



CHURCH ARISE!

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Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

3rd Biennial Africa Leadership Summit (ALS) held in Jerusalem



Church Arise! was privileged to participate in the 3rd edition of the biennial Africa Leadership Summit (ALS) which held August 25-Sept 1 at Jerusalem. The Summit was convened to provide a connection between Africa's businesses and institutions with Israel's, with the ultimate aim of connecting Africa with the Abrahamic covenant.

The timing could not have been more auspicious, with the State of Israel prophetically looking forward to new initiatives and alliances as she marks a number of significant anniversaries. These included 120 years (to the week) since the first Zionist Conference held in Basel; 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, committing the British Empire to the establishment of a Jewish state in the ancient homeland; 70 years since the declaration of Independence by the State (1948); and a Jubilee (50 years) since Jews took possession of the Temple Mount again in 1967 - after more than 2000 years absence! → p3

3rd National Conference on Environment and Health.....booting!

Plans for the 3rd National Conference on Environment and Health are already underway, following the successful previous editions. The key objective of this Conference is to develop a Platform for comprehensive, holistic and realistic discussion of Environment-Health issues in Nigeria by all relevant stakeholders. A principal goal is achieving Sustainable Development for our nation. At the last edition, registration had to be stopped when the turnout exceeded all expectations and materials provided got exhausted → cont'd on p3

National Christian Elders stick out neck for Nigeria's future



Walking the talk, eminent Christian leaders from the six geo-political zones of Nigeria have decided it is time they stuck out their necks to push for restructuring of Nigeria so as to promote good governance, true democracy, nationalism, prosperity, and righteousness in the country. These respected patriots working as the National Christian Elders Forum (NCEF), under the aegis of the Christian Association of Nigeria, are currently engaging Nigerian Christianity in ways never before seen.

For instance, in their interaction with the Senate on Tuesday 25th July, the Elders Forum challenged Christian senators from Southern and Middle Belt zones on key national issues including the attempts to islamize the educational curriculum in the country under their watch. In another series of ongoing engagements, the NCEF is challenging the major political parties to reject politics of religion and ethnicity, and rather embrace nationalistic politicking. Under the theme: Nigeria Once Free, Forever Free, the NCEF is urging Christians and all ethnic nationalities in Nigeria to resist every intimidation and fear. The Forum observed that fear is deliberately being ramped up in the polity, so as to intimidate Nigerians and cause them to capitulate to neo-colonization.

In a 32 page Confidential Document, the NCEF expressed regret that Nigeria has been grappling with various forms of colonization from inception. It point-blankly lends her support for the call for restructuring the country back along

the federal lines which was unfortunately unilaterally disrupted by the military during their intervention in 1966. Above all, the body urges all Christians, and indeed all Nigerians, to remain watchful and prayerful.

Christians interested in additional information from the NCEF could register at www.csmnigeria.org while financial supports could be forwarded through the Christian Social Movement of Nigeria, Account Number 1014138350, Zenith Bank.

Reality of Jihad in Nigeria (Excerpt from a recent Press Release by the NCEF)

Since the crux of the matter is the strenuous attempt by some Nigerian Muslim leaders to deny the reality of the ongoing Jihad in the Nation, the NCEF is compelled to make the following points clear in the consideration of what has now become a national debate. NCEF shall be grateful to receive clarifications from Muslim leaders on the issues below:

i. Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram, in one of his video releases, said in 2012, “... *This war is not political. It is religious. It is between Muslims and unbelievers (arna). It will stop when Islamic religion is the determinant in governance in Nigeria or, in the alternative, when all fighters are annihilated and no one is left to continue the fight,....*”

If this statement is not a declaration of Jihad, could Muslim leaders explain what this means?

ii. In 1989, Islam in Africa Organization (IAO) held a Conference in Abuja and amongst many other decisions, released a Communiqué tagged Abuja Declarations 1989 in which it affirmed that its purpose was “*To eradicate in all its forms and ramifications all non-Muslim religions in member nations. Such religions shall include Christianity, Ahmadiyya and other tribal religions....*” Could we be corrected that the Conference never held in Abuja in November 1989 or such Communiqué was never released? We are also unaware of any rebuttal of the same statement by Muslims leaders.

iii. In a 154 page Research Report conducted by Arne Mulder in 2015, the researcher affirmed that over 13,000 Christian places of worship (Churches) have been destroyed in Northern Nigeria as at December 2014. Under what condition do Muslim insurgents destroy Churches if not Jihad?

iv. On the 4th of February, 2017, the United States Congress affirmed that the most dangerous nation on earth for anyone to be a Christian is Nigeria. The implication is that Nigerian Christians have become endangered species in a country in which they constitute over 50% of the population.

v. According to the Global Index on Terror, the 1st and the 4th most terrible Islamic Terrorist organizations in the world operate in Nigeria. Boko Haram is 1st while the Fulani Herdsmen is 4th. If these terror organizations are not fighting Jihad, what then are they doing in Nigeria?

vi. Under the present administration, every key and sensitive position in National Security is held by Muslims from the North, in outright violation of Section 14 (3) of the 1999 Constitution. Also early in the life of this administration, we recall that more than 95% of senior army officers retired from the Military were Christians. In NNPC, only recently, more than 95% of the new appointments into senior management positions are Northern Muslims.

vii. Despite unconstitutionally appropriating all security positions to the Muslim North, the Fulani Herdsmen operate with impunity in mostly Christian areas, killing, maiming, raping, and destroying without any arrest, without any prosecution. If this is not complicity of the Muslim dominated Security services, are we then to conclude that the Nigerian security units are so incompetent that they cannot successfully engage insurgents after the Nigerian Army successfully prosecuted a Civil War?

viii. In 2011 in Harvard, USA, his eminence the Sultan of Sokoto who is also the President of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs, was reported to have said during a public function, “*I do not recognize any Nigerian Constitution and the only Constitution I recognize is the Koran....*” Therefore, when the President of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs said in a foreign land (which is in itself a treasonable statement) that he does not believe in the Nigerian Constitution (which guarantees freedom of religious conviction), but he believes only in the Koran (which forbids freedom of worship through Sharia’s “*ridda*”), could not the statement of the Sultan be interpreted as an endorsement of Jihad?

ix. Added to the above are the big questions begging for answers. Who is funding and

equipping the Islamic insurgents? And more importantly, who is shielding them from prosecution?

