

Your Appointed Time Update

Yea, the stork in heaven knoweth

her appointed times .. Jer. 8:7



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The 2016 Presidential Distractions

While making heads or tails of this year's election is a near impossibility, it is still our responsibility to try. Whether Democrat or Republican, most would agree that there has never been an election quite like this one! Even choosing "the lesser of the two evils" approach will be extremely difficult this time around. Because of this year's tensions, we have a new condition that is cause for much concern called "election anxiety." Also, there is a big push for early voting, and it seems to be partly driven by fears of violence at the polls. Prophecy News Watch reported that there were teams of lawyers prepared, on either side, ready to contest the election results. It is sad that in this great land of the free, before one becomes Commander-in-chief, they first have to be negative-ad-in-chief.

Another first, whether valid or not, is the feeling by many that the run for the White House this time may even be staged. Given the fact that Donald Trump, a former Democrat and a longtime friend of the Clintons, now has suddenly become their arch-enemy is a major contributor for the doubts of as to how this year's election has played out. Did Clinton and Trump have a falling out, or is it all a just a really good act?

Although it is still puzzling to many exactly how Trump ceased the Republican ticket with so many qualified candidates running this time around, he has gotten quite a following and has struck a chord with many Americans. I mean, who is not tired of being bullied in the Middle East and a nuclear deal that gave Israel's number one enemy everything she ever wanted while Israel got the shaft. And not to mention a drop-shipment of 400 million in cold cash on the very same day that the hostages were released from Iran! Additionally, on the home front, the discontent is so high with the morality issues and the national debt at unprecedented levels that Trump may have had a good chance if he could have only kept his foot out of his mouth for four months. Although I think Trump has brought to light some much needed changes and has been bold enough to attack the corruption in Washington, his unbridled comments against women and failure to connect with minorities has alienated him from some very crucial voters needed to win the election. His hot-mic comments were so bad that with only weeks left before

Election Day, Trump's own party seriously considered how get him off the ticket.

Now for Clinton on the other hand, the real question is if she can stay out of jail or not? I have heard no good reasons why the FBI director in a stunning reversal reopens the criminal case against Hillary's email scandal unless the evidence is just so great that they can no longer keep the lid on it. Comey is already on the hot seat, so for him to now try to seem tough on Hillary in the final ending would be an even more senseless move. Yet, after his bombshell announcement just days before election day, he states that all the new emails did not change his position on Clinton. No other person could have gotten away with a mere hand slap after so grossly mishandling classified State Department emails.

Looking beyond the snarling insults on the debate floor, Ron Paul, a former congressman from Texas and 2012 Republican presidential candidate, said that there were serious national crisis that the two-party political system could actually be distracting us from. Paul has long been a proponent of an unpopular notion of balancing the budget and removing the Federal Reserve. Despite what appears as an unrepairable political divide, according to Paul, some things will remain unchanged no matter which of the two gets elected:

"But no, overall foreign policy won't change with either party in a significant matter, spending is going to continue, government intervention and the Federal Reserve is going to keep manipulating interest rates and never facing up to the fact that this country has lived way beyond its means and the debt is incomprehensible and all we know is it's going to grow and grow."¹

Paul concludes that all the personal fighting is simply a "distraction from the real issue, which is personal liberty and the bankruptcy of this country and the failure of our foreign policy."²

With most eyes glued to the presidential distractions, there is an even graver situation brewing that could reach boiling point just days after the election with consequences more serious than any of the ones we have listed so far. This situation has to do

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with the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. with less than three months left in his term. In a push to protect his “legacy,” some fear that if his recent speech at the U.N. was any indication, he may now be emboldened to remove the last remaining obstacle to the path of Palestine becoming a state by way of the U.N. Security Council, the power of the U.S. veto. In his speech, the president went so far as to accuse Israel of occupying in their own land when he said: “Israel had to realize that it cannot permanently occupy Palestinian land.”³

Recently, the Weekly Standard reported that according to its sources, the Obama administration was “manufacturing a crisis” to apply pressure on Israel over construction of dozens of new homes in the West Bank. One source even revealed to the Weekly Standard that the administration had been waiting for such an opportunity “to hit hard against Israel.”⁴ Not only did the Obama administration and State Department spokespersons staunchly condemn Israel for its actions in the West Bank, but now the New York Times, in an editorial entitled *At the Boiling Point With Israel*, weighed in calling for the president to back a UN Security Council resolution laying the ground work for a two-state solution. The Algemeiner reported that many have expressed concerns over what the president might do in his lame-duck period after the Nov. 8th election. One prominent Jewish leader told The Algemeiner that his concerns were based on things he heard the president say about how important preserving his “legacy” was to him. The concerns about what the president might do are obviously founded given the fact that 88 U.S. senators sent him a letter urging him to veto any one-sided U.N. resolution regarding the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Concerning the standoff between the White House and Israel, the Forum for Democracy and Development president told The Algemeiner that there was concern on both sides of the aisle in Washington that Obama “won't have Israel's back” at the UN as soon as the election is over.⁵

