

# The Sackcloth Times

A Publication of Faith On The Earth

May 2010



## IN THIS ISSUE

This month's issue is meant to be a recap of some of the most recent natural disasters to happen around the globe in light of Bible prophecy, as well as other prophetic occurrences.

In this brief newsletter there will not be time to include everything, or even most everything. These days are like none we've seen before in history. It seems as if insanity has hit the world from all angles and the earth itself is tossing to and fro out of control along with its inhabitants.

Take heart that God, however, *is* in control, and what we see happening around us is not news to Him. In fact, Jesus prophesied these very things, and throughout scripture we can find other prophets and various scriptures telling us of what is coming.

Of course, "what is coming" is *already here*.

Obey God, and stay close to Him.

*10Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.*

*11And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:*

- Revelation 18:10,11

*They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.*

- Ezekiel 7:19

From MoneyNews.com, 5/7/10:

## Euro Sinks to 14-Month Low Against Dollar as Debt Woes Mount

The euro continued its downward slide in European trading on Thursday, battered by fears that the financial crisis that has enveloped Greece may infect Portugal and Spain.

The euro has dropped to lows last seen in early 2009 as markets debate whether a planned 110 billion euro (\$142 billion) European Union and International Monetary Fund bailout will stem Greece's woes and whether other countries in the euro zone could be at risk.

The 16-nation currency went as low as \$1.2738 in trading Thursday before recovering slightly to \$1.2751. That's still below the \$1.2827 it bought the day before in New York trading. The euro sank as low as \$1.2805 in New York trading Wednesday, its weakest point since March 2009.

Moody's Investor Services said it may cut Portugal's debt in the next three months. The credit ratings agency said Portugal's rating could fall by one or two notches. Standard & Poor's lowered Portugal's credit rating last week.

That, in turn has pushed borrowing costs in Portugal and Spain higher and left markets more concerned that, like Greece, the two countries may not have the money to repay debts as their economies remain weak.

"Moody's decision to place Portugal on review for a possible downgrade has added to the sense of investor unease over possible debt default in peripheral European countries in the wake of the social unrest in Greece at the moment," said Michael Hewson, a currency analyst with CMC Markets. "Fractures have already started to appear in the political will inside Greece to deal with the problem after the tragic events yesterday."

Because of that concern, markets will be eyeing the European Central Bank meeting in Lisbon later Thursday to see if its president, Jean-Claude Trichet, can tamp down fears of a contagion.

"The European Central Bank could well decide at today's meeting to opt to throw the rule book out of the window and indulge in some bond purchasing, a form of quantitative easing in order to try and defend euro project," Hewson said.

*And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.*

- Luke 21:20

From recent DEBKAF file report:

### **Iran, Syria, Hizballah Gear Up To Provoke Summer War**

US defense secretary Robert Gates said Tuesday night, April 27: "Hizballah has far more rockets and missiles than most governments in the world." He and Israeli defense minister Ehud Barak were talking to reporters after their talks in the Pentagon. All Barak had to contribute on this occasion was: "We do not intend to provoke any kind of major collision in Lebanon or with Syria, but are watching closely these developments."

Gates went on to accuse Syria and Iran of "providing Hizballah with rockets of ever-increasing capability," adding, "This is obviously destabilizing for the whole region and we're watching it very carefully."

Both defense chiefs seemed to think that careful watching would somehow erase the hostile buildup of deadly hardware. In fact, Barak's comment told Iran, Syria and Hizballah they had nothing to fear from continuing their "carefully watched" buildup, even though Syria took it a step forward this month. As debkaf file's military sources reported last week, Syrian instructors have trained two Hizballah brigades in the use of mobile Scud missiles which carry one-ton warheads. It does not matter if those missiles are moved physically across the border to Lebanon, because those brigades can operate them against Israel at short notice from either side of the border.

Our Washington sources report that Syrian president Bashar Assad, under heavy pressure from Washington to keep the Scuds out of Hizballah's hands, explained to the Obama administration through diplomatic channels that as long as they were kept inside Syria, the Scuds must be seen as a defensive and deterrent weapon against a possible Israeli attack on Lebanon and Syria. He thus placed on Israel the onus for any future outbreak of hostilities.

Gates' accusation of Iran and Syria Tuesday was the administration's way of telling Damascus that it does not buy that message.

Unlike the United States, Israel has a ringside seat for watching the rockets and missiles pile up just across its 70-kilometer long border with Lebanon. Gates' comment - and even more Barak's assurance - gave Syria and the Hizballah space to carry on building a mighty arsenal, which is aimed at only one country, Israel.

Barak as defense minister, prime minister

Binyamin Netanyahu and Israel's security chiefs need to explain how Hizballah was allowed in the four years since the 2006 war to pile up tens of thousands of rockets and missiles, which in volume and sophistication have already overtaken the weaponry that battered northern Israel then and which have extended their reach to all parts of Israel.

