

# Signs of the Times

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“...the disciples came unto [Jesus] privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” (Matthew 24:3).

## Things Worth Knowing - June 7, 2008

### Soggy Spring Threatens U.S. Summer Corn Crop

Due to extremely wet weather this spring across America’s Corn Belt, grain prices are likely to continue to rise. Fields are so wet in the prime growing states of Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Ohio that farmers are unable to get their equipment into the field to plant.

Experts fear that time may be running out for many farmers to have a successful growing season at all. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reports that corn production this year could be down as much as 7 percent from the record-breaking levels last year. About one-third of the harvest will be directed toward ethanol production rather than food, the USDA estimates.



Storm clouds over the American Heartland have kept fields far too soggy to allow farmers to plant this summer's crops.

### Global Warming to Cripple Some of the World's Agriculture

The [Little Green Data Book 2008](#) warns that developing countries will bear the brunt of the adverse effects of global warming with a nearly 20 percent drop in agricultural productivity compared to a 6 percent drop to be suffered by industrialized nations.

It adds that as agriculture delivers lower yields, food prices will rise even farther than the recent jump, and levels of malnutrition and related human diseases will also increase.

While impacts will be felt most strongly in Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, the World Bank points to ways to buffer agriculture there from the effects of a changing climate.



Climate change is expected to lower the the planet’s potential for growing crops more than 15 percent by the 2080s, according to a report released by the World Bank.

**We use the OLD King James Version:**

**Amos 8:11** “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.”

## Nationwide Alert for Mysterious Bat Disease

Wildlife and conservation officials throughout the United States have been advised to be on the alert for a mysterious ailment that has killed thousands of bats over the past three months in caves and mines across the Northeast.

The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) [National Wildlife Health Center](#) in Wisconsin has examined nearly 100 bat carcasses from the [affected region](#). Researchers there say they have been unable to determine exactly why the bats died of "[white-nose syndrome](#)" — a term used because of an overgrowth of a fungus normally present in the flying mammals but found covering large areas of the dead bats, including around their noses. The excessive fungus is believed to be merely a sign of overall poor health rather than a primary cause of the deaths.



The white fungus found around affected bats noses appears to be a sign of poor health and not the cause of the deaths.

The condition was first observed in February 2007 in caves near Albany, N.Y. by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The USGS biologists say they have found that most of the dead bats examined so far this year have been emaciated, with some exhibiting [changes in their lungs](#) that are difficult to explain.

## Chilean Volcanic Emergency...Livestock Starvation

Chilean authorities told those evacuated from near the erupting Chaitén volcano that the mountain could suddenly and without warning release torrents of red-hot pyroclastic material, which could vaporize their homes.

Chaitén began erupting on **May 2** for **the first time in at least 9,000 years**, spewing tons of toxic ash that have blanketed a broad swath of southern Chile and Argentina's Patagonia region.

On Wednesday, officials declared the evacuated town of Chaitén off-limits for at least the next three months, or until the threat of pyroclastic flows subsides. The latest aspect of the volcanic disaster is severe flooding that occurred after ash from the volcano swelled rivers, causing them to breach their banks. On Monday, a [wave of ash-laden flood water](#) surged through Chaitén's abandoned streets, ripping some buildings off their foundations.

Other hazards caused by Chaitén's eruption threaten residents of the region who are unable to evacuate or fend for themselves against the volcano's fury. Officials fear that two million sheep in the Argentine province of Chubut are in danger of starvation because the ash has covered and killed the vegetation the animals depend upon for food.

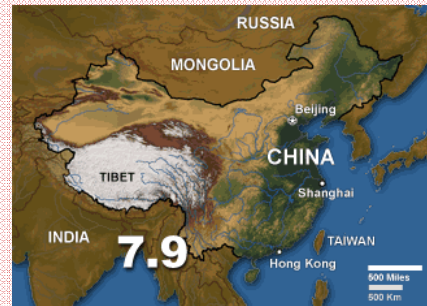


Deep ash from Chile's Chaitén volcano has blanketed grazing land eastward into Argentina, threatening to cause millions of livestock to die of starvation.

***Dear Parents: The next worst thing than going to HELL, and later, the LAKE OF FIRE because of your UNBELIEF, is to look over and see your children, your relatives and friends there with you. THINK ABOUT IT!***

## Staggering Number of Victims Feared Dead in China Quake

More than 50,000 people are feared dead, missing or buried beneath rubble of buildings devastated by a 7.9 magnitude quake in central China's Sichuan province on Monday. Seismologists say the two minutes of horrific shaking that razed entire towns was caused by two distinct shifts of the Longmenshan Fault, which stretches southwest to northeast across Sichuan. A 60-mile-long and 18-mile-wide section of the fault initially ruptured about 23 feet.



Then another section, about 90 miles long and 18 miles wide, to the northeast of the first section sheared about 13 feet a few seconds later. The resulting seismic tremors were felt as far away as Tokyo, Bangkok and south-central Russia's Tuva Republic. The quake was China's deadliest since approximately 255,000 people were killed by a 7.8 magnitude that devastated the city of Tangshan, near Beijing, in 1976.

## Ravens Go On Killing Sprees Across Britain

A growing number of farmers across Britain are discovering livestock that have been attacked and eaten alive by groups of ravens. The large birds, which are protected across the nation, have left many of the animals still alive and in agony after having eaten their eyes, tongues and soft underbellies.

Witnesses say that the birds flock together to attack the animals, either killing them or leaving them with agonizing injuries. And farmers fear **the birds are becoming bolder**, attacking adult livestock as well as the young. "The attacks are so horrific that they're causing mental suffering to people who find the animals," Johnny Hall, of the National Farmers Union of Scotland, told the Observer.

Ravens traditionally eat dead livestock, but they are also known to prey on small mammals, including dormice, voles and rabbits. It is believed that since European regulations mandate that carcasses be disposed in disposal facilities, the scavengers now feed on the living.



More than one "unkindness" of ravens has attacked farm animals across Britain, partially eating them alive.

The **invisible church** of the living God who are **few in number** will soon depart. Next, the *King of Fierce Countenance*, the next world ruler, will come. Signs such as weather changes, earthquakes, famines, pestilence, and volcano's, are **increasing**, and now, changes in the behavior of the animal kingdom are surfacing. The prophet **Amos** wrote: "Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord...as if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him..." (**Amos 5:18-20**).

So, what should you do? **Repent**, that is, tell God (*and only God*) that **you're sorry** that you are a sinner, and **ask Him to save you**. That's all! Then **believe God** to adopt you as His child!

"...the Spirit and the bride say, **Come**. And let him that heareth say, **Come**. And let him that is athirst **come**. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). "Save yourselves..." Acts 2:40.