Tens of thousands of Nigerians, mostly Christians, have been murdered by religious insurgents. The murderers of 74 years old Mrs. Bridget Agbaheme in Kano were discharged and acquitted in a Kano court! According to World Watch Monitor, over 60% of global casualties as a result of religious persecution are Nigerian Christians killed in Nigeria. Muslim leaders have to do more to persuade us that JIHAD has not been launched in Nigeria.

LSF CONFERENCE 2018 (continued from p1)

The Communique has been widely distributed to key stakeholders in all sectors in the country.

To ensure that future editions are even more impactful, a Steering Committee comprising of eminent stakeholders in the Environment-Health sector in Nigeria has been instituted. It is chaired by the distinguished medical microbiologist and parasitologist, Prof Aaron Aboderin of the OAU, Ile-Ife, while Dr Adeniyi Oginni, the eminent President of the Osun State chapter of the Nigeria Environmental Society serves as the Secretary. Dr Oginni, (an MD with a PhD) is a civil servant and civil society leader who also serves as adjunct Senior Lecturer in Public Health at the Adeleke University, Ede. Other eminent members of the Committee include Mr Adeleke Ajani (South-West Director of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency - NESREA), Dr (Mrs) Emma-Okon (Head of Medical Biochemistry at the OAU, Ile-Ife), Prof Folorunso Ogundare (Dean at the Faculty of Science, UI, Ibadan), Mrs Toyin Ikuteyijo of the Faculty of Social Sciences, OAU, Dr Oluropo Dairo of the College of Natural Sciences, RUN, Ede, Mr Tope Akinwunmi, President of the Environmental Health Officers Association of Nigerian, Osun State, and Prof Joshua Ojo, President of the LivingScience Foundation. The third edition of the Conference is expected to hold at the Redeemer's University, Ede, Osun State - same venue as the previous two editions. Date will be sometime around May 2018 – if the Lord tarries.

**“Ye are the Salt of the Earth.....
Ye are the Light of the World...”**
(Mathew 5:13-14)

AFRICA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (from p.1)

Main speakers at the Summit included key Israeli national figures such as Nathan Sharansky (a highly respected national hero), and his Deputy at the highly strategic Jewish Agency for Israel, Danielle Mor. Sharansky recalled Theodore Herzl's rather puzzling statement at the first Zionist Convention, when he said: “After I have liberated Israel, I must turn to liberate Africa” confirming that Israel's interest and commitment to forging an enduring link with Africa is not a frivolous recent opportunistic move at all. Ambassador Gil Haskel who heads the Moshav (Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation) spoke extensively of the Agency's commitment to the world. He repeatedly emphasized that Israel knows exactly what it means to be refugees with no property. And having come out of such a state, she is very willing to help others who are grappling with the same issues today.

Nir Barkat, the Mayor of Jerusalem explained in great depth the uniqueness of Jerusalem in her status as a melting point for different cultures, peoples, and religions. He explained from secular and Jewish perspectives why ‘maintaining “*status quo*” is a sacrosanct concept in Jerusalem. He pointed out that right from biblical times, Jerusalem had not been assigned to any of the 12 tribes of Israel, but all were expected to ascend there and worship God.

The amiable and eminent Prof Jerry Gana of Nigeria responded on behalf of Africa; pointing out how Africa had always been there for Israel, when it mattered most: whether in the raising up of the great princes of Israel, Joseph and Moses; or in providing refuge for Israel's most famous son, the Lord Jesus Christ, during Herod's pogrom. In concluding the Response, Prof Gana prophesied: “Africa with Israel together will give something new to the world. We did it before, we will do it again.” In his main address later in the Summit, Prof Jerry Gana spoke extensively with incisive examples, on challenges facing leadership in business and politics in Africa. He also proffered a number of pragmatic godly solutions.

The spiritual discussions took the Summit to yet another dimension entirely. Messianic Jew, Pastor Benjamin Berger spoke on the “De-Judaization of Scriptures”, while his brother

Pastor Reuven Berger provided further insights into the spiritual mystery of Jerusalem. See [page 8](#) for more on Pastor Reuven's message.

Contributing various side dishes to the spiritual buffet during the Summit were Pastors John AdejoroOluwa from Nigeria (a disciple of the revered Pa John Elton), David Kaberere from Kenya, Sis Margaret Aduol from Kenya (her Holy Spirit-given prayer language is Hebrew!), and Apostle Linda Gbogodo from South Africa. The main spiritual dish was presented by Pastor Segun Olanipekun who leads the Pretoria-based Institute for Christian Leadership Development (ICLD), main conveners of the Summit. His key message addressed the subject of Covenants as a vital means of bringing enduring blessing into a community, and the timeliness of Africa connecting into the Abrahamic Covenant. Pastor Segun noted on the sideline that the root of the problem at the Temple Mount is the two covenants described in Gal. 4:21-31 as co-existing on one territory. That sounded very much like the conclusion of the National Christian Elders Forum that the root of Nigeria's problem is the existence of dual ideology, with both Sharia and Democracy co-existing in the same constitution.

