

Signs of Judgment - Presentation

The Bible records the words of Christ as He spoke to His disciples concerning how the last days before His return. In the Gospel of Luke chapter 21 we have recorded Christ's words:

Luke 21:25-28

"And there will be signs in sun, in moon, and stars and on the earth, distress of nations with perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

This teaching is designed to instruct you in a matter that Yahshua the Messiah declared was very important. That is to know the day in which we live and what God is doing now, and will do in coming days. It is wisdom to understand God's present work among mankind, and it is great folly to walk ignorantly of the same.

Let me preface this presentation by telling you that I will be using the Hebrew name for Jesus throughout this presentation. This is a practice I began some years ago, for the Hebrew name of the Messiah holds great meaning, and I have found that the types and shadows of the Old Testament are understood more clearly when the Hebrew name is maintained. The Hebrew name of Jesus is Yahshua. This literally means "Yah's Salvation." Yah, or the longer Yahweh, is the name of God the Father and it is recorded 6,828 times in the Old Testament. Most English Bibles have replaced the name of Yahweh with a title such as Lord, or God, which are not names at all. For there are many lords and many gods. However, there is only one Yahweh, and He has only one Son whose name is Yahshua.

If you are unfamiliar with the name of God the Father and the Son, then they may take some getting used to, but I can almost guarantee that you have spoken the name of God the Father before. If you have ever said the word "Hallelujah," then you have said His name. Hallel is a Hebrew word meaning

“Praise,” or “Bless.” So when you say Hallelujah you are literally saying “Praise Yah.”

This shorter version of the name of God the Father occurs 49 times in the Old Testament, as well as being found as part of many of the names of the patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament. You are probably familiar with the prophet named Elijah. His Hebrew name is EliYah, which means God is Yah, or Yah is God. Other people had the name of God the Father as part of their name. JeremiYah means Yah will rise. HezekiYah means strengthened of Yah. Hananiah means Yah has favored. Berechiah means blessing of Yah, and we could cite many, many more.

In an hour when there is a blurring of distinctions between the gods of various religions, and a Muslim Iman and a Christian evangelist can both stand one after another and utter a prayer to “God” it is bound to cause some confusion. I think therefore that there is great merit in using the name of the God of the Bible, Yah, or Yahweh, and in also using the Hebrew name of the Christ, which is Yahshua.

Yahshua chided the people of His day for failing to recognize the hour they lived in, and what God was doing. The Jewish people to whom Christ appeared were experiencing one of the most prophesied events in all of Scripture, and one of the most critical and astounding plans of God being unfolded before them, but most of them failed to understand both the hour they lived in and what God was doing. The result was condemnation and terrible judgment, when they could have received praise and blessing.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Luke 19:41-44

And when [Yahshua] approached, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days shall come upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank before you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."

It is extremely important to discern the hour we live in. We must understand where we stand in God’s plan of the ages, and what is set to occur in our days if we are to be ready for those things coming upon the earth. We read in

another place that Yahshua rebuked the people of His day for not discerning the day they lived in.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Matthew 16:2-3

He answered and said to them, "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?"

Notice that Christ said that God provides "signs of the times." He has always done so. He certainly does so today, for we live in another period of time when tremendous numbers of prophecies are scheduled to be fulfilled. We too will receive incur condemnation, judgment and immeasurable loss if we fail to understand that which God is doing now. Yet we can receive praise and blessing from God if we rightly discern our day and respond in accordance with Yahweh's desires.

As we begin this multimedia presentation, I want to establish in your minds that the Scriptures declare that we live in an hour when we should be seeing signs of tremendous importance.

God has established a timetable for all of the things that He has determined should occur. Yahweh is a God of tremendous precision, and all the things He has revealed will happen are on a strict schedule.

We read in Genesis chapter one that God spent six days in creating this present earth. God did not need six days to do so. He could have done it in six seconds, or three minutes, or in no time at all. But He chose six days because He wanted to signify something. The six days are a parable, as is the seventh day which is Sabbath rest.

(Slide -Key Scripture)

II Peter 3:8

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Prophetically, one day equates to one thousand years, and in Genesis chapter one we read that there are six days that precede Sabbath Rest, for Sabbath is the seventh day. The seventh day itself equates to a 1,000 year period where the earth will know rest, for the Lord will reign upon the earth during this thousand years, which we call “the millennial reign of Christ.”

We can understand then that the earth must experience 6,000 years before the Lord returns to establish His kingdom upon the earth. Where are we now?

It has been right at 6,000 years since Adam was created. We can calculate this from the genealogies provided in Scripture. Yahshua appeared the first time at the end of day four, or four thousand years since Adam was created. It has been another 2,000 years since Christ was on the earth.

You have most likely heard mention of the Millennial reign of Christ, but I would like to point out one specific thing related to this period of time that is critical to understanding what is coming upon the earth. The Millennium is a time not only when Christ will reign, but a chosen people of God will reign with Him. This group of people are the first people to come to a mature reflection of Christ, having His image and likeness indelibly stamped upon their being. All Christians are called to be conformed to the image of Christ, yet few actually come to a mature reflection of His image during the period of their mortal lives. Many are called, but few are chosen.

