

If I am reading the signs of the times correctly, the next three or four years will be the greatest we have ever known.

If after that Jesus tarries and disaster is held back, God's work will go on, and we are prepared for a great harvest. If trouble comes, we lift up our heads knowing that we have been used of God as our redemption draws near.

Our God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Whatever the future, we face it confidently knowing that our God is our past, our present, and our future. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

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**WORLD REVIVAL**

**DISASTER**

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Pat Robertson

**The crisis in Iran should bring to our minds the words of Jesus, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening!' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?" (Matthew 16:2,3 NAS)**

**The signs of the times. What are they? What must we do about them?**

First of all, the chaos in Iran moves an ally of the United States and Israel into the Soviet bloc. If we read Ezekiel 38, we discover that such a move had to happen. We read in Ezekiel of a military confederacy composed of Russia, Iran, Ethiopia, Somaliland and others moving against Israel.

This is what God told the prophet about those times. The military confederacy would move on (1) a regathered Israel (2) living in peace with her immediate neighbors (3) in the latter days (4) defended in part by the United States ("young lions of Tarshish") (5) in what looks like a nuclear war (6) from which Russia will be destroyed as a major power and (7) God, through Israel, will be exalted.

Therefore, two signs of the times are peace between Israel and her neighbors, and the fast-moving alignment of her future assailants. They point to disaster.

When we see these signs, we know of an absolute certainty that a nuclear war is coming soon and it will involve Israel, Russia and most probably the United States.

Yet, there is another clear sign for the Body of Christ. The beginning of a world revival.

Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom must be preached in the whole world for a witness to all nations and the end shall come." (Matthew 24:14)

So, the spiritually alert can track two parallel signs: one pointing toward the greatest spiritual move of revival and evangelism that the world has ever known; the other pointing to a nuclear holocaust from which Israel will emerge victorious because of supernatural protection of God.

Two signposts - one pointing to disaster, the other to worldwide revival. If we wish to be triumphant, we must ask God which signpost is for us to follow now and which speaks of the more distant future.

Unfortunately, for the past several years, some splendid men of God have read only the trouble sign and have preached that this sign means retrenchment for the Church. These dear brethren have what I call a "vested interest in disaster."

The more they speak of disaster, the more they need widespread problems to fulfill their prophecies, in order to validate their view of the signs of the times.

Yet God is not calling His Church to wrath. He is calling it to its finest hour. We are entering the period of the greatest move of God of all time. God is pouring out His Spirit beyond measure. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are being manifested in such a widespread and effortless way that even the most devout can scarcely believe that it is true.

God is opening doors of opportunity in lands deemed totally inaccessible to the gospel. Evangelistic meetings are now being held in Hungary and Poland. For the first time, Christian television is allowed on the air in Hong Kong. The bamboo curtain has been shattered, and doors will be opening to take the gospel to 800 million Chinese people. Sri Lanka (Ceylon) has a new government which permits Christian radio stations and Christian broadcasts to all of India. Egypt will permit mass evangelism in its cities. Every nation in Latin America is open to full-time Christian television and radio. Thousands turn out to hear the gospel in Africa.

And this is merely the beginning of what God will do. He is opening rivers of finance for His people — often from unexpected places. He will make the wealth of the world available to serve His purposes in these days.

Reading these signs, what should you do? Under no circumstances can you continue to live a life of selfishness, of worldliness, of seeking more and more prestige, wealth, creature comforts. There just can't be business as usual for any of us anymore.

At the same time you can't bury your talent, hide under the covers, and wait for disaster. The gates of hell cannot prevail against the Church, said Jesus.

This means that the Church is on the move, battering down hell's gates — not waiting timidly for the anti-christ, tribulation, seven woes, next depression, famine, stock market crash, etc.

Now is the time for prayer, for sacrifice, for faith, for action. Now is the time to flow with God's river of redemptive love. Now is the time to prepare the world for the coming of the King of Kings.