

Hawaiian Tropical Storm: 2018 Convergence

By T.W. Tramm

JUST as Hawaii's Kilauea volcano seems to be simmering down, Tropical Storm Lane is pummeling the Islands with torrential rains, generating catastrophic flooding and landslides. The highest preliminary rainfall total from Lane is 44 inches at Waiakea Uka on the Big Island, breaking a nearly two-decade-old record of 38 inches. A total of 60 inches of rainfall is forecast, the most rain from a tropical cyclone in Hawaii's recorded history.

Summer 2018 seems destined to go down as one of unusual and unprecedented phenomena around the globe: record breaking flooding, fires, high temperatures, storms, and off-the-charts seismic activity. In the last week we've seen a massive 8.2 earthquake near Fiji, a 7.3 in Venezuela, a 6.7 in Vanuatu, a 6.3 off the US West Coast, and a 7.1 in Peru. Fox News reports that 69 earthquakes registering 4.5 or above recently hit the Pacific's ring of fire in just a 48-hour period. Another source reports that the number of earthquakes around the world over the last 30 days is 50% higher than normal.

It's not only seismic and meteorological phenomena peaking this summer, we're also seeing extremes in the social, financial, geopolitical, and epidemiological realms: growing hostilities between ethnic and political groups; record financial booms in some nations while others teeter on the brink of collapse; new and resurgent disease outbreaks across the globe; and war drums beating louder: the Middle East remains a tinderbox, and Russia and China are set to hold the largest military exercise in nearly 40 years next month.

These are the things Jesus said would increase in frequency and intensity just before His return (Matt. 24:6, 7).

Arguably, the most significant prophetic development this summer is talk of "peace and safety" as the Trump Administration prepares to unveil its peace "Deal of the Century" in September:

"While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape" (1 Thess. 5:3).

For all of the above to be happening in a single summer is remarkable by any standard. For all of the above to be happening in summer 2018 is momentous from a prophetic perspective as this year marks the convergence of a number of key biblical timelines.

As of summer 2018 it has been—

- 6,000 years since the biblically calculated time of Creation.

- 120 years since the First Zionist Congress, the first major step in reestablishing the State of Israel.
- 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, the second major step in reestablishing the State of Israel.
- 70 years since the Nation of Israel was reestablished in 1948.
- 50 years since Israel's capital, Jerusalem, was restored in 1967.
- 49 years since the Jews began to rebuild Jerusalem in 1969.

In Scripture, the numbers 6,000, 120, 100, 70, 50, and 49 each mark the end of a timespan related to human redemption. What is extraordinary is that all of the above timespans, when connected to landmark events from Creation to those pertaining to Israel's rebirth as a nation, converge on the biblical year spanning 2017-18.

There's more.

In addition to the convergence of birth-pain signs and timelines this summer, a blood-moon eclipse—the longest-in-duration of the century appearing directly over the Middle East—feels like the culmination of a sequence of celestial signs that began in 2015. Most who were following prophetic developments three summers ago would say it was a pivotal time. Alongside a rash of major earthquakes, flooding, fires, and storms, we saw a one-of-a-kind sequence of solar and lunar eclipses on significant biblical calendar days: a total solar eclipse on Nisan 1, blood moon eclipses on Passover and the Feast of Tabernacles, and a solar eclipse on the Feast of Trumpets. Also widely publicized in 2015 was the monumental reoccurrence of the planetary alignment that generated the Star of Bethlehem. At the same time, owing to best-selling books like "Mystery of the Shemitah" and publicity around the "four blood moons," obscure biblical terms like "shemitah" and "jubilee" became familiar, and the notion of solar and lunar eclipses being a sign of Jesus' return entered the Christian and, to some degree, *secular* mainstream.

Due to the above, rapture expectations were at an all-time high in summer 2015. As confirmation, consider that a Google search on the phrase "rapture 2011" yields about 16 million results. An identical search on the years 2014 and 2015—the time when the shemitah, jubilee, and eclipse teachings were going mainstream—yields around 20 million results. What is striking and also telling is that a search "rapture 2018" yields nearly *double* the 2015 results: around 39 million. We've thus seen an explosion of internet rapture chatter—an unparalleled *twofold* increase—since summer 2015.

That summer 2018 marks the third anniversary of when the figurative "trumpet" announcing Jesus' return began to be sounded louder than ever is significant because, biblically, the number three represents wholeness, completion, or a conclusion.

For instance:

- Jesus' ministry lasted three years.
- The Lord prayed three times in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest (Luke 22:39-46).
- Peter denied knowing Jesus three times (Luke 22:54-62).
- The Lord was placed on the cross at the third hour (Mark 15:25).
- Three hours of darkness preceded Jesus' death on the cross at 3:00pm (Matt. 27:45-50).
- The Lord was raised from the dead after three days (Mark 8:31).

The number three also represents a period of testing, preparation, or purification:

- In Leviticus it's forbidden to eat the fruit of a newly planted tree until three years have passed (Lev. 19:23).
- When a fig tree fails to produce fruit for three consecutive years, it is to be cut down (Luke 13:7).
- God promised Israel that the harvest of the sixth year would yield enough food for three years (Lev. 25:21).
- Daniel and a select group of Israelites underwent three years of training before being deemed fit for service under the king (Dan. 1:5).
- Jonah spent three days preaching repentance to the Ninevites (Jon. 3:3).
- Paul spent three years warning the Church at Ephesus to be on guard against false teachings and spiritual apathy (Acts 20:25-31).
- Joshua, a prophetic type of Christ, gave the children of Israel three days to prepare before crossing the Jordan to take possession of the Promised Land (Josh. 1:11).
- Moses told the people to be ready by the third day because on that day the Lord would descend upon Sinai (Ex. 19:11).
- Hosea says: "On the third day [God] will revive us ... he will restore us, that we may live in his presence" (Hos. 6:2)

Are you getting the picture? The number three is consistently linked to the types and themes we associate with the Rapture. If 2015 marked the beginning of a period of preparation, refinement, or final warning, then 2018 could mark the event we've been in preparation for.

It's a thrilling prospect to consider!

Of course, it cannot be overemphasized that it's only a *possibility*. Despite our best theories and calculations, the bottom-line biblical truth is that only God knows exactly when Jesus is returning (Matt. 24:36, 44; Mark 13:33).

So keep watch!

LINKS:

<https://weather.com/safety/hurricane/news/2018-08-23-hurricane-lane-forecast-hawaii>

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/reports-hurricane-lane-batters-hawaii-with-life-threatening-flooding-dozens-of-landslides/70005881>

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/hawaii-may-face-direct-hit-serious-damage-from-hurricane-lane-to-end-this-week/70005829>

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2018/08/22/big-one-talk-swirls-as-69-massive-earthquakes-hit-pacifics-ring-fire-in-48-hours.html>

<https://www.newswars.com/seismic-shocker-the-number-of-global-earthquakes-over-the-last-30-days-is-more-than-50-above-normal/>

<https://freebeacon.com/national-security/chinese-military-joining-russians-nuclear-war-games/>