

# November 2018: Birth Pains Intensifying

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HEADLINES this week paint a picture of two nations under siege:

In the US—

- The Camp fire in California has just become the deadliest and most destructive fire in state history, with a death toll of at least 42 and more than 6,400 structures destroyed.
- Election recounts in Florida, along with other political tumult, are driving a further wedge between two already bitterly divided social factions.
- Convulsions in the Stock Market that began with an 800-point drop on October 10 (Tishrei 1/Feast of Trumpets) continue: Headline November 12: “Dow Plunges 600 Points as Apple Leads Tech Rout.”

In Israel—

- A botched special ops mission in Gaza by Israeli forces has led to the heaviest barrage of rockets and shells fired at Israel from the coastal enclave in a single day. Following three days of hostilities, the most intense since the 50-day war in 2014, a tentative cease fire has been reached.

Jesus said that natural disasters, threats of war, and other calamities would increase in frequency and intensity—like birth pains—just before His return (Matt. 24:7, 8). The recent flood of ominous news, particularly in the financial and geopolitical realms, raises the question: how long can things continue at present pace before a tipping point is reached and the world is plunged into all-out war or financial collapse?

The answer has profound prophetic implications as the Bible says the Day of the Lord will begin during a time of peace and economic prosperity: people will be eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, and building; they will be saying “peace and safety” (Luke 17:26-29; 1 Thess. 5:3).

If the days of peace and prosperity are nearing an end, how much nearer must the return of the Lord be?

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LINKS:

<http://www.newson6.com/story/39468689/californias-camp-fire-deadliest-in-state-history>

<https://www.apnews.com/71472c46f771431aa5c038db78a6c78f>

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6384825/CNN-sues-Trump-demanding-return-Acosta-White-House.html>

<https://www.bloombergquint.com/uselections/new-mueller-indictments-expected-as-soon-as-tuesday-cbs-reports#gs.zbwXhZs>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/11/12/stock-market-dow-futures-lower-on-thin-trading-on-veterans-day.html>

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-botched-special-op-in-gaza-brings-israel-and-hamas-to-brink-of-war-1.6651413>

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/gaza-on-the-brink-security-cabinet-to-convene-as-israeli-army-strikes-hamas-targets-1.6651674>