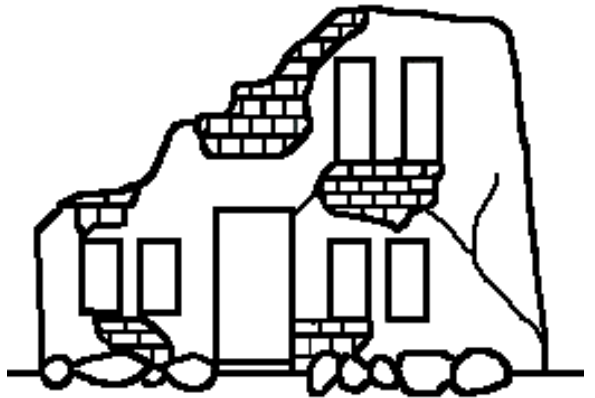


**“Get Ready”  
for the  
End-Time  
‘BIRTH PAINS’**



Let's begin by looking at John 14:26, which says,

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

As we begin this study, let's claim this promise that the Holy Spirit will come and "teach *us* all things." Let's also open our hearts to receive what He wants to say to us.

Right after Jesus gives the prophetic sequence section of His great end-time prophecy in Matthew 24, He says,

Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. (Luke 21:29-31.)

When the trees start budding out, what do we know? —Summer is coming. And why do we know this? —Most of us would probably say we 'know' this because we have personally experienced season following season, year after year.

But keep in mind what God told Noah and his family as they came out of the Ark.

While the earth remains,  
Seedtime and harvest,  
Cold and heat,  
Winter and summer,  
And day and night  
Shall not cease. (Genesis 8:22.)

Here, God promises that the seasons will continue, "while the earth remains." But don't forget the setting when God said this. You see, this promise was also given as a prophecy.

Also, keep in mind what Peter says about the "more sure word of prophecy" in the following verses.

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. For He received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount.

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: (2 Peter 1:16-19.)

Peter was there! He experienced it! He heard God's voice from heaven! But notice that he says the "word of prophecy" is even "*more sure*" than his own experience!

Brothers and sisters, we can, and should, have more confidence in the prophetic promise, that season will continue to follow season, year after year than in the fact that we have personally experienced this happening.

In the same way, we can, and should have this same level of confidence in all the prophecies. With this in mind, let's look at one of the first things Jesus said in that great end-time prophecy of Matthew 24.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. (Matthew 24:6-8.)

According to what Jesus said here, "wars," "famines, pestilence, and earthquakes," are the "beginning of sorrows." This wording makes it sound like the disasters in the end-times will be 'sorrowful' —and no doubt they will be.

But, we also need to note that the Greek word translated "sorrows" here, is also used in another verse, where, in the KJV it is translated as "travail."

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (1 Thessalonians 5:3 KJV.)

Here, it is obvious that “travail” is a direct reference to labor pains! Therefore, both “sorrows” and “travail” could be translated as ‘birth pains’ —and, many of the more modern translations do exactly that.

This means that “wars,” “famines, pestilence, and earthquakes,” are maybe better described as the “beginning” of the End-Time “Birth Pains.”

This tells us three important things:

(1) There will be *other* disasters —those listed here are just the “beginning.”

For example:

- Jesus said, “Nation will rise against nation.” Since the Greek word for “nation,” is “ethnos,” this phrase would refer to various types of ethnic conflict.
- Jesus was always quoting from the Old Testament, and the phrase, “kingdom against kingdom,” is a direct quote from Isaiah 19:2, which says,

And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.

The phrase, “kingdom against kingdom,” then refers to all types of civil unrest, such as riots, shootings, and civil war.

- In Luke 17:26-30, Jesus says that the end-times will be like the “days of Noah,” and the “days of Lot.”

Genesis 6:11 describes the condition of the earth in Noah's time. It says,

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

So there will also be wide spread 'corruption,' and "violence." And, in Noah's time, the 'big disaster' was a flood, (see Genesis 6:17, 7:1-8:5); and in Lot's time, the 'big disaster' was fire, (see Genesis 19:24).

Therefore, we can expect that in addition to the "wars," "famines, pestilence, and earthquakes," and related volcanic activity, there will also be: ethnic conflicts, civil unrest, riots, shootings, civil wars, corruption, an increase in violent crimes, fires, and floods —and probably other types of disasters as well! Is this starting to sound familiar?

