

# Florence Update and Convergence of Signs

By T.W. Tramm

THE SUMMER like no other continues: Hurricane Florence just broke North Carolina's state record for most rain observed during a tropical storm or hurricane, more than 30 inches. Florence is still an enormous storm, dumping massive amounts of rain and triggering flash flood warnings across six states. Forecasters are saying that parts of North Carolina could see up to 40 inches of rain before week's end, pushing river levels well beyond historic highs and triggering unprecedented flash flooding and landslides.

On the opposite side of the globe, China and the Philippines are dealing with the aftermath of the most powerful typhoon this year.

The 2018 hurricane season was shaping up to be a below average one until September, when a perfect alignment of energy and wind caused the Atlantic and Pacific to suddenly explode to life. The powerful storms add to an already long list of unusual or unprecedented phenomena this year, including record high temperatures, fires, and seismic activity.

Meanwhile—

- In Turkey and Iran, currencies are plummeting and inflation is skyrocketing, setting the stage for the fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy in which these and other nations conspire to plunder Israel's wealth (Ezek. 38, 39).
- Iran's growing presence in Syria along with threats of more chemical-weapons attacks bring closer to fulfillment Isaiah's prophecy about the total destruction of Damascus (Isa. 17).
- Russia is, just now, finishing up its largest military exercise in 40 years as it exerts a growing influence in the Middle East by way of Syria.
- A record-breaking bull run for the US Stock Market means we're long overdue for a crash, which some experts warn is already in the making.
- The Catholic Church is in the midst of a full-blown sex abuse crisis that has a former Vatican official suggesting it's time for the Pope to step down.
- "Peace and safety" is the talk around the Middle East as the finishing touches are being put on the Trump administration's "Deal of the Century."

From a prophetic standpoint, it's remarkable that all of the above is converging in the summer of Israel's prophetic 70th birthday. Jesus says the generation who sees the "fig tree" (Israel) come back to life and put forth leaves will also see His return (Matt. 24:32-34). According to Psalm 90:10, a typical human lifespan is 70 years.

The number 70 also denotes a time of liberation or redemption in Scripture:

"You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and ... bring you home" (Jer. 29:10).

"Seventy weeks are decreed on your people ... to make an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness" (Dan. 9:24).

This summer also marks 49 years since the Jews began to rebuild Jerusalem in 1969. Daniel's weeks prophecy states:

"From the going forth of the word to restore and to build Jerusalem unto one anointed, a prince, shall be seven weeks [49 years]" (Dan. 9:25 JPS).

There's more. Daniel's multi-layered prophecy links *another* span of weeks, "sixty two weeks," to Jerusalem and Messiah's coming (v.25). When we add the sixty two weeks to the seven weeks we get a total of *sixty nine* weeks. It just so happens that 2018 marks 483 years—exactly sixty nine weeks—since a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem in 1535 AD when Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, emperor of the Ottoman Empire, ordered that the walls of the Holy City be rebuilt.

Seeming to confirm the prophetic significance of 2018, a blood-moon eclipse—the longest-in-duration of the century—appeared primarily over the Middle East six weeks ago.

"The moon [will be turned] to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD" (Joel 2:31).

Do you suppose the Lord is trying to tell us something?

Scripture is clear that no man or angel knows exactly when Jesus is returning. It's, therefore, a mistake to try and set a time limit on the Rapture (Matt. 24:36, 42-44). The convergence of signs and timelines this summer, however, should have those eagerly awaiting the Lord's return looking up. Our redemption is near.