

Oblivious to the Obvious

In The Grasp of Normalcy Bias

By Dan Cummins

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*Oblivious to the Obvious – In the Grasp of
Normalcy Bias*

by Dan Cummins

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JoAnn and I have a beautiful family that keeps growing every day. Our children, their spouses and grand children are our inspirations and joys of life. Thank God for them.

To Bridlewood Church, I am proud of you and blessed to be your pastor. Thanks for believing in me.

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Introduction

- The Stock Market Crash
- The housing bubble crisis,
- Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac going broke,
- The rising burden of a 14 trillion dollar National Debt,
- The problems of Healthcare Reform, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security,
- Talk of the US Dollar being replaced as the world's reserve currency,
- The cost of rising oil and gasoline
- The uprisings in Northern Africa and the Middle East
- The rampage of radical Islam
- Food shortages
- The Feds buying back US Treasury Bonds
- The attack on marriage
- Unemployment
- Earthquakes and tsunamis

So much is happening at such an alarming pace, so much so, that even missing one

day of news one will fall behind in keeping current. One crisis isn't over before another one breaks. What's happening in our world?

For months I have been at a writer's impasse, a wall, mental block – whatever you want to call it, but just could not seem to find a place to start writing until the other day when I heard the phrase, normalcy bias, which caught my attention and seemed to neatly frame my thoughts concerning all the rapidly changing world events that have been transpiring over the past months.

I have been asking God what is the message in all this for your people, what do you want me to say or preach (if anything), where do I begin, so much is unraveling in every direction – still nothing, not a word. Until now, until I heard someone say “normalcy bias.”

What is normalcy bias? Are we in the grasp of normalcy bias? Are the words of the Prophets unfolding before our eyes

yet we refuse to see, refuse to repent,
refuse to prepare?

Never in thirty years of teaching the book of Revelation have I seen world events aligned themselves with such biblical prophetic accuracy to set in motion events that will lead to

- The collapse of the world's economy
- A one world monetary system
- A one world government
- A global alignment against the nation of Israel.
- The Battle of Armageddon

We must free ourselves from the deception of normalcy bias and begin to interpret world events in light of God's prophetic word.

Dan Cummins
February 24, 2011

*All this worldly wisdom was once the
heresy of some wise man.*

- Henry David Thoreau

Chapter One

What is Normalcy Bias?

What is normalcy bias?

Here is the definition from *Wikipedia*:

"The term normalcy bias refers to a mental state people enter when facing a disaster. It causes people to underestimate both the possibility of a disaster occurring and its possible effects.

This often results in situations where people fail to adequately prepare for a disaster, and on a larger scale, the failure of the government to include the populace in its disaster preparations.

The assumption that is made in the case of the normalcy bias is that since a disaster never has occurred that it never will occur. It also results in the inability of people to cope with a disaster once it occurs.

People with a normalcy bias have difficulties reacting to something they have not experienced before. People also tend to interpret warnings in the most

optimistic way possible, seizing on any ambiguities to infer a less serious situation"

- The unsinkable Titanic sank within a matter of hours as the band played and people danced while the frigid Atlantic waters rose through the cabin levels.
- The Stock Market Crashed in 1929 in spite of the warnings of dangerous leveraging practices but people invested just the same.
- A half million affluent Jews remained in Nazi Germany hoping Hitler's policies would pass without affecting them.
- 2000 people lost their lives because they did not heed the warnings to evacuate but remained in New Orleans as they watched Katrina approaching the levees.

These are all examples of normalcy bias. In short, normalcy bias is the hope that nothing will change – that life will go on as usual and the storm will pass without dire consequences.

It appears that the greater the impending calamity the more normalcy bias controls the thinking, or lack thereof, of society in spite of the obvious circumstantial evidence presenting itself.

Hurricane Katrina is the most recent prime example. 2000 people lost their lives because they refused to believe the obvious and evacuate all the while watching the approaching storm on The Weather Channel. The levees had never failed before so why should they now.

Why do we as individuals and society as a whole bury our heads in the sand as calamity approaches? Why are we prone to be oblivious to the obvious - almost without exception to our own destruction?

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Chapter Two

Storm Clouds Gathering

For thirty years I have been teaching and holding seminars on end time events found in the book of Revelation. Never in the past three decades have I witnessed the rapid unfolding of *likely prophetic events* as what we are witnessing with the political changes in Northern Africa, Egypt and the Middle East.

Who saw this coming? Yet, I find myself wrestling with my own normalcy bias. Could this really be what I've been teaching about the last thirty years?

Oil is the key because oil is power.

It is all about the oil. Whoever controls the oil controls the world's economies. Without it to run the West's economy chaos will ensue and our way of living will change – drastically change. Our pockets already feel the affect by the daily rising prices at the gas pump.

Ironically, oil is power both in the natural and spiritual. Oil in the spiritual sense represents the Holy Spirit. *It's not by*

power, not by might but by my spirit says the Lord. Natural oil comes out of the ground made from dead things of the past while the spiritual oil comes from Heaven made of eternal life.

Besides the West vying for the Middle East's and Africa's supply of oil let us not forget about Russia and China whose economies are even more vulnerable to the lack thereof.

A radical Islamic alliance of Northern Africa and the Middle East, influenced by Jihadist theology, will possess oil as the ultimate weapon of mass destruction against the infidels of the West and especially the Jews.

Are the dominos of Armageddon lining up?

Russia and China will not sit still. They will come after the oil. And who will be caught in the middle of this pincer movement? Israel! Are the dominos of Armageddon lining up? If they are, will

normalcy bias keep us from seeing it; keep us from preparing for the ultimate consequences?

What else do our elected officials in Washington need to see before we *drill here, drill now* before the lack of oil collapses our economy? What else do our preachers need to see before they call the church to repentance to *pray here, pray now* before a lack of the Holy Spirit bankrupts society morally? It is a case of the blind leading the blind. The salt has lost its worth and is being thrown out.

Religious and world leaders are caught in the grasp of normalcy bias putting every possible positive spin on the Muslim Brotherhood underestimating the political outcome of what is transpiring. Even so-called Christian clergy are under the deception that Christians and Muslims worship the same god.

In my opinion, radical Islam will prevail in the Middle East. What is happening in the world is a polarization between good and

evil. Across the globe nation is rising against nation.