A majority of Christians remain immature, appearing as fleshly men and women, rather than spiritual men and women. They love the world and the things in it. They have idols in their hearts, and they serve their own desires rather than living as Christ did, to serve only the Father.

Most Christians are living lives that are indistinguishable from the rest of the world. They are not taking up their cross and following Yahshua, but have adopted the same goals of personal fulfillment and pleasure as the world. Only a relative few are hearing God’s voice, and following Him wherever He leads, so that they might experience many trials that will lead them to conformity to Christ.

The Scriptures reveal that there will be three separate resurrections, and each one is for a particular group of people. These three resurrections are foreshadowed in the three Feasts that God said the people were to observe every year.

(Slide - Three Feasts)

Passover - Barley

Pentecost - Wheat

Tabernacles (Sukkot) - Grapes

Three times a year the people of God were commanded to appear before God in Jerusalem. This itself is a picture of resurrection, *appearing before God*.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Deuteronomy 16:16

Three times in a year all your males shall appear before Yahweh your God in the place which He chooses, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread and at the Feast of Weeks and at the Feast of Booths...

Not only is appearing before God in Jerusalem a symbol of resurrection and appearing before God in the heavenly Jerusalem, but each feast occurred in conjunction with a major harvest. In Scripture these harvests are often called “ingatherings,” and ingathering is a description of resurrection where God gathers a portion of His people to Himself.

There are vast differences between the three resurrections of men and women to stand before God. These differences are both described in Scripture and foreshadowed in the three harvests. The first resurrection is the highest and best, and the people of God are strongly urged to strive to be counted worthy to be numbered among the first resurrection.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Note that it is those who attain to the first resurrection that will reign with Christ during the thousand years of the Millennium. If you are not numbered among the first resurrection, you must wait until the end of this thousand year period for the next resurrection to take place.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Revelation 20:5

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.

As I mentioned, each resurrection corresponds to a feast and a harvest. The first feast is Passover and its harvest is barley. The first Passover occurred when Israel was in Egypt and it marked the last plague that God brought against the Egyptians. In a single night God sent His death angel throughout the land of Egypt and the firstborn male of every household, and among all cattle died on that night. Yet the Israelites were instructed to place the blood of a lamb on the lintel and doorposts of their homes, and when the death angel saw the blood he would “pass over” them and they would live.

Those who attain to the first resurrection will also be passed over by death, for we are told.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power...

Revelation 20:14-15

And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Many Christians will have their names erased from the book of life, they will be disqualified due to disobedience from participation in the first resurrection, and they will have to experience the refining and purification of the lake of fire and wait for a later resurrection.

(Key Scripture)

Revelation 3:5-6

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

This first resurrection is associated with the barley harvest. Barley is an early ripening crop. It ripens about 50 days before wheat, and is therefore harvested earlier in the summer not having to undergo all the heat of the summer. This is a parable. The overcomers will come to maturity quicker than the rest of the body of Christ. Because they gave themselves eagerly to pursue God's will for them of becoming like Christ, they will not have to experience the heat of the Lake of Fire, even as barley doesn't have to go through the heat of summer.

(Slide - Barley Field)



Barley differs from wheat in a very critical way. Barley contains little gluten, while wheat has an abundance of gluten. Gluten is the component of grain that reacts with yeast to make the bread rise. Because barley lacks gluten it is baked as an unleavened bread. This is a parable for bread represents man's flesh and leaven represents sin. This speaks of a people whose flesh does not rise up at the presence of sin, for they have crucified the flesh with its affections and desires. These are the overcomers, and like Christ, they rule over the flesh and its desires.

Wheat, however, contains an abundance of gluten and it is baked as a leavened bread. This is a picture of God's people who have not removed the sin from their lives, and their flesh reacts strongly in the presence of sin. The action of the yeast in wheat bread continues to cause the bread to rise until the bread is placed in the oven and baked. The heat of the oven stops the reaction between the leaven and the gluten in the bread, and it ceases to rise. This is also a parable of this latter group of Christians who will only turn away from sin, and learn righteousness as they go through the heat of the Lake of Fire.

God desires that all men come to a mature reflection of His character. Some will mature quicker than others. Some will be numbered among the barley harvest and attain to the first resurrection. Some will be a part of the wheat harvest and be resurrected after the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth.

There is another symbol used in Scripture to portray the group of men and women who attain to the barley group. These overcomers are pictured as a man child being birthed by the church who is pictured as a woman in birth pangs. The Scriptures speak of the church giving birth to those who are a mature reflection of Christ.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Revelation 12:1-5

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child; and she cried out, being in labor and in pain to give birth... And she gave birth to a son, a man child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.

This is another reference to the group of Christians that are synonymous with the barley harvest. They must come to maturity before the Millennial reign of Christ that they might rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years. Understanding that a mature male child must appear before the Millennium, that a birthing must occur of a group of saints that bear the image of Christ, is critical to a knowledge of what must transpire in these days.

