--CW Says, "My phone rings steadily and e-mails accumulate: 'Charles, where do you think we are in prophetic time.' For those who may be interested in my personal view, please grant me a few minutes to share my thoughts and avoid much repetition.

I am encouraged by these questions because I sense that those asking, somehow recognize the necessity of personal preparation in advance the coming prophetic storm.

My answer begins with a question in return; 'Are you asking where we are in Jesus' response to the same question found in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21?' Or, are you asking where we are in Daniel's visions and John's Revelation visions?

My answer will be broad enough to satisfy each of these prophetic hot-spots.

Let me begin with the book of Daniel. Prayerfully my readers have some understanding of prophetic symbolism. For example, 'waters' represent 'people, multitudes, nations and languages.' (Revelation 17:15). 'Winds,' on the other hand, represent 'strife, war, commotion.' (See Jeremiah 25: 31-33; 49:36, 27.)

I believe we are here in Daniel's visions of the end times:

'Behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.'
- Daniel 7:2.

An unimaginable crisis is about to grip our planet. The strife within nations and between nations presently is but 'a gentle breeze' compared to the hurricane brewing weeks, perhaps days ahead. The Middle East is a cauldron boiling, diverting the attention of International leaders and ordinary people, blinding them to the prophetic provocateur-Iran!

America is preoccupied with economic distress, 'expanding wars in the Middle East,' the insane price of oil and gasoline, the craziness and impossible-to-resolve partisan politics in Washington, etc., etc.' America is in a weakened state and seen by her enemies as such. Meanwhile the Chinese Leopard is strengthening; the Russian Bear is pushing hot-buttons from the Balkans to the Pacific: this morning North Korea has
threatened 'complete destruction upon the United States and South Korea', and then there is Iran!

Iran, 'the second higher horn of the Ram' (Daniel 8:3,4), is preparing with her allies, al Sadr in Iraq, Hamas and Hezbollah in Gaza and Lebanon, Syria, Venezuela and North Korea to 'push Westward.' Her partners in crime are resolute and ready to attack Israel, within her borders, and America, within her borders! Are you and your family prepared for this imminent crisis? Are you safely distant from the great cities?

Most Americans are not ready. Many people I know are totally unsuspecting and thus, totally unprepared. They are not prepared for $6-8 gal/gasoline, when it can be found. They are not prepared for suicide bombers in public malls and major city centers across the U.S. They are not prepared for cyber-attacks on our power grids, banking and commerce centers and even our supposedly invincible military establishments. Finally, they are not prepared to feed themselves when transportation to markets breaks down.

I believe we have arrived at Matthew 24:6-8; (Mark 13, Luke 21):

'Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences [exotic diseases], and earthquakes, in divers[e] places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.' - Matthew 24:6, 7, 8.

I believe our world and every soul upon it is standing immediately before 'the door of Judgment' described in Revelation 4:1-6:17.

Few understand that the end of the world is prophetically about Judgment and wrath -- first the wrath of man, followed by the wrath of God. Few understand that the end of the world is about 'winds held' and 'winds released' -- pay-back and pay-day. Few understand that the last generation is to drink the full cup of wrath, filled to its brim with 'the wages of sin our parents earned for themselves, their posterity and this planet.'

These things are awful to ponder and I know that men will practice endless mind games, declaring, 'God to be so full of love, that He will never allow His children to drink the dregs and taste the vinegar of sin!'

It is true, our God is merciful beyond our deserving, but He is also wise and just. He must forever secure eternity to come from the insanity and ravages of sin. His intelligent creation must see and behold the ultimate reward of wickedness -- not simply death, but destruction and utter ruin. Man and angel will then see, know and refuse the allure of sin.

Please forgive me if I appear coldly unsympathetic with persons who 'refuse to get on board the Ark, or leave Sodom because they disdain bad news.' Unlike my inquirers, there are scoffers, the Bible says, 'wise in their own conceit.' They are the 'viperous brood' at the Jordan, mocking John's warning, 'to flee from the wrath to come.'