In America the platforms of political parties are not about issues, but the spiritual principles of right and wrong behind those issues. People around the world are aligning themselves with good or evil, light or darkness, between man's way or God's, between Christ or anti-Christ. It is a day of lawlessness setting the stage for the appearance of the man of lawlessness – the antichrist. See the signs. Open your eyes and ears. The day is here!

I do not believe we will recognize the geopolitical map of the world in another year nor will we recognize the political and moral map of America. Things are accelerating at an unstable exponential rate of *entropy* (A law of physics stating that “matter goes from a high state of usefulness to sudden death.”)

The Bible describes it this way: (My comments added.)

1 Thessalonians 5:1-9

But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. (My house will never get robbed! Somebody else's, but not mine.)

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail (birth pangs – Matt. 24) upon a woman with child (Rev. 12); and they shall not escape.

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.

6 Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (5 Wise Virgins)

7 For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.

8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

9 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, KJV

To quote a line from “The Music Man,”
*There’s a burglar in the bedroom while
you’re fiddlin’ in the parlor... You got
trouble my friend, you got big, big trouble...*

The thief is here and our house is being robbed while the media focuses on the perverted lifestyle of Charlie Sheen!

God is not saying the thief will not come – he’s coming! God is saying “the children of light, of the day” will not allow normalcy bias to cause them to suffer the consequences of not being prepared for that day.

Chapter Three

“The Sky is Falling,
the Sky is Falling!”

I don't want to be Chicken Little preaching "the sky is falling, the sky is falling," but what if the sky *really is* falling? We must be prepared, we will be prepared if we are the children of light!

I firmly believe normalcy bias dominates the end time thinking of most in the church. "Don't worry about politics, the economy or the tribulation; the church won't suffer - we're all going be *raptured!*"

I hope they're right. If so you can remind me as we're going up, but I don't think that will be the case. Although it won't hurt my feeling if I'm wrong!

Ships of Normalcy Bias

Let's consider two ships of normalcy bias – one with no means or place to float and the other that could never sink. On one ship eight people out of the world's entire population were saved from apocalyptic destruction. On the other, 1,517 people lost their lives while the band played on.

Jesus warned us that normalcy bias would dominate society's thinking at his return.

Luke 17:26-30

26 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

27 They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage (Life as usual!), until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded (Life as usual!);

29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed. KJV

Matthew 24:36-39

37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. KJV

Life in Noah's day was everything as usual – eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow *we'll do it all over again* – normalcy bias. "Judgment, *smudgment*, there's no rain. Life goes on!"

Yet society was unaware that Noah had entered the ark - *and they knew not*. Please note it was the flood, not the rain that woke them to the fact (interrupted their normalcy bias) that Noah was in the ark and the door was shut.

Wait a minute! Floods are caused by rain – torrential rain. It had never rained before in human history, not even a small shower, but the Bible states that it was the FLOOD that made them aware of Noah's entering the ark *not the rain*.

Remember the definition of normalcy bias: "The assumption that is made in the case of the normalcy bias is that since a disaster never has occurred that it never will occur. It also results in the inability of people to cope with a disaster once it occurs. People with a normalcy bias have difficulties reacting to something they have not experienced before. People also tend to interpret warnings in the most optimistic way possible, seizing on any ambiguities to infer a less serious situation."

One would think at the first signs of dark clouds forming people would have beaten a path to Noah's doorsteps to secure reservations on the next passage. No, they kept on eating and drinking. The rain was a novel event – even refreshing at first. It felt good.

Those first drops captivated everyone's imagination. I'm sure they were mesmerized by these tiny droplets falling from the sky. As they continued falling no one was getting hurt. It was refreshing! The kids even danced among those falling droplets and splashed in the puddles forming in the streets.

But the rain kept coming, like birth pangs! Soon those playful puddles began to fill with deadly waters, flash floods began washing away homes and buildings as people began to drown. Higher and higher the waters rose until somebody remembered - "NOAH!"

But it was too late. By the time the world realized things were changing, that

judgment was indeed here, the door was shut and Noah had entered in. Wake up! World events are shaping up just as the Bible said. It's raining!

Matthew 24:6-8 KJV

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.
8 All these are the beginning of sorrows (birth pangs).

The beginning of birth pangs – that means we haven't seen anything yet! The wars, famines and earthquakes are going to keep on coming with *more frequency, shorter intervals and greater intensity* - just like birth pangs. The earth is travailing.

“For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now,” Romans 8:22 KJV.

My friend, the dark clouds are forming for the day of the Lord. Rain drops are falling right now. Yet the world, even the church, continues as though nothing’s happening. Reminds me of the Burt Bacharach tune which epitomizes man’s fatalistic tendency toward normalcy bias:

*Raindrops keep fallin' on my head
But that doesn't mean my eyes will
soon be turnin' red
Cryin's not for me
'Cause I'm never gonna stop the rain
by complainin'
Because I'm free
Nothin's worryin' me
**It won't be long till happiness
steps up to greet me***

The rain is rapidly becoming a flood. What will it take for us to realize the flood waters are rising? Yet we interpret the rain as something positive, something

good. “No, the economy is recovering; the stock market is turning around. Things are getting better, just wait and see!”

Noah spent 120 years bucking the normalcy bias of his day. “What in heaven’s name is rain?” It had never rained in all of human history, but it rained just the same.

Only eight people who were prepared were saved – eight people who refused to allow normalcy bias keep them from believing and most importantly acting upon God’s word. A ship with no means, or nowhere to float did just that.

That heretical lunatic Noah suddenly became the wisest man on earth when the rain began to fall. *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

Three thousand years later there was another famous ship – the Titanic – of which it was said “even God could not sink this ship,” but sank it did. As the frigid Atlantic waters rapidly rose

upwards through the cabin levels people refused to believe the ocean liner was sinking. The band kept playing; people kept dancing and refused to get in the life boats.

That's the grasp of normalcy bias!

Chapter Four

Where is the Promise of His Coming?

I believe normalcy bias best describes the condition of denial gripping contemporary society and unfortunately the modern-day laodicean church.