A birth is preceded by labor pains, and the earth must experience her pains as these sons come forth. As the day of the Lord's return approaches the earth will undergo severe contractions, and these events will grow more severe and come closer together as the hour grows later.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Matthew 24:3-8

"Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

There are many things prophesied for this period that precedes the appearance of mature sons of God and the return of the Lord to establish His reign upon the earth. It will be a time of great distress. This day is also referred to as "the day of the Lord."

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Amos 5:18-20

Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, for what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you? It will be darkness and not light; as when a man flees from a lion, and a bear meets him, or goes home, leans his hand against the wall, and a snake bites him. Will not the day of the LORD be darkness instead of light, even gloom with no brightness in it?

Joel 1:15

Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

Prophetically, we live in the very time in which these things are to be fulfilled. I believe we are even now seeing the beginning of birth pangs, and the sorrowful events which have been occurring will increase in frequency and severity. The prophets said to those who said they were longing for this day, that they should realize that it will be a terrible day, but Christ has offered us this consolation.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Luke 21:25-28

"And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Christ will appear a second time, to those who eagerly await Him (Hebrews 9:28). He will bring redemption to a firstfruits group of overcomers. These ones will lay aside their mortal, sin-leavened bodies, and receive immortal bodies fashioned in righteousness. They will lay aside their corrupt bodies and receive incorruptible bodies. The whole creation awaits the revealing of these sons, and therefore the whole creation must go through the pains of child birth.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Romans 8:19-23

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

The sons of God must be revealed. This first group of sons to be birthed will be the man child of Revelation 12. It will be the barley harvest of the book of Exodus. It will be the people "Passed Over" by death. It will be the first group to experience the redemption of their bodies. And all of this must be preceded by days of great judgment, and tribulation. The earth must experience birth pangs as these sons come forth.

The Scriptures reveal that the children of God can know when this day is close at hand, and I am going to show you that the signs are already present, and the birth pangs have already begun. God wants us to know the day we live in. There is no excuse to not perceive that day. Only evil will come to those who are asleep and ignorant of what God is doing.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

I Thessalonians 5:2-6

For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

God reveals His secret counsel to those who fear Him. He desires that we should be aware of what He is doing, and what is coming on the earth.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

John 15:15

No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Amos 3:7

Surely the Lord GOD does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.

Psalms 25:14

The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him...

Having established then that we live at the end of day six of creation, and it has been 6,000 years since Adam; having shown that day seven, the Millennial reign of Christ must be preceded by days of great distress, and that God would first provide many signs that the day might not come upon us as a thief, I want to go on to speak of some of the signs that have been occurring.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Luke 21:25-31

And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world...

Signs in the Heavens

Mars

(Slide - The Sign of Mars)

Explain symbolism of Mars and its moons.

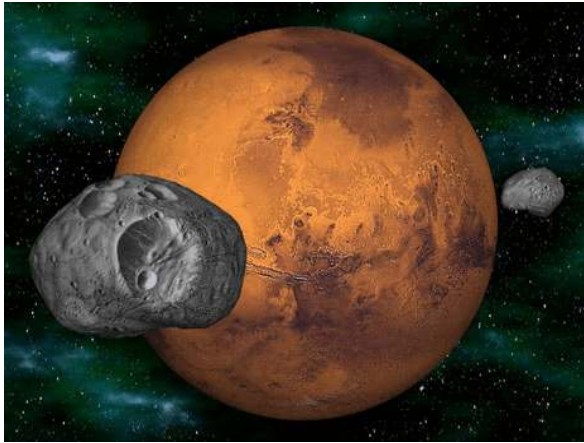
On Aug. 27, 2003, Mars made its closest approach to earth in over 60,000 years.

Mars is the red planet. A harbinger of bloodshed and war.

Mars is orbited by two moons, Phobos and Deimos (Fear and Panic).

In the day that the Scripture in Luke 21 was spoken planets were referred to as “wandering stars.

(Slide - Mars w/moons Graphic)



Leave slide up while continuing discussion of sign of Mars.

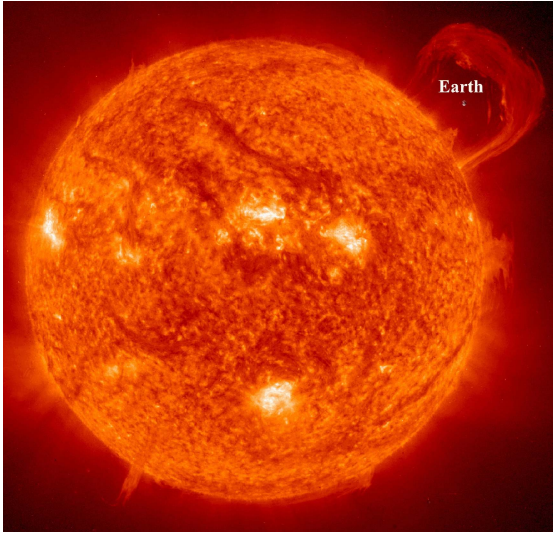
Solar Flare

(Slide - Sunspot 486)

October 28, 2003.

