

Reacting to scary world events



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: How should God's children be reacting to scary end-time events around the world as we see prophecy starting to really happen and in the years ahead? Are you frightened, depressed, numb and worried? This teaching shares how God wants his children reacting, in peace and trust, and steps we can take to get to that faith and peace no matter what is happening.

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Hello everyone.

A lot of successive scary world events are happening now as I record this late Dec 2022. Could all these events be telling us perhaps that we're in the final decade leading to Christ's return on the Mount of Olives? I've thought for quite a while that perhaps, who knows (since I'm not a prophet), if Christ could return as early as 2030 or 2031. That's just seven or eight years away. I'm not the only one saying that. It's just speculation, folks. *I'm not prophesying.*

But for that to happen, an awful lot of big and exciting events would have to start happening soon, in 2023 and 2024, or we're not likely to see angels flying us up to meet Jesus in the clouds as **Matthew 24:29-31** says. A lot of very challenging times precede the coming of our Lord and Master – but we know how it ends, so we're not afraid.

For example, we might start seeing the **emergence of the "Beast" power in Europe**. Some feel it might emerge elsewhere. And perhaps we'll see the Jews reinstitute sacrifices at least on an altar on the Temple Mount, if not yet a full-scale third temple. That Temple mount land is really part of Israel, though General Dayan gave oversight of that section to the Muslims after the '67 war.

The furniture and instruments needed in such a third temple have already been produced. I've seen them. We know there are several red heifers needed for the purification rituals. Priests are already being trained and certified. So we watch...

But with a lot of big events unfolding before us, some of you are becoming – as one person put it – “numb”. Scared. One lady gets up around 3-4 am and can't go back to sleep and so she sits in a chair just feeling numb from what she sees going on – from the pandemic Covid-19 to tensions and wars and rumors of wars such as the possibility of all-out war between China and Taiwan.

But then other people, on the other hand, don't seem to be aware of even basic news because they either aren't watching news at all or watching news from channels that won't say anything negative against President Biden.

But here are a FEW of the significant news events happening besides pandemics that keep rearing their heads (248 million Chinese are currently covid positive).

- **America's southern border** doesn't exist. An estimated three million illegal immigrants *from 140 countries* have come into our country from Jan 2021-2023. Some say it's five million. That's not counting the uncountable “got-aways” who never were processed. Some coming over here are terrorists. What are we setting ourselves up for?
- **WHY has inflation sky-rocketed? It was less than 2% when Biden took office. Now it's over 7% overall. WHY?** A big reason is the cost of transporting everything –the price of gas/oil/diesel has skyrocketed. Gasoline price is only down a bit because *Pres Biden depleted much of our national emergency oil reserves to provide more oil in order to lower gas prices. But the reserves were supposed to be there* for emergencies, such as times of war and other catastrophes – to provide more oil in the system.

But remember: America has so much oil and natural gas that we never ever should have had a gas crisis. Now we're importing dirty oil from Venezuela and others. A crisis that was of our own creation.

- **Russia's war against Ukraine. Many fear where this could end. Putin is getting more bellicose and threatening to use nuclear bombs even.** Have you heard that? He's threatened to attack London if the “West” continues its support of Ukraine. To many, this is a big concern that all this could eventually lead to World War III.
- **Add pandemics, earthquakes, crazy weather and climate issues... and *times can be scary! But is that the way God wants his children reacting?***

- **Are you aware that the FBI met dozens and scores of times with top officials of Twitter** to tell them which accounts to block, thus directly breaking the rules against our government getting private companies involved to do their political bidding that probably affected the 2020 election. Plus violating our first amendment of free speech.
- Are you aware that **Saudi Arabia** has just signed a fifty Billion dollar deal for oil with China?
- **China is gaining ground** in power and influence all over the world. They now control the Panama Canal and have placed themselves strategically into countries all over the world, lately in Brazil and Peru.
- Are you aware **our US Dollar** really is just paper money with nothing backing it up and many believe it could be jettisoned as the #1 world currency. If that happens, our financial plans won't be worth much.
- Are you aware that **much of Europe, especially in Ukraine, has little way to heat their homes or stay warm this winter?**
- ***(This point was not in the audio – but should have been) Very strange news happening over the “woke” agenda, including confusion over sex and gender. We can't seem to define what a “woman” is anymore. Biological men transgender so they can swim and compete against biological women and change and shower in women's dressing rooms. God help us!***