A major highlight of the Summit was the launch of the Africa-Israel Chambers of Commerce coordinated by Vulzewa Nyakaza of South Africa (visit <https://africa-israelchamber.com/>). In the same vein the proposal for an African Agency was mooted. Joshua Ojo of CA! was privileged to be nominated into the eminent Group chosen to work out the feasibility and details of the Agency. Yet another highlight was the launch of the Book of Signatures amassing signatures from Africans affirming Africa's support for Israel, and recognition of Jerusalem as her eternal capital. Copies of the book, which will be concluded at the 4th ALS in 2019, were presented to Natan Sharansky, Ambassador Gil Haskel, and Mayor Barkat.

Participants at the ALS came from Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, as well as from the Diaspora (outside Africa). A four-day prophetic tour capped the highly edifying Summit. The Summit was widely reported in several international media including [Jerusalem Post](#), and [Israel Collective](#). Watch videos at the Institute of Christian Leadership Development website: www.icld.co.za.

PLANET EARTH WITNESSING NATURAL DISASTERS IN SCALES UNPRECEDENTED AND WITH EVER-INCREASING FREQUENCIES

With the rage released by hurricanes Harvey and Irma the world was once again reminded of just how precarious our world could be. In just a very short period of time, things could indeed unpredictably and unexpectedly turn dramatically around. The horrible fact that natural disasters could just pop out from nowhere to drastically change one's world literally (for the dead) forever was brought home to some many people in different parts of the world in the third quarter of 2017.

Thanks to a proactive and dedicated fire-fighting team of over 500, no loss of life was recorded in the La Tuna Fire, a wildfire which erupted from the La Tuna canyon area of Los Angeles on Friday Sept 1 and grew to become the "largest blaze in the city's history". Some 5,000-acre were affected, and more than 700 homes had to be evacuated. ([Details here](#))

With the world's attention diverted to [other issues](#) of more interest to it, than "some African deaths," it took a while before external assistance came for the victims of the mudslide at Sierra Leone (August 14) and at DR Congo (August 16). The monsoon storm that started in India leaving some [21 people died](#) in a collapsed building in Mumbai, India, went ahead to ravish other locations in Nepal and Bangladesh. At the end of the rage, "more than 1,200 are estimated to have died" while some "40 million have been affected in some way by the heavy downpours." <http://www.christianheadlines.com/blog/more-than-1-200-people-have-died-in-massive-southeast-asia-flooding.html>

Of course the major attention grabbers were hurricane Harvey and Irma. Starting as an innocuous "tropical storm" on Aug. 21, Harvey developed into a Category 1 Hurricane three days later. Less than 30 hours later (by 6 pm on Aug. 25), it had grown into a Category 4 Hurricane. It landed four hours later bringing unprecedented carnage to Houston. It was dubbed "a disaster unlike anything that we have ever seen before in all of U.S. history," with total amount of economic damage [estimated](#) at about 190 billion US dollars. Over 100,000 homes were destroyed and "up to one million vehicles" were ruined.

Thereafter came Hurricane Irma followed almost immediately by Hurricane [Maria](#) (see [details here](#)). Both Irma and Maria attained Category 5 status and brought widespread devastation to the Caribbean Islands.

Virtually every form of natural disaster possible were manifested on grand scale during this period. Ranging from Earthquakes (August 8, [China](#), 25 dead; Sept 8, [Mexico](#), 98 dead; Sept 19, [Mexico](#), 226 dead); to both Cold Wave ([North India cold wave](#); [January European cold wave](#)) and Heat Wave; Avalanches ([Rigopiano avalanche](#); [Gurez sector avalanche](#), [Afghanistan avalanches](#)); Mudslides, [Landslides](#), [Tornadoes](#), Wildfires, and Volcano eruptions.

Ranked on the basis on human toll, [the US News](#) has compiled what they dubbed ten of the deadliest natural disasters of 2017. These are: Over 96 killed in Mexico's biggest earthquake in a century, 117 killed by severe rains and a downgraded cyclone in Zimbabwe, 126 killed in severe floods and other natural disasters in China, 150 killed in the flooding at Peru, and 156 killed in the avalanches caused by heavy rainfall in Afghanistan. Others were various mudslides and landslides that killed (official figures) 174 in DR Congo, 213 in Sri Lanka, 300 in Colombia, 600 in Sierra Leone, and 1200 in South Asia (600 of these in India alone). <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/slideshows/10-of-the-deadliest-natural-disasters-of-2017>.

While those directly affected by all these are not likely to forget the experiences in a hurry, human nature is such that those of us who only read about them or watched on TV will soon get enmeshed again in our unending rat race after trivialities. One wonders how many would be aroused by all these events to re-examine their life's focus and priorities, knowing that "... the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal. (2 Cor. 4:18)

We conclude this article with the statement generally used by Prophecy News to preface its Prophecy Updates videos: "Never, in the history throughout the world have so many forces, including economic, scientific, technologic, ecologic, cultural, geopolitical, moral, spiritual and religion, converged together to bring this world that's already teetering over the edge into the abyss, to a point of no return.

Jesus said when you see all these signs happening, know that I am near, even at the door."

