

December 2011

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Summer Is Coming!

Then He spoke to them a parable: "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 21:29-30

The dictionary refers to "apocalypse" as... *a prophetic disclosure or revelation, an event of great importance, violence, etc.* Earlier this year we chronicled the sudden and freakish geopolitical unrest throughout the Arab Middle East, collapsing financial systems, and record shattering natural disasters including earthquakes, floods, fires, volcanoes and tornadoes (*Are the Wheels Coming Off the World*, May, 2011). We wondered, could any more "apocalyptic-like" events unfold before year's end? Well, we didn't have to wonder.

In 2011, Barack Obama became the first U.S. President to call for Israel to withdraw to pre-1967 borders. He has advised Israel to significantly redraw and reduce its borders, and vacate most of Jerusalem. It was a shocking pronouncement of foreign policy change with respect to the troubled region. But given the President's tendency to make the U.S. a back-bencher in all foreign policy issues, his statements are more likely signals to other major powers that the U.S. will not interfere if force becomes necessary to dislodge Israel from its biblical and historical entitlements.

One indication that there is widespread support for an international force that would be endowed with broad powers to adjudicate not only international border disputes, but all military, economic and human rights issues as well, comes by way of a document released on October 24 calling for the establishment of a "global public authority."

The 18-page document, issued from the Vatican's Justice and Peace departments, calls for the establishment of "a supranational authority" with world-wide scope and "universal jurisdiction" to guide economic policies and decisions. "Of course, this transformation," says the document, "will be made at the cost of a gradual, balanced transfer of a part of each nation's powers to a world authority and to regional authorities, but this is necessary at a time when the dynamism of human society and the economy and the progress of technology are transcending borders, which are in fact already very eroded in a globalize world."¹

Although prophetic disclosures or revelations are more commonly associated with the likes of Daniel, Ezekiel and John, they are contained (if not concealed) in every book of the Bible. In His Olivet Discourse (Matt 24 and Luke 21), Jesus spoke of very obvious worldwide events that will immediately precede his return. He cautioned his followers not to be disturbed by the coalescing of petty anti-God forces nor terrified by wars and rumors of wars, or violent acts of nature.

But the frequency and intensity of such "revealed" occurrences are certainly worth noting. Evidently, they are signs (mile-markers) for those who are watching and waiting. These signs assure the "believer" that *summer is nigh...it is near, even at the doors.* (Matt 24:32-34). Now pray tell, who doesn't look forward to summer? Ask any child his or her favorite season of the year!

Certainly, we are weary of winter. We are weary of sickness and disease, abortion, Bibles banished from classrooms and prayer from public events, a president who instructs his Justice Department to ignore marriage protection laws and the military to lighten up on sodomy. We are weary of state lawmakers who have decided same-sex “marriage” is the pressing issue for the coming legislative session, and others who seek to extend the use of liquor and marijuana to a wider audience in the name of revenue enhancement.

Yes, we are weary of these and many other things, but summer is coming! That is to say, JESUS is coming to reign as King of the world. He will rule in person from Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Isa 24:21-23) and David will reign under Jesus as King of Israel (Ezek 34:23-24). Moreover, the redeemed of the Lord shall be appointed to positions of governing authority all across the Earth.

Dr. David R. Reagan, a retired professor of international law and politics and author of *God's Plan For the Ages*, presents an interesting picture of our soon-coming summer—the millennial reign of Jesus Christ:²

“Some of us will be judges (1Cor 6:2). Think of it? Every judge in the world will be a born again child of God in a glorified body with the mind of Christ. Justice for those in the flesh will be sure, swift, and just. The first decision made in any court case will be the final one because it will be perfect. There will be no need for endless appeals.

Some of us will serve as administrators, some as judges, but most of us will likely participate in the Lord’s reign as educators. Yes, the entire educational system of the world will be in the hands of glorified saints. We will be the “shepherds” of the world (Jer 3:15, 23:3-4). We will declare the Lord’s glory among the nations (Isa 66:19), and we will try to bring those who are in the flesh to a saving faith in Jesus.

...The artificial separation of church and state will come to an end. The Bible will be in every classroom on the teacher’s desk, and it will serve as the basic textbook for everything: history, geography, science, morals, literature—you name it... It is no wonder that ‘the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.’ (Isa 11:9)

There is one activity that none of us will be involved in. That is legislation. There will be no legislators in the millennial kingdom because the Lord Himself will give the law: “...the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.” (Isa 2:3)

...The Lord will give the law, and He will not change it because of political pressure or public opinion polls. There will be no coddling of criminals and pandering to special interest groups.

The law will be given, and it will be enforced swiftly and decisively. As the Scriptures say, the Lord will rule with “a rod of iron.” (Ps 2:9, Rev 2:26-27, 19:15)

To the many who usually concur with the contemporary views of the *Christian Coalition* but who come from different religious expressions, may we say how much your confidence in our work means to us. But, may we also ask an important question? Do you recall a specific moment in your life when you surrendered to Jesus Christ, as this writer did 40 years ago this month? If not, would you be willing to do so right now?

Simply acknowledge and confess your sins to the Father, thank Him for the gift of His only begotten son, Jesus Christ—the only acceptable sacrifice for sin—and invite Him to fill you with His holy spirit for comfort, guidance, and understanding in all spiritual matters. Then let someone know what you have done.

We gladly accept responsibility for any sudden or irrepressible urges to count the days till summer!

Rick Forcier

¹ “Vatican Calls for 'Central World Bank' to Be Set Up,” Copyright Thomson Reuters, 10/24/2011

² Dr. David R. Reagan, *God's Plan For the Ages*, 2005, Lion & Lamb Ministries, McKinney, TX, pgs.390-391