(2) 'Birth pains' become more frequent and more intense until birth!

So we can expect that these End-Time 'Birth Pain' Disasters will only get worse until the coming of 'The Child' —in this case, the coming of the Son of God— Jesus' second coming.

Let's be careful that we are not be deceived here by our strong human tendency toward 'Normalcy Bias,' which is the inclination in the way we mentally process information that leads us to *disbelieve* or *minimize* threat warnings.

'Normalcy Bias' causes us to *underestimate*:

- (a) The likelihood of disasters
  - 'It's *not really* going happen to *us*'
- (b) When a disaster might affect us
  - 'It's not going to happen *now*'
- (c) The potential adverse effects of a disaster
  - 'It not going to be *that bad*'

And therefore, it we end up not adequately prepared.

Brothers and sisters, the “sure word of prophecy,” given by Jesus Himself has said these things *will* happen. Let’s have faith in what He has told us.

Notice the following commentary on the ‘Foolish Virgins,’ in the parable in Matthew 25:1-13.

This is the class that in time of peril are found crying, Peace and safety. They lull their hearts into security, and dream not of danger. (*Christ's Object Lessons*, page 411-412.)

‘Normalcy Bias’ is ‘Foolish Virgin’ thinking. Let’s be sure we don’t, “dream not of danger,” and be caught unprepared like they were.

Notice also how Jesus says we should respond to these increasing End-Time ‘Birth Pain’ Disasters.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. *See that you are not troubled*; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. (Matthew 24:6.)

We are not to be “troubled” by these things. Therefore, we must *expect* them, and be *ready* for them.

Since many of these disaster would require some sort of evacuation, one thing we should do is be prepared to evacuate, and have an evacuation plan—which should include: possible escape routes, where to go, how and where to get back together with family, and what to take. (Put together a ‘Grab-and-Go Bag’ with essential items, and keep it stocked and ready!)

Many of the same elements we have been discussing here are also found in the Parable of the Two Builders.

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall. (Matthew 7:24-27.)

Now, we have a hard time understanding the “Foolish Man” here because we know ‘the end of the story.’ But, he must have had his reasons to build on the sand. Maybe they were really *good* reasons—even *compelling* reasons. However to us, none of that matters, because we know ‘the-end-of-the-story.’

You see, from the perspective of ‘the-end-of-the-story,’ what is “wise” and what is “foolish” is fairly obvious. Now keep in mind that since God knows the end from the beginning, (see Isaiah 46:9-10), He *knows* ‘the-end-of-the-story’—and maybe a lot of His wisdom comes simply from the fact that He knows how things are going to turn out.

Fortunately, because of His love, He doesn’t keep this information to Himself, and so He has promised,

Surely the Lord God does nothing,  
Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.  
(Amos 3:7.)

In the prophecies, God tells us ‘the-end-of-the-story,’ so we can be “wise” and not make “foolish” mistakes—like the man who built his house on the sand. So the question is: Will we have faith in what He has told us? Or, like the “Foolish Man,” will we ‘lean on our own understanding,’ (see Proverbs 3:5-6), and build on the sand anyway.

(3) Are these disasters becoming more frequent and more intense? If so, *then the End-Time 'Birth Pains' Have Already Begun!*

This trend, revealed in the “more sure word of prophecy” should give us more assurance that Jesus *IS* indeed coming *SOON* than all the speculation we may hear about current events.

So, what do we do when we realize a pregnant lady has gone into labor? —It is no longer time for ‘business as usual.’ It’s time to take some definite action!

Now, don’t misunderstand me here, I’m not suggesting we should start running around doing crazy things. You see the motion picture industry has had a lot of fun showing the foolish things people do when they are not prepared for a pregnant woman to go into labor. But that is exactly the point. We do foolish, crazy things when we are *not prepared*.

On the other hand, what does a woman who *is* prepared do when she recognizes she has gone into labor? —She just grabs her bag and heads to the maternity unit. No foolishness, no crazy running around. Now keep in mind that in order for her to be able to respond this way, she has *already* packed her bag, and she keeps it sitting next to the door. And, she has also already made arrangements with the maternity unit. “See that you are not troubled.” This is how Jesus would have us to respond, and this is why He has given us this prophetic warning.

