

## LASTING PEACE IN A CRISIS PRONE WORLD



Like so many people, you may have been wondering what is going on in our world today or perhaps what is going on in America. There is a ravaging global pandemic that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and still raging in many parts of the world, with the possibility of permanently changing our way of life. Many are now working from home, doing social distancing, conducting home schooling, health services being offered virtually, something that was unimaginable a few years ago or even months ago. Various pastimes like sporting events, art concerts, movies and so on, are becoming distant memories. What about the ensuing economic devastation that already has had profound negative impact on many livelihoods, huge job losses, businesses shutting down, some may never recover again. We could very well be witnessing an economic collapse similar to the Great Depression. Democratic norms and institutions are being dismantled all across the globe, racism is on the rise, hatred of fellow humans are being hailed and celebrated in many quarters.

So, you may also be wondering will these challenging times ever turn around, be mitigated or go away for good. I have good and bad news for you. Let's start with the bad news first, unfortunately, I am not thrilled to be the bearer of bad news, these issues are not going away soon as they will become worse with every passing day.

I am sure the question on your mind is how do I know this and why are all these catastrophic events happening? The answer is we are getting closer to the end of the world! The events we are seeing today have been foretold several thousands of years ago in the Bible, the word of God, and we just happen to be living it now. Let's take a look at some of these Bible passages.....

Matt 24 vs 3: **“And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, take heed that no man deceives you. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”**

We see a lot of deception in many religious circles today, with ministers and preachers using the name of Christ for monetary benefits and personal profits, the so-called prosperity preachers.

**6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers' places.**

Today's major news headlines are about countries fighting against each other militarily, such as invasions of sovereign states as seen in Russia, the invasion of Ukraine, middle east turmoil, with Yemen and Saudi Arabia, a standoff in Iran with the United States and her neighbors.

Economically, there are trade wars between the US and China and socially through cyber warfare, social media and others involving the US, Russia and China. Natural disasters, such as earthquakes of high magnitude on the richter scale, as well as flooding unlike anything we've seen in our lifetime. We are seeing very destructive tornadoes and volcanoes that are claiming many lives and properties in an instant, these events are on the rise and occurring at regular frequencies. Severe famine, hunger, poverty, deprivation are rampant even in the so called wealthy nations. There are so many health problems plaguing people, incurable diseases such as cancers, heart problems, diabetes just to mention a few, have got many dead and left many families in financial ruins due to high medical debts.

People are not even catching a break, with the ongoing coronavirus global pandemic that have many infectious disease experts predicting more of these respiratory viruses in the not too distant future.

**8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.**

As a result of all these, men's hearts are beginning to fail them, people are becoming very fearful, worried, sick, and many are in great distress. Many are overwhelmed with anxiety and depression, hopelessness and confusion reigns supreme. Some have swiftly come to the conclusion that the past has not been great, the present seems awful and the future looks very bleak!

**9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another**

Look around you today, there is so much evil. Love or loving your neighbor is no longer a widespread societal norm, being your neighbor's keeper is seen as selling out. Young kids and teenagers have become unruly and disobedient to their parents; daughters in-law fighting against mothers in-law, homicide, suicide and divorce rates on astronomical rise. Political distrust has become the order of the day, right versus left, conservatism versus liberalism, religious intolerance, Christians versus non-Christians, Islamic fundamentalism versus civilized societies.

**11 And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. 12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

Take a look around you today. There are so many false teachers and prophets, giving in to teaching sensationalism and materialism for fear of losing church members. Consequently tithes and donations overwhelm the preaching of the Gospel and the brotherhood of equity described in the new testament. Some outrightly ascribing to themselves the labels exclusively reserved for Jesus, the son of the most high God, such as Christ, Savior and Messiah. Love for wealth acquisition has replaced Godly aspirations and pursuits in the heart of many today.

21 "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

If you think things are bad now, just imagine what it will be like when the whole world would be subject to the wrath of God! At the end-times God will unleash punishments of unimaginable magnitude on mankind both here on earth during the great tribulation, and in the life to come in eternity, for rejecting His only begotten son Jesus Christ.

29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken"

I am sure you are already feeling overwhelmed with all these or perhaps you are of the opinion that these issues have always been with us. If you are to be honest with yourself, you will know that, yes, these problems have plagued mankind from time immemorial, but the difference is that the magnitude and the frequency of occurrence have exponentially changed in recent years, and the question you may ask is "why"? The answer is in the following Bible verse .....

Rev 12: "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

The devil knows God is about to wrap up His program for humanity, and thus he is intensifying his efforts to lead men astray, so they don't enjoy all the great benefits and blessings God has in store for them. But here comes the good news. There is a way out of all of this for the individual. God in His love and goodness gave up His Son as a ransom for sin and evil. Check out the following scriptural passages and verses...

John 3 16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

2Pet 2:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

God is not condemning you for your sins or whatever you are going through right now. He knows we are not perfect and that we all are subject to the devil's antics and manipulations, that's why He does not want anyone to perish.

Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

Acts 2:21 "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

All He desires from us is to repent and believe Jesus as the Lord and Savior and then He will forgive, transform and receive you into His kingdom.

John 6:37: "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Rom 10:10-13.."For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This is a golden opportunity for you. Do not delay, now is the acceptable time, today is the day of salvation. All you need to do is to repent of your sins and believe in your heart and you shall be saved and you will be spared the impending doom coming upon humanity and the world soon.

If you are ready to call on Jesus in prayer say the following prayer.....

**"Almighty God, I know that I am a sinner, but I come before you today with a contrite heart, confessing of all of my sins. Please forgive me. I accept Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior, I renounce Satan and the kingdom of darkness, and I come into the kingdom of our dear son Jesus. Thank you God for saving me."**

Congratulations, you are now a child of God! As the scripture says in II Cor 5:17..... "behold old things have passed away, and all things have become new."

Jesus is coming soon to gather all those (the Elect) that accepted and believed Him into the kingdom He has prepared for them.....

Matt 24 30-31: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

While we all await His return to earth, you need to continue to build your relationship with Him by studying His Word (the Bible) and praying regularly. A good place to start reading is the gospel according to John.

2 Tim 2:15-16: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

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