

SIGNS OF OUR TIMES

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*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
Psalm 119:105*

Zechariah 12:2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. **3** And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

"WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?"

The Apostle Peter wrote that *scoffers* will issue this challenge *"in the last days."* There is an abundance of references in both Old and New Testaments to *"the coming of the Just One"* (Acts 7:52) and not all speak of a *"gentle Jesus, meek and mild."* The Old Testament displays the Messiah as the champion of Israel, defeating, scattering and destroying their foes.

Habakkuk 3:3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. {Teman: or, the south} **4** And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power. {horns...: or, bright beams out of his side} **5** Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet. He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual hills did bow: his ways are everlasting. **7** I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction: and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble. {Cushan = Ethiopia} ... {Midian = Sinai in Saudi Arabia}.

But Israel will be unprepared for the One who is their Saviour and will be shocked by His identity!

Zechariah 12:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. **10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: *and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced*, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

JESUS' COMING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Jesus gave assurance of His return to the Earth to those disciples who had witnessed His resurrection and later, His ascension into heaven, by the angel present there: Acts 1:11

Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

In His teaching, Jesus didn't speak of "Universal Salvation." His parables taught of *rejection of those who would not accept His teaching of salvation through faith in His sacrifice and resurrection - and live accordingly.*

A series of judgments appear in **Matthew 24 & 25** in which various reasons are given for *disciples* being considered unfit for entrance into the Kingdom of God!

The Apostle Paul also gives warning in his brilliant **Epistle to the Romans** that there are standards which are expected and attitudes which disqualify from eternal life.

Romans 2: 6 HCSB God will repay each one according to his works:³ **7** eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; **8** but wrath and indignation to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth but are obeying unrighteousness; **9** affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; **10** but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. **11** There is no favoritism with God.

HERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING

By comparing a number of Scriptural texts, we are able to obtain some idea of the sequence of events that are to occur when **Jesus returns to Earth.**

SOT has consistently reported and commented on events which may be heralding the nearness of that great day when our Master and Lord will burst upon this dark world, the glory of his magnificence abolishing every evil therein.

As we have seen from past discussions in this small paper, the world will be in turmoil. The **siege against Jerusalem along with the battle of Armageddon** will be threatening to **destroy Israel and the whole world!**

Those who are aware of these signs will watch the Arab nations surrounding Israel and Jerusalem - just as they are doing NOW! There are passages in **Isaiah 11** that seem to indicate war with Hamas in Gaza and Jordan, but these may be past. In **Revelation Ch. 14** where the vision gives us the picture of **Jesus returning in the clouds of heaven**, we are told that these armies will be assembled in the area **200 miles around Jerusalem and there meet their end!**

Revelation 14: 14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.

In the verses that follow, **Jesus (Son of man)** *takes His harvest of the chosen*, leaving the angel of fire and the one with the sickle to *"tread the winepress of God's wrath."*

THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

It would appear that, just immediately prior to the visible advent of Christ, there will be a very loud sound like a shout, followed by *"the sound of the trumpet!"* (*the Last Trumpet!* **Revelation 11:15-18**) At **Sinai** *the trumpet sounded louder and louder, first Moses spoke - then God.*

1 **Thessalonians 4::13** But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not go before them which are asleep. **16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which 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.

This agrees with Matthew's record of Jesus' words:

Matthew 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Possibly, the first thing the elect will know is their angel arriving at some unexpected hour, for whom we are expected *to open immediately* (**Luke 12:36**). This can only be achieved if we are living in expectation of such an event. Abraham was unable to warn Lot of the approaching calamity and Lot was unprepared.

1 Thess. 5: 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. **5** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

THE DAY APPROACHES

Enlightened by the Word of God, we can see all the catastrophes enumerated by our Lord Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount overtaking the world each day. Every news presentation has some new calamity. Theft - usually violent, murder, rape, arson, divorce, embezzlement, graft, corruption, fatal accident - and "*natural catastrophes*" more deadly - more frequent.

