebrating the feast. Among the victims are more than 30 small children, who at the time of the blast were playing sports and outdoor games in the Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park.

During the last calendar year, some 90,000 Christians were killed for their faith across the globe, making Christians by far the most persecuted group in the world, according to a study from the Turin-based Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR).

The director of CESNUR, Dr. Massimo Introvigne, told Breitbart News that whereas atheistic communist regimes were the greatest persecutors of Christians in the last century, “Islamic ultra-fundamentalism” has taken its place as the number-one agent of persecution.

The Center’s findings corroborate those of other scholars and human rights groups. According to the 2016 “World Watch List,” for example, published by the Open Doors organization, nine out of the top ten countries where Christians suffer “extreme persecution” had populations that are at least 50 percent Muslim.

Their 2016 report revealed that “Islamic extremism is by far the most significant persecution engine” of Christians in the world today and that “40 of the 50 countries on the World Watch List are affected by this kind of persecution.”

During the year, nearly one-third of the Christians killed for their faith were executed at the hands of Islamic extremists such as the Islamic State or Boko Haram.

While tens of thousands of Christians are killed for their faith, Introvigne said, they are just the tip of the iceberg and much persecution takes place on a daily basis that never makes news.

Along with the enormous number of deaths, a great many more Christians—as many as 600 million—were prevented from practicing their faith in 2016. (Thomas D. Williams, Ph.D. 16 Apr 2017, *Breitbart News*).

17 -- Denial of the Signs

“Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.’” -- II Peter 3:3-4, NKJV.

Almost two thousand years ago, Peter issued this dire warning. He said in the last days people will mock, sneer at, scorn and ridicule the very idea of Yeshua once again returning to this earth. The idea is preposterous to the vast majority of people. Christ Himself said, “When the Son of Man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?” The spirit of rampant unbelief is a powerful delusion, today.

Unbelievers will make fun of those who believe in the Second Coming and say exactly what we hear today – things like, “I thought Jesus was coming back? What

happened to His promise? Generation after generation has said He's coming. Yet, since the beginning of the world, everything has remained the same!"

Peter goes on, "But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us,^[a] not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?" (II Peter 3:8-12).

18 -- Convergence and Confluence of Signs

Despite the naysayers, Jesus is coming, and the signs indicate that ours is the generation that will witness His return.

The convergence of all these signs confirm it. Jesus Himself said to look for these signs, and when you see them, you can know His return is near. He's right at the door (Matthew 24:33). The generation witnessing these signs will not pass away before He returns (Matthew 24:34).

Yeshua warned us not to be caught off guard or sleeping when He returns. "It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: *Watch!*" (Mark 13:34-37).

Peter declared, "But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins" (I Peter 4:7-8, NKJV).

Today, the signs of His return are exploding all around us. The Messiah is coming *SOON!* "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:28).