"The third most-powerful solar flare ever observed in X-ray wavelengths erupted from Sunspot 486 early October 28, 2003, at approximately 6 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. A coronal mass ejection (CME) directed almost straight at Earth preceded the flare, sending electrically charged gas toward our planet, say NASA and European Space Agency (ESA) scientists."

(Slide - Picture of Sun and Earth)



(Slide - Psalms 48:6)

Psalms 48:6

Panic seized them there,
Anguish, as of a woman in childbirth.

Compare this verse to Christ's analogy of a woman in childbirth and His prophecy of men's hearts failing them for fear. Compare also to witness of Mars closest approach. God sends multiple witnesses of what He is doing.

Deuteronomy 19:15-16

"One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established."

Signs on the Earth

Phoenix Panic

(Slide - Phoenix)

In August of 2003 the city of Phoenix, America's sixth largest city, experienced her own panic as a third of her gasoline supply was cut-off due to a ruptured pipeline. Prices for fuel soared, gas stations closed, people spent hours in line often to find that the tanks had run dry right before they could fuel their cars and trucks. At the peak of the problem on August 19th, 2003 only 35% of the city's stations had gas. Panic buying created problems.

Compare this panic to sign of Mars approach. Phoenix is a symbol of America.

Quote from an Internet site that reveals the Masonic symbolism used by the founders of America as a nation.

“the American Eagle was originally the Egyptian Phoenix Bird. However, key Masonic leaders at the time felt the American people would recognize the Phoenix Bird as deeply Satanic, so they switched to the American Eagle.”

William Bramley in his book, *The Gods Of Eden* (1990) makes reference to the legend of the Phoenix in American history. Bramley wrote:

"The phoenix was adopted by the Founding Fathers for use on the reverse of the first official seal of the United States after a design proposed by Charles Thompson, Secretary of the Continental Congress. The first die of the U.S. seal depicts a long-necked tufted bird: the phoenix. The phoenix holds in its mouth a banner with the words "E. Pluribus Unum" ("Out of many, one"). Above the bird's head are thirteen stars breaking through a cloud. In one talon the phoenix holds a cluster of arrows; in the other, an olive branch. Some people mistook the bird for a wild turkey because of the long neck; however, the phoenix is also long of neck and all other features of the bird clearly indicate that it is a phoenix. The die was retired in 1841 and the phoenix was replaced by the bald eagle - America's national bird."

The Roaring of the seas and the waves.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Luke 21:25

There will be... dismay among nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves...

Tsunami

(Slide - Tsunami)



The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake, which had a magnitude of 9.0 to 9.3, triggered a series of lethal tsunami on December 26, 2004, that killed approximately 229,866 people (including 168,000 in Indonesia alone), making it the deadliest tsunami as well as one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history. It also had the second-largest earthquake in recorded history measuring between 9.0 and 9.3 on the Richter scale. The initial surge was measured at a height of approximately 33 meters (108 feet), making it the largest earthquake-generated tsunami in recorded history. The tsunami killed people over an area ranging from the immediate vicinity of the quake in Indonesia, Thailand, and the north-western coast of Malaysia, to thousands of kilometres away in Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and even as far away as Somalia, Kenya, and Tanzania in eastern Africa

Hurricanes

(Slide - Katrina)

Same as Katherine: The Romans associated it with Greek (katharos) "pure" and changed their spelling from Katerina to Katharina to reflect this. (Source: www.behindthename.com)

Hurricane Katrina made final landfall at the mouth of the Pearl River on August 28th 2005.

Pearls provide a second witness to the message of purity.

(Slide - New Orleans Flooding 1)



America has a wicked city by the name of New Orleans. The city is renowned for its tolerance of sexual sin, of open acts of immorality performed in her streets. This city arrogantly boasts about her sinful excesses and invites America and the world to come and participate in her debauched festivals. The murder rate of New Orleans is ten times the national average. For decades many perverse customs have been carried out during the annual Mardi Gras celebration. Women publicly bare their breasts and resort to other immoral behavior, performing “favors” for any strange man who will give them a string of beads. This in turn gave rise to the production and distribution of the sexually impure “Girl’s Gone Wild” videos that are now distributed around the world.

(Slide - New Orleans Devastation)

The Gulf Coast of Mississippi suffered utter, total devastation from Hurricane Katrina on August 28-29, with hurricane winds, 28-foot (9 m) storm surge, and 55-foot (17 m) sea waves pushing casino barges, boats and debris into towns, and leaving 236 people dead, 67 missing, and an estimated \$125 billion in damages... After making initial landfall in Louisiana, four hours later Katrina made another landfall north at the state line (near the mouth of the Pearl River) and passed over submerged towns around Bay St. Louis as a Category 3 hurricane with winds over 120 mph (192 km/h) and 28-foot (9 m) surge. Battered by wind, rain and storm surges, some beachfront neighborhoods were leveled entirely, with flooding 6-12 miles (10-19 km) inland, crossing Interstate-10 (I-10) in some places.