Another victim that has suffered greatly under the Obama administration and stands to lose again this election is morality. Over the last eight years, major Christian businesses have

had to challenge the federal government not to be forced to act against their convictions and offer abortion options to their employees. Weeks after the White House was a glow with the rainbow colors, celebrating a so called “civil rights” victory with the Supreme Court ruling for same-sex marriage, a Kentucky county clerk was hauled off to jail for refusing to grant a marriage license to gay couple. And now, once again in the 2016 elections, morality is held hostage. The reason I say so is that the choice is not as clear as some evangelical leaders would try and make it.

This time around, more so than any other time in history, there are some really hard questions that people have to grapple with. As we have said, women and minority voting blocks especially may have some real difficulties getting past the alienating comments and questionable associations with white supremacist groups of the one candidate who holds out any sort of hope for morality in the land. Given the questions that loom about Trump's temperament and reckless comments, voters may be unable to override their reservations and just pull the lever for morality sake. For the sake of morality this go round, I do wish it was as easy as simply voting for the one who scores the highest on the conservative family value's election score card, but every person has to have a clear conscience before God that they did the right thing after the election is over. Again, the point being is that it is just not as cut and dried as some would have us to believe, but as difficult as it may be, it is our duty to try and make sense of it all, earnestly ask for God's guidance, and vote our conscience!

Sources:

- I. Ron Paul: *"We Do Not Really Have Democracy" In America, 2016 Is A Distraction*, ZeroHedge.com.
- II. Ibid.
- III. *Obama's anti-Israeli Farewell Speech at the U.N.*, Haaretz.com.
- IV. *Report: Obama Administration 'Manufacturing Crisis' With Israel*, ProphecyNewsWatch.com.
- V. Ibid.

Noah, The Ultimate Prepper

If you haven't watched the National Geographic channel's show, *Doomsday Preppers*, the term ‘prepper’ may be a bit unfamiliar to you. ‘Preppers’ either live off the land or stockpile enough dried food and water to sustain their families for the various emergencies that they perceive as eminent. Many of them live in bunkers or modified cargo containers, have armored vehicles and top notch surveillance equipment, and some even equip themselves with enough guns to supply a small militia. The head of the ‘prepper’ family will keep their families on a high state of readiness through intense training and regular practice drills which deal with the particular

emergency scenarios. As extreme as some may think these ‘preppers’ to be, they are sensing something cataclysmic that is about to happen and preparing for it while most Christians don't have enough beans and rice to last a week should such an event occur. The ironic thing is that most of us unprepared Christians living without a care in these increasing perilous times do so in the name of faith. Contrary to how many define faith these days, straight out Hebrew's Hall of Faith comes Noah, the Ultimate Prepper.

Hebrews describes this hero of faith as not only hearing

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God's warning, but he PREPARED for it: "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house" (Heb. 11:7). You would have to either stick your head in the sand or be an i-zombie to not hear the many warnings these days from a coming economic meltdown to threats of EMP blast that could potentially take out electric grids and every unprotected electronic device in its path. Also, there is the rising threat of ISIS and other terrorist groups that vow to disrupt our way of life, and not to mention a surge of natural disasters along with strange and unpredictable weather patterns. Many Christians do, like the ostrich, stick their heads in the sand and ignore any news they consider as 'bad' and any talk of 'gloom and doom.' Somehow, in the name of 'faith,' they feel that avoiding anything "negative" will somehow keep them in 'faith.' Avoiding what is happening around you won't keep it from happening. Jesus lists for us a number of calamities such as wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, pestilences, just to name a few, that he said MUST COME TO PASS. If you have a promise from God, then you are instructed to "call those things which be not as though they were" (Rom. 4:17). This verse in no way condones the foolish practice of "calling things that are as though they were not." This is not faith; that is outright denial of the obvious! In order to walk in true faith, as did Noah, we must first hear God's warning, and then prepare for the safety of our families!

The other question that comes to mind is, who is most like Noah, the 'preppers' or the Christians? The Christians claiming to have 'faith,' go about their daily lives choosing to ignore the warnings in order to remain 'positive.' The 'preppers' on the other hand, not necessarily claiming to have 'faith,' perceive some type of coming danger and prepare for the safety of their families. While I commend the 'preppers' first for their perception or awareness of the present dangers and secondly for their preparedness, their 'faith' doesn't show evidence of being directed by God as was Noah's. His warning did not come by a conspiracy theory circulating the Internet or social media; it came directly from God with specific instructions on what to do in order to be saved. We should at least learn from the 'preppers' that ignoring the warnings is not wise, and likewise, hearing the warnings and not preparing for them would be equally as foolish. Noah, like the 'preppers,' built the ultimate survival vessel and fully stocked it with enough food and water for him and his family, and a pair of every land creature known to man. In some cases he was instructed to take more than two of each. I would say he was prepared. Secondly, I would say that he exhibited leadership and love for his family much like the 'preppers' do for theirs. Because of Noah's sensitivity to God's warning and preparedness, he ushered them into the ark and the ark took them safely to the other side. There they started a new life and replenished the new world.

