

PROPHETIC TRUTHS FOR TODAY

Unveiling the End-Time Events

by

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CHAPTER TWELVE

ARE WE WITNESSING THE BEGINNING OF THE END?

“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer” (I Peter 4:7).

IN THE YEAR 1944 the venerable old statesman of Britain, Churchill, said, “We are witnessing the beginning of the end.” With his penetrating mind he could see the gathering together of the free forces of the world which would overmaster Hitler’s Europe.

Bible prophecies constitute the timetable of the ages. They serve as God’s dispensational clock. The smaller hand, that is, the hour pointer, may well represent God’s dealings with Israel. It moves slower and is more restricted than the larger hand which moves on a much wider sweep. The bigger hand might be said to represent God’s dealings with the Gentile nations until **“the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”**

According to Daniel’s prophecy, seventy year-weeks were cut out of time as a block and allocated to Israel, and when they have run their course Israel will be living in the land and enjoying the blessings and the glory of the Messianic kingdom. Sixty-nine of these year-weeks, or 483 of the 490, were fulfilled when Christ rode into Jerusalem the last week of His ministry. His subsequent rejection by the nation caused the dispensational clock of God to stop, that is, with reference to Israel. By the rejection of the Messiah, a period of unreckoned time came, or we might say a parenthetical arrangement went into effect during which time God is taking out a people for His name. It is the Church Age. This will go on until **“the fulness of the Gentiles has come,”** meaning of course the full number of people saved in this age (see Romans 11:25). The greatest authority with reference to God’s purposes with the Jew—past, present, and future—is the apostle Paul. In Romans 9-11 he sets forth God’s dispensational dealings with Israel. Students of prophecy simply must have this matter altogether clear or else they cannot proceed successfully in prophetic studies.

In the realm of prophecy there are, broadly speaking, four prophetic days, or epochs. They are very distinctly set forth in the Word of God. First is *Man’s Day*, a time during which man is prominent, or when he is given a maximum of freedom to solve his own problems, or unravel every puzzle, as it were. In this age man has almost unlimited freedom to fall back on his own ingenuity and to assert himself in every field.

Following Man's Day, is *the Day of Jesus Christ*, when He will be supremely important. Paul refers to this day several times in Philippians. It is the day of the Rapture of the Church, and the glorious meeting in the air.

The third prophetic day, according to prophecy, is *the Day of the Lord* when He will cleanse the earth through judgments and prepare the way for the establishment of the Messianic kingdom.

The final prophetic day is *the Day of God*, when God will be all in all. This will mark what we call eternity, when ages will be tumbling on ages without end.

Let us ascertain how far we have been moved along through the corridor of time, that is, with reference to the prophetic program as outlined in the Scriptures. It is very obvious that this present epoch is Man's Day, and unquestionably we are witnessing the very end of the present dispensational period. Let us test this statement in the light of Scriptural truth.

MAN WAS GIVEN THE INJUNCTION TO POSSESS THE EARTH

This big order was given by God at the beginning of human history, and it was repeated several times in the book of Genesis. Only in this generation may it be said that man has subdued the earth. Every continent, island and geographical subdivision of the earth has been discovered and identified. Both the Arctic and the Antarctic areas have been charted; both poles have been discovered, in fact, man has flown over both of these. Every ocean, desert, and interior region of the continents has been crossed by land, sea, or air.

In the realm of physics man has been able to produce the absolute zero, or cold. In other words, he has hit the bottom. All the elements, or component parts of the physical world, have been accounted for and classified. The last gaps have been closed. New elements have been fused or synthesized, hence adding to the 92.

Recently man has tampered with the basic power of the universe itself. The atom has been unlocked, releasing almost unfathomable power. Man is now actually putting out satellites in space, with the hope of achieving trans-stellar communication, that is, getting rockets off to the moon as well as to other planets. There are no more thrills for man left here, you see. For the first time in all of human history the earth has been possessed.

IN THE REALM OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT MAN HAS TRIED EVERY KIND OF PATTERN

The first type initiated was despotism. Later absolute and limited monarchies were introduced, and beyond these are oligarchy and republican patterns. The trend in recent decades has been back to the original, totalitarianism. Nearly one-half of the earth has come under this stronger system in recent years.

The Times of the Gentiles began with Nebuchadnezzar. In the remarkable vision of the king, a great metallic image was set up containing various kinds of metals.

