

April 2017

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It's Raining Now, but Summer is Coming!

Does it sometimes seem we are consigned to a world of dark clouds?

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. --Matthew 24:32

Think it has been wetter than normal east of the Cascades this year? You are right! A new "water year" starts every October 1st for Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho and Montana. This water year, Spokane broke a record. It has been the rainiest October-April period ever. So far this rainy season, Spokane has received 21.09 inches, surpassing the previous record of 19.44 inches set in 1996-97. And the month of April is not yet over! ¹

But before we get teary-eyed for our friends and relatives in Spokane, what about those soaking-wet folks in Seattle? According to a story in *USA Today*, "Soggy Seattle has also broken another rainfall record with nearly 4 feet of rain this winter." ²

"The city measured 44.7 inches of rain between October and April, making it the wettest such period since records began in 1895, the National Weather Service in Seattle said. It marks the second year in a row that the city has topped the historic rainfall record for that period.

The previous record was 44.5 inches of rain for the October 2015 to April 2016 period. The normal amount of rain is usually 30.9 inches..." ^{Ibid}

Seattle also set a record number for wet days... They are classified as days with at least .01 inch of precipitation. The city had 144 wet days from October through April and only five dry days so far this month. But get this: "Quillayute Airport near the town of Forks along the state's northwestern Pacific coast has received 116.1 inches of rain since Oct. 1. That's almost 10 feet of rain!" ^{Ibid}

While the "Evergreen" state may be host to the fullest rain barrel this season, it is also a recognized pioneer in other even less enviable areas. To wit: Washington State is the only state in the Union to have legalized the practice of abortion by a vote of the people. Olympia, Tumwater, and Vancouver were among the first five cities in the nation to offer special protections and benefits to "gay" public employees. And, Washington State was one-of-two states first to legalize assisted suicide and subsequently open the lid on recreational use of marijuana—again, by a vote of the people.

Currently, the Governor, Attorney General, and the Mayor of Seattle are charting a course of disregard for certain established federal laws because of strong personal dislike for our newly elected President. It should be remembered that our forbearers paid a steep price for similar actions, considered partly responsible for the War of 1812, and wholly contributing to the Civil War.

And, certainly, ever increasing violence in the Middle East, the diabolical missile-rattling little *Fuhrer* in North Korea (who would do well to consider his days), and even the exasperating turmoil at *Fox News* has further fueled in our minds, thoughts of dark and cloudy days ahead. Whew!

Yes, we are weary of these many unseemly things. But listen up. SUMMER IS COMING!

JESUS is coming to reign as King of the world. He will rule in person from Mount Zion in Jerusalem (Isaiah 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. Is that not good news?

A few years ago, we shared some prophetic insights from Dr. David R. Reagan, a retired professor of international law and politics and author of God's Plan for the Ages. Since he presents such an interesting and encouraging picture of our soon-coming summer—the millennial reign of Jesus Christ—we thought it worthwhile to pass it along to you once again. Dr.Reagan writes:

“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 (Jeremiah 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) ³

To those 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? If not, would you be interested and 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 www.king5.com/weather/spokane-breaks-20-year-old-rainfall-record/434089654

² www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2017/04/25/soggy-seattle-lives-up-to-name-breaks-another-rain-record/100891578/

³ Dr. David R. Reagan, God's Plan for the Ages, 2005, *Lion & Lamb Ministries*, McKinney, TX, pgs.390-391