Children are having their sex changed often without parental consent or knowledge. The consequences of this are already being seen in some who wish they could “go back” to what they were, but it's much too late. Children are being told they can choose to be a male or female or neither or both. They can choose their pronouns – he/she/they. Total confusion. *It's as if the biological parts that make them male or female are no longer even considered...and professionals who should know better aren't willing to stick their necks out and speak up.*

- *(also bonus) **Be aware of Executive Order (USA) #14067 that starts implementing DIGITAL DOLLAR in America. It's already in China. Europe says they'll do it too, soon. In short, under this system, every time you buy something the government will know who you are, what you bought, how much you spent, and what***

you have left. It will also allow the government, with the flick of a switch, to turn OFF your ability to buy or sell. Sound familiar?

- **Murders, rapes, break-ins, car jackings, muggings** and burglaries are all-time highs. Violence and crime is off the charts.

So no wonder there is fear and anxiety, probably especially single WOMEN or widows living alone, shop alone and so forth. Women can be feeling more apprehensive than we men might realize – with all the news of attacks, car jackings even at gas stations, rapes, etc. **WOMEN** – try to always have someone else with you. And keep watching around you. **And always pray for divine and angelic protection** every morning you get up.

Our goal is to have peace in our hearts no matter what. Look at my sermon on Perfect Peace in troubling times. Present your concerns with thanksgiving and let God's peace surround you, by FAITH and TRUST in God.

Many of you are aware of all this – and so no wonder you're feeling anxious. **So yes, times will get worse and worse. It seems everything we had as our foundation** in our country is being torn down – whether the traditional family with dad/mom and children, and respecting the flag, Loving our country, having a country with borders and laws, respecting law and police officers, -- and living by the US Constitution! Plus of course they attack Christianity and conservatism. We're losing a lot of that!

So hello everyone. I'm Philip Shields, your host and founder of Light on the rock.org where I do my best to teach God's word as it truly is written, and help us all find a closer walk with our God and our Savior Jesus Christ, and some use his Hebrew name Yeshua the Messiah. One of my greatest goals is to feel like I'm truly coming to know my wonderful Savior. Paul's goal was "that I may KNOW him." (Phil 3:10)

Our www.LightontheRock.org site has hundreds of sermons and articles, or blogs. Please check them out. Please leave comments on the blogs too.

Today I'm talking about the way we react to world news that can be very upsetting – and yet we know certain things must indeed happen. SO HOW should we be reacting right now to scary news?

Jesus said the very end time will be as in the days of NOAH. Matt 24:36-39.

Two things about the days of Noah:

- **The thoughts of people back then was evil continually. Gen6:5, 11.** And violence filled the earth. Our own time is getting so close to being like that.

That time period was so bad that ONLY one man – and ultimately his wife and their three sons and their wives – were deemed salvageable.

Noah found grace (Gen 6:8), or unmerited favor in God's eyes. That's very important. The same must be said about us!

Imagine a world so bad that only one family could be saved from it.

So we have a ways to go yet – several YEARS probably -- to equal the kind of world where only ONE FAMILY was deemed salvageable! Then we'll see times of trouble greater than the world has EVER seen.

Of course some strange things were happening with the Nephilim – the giants in the land.

- **Secondly, when the end came for the people of Noah's day, it was like a TRAP being sprung – suddenly, unexpectedly!** Jesus makes it clear that the very end will be so unexpected, as the night Lot and his wife and daughters were pulled out of Sodom... with no prior warning. Suddenly. **Luke 17:26-31**

But keep in mind too – God's people should not be caught off guard!

1 Thessalonians 5:2-10

“For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a **thief in the night.** 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

So our times are violent and sinful and can be scary. How should

So that's what I want to talk about today. How God's children – according to his Word – should be reacting to terrifying and depressing world news events. And what should we be doing now? Here are some ideas in random order to help you cope

**** SPEND MUCH MORE TIME coming to know your Father, and your Savior Jesus and the word of God.** Matthew 6:33 – seek FIRST everything to do with God and his righteousness!

Grow in FAITH in Yeshua, our Messiah – so when the earth teeters and totters someday like a drunkard—you know where to have your peace.

