



Spirit of Grace Herald

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Perilous Times

Just when we are coming out of the terrible COVID pandemic, our world seems to be unraveling. Our nation is being inundated with runaway inflation, including gasoline prices which are nearly double what they were not so long ago. Many years ago, President Jimmy Carter declared that America was going through a "malaise." Today the term for our entire world would have to be much, much stronger. Words like "catastrophe and disaster" come to mind. But perhaps the best term would be what the Bible used to describe the Last Days: "Perilous times."



In many ways the Russian invasion of Ukraine is reminiscent of the beginnings of World War II. Putin has much in common with Hitler. Both were greedy for more territory, both saw themselves in a messianic light, both were highly paranoid – and both were evil. As Hitler was gobbling up European territories and countries, the U. S. tried desperately to avoid being dragged into the conflict. Millions of Americans wanted to let the Europeans fight it out. Why should we lose hun-

dreds of thousands of our young men in a war that didn't seem to have that much to do with us?

Those ideas were naïve, to say the least. Hitler had to be stopped, and no amount of negotiations or expressions of moral outrage would make any difference. It would take guns, bullets, bombs, and soldiers – millions of them. Eventually we were able to restore peace to Europe and the world, but it was not without cost. My own parents lived through those tumultuous days, and suffered much before that joyous day when Dad was released from the army and came home a day earlier than expected and surprised my mom so much, she made him stand at the door while she put a pretty dress. She was determined to properly greet him after about a two-year separation.

There is a difference between those days and today, however – a huge difference. Russia, American and many other countries are armed with nuclear bombs and ballistic missiles which have the potential to destroy entire cities and rain down misery and death such as the world has never seen before. If we enter WW III, it will not be 400,000 Americans that die, as it was with WW II. It will be millions of Americans, and millions more Russians, and people from who knows how many other

nations. The number of deaths could even reach into the billions.

In short, WW III could well bring about the destruction and ruin of our world very much like we read about in the Book of Revelation. Oceans and rivers could be poisoned, the atmosphere polluted to the point of visibility being reduced to nothing, much of our world's vegetation destroyed, and a sizeable percentage of the people of the world killed. There would not be enough coffins for all the bodies, and there would have to be mass funerals, if there was anyone left to attend a funeral.

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We could be on the brink of a world war and ultimately the return of Jesus Christ! Whether the Russian invasion of Ukraine sparks it or is simply a precursor to another event that will set it off, no one can know. Sooner or later something like what we are seeing right now will surely serve as a catalyst to a world war. It would be lunacy to deny its eventual likelihood. It is good that many are providing humanitarian relief to the poor Ukrainians. But we should also make sure we are ready for the end of this present age. And that means we must be quite clear about our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Jesus could come at any time, and the church would be gone. Will you be there? Jesus tells us that there will be "distress of nations" and "men's hearts (will fail) them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth" (Luke 21:26). And then He exhorts:

"Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:36)

The Missions Continue

We are continuing to sponsor missions in Nigeria & Kenya. We conducted two missions in February. Widows are being fed, sick people are being treated, and sinners are receiving Christ. Thank you so much for your support of this ministry, which makes all this possible!