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. (Matthew 24:44.)

So if we aren’t ready, let’s ‘get ready.’ And since these End-Time ‘Birth Pain’ Disasters are only going to get more frequent and more intense, there isn’t going to be a better time to ‘get ready’ than right now! Then, once we get ready, let’s stay ready, so whenever it happens, we will “Be Ready.”



Noah has given us an excellent example of what to do, as he prepared for the end of the world in his day. His example is outlined for us in the first part of Hebrews 11:7.

By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household.

Notice here that Noah acted in “faith” —he believed what God had told him, and he acted on that belief. As we study this further, we find three main points to what he did, which for lack of a better term, we will call,

Noah's 3-Point End-Time Preparation Plan:

(1) Be deliberate and intentional about our relationship with God.

Genesis 6:9 states that, “Noah walked with God.” To put this in New Testament language, Noah was ‘abiding in Jesus,’ (see John 15:4-5). Because there are so many things clamoring for our attention these days, we need to be very intentional and deliberate about our relationship with God. Otherwise, we will risk losing it, (see Matthew 24:12-13).

(2) Let the Holy Spirit work through us to benefit and bless others.

Jesus said,

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:5.)

If we are ‘abiding in Jesus,’ we will “bear much fruit.” A quick study of “fruit” shows that although fruit is the main purpose of many plants, producing “fruit” is not essential for the survival of the plant. “Fruit,” therefore is something plants

do not do for themselves, it's something they do for *others*! The lesson here is that if we are connected to Jesus, He will work through us to benefit and bless *others*.

If we don't cooperate with what He is trying to do with us and through us, our relationship with Him will be at risk, (see Matthew 21:18-19, and Luke 13:6-9). With all this in mind, notice that Noah didn't just build the Ark to save himself, he "prepared an ark for the saving of his household" —which, by the way, includes each of us, because if great-great-great-great-great- . . . -grandpa Noah hadn't done what he did, none of us would be here!

(3) Be serious about preparing physically for what we have been "divinely warned" about

Upon receiving the divine warning, Noah "moved with godly fear" and "prepared an ark." He didn't just 'believe.' He took the matter seriously, and went to work, *physically*.

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. (James 2:17.)

Brothers and sisters, many people have already had their lives turned upside-down by these End-Time 'Birth Pain' Disasters. As these disasters become even more frequent and intense, sooner or later, all of us will be affected. Let's both believe and act on *our* "divine warning" that we may not only "Be Ready," but be able to benefit and bless others.

Before we close, let's go back to the Parable of the Two Builders. Remember, we noted that what is 'Wise' and what is 'Foolish' is obvious from the perspective of 'the-end-of-the-story.' So let's apply this principle to the End-Time 'Birth Pain' Disasters, and note where the obvious 'Wise' and 'Foolish' places to be living during these disasters might be. For example: When there is a war, (notice the wording is not: 'If there is a war, because Jesus said wars *will* happen), where would be the obvious 'Foolish' place to be living? And, where would be the 'Wisest' place to be living?

On the following page is a chart with a basic list of the End-Time 'Birth Pain' Disasters with notes as to where the 'Wiseest' and 'Foolish' places to be living might be. As you look over this chart note that a definite pattern develops. Also notice that this pattern directly corresponds to the counsel we have been given about where we should be living in preparation for the end-times.

May we have Faith in our 'Divine Warning,' and like the pregnant woman who *is* prepared, 'Be Ready' for what is going to happen between now and when Jesus Comes.

When there us a:	Where would the obvious 'Foolish' place to live be?	Where would be the obvious 'Wisest' place to be living?
War	In the City (what they are fighting over)	The most out-of-the-way place in the Country that will work for you
Famine	In the City (too many mouths competing for limited resources)	In the Country –where you can raise your own food
Pestilence	In the City (high risk of contamination)	In the Country (low population density)
Earthquake	In the City (increased risk during the aftermath of the earthquake)	In the Country (away from congestion, looting, fires, etc.)
Riot	In the City (that's where riots happen)	In an out-of-the-way place in the Country
Fire	In the City (risk of being 'grid-locked' when trying to evacuate)	In the Country (may still need to evacuate –have a plan)
Flood	Low Ground (many Cities are built along rivers)	High Ground (mountains)

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 ~ “to prepare a people to stand in the great day of the Lord” ~