The Bible describes it thus:

Peter 3:3-14

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. (Normalcy Bias)

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire

against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

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.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be

dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

The Lesson from Noah: Change is Coming

As I sit and surf the news channels watching all these unfolding events maybe my mental paralysis has been due to my tendency of over-analysis, or as it is better known *analysis-paralysis*. What do I do, where do I start to change these things? Remember the effect upon individuals normalcy bias has:

“It also results in the inability of people to cope with a disaster once it occurs. People with a normalcy bias have difficulties

reacting to something they have not experienced before.”

Let us learn the lesson from Noah. There is nothing you or I can do to change or influence these world events. They are happening beyond our control. Nothing we say or think will change that! *God is in control.*

His Kingdom is coming and the interval between now and then is described in Revelation. Tough times are coming on the earth! Things are going to get worse before they get better! What is our responsibility? Heed God’s word and prepare.

So we better have an ark! We better have a plan! We do. The ark is already built and ready for occupancy. We also have a Noah who made sure the construction was done right. His name is Jesus!

Noah was the eighth man from Adam and his name means “rest.” Jesus is the eighth man (the number eight is *resurrection and*

new beginning) and He is our rest. He has completed the ark of our salvation. He not only built the ark, He is the ark. Our refuge for troublous times is the ark of the person of Jesus Christ. Are you in Him?

I like to say it this way: There is only one man going in the rapture – his name is Jesus. If you are not in him you are not going!

A Spirit of Fear

I can only image the fear that gripped the people of Noah's day when the flood came but it was too late – the door was shut. But for Noah and his family what peace must have flooded their hearts as the rain came down.

God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of love, power and a sound mind. The false sense of security which normalcy bias temporarily comforts its assuming victims gives way to unbridled

fear and panic once the reality of the disaster sets in.

Those who were wise found peace of mind in the ark they prepared. Those caught in the grasp of normalcy bias faced the sobering reality of their foolish behavior.

Noah's name means *rest*. Obedience to God brings us rest from the storm. Noah was prepared, but he was not motivated by fear of the flood to prepare, rather he prepared out of obedience to God. Our response to a crisis should never be out of fear but always one of faith and hope from the knowledge that we have been obedient to God and prepared.

Are you ready for the birth pangs?

Chapter Five

The Causes of Normalcy Bias

To recap, normalcy bias is the hope that nothing will change – that life will go on as usual and the storm will pass without dire consequences.

What are the causes of normalcy bias? Why are we so prone as individuals and as a society to become oblivious to the obvious?

We are the smartest generation ever to populate planet Earth. We are acquiring more knowledge and gaining more information every year than all the previous years of recorded human history combined. But how has all this knowledge helped?

We are like the proverbial frog in the slowly heating water; we cannot accept the fact that things are about to boil over – so we'll never jump out of the pot though the water continues to get hot!

The Bible lists the causes of normalcy bias in 2 Timothy 3:1-8. Notice that “perilous

times” will come because men become sinfully self-centered.

“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be:

- lovers of themselves,
- lovers of money,
- boasters,
- proud,
- blasphemers,
- disobedient to parents,
- unthankful,
- unholy,
- unloving,
- unforgiving,
- slanderers,
- without self-control,
- brutal,
- despisers of good,
- traitors,
- headstrong,
- haughty,
- lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

- having a form of godliness but denying its power. (And from such people turn away!)
For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts,
- **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”**
NKJV

What more describes our culture with its personal and social attitudes? It boils down to one simple word – *sin*.

Sin is the root cause of normalcy bias. The deceptiveness of sin always keeps us from seeing the obvious truth of the oblivious situation that sin creates. *The wages of sin is death*. Sin always blinds us as individuals and consequentially as a nation.

Even with all the recent road signs, such as:

- the recent housing crisis, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac going broke,
- the burden of the National Debt,
- the problems of Healthcare Reform, Medicare and Medicaid,
- talk of the US Dollar being replaced as the world's reserve currency,
- the cost of rising oil, and
- the crisis over public sector unions

and out of control pensions bankrupting state and local governments; the same mindset of normalcy bias grips some American's thinking that we can continue unbridled deficit spending while still receiving extravagant entitlements without someone having to pick up the tab – the tax payer.

**When your outgo exceeds your income
your upkeep becomes your downfall.**

Recently House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) said that it could take twenty years to balance the federal

budget due to the deficit spending in Washington. CNBC reported that in America government payouts (entitlements) make up 35 percent of wages and salaries and that will only increase as thousands of Baby Boomers enter retirement every day.

America is becoming a welfare nation. When more people are on the wagon than pushing the wagon the wagon stops.

As a society we cannot grasp the magnitude of our own national problems and their impending consequences, much less all what is happening on the international scene. The world is coming apart at the seams like a cheap shirt in a hot wash yet we are oblivious to the obvious because of our self-centeredness.

Chapter Six

Living in a Bubble

Watch the Middle East

What is happening in the Middle East, Northern Africa, Southern Russia, Turkey and Iran? Are the dominos of Armageddon lining up as biblical prophets foretold in preparation for the return of Christ or is this just random un-orchestrated events in the continuing political evolution of peoples and governments – the survival of the strongest?

2600 years ago the Prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 38-39) spoke of a return “in the latter days” of the tribes of Israel to the land that God had promised Abraham – out of many nations to a land “brought back from the sword.”

History provides two periods when this could have occurred: in 536 BC after the Babylonian captivity and in 1917 with the Balfour Declaration unto the present date. Are we living in the latter days Ezekiel spoke of? I believe so.

People caught up by normalcy bias are living in a “bubble.” God has always used prophets (and prophecy) to awaken people from their normalcy bias.

Normalcy bias is the hope that nothing will change – that life will go on as usual and the storm will pass without dire consequences, but God uses prophets to burst the normalcy bias “bubble.” Darn those prophets!

The popular trend of opinion will advise you to put your hard earned money into normalcy bias. The market may look bullish and the future promising, but don't invest in a bubble. Put your money into the truth of God's word - it will set you free.

Amos 3:6-7:

6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?

7 Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

2 Peter 1:16,19-21:

16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed (*normalcy bias interrupted*), as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy

men of God spake as they were
moved by the Holy Ghost.

Is God speaking again through the prophets of old? Are the current events of the Middle East the beginnings, the birth pangs, to the fulfillment of Ezekiel's visions or are the prophet's words for another time, place and people. Only time will tell us. However, we must sit up and take notice.

