

June 2018 Convergence: Keep Watch!

By T.W. Tramm

AS far as high watch times go, they don't get much more interesting than June 2018:

- June 20-25 marks Pentecost, the harvest festival associated with the Church, redemption, marriage, God's trump, and a gathering before the Lord.¹
- June 21 marks the beginning of summer, the season used as a metaphor for the end of the age in Matthew 24:32.
- June 17 will see the star Regulus, also known as the "Prince" or "Heart of the Lion," meeting up with the Moon, the luminary which symbolizes the Church as "bride of Messiah."²
- June 23 will see Jupiter, also known as the "King Planet," meeting up with the Moon, or Church.³
- June 12 will see an unprecedented peace summit between US President Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un. Additionally, the Trump Administration's Mideast peace plan is set to be unveiled in mid-to-late June (1 Thess. 5:3).
- June 23 marks nine months, the duration of a human pregnancy, from the time the "sign of the woman giving birth" in Revelation 12 appeared in the heavens on September 23, 2017 (Isa. 26:19).
- Continuous lava-flow activity at Hawaii's Kilauea volcano, located at the center of the horseshoe-shaped seismic zone known as the "ring of fire," is being compared to the pre-labor phase of childbirth. (See note 4 for details.)
- Last week's royal wedding was one of the most watched in history. (See note 5 for details.) Jesus takes pains to mention that when the Day of the Lord begins people will be "marrying and being given in marriage" (Matt. 24:36-39).
- In Israel, the season depicted in the Song-of-Solomon rapture typology is settling in: flowers cover the land, the figs are ripening, and grape vines are blossoming (Song 2:11-13).

Concerning the time of the end, Scripture says we are not in darkness that the day should surprise us like a thief (1 Thess. 5:1, 4). The convergence of Pentecost, a Mideast peace plan, the summer solstice, and a number of other signs—all on the heels of Israel's 70th birthday—warrants the attention of every Bible-believer.

Only God knows the appointed time of the Rapture. It could happen around Pentecost or it could occur at a time no one is expecting (Matt. 24:44). The point is that, with so many signs in the heavens and on the earth converging, it's high time to be pondering their significance and looking up. This is what the "wise men" anticipating Messiah's appearance 2,000 years ago were doing, and it's what the wise men and women anticipating His return today should be doing. Besides, the Lord says it will be good for those found watching when He returns (Luke 12:37).

So keep watch!

NOTES:

1. Pentecost and the Rapture:

Study:

http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/DOES_SCRIPTURE_SUPPORT_A_PENTECOST_RAPTURE_VER_1.docx.pdf

Article:

http://www.theseasonofreturn.com/DOES_ISRAELS_HARVEST_CYCLE_POINT_TO_A_SPRING_RAPTURE.pdf

Most calendars have Shavuot/Pentecost occurring May 20 this year. However, when we reckon the biblical calendar according to the rule that the first new moon *after* the vernal equinox marks the New Year (Nisan 1), Pentecost occurs a month later. See my article "[When Is Nisan 1?](#)" for the rationale behind this reckoning method.

The Pentecost date range of June 20-25 is based on an April 30 Passover. The day of Pentecost will vary depending on how one reckons the new moon (astronomical vs. sighted) and the day on which one begins the omer (49 day) count.

2. June astronomical alignments:

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2018/06/skywatching-guide-june-solstice-saturn-moon-space-science/>

The Moon as the Church:

http://biblehub.com/sermons/auth/kidd/the_character_of_the_church_of_christ_upon_earth_as_symbolized_by_the_moon_in_our_solar_system.htm

http://www.theopenscroll.com/when_cometh/moon_bride.htm

3. *ibid.*

4. Birth pains and Kilauea:

In human pregnancy, just before birth occurs, a woman's water breaks and her cervix dilates. When contractions begin, there is pain that often feels like a burning sensation. This burning sensation is commonly referred to as the "ring of fire."

It just so happens that our planet, which the Bible says will "give birth" to her dead at the Rapture (Isa. 26:19), has a "ring of fire" as well. The earth's ring of fire, a 25,000-mile-long horseshoe-shaped basin in the Pacific Ocean, extending from the Americas to Eastern Asia and Australia, is the most active seismic zone on the planet. The ring of fire accounts for 90% of the world's earthquakes and encompasses 75% of all active and dormant volcanoes.

What is fascinating is that, located at the exact center of the horseshoe or pelvis-shaped ring of fire is the Hawaiian volcano Kilauea, which just last month roared to life in a way not seen in a century. The images of lava flowing from Kilauea's growing number of fissures reminds us of how a woman's amniotic sac breaks and fluid rushes out just before birth. Could the timely activity at Kilauea be a sign that the earth is about to give birth to her dead as described in Isaiah?

5. Weddings and the end of the age:

Jesus takes pains to mention that when the Day of the Lord begins people will be "marrying and being given in marriage" (Matt. 24:36-39). Spring, in general, is a popular time for weddings. Spring 2018, however, saw the most high-profile wedding since the royal wedding seven years ago.

It's not just that one of the most watched weddings in history happened to occur in the spring of 2018; it's that the wedding of Messiah to the Church is foreshadowed in many of the particulars:

- The groom is a "prince."
- The groom is 33 years old, the same age as Jesus when He was betrothed in marriage to the Church.
- The groom married a commoner/Gentile bride.
- The bride was presented by the father of the groom. (Normally a bride is given by her own biological father.)

Adding to the prophetic motif was the choice of scripture readings and music. First, a passage from chapter 2 of Song of Solomon, a widely recognized rapture typology, was read during the ceremony.

(Watch it on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNEqsC2xNk0>).

While it's not unheard of for Song 2 to be read at a wedding, it's by no means at the top of the list of commonly chosen scriptures.

Later, a Gospel choir stole the show with their rendition of the classic R&B song "Stand by Me." Consider the lyrics:

"If the sky that we look upon
Should tumble and fall
And the mountain should crumble to the sea
I won't cry, I won't cry
No I won't shed a tear
Just as long as you stand, stand by me."

Those acquainted with the scriptures depicting God's judgment during the Tribulation will find familiar the references to the sky falling and the mountains tumbling into the sea (compare to Rev. 6:12-14; Isa. 13:13; Luke 21:25; 2 Peter 3:10). According to the original songwriter, Ben. E. King, "Stand by Me" was inspired by a spiritual called "Stand by Me Father." The third line of the second verse of the earlier spiritual derives from [Psalm 46](#), which pictures God's judgment during the day of the Lord, the time when mountains fall into the sea, waters roar and foam, the earth quakes, and kingdoms fall.