[Source - Wikipedia.com]

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Nahum 1:3

Jehovah is slow to anger, and great in power, And Jehovah doth not entirely acquit, In a hurricane and in a tempest is His way, And a cloud is the dust of His feet.

(Young's Literal Translation of the Bible)

For those who would argue that God has nothing to do with hurricanes, and who would deny that God directed this one, they need only read what the prophet Nahum had to say here. It should also be noted that even insurance companies refer to hurricanes as “an act of God.”

(Slide - Southern Decadence)

Decadence: characterized by moral decline and impurity.

Southern Decadence was scheduled to begin August 31st, 2005.

Yet New Orleans has even worse things to flaunt in the face of God. In 1972 a group of friends held the first “Southern Decadence” event with 40-50 friends. This homosexual event has grown to an attendance of 120,000 homosexuals who gather from across America and the world. The events are so perverse, and the public behavior so immoral, that in 2004 a local pastor sent a video of homosexual acts being performed on city streets to Mayor Nagin and the city council of New Orleans. The response revealed that the politicians of New Orleans care more for the estimated \$100 million that is generated through this event, than for pleasing a holy God who has declared homosexuality to be unnatural behavior.

The Mayor of New Orleans issued a proclamation welcoming all revelers to Southern Decadence 2005. The word decadence bears the following meaning:

decadence: characterized by moral decline

The world was invited by the Mayor of New Orleans to experience all the immorality that his city could serve up. It was all done in the name of tolerance and diversity, yet what fallen man tolerates in his pursuit of pleasure, without any restraint or bonds, God declares to be an abomination.

Leviticus 18:22-23

You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

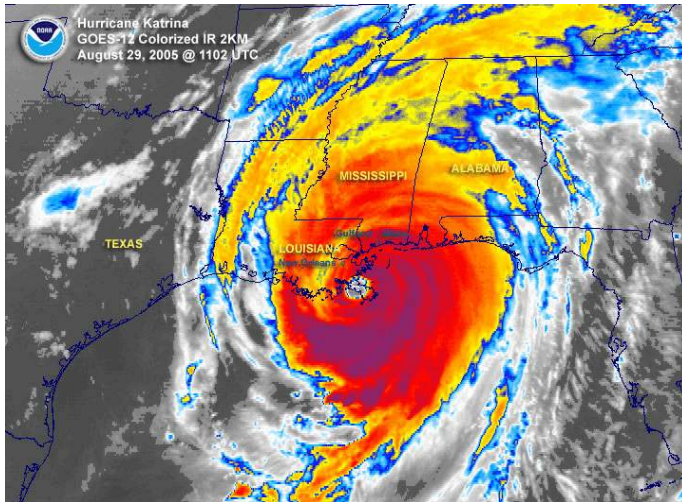
Southern Decadence 2005 was scheduled to begin Labor Day week-end.

(Slide - New Orleans Flooding 2)



Hurricane Katrina struck the area just a few days before the celebration, breaching the city's levees and inundating the city with flood waters. The name Katrina means "pure." An additional symbol of this parable is that The National Hurricane Center states that Katrina made final landfall at the mouth of the Pearl River.

(Slide - Katrina Landfall)



Pearls stand for purity throughout Scripture. The Lord admonished His disciples to not cast their pearls before swine, creating a contrast between that which is pure and valuable and that which is unclean and despised. The Holy City Jerusalem, which John saw coming down from heaven, is described as having twelve gates, each one made of a single pearl. Only that which is righteous can enter the city. The gates of pearl symbolize the purity required to enter in.

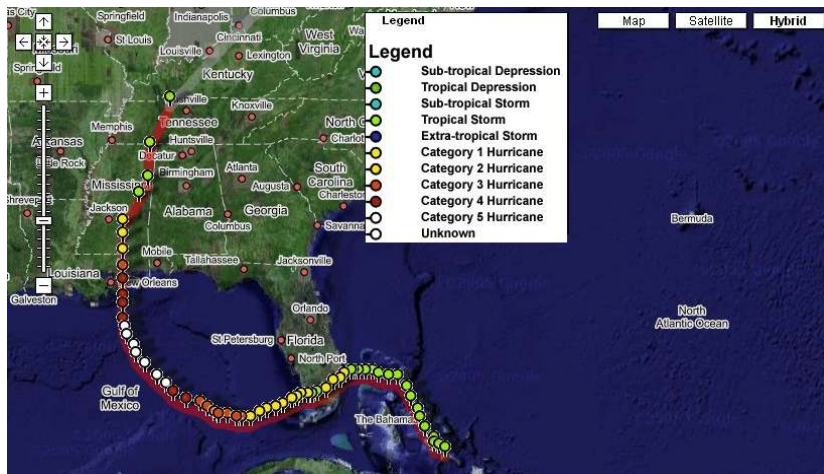
Revelation 21:21-27

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each one of the gates was a single pearl... and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it...

Matthew 7:6

"Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine..."