1 John 4:17-19

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

19 We love Him because He first loved us.

When we tend to focus on the Mark of the Beast, on the anti-Christ, on the pope, on what Trump or Biden are doing, we're on our way to losing our first love. We're distancing ourselves from God, evidenced by what we're feeding into our mind and the time we're spending on it.

Let's focus on our Messiah, our Anointed One, and of course on our Father in heaven, much more so than on focusing on events in the world or troubles. Yeshua/Jesus is our first love. Let's not leave our first love by focusing on anyone or anything different. Some started feeling that Donald Trump would save America. Our leader is Jesus Christ, under God the Father – not Donald Trump, not Ron DeSantis, just Jesus Christ.

If we're doing it properly, we won't have much time to spend on things that upset us. (Be sure to hear the sermon “Perfect Peace in troubling times”. Learn it well, as it could save you someday from collapsing from worry).

Paul's greatest goal.

Philippians 3:8-11

“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

10 THAT I MAY KNOW HIM and the power of HIS resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to

His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

John 5:38-40

“But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

40 But you are not willing to come to ME that you may have life”.

Make this a time to get super-serious about facing sins we've been allowing in our lives. Wake up from stupor Rom 13:11-14

*** **THAT LEADS TO Phil 4:8** – telling us where our thoughts should be. When I focus on this command, I've found myself cutting out a LOT of time I'd spent on NEWS, for example. It forces me to quit watching things that upset me. Focus instead more on “Whatever is noble, just, true, etc.

And as a friend told me recently: what we THINK ABOUT certainly affects our peace. You've all heard and read this before but let's read it again. Make this a part of your focus in scary times.

Philippians 4:8-9 NLT

“And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. **Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.** 9 Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. **THEN the God of peace will be with you.**”

For example, many of our leaders are frankly telling us lies. Lies such as “Our U.S. border is secure” and “this inflation is just for a few months”. And that President Zelensky is defending democracy. He is? He imprisoned his political rival. He's arresting priests. He's keeping a close watch on religion – “Anyone practicing religion outside our prescribed rules, shall be arrested.” He's closed down most of the media if they say anything bad about him.

That's President Zelensky of Ukraine defending democracy?

His actions are actually destroying freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion -- and democracy, in his country. And remember, Ukraine

used to be ranked as one of the top 3-4 most corrupt countries in the world. And they have a LOT of dirt on the Bidens.

So we know we're being lied to. But we don't let that be our focus.

Whatever things are TRUE, noble, just, pure – ponder these things instead. Your thoughts will affect your moods. Let's not let their lies affect us.

*****MAKE BEST USE of remaining time; Be REDEEMING the time.**

Be more aware than ever we may only have a very few years left. But even if we have 50 more years before Christ returns (I doubt that), it will be good to live now as if we just have months or a few years left. And especially for us who are over age 65 or 70, even HEALTH issues could mean WE have but a brief time.

So use the remaining time we have in this life well. Get in shape spiritually. Then physically – unless you're in a condition where you simply can't.

Ephesians 5:11-16

“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to SPEAK of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says:

*"Awake, you who sleep,
Arise from the dead,
And Christ will give you light."*

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,
16 **redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”**

“Making the most of every opportunity...” NIV

“make best use of the time” – ESV

“making the most of your time” – NASB

Cut out as much time in Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others as you can. I'll probably come off of Facebook altogether soon. Monitor the time you're spending on those social media sites.

Remember, the more of these you're on, **or spend time with, the more they know about you – and your list of friends.** It will be so easy to round up all our friends in the time of great trouble because of all these social media we're on and the list of contacts and friends we display.

**** Understand for most of the past thousands of years, MOST of God's people had to endure persecution.** Even God's own SON and even

almost all the original 12 apostles. The world wasn't worthy of them (**Hebrews 11:37-39**) but surely we can condition our mind to suffer for Christ, which Paul called his greatest honor.

Philippians 1:27-30NIV

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved — and that by God.

29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.”

**** Some good news: some, maybe half or more of God's children seem to be protected from what's coming when it's at its worst. That's the good news.** But the other half, who did not come to know God and Christ intimately, will have to be further tested and many of them will die, hopefully “in the Lord”. I've spoken about this many times.

