

**A Sense of Urgency – Getting Our Priorities in Order
The Abomination that Causes Desolation**

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Introduction

We are living in a time like no other time in history. We are seeing wickedness increase globally like it has in no other times. As wickedness increases, the love of people grows cold. I don't think anyone will argue that this is not happening. We are seeing some of the most hatred and violent acts of one against another. The most alarming is that this is becoming a daily occurrence.

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold (Matthew 24:12)

The events we are hearing about in the media should put us all into a sense of urgency: not panic, but urgency. There are nations rising up to destroy Israel. We are seeing Satan wake up like a sleeping giant; not only in the Middle East, but also in the United States.

Egypt, Russia, Syria, China and Iran are preparing for what many believe to be the battle at Armageddon. This battle is going to occur, and it will mark the beginning of the end times as spoken about by the prophets Daniel and the Apostle John.

As a Christian, what is our role?

Is it to wait patiently for the Savior to return?

Or should there be a sense of urgency?

What does the Bible say about Christianity during these times?

In Mark 13, Jesus tells us to be ready....

Mark 13:34-37

It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

"Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

Jesus tells us that the wise will be able to interpret the times.

Mark 13:28-31

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

If we look at what Jesus says about the signs of the end times, is there any doubt that we are experiencing the birth pains?

Jesus said that in the last days...

Luke 21

*... When you hear of wars and uprisings, **do not be frightened**. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”*

*Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be **great earthquakes, famines and pestilences** in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. (Luke 21:9-11, NIV) [author’s emphasis]*

“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. (Luke 21:20, NIV)

Daniel refers to this time as the **abomination that causes desolation**

“His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation (Daniel 11:31, NIV)

Jesus also refers to Daniel’s prophecy when he says ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ will occur in the holy place (Israel) (Matthew 24:15, NIV)

What does abomination that causes desolation mean?

Abomination = “A thing that causes disgust or hatred”

Desolation = “A state of complete emptiness or destruction”

If we put this together, the meaning suggests this:

“hatred will cause complete emptiness and destruction in the holy place”.

Let’s look at some of the hatred we are seeing today:

Egypt – Muslim Brotherhood Uprising – Crucifixions and persecutions against Christians.

Lopez includes a warning for Egypt’s Christians and compares the coming treatment of the Christians to the Jews in Germany.

“The Copts must get out of Egypt as soon as possible – for the many millions who will not be able to get out, I expect things will continue to deteriorate – just as they did for Germany’s and Europe’s Jews from the 1930s onward,” Lopez said.

“The warnings were there long before the ghettos and round-ups and one-way train trips to the concentration camps began in the 1940s,” she said.

If you think this is just an Egyptian problem, you’re wrong. Dead wrong. Read “Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld That’s Conspiring to Islamize America”

Author Pamela Geller of Atlas Shrugs, an analyst of the Middle East and Islam, fully agrees and also cites the Quran.

“The Christians are in serious trouble, because the Quran in Sura 9:29 commands Muslims to wage war against them and subjugate them, and they’re also identified with the hated West and the U.S.,” Geller said.

(2012-8-17, Carl, M. Whistleblower / Worldnetweekly, “Arab Spring run amok: 'Brotherhood' starts crucifixions”, retrieved from <http://www.wnd.com/2012/08/arab-spring-run-amok-brotherhood-starts-crucifixions>)

Syria – Wide spread uprisings spurred by hatred

Iran – Made public threats to wipe Israel off the face of the earth.

U.S. – More and more court orders against Christianity are on the rise. Christian persecutions are beginning to occur in the U.S. like never before.

Earth Quakes, Famines and Diseases of all kinds are taking place like never before.

4.3 quake shakes up East Texas updated Thur May 17, 2012

A 4.3-magnitude earthquake rattled eastern Texas early Thursday, the U.S. Geological Survey reported. The quake, at a depth of three miles, was centered near Timpson, about 155 miles east-southeast of Dallas, according to the USGS. It struck at 3:12...

Texas earthquake updated Wed June 10, 2009

Five earthquakes have hit Cleburne, Texas, in the past seven days.

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/us/2009/06/10/dnt.tx.earthquake.wfaa>

We know that these signs are here. We know that things are getting worse. The world is growing into a cold, godless and even demonic world. Far from what God's original design was.

So what does a sense of urgency mean????

1. Our priorities need to be lined up correctly.
 - a. Is your Christian walk your priority or is it something to do on Sunday?
 - b. Is your relationship with God where it should be?
 - c. Is your relationship with others where it should be?
 - d. Most importantly, will others be saved because you allowed God to use you?

When the Day of the Lord arrives, nothing here will remain. The worst part is....

Those who do not know Christ will perish into the eternal fiery pits with Satan and his angels.

Does that concern you????

We are limited by Time. Time is one of our greatest assets. We must be good stewards of this time that God has given us. We do not know the hour, but the Lord does. Therefore, we must make every effort to witness to others, to not put off your calling any longer, but to stand up now in you Christian calling.

A story to think about....

Peter had a friend, John. Peter was a devoted believer in Christ, but was he a follower?

Peter and John are co-workers and often enjoy sporting events together. Peter did not know much about John's faith (or lack-off). The sad thing is John didn't know about Peter's. As time went on, John and Peter hung out and worked together often, but Peter never asked John about his faith, nor even tried to share, not once!

One day, the Lord returned. As Peter was brought up with Jesus and all of the believers, he saw his co-worker John standing on the earth. As Peter watched, it dawned on him that his friend was not coming with him. All of a sudden a great earthquake shook the earth and a huge pit opened up and swallowed John and all of the other non-believers. Screams of horror could be heard all the way up to the heavens. Everyone, including the angels in heaven, felt the most intense sorrow for what had just taken place.

Peter just realized that he could have helped John come to know the Lord. Peter could have been the instrument that God could have used to place John in heaven with Peter.

Do any of us want to be Peter? This day is coming, and it is coming faster than we realize. There is an urgency to turn your Christian belief into an unstoppable Christian Force!

Jesus Said...

Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.

I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (Revelation 3:10-11)

Additional Scriptures

Matthew 24:10-14

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Mark 13:28-36

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Mark 13:32-37

The Day and Hour Unknown

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” Psalm 51:12