(Slide - Katrina Track)



America has tolerated much impurity because of the money it generates. Not only did Southern Decadence bring in more than \$100 million to New Orleans every year, but the coast of Mississippi was dotted with casinos that had sprung up in recent years that also brought in hundreds of millions of dollars annually to state and local governments. Gambling is highly addictive, and has brought ruin to many families. Casinos entice men and women who want to get rich quick. Yet the apostle Paul states:

I Timothy 6:9

those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

There was opposition to these casinos as Mississippi is right in the heart of the Bible Belt. Yet those who desired the money casinos could bring in overrode the opposition. Along with gambling, the sexual immorality, prostitution, and drug and alcohol use that attends gambling environments also became prevalent. Because of opposition to the casinos, they were not able to locate them within the state, but had to build them out over the water. This ended up being an invitation for disastrous judgment.

(Slide - Hard Rock Casino)



Biloxi Mississippi was just watching the final touches being placed on their latest and greatest casino, The Hard Rock Casino, which was slated to open September 1, 2005. Hurricane Katrina arrived before it could open.

Quote from website www.hotelinteractive.com

The casino resort was all set to open. In fact, they were already having invited guests dine at its Ruth's Chris Steak House, valet parking drills were underway and training for most employees was complete. As the storm headed toward the resort, management sent everyone home for two days and expected once the weather cleared to open for business. The only reason the property had not opened earlier was management was still awaiting the nod of approval from the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

But the opening was not to be. Instead, the casino, which floated on a barge on the Gulf of Mexico, was a complete loss and a redesign and extensive rebuild had to be done.

(Slide - Palace Casino)



Mississippi's Casinos collected 2.77 Billion dollars in gaming revenues in 2004. Katrina destroyed 13 casinos in Gulfport, Biloxi and Bay St. Louis.

Estimates from the insurance industry as of late August 2006 for the entire region, have reached approximately \$60 billion in insured losses (including flood damage) from Katrina. The storm could cost the Gulf Coast states as much as an estimated \$125 billion. That is more than 50 years of gambling revenue.

(Slide - The President Casino)



Tragically, if the people responsible for these casinos operation even considered that a hurricane is truly an act of God, they didn't show it. Most of the casinos have been rebuilt and are back in operation today. Mississippi even did away with the requirement that casinos be located over water, and now allows them to be built inland on solid ground.

(Slide - Hurricane Rita)

Rita: Derived from Latin Margarita, which was from Greek (margarites) meaning "pearl".

Source - behindthename.com

(Slide - New Orleans flooded again)

Before Rita, the mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, had planned to begin reopening the city after the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina on September 19. However, as Rita developed in the Gulf of Mexico, the reopening was cancelled and a re-evacuation of the city was initiated on September 21 as the storm was initially forecast to make landfall much closer to the city. Although Rita remained well to the south and west of New Orleans, a pre-landfall storm surge overwhelmed a levee of the Industrial Canal protecting the lower 9th Ward, a part of a fragile and already compromised levee system as repairs continued. At landfall, more parts of the levee wall were breached causing major reflooding in New Orleans.

(Slide - Hurricane Rita)



Not only did Rita flood New Orleans again as she was boasting about being back in business for Mardi Gras, but she shut down a number of Louisiana casinos that had been temporarily closed by Katrina.

Quote from an Internet Blog site

For the second time in less than a month, a major hurricane shut down Louisiana casinos, taking another revenue bite from Louisiana state government, which already is facing a major budget shortfall.

Hurricane Rita shuttered all six state-licensed casinos and an Indian reservation casino around the Lake Charles region, which serves a steady stream of gamblers from Texas.

(Slide - Harrah's Casino - Lake Charles, LA)



Harrah's Entertainment officials say it is going to take some savvy playing to deal with what Hurricane Rita left behind. Their \$50 million Island Barge is beyond repair and the Pride of Lake Charles riverboat is stuck in the mud for six to nine months. As a result, company officials couldn't give an estimate to the State Gaming Control Board at its recent meeting in Baton Rouge as to when they will be able to reopen as the company continues to evaluate the damages done by Hurricane Rita to its Lake Charles facility.

Harrah's later decided that the Lake Charles casino was beyond repair and they laid off all 1,400 employees and have no plans to reopen.

(Slide - Hurricane Wilma)

Hurricane Wilma was the most intense hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic basin. It devastated parts of the Yucatán Peninsula and southern Florida during October in the 2005 Atlantic hurricane season... With the formation of Hurricane Wilma, the 2005 season became the most active on record, exceeding the 21 storms of the 1933 season. Wilma was the twenty-second storm..., and fourth Category 5 hurricane of the record-breaking season.

Wilma made several landfalls, with the most destructive effects felt in the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico, Cuba, and the U.S. state of Florida. At least 63 deaths were reported, and damage is estimated at over \$28.9 billion ranking Wilma among the top 5 costliest hurricanes ever recorded in the Atlantic and the third costliest storm in U.S. history.

(Slide - Timeline)

Key West Fantasy Fest - October 21-30

The Mayan Riviera Gay Fall Fiesta - November 3-7

Wilma Devastated Cancun on October 21st and crossed South Florida on October 24th

Both events were canceled due to Hurricane Wilma.