Chapter Seven

The Obvious!

In chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel, the prophet makes the following points about these *latter day* events:

- Israel would be gathered out of many nations
- The land would be “brought back from the sword”
- Israel would dwell in un-walled cities with relative peace and prosperity
- That a confederation of nations surrounding Israel would come against her
- That God would intervene on Israel’s behalf and divinely destroy these nations
- This would be the last time Israel would be shamed among the nations
- God will be glorified among the nations by this victory

No one can argue the uniqueness of Israel’s restoration. Never before has a nation after 2000 years of annihilation suddenly re-emerged from the four

corners of the globe onto the world's stage as Israel. Yet this tiny nation, the size of New Jersey, is at the center of world news.

The Battle of Armageddon

What Ezekiel describes in this regional conflict is considered by most Bible teachers to be the Battle of Armageddon – the last war after a time of great tribulation (3 ½ years) before Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth for 1000 years.

Let us see whom it is that Ezekiel said would compose this alliance against Israel in the latter days. Will it shed any light on current events or should we just *keep on trucking* (seventies term for normalcy bias) as usual? Are the rain clouds of Armageddon forming? Is it beginning to rain?

I have listed their Old Testament and contemporary names.

They are:

- **Gog** – a title for a Czar, Pharaoh or Caliph (the head of state in a Caliphate, and the title for the leader of the Islamic Ummah, an Islamic community ruled by Shari'ah law)
- **Magog** - Southern Russia and possibly Afghanistan
- **Messhech** – Turkey
- **Tubal** – Iran
- **Persia** - Iran,
- Ethiopia - Sudan,
- **Put** – Libya, Algeria and Tunisia
- **Gomer** - Turkey
- **Togarmah** – Armenia
- **Cush** – Sudan
- and “many people with thee” - possibly Iraq, Syria and Jordan?

According to Ezekiel’s 2600 year old prophecy Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Sudan, Turkey, Armenia, Iran and parts of Southern Russia will align themselves in war against Israel *in the latter days*. Could Ezekiel be more contemporary with CNN and Fox News? His prophecy is being

broadcast live over Al Jazeera TV as I write.

Czars, Pharaohs and Caliphs – Oh my!

The prophecy is addressed to a “Gog” - *And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog (38:1)* - which is a name for a Czar, Pharaoh or Caliph. Russia was ruled by Czars (as is the Obama administration for that matter) and the Islamic states by pharaohs and caliphs.

According to Ezekiel, Russia will align herself with the pharaohs and caliphs and come against Israel.

Does the relationship between Russia and Iran come to mind, ring any bells? The only friend Iran has (besides Chavez, North Korea and Sean Penn) is Russia. Russia is assisting Iran in its nuclear program with which Iran’s president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad swears he will use to destroy Israel.

What about other remarks by Ahmadinejad and the Supreme Religious Leader of Iran Ali Khamenei; that they will “wipe Israel off the face of the earth.” The swords of the Muslim Brotherhood are rattling across Northern Africa and the Middle East to reinstate Shari'ah law worldwide, even in America!

Radical Islam – a geo-political religion

September 11, 2001 changed our world forever just as December 7, 1941 did seventy years ago. While war raged in Europe, the Greatest Generation was suddenly, on a sleepy Sunday morning as hundreds of torpedo laden planes attacked the US fleet at Pearl Harbor, awakened from their normalcy bias to the obvious fact they faced a new enemy – one that was determined to conquer the world. It was Japanese Imperialism - a radical geo-political religion attacking us on American soil.

We, the Last Generation, were awakened on 9/11 by just four kamikaze-style

planes to the fact that we face a never before seen enemy on American soil – one that is determined to conquer the world. It is radical Islam.

Make no mistake, radical Islam is a geo-political religion hell bent on conquering the world and subjecting everyone to Shari’ah law. You need only to read the Koran if you think otherwise; right after you finish reading your Bible. (Oops, did I say that?) The events transpiring now in the Middle East will prove just as world-changing as the events of 9/11.

Just as it took time to determine who was behind the 9/11 attacks, we will come to see the puppet master’s hands before all is settled. Follow the events in the Middle East and see if the alignment of Ezekiel comes to pass. I believe they will.

Jesus said to the Pharisees and Sadducees (Wouldn’tsees and Couldn’tsees), “You can discern the face of the sky; but can you not discern the signs of the times?” (Matt 16:3 KJV) Look up friend; wake up

from your normalcy bias because Jesus is coming. We must be prepared. We must bring our household, like Noah, into the Ark of knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior.

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draws nigh,” Luke 21:28 KJV.

Russia and Islam

The Russian Bear has not gone away just hibernating. Russia will play a major role in biblical end time events. The following excerpt might explain the relationship between the Russian czars and the Islamic pharaohs and caliphs.

Of the ten million citizens of Moscow, 2.5 million are Muslim, or twenty-five percent with the youngest of the population being Muslim while the older declining population ethnic Russian. The Muslim population in the country has increased by 40% in the last 15

years. Seven out of ten Russian pregnancies (according to some surveys) are aborted; while in some Muslim communities, the fertility rate is ten babies per woman. The Toronto Star (which is Canada's biggest-selling newspaper and impeccably liberal) recently noted that **by 2015 Muslims will make up a majority of Russia's army.** The Russia of 15 years ago is already ancient history. . . . By 2050, Russia will be the umpteenth Muslim nuclear power, but the first with a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. (Mark Steyn "The Bear Goes Walkabout," marksteyn.com. 2/2/07)

The world is thirsty for oil. Will oil be the spoil Ezekiel spoke of? Will Russia, and eventually China, be drawn to the valley of Megiddo over the need for oil? Will the newly liberated Muslim countries form democratic governments or eventually align themselves into a Caliphate ruled by

Shari'ah law? Will they join with Russia to march against Jerusalem? We will see. Ezekiel did!

Chapter Eight

The Oblivious!

I could not write a better commentary about the events unfolding before our eyes in HD on our 52" flat screens in the comfort of our media rooms than Ezekiel has in these two chapters (38-39). So don't take my word for it; get it straight from the prophet's mouth. (I have added my comments in parenthesis), but for the most part it is like reading from the Drudge Report.

