



Need for Gloom and Doom?

Truth about the end of days

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A recent *Newsmax* cover story featured a lengthy discussion about the return of Jesus and possible apocalyptic events. According to the feature, “public buzz about the Biblical last days is at its highest level since 9/11.” The Pew Research Center recently found that 79% of American Christians believe in the Second Coming of Christ. Today the doomsday prophet is not some bearded man with a placard proclaiming “the end is near.” Instead, gloom and doom seems to be the message of newspapers, the Internet, and television. News headlines read like Bible prophecy. “And great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven,” Luke 21:11.

On any given day, there are wars in 30 to 40 nations in the world. Rumors of wars swarm about Israel, Iran, and Korea. Over seven million people have died since 1970 due to war.

Pestilence continues to grow as new “super bugs” are becoming resistant to drug treatment. The H1N1 swine flu is spreading faster than the Center for Disease Control can track. And the HIV Aids virus has killed more than 25 million since 1981. HIV is at pandemic levels in many areas including China, Asia, and Africa.

Famine as well is wide spread throughout the planet. The World Health Organization estimates that one-third of the world is under-fed while another one-third is starving. Every 3.6 seconds someone dies of hunger.

Such horrible news isn’t new. The world has always had false messiahs, wars, ethnic violence, starvation, disease, and earthquakes. The Savior said that the last days would

see such events increase in frequency and size. “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of birth pangs,” Matthew 24:7-8.

Perhaps the surest sign that time is short is the return of the nation of Israel to the Middle East. To Israel the Almighty said, “I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land,” Ezekiel 36:24. Many prophecy teachers consider the reestablishment of Jerusalem as the capital city as THE sign of an impending apocalypse. “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled,” Luke 21:24. The Messiah promised that the generation that saw such a miracle would certainly behold His return. (Matthew 24:34)

Does this mean that the return of Jesus is imminent? Well, many sorrows have begun, but there is still more that must occur before the eastern sky splits. To state that “Jesus could return at any time” is to ignore numerous statements in the Scripture about the rise of an anti-Christ leader and a huge world war against the tiny nation of Israel.

How can a person prepare for the coming of Revelation? What should someone do about the mark of the beast? Some believers are storing food while others are learning survival skills. Many are buying gold in anticipation of the collapse of the dollar. The Savior addresses such a dilemma when He said, “Watch and pray always that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things and stand before the Son of Man,” Luke 21:36. The world will come to an end one day. Between now and then, it’s important to focus on Spiritual growth. The pursuit of holiness will guide the believer through whatever the future holds. Listen to the voice of the Spirit. If you are led to take certain precautions then do so. Don’t allow fear of Armageddon stop you from living an abundant life.