



Do you foresee your children and grandchildren living in peaceful, safe, and good times? Because, after all, we all want to live in good times. But, is that in today's climate a realistic expectation?

The past 70 or so years since World War 2 has taught us that the price of our freedom has been paid in blood. And yet since then we have seen more bloodshed with more lives lost – the statistics are simply overwhelming. In that time we've watched the development of some frightening nuclear armaments. We've also witnessed so many failed United Nations resolutions.

And so anyone who seriously considers where we are today cannot help but wonder where we are headed!

Do far off economic uncertainties and radical Islamic threats to destroy other nations in a blazing fireball all seem a bit irrelevant?

I suppose it's all a matter of perspective. A million starving people in Sudan is less important than our favourite sporting team losing a game.

Is it possible, that despite the best of human intentions, we're living dangerously on the precipice of a nuclear hell?

Have you ever wondered about increasing economic upheaval, terrorism, ongoing uprisings, famines, earthquakes and disease epidemics, and all this is overshadowed by the spectre of nuclear war!

Can we afford to ignore these trends? Surely we in the prosperous West wouldn't distract ourselves from those realities by more personal spending and superfluous living? Are we not guilty of reserving our attention and adulation for sporting heroes and movie stars?

You see, ever since the dawn of recorded history, our world has been characterised by bloodshed. Many thought the Roman conquests were the epitome of brutality and suffering, exceeding that of the Babylonians, Persians and Greeks before them.

History clearly documents that entire populations were decimated.

Then there were the Dark Ages, with disease and war affecting millions of people. In more recent times, two world wars destroyed over 60,000,000 lives. Somehow, we as humans have survived until now.

Are we able to read the signposts of our times? You see, while "God" matters little in the West today, Islam's agenda, on the other hand, is guided by its theology, and the news is deeply disturbing.

Thankfully, there are clear pointers that should help us if only we're willing to listen.

Let's go back some 2000 years ago when an itinerant visitor known as Jesus warned us of approaching cataclysmic times. His claim was that he was the Son of God, and He told those around him who enquired of the future that unless divine intervention occurred, no human would survive. (Matthew 24:21-22)

Either he was wrong about the past, or He was referring ominously to a future we're yet to see! Our planet could easily become a charred, irradiated ember, and like the rest of the universe, be inhospitable to sustaining life.

But, there is good news – on the authority of Jesus Christ – that that's not how the world will end.

We're not going to end in a nuclear fireball, because Jesus said that he's coming again. He is coming again because he has unfinished business – and from what we understand, His timely arrival will save us from ourselves.

There's a solitary bronze statue outside the United Nations building in New York. It was given to the UN by the Soviet Union in 1959, and it depicts a world beyond this time of trouble. The statue is modelled from the words that come from an ancient prophet through whom God spoke:

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.
(Isaiah 2:4)

Peaceful and safe times are ahead, and that is something to really look forward to. But until then, it seems we have a very rough road on which to travel.

The question that remains, however, is whether we're awake as to what is really going on today? Are we prepared to pave the way for our children and their children by believing and then living the words of Jesus who said:

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life"?



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