I have also inserted the (modern names) of the Old Testament countries which make everything come to life and a few relevant passages from the book of Revelation.

NEVER in recent history have geopolitical events so presented themselves as to accommodate the fulfillment of these century old prophets. So I am beseeching you (as the Apostle Paul would say) to take the time to read what Ezekiel had to say. Don't let normalcy bias cause you to put it off. It just might give you the needed urge TO JUMP OUT

OF YOUR POT before the water gets too hot!

The words of the prophet Ezekiel (38:1-13 KJV):

1 And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, set thy face against Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph), the land of Magog (Southern Russia), the chief prince of Meshech (Turkey) and Tubal (Iran), and prophesy against him,

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold I am against thee, O Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph), the chief prince of Meshech (Turkey) and Tubal (Iran):

4 And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of armour, even a great company with bucklers and shields, all of them handling swords:

5 Persia (Iran), Ethiopia (Sudan), and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

6 Gomer (Turkey), and all his bands; the house of Togarmah (Turkey) of the north quarters, and all his bands: and many people with thee (other Islamic nations).

Egypt is obviously missing!

7 Be thou (Israel) prepared, and prepare for thyself, thou, and all thy company that are assembled unto thee, and be thou a guard unto them.

8 After many days thou (Israel) shalt be visited: **in the latter years** thou (Israel) shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and **is gathered out of many people**, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they (Israel) **shall dwell safely all of them.**

9 Thou (Gog) shalt ascend and come like a storm, thou shalt be like a cloud to cover the land, thou, and all thy bands, and many people with thee.

10 Thus saith the Lord God; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought:

11 And thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwalled villages; I will go to them (Israel) that are at rest, that dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates,

12 To take a spoil, and to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon **the people that are gathered out of the nations**, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land.

Nations that question the attack!

13 Sheba (Southern Arabia), and Dedan (Saudi Arabia), and the merchants of Tarshish, Tarshish

(Tarshish denotes a country; in several instances, indeed, it is mentioned as a maritime country lying in the remotest region of the earth. *Jewish Encyclopedia*)

with all the young lions (Possibly UK and America, we hope) thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?

14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph), Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon

horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; **it shall be in the latter days**, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph), before their eyes.

17 Thus saith the Lord God; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?

18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph) shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord God, **that my fury shall come up in my face** (wrath).

19 For in my jealousy and **in the fire of my wrath** (the *thumos* of his *orge*, Rev.16:19) have I spoken, Surely in that

day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; (figuratively and literally)

20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. (Trumpets judgments in Revelation 8 -9)

Rev. 9:3

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Rev. 9:14

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

(Euphrates River Basin area:
Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia,
Kuwait)

21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord God: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

Rev .19:15

15 And out of his (Jesus) mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, **and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.**

Rev. 16:17-21

17 And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness (*thumos*) of his wrath (*orge*).

(The *thumos* of God's wrath is the violent and sudden expression of His settled abiding position – *orge* – on sin. These words for wrath are

never used interchangeably for tribulation.

The *tribulation* is not the *wrath of God* which is a false assumption by many teachers concluding erroneously that the church will not see any tribulation. The tribulation and the wrath of God are two distinct events. God's wrath, "the thumos of his orge," is reserved exclusively for the bowl judgments at the very end of the tribulation *after* the church is raptured.)

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

21 And there fell upon men **a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent:** and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great. KJV

God's Purpose in this!

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord.

Ezekiel 39:1-13

1 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph), and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph), the chief prince of Meshech (Turkey) and Tubal (Iran):

2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

(Note the description of this rider on a white horse in Revelation who is generally accepted to be the antichrist .)

Rev. 6:2

2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: **and he that sat on him had a bow**; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: **I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort**, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

Rev. 19:17-21

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, **saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God**;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the

flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God.

6 And I will send a fire on Magog (Southern Russia), and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the Lord.

7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and **I will not let them pollute my holy name any more:** and the heathen shall know that I am the Lord, the Holy One in Israel.

8 Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord God; **this is the day whereof I have spoken.**

9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:

10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord God.

11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph) a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog (Czar, Pharaoh, Caliph) and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamon-gog.

12 And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

13 Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord God.

14 And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search.

15 And the passengers that pass through the land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamon-gog (literally means "Valley of the multitudes of Gog")

16 And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land.

17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.

18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan.

19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.

20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord God. (Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies, Ps. 23.)

21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.

22 So the house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward.

(Read all of Romans 9 & 11 concerning the nation of Israel's restoration in *the latter days*.)

Rom 11:25-28

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, **until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, **they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.**

23 And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of

their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.

24 According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions have I done unto them, and hid my face from them.

25 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; **Now will I bring again** the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon **the whole house of Israel**, and will be jealous for my holy name;

26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made them afraid.

27 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, **and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations;**

28 Then shall they know that I am the Lord their God, which cause them to be

led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there.

29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: **for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel**, saith the Lord God.

Chapter Nine

The Prophet Joel and the Battle of Armageddon

“Neither will I hide my face any more from them: **for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel**, saith the Lord God.”

This last verse of chapter 39 says so much concerning the spiritual restoration of physical nation of Israel. Ezekiel states:

- Israel will be gathered again from all the nations,
- She will dwell in relative safety and prosperity,
- A caliphate of Muslin nations will wage war to destroy her,
- God will come to her rescue and destroy her enemies,
- God will pour out His Holy Spirit upon her, then
- God will no longer hide His face from her.

In three chapters (1-3) the Prophet Joel adds to the detail of these same events foretold by Ezekiel with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the latter days upon the whole house of Israel.

Joel 2:27-32

27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.

32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

KJV

The Day of Pentecost – The Early and Latter Rain

This was the scripture that Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 explaining the Holy Spirit's descending upon the believers in the early church.

Yet on the day of Pentecost there were no wonders in the heavens, no blood, fire or pillar of smoke. These events will transpire in the book of Revelation in the trumpet and bowl judgments.

How do we tie the two events – the day of Pentecost and the judgments in Revelation – together? The key is found in Joel 2:23-24.

23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, **the former rain, and the latter rain** in the first month.

24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.