Role of the Supernatural in Natural Disasters

Are natural disasters caused, or is their occurrence totally random and uncontrollable? If caused, are they due to actions/inactions of God or those of Man? These again are the hotly debated issues this season of unprecedented natural disasters around the globe. The answers we give will be extremely important as they would inevitably lead into directions and actions that might be very expensive in socioeconomic and spiritual terms as we endeavour to either prevent or at least mitigate the impacts of these natural disasters. An alternative title for this article might have been Role of Man in "Acts of God," as natural disasters are often labelled.

The Scriptures state, matter-of-factly, that natural disasters would be major features of the end times. Eg Lk 10:27-30. But this does not necessarily mean they would be as form of judgement - as some have [suggested](#) that Hurricane Harvey in Texas was divine judgement upon people who voted Donald Trump!

But of course, God might indeed use natural disasters as judgement - as is evident in the plagues preceding Israel's exodus from Egypt. From the revealed nature of God, natural disasters meant as judgement could be averted or reversed if people would take the response God is demanding - as happened in Nineveh. But how would people repent (see Amos 4:9-12) if the Supernatural is *a priori* ruled out, and momentous natural upheavals (disasters) are never to be discussed in terms of anything beyond the natural?

This not only shuts out explanations in terms of the supernatural, also preclude seeking divine intervention. All attention is thereafter diverted to some poorly defined "climate change" as the culprit. Of course such change is adduced to man's lifestyle choices. The real problem with this perspective is when it dogmatically limits the culpability of Man in such disruptions of the ecosystems only to his physical activities alone.

The Bible is very clear that God made the planet earth "very good" at inception, and designed sustainability into it. Man was supposed to ensure sustainable development of the planet, by wisely exercising his God-given dominion and

generally “tending and keeping the garden” (Gen 2:15). By this fact alone, Man cannot be absolved from blame (if not due to outright commission, then due to omission) from the earth going so wildly out of balance. But it goes much farther than that.

Man’s culpability would extend to other dimensions including significantly in the issue of SIN. Ten years ago, [we noted](#) how in discussing pollution of ground water in serious academic fora for instance, the overwhelming contribution of oestrogen used indiscriminately in contraceptive pills is never to be mentioned because, as one expert [puts it](#), “‘I’m not going there....This involves people’s personal lives, child bearing issues, sex lives and personal choices” In another article, years ago, we referenced a study that showed the significant negative contribution of divorce to the energy use on the planet – for instance two apartments with their utilities are used by separated couples rather than the single they would use if living together. All these issues that are being pushed under the carpet are indeed major determinants in the occurrence of “natural disasters”. And not just that they could on their own throw the ecosystem out of balance and frustrate the sustainability measures designed into our world by the Almighty, the sin issue could indeed provoke God into afflicting the world with such “acts of God” Himself.

Few people would argue that God cannot control the elements – either to cause disasters or avert them. In modern times, the parting of the red sea as recorded in Exodus has been [simulated](#) and shown to be perfectly feasible. The fact however here is that the 63 mph East wind that blew for 12 hours leading to the parting of waters at a very strategic geographical location did not happen randomly. God purposely brought it into action to deliver His people. And as one awe-stricken [Israeli commander](#) was to confess during the 50 day Hamas rocket war of 2014, the winds that suddenly developed sweeping off Hamas rockets away from populated regions into the sea, making the [Hamas scientists](#) appear as bungling idiots, certainly had in it the fingers of the God of Israel!

Other people would insist that even Man now has the capability to deliberately cause massive upheavals in the environment through

some weather engineering technology such as HAARP (see for instance [here](#), and [here](#)). If that is possible, it is still limited to the realm of secret military applications. But clearly even if that were possible, severe limitations in prediction of consequences. Despite all the impressive progress being made in the development of Chaos theory in theoretical physics, attempting to predict the path of a hurricane is not in the same league as the rather elementary task of predicting the path of a solar eclipse. Many obviously don’t know the difference as shown in this [article](#) from the incorrigibly irreverent Punch correspondent.

By way of conclusion, we concur that man is centrally culpable in the disruptions in the balance of ecosystem which is now manifesting as natural disasters. However it is simplistic limiting this only to man’s physical lifestyle, such as extensive use of fossil fuel. The significant impacts of his other activities, particularly moral and spiritual issues, must be recognized and factored in.

In sponsoring the [LivingScience Foundation](#), Church Arise! intends that sustainability issues on earth be seriously discussed in holistic, comprehensive and realistic rigorous manner - in the best of scientific tradition.

The bottom-line: one of the incontrovertible clear facts in all this flurry of unprecedented natural disasters is that this is exactly what the Bible says would happen in the end times. They are therefore, irrespective of the underlying causes, a clear pointer that we are in the end times. And when the sum total is taken together, soci-economic, moral, etc. we can literally hear the footsteps of the Lord at the door. The Lord has asked we continue to occupy and manage the planet earth till He finally shows up. The way to do this is to adopt a holistic, comprehensive perspective, keeping the physical, social, and the spiritual dimensions constantly in view and in healthy balance.

Ultimately, we look forward to God’s promise for a brand new planet in the future holy and righteous kingdom to be unfolded soon at Christ’s coming. Will you be a partaker?

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. **Rev 22:12**

Yellowstone: The World prepares for the Mother of All Natural Disasters, but only few are paying attention

It might be difficult to imagine Hurricane Harvey to be relatively not more than a storm in the tea cup, but scientists are all agreed that far more devastating catastrophes await planet earth. It's only a matter of time. One of these anticipated disasters is the chance of some asteroid colliding with planet earth (see CA! [Vol 16 Q1](#)). But as the NASA involved itself in brainstorming on how best to prepare against such hazard from outer space, it recognized that there is an even more urgent, and much more potentially devastating hazard right here on the planet: Eruptions of super volcanoes.

