

CHAPTER 2

SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS AND THE COMING OF MESSIAH

Sign 3: Natural disasters and the environment

Yeshua said, concerning the days before His second coming:

“There will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and pestilences; and there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. ... And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them for fear of what is coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.” (Luke 21.11, 25-6)

Statistics show a steady increase in earthquakes over the past 50 years, with many causing huge devastation and death. When these hit populated areas there is great loss of life, as has happened recently following earthquakes with the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami, Haiti (2010), Chile (2010) and Japan (2011). In April 2012 the largest strike-slip earthquakes ever recorded, struck off the coast of Indonesia. Seismologists have warned that the tectonic plates that run under the Pacific may be breaking up with potentially disastrous results for the region. They say that nearly all of the planet’s current 15 tectonic plates, and volcanic arcs are heavily stressed by the recent violent mobility of tectonic plates shaken by earthquakes. This is likely to lead to more earthquakes and volcanic eruptions around the world. 2013 saw the most volcanic eruptions recorded in modern history.

A major danger is an earthquake in a region where there is a nuclear facility. The 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan caused the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima nuclear power station. Since then every single day, 300 tons of radio-active water from Fukushima have entered the Pacific Ocean, contaminating the Pacific Ocean’s ecosystem. Experts have found very high levels of radio-active cesium-137 in plankton living in the waters of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and the west coast. Other fish live off plankton, so the cesium will spread into the food chain. A vast field of radioactive debris from Fukushima has crossed the Pacific Ocean and is starting to collide with the west coast of America. Reports of unusual deaths and disease in sea life including polar bears, walruses, sea lions, as well as fish. Cesium has been found in fish

being sold from Japan – carp, cod, sardines. Environmental activist, Joe Martino, issued the following warning ...

“Your days of eating Pacific Ocean fish are over.”

In fact stories of dead fish arriving on coast lines for no apparent reason have come in from all over the world, another sign of the end times, according to Bible prophecies in Revelation 8.9:

‘And a third of the living creatures in the sea died.’

More than four times the number of natural disasters are occurring now than did twenty years ago according to a report by Oxfam. The report speaks of more frequent and more extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, heat waves, extreme cold, hurricanes and tornados. The World Meteorological Organisation, in Geneva described 2012 as:

‘a big year in terms of extreme weather calamity.’

There were floods in some parts and extreme heat and droughts in others, causing crop losses in the US, Russia, India, Australia, Brazil and Argentina. The Southern hemisphere summer (2012-3) brought blistering heat waves to Australia and South America while winter brought unusually bitter cold to Russia and China. 2013-14 has brought unusual storms, the most severe of which was the typhoon that battered the Philippines with the highest wind speeds ever recorded, causing damage described as apocalyptic. Britain and the United States have been battered by storms and heavy rain, causing flooding and damage to the coastline.

Many people are blaming man made climate change (global warming) for these events which, they say, will become more frequent and will lead to catastrophic results for the human race unless this process is reversed. Lester Brown, president of the Earth policy research centre in Washington, said that the climate is no longer reliable and the demands for food are growing so fast that the global food supply system could collapse leaving hundreds of millions more people hungry. He said:

“Food shortages undermined earlier civilisations. We are on the same path.”

Parts of the world are also running out of clean water. Some of the largest lakes and rivers on the globe are being depleted at a very frightening pace, and many of the most important underground aquifers that we depend on to irrigate our crops will soon be gone. 40% of the children living in Africa and India have had their growth stunted due to unclean water and malnutrition. In China, 80% of the major rivers have become so horribly polluted that they do not support any aquatic life at all. The Aral Sea in central Asia, once the world's fourth largest freshwater lake, has almost completely dried up and become desert. The most important underground water source in America, the Ogallala Aquifer, is rapidly running dry, as is the Colorado River and the most important lake in the western United States, Lake Mead, as a catastrophic drought is engulfing California. Egypt loses about 50% of its freshwater through poor maintenance of supplies and distribution problems, and the water is polluted. There are fears that Egypt could run out of water by 2025. Isaiah 19.5 speaks of the river (Nile) being wasted and dried up; and Revelation 8.11 speaks of people dying 'from the water because it was made bitter.'

The Book of Revelation warns of a time coming when there will be great food shortages across the earth. As a result a day's wages will be just enough to pay for a tiny amount of food (Revelation 6.5-6). There will be great heat and trees being burned up and waters made undrinkable.

'And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. ... Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven like a torch and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.' (Revelation 8.7-11)

Revelation 16 speaks of a time when 'men are scorched with great heat', when the Euphrates River dries up and there is:

'a great earthquake such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since there were men on the earth'. (Revelation 16.8,12,18)

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