In the 1990's Cancun Mexico began hosting an annual homosexual festival called The Mayan Riviera Gay Fall Fiesta. It was scheduled for November 3-7, 2005. Additionally, Key West, Florida had scheduled the 27th annual Fantasy Fest "Freaks, Geeks and Goddesses" to be held October 21-30. This is another perverse revelry where anything goes. Adultery, fornication, homosexuality, cross dressing, drunkenness, orgies, and other ungodly acts are the highlights of ten days of carousing.

(Slide - Wilma's Track)



The National Hurricane Center has this to say about Hurricane Wilma:

“Wilma formed and became an extremely intense hurricane over the northwestern Caribbean Sea. It had the all-time lowest central pressure for an Atlantic basin hurricane, and it devastated the northeastern Yucatan Peninsula. Wilma also inflicted extensive damage over southern Florida.”

(Slide - Cancun Damage)



(Slide - 2005 Records)

HURRICANE	YEAR	MINIMUM PRESSURE
Hurricane Wilma	2005	882 mb
Hurricane Gilbert	1988	888 mb
The Labor Day Hurricane	1935	892 mb
Hurricane Rita	2005	895 mb
Hurricane Allen	1980	899 mb
Hurricane Katrina	2005	902 mb
Hurricane Camille	1969	905 mb
Hurricane Mitch	1998	905 mb
Hurricane Ivan	2004	910 mb
Hurricane Janet	1955	914 mb

Table 1. The ten most intense hurricanes (based on central pressure) in the Atlantic basin 1851-2005.

2006 Hurricane Season

(Slide - Hurricane Ernesto)

Only one land falling hurricane in the U.S.A.

Hurricane Ernesto - Meaning Earnest

Earnest: (adj.) Intensely serious.

Earnest: (noun) Pledge. A token of things to come.

I believe God gave us this equally unpredictable 2006 hurricane season as a time to reflect upon the things that occurred in the previous season. He was giving the U.S. a time to repent, and a warning that He is in earnest concerning His desire for purity in the lives of all people. The roaring of the sea and the waves were greatly lessened for a time as He waited to see what we would do.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Revelation 2:21-23

And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality. Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

America has not repented. She has boasted that she will not let the devastation of hurricanes stop her. The festivals have been started back up. Most of the casinos have been rebuilt and have reopened. And things are becoming steadily worse. Although New Orleans has less than half of her pre-Katrina population, her murder rate is worse than ever. A people who will not repent will be given over to a depraved mind.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Romans 1:28-32

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

America is now in serious jeopardy. God has sent His warnings. He has shown that He is ready to judge those who give themselves to a headlong pursuit of pleasure and wickedness. Thousands of lives have been lost, and billions upon billions of damage done, yet there has been no effort to seek God and to understand why these things are happening to our nation. As the apostle Paul wrote, the people of America do not see fit to acknowledge God any longer. They deny that He is present. They act as if He does not exist.

What then will come next?

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Proverbs 29:1

**He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck,
Will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.**

The Spirit testifies that what we have seen is merely a token of things to come. Yahweh is in earnest about the wickedness of the nations.

He has sent us signs, large signs, in sun and moon and stars and on the earth. We are even now observing the roaring of the sea and the waves. The earth is beginning to experience birth pangs, and her contractions will grow more severe and more frequent.

A remnant will be purified in this time, though most will not only continue doing evil, but they will grow worse and worse. The prophet Daniel spoke of these days.

Daniel 12:9-10

And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand."

Are you observing the signs of the times? Do you know the hour that you live in? Do you see that the Lord is soon to return, and that He will judge the earth?

Judgment must begin at the house of God.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

I Peter 4:17-18

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

I am going to close this presentation by providing one last testimony of what the Father is doing. This last one is a sign given upon the earth.

Fire at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine

(Slide - Saint John)



(AP) New York, Dec. 18

Fire broke out Tuesday morning at the historic Cathedral of St. John the Divine, with black smoke billowing 40 feet high from the Episcopal church that has been under construction for more than a century. Part of the roof appeared to have caved in but no injuries were reported. The cause of the fire, seven days before Christmas, was not yet known.

Up to 200 firefighters were called to the scene at 7 a.m., about an hour before the first mass of the day at what is believed to be the nation's largest church, as smoke poured from a gift shop in the rear of the church and scores of onlookers stood by.

The fire was brought under control within 2 1/2 hours. It had largely been contained to the gift shop area, outside the main sanctuary, fire officials said. They said they expected smoke and water damage throughout the building - the world's largest Gothic cathedral. Two rare tapestries may have been damaged.

The cause of the blaze was under investigation.

"We were crying all the way down here," said Margaret Hurwitz, whose son Nicholas, 12, goes to the nearby Cathedral School.

Hurwitz and her son went to find out whether it would be open; other children were seen leaving the area, crying and carrying book bags.

“You know, after the World Trade towers, you want something to be secure,” said Hurwitz. “This is where we came that day...”