There are clear records of just what fair-sized volcanic eruptions can cause. Known examples include the eruption of [Mt Vesuvius](#) in the year 79 and [Mt St Helen](#), more recently in May 1980. The eruption of a supervolcano, such as Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming, US, will dwarf all these catastrophes (See [1400-Quake Swarm Prompts Question "If Yellowstone Erupted, What Would Be Left?"](#)) What is amazing is that, despite the reports of [increasing activities](#) at the supervolcano Yellowstone, the world should still devote virtually all attention and resources debating "global warming" while leaving unaddressed the fire on the roof.

Not that the issue is entirely left unaddressed. The NASA is currently tinkering with a number of [game-plans](#) to avert, or at least delay, the coming eruption from Yellowstone. The easiest of these plans, so far, is designed to run for some hundred thousand years! Ridiculous as that may sound, it's the best plan to date. The real complication is that Yellowstone is reckoned to erupt every 600,000 years (according to conventional dating techniques). And by those same reckoning, the last eruption occurred some 600,000 years ago, meaning another one is due literally any time from now. And with ongoing rumbles in the volcano, the handwriting on the wall is clear enough. The real problem is that most people are simply unaware all that this grave problem exists at all!

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2017-08-19/nasa-unveils-plan-stop-world-ending-supervolcano-eruptiontheres-just-one-catch>

Islamic-inspired terror no longer news material

Islamic-inspired terror has reached such a proportion that unless they happen in locations such as Europe or United States, they hardly get reported anymore. The world owes Robert Spencer and his team a ton of gratitude for helping us to at least keep track of these virtually countless atrocities visited on fellow humans by people claiming to be full of zeal for the cause of Islam. Citing location and date, The Religion of Peace (TROP) [website](#) lists cases of Islam-inspired killing and maiming since 11th September 2001. So far, in the year 2017, (as at 3rd October) TROP has [catalogued 1,600](#) Islamic attacks in **55** countries, in which **10,904** people were killed and **11,225** injured. Most of these incidents are terror attacks. A handful are honor killings or Sharia executions.

TROP is a non-partisan, fact-based site which examines the ideological threat that Islam poses to human dignity and freedom. In the month of September, **806** people were killed and **688** injured in **131** attacks carried out across 20 countries. 14 of these occurred in Nigeria and are listed in the Table below.

| Date | Location | Details |
|---------|-----------|--|
| 30-Sept | Bama | One person is killed during a Boko Haram attack. |
| 27-Sept | Guzamala | Islamists kill three villagers and burn over 100 homes. |
| 27-Sept | Dikwa | At least two people along a highway die from a Boko Haram bomb blast. |
| 26-Sept | Dikwa | A female suicide bomber storms a rival mosque and sends five souls to Allah. |
| 20-Sept | Daima | At least nine innocents are slaughtered when Boko Haram attack a peaceful farming community. |
| 18-Sept | Mashalari | Two female suicide bombers attack an aid distribution station, slaughtering over fifteen needy people. |

| | | |
|---------|-------------|---|
| 17-Sept | Kurmiri | Five villagers are murdered by Boko Haram |
| 8-Sept | Ancha | Six women and six children are among nineteen Christian villagers butchered by Fulani terrorists. |
| 8-Sept | Ngala | Islamists pour machine-gun fire into a displaced person camp, picking apart seven refugees. |
| 8-Sept | Muna Garage | Two refugees are blown to bits in the camp by a Boko Haram suicide blast. |
| 8-Sept | Mallan | Two farmers are gunned down by Islamists. |
| 6-Sept | Mallan | Three young people are shot to death by Boko Haram. |
| 6-Sept | Kesa Kura | Advocates for a Sharia state murder three villagers. |
| 5-Sept | Bulamari | Boko Haram murder four farmers in a drive-by shooting |

Meanwhile, a new groundbreaking regulation proscribing full-face Muslim veils in public spaces became effective in Austria as from October 1. Similar laws requiring the face to be completely visible in all public spaces, including bus, rail, air and sea transport are already in operation in Belgium, France, and the Netherlands. The Austrian version also prohibits Islamic radicals from distributing the Koran.

Egypt Sentences ISIS members to Death for the Beheading of 21 Coptic Christians in Libya

Remember this chilling picture? Justice has caught up with seven members of the ISIS terror group responsible for the beheading of 21



Egyptian Christians in Libya in February 2015. (see Vol 18 Qtr 3). An Egyptian court on 16th

September sentenced them to death, three of them in absentia. Thirteen others are on trial in the same case, and rulings for them are scheduled to be

delivered on Nov. 25. During the two-year anniversary of the beheadings earlier in the year, a widow of one of the martyrs told the International Christian Concern that she was proud of his husband for having kept the faith. "He has lifted our heads up and honoured us and all the Christians." Similarly the children of the martyrs praised the courage their fathers showed the world by refusing to renounce their faith, even in the face of certain death. For details, see <http://www.christianpost.com/news/egypt-sentences-isis-killers-to-death-for-beheading-of-21-coptic-christians-in-libya-199575/>

MYSTERY JERUSALEM FURTHER EXPOUNDED AT JERUSALEM AFRICAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (ALS)

Pastor Reuven Berger had spoken on Jerusalem mystery at the ALS which held in Ile-Ife in 2016 (see [CA! Vol 19 Qtr 2, No. 104](#)). He took the subject to new depths at the recently concluded ALS held in the city of Jerusalem (Aug 27-30). One major conclusion of the talk is that the city of Jerusalem is currently in spiritual bondage and that Christians are duty-bound to pray for her.

