

# NEWS BYTES

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

## Food Bank Lines Continue To Grow As Crops Fail All Over The Globe

It is happening again. Lines at food banks all across the country are getting extremely long, and this is happening even though we are still only in the very early stages of the next major economic downturn. If the lines are this long already, what will they look like six months or a year from now?

Since the beginning of 2022, I have been relentlessly warning my readers about the rapidly emerging food crisis that we are witnessing all over the globe. Food supplies have been getting tighter and tighter, and now insane weather patters are causing crops to fail throughout the northern hemisphere. We really are moving into unprecedented territory, but this hasn't really hit home with the general population yet.

Personally, I didn't expect to see a huge surge in demand at food banks around the nation until the summer was over.

But according to ABC News, the surge that so many of us have been anticipating is already here...

Long lines are back at food banks around the U.S. as working Americans overwhelmed by inflation turn to handouts to help feed their families.

With gas prices soaring along with grocery costs, many people are seeking charitable food for the first time, and more are arriving on foot.

It is certainly true that the cost of living is quickly eating away at our standard of living.

A single shopping cart full of food can now easily cost 250 or 300 dollars at this point, and as a result more struggling families are turning to food banks for some assistance.

In Phoenix, one food bank recently reported a 78 percent increase in demand compared to the same time last year...

The Phoenix food bank's main distribution center doled out food packages to 4,271 families during the third week in June, a 78% increase over the 2,396 families served during the same week last year, said St. Mary's spokesman Jerry Brown.

I was extremely alarmed when I first read that.

Have things really gotten this bad already?

One woman that was interviewed said that she was willing to wait in such a long line because "it's really impossible to get by now without some help"...

Tomasina John was among hundreds of families lined up in several lanes of cars that went around the block one recent day outside St. Mary's Food Bank in Phoenix. John said her family had never visited a food bank before because her husband had easily supported her and their four children with his construction work.

"But it's really impossible to get by now without some help," said John, who traveled with a neighbor to share gas costs as they idled under a scorching desert sun. "The prices are way too high."

Unfortunately, things are only going to get worse in the months ahead.

Extreme weather is absolutely scorching crops all over the northern hemisphere, and there is no relief in sight.

Over in Europe, we are seeing temperatures that we have never seen before. In fact, UK authorities are expecting all-time record highs all across the country on Monday and Tuesday...

Britain's national weather agency, known as the U.K. Met Office, issued its first-ever red extreme heat warning Friday. The warnings, in place for Monday and Tuesday, cover much of southern England, where temperatures could reach 40 degrees Celsius - or about 104 degrees.

"Nobody alive has seen a temperature of 40 degrees Celsius in the U.K." weather.com senior meteorologist Jonathan Erdman pointed out. "That would be a hot day this time of year in Dallas or Houston, much less London."

Of course temperatures are far higher elsewhere.

At one point, a record high temperature of 117 degrees was recorded in Portugal, and so far there have been more than 1,000 deaths from the heat throughout all of Europe...

At least 1,000 deaths have been attributed to the heatwave in Portugal and Spain so far, according to the country's weather agencies, which are reporting 1,027 at this time.

Around 440 deaths were recorded on Thursday alone, when temperatures exceeded 40C (104F) in several regions and 47C (117F) at a meteorological station in the district of Vizeu in the center of the country.

Here in the U.S., an endless drought in the Southwest has been playing havoc with crops for a long time, and now a "heat dome" is forming which will bring extreme temperatures to the region for at least "several more weeks"...

The heat will be prolonged, with computer models projecting several more weeks of unusually high temperatures as a heat dome shifts west with time, setting up hot and dry conditions from Colorado to California.

When things are this hot and this dry for an extended period of time, it is inevitable that crops will fail.

And at this point, we are being told that crops are failing in much of the northern hemisphere. The following comes from Zero Hedge...

Infrared satellite imagery designed to measure moisture levels and the health of farmlands suggests that staple crops such as wheat are in poor condition and in sharp decline among major exporters including the Ukraine, the US and India. Two countries do have bumper crops so far though; namely Russia and China.

It is hard to say which governments and institutions monitor this data, but a few months ago a multitude of political leaders and global banks issued simultaneous warnings of a "global food shortage" and an impending crisis. Such institutions included the IMF, World Bank, the BIS and even the White House.

So far, a perfect storm of stagflation, supply chain disruptions and poor weather conditions have combined to disrupt food production around the world. Read those two paragraphs again.

This is beyond serious.

And I wouldn't be anticipating a good harvest from Russia either, because right now millions upon millions of locusts are voraciously devouring crops in the agricultural heartland of that nation.

In all of my years, I have never seen anything quite like this.

Here in the U.S., our food supply continues to get hit by more very strange accidents. They are happening so frequently now that it is really hard to keep up with them all.