"Careful watch" - without corresponding action to interrupt the massive flow of weapons shipments constantly smuggled in from Syria to Hizballah - is a repeat of the misplaced self-restraint which invited Hizballah to launch the last Lebanon conflict in the summer of 2006. Dragging Israel and its homeland into war in the summer of 2010 would serve the political and military interests of Iran, Syria and Hizballah well. It would generate a Middle East crisis overwhelming enough to focus international efforts on calming the situation, so distracting the world's attention from Iran's arrival at the critical stages of its nuclear bomb program and its drive for sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

*For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...* - Mark 13:8a

### **Below is a list of recent and ongoing wars from 2003-2010, as recorded on Wikipedia.com:**

Start	Finish	Name of Conflict	Belligerents
2003	2009	War in Darfur	
2003	2003	2003 invasion of Iraq	United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Spain, Denmark, Poland, KDP, PUK, INC, Ansar al-Islam, Foreign Volunteers
2003	Ongoing	Iraq War	
2004	Ongoing	Balochistan conflict	
2004	Ongoing	War in North-West Pakistan	
2004	2008	Iran-Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan	Iran
2004	2004	2004 Haitian rebellion	United States United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti National Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of Haiti
2004	2007	Central African Republic Bush War	Central African Republic, Chad, MINURCAT, MICOPAX (CEEAC)
2004	2004	Operation Rainbow	Israel
2004	2010	Sa'dah insurgency	
2004	Ongoing	Delta insurgency	
2004	2004	Operation Days of Penitence	Israel
2004	2004	2004 French-Ivorian clashes	France
2004	2009	Kivu conflict	
2005	Ongoing	Civil war in Chad (2005-present)	
2005	2008	insurgency	Kenya
2006	Ongoing	Mexican Drug War	
2006	2006	Rains	Israel

2006	2006	2006 Lebanon War <sup>[1]</sup>	2006-2008 Invasion and Insurgency
			Ethiopia, Transitional Federal AMISOM: Uganda, Burundi, Kenya
2006	2009	War in Somalia (2006–2009)	After 2009 Ethiopian withdrawal Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia, al-Shabaab, Ras Kamboni Brigades, Jabhatul Islamiya, Muaskar Anole, Eritrea (alleged)
2006	2009	Fatah– Hamas conflict	Hamas
2007	2009	Tuareg Rebellion (2007–2009)	
2007	2007	2007 Lebanon conflict	Lebanon
2007	Ongoing	Ingushetia crisis	Kenya
2007	2008	Operation Hot Winter	Israel
2008	2008	2008 Mardakert skirmishes	
2008	2008	2008 invasion of Anjouan	Comoros, African Union: Sudan, Tanzania, Senegal, Libya, France
2008	2008	2008 conflict in Lebanon	Hezbollah Amal Movement Syrian Social Nationalist Party Free Patriotic Movement Lebanese Democratic Party
2008	Ongoing	Cambodian–Thai border stand-off	
2008	2008	Djiboutian–Eritrean border conflict	Djibouti
2008	2008	2008 South Ossetia war	Russia South Ossetia Abkhazia
2008	2009	Gaza War	Israel
2009	Ongoing	Sudanese nomadic conflicts	
2009	Ongoing	Insurgency in the North Caucasus (2009–)	
2009	2009	2009 Nigerian sectarian violence	Nigeria
2009	Ongoing	South Yemen insurgency	
2010	Ongoing	Yemeni al-Qaeda crackdown	
2010	2010	2010 Eritrea–Ethiopia	Eritrea

*...and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.*

- Mark 13:8b

## EARTHQUAKES

Time and space will not permit the inclusion of widespread famines and exponential worldwide

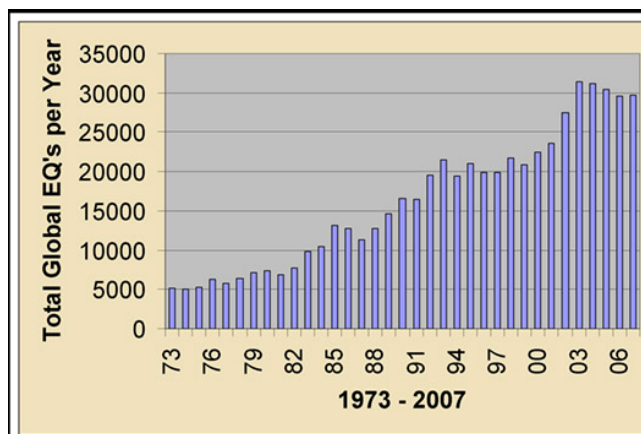
troubles in this issue, but we know they are out there. Just pick up a daily newspaper, or check out the latest news reports either online or on TV. Earthquakes will be the focus for this segment.

Statistics are showing that earthquakes are on the rise. Not only does the number of them increase year by year, but they become greater in intensity the more that there are.

Here is a chart that shows earthquakes 6.99+ magnitude from 1863-present (in 38-yr periods):

Year	Number of earthquakes 6.99+
1863-1900	12
1901-1938	53
1939-1976	71
1977-2014	151*
*Through 4/10; 190 predicted for 1977-2014 total	

Below is a chart from [www.divulgence.net](http://www.divulgence.net) that shows the increase in earthquake activity - all magnitudes - from 1973-2007:



Is it looking scary yet? Remember Jesus is at the door. He tells us not to fear, but to look up when we see these things come to pass. He is our refuge and our rescue.

