**These Perilous Times**

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**“Are You Prepared for What’s Coming Next?”**

“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Matthew 24:37-39 NKJV

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Story**

 Deception is one of Satan’s favorite psychological tools (Remember Eve; Gen 3:1-6). If he can lead us to *believe that all is well*, when the “signs of the times” are speaking the complete opposite, we are standing on unstable ground.

 I think it’s absolutely amazing that the science community has come up with a vaccine to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. However, friends a temporary antidote is not the prescription for what truly troubles God’s people! NOTHING will return to **“normal”** as we once knew it! As stated in Matthew 24, pestilences (pandemics) are cited as just one **part** of the **beginning** of sorrows (labor pains Verse 8).

**Another history lesson**

 On June 1, 1889, Americans awoke to the news that Johnstown, PA had been devasted by the worst flood in the nation’s history. Over 2,200 were dead, and many more were homeless. When the full story came to light, many believed it was a “natural disaster.”

 In 1889 Johnstown was a steel company town of German and Welsh immigrants, and had a population of 30, 000. It was a growing, industrious community known for the quality of its steel. The town began to prosper with the building of the Mainline Canal in 1834 and the arrival of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Cabria Iron CO. in the 1850’s.

 However, there was one “small” problem to living in the city. Johnstown was built on a *flood plain* at the fork of the Little Conemaugh and Stony Creek Rivers. Because the city had narrowed the river banks to gain building space, the heavy annual rains had caused increased flooding. There was another interesting thing about Johnstown. Fourteen miles up the Little Conemaugh river, 3-mile-long Lake Conemaugh was held on the side of a mountain, 450 feet higher Johnstown, by the old South-Fork Dam. *The dam was poorly maintained*, and every spring there was talk that the dam might not hold. But it always had held. ***The threat became something of a standing joke among the towns people*** (See II Pet. 3:1-7).

 But at 4:07 pm on the chilly, wet afternoon of May 31, 1889 the inevitable happened. Inhabitants of Johnstown heard a low rumble that grew into a loud roar-like thunder. Some knew immediately what had happened: after a night of heavy rains the old South-Fork Dam had finally broken sending 20-millon tons of water crashing down the narrow valley. Boiling with huge, chunks of debris, the wall of flood water grew at times to 60-feet high at a speed of more than 40-miles per hour leveling everything in its path!

 According to statements of people who lived along the Conemaugh River, including those from other towns stated that *ample warning to evacuate was given by railroad officials*. **But in hundreds of cases the warning was blatantly ignored!**

“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.” Matthew 24:42 NKJV

**Jesus’ second-coming isn’t a joke?**