In another article in the previous edition of CA!, we address the troubling statistics in Europe and the United States of churches closing enmasse, and mosques replacing them. Does Planting Churches matter? As Pastor Agu Irukwu [pointed out](#), it's all about exercising territorial dominion (see <http://churcharise.blogspot.com>). Even if there are only a dozen worshippers, what heaven sees is a worship centre.

The issue is particularly well-illustrated by the ongoing fierce spiritual battle for Mount Moriah. Expounding on this and ongoing efforts to build the 3rd Temple, Pastor Reuven Berger pointed out that the very existence of two Islamic shrines on Mount Moriah is a literal depiction of Jerusalem being currently in bondage with her children. As illustrated in Gal.4.25 Agar is clearly currently having the upper hand. The spiritual world is desperate to prevent a change in status quo on the mount. Who is worshipped on Mount Moriah would be God: Satan or Jehovah. Hence the raging conflict.

In a previous write-up, Pastor Bill Randles captures these issues concerning Mount Moriah in the following words."There is something so spiritually sensitive about this mountain, that the

dark powers of the earth fear a change of status on it. Much of the final controversy and horrifying judgments of the last days are called by Isaiah, "The controversy of Zion." <http://www.raptureready.com/2017/08/22/unesco-fulfills-ezekiel-36-temple-mount-bill-randles/>

Pastor Reuven explained that "Zion" literally means a designated place. However spiritually, "what makes "Zion" "Zion" is God's promise that it would be His resting place. God seeks a resting place in His people. Pastor Reuven then spoke of three "Zions," depicted respectively as ZION, Zion, and zion. ZION represents the heavenly Jerusalem that is coming. The one described in Hebrews 12:22 comprising the entire community of saints gone and present. Zion refers to the current earthly Jerusalem (currently in spiritual bondage). Lastly, zion refers to each child of God anywhere on the planet at this glorious Church Age. According to Pastor Reuven, the will of God is that Zion be delivered from her bondage and be aligned (vertically) with the heavenly ZION. Likewise, all the zions are to align (horizontally) with Zion, praying into existence, the will of God over Her. These vertical and horizontal alignments, centred on Zion, is represented by the Cross. As the Enemy gathers his forces against Zion, God is also gathering His Mahanaim, 2 camps comprised of a heavenly and an earthly squad.

As alluded to by several other speakers at the ALS, more or less just as a key and its lock need to be properly aligned for a functional fit, alignment of the "Zions" is required to if Heaven is to come inhabit Earth. Such as was demonstrated when the Holy Spirit visibly came to inhabit the Lord Jesus Christ during His baptism at Jordan, and the Church at Pentecost.

For now, it is Homecoming approaching, both for the Church and for Israel. According to Pastor Reuven, "The homecoming of the Bride is the homecoming of Israel to the Lord." As Israel gets enlightened and returns to the Lord, her Messiah the Lord Jesus; it will also be time for the Church to return to the Lord, being joined with Her Head, in the Rapture.

The focus therefore for now, is the building of the Temple of Men, the Church. (1 Peter 2:5). Thereafter, with the Rapture accomplished, the focus can shift back to the Temple of Stones – to be located on Mount Moriah. (Interesting to note

that Mount Moriah is on the same range as Calvary).

The gentile Church therefore needs to pray for Israel, that God's first son, estranged for our sakes (Exo. 4:22, Rom 11:26) would soon be reconciled back to Him. Temporary estrangement between God and his first son Israel happened so as to give us opportunity to be grafted into the covenant and be reconciled to God. It is our responsibility to share in God's burden that reconciliation between Him and His first son be not delayed. The stock into which the gentiles are grafted is the Messianic Jews, starting from the early Apostles. Currently, orthodox Jews object seriously to Messianic Jews who they consider to be cults. (see www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/234849)

In a nutshell, our ultimate assignment for this age is preparing the Highway for the soon-return of the Great King. Israel's being grafted back into her own tree will literally be "resurrection from the dead." Not only for Israel, but for us all! (Rom 11:15).

SEPTEMBER 23: (continued from back page) or ultimately, to the blaring of the long-awaited Trump of God, which presumably will signal the Rapture of the saints off the planet. Our focus is on the Rapture, which according to the Scriptures is an event BOUND to occur – any time from now, and without any further warning. As will be evident shortly, TODAY Friday 22nd September 2017 is an especially appropriate and interesting day to examine the Rapture in relation with the feasts the Lord instituted for Israel. There are seven of these feasts, (celebrated as a cluster of three festivals) and they are elaborately described in Leviticus 23:1-44. The first cluster comprised of three feasts which are celebrated in the Spring season (around April), then there is one Feast for the summer, and another cluster of three feasts come up during the Fall season (around September).

It is generally accepted that the four feasts associated with Spring/Summer were fulfilled at Jesus first coming, exactly at the periods when the feasts were physically being celebrated in Israel. Thus the Lord was crucified at the feast of Passover, buried at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and rose from the dead during First fruits. Furthermore, seven weeks after His resurrection, on the exact day of the feast of Pentecost ("when

the day of Pentecost was fully come..." Acts 2:1), He sent the Holy Spirit on the disciples, marking the birth of the Church. It is interesting to note that it was also on this day that Moses had brought the Torah from the Mountain, thus in a way, marking also the birth of Israel. (<http://endtimepilgrim.org/jewishfeasts.htm>)

Most Bible scholars therefore believe that the Fall feasts also would similarly be fulfilled in their exact times. Thus the trumpet to herald the arrival of the Lord Jesus back to earth is expected to sound exactly on the Feast of the Trumpets, which would then usher in the Day of Atonement, and ultimately heaven literally coming to earth at the Feast of Tabernacles/Indwelling. These last 3 feasts are not expected to be fulfilled in the same year though. In fact, the final literal return of Jesus to earth (expected for a Feast of Tabernacles) is not expected to happen until the final "week" (7 years) appointed for the nation of Israel (see Daniel 9:27) has been fulfilled.