The events surrounding the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost were the early rains. The signs – blood, fire and vapor of smoke – are connected to the events in Revelation. They are part of the latter rains.

If we are ever to understand the events of Revelation it is imperative to understand this Old Testament principle of the harvest and its implications to

interpreting the order of events at the Lord's return.

The pattern and principle of the early and latter rain was given to Joshua as he was leading Israel out of the wilderness into the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 11:13-14:

13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, **the first rain and the latter rain**, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. KJV

Simply said, the early rains were the germination rains. Without them the seed would rot in the soil. They were necessary for the seed to sprout and

begin growth. These rains moderately covered the entire land but soon dried up. During the long growing season an occasional shower provided moisture for the growing crops. Toward the end of the growing season the crops would need another outpouring of double portions in order to reach full maturity.

The farmer could not harvest without the latter rains. Without the latter rains the wheat would dry up in the field. James says this,

7 Be patient therefore, brethren,
unto the coming of the Lord.
Behold, the husbandman waiteth
for the precious fruit of the earth,
and hath long patience for it, until
he receive the early and latter rain.
8 Be ye also patient; stablish your
hearts: for the coming of the Lord
draweth nigh. James 5:7-8KJV

Jesus also likened his coming to the harvest in His parable teachings about the wheat and the tares.

In Matthew 13:37-43, He explained the parable and how His coming would occur.

37 He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man (Jesus);

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom (Saints); but the tares are the children of the wicked one (Ain'ts);

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; **the harvest is the end of the world** (age); and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Notice the tares (Ain'ts) are taken first out of the kingdom of the Saints to be burned. The wheat is left in the field to shine.

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
(blood, fire and vapor of smoke)

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

What began on the day of Pentecost with the early rains was the beginning of the Church. Jesus has long patience for his precious fruit – His saints. He cannot return until the latter rains come and bring His wheat to maturity.

What does Peter say in Acts 3:19-21?

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;

The phrase “times of refreshing” is a colloquial phrase referring to the latter rains.

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive (hold back) **until the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

That would be Joel 2:24-25:

24 And the (threshing - tribulation) floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. (Harvest time!)

25 **And I will restore** to you the years that the locust hath eaten,

Jesus will not return to gather together the church until the latter rains have done their work of maturation in the wheat. The Holy Spirit will bring the Church to glorious spotless maturity before the harvest. Then the Bride will be presented to the Son.

After the wheat was harvested and the fields gleaned by the poor and strangers, the oxen were allowed to graze upon the stubble. The final phase of harvest was to set the fields ablaze, “the wrath to come,” in preparation for a new year.

When Jesus referred to the Pharisees as a generation of vipers and asked them who had warned them to “flee from the wrath to come;” everyone knew quite well his implications.

During this period of burning off the stubble from the fields, snakes who had made their nests among the wheat during the growing season fled the heat. It was not uncommon for folks to be bitten during this time.

So here is my understanding of the early and latter rains and their application to church history and our understanding of the second coming of Christ:

- The early rains fell in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost beginning the growing season of the Church fulfilling the first half of Joel's prophecy.
- They soon died up but for the past 2000 years there have been occasional thunderstorms of the Holy Spirit's outpouring in the church.
- As the end of the age draws near we can expect the later rains, in a double portion, to fall upon the church and Israel (Romans 9-11) .
- As the Church reaches maturity then Jesus can come for His Bride.

Rev 19:7-8

7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, **and his wife hath made herself ready.**

- After the harvest of the church, the field will be set ablaze with “the wrath that is to come” fulfilling the last half of Joel’s prophecy.

Joel’s Version of Ezekiel Vision

Joel 3:1-7

For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

4 Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompence me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;

5 Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:

6 The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.

7 Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head:

8 And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the Lord hath spoken it.

9 Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O Lord.

12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

13 Put ye in the sickle, for the
harvest is ripe: come, get you down;
for the press is full, the fats
overflow; for their wickedness is
great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the
valley of decision: for the day of the
Lord is near in the valley of
decision.

Can You Feel the Heat?

Is it just me feeling the sweat around my collar or is the water really heating up? Are those bubbles I see in the water coming to the surface? Maybe it's just my over analytic mind wanting to see things come to pass that aren't really there—another form of normalcy bias.

After all I've been preaching this stuff for thirty years – it's gotta be true! Or, then again...

2 Peter 1:20-21:

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Chapter Ten

The Mother of All Crises

The world is rapidly changing. But where is it heading? What will the future hold for us?

The most relevant book in the Bible for our times is Revelation. Yet it is the most misunderstood and misinterpreted book. You seldom hear preaching from its chapters and verses anymore. Preachers just seem to stay away from it. Could normalcy bias be the reason?

Its visions and scenes are too frightening. Only lunatics and fanatics preaching on soapboxes believe its predictions. Theologians have dismissed it altogether. They cannot frighten their congregations. Screenwriters use its passages for plot ideas for sci-fi movies.

After all, Revelation foretells the greatest storm the world will ever see. It is the end of freedom and civilization as we know it. It will be the end of the world!

Civilization's infrastructure will totally collapse as earthquakes of unrecorded

magnitude will rock the planet out of its course in the solar system. The sun and the moon will lose 1/3 of their light. Hail stones weighing 100 pounds will fall from the sky upon helpless humanity.

Global Warming will become a reality as 1/3 of the grass and trees are scorched. There will be an abundance of food shortages. The sea will turn to blood and all life in it will perish.

Commerce will come to a complete stop. There will be limited planes, trains or shipping to carry much needed supplies to the hungry, wounded and dying. People trapped under falling debris will not have the world coming to their aid.

Diseases of unprecedented magnitude will sweep the global community. There will be no Red Cross or United States military to the rescue. You will be on your own to face the storm.

Nothing like this has ever happened before on such a scale world-wide. The

events foretold in Revelation create the perfect storm for a world-wide epidemic of normalcy bias.

Envision the latest events happening in Japan. Now multiply that by the tens of thousands without the rescue efforts. You're beginning to see what's ahead if your head isn't already stuck firmly in the sand.

With just one of its several nuclear power plants damaged by the earthquake and ensuing tsunami Japan cannot contain its radioactive disaster. Now the fish and marine wildlife are dying as the radiation spreads. Vegetation and livestock are contaminated affecting the entire food chain. We may never know the global domino effect of these events.