All over the world supplies of food are getting tighter and tighter, and the stage is being set for the sort of historic global food crisis that I have long warned about.

The UN has already told us that we are heading into an "unprecedented" global food crisis, but most people aren't taking such warnings seriously.

But perhaps when they are finally forced to get in the food lines themselves they will finally wake up.

## Erdoğan asks Russia and Iran to back Turkey's incursion into Syria

*Turkish president cites Kurdish forces in north-west Syria as justification for extending zone of control*

Ruth Michaelson 20 Jul 2022

The Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has used trilateral talks with his Iranian and Russian counterparts in Tehran to make the case for a further Turkish incursion into north-western Syria.

Erdoğan cited Kurdish forces in Tel Rifaat and Manbij, two towns in north-west Syria where Russian and Iranian forces are present, as justification for Turkey extending its zone of control in the country. “What we expect from Iran and Russia is to support Turkey in its fight against terrorist organisations,” he told a press conference following the meeting.

The Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned Erdoğan against a further invasion during talks at his office, stating that “a military incursion of Syria will benefit terrorists”.

The visit to Tehran provided Erdoğan with an opportunity to reaffirm ties to both Tehran and Moscow, along with plentiful opportunities to court Moscow’s cooperation on key issues.

Putin and Erdoğan greeted each other warmly at the start of their bilateral talks, despite a brief moment where the Turkish leader kept his counterpart waiting. The talks provided an opportunity for Erdoğan to secure Moscow’s backing for a tentative agreement to evacuate grain across the Black Sea with a control centre in Istanbul, with UN-backed talks expected to continue in Istanbul this week.

Question of what now for Syria remains as vexed as ever

“With your mediation, we have moved forward. True, not all issues have yet been resolved, but the fact that there is movement is already good,” Putin told Erdoğan. The Turkish president later referred to his counterpart as “my dear friend Putin” during a roundtable discussion on Syria.

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in late February, Turkish authorities have insisted on balancing the country’s Nato membership with its longstanding relationship with Moscow.

Turkey has hosted peace talks between Russia and Ukraine, and sold Ukraine armed drones for use against Russian forces. Haluk Bayraktar, who heads the company manufacturing the TB2 drones used in Ukraine, told CNN shortly before Erdoğan arrived in Tehran that his company would never sell drones to Russia, as “we support Ukraine, its sovereignty and its resistance”.

But Turkey has declined to join sanctions against Russia, stepped up its purchases of Russian oil since the invasion, and continues to push ahead with construction of a nuclear power plant by the Russian state company Rosatom, under threat due to western sanctions on Sberbank, a major backer of the project.

“Russia can’t afford not to engage with Turkey. They want a relationship with Turkey as a Nato ally – that wouldn’t change even if Putin and Erdoğan step aside tomorrow,” said Hanna Notte, an analyst at the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation. “But the fact they deal so efficiently and closely on issues, that you can put down to the Putin-Erdoğan rapport,” she added, saying the leaders share elements of anti-western sentiment that has fuelled a longstanding personal relationship.

“They share a view of the world as multipolar, where countries outside of the west should have a say on how things are run.”

Yet Erdoğan’s approach to foreign policy rests on showing that Turkey acts independently, putting its interests first. This aids his appeal to a domestic audience ahead of an election expected in the coming year, where Erdoğan faces increasing opposition.

Despite previously lifting objections to Finland and Sweden joining Nato and securing the lifting of some weapons sales in the process, Erdoğan this week repeated threats to “freeze” their accession if Turkish demands aren’t met. At a Nato summit in Madrid in late June, Erdoğan’s tactics secured him a meeting

with the US president, Joe Biden, who stated his support for sales of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey, despite ongoing opposition from Congress.

Last week, the Turkish president leaned on Putin during a phone call in which he pressed for Russian agreement on the UN security council's cross-border aid mechanism providing vital aid to more than 2 million Syrians in rebel-held areas in the north-west, blunting Russian threats to veto the aid renewal altogether.

"There's all this leverage building up because of Ukraine and all these crises at once; it would be surprising if Erdoğan doesn't try to squeeze something out of this moment, as this is what he does," said Aron Lund, of the Washington-based thinktank the Century Foundation.

"Under Erdoğan, especially in the latter half of his rule, Turkey is always stirring up crises and then getting something in return for stopping them. That's been the modus operandi all along," said Lund.

"It damages Turkey's standing in a lot of countries. We witnessed a severe lack of appreciation for this in Congress and in the EU parliament, for example. But Erdoğan doesn't care, or doesn't seem to. He can show off the results to aid public opinion and he benefits domestically – plus Turkey benefits in real foreign policy terms, they do get results," he said.

