

Prophetic Convergence 2018: What Are the Odds?

By T.W. Tramm

WE LIVE in prophetically momentous times. To appreciate how momentous, consider some of the events that have transpired only this year.

In 2018—

- Israel celebrated its 70th anniversary as a nation.
- For the first time, a US president acknowledged Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moved the US embassy there.
- The longest-in-duration blood moon eclipse of the century occurred over the Middle East—ground zero for Bible prophecy—ending just past midnight Jerusalem time.
- The alliance between Russia, Turkey, and Iran was further cemented by common geopolitical interests. Additionally, US sanctions against these same nations caused their currencies to plummet and inflation to skyrocket, setting the stage for the Ezekiel 38 confederacy that aims to plunder Israel for her wealth.
- Syria's accidental shooting down of a Russian plane and Russia's subsequent installation of the S-300 Missile system made Damascus an even more likely flash point for a major Middle East war.
- Russia held its largest military exercise in 40 years.
- An escalating trade war heightened tensions between the US and China.
- The US Stock Market broke an all-time record for the longest Bull Run in history, unemployment hit its lowest point in half a century, and consumer and manufacturing confidence soared.
- The Dow Jones suffered its three biggest one-day point drops in history. The most recent drop on October 10 coincided with Tishrei 1, or Feast of Trumpets, the same day as the market drop that precipitated the 2008 global financial crisis.
- A scandal related to the appointment of a US Supreme Court Justice erupted, throwing gasoline on the already blazing fire of social and political division in the US.

- The Catholic Church became embroiled in a full-blown sex abuse scandal.
- Countries around the globe experienced record-breaking meteorological phenomena: wildfires of unprecedented scope and ferocity, the highest temperatures since record keeping began, the biggest and most destructive storms ever, the highest rainfall totals, and unparalleled flooding.
- Seismic hotspots around the planet—even areas not known for seismic activity—experienced off-the-charts earthquake swarms and volcanism.
- There was a worldwide spike in phenomena the Bible calls “pestilence,” e.g., resurgences of Ebola, AIDS, measles, E. coli, typhus, Lyme disease—also insect and mosquito scourges, red tide, and mass animal and fish die offs.

Finally, and most consequentially, 2018 saw a peace plan dubbed the Deal of the Century prepared by the Trump Administration. This is a significant development because Paul says people will be saying “peace and safety” when the Day of the Lord begins (1 Thess. 5:1-3).

While peace negotiations are nothing new, the Trump plan stands apart as it comes at a time when the notoriously unaccommodating Palestinian side is in a weakened bargaining position. Because Arab countries are increasingly siding with Israel as a counterbalance to Iranian aggression in the region, the Palestinians no longer have the support or wield the influence they once did. At the same time, the Israeli government understands that it’s in their best interest to strike a deal while the most Israel-friendly US Administration in 70 years is in office, and there is no guarantee of a second Trump term.

Another element that distinguishes the Trump plan is the fact that the process is being overseen by one who literally wrote the book on making deals. A peace covenant between Israel and the Palestinians represents the *ultimate* deal, and Trump is highly motivated to achieve this particular goal during his first term.

We should note that whether the Trump plan actually gets implemented has no bearing on the timing of the Rapture as Scripture specifies only that people will be **talking** about peace and safety when the Day of the Lord begins. Even though conditions are more conducive than ever, it’s likely some obstacle or restraining force will disallow a deal and that the Trump plan will serve merely as a foundation or jumping off point for an agreement to be reached later, during the tribulation period.

Considering Trump’s presidency, it’s remarkable that a man deemed to have no chance of winning the election actually won and has had a hand in generating a number of requisite prophetic conditions, including talk of peace and safety. Additionally, this occurred at a moment in history when the eschatological stage is set in virtually every other way imaginable.

What are the odds?

Scripture says we will know when the Lord's return is at hand (Heb. 10:25; 1 Thess. 5:1-5). At no point past or future do we observe a more distinct and compelling confluence of signs, circumstances, and timelines. These facts should have every believer looking up and boldly sounding the alarm.

Jesus is coming soon!