

Mid-East Prophecy Update - February 10th, 2008

The Sydney Morning Herald - Nine dead in week of shootings - February 10, 2008 - A FEMALE student shot dead two women before turning the gun on herself at a college in ... Louisiana, in the latest deadly episode in a week of shootings. Police in Baton Rouge said they had found three women, who had apparently all died from gunshot wounds, in a classroom at the college. "It appears that one of the deceased is the actual shooter, that she shot two other young women inside the classroom, killing both of them, before turning the gun on herself," said Police Sergeant Don Kelly. Earlier in the week, a gunman opened fire at an Ohio school. He wounded his estranged wife, then killed himself. And in Missouri, a gunman burst into a council meeting and shot seven people, five fatally.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/nine-dead-in-week-of-shootings/2008/02/09/1202234232391.html>

- Not only will this be old news by next week, but I suggest to you that we are so desensitized by evil and to evil, that this doesn't faze us.
- To demonstrate this, I'm going to remind you of another shooting that happened less than two weeks ago, and it's already off the radar.

Gaurdian UK - 'Multiple' Victims in Chicago Shootings – Saturday February 2nd, 2008 - TINLEY PARK, Ill. (AP) - "Multiple" victims were found Saturday at a clothing store in a strip mall but there was no sign of the shooter, authorities said. They did not immediately confirm a report that four people had been killed. ... "No motive has been established," Grady said. "Every store was immediately canvassed and a search by air, too, has given us every indication that the offender has left the scene."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/7277559>

- I suppose you could say that as the world waxes worse and worse, and becomes more and more evil by the day, we go on with life.
- The reason for this is because we don't value life or the giver of life. If you believe that we evolved from animals, then you'll act like it.
- When our sons and daughter's grow up believing that we're from animals, and like animals, we really can't expect them to value life.

- Needless to say, these shootings are a "sign of the times," and yet another indicator that we are living in the "last-days."
- The Apostle Paul describes for Timothy how brutal, rash, treacherous, abusive, and ungodly, people will be in the last days.

2 Timothy 3:1-4 1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God- NIV

- One might argue that there have always been brutal murders like these multiple shootings. Yes, but it's happening more often now.
- It is for this reason that as believers we should interpret weeks like we just had as a sign that we are most certainly in the last days.
- Matthew records for us how Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of that day for not discerning last days "signs of the times."

Matthew 16:2-3 2 He replied, "When evening comes, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red,' 3 and in the morning, 'Today it will be stormy, for the sky is red and overcast.' You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times. NIV

- Again, these recent shootings that claim the lives of multiple victims all within a week are undoubtedly a sign of the times.
- This is just one of many signs that we can interpret to mean that we are the generation that will see the Lord's return.
- I am keenly aware that there are those who would ridicule this because every generation has thought it was the end.

Jude 17-18 17 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions which were made by the apostles (the special messengers) of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed one). 18 They told you beforehand, In the last days (in the end time) there will be scoffers [who seek to gratify their own unholy desires], following after their own ungodly passions. AMP

- The Apostle Peter echo's this same prophecy, that in the last days they will scoff at the notion of the Lord's return, following evil desires.

2 Peter 3:3-4 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. 4 They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation." NIV

- He goes onto explain why there will be so much evil, and why people will go on with their lives like there's no coming judgment.

2 Peter 3:5-8 5 But they deliberately forget that long ago by God's word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. 6 By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. 7 By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. 8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

- Peter goes onto say that just because Jesus seems slow in His coming, doesn't mean He isn't coming, there's a reason He's waiting.

2 Peter 3:9-10 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

- So, there will be scoffers in the last days, and there will be ungodliness in the last days; there's nothing we can do about it anyway.
- There is one thing we can do, and Peter goes on to tell us what it is, and how it is that we can actually speed the coming of the Lord.

2 Peter 3:11-13 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. NIV

- I believe that this is just one of many signs pointing to the imminent return of Jesus Christ for His church, in the rapture of the church.

- I'm thinking about, and praying about, doing a future multi-part prophecy update titled; "Global Warming or Global Warning?"