

Ted's Message of Hope - Tuesday September 1, 2020

The Birth Pains Continue.

America's natural disasters are on the rise as we have been recently witnessing. Is God warning our nation during this presidential election year? The Bible assures us that God is in control of world events ([Daniel 2:20-21](#)), and He is in control of weather events ([Job 37-38: Psalms 29, 46, 147-148 and Jonah 1:4](#)), and what we are witnessing today is the fulfillment of end-time prophecies before our very eyes. Let's take a look and see what the Word of God says.

2020 has truly been a year like no other. It began with Covid-19 spreading all over the world from China fulfilling the prophecy of [Luke 21:11](#): "*There will be pestilences in various places*". In [Matthew 24:6-7](#) Jesus tells us to be on the lookout for many signs prior to His second coming, and these signs are just the beginning of birth pains. This means these signs will increase in frequency and intensity the closer we get to the Lord's return. We are witnessing these signs in our world today, and they are converging at a rapid pace. One of these signs is "*nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom.*" According to Dr. Nathan Jones with Lamb & Lion Ministries in Princeton, TX (www.lamblion.com), Jesus prophesied in [Matthew 24:7](#) that in the last days nation will rise against nation, which in the original Greek translates as ethnos versus ethnos, or race versus race. In other words, one of the signs of the end times is a nation divided against itself and a rise in racism. This is what we are experiencing in the U.S. [Luke 21:11](#) further adds: "*There will be fearful events and great signs from heaven.*"

Category 4 hurricane Laura made landfall in the Gulf of Mexico last week with direct impact at Lake Charles, LA causing tremendous devastation and power outages leaving thousands of people homeless. Estimated damage: \$12 billion. It was preceded by tropical storm Marco, the first time in recorded history that two tropical storms followed each other in the Gulf of Mexico's warm waters simultaneously, according to Colorado State University researcher Phil Klotzbach (www.usatoday.com, August 22, 2020). According to the Weather Channel, next up on the heels of hurricane Laura, disturbance Nana was upgraded to tropical Storm Nana in the Caribbean Sea today. Watches and warnings have been issued in parts of Central America. Nana may become a hurricane in the western Caribbean Sea before landfall. It could also bring flooding rain and devastation to parts of Honduras, Belize, Guatemala and eastern Mexico.

Shortly after the historic derecho storm tore through the state of Iowa and the Midwest two weeks ago, the western half of the U.S. was gripped by a historic heatwave. According to the National Weather Service, the highest temperature ever captured by modern instruments, 132°F (55.5°C) was recorded in Death Valley, California on August 18, 2020, and many other all-time records were shattered all over the Southwest. Phoenix, AZ reached 115°F during the afternoon of August 19, breaking the old record of 113°F that was set in 1986. That heatwave set the stage for the out-of-control wildfires that we are witnessing in the San Francisco bay area and the state of California right now. According to KRON Channel 4 in San Francisco, the fires burning in rugged hills north of San Francisco have scorched 586 square miles of brush and trees, destroyed more than 1,200 homes and other structures, and killed five people. Nearly 2,800 firefighters are battling multiple blazes ignited by lightning 13 days ago.

[Psalm 46:3](#) tells us "*Let the oceans roar and foam. Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!*". According to White House correspondent Bill Koenig's "Eye View From the White House", a Christian weekly newsletter covering events in the U.S. and Middle East (www.watch.org), four Republican conventions in the U.S. were disrupted by record-setting

hurricanes at the time the presidents were actively pursuing their proposed Middle East peace initiatives to divide the land of Israel to establish a Palestinian state in the Middle East: 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2020. (<http://www.stormfax.com/hurcost1.htm>):

Republican's 2004 Convention: Hurricane Frances
Republican's 2008 Convention: Hurricane Gustav
Republican's 2012 Convention: Hurricane Isaac
Republican's 2016 Convention: No Hurricane
Republican's 2020 Convention: Hurricane Laura

The Word of God clearly warns against dividing the land of Israel and its severe consequences in [Joel 3:1-2](#): "*For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up My land*". The Hebrew word Jehoshaphat translates as "the Lord judges" or "the Lord has judged", and it is named after the fourth godly king of Judah, the son of Asa. The valley of Jehoshaphat is another word for the Kidron Valley located across from the Mount of Olives where the future judgment of the nations will take place.

Another unprecedented event took place recently in the Middle East. According to the Jerusalem Post, on August 13, 2020, a historic peace agreement was signed between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven states bordering Saudi Arabia and Oman. This historic agreement, code-named the **Abraham Accord**, commemorates our ancestor Abraham almost 4,000 years ago. The bible tells us in [Genesis 25](#), at the moment of Abraham's passing at the age of 175, his warring sons Isaac and Ishmael reconciled at his funeral. And now, thousands of generations later, the children of Abraham, the descendants of Isaac (nation of Israel) and the descendants of Ishmael (the Arab nations), have begun a historic reconciliation and are setting out a path to a possible peace in the Middle East.

But the Bible also tells us in [Daniel 9:27](#) a long-lasting peace in the Middle East will be short lived under the rule of the antichrist when he appears on the world scene after the rapture of the church: "*The ruler (antichrist) will make a treaty with the people (of Israel) for a period of one set of seven (7 years), but after half this time (3 ½ years), he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings.*" We won't see true peace in this world until our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ sits on the throne of David at the highest point on earth in Jerusalem during the Millennium Kingdom.

If you have family members, friends or relatives who don't know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, please forward this e-mail to them. Encourage them to know Jesus by planting the seed of faith in their lives. Share this simple prayer with them: "Dear Lord Jesus, I believe in my heart you died on the cross for me and three days later you rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. You are the Son of the One and only true God who created this universe. I confess my sins and ask for your forgiveness of my sins. Please come into my heart, fill me with the fruit of your Holy Spirit, and I make you my Lord and Savior". Once they say this prayer with a sincere heart, they are guaranteed eternal life in heaven.

I encourage you to continue to share the love of Christ with people you come in contact with and with your neighbors. In [Matthew 22:35-37](#), an expert in religious law, tried to trap Jesus with this question: "Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied by quoting [Deuteronomy 6:5](#), "*You must love the Lord your God with all your*

heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.' I taught the first part of this passage to my five-year old great-grandson Talon, and he memorized it. What a blessing!