Here then is what the time-table is expected to look like: The Trumpet sounds, heralding His coming, rousing the dead in Christ (1 Cor. 15:52, 1 Thess. 4:16-17), closing the Church age (Rom. 11:25, 2 Thess. 2:7), and automatically kicking off the final week (7 years) appointed for Israel (Dan. 9:27). Simultaneous with the sounding of the Trumpet, the antichrist shoots into prominence with the exit of the Church which had hitherto restrained his manifestation (2 Thess. 2:8), presumably aided by the emergence of a series of truly catastrophic global events that would need a man of extra charisma for their resolution. The solution to be proffered by the antichrist to these global problems will be purely humanistic and would only work for a while, about three and half years. Things will eventually become very rough for the Jews who would still want to honour the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. For the next three-and-half years, persecuted and threatened, the Jews are nevertheless taken care of by the special Divine arrangement of Rev. 12:6, 13-14. This period eventually closes with the Lord Jesus physically coming to rescue Israel and usher in the millennial reign of the Kingdom (Zech. 14, 2 Thess. 2:8).

Now to some hard facts on ground. Tomorrow Saturday September 23, the skies over Jerusalem would witness a special configuration

of stars, planets and other heavenly bodies which very much will vividly resemble the vision described in Revelations 12:1ff. Blaring of Trumpets, which started yesterday at Rosh Hashanah will also continue as the nation of Israel marks [Shabbat Shuva](#) (Shabbat of Returning), the Shabbat between Rosh Hashana and the Day of Atonement. All these events, which may not be out-of-the-ordinary on their own, assume gargantuan importance when considered in the context of the many [special jubilees](#) and associated momentous events, all converging in Israel in the year 2017. Now superpose all these with the increasing unprecedented upheavals in the environment, socio-economic, scientific, political, and spiritual sectors, at the global level, as extensively discussed on several occasions by Church Arise!

Something need to give, one way or the other!

The big question for us Rapture-believing Christians (unfortunately MOST Christians in the world today do not believe in a literal Rapture) is: would it be at these particular trumps, that the Heavenly trump will also sound, leading to the rising of the dead in Christ and us still alive and remaining being caught up in the skies?

Church Arise! says, "Why Not!"

To date, we have spoken against date-setting movements. Primarily, because, according to our understanding, events in Christianity, unlike those in Judaism, are not set in stones. They are to be fulfilled entirely at times the Father has put in His own power (Acts 1:7). Indeed, the Church is not directly captured in the Jewish Feasts and all our association of the Rapture with the Feasts are only based on deductions. **THEREFORE WE BELIEVE THAT THE RAPTURE COULD VERY WELL HAPPEN AHEAD OF ANY PROJECTED DATE (NO MATTER HOW REASONABLE THE DATE).**

In the present circumstances however, with only few hours to these buzz-dates, there is little danger of someone casting off restraints because they believed they still had some years, months, weeks, or even days before such expected dates for the Rapture. We therefore heartily enjoin Christians to enthusiastically keep alive in their hearts, the possibility of the Rapture occurring spontaneously anytime from NOW! This is exceedingly exciting indeed and it is a great

privilege to be able to dare have this hope (Mat. 13:17!)

Of course there is also the big danger, which has repeated itself countless of times [in the past](#), of people developing apathy or even hostility to the subject in the event of a no-show at some previous expected date. In other words, what happens if the Rapture does not happen this weekend? Perhaps it will be a week after. Or we might even have to wait another year, or even longer?

It will be foolish ruling out this possibility! While there are abundant evidences confirming that we are operating as it were in “injury time”, nevertheless, there would remain some fundamental uncertainties in the calculations. And unlike the famous “Uncertainty Principle” of quantum mechanics, we can’t really be sure of the magnitude of deviations we are dealing with. Consider for instance that, even though the Lord Jesus was evidently sacrificed at Passover as our Passover Lamb; that same year, He himself still partook of the Passover meal with His disciples! He would therefore have been seriously mistaken, anyone who seeing the Lord eat the Passover jumped to the conclusion that He (the Lord) would not be fulfilling the Passover that particular year. Bible scholars have addressed this issue. A citation attributed to Josephus explaining that people from the Northern Tribes eat their Passover earlier than those in Judea can be found [here](#), while a more rigorous discussion of the situation can be found [here](#). Furthermore according to an article we posted on our [blog](#) several weeks ago the exact time of the Feast of Trumpet is [NOT predictable](#) as it depends on the actual local weather condition over Jerusalem. Other scholars also strongly argue that The Feast of Trumpets (Yom Teruah) might actually be [different](#) from Rosh Hashanah (see [Shabbat-Shuvah](#), [NehemiahWalls](#))

The point being made here is that tomorrow, September 23, is indeed as good as any day ever calculated for the Rapture to occur; but we must also realize that our best calculations are liable to some minor uncertainties. Even when we can’t be 100% sure of any particular date, we can be 100% sure that the season is here. The day the Rapture would occur would dawn like any other day. Like today.