In the interpretation given by Daniel, a concrete outline of all systems of world governments is set forth describing the systems; first, the Head of gold, or Babylon, and then the other systems successively, namely, the kingdom of the Medes and the Persians, the Greek or the Alexandrian and the Roman. It existed for several centuries and then it divided into the Eastern and the Western wings, fitting exactly the description, that is, the two legs of the image. The only part of the image which is unfulfilled is that pertaining to the feet and toes, which were part iron and part clay. You might note also that the four beasts described in Chapter 7 of Daniel completely parallel the metals in the image with the fourth beast, a nondescript creature or monstrosity, possessing the qualities of all the other beasts.

Today we witness a death grapple between the two final systems, the iron which represents totalitarianism, and the clay depicting democracies. These elements are irreconcilable, for they cannot be fused. In the end-time the stronger of the two will prevail. Democracy, as all political scientists know, can exist only in areas where there is political maturity. Only a few areas of the world have that background of political maturity which allows the rule of the people. According to prophecy, in the end-times the ten kingdoms will give over their power to the beast. Looking at this whole composite picture, we see the preliminary formation of the latter-day confederacies for their role in the final conflict.

THE PRESENT-DAY APOSTASY IS THE FINAL CONFIRMATION OF THE END-TIMES

Every book in the New Testament refers to it, except the two personal letters, namely Philemon and Second John.

A departure from the faith and a great falling away are the clear earmarks of the latter days. Only the restraining power of the Holy Spirit, according to II Thessalonians 2:6-8, keeps the avalanche of evil from engulfing the world. With the removal of the Holy Spirit, and the Church in which He indwells, the delusions will come forth like a flood. In 1908 the great apostasy became evident with the formation of the Federal Council of Churches, embracing 29 denominations. Forty years later this matured on a broader front with the emergence of the World Council of Churches, representing 171 million and 161 groups from 48 different lands. It includes groups from the Unitarian and Greek Orthodox to Evangelicals.

I attended the second great conclave of the World Council at Evanston, Illinois some years ago. It deliberately rejected and explained away the two major prophetic truths, our Lord's personal coming, and the literal fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. Bishop Oxnam and his associates are busily engaged in expanding the movement to include the Roman Catholics and Jews. Here, then, is the trend to the super-church, the harlot set forth prophetically in Revelation 17-18. The ecumenical movement has taken on worldwide dimensions.

Organizational unity and ecclesiastical integration are substituted for the unity of the believers in a spiritual manner. Christ never prayed for organizational or ecclesiastical unity. Moreover, in the Roman Catholic Church there has developed the greatest apostasy in all of its long history.

In the year 1854 the Immaculate Conception of Mary was promulgated; in 1870 the Infallibility of the Pope was proclaimed; in 1953 the Bodily Assumption of Mary, and the pending one, to be issued soon, is that Mary is co-equal with Christ in redemption.

Apostasy has permeated nearly all the major denominations. Evangelicalism is in retreat. Neo-orthodoxy is in the ascendancy. It is parading with evangelical terminologies. **Christ said, "As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."** In those days apostasy, materialism and immorality were prevalent. Violence was on a rampage. All this is duplicated in our day. In America nudists are organized; homosexuals are also organized to promote their moral rot. No nation in antiquity has survived a complete moral degeneration. Dr. Petrim Sorokin, one of the nation's top sociologists, believes the present generation will be unhinged and deposited on the dust heaps of the centuries where immoral civilizations have gone.

For the first time since the New Testament was written, all signs are in agreement. Remember Jesus said, "*When you see all these things, ye know it is at the very doors.*" A generation ago there was no Jewish sign at all, and there was no sign in the domain of Gentile world governments. Now both have emerged clearer than anyone could have anticipated. Then, too, the apostasy in the church has come like a flood, hence making the agreement complete in the three spheres which Paul set forth as basic in this regard.

Truly, it is later than we think dispensationally, and the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Only a small minority, however, is impressed with the Biblical predictions which are now being fulfilled in our generation. Tragically Biblical predictions are spiritualized and explained away in an almost cynical way by many religious leaders of our time. Not to believe that we have witnessed "the beginning of the end" is to be blind and unrealistic.

The late H. L. Mencken, brilliant man of letters, yet an avowed cynic, made a statement which is quite significant concerning the end time. "I wish to point out that the New Testament offers precise and elaborate specifications preceding the inevitable end of the age, and a fair reading of the Scriptures must lead any man to concede that these events are upon us. If the Bible really is the Word of God, as we are assured not only by the Council of Trent, but by all principal Protestant authorities and even by the Supreme Court of the United States, then it is plain as day that the human race is on its last legs."

No prophetic student could have made a better statement. The coming of the Lord is the next event according to Bible prophecy. Biblical predictions are being fulfilled literally and precisely. While no one has the right to set any dates, it is possible nevertheless to identify the generation that is witnessing the beginning of the end. Unquestionably ours is that generation.

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