The final chart included on the following page is printed and updated on the Garner Ted Armstrong Evangelistic Association website. They compile their date from [www.iris.edu](http://www.iris.edu), which most likely gathers theirs from the USGS, which is the source for all up-to-the-minute earthquake activity worldwide. The earthquakes included are all 6.0 magnitude and greater that occurred in just the early part of 2010. Keep in mind also that anything 5.99 and below is not on this chart, and yet occurring increasingly more as well. For a more complete list, please visit the USGS website at [www.usgs.gov](http://www.usgs.gov).

Although the chart is current up until April 30, 2010, there have also been those 6.0 and greater just in

the early part of May. On May 3, a 6.4 hit the coast of Chile, which has been rumbling for a few months now; a 6.5 hit Sumatra Indonesia on May 5; a 6.2 hit the coast of Peru on May 6; and a 6.1 hit the Sumbawa region of Indonesia on May 8.

The chart follows:

Date	Magnitude	Location
30-Apr-10	6	Bering Sea
30-Apr-10	6.3	Bering Sea
26-Apr-10	6.1	Southeast of Taiwan
24-Apr-10	6.1	Halmahera, Indonesia
23-Apr-10	6.3	Central Chile
17-Apr-10	6.9	Eastern New Guinea Reg.
13-Apr-10	6	Qinghai, China
11-Apr-10	6.3	Spain
11-Apr-10	6.8	Solomon Islands
7-Apr-10	6	New Guinea, Papua New
6-Apr-10	7.8	Northern Sumatra, Indo-
5-Apr-10	6.2	Southern Molucca Sea
4-Apr-10	7	Calif. -Baja Calif. Border
30-Mar-10	6.4	Andaman Islands, India
26-Mar-10	6.2	Near Coast of Northern
25-Mar-10	6.1	Mindoro, Philippine Islands
20-Mar-10	6.2	New Ireland Region,
16-Mar-10	6.7	Near Coast of Central
15-Mar-10	6	Off Coast of Central Chile
14-Mar-10	6	South Indian Ocean
14-Mar-10	6.6	Near East Coast of Hon-
14-Mar-10	6.4	Halmahera, Indonesia
11-Mar-10	6	Near Coast of Central
11-Mar-10	6.9	Near Coast of Central
11-Mar-10	7.2	Near Coast of Central
8-Mar-10	6	Mariana Islands
5-Mar-10	6.5	Southwest of Sumatera,
5-Mar-10	6.6	Near Coast of Central
5-Mar-10	6	Near Coast of Central
4-Mar-10	6.3	Northern Chile
4-Mar-10	6.4	Vanuatu Islands
4-Mar-10	6.4	Taiwan
28-Feb-10	6.2	Chile-Argentina Border
27-Feb-10	6.3	Near Coast of Central
27-Feb-10	6.3	Salta Province, Argentina
27-Feb-10	6.1	Near Coast of Central Chile

27-Feb-10	6.9	Off Coast of Central Chile
27-Feb-10	6	Near Coast of Central Chile
27-Feb-10	6	Near Coast of Central Chile
27-Feb-10	6.2	Near Coast of Central Chile
27-Feb-10	8.3	Near Coast of Central Chile
26-Feb-10	7	Ryukyu Islands
18-Feb-10	6.3	East Russia-N.E. China Border
15-Feb-10	6.2	Banda Sea
13-Feb-10	6.3	Tonga Islands
7-Feb-10	6.2	Southwestern Ryukyu Islands
6-Feb-10	6.1	Kuril Islands
5-Feb-10	6.2	Southeast Indian Ridge
4-Feb-10	6	Near Coast of Northern California
1-Feb-10	6.5	Solomon Islands
29-Jan-10	6	Vanuatu Islands
27-Jan-10	6.1	Philippine Islands Region
20-Jan-10	6.1	Haiti Region
18-Jan-10	6	Near Coast of Guatemala
17-Jan-10	6.3	Drake Passage
14-Jan-10	6	South of Mariana Islands
12-Jan-10	7	Haiti Region
10-Jan-10	6.5	Near Coast of Northern California
9-Jan-10	6.3	Solomon Islands
5-Jan-10	6.9	Solomon Islands
5-Jan-10	6.5	East of South Sandwich Islands
4-Jan-10	6.1	Solomon Islands
3-Jan-10	7.2	Solomon Islands
3-Jan-10	6.5	Solomon Islands
2-Jan-10	6.2	South of Mariana Islands

As we ponder Jesus' words and become more aware of Bible prophecy unfolding before our eyes, remember the best part of this: It will not last long, and God's people are not appointed to wrath.

The days coming are going to be so grievous that Jesus said if He does not return to stop it all, not one man will survive it. All who repent and look to Him for salvation will be saved. It does not mean we will not have to endure hardship on this earth, but it does mean we will live in eternity with Jesus, our Lord for eternity.

For those who do not see that these are the last of the last days, or who cling to worldly attachments, I pray your eyes will be opened and that the truth will make you free.

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