## A Vast Disconnect With Reality Has Invaded Our Culture And Churches

By [Jonathan Brentner](#)

July 20, 2022



I often feel as though I have ventured into an episode of *The Twilight Zone*. Rod Serling began his television series in 1959 and those familiar with the show remember Serling's sense of dystopian fiction that stretched the limits of our imaginations. Who can forget the iconic scenes, plot twists, and bizarre endings?

Life today seems like something that even goes beyond what Rod Serling envisioned for his broadcasts. There's a vast disconnect between reality and the popular truth that confronts us daily on the mainstream news and social media (via the fact checkers). It makes my head spin!

*It's dystopian fiction at its best, but this time it's not a TV show depicting a make-believe world; the lies are portrayed as reality and readily believed by mainstream media addicts.*

Janet Yellen, the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, recently bragged about the health of America's economy. This is gaslighting at its best. Soaring food, fuel, and natural gas prices have stretched many people, especially those on fixed incomes, well beyond their breaking point. And the current crisis in America is just the beginning of the turmoil that many predict will grow steadily worse.

JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon recently warned about a coming “economic hurricane” for later this year. He is just one of many voices warning of the coming economic storm for the United States.

I could cite many other examples of where today’s messages on the mainstream and social media do not line up with reality. Some call it “gaslighting” and it’s surely all that. I like the term “dystopian fiction” as a description of the wide gulf between the “popular line” and reality that’s become the fog of living in this Twilight Zone.

### ***THE FOG OF THE TWILIGHT ZONE INVADES THE CHURCH***

Walking into many churches today is also like entering a Twilight Zone. There we hear a message that life is *all good and we can experience our “best life now.”* Five-year plans are made without even a fleeting thought of Jesus’ imminent appearing or the dark threatening clouds on the horizon.

It’s like a church shrouded in fog so that it’s unaware of the outside world and the many prophetic signs telling us that we live in the last days.

I am reminded again of Kari Jobe’s song: *Amen (Simple Gospel)*. It begins with wonderful words affirming the Gospel, but ends with a *false* message of hope, which exemplifies the disconnect with reality that we find in far too many churches today.

The words below come from the last stanza of her song:

*The church will arise  
With power and love  
Our cities will know  
The glory of God  
The future is bright  
There’s nothing to fear  
Revival is now  
The Kingdom is here*

Such sentiment sounds great, but it’s not what the Bible teaches.

First, the song makes the church the object of our hope rather than Jesus. Many today believe that the church will so change the world that it, not Jesus, will initiate the millennium. The Lord thus returns afterward rather than before this time of peace.

Even pastors that reject such teaching communicate a message exalting the church as our refuge during perilous times.

Second, the words quoted above from the song do not agree with what the Bible says about the day in which we live. Biblical prophecy pictures the last days as being awash in lawlessness, deception, extreme wickedness, corruption, and violence. This is today, and it’s all leading to the rule of the antichrist.

The words to the song tell us that “the future is bright.” However, I live in a country that’s screaming for God’s judgment. A nation led by fanatical advocates of abortion up to birth and all that the LBGTQ stands for surely invites a stern response from God.

Adding fuel to the fire, Biden recently advocated the dividing of Jerusalem and a radical two-state solution for Israel with 1969 boundaries that will leave the nation defenseless against its foes.

So far, the Lord has been remarkably patient with the U.S.

### ***JESUS’ IMMINENT APPEARING IS THE REASON FOR OUR GLORIOUSLY BRIGHT FUTURE***

Our future *is* glorious and bright, however, solely because of Jesus’ imminent appearing.

The myriad of signs pointing to the approaching seven-year Tribulation tell us that Jesus is coming for us soon. We live on the cusp of the Lord fulfilling His promises to us in passages such as [John 14:1-3](#), [Philippians 3:20-21](#), and [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#).

*The Rapture signifies a bright future for us; it marks the beginning of an eternal and amazing adventure for us.*

Sadly, many saints today never hear any mention of the over-the-top joy and excitement ahead for them. It’s a truly glorious message!

A sound biblical outlook on what lies ahead yields unexplainable and wonderful peace within us. I cannot imagine getting up each morning to face this world without the eternal perspective we see throughout Scripture. The world is a scary place, but an understanding of biblical prophecy yields the fruit of peace deep within us.

We live in the season of Jesus’ appearing to take us home to heaven. It’s not about date-setting, but about understanding the multitude of signs God gave us in His Word that reveal the nearness of the Rapture.

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees who did not recognize the signs that their Messiah stood in their presence ([Matthew 16:1-4](#)). Would not the Lord have a similar reprimand for church leaders today who remain oblivious to all the indications that the Tribulation period is rapidly approaching?

We will certainly not endure the wrath of God that the apostle John describes for us in Revelation 6-18. However, because of the day in which we live, we must be ready for perilous times ahead before Jesus whisks us up to the place that He’s preparing for us.

Or then again, the Lord could come for us today!