What makes the Bible account of Noah even more pertinent

for us is that Jesus said, "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37). The text begs us to question, what events in Noah's day did Jesus warn us to be on the lookout for? Jesus lists for us: "they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark" (Matt. 24:38). The odd thing about Jesus' list is that each of the activities described were ordinary daily activities. We know from Genesis 6 that there was a lot more going on than just ordinary activities. In the days of Noah, God judged "that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). He later elaborates that the earth was corrupt and filled with violence (Gen. 6:11). His reasoning for judging the people before the flood the way he did can clearly be seen in the single warning given in the Noahic covenant: if you shed another man's blood, your blood will be required of you (Gen. 9:6). Apparently the thing that Jesus is warning us about is being so caught up with "making life happen" or the "daily grind" that we miss the obvious signs of the time and fail to be prepared. Notice what he says next, "And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away" (Matt. 24:39). In other words they did the reverse of what Noah did, they ignored all the warnings from God and failed to prepare. Jesus said "they knew not until the flood came." Jesus did not say they didn't know what hit them, but he said they "knew not until the flood came." Living in a state of unpreparedness, they went about their daily operations until it started raining. You can't prepare for an emergency the day of. When the rain starts falling or you hear of a cataclysmic event on CNN, then it is too late! By the time you get to the grocery store the shelves will be empty and Lowe's will have sold the last generator. The sad part is that when they found out that Noah had been right all along, the door of the ark was shut and flood "took them all away."

There is another striking parallel between Noah's day and ours that the Bible warns us about. Peter also uses Noah along with Sodom and Gomorrah as examples of coming judgment for all those who after them should so choose to "live ungodly" (2 Peter 2:6). He also uses Noah to warn us that God's longsuffering will run out at some point. It did however wait until a very important event on God's calendar was finished. Notice the order of events given by Peter:

Which sometimes were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water (1 Peter 3:20).

The longsuffering of God ceased with ungodly Noah's day at the precise moment that the ark was finished. With no further warning other than a lone preacher of righteousness' repeated message of "it's gonna rain," in an instant the longsuffering of God was over and the door of the ark was shut. This warning leads us to yet another question. We must conclude that if the days leading up to Jesus' return will be like

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the days of Noah, but what is God's longsuffering waiting on this time? Obviously, it is waiting on people to make the right choice and escape the coming judgment. Peter further explains:

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. (2 Peter 3:9).

But if God uses Noah as an example to warn us of coming judgment, where is the ark of safety this time? To what do we run? Jesus said, "... and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). From the pages of the Old Testament we are told, "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous run into it, and is safe (Prov. 18:10). The Church is God's ark this go round. But is the Church of Jesus Christ going anywhere? The Bible tells of a glorious day, for Christians that is, when Jesus shall "descend from heaven" and the dead in Christ shall rise first." Next order of business on his

glorious appearing is for all that are "alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thes. 4:16-17). This is what is commonly referred to as the Rapture. Once the Lord Jesus comes for his Bride, the Church, the door will be shut and his longsuffering will be over.

After Rapture will come a time known as the Tribulation where God's wrath will be poured out on sinful mankind in full, a time like of destruction the likes of which the world has never seen. This does not mean that no one will be saved after the Church is taken from the earth, but trust me you don't want to miss the ark while it is still preparing today. Let's learn our lesson from Noah, and a few from the 'preppers' as well, to heed God's warning of coming judgment, be moved with fear (reverence for God and what he says), and prepare for the salvation of our households.



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The birds and the turtles know what God commanded them to do, and they obey Him. It is God's people that seem to have the problem! The Bible tells us in Jer. 5:22, "The waves may toss and roar, but they can never pass the boundaries I set," but in these last days, many of God's people are pushing the limits! Jesus, referring to the time before His return prophesied, "because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matt. 24:12).

In Jer. 5:1, God challenged someone to search throughout the streets of Jerusalem and see "if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it." God was willing to spare that holy city if He could just find a single man with judgment and that sought the truth. Sadly enough, God did not find that person. They refused God's warning and suffered greatly under God's hand of judgment.

It is my prayer that we would be the people that God was looking for and know the judgment of God. Not in the way that the people of God in Jeremiah's time came to know it, but that we would know God's judgments as taught in His Word and correct ourselves accordingly, so "that we should not be condemned with the world" (1 Cor. 11:31-32).

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