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Church officials said they were optimistic that holiday services would be held next week. “Thus far, we are confident of what we have been told - we’ll be able to continue services in a few days,” said Henry King, president of the board of trustees of the cathedral...

Thousands of people visit the cathedral every day, and half a million a year, cathedral spokesman Jere Farrah said. Two masses are traditionally held on Christmas, each of which typically attracts 5,000 people.

The cathedral is home to many priceless artifacts, according to Farrah, including a collection known as the Barberini Tapestries, which date to the 17th and 18th centuries. The tapestries, woven on the pope’s official looms, depict the life of Christ. It is uncertain if the tapestries were damaged in the fire...

Cathedral organist Dorothy Papadakos said the organ was the city’s fourth largest and dates to 1910.

“We were going to do ‘The Messiah’ in two days,” she said, “but I don’t think it’s going to happen.”
[end article excerpt]

(Slide - St. John 2)



Do you understand this sign? The church is as much caught up in the pursuit of the world as those who are lost. The church has brought the merchants and moneychangers into the temple one more. We are that temple. We were created and called to be a house of prayer. Your body is to be a house of prayer, a sanctuary where communion with God is known. Is hearing God's voice the focus of your life? Or is there so much noise in the temple that you cannot hear God due to the bleating of the animals and the shouting of the merchants?

When Christ returns He will thoroughly cleanse His house. You are that house. Will you be subjected to the fire and suffer loss, or will you come forth as gold? Will your works stand, or will they be burned up and you suffer loss?

The signs tell us that the hour is very, very late. There is no more time to try to serve God and mammon. There is no time to halt between two opinions. It is time to count the cost of discipleship, and to take up your cross and follow where the lamb would lead you. Already signs of judgment are being observed in the church and the nations.

We began with the words of Christ as He lamented over Jerusalem. He said, "If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace."

When the Lord appears, will He find your temple cleansed from the stain of sin, and will He find you persevering in your battle against the leavening effects of the world? Will He find you waiting expectantly for His return, or will you be asleep?

The signs have been given that we might wake up that the day not come upon us as a thief.

(Slide - Key Scripture)

Zephaniah 2:1-3

Gather yourselves together, yes, gather, O nation without shame, before the decree takes effect - The day passes like the chaff - before the burning anger of Yahweh comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you. Seek Yahweh, all you humble of the earth who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger.

Miss USA was participating in the Miss Universe pageant which was being held in Viet Nam and during the evening gown portion of the event she walked out on stage and fell down, landing solidly on her backside. The announcers said this was a very strange coincidence, for the very same thing had occurred the year earlier.

(Slide - Miss USA Falls)



In 2007 Rachel Smith fell down while walking on stage at the Miss Universe pageant, and this year, 2008, Crystle Stewart did the same thing. No other contestant experienced the same. Consider for a moment how appropriately this contest was chosen. All the nations of the world are gathered for this event. Each country is symbolized by one woman. And for the past two years, the woman symbolizing the USA has fallen down as she stood before all the world, in a moment when she hoped to impress all those who looked upon her.

Rachel was the name of the favorite wife of Jacob. She died giving birth to her son Benjamin. God will bring forth a purified remnant from the midst of the church in America, even though it should require the death of the nation as we know it.

In an article I read today on the event, it was said that falling down was “the

death knell” for any participant as far as their chances of winning the competition. The judges looked for how much poise and grace the contestants manifested on stage, and falling down was sure to end any chance of them winning. Is it not strange that this last event took place in Viet Nam, the infamous war that America failed to win?

That this event has occurred two years in a row, being repeated at the same stage of the event, the evening gown portion, reveals some profound truths. The word “evening” speaks of the last hours of the day before night falls, and all is plunged into darkness. That this same event occurred two years in a row bears the same meaning that Joseph declared to Pharaoh when God repeated his dreams to him twice.

Genesis 41:32

Now as for the repeating of the dream to Pharaoh twice, it means that the matter is determined by God, and God will quickly bring it about.

God has determined this matter. This is to say that His mind is made up and now there is no turning back what He has determined. There is only a sure expectation that these things will come, therefore the wise should do whatever the Spirit tells them to do that they might be made ready. It will quickly come to pass. This judgment is no longer years away. It will commence presently. I do not expect the fall of America to be more than a matter of months, or weeks away. As I mentioned, the signs of distress are everywhere apparent.

Isaiah 66:14-16

And the hand of Yahweh shall be made known to His servants, but He shall be indignant toward His enemies. For behold, Yahweh will come in fire and His chariots like the whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For Yahweh will execute judgment by fire and by His sword on all flesh, and those slain by Yahweh will be many.

Corinthians 15:22-26

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: the anointed first fruits (Barley/Passover), after that those who are Christ's at His coming (Wheat/Pentecost), then the remainder (Grapes/Tabernacles), when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

Hosea 6:1-2

“Come, let us return to Yahweh. For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us. He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day that we may live before Him.”

Luke 13:32

And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.'"

The Goal

Romans 8:19-25

For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one also hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.