As with other Kingdom-minded children of God, our prayers at Church Arise! are that there would be no more delays in the ushering in of God’s will on earth as it is in heaven. That His counsel finally overtake and prevail over the current chaos and counsel of hell on our beloved planet. And that this will indeed happen this weekend!

However, if any of this analysis would require you having a drastic change in your schedules, it only confirms you have not had your priorities right as a Christian, all along. The Lord’s instruction is that we occupy till He comes. Thank God there is still room to make amends! Whether the Lord bids us come up this weekend, or tarries a little longer, we must live in such a way that no news or speculations need make us break our strides or schedules. We should endeavour to always put the Kingdom first, at all times!

Do you have issues about your salvation? Simply ask the Lord Jesus to have mercy on you, and believe He is good and will honour His words not to reject, under whatever circumstance, anyone who humbly asks for His mercy. (John 6:37., Rev 3:20, John 8:11)

Meanwhile, we are still here and there is work to do. Hands to the Plough. Eyes on the Master, OCCUPY!

Aftermath of IPOB smash: Herdsmen converge on Abia State

Following the apparent smash of the Biafran separatist group IPOB in its stronghold of Abia state, the ubiquitous Fulani herdsmen have reportedly moved in, demanding grazing areas for their cattle. According to Kess Ewubare of [Naij.com](#), “over 100 herds of cattle” invaded farmlands in Ndiolumbe Nvosi community of Isiala Ngwa local government area of the state recently. When the youths responded, two weeks later, by ejecting cattle from farmlands, they were met with stiff threats from the herdsmen. Spokesperson Mohammed Shuaibu, reportedly demanded that the cattle be left alone, and they would be ready to pay compensation for damages to the crops. The local monarch HRH Eze Godwin Ogbonna laments that famine might be looming in the community, but with Operation Python Dance still ongoing, not many could speak out too loudly.

TOPICAL ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 23: THUMP, TRUMP, OR THE TRUMP?

Amidst extensive speculations that the Rapture was going to happen sometime on September 23, CA! issued a special write-up to address the issue a day before. The article, reposted here, remains valid till the eventual occurrence of this most-certain-to-occur and possibly imminent event.

Amidst the various intense local conflicts and uncertainties on-going all over the world (eg in Nigeria: Restructuring, IPOB, etc), one deafening background buzz is the possibilities of a global cataclysm, a singularity-type event (i.e. something unprecedented, not likely-to-be repeated) happening this very weekend.

Of course in the Jewish calendar, it's the beginning of a new year 5778 (Thursday-Friday). To many people, across several shades of spirituality (Judaism, Bible Prophecy, as well as New Age - including Freemasons and the likes), the general consensus is that the long-prophesied new age would arrive sometime in 5777 after the landmark year [5776](#). Now that the year 5777 itself has expired, rather than the expectation for a coming new age fading with it, it is only being extra-ordinarily heightened, and now adjudged "overdue".

The convergence of expectations across these diverse strange bedfellows of spiritualities is hinged on various premises. These range from the possibility of the famed "planet Nibiru" (which exists only in the alternative science world!) thumping onto planet earth in some form of catastrophic collision; to that of President Trump deciding on a pre-emptive nuking of the 'Rocket man' of North Korea; or ultimately →p9

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EXHORTATION: [Building the Church is the first stage in building the Kingdom of God](#)

Anyone who is an observer of things would certainly tell that we are definitely coming close to the end of the ages. There is an unprecedented battle that is underway for the souls of nations.

In the UK, we have seen the move of an aggressive secularism that wants to take the worship of God out of public life. We have seen our leaders embarrassed and forced to resign simply because of their faith. We have seen and see an attempt by another faith to wrest control of the nation, to seize the soul of the nation. We have seen churches closed: on the last account 500 churches in and around London closed and 480 mosques were planted in their stead. We have seen laws that are so ungodly passed. Policies that we know are so ungodly passed. It is impossible to imagine that such things can happen. We are now dealing with the issue of genders and transgenders. It's being taken out of a lot of our literature the reference to male and female, because it is assumed that there is some middle ground that is neither male nor female. And that is official. Things are dark in the UK.

But then, I wouldn't say it's any different from here. It might not be the same expression, but when we look round at the state of things here in Nigeria, we see the rabid corruption. We see the blatant use of the government's machinery in some places to advance the agenda of one faith over another. We read about how our curriculum for our children has been hijacked so that any reference to the deity of Christ has been removed. We look around at some parts of the Church and we marvel that this is the Church of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We hear about the killing that is taking place in some parts of the country. The persecution of Christians. The kidnapping of young girls and them being forced to convert to other faith.

And I can go on and on and on, but you get the picture. What I'm trying to say is that it's no different here. It's no different in the Middle East. It's no different in North America. It is no different in South America. It is clear that the kingdom of darkness is marching on and has an agenda, and the agenda is to push back the Church, and to seize the high ground.

How did we find ourselves in this state? We find ourselves in this place because **while men slept**, the enemy came and sowed tares. We ended up here because we played Church. We became politicians of an ecclesiastical nature. We specialized and majored in pettiness and distractions. We built empires, we said we were building churches. And maybe we did, but we didn't understand that to build a church is the first stage in building the Kingdom of God.

If we stay in our churches and clap hands, and sing songs, the enemy will arrive at the door of our churches. The whole essence of Church is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. The work of the ministry is not just the pulpit. Of course the Pastor can be President. A Pastor can be President of the Senate. Why shouldn't ministers be heads of banks? Of course, they can! [Agu Irukwu](#)