

PLANET EARTH BIRTH PAINS

Matt. 25:1f

The history of Planet Earth is the story of war, pain, and death. If we watch nature with eyes of faith we get the idea that the Earth is having birth pains: We have had record amounts of snow in the midst of global warming. Scientists tell us the "big one" is on the way...not if...but **when**.....earth quake, tidal wave, volcanic eruption.....let me give you a few examples...

1. On Dec. 26, 2004, a colossal earthquake with a magnitude of 9.3 shook **Indonesia** and killed an estimated 230,000 people, mostly due to the tsunami that followed.
2. 2007...A powerful 7.1 magnitude earthquake hit **Indonesia**, causing residents to run outside in panic, one witness said "The quake was very strong. It scared us ... my wife was screaming, my children were crying."
3. Then there was the 2011 earthquake off the Pacific coast of **Japan**...magnitude 9.0 and triggered powerful tsunami waves that reached heights of up to 40.5 meters. The Japanese Police Agency confirmed 15,882 deaths, 6,142 injured, and 2,668 people missing.
4. On Nov. 24, 2012 Super storm Sandy (the "perfect" storm), hit the **New York** region; 8,100,000 homes lost power...the final cost could exceed \$60 billion.
5. 2005 Hurricane Katrina hit southern US. \$108 billion damages.
6. Strongest storm ever recorded on Earth (in the modern era)...1979 super Typhoon Tip in Japan.

Largest earthquakes by year

These are the largest or most notable earthquakes per year since the start of the 21st century.

Year	Magnitude	Death toll	Location	Date
2018	7.9	0	United States	January 23
2017	8.2	98	Mexico	September 8
2016	7.8	676	Ecuador	April 16
2015	8.3	14	Chile	September 16
2014	8.2	6	Chile	April 1
2013	8.3	0	Russia	May 24
2012	8.6	10	Indonesia	April 11
2011	9.1	20,896	Japan	March 11
2010	8.8	525	Chile	February 27
2009	8.1	192	Samoa	September 29
2008	7.9	87,587	China	May 12
2007	8.5	23	Indonesia	September 12
2006	8.3	0	Russia	November 15
2005	8.6	1,300	Indonesia	March 28
2004	9.2	227,898	Indonesia	December 26
2003	8.3	0	Japan	September 25
2002	7.9	0	United States	November 3
2001	8.4	100	Peru	June 23

On top of that, Iran is building a nuke. North Korea already has one. Then there's the seeming worldwide hatred of America and Israel. And the Arab Spring...with mass Islamic immigration especially in Europe.

3.45 million Muslims in US as of early 2018

>25.7 million Muslims in Europe as of 2016

Pew Research Group

If that weren't enough...the world is in a massive financial crisis:

The Euro is collapsing. Countries in crisis so far, include:

Greece
Ireland
Portugal
Spain
Cyprus

The Bruges Group says:

- the Euro will collapse against the dollar and the EU will fall apart
- the stresses on them are much bigger than anyone anticipated.
- it will all happen much quicker than anyone suspects, perhaps within the next 5 years.
- "If the EU is to survive, they will need a savior."

Some American Cities and Localities with Bankruptcy Filings:

-- San Bernardino, Calif.
-- Mammoth Lakes, Calif.
-- Stockton, Calif.
-- Orange County, Calif.
-- Jefferson County, Ala.
-- Central Falls, R.I.
-- Boise County, Idaho
-- Detroit... In Michigan, ten cities and school districts are in a state of financial emergency.
-- Atlantic City, NJ
-- Cleveland, Oh.
-- Oakland, Calif.
-- Hartford, Ct.

World Class Banks in trouble:

The International Monetary Fund on Wednesday said nine of the world's biggest financial institutions may find it hard to thrive in the new global economy and deserve heightened attention from regulators:

Citigroup
Société Générale
UniCredit Group
Deutsche Bank
Barclays
Standard Chartered
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group
Mizuho Financial Group
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group

IT IS AS IF A GIANT CLOCK IS WINDING DOWN.

The world is waiting and groaning for a "savior"...someone who has the answers...someone who can deliver us from the fix we are in.

This is not new...mankind has always been waiting for a Messiah ... 2000 years ago Paul wrote:
Rom. 8:22-23....***For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will deliver us.***

So....in the light of all this what do we do?

Matthew 25:1-13

The Jewish wedding party was an event so important that everyone in the village was excused from their duties to attend and celebrate with the couple. The highlight of the wedding was when the groom would carry the bride from her father's house to her new home accompanied by the attendants and guests. All the young unmarried girls would be eager to attend the party that followed.

Somehow the groom and bride were delayed. The young girls waited and as darkness came some ran out of oil for their lamps. They were too late and were not admitted to the party.

Principles for us:

1. A wedding is coming...Jesus is the groom and you and I are the "Bride of Christ."
2. The Groom is delayed...we await the coming of Jesus
3. It is *midnight*...our world is dark and getting darker
4. Precisely at the darkest hour...when least expected...the Groom will come
5. We must be prepared...doing and being what God expects
6. We must provide our own oil (faith)...no one else can do this for us
7. **THE BRIDEGROOM WILL COME!**