Rev. 8:8-9

8 And the second angel sounded,
and as it were a great mountain
burning with fire was cast into the

sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

As of January 19, 2011, in 30 countries there exist 442 nuclear power plants worldwide with many of them by the oceans. The UNEP Offshore Oil and Gas Environment Forum (OEF) reports there are more than 6,500 offshore oil and gas installations worldwide. Remember seeing the media reports of the BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico with the bloody red waters and dying marine life?

Image the maritime mess Japan, and the world, would be facing if there were also earthquake and tsunami damaged oil rigs off Japan's coasts spilling billions of barrels of possibly radioactive crude into the ocean's currents?

The Mother of All Quakes

The increasing numbers of major earthquakes we have witnessed these past decades are only birth pangs. They will increase with more frequency, shorter intervals and greater intensity until the Mother of all Quakes gives birth to the prophetic events in Revelation.

It is not my purpose to do an expose of Revelation, only to bring to light the malady of normalcy bias blinding the church to the approaching storm on the radar screen of its pages.

However, with the opening of the sixth seal John sees the mother of all earthquakes.

Rev. 6:12-14

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, **there was a great earthquake**; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

This latter phrase *could* refer to a solar eclipse followed by a blood moon. Earthquakes are now being predicted with some accuracy based upon tidal activity and their gravitational effect upon the earth's oceans and sub-oceanic plates. Jim Berkland, former geologist for the USGS, recently predicted several quakes including the World Series quake in San Francisco in 1989 using such data.

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; **and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**

It is my firm belief after forty years of intense scrutiny of Revelation this great earthquake starts the Great Tribulation,

the final half, or three and a half years, of Daniel's Seventieth Week.

“Every island and mountain will be moved out of their places.” (Please read that sentence again very thoughtfully.) Imagine it! The aftermath, or should I say afterbirth, following such a never before felt seismic tsunami will sweep away in one brief unsuspecting blink of an eye all social infrastructures of every nation, government and community on the face of the earth. All of it wiped out in the blink of an eye.

With this final birth pang the world will see the delivery of two men upon the earth – the man child in Revelation chapter 12 and the antichrist in chapter 13.

I can only deal briefly here with the antichrist. However, for you rapture-minded saints please note the events immediately following the sixth seal in chapter seven: a 144,000 Jews are sealed upon the earth and then there is an

innumerable multitude suddenly in heaven before the throne of which John is told “these are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.”

If Jesus is coming as a thief in the night I can think of no better diversion than the sixth seal to conceal him *robbing* his *buried* treasure from the earth (Matt. 13:44). Isn't there an earthquake mentioned somewhere with the last trumpet? I think so - Rev. 11:18-19!

Never Let a Good Crisis Go To Waste

As a result of the chaos created by the sixth seal the world's populace will demand that a governmental leader restore order and supply them with something to eat. This mindset of dependency upon government for everything is being conditioned in the minds of people even now – it's called Fabian socialism. Freedom will be the greatest victim swept away in this catastrophe of normalcy bias.

A world dictator will arise out of this chaos forcing everyone to receive a mark on their body in order to buy or sell. Refusal to do so will warrant a certain death. This will be crisis management in its finest hour. This will be the opportunity liberal one-world politicians have waited for. Rahm Emanuel will be in Executive Order heaven. This crisis will certainly not go to waste!

It will truly be the mother of all crises. It will give birth and rise to the most nefarious world dictator history will witness.

The Bishops of Normalcy Bias

The events associated with the sixth seal alone are enough to understand why normalcy bias has gripped the church, much less the world, and for her to issue its quarantine from reading the pages of Revelation. World-wide cataclysmic events of this magnitude have never happened in the recorded history of man.

Lawrence O'Donnell at MSNBC epitomizes the media's feelings about God and the Bible: "The book of Revelation is a work of fiction describing how a truly vicious God would bring about the end of the world. No half-smart religious person actually believes the book of Revelation."

Normalcy bias's grip is tightening upon the world.

Normalcy bias gripped the church during World War II. She refused to accept the killing of innocent Jews at the hands of Adolf Hitler and a "civilized Christian" Nazi Germany. Pope John Paul II visited Israel in 2000, publicly apologizing for the persecution of Jews by Catholics over the centuries, including the Holocaust. The coming world leader of Revelation will make Hitler look like Gandhi.

Hindsight is twenty-twenty. It is easy for us to look back and criticize the Church of the thirties and forties. But will normalcy bias cause us not to recognize the antichrist when he appears? What if he's

already here? After all, that's the grasp of normalcy bias.

The line of bigotry is forming again against the Jews. Will the Church, will America, repeat the same blind mistake sixty years later?

Sermonettes That Produce Christianettes Who Haven't Won the World Yet!

Why should we expect the institutional church and its clergy to believe the Day of the Lord has arrived? On Sunday mornings they cater to their congregations with a continual all-you-can-eat brunch buffet of "feel good" soufflés that would put any five star hotel to shame.

Truth does not sit well to the palate of tepid saints. They will go elsewhere to satisfy their flesh. They will self-medicate to maintain that sense of security their terminal case of normalcy bias symptomatically provides.

We have produced a generation of “church hoppers” or “grasshoppers” - all flesh is grass, (1 Peter 1:24). Christians hop from one church to another feasting upon whatever blade of normalcy bias hope they can nibble until the preacher says something that upsets their lifestyle. So we build “seeker friendly” churches to attract this migrating swarm of locusts.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; **reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**
(Stir people from their normalcy bias)

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap

to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (the soothing, feel good message of normalcy bias).

This passage within Revelation also reveals the reasons why.

Revelation 3:14-17:

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, **I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;** and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Normalcy bias has the modern church and her clergy in its grasp. Prosperity and ease has rocked the church to sleep with lullabies and fables concerning the Lord's coming. We are oblivious to the obvious impending calamities because we are addicted to "the dainties of Babylon."

The rich diet of the things of this world has produced ministers, who like Eli of Samuel's time, are spiritually fat, lazy and blind. Their tolerance for sin and refusal to preach repentance has created the acceptance of such sins in their flocks as Christian lifestyle. No wonder the lamp stand has gone out in the Church and spiritual darkness grips our nation.