In recent editions of SOT we have drawn attention to **Revelation 16:12** which mentions the **Euphrates drying** in conjunction with *the kings of the East*. It is one of the very **last signs** before Our Lord comes. *This is where the action is centered at the moment.*

Erdogan: Operation Olive Branch 'Not Occupying' Syria's Afrin

Albawaba News | Published January 26th, 2018

Addressing the ruling Justice and Development (AK) Party's provincial heads meeting in capital Ankara, he said, "We are not occupying Afrin. On the contrary, we are trying to make it a livable place for the real owners while clearing out terrorists from there." Turkey on Saturday launched Operation Olive Branch to clear PYD/PKK and ISIS forces from Afrin, northwestern Syria. He reiterated the ongoing operation was directed "purely and simply" against terrorists. He added that *Turkey will clear terrorists from Syria's Manbij next.*

DOES THAT SOUND FAMILIAR?

Well, probably not to the later generations, but below is a small excerpt describing the tactics of **Adolph Hitler** before he attacked **Poland** in 1939.

Hitler demanded several items that he knew would worsen relations with Poland, which included the admittance of Danzig into the German *Reich*, the building of a German highway and a German railway through the Polish Corridor, and the Polish participation in the Anti-Comintern Pact. ...

Turkey bigger threat to Israel than Iran

Kehila News Israel. | Tzippe Barrow | Feb 2, 2018

JERUSALEM, Israel – *A Kurdish pastor is issuing a wake-up call to Israel and the West: Turkey, not Iran, is Israel's biggest threat, and Turkey aims to take over Kurdish controlled areas of Iraq.*

In a letter to CBN News detailing the Turkish-led siege on the Kurds in northern Syria, Pastor Majeed Mohammed, formerly with the Kurdsman Church in Erbil, says while Iran

has not hidden its agenda against Israel, Turkey's Islamist President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the bigger enemy.

Erdogan is preparing the way for the rebirth of the Islamic caliphate by rallying the 'Islamic brotherhood' to surround the Jewish state and destroy it. That eventuality would be pleasing to the Muslim world, Erdogan says.

The West, he pleads, must wake up to the Turkish siege against Afrin and other Kurdish cities in Syria and Iraq before he succeeds in extending the Sunni crescent along northern Iraq to the Mediterranean Sea.

Erdogan has mobilized radical Islamic militias to attack the Kurdish population in northern Syria. He is using Russian-manufactured tanks, airstrikes, and cluster bombs against civilians.

In the weekly sermons on Fridays – the Muslim day of prayer – mosques in Turkey, Sudan, Libya, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon, among others, have been asking Allah to prosper their new Sultan, Erdogan, and the caliphate he will head. According to Majeed, their prayer is based on a portion in the Koran.

Erdogan envisions himself as head of the "last caliphate of Islam" and is bent on redrawing the map of the Middle East. He's against stabilization in the region and sees his role as using jihadists to prove he is "the only one who understands, feels, acts, initiates and supports" the Middle East – not Russia, the United States or the international community.

There is no doubt that **Erdogan is heading straight into conflict with Iran, who has similar ambitions!**

SOT has previously commented on the facts that **Iran** now has its own military advisers working within **Syria** with the Syrian army, Hezbollah and other satellite militias who are positioned close to **Israel's northern borders**. Surely there must be an **almighty clash between Iran and Turkey soon?**

Stop Press: THE WALL STREET CRASH

CNN Money | by Matt Egan | February 5, 2018: 7:45 PM ET
Stocks went into free fall on Monday, and the Dow plunged almost 1,600 points -- easily the biggest point decline in history during a trading day. Buyers charged back in and limited the damage, but at the closing bell the Dow was still down 1,175 points, by far its worst closing point decline on record.

The drop amounted to 4.6% -- the biggest decline since August 2011, during the European debt crisis. But it was nowhere close to the destruction on Black Monday in 1987 or the financial crisis of 2008. And the rout in U.S. markets continued to ripple around the globe. Japan's Nikkei index plunged 4% in Tuesday morning trading while the S&P/ASX 200 in Australia dropped 3%.

Well...yes, it *has* happened before. Perhaps this isn't the last time – but maybe it is! When will it stop? When we consider the other *Last Days signs?*

James 5:1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. **2** Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. **3** Your gold and silver are cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. **8** Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. "*Even so, Come! Lord Jesus!*" ybic, AWW