Will anyone escape this coming storm? Some will escape; Jesus described them:

'Know this. that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch
the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not . . . .' - Matthew 24:43, 44.

I find it very difficult to express the inner turmoil I feel as too many Christians interpret these verses 'in spiritual terms.' The 'watching,' they explain, is a 'spiritual watching,' and the protection is of one's 'spiritual house.' Many absolutely refuse to see the necessity and command to guard a literal house, feed literal bodies and literally flee from the trouble to come. Jesus, on the other hand, describes the end in larger terms:

'Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.' - Luke 21:36.

Why is it so difficult for so many to see that life, death and the end of the world will constitute a singular, grand crisis -- a crisis that is both literal and Spiritual?! Man is a soul -- both body and breath (Spirit) (Genesis 2:7). As far as the Bible is concerned, man possesses a literal body inhabited by Spirit or spirits.

The 'body' that prepares to live until Jesus returns will need literal food to survive. It will need to be physically secure, in so far as possible, from a desperate, criminal throng, soon to rob, rape and pillage. Literal bodies will need to stay literally alive to serve 'as witnesses for Christ,' unless of course, they bear witness through death.

Day after day and week after week, we are sharing warnings and appeals from men and women occupying high positions in government and commerce; from scientists warning of a potential agricultural collapse due to wildly swinging changes in global weather or other natural phenomena. The recent great quakein Japan continues to hamper the supply of food and water within Japan, and escaping radiation from their nuclear power plants is threatening seafood, milk and agriculture over large portions of the northern hemisphere.

Hopefully, this response to questions many are now asking will bless those who are too occupied with the cares of life to make adequate preparation, literal and Spiritual:

From the book of Wisdom, Proverbs 22:3:

'A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.'
   - King James Version

'The wise see danger ahead and avoid it, but fools keep going and get into trouble.'
   - New Century Version

'Sensible people will see trouble coming and avoid it, but an unthinking person will walk right into it and regret it later.'
   - Good News Translation

"When you see trouble coming, don't be stupid and walk right into it -- be smart and hide."
   - Contemporary English Version"
Give Me Something Nice!
Back to Mardi Gras in New Orleans

If there were no other evidence to tell us how close we are to the end of all things, it would be the rate at which time is hurtling into the past. It does not seem like a year since we were in New Orleans giving away books at Mardi Gras. But there again came the call, "Are you going to give away books during the parades?" And our response, once again: "Absolutely!"

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The rolling and packaging of the books commenced. We planned to take thousands of books to an event which realistically could have accommodated hundreds of thousands more; but you do what you can as God makes provision for your efforts—right?

This year we decided to try a new tactic: we packaged a couple of boxes of books, then stood a bagful at bus stops along the parade route of the satellite community of Metairie. Once the parade began, we began our distribution to the crowds; once our supply ran out, we exited the parade and grabbed another bagful at the next bus stop, then went right back into the crowd. Within a couple of hours we had given away thousands of books to the crowds pleading, “Me! Me! Me! Give me something nice.”

A long-time veteran of book distribution, Emile Spalitta, made the suggestion that we try something similar the next day in New Orleans. So we devised a plan to place similar bags of books along the Saint Charles Avenue parade route once the cleaning regiment had gone through. At midnight that night we stood a bag at the corner of each block for almost a mile (the parade was scheduled to travel seven miles, with an estimated attendance of a million people). By 2 A.M. we were ready for bed.

The next day we parked in New Orleans and walked through the teeming crowds to where our first stack of books was waiting for us. The method again worked perfectly. The books were protected inside the big plastic bags, and simply blended in with the paraphernalia that campers and attendees of the parade had left overnight. As the floats started their procession, we began our distribution as the night before. Again, within a few hours we had successfully given away thousands more publications.

Our thanks are due to you, without whom our work would not be possible—thank you!

Your Mission World Family

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—William Hazlitt

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