

Hurricane Florence: The Summer Like No Other Continues

By T.W. Tramm

IN recent months we've seen unusual or record-breaking fires, rainfall, floods, high temperatures, and seismic activity. Now, as summer's end approaches, we're seeing extraordinary hurricane activity.

Florence, currently a Category 4 hurricane, is projected to make landfall late Thursday or early Friday on the US East Coast, around the Carolinas. If Florence makes landfall as a Category 4, it will be the first time this has happened this early in the hurricane season. Experts aren't ruling out the possibility that the storm could make landfall as a Category 5, an event unprecedented in the region since the recording of storms began.

Historic winds packed by Florence pose a major threat to areas that have already seen record rainfall this summer, leaving the ground exceptionally soggy. Additionally, thanks to unusual high pressure bands to the north and east of the storm that will prevent Florence from taking the usual track off the Eastern Seaboard, the hurricane is expected to stall and meander near or over the coast for several days, dumping potentially unprecedented amounts of rain. While the hurricane is parked it could unload up to 40 inches of rain in an area that typically sees this much precipitation in a year.

Chip Konrad, the director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southeast Regional Climate Center says, "Florence has the potential to be the most destructive hurricane we've had in modern history for this region."

AccuWeather Vice President of Forecasting Marshall Moss sums it up: "There's never been a storm like Florence."

Florence's atypical nature is not the only thing raising the eyebrows of weather scientists this hurricane season. Some find puzzling recent *simultaneous* storm activity in the Atlantic and Pacific. Phil Klotzbach, an atmospheric science researcher at Colorado State University points out that while the Eastern Seaboard is on alert due to major storms, storms in the northeast Pacific have generated the most "accumulated cyclone energy" on record through the first week of September:

"The thing that's interesting now is the Pacific is still active, but the Atlantic is very active, which isn't normal ... I'm surprised to see the Pacific and Atlantic active at the same time."

Klotzbach points out that the same thing happened to a lesser extent in 2016, but this time around the Atlantic is displaying "unusual fury" at a time it's supposed to be in relative hibernation.

What's behind the surge in weather-related calamities of late? Climate researchers say that warming waters, brought about by human activity and/or the natural cycle, are fueling more powerful and destructive storms and extreme weather. The question that experts do not have an answer for is, why *now*?

For eschatologically astute Christians, the timing is no mystery. The sudden escalation in natural disasters is connected to a convergence of prophetic timelines* and a soon-to-be-revealed Mideast peace plan. The Bible predicted millennia ago that just before Jesus' return, at a time when people are saying "peace and safety," storms, earthquakes, and various other phenomena would be increasing in frequency and intensity, like "birth pains" (1 Matt. 24:6-8; 1 Thess. 5:3). Moreover, Scripture likens the earth in the last days to a mother "groaning in labor" as she prepares to "give birth" to her dead at the resurrection (Rom. 8:22; Isa. 26:19). We know that the time of delivery is close at hand because, as any mother will tell you, once labor pains begin, the birth is certain and imminent.

"Shall I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who gives delivery shut the womb?" says your God (Isa. 66:9).

NOTES:

*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.

FLORENCE LINKS:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/09/hurricane-florence-southeast-danger/569863/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/09/11/hurricane-florence-storm-could-harvey-east-coast-due-floods/1264450002/>

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/strengthening-florence-to-pose-serious-threat-to-us-east-coast-later-this-week/70006011>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/rare-event-atlantic-pacific-churn-storms-same-time-n907826>