See those of the Philadelphian heart and mindset seem to be protected:

Revelation 3:10-11

“Because you have kept My command to persevere, **I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world**, to test those who dwell on the earth. 11 Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.”

Luke 21:34-36

34 **“But take heed to yourselves**, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 **Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape** all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

There's no pre-Tribulation rapture. Christ comes AFTER the tribulation, in his own words. The tribulation of course refers to the time of extra severe persecution and martyrdom of God's saints – the 5th seal of Revelation 6, followed by the 6th seal of Revelation 6 – which is about heavenly signs.

Matthew 24:29-31

29 "Immediately AFTER the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

30 THEN the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

31 And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

And pray like **Elisha** did for his servant, that you and I become more aware of the presence of powerful guardian angels around us. See the story in **2 Kings 6:15-17 especially**.

(Audio will have story of woman protected by angel)

So we find that God teaches us that he likes to protect his children. But be getting ever closer to him now.

Psalms 34:6-7

"This poor man cried out, and YHVH heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The angel of YHVH encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them."

Remember Psalm 91:1-2 says God is my refuge and fortress, and we trust in him!

But be sure you avoid some MISTAKES with this concept of protection from God, or the Place of Safety – which I do believe is likely to happen. But those of you who totally believe pre-trib Rapture or even a place of Safety -- what if that doesn't happen? Will you lose faith?

- **Don't make your own protection be your goal.** Make coming to know Jesus be your goal and he'll do the rest.
- Remember those who seek to save their lives will lose it.

Luke 17:32-33

"Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it."

**** LIFT UP HEADS and praise.** Notice the contrast between us and the rest of the people – going through end-time terrifying events. They are coming!

Luke 21:25-28

25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; **26 *men's hearts failing them from fear*** and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

28 *Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.*

**** The wise see trouble coming and take steps now.** If you have just electrical power for heat, for example, in these frigid winter months – get a wood fireplace or kerosene heater...something. Have propane gas grill so can cook on it. Have alternatives.

Have emergency reserves for the short-time lack of FOOD AND WATER. Be sure you have **spare water, spare gas (petrol), spare food,** and essentials like lights, batteries, heating and cooking systems, firewood,

Diversify your portfolio. Maybe buy some gold or silver. When paper money is worthless, you may have extra time if you have silver or gold you could use... if it's not all taken from you by the government or other thieves.

But remember, in the end you'll have to have faith in Jesus. Gold and silver will be thrown in the streets when even they can't buy non-existent food, etc.

Ezekiel 7:19

"They will throw their silver into the streets,

And their gold will be like refuse;

Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them

In the day of the wrath of YHVH;

They will not satisfy their souls,

Nor fill their stomachs,

Because it became their stumbling block of iniquity."

So –

- seek God more than ever. Seek Christ himself – John 5:40 – “Come to ME, that you may have life”. Spend much more time on study, prayer and seeking God. End time peace of mind will come down to FAITH.

- Cut out time wasters. Consider cutting out much social media – it can all come to haunt you someday, if it's not already too late. Don't spend so much time on news and things that upset you.
- Think on positive things like Phil. 4:8 says
- **Realize suffering for Christ's sake** was part of the plan – to show God our faithfulness, to test us, to make us stronger, and as a witness to the world.
- **Some of God's people WILL be protected, but not all. (There's no pre-trib rapture).**
- **Make some preparations now to prepare for harder times** – always have a 30-45-day stock of food, water, gasoline, emergency heating and cooking, maybe diversify investments more too. Many are rolling their 401k into silver, without tax or penalty consequences if you do it right.

I believe in the end, the peace we will feel in scary times will come upon us when and only if we have totally surrendered to Christ and have total faith and trust in God our Father, no matter what we see going on. That means you have to spend much more time becoming intimately attached to Father and Son and come to KNOW your future husband, Jesus Christ.

When we have that, no matter what he allows us to go through, we will have the peace OF GOD. Our lives are in HIS hands. *But as we get closer, we lift up our eyes, praise him, and thank him -- for everything we've been living for is about to start-- possibly in 7-8 years or soon at least.*

The Millennial reign of Christ and his saints could be upon us soon, but tough times come first. That's OK. We know how it all ends. Be glad and praise him in joyous faith.

Praise be to our God the Father and our Creator and Savior.

Closing prayer on audio.