Normalcy bias with its rapturous escape from suffering the impending storm has

become the eschatology (doctrine of end time events) of today's Laodicean Church. God said, "I will spit you out of my mouth!"

God has a word for the Bishops of Normalcy Bias who continue to rock the cradles of the saints as the midnight hour approaches.

Ezekiel 34:2-5:

Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

3 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither

have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

5 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field (Rev. 13), when they were scattered.

Where is the voice that pierces the darkness, who will declare to these biased bishops of Babylon, who will awaken the bride from her slumber with the cry, “the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet him?”

2 Peter 3:3-14

3 Knowing this first, that **there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,**

4 And saying, **Where is the promise of his coming?** for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
(Normalcy Bias)

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

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.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (The last half of Joel's prophecy)

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Chapter Eleven

Is That Rain I Hear Coming?

A deacon who served in a church where I was pastor told me the following story. He had worked in Egypt for an American oil company and witnessed the seven year migration of locusts coming up out of Africa.

He said that is was the most beautiful sight he had ever witnessed. He could not take his eyes off it.

Their swarms, he said, covered the entire horizon as far as the eye could see. Their mass darkened the noonday sky. As the sun managed to pierce through their cloud it reflected upon their iridescent wings creating a kaleidoscope of radiant colors.

He said the beating of their wings... sounded like an approaching rain.

But it was anything but rain coming over the horizon. It was death and destruction devouring everything in their path – a garden of Eden before them and a desolate wasteland it their wake.

Remember that in the grasp of normalcy bias we “interpret warnings in the most optimistic way possible, seizing on any ambiguities to infer a less serious situation.”

To keep Israel from becoming victims of normalcy bias, they placed watchmen on the walls or towers of their cities. It was their jobs to keep a watch over the city and the surrounding hillsides.

In their hand was a trumpet they were to sound at the first sight of any approaching calamity. They were the first line of defense against normalcy bias.

Ezekiel 33:6-7

6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.

A watchman had to know the difference between rain and locusts. Where are the watchmen for today? So many are “tooting their horns” of coming prosperity, but where are the men of God who will boldly sound their trumpets and warn God’s people of the approaching storm?

Everyone in the government is telling us the worst is over. We have recovered from the brink of a great depression. Have we?

Are the approaching clouds on the economic horizon bringing much needed rain or death and destruction? Are your investments about to prosper or be wiped clean? How can you tell?

Is the Stock Market bringing a promised economic recovery or just another bubble artificially created by big investors with the next “burst” collapsing the world into a great depression?

Will the revolts in the Middle East bring stability and democracy to these Islamic nations or is it the birth of Ezekiel’s Caliphate lining up the dominos for Armageddon?

What Must We Do?

You better know how to hear the voice of God. Do you have an ear to hear this hour? God is speaking. Are you listening?

Is that rain or something else forming on the world’s horizon? Better get a Bible. Better start reading it. Better yet, start believing it.

It’s beginning to rain. The flood is coming, but the door of the Ark is still open. Jesus is inviting you inside, inside the safety of knowing His love.

Our message? It has never changed. Not from Noah's day, Ezekiel day or John the Baptist's day; it is the very same message for our day... "Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand."

Righteous Noah willing prepared an Ark for his family, they all were saved through the storm and entered a new earth to carry on the promised messianic lineage.

On the other hand, righteous Lot was reluctantly drug out of town by angelic insistence; he lost his wife and committed incest with his daughters producing a nation of Moabites who were unclean to the tenth generation forbidden to even enter the temple. Typical normalcy bias outcome I would say.

What's your lot? Where do you stand? Are you in or are you out? Are you in the Ark or on your way out of town?

Noah had an ear to hear God and responded in obedience by preparing. Lot was consumed by the cares of this

world griped by normalcy bias. Noah knew the judgment of God was coming while Lot believed he could find something “righteous” about Sodom to change God’s mind and divert the impending storm.

Jesus described people’s attitudes when He comes again... “as it was in the days of Noah and in the days of Lot.” People haven’t changed in six thousand years.

Which category do you fit in? Are you oblivious to the obvious? In the grasp of normalcy bias? Or are you walking in obedience to God’s word.

Revealing the Righteous To Reign

The common reason for Noah’s and Lot’s departures, as different as they were, was that the world they inhabited was not worth fixing – it needed a total overhaul.

God kept Noah through the storm. He entered a new earth and like Adam before

him was commissioned to repopulate this new earth. Noah reigned as a new man.

Is this not the very reason for Christ's return – the earth gets beyond the point of restoring and needs a total overhaul. Sin reaches its epitome in a godless one-world system ruled by the incarnation of Satan where the thoughts of men are continually on evil.

Revival or Apocalypse

In the Bible and church history there are countless records when God's people have repented from their "going astray" and were visited by a mighty move of his Spirit. We call these "moves of God" revival.

We think of a revival as a supernatural ingathering of souls being converted from their sins that changes a community. How we need genuine revival today.

But what happened with Noah and Lot was not revival, it was something much

different although they both were a “move of God.”

With Noah and Lot society had reached a state of debauchery beyond redemption. Sin had matured to its natural end state – death. A world overcome by sin will reap the judgment of sin.

Only eight souls were saved in Noah’s revival with even less in Lot’s camp meeting. So we cannot consider either one of these “moves of God” as a revival. Yet both these are the examples given by Jesus concerning his return. Then what do we call them?

The end result of these “moves of God” was that sin was judged, the godly spared his wrath followed by a new beginning wherein the righteous would reign.

This is the grand purpose and theme of the approaching storm that Ezekiel prophesied and the Apostle John wrote about in the book of Revelation. This last great “move of God” recorded in advance

by Ezekiel and John will not be a revival to bring in souls but a move of God to reveal the righteous to reign. Thy Kingdom Come!

This is the pertinent point of the parable of the wheat and the tares – removing the wicked in order to reveal the righteous.

Matthew 13:40-43

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Jesus is coming to reveal the righteous to reign with Him in His Kingdom. This is the obvious message of the entire Bible.

The Book of Revelation is the answer to the Lord's prayer.

Our Father which art in
heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will
be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread.
And forgive us our debts, as
we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever.
Amen.

Don't let the grasp of normalcy bias make you oblivious to the day of its coming. It's obvious.