

PROPHETIC TRUTHS FOR TODAY

Unveiling the End-Time Events

by

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CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

THE PRESENT CRISIS IN HUMAN CIVILIZATION

THE present time two great power systems are in collision. On the one side is the massive Soviet Union with its satellite belt of nations seeking to intimidate the rest of the world by threatening a nuclear war, and the renewal of pressure in East Berlin.

On the other side is the United States of America with its western European allies. They are equally determined not to yield under the threats coming from the communist world. The western nations stand with their backs to the wall, as it were. To retreat further would cause a further loss of prestige before the great masses living within the so-called uncommitted nations of the world.

The present crisis is the biggest threat which mankind has experienced since World War II. This decade is a crisis decade. The invasion of space has made every part of the earth vulnerable to attack. The ongoing cold war may explode into a hot one, and if such a war comes, the destruction of life and physical values will be unprecedented in scope. The victims will be humanity.

Studies which have been made by the Rand Corporation for the Pentagon reveal a possible 90 million casualties should such a nuclear holocaust come. With enormous preparations through fallout shelters, this figure might be reduced, however. No such preparations are being made commensurate with the dangers confronting all of us. Indeed, the human race is tottering on the precipice of annihilation. The present crisis may abate, or it may be reduced temporarily, perhaps, to a more tolerable situation.

A final conflict of nations is an unavoidable event of the end-time, and the prophetic Scriptures point unmistakably to the fact that the Gentile nations are moving toward the final Armageddon. Antichrist will take away the peace of the world. This scriptural assertion is nearly achieved now by Nikita Khrushchev, who symbolizes the kind of diabolical leadership that will reach a position of world dominance in the end-time.

Dreadful as all of these political and military threats are at present, I feel human civilization is facing even more terrifying involvement in other spheres of activity in this generation.

THE UNIVERSAL CRIME WAVE

The ever-expanding crime wave constitutes a threat to all of humankind; yes, one that is of greater danger than the military forces standing ready to strike at the free nations. The military situation might conceivably be improved, at least for a short period. The mounting crime wave, which is universal, has no solution; at least none is in sight.

Major crimes last year in the United States increased 14 per cent over the previous year. Arrests of juveniles have doubled since 1950. Stolen property charges against juveniles have gone up 105 per cent in five years. The 1960 F.B.I. crime clock reveals that one murder is committed in America every five minutes, one forcible rape every 34 minutes, a robbery every six minutes, and an auto theft every two minutes. When you add to this the hijacking of planes, municipal corruption, embezzlement in high places, and crookedness in some major areas of business, one cannot help but become alarmed.

The well known McClellan Senate Committee investigating racketeering in certain labor unions charged that Mr. Hoffa was operating a hoodlum empire. And yet he was reelected to head the biggest single labor union in the country! We do not imply that the Congressional committee believed that the same situation is present in other unions in America. Youngstown, Ohio, was singled out recently in several magazines as an example of arrogance and utter disregard for human decency among certain elements holding power in that city.

In many of our major metropolitan areas in America, rival gangs and roving groups are loose. These criminal gangs are constantly preying upon people, murdering, beating, and robbing innocent victims. The spectacle of crime is not only a national infamy, but it has actually challenged all constituted authority. Recent police scandals in Chicago and Denver were shocking revelations to the public. Such activities of officers of the law seemed incredible, for how could men be guilty of such a total disregard of public trust! In our day judges, police officials, and law enforcement agencies stand very nearly helpless before the present crime wave. Jesus made it clear that in the end time, "**lawlessness would abound.**"

I made reference to this sweeping lawlessness at a meeting which I held recently in a leading Minneapolis church. As if to validate my statement further, that very night a strange coincidence occurred in that robbers entered the church (which is on a well lighted street), and by means of torches rifled the safe in an amount of \$1500. This thievery has been repeated in many of the churches and institutions of my city.

In Britain the same lawless tendency has been revealed, and the crime wave there has reached unmatched records. Our total crime bill in America exceeds 22 billion dollars a year. This unparalleled crime wave constitutes a threat to civilization that is greater than the current military dangers to which we are exposed. That iniquity is abounding no one can deny. In fact, as the end approaches, it will leap over all past boundaries and retaining barriers established by human society.

CURRENT IMMORALITY

No student of current social conditions can deny that immorality is on a rampage in America and elsewhere.

The evil influence of Hollywood which has been exerted over several decades is now paying off its fearful dividends in our country and in the regions beyond. Most of the recent Oscars (the supreme citation or reward) were given to people who played well known immoral roles.

The Oscar for the best actress went to a woman who played the part of a prostitute, and the Oscar for the best actor went to a man who played the part of an immoral revivalist of the last century. What a revolting thing this is, to give such recognition in the theatrical world!

Life Magazine recently gave a kind of preview, or listed some of the productions scheduled for the next decade by the movie industry. These listings were nothing less than shocking, and they seemed incredible; yet this is what will be presented. It forebodes a more degrading activity than anything the American people have yet witnessed in the theatrical sphere.

Recently a Georgia teenager gave her report to the leading newspaper at Atlanta as to how the high school graduates spent the night following the commencement exercises. The report was entitled, "Graduation Parties Go Wild." The night was spent going from place to place in groups, or drinking parties, with the end results, as one might expect, in acts of physical immorality.

Moral rot has set in nationally. Dr. Petrim Sorokim, for 25 years the leading sociologist at Harvard, believes there is no cure for national moral rot. It will unhinge us as a nation, he believes, and deposit us on the dust heaps of the centuries where older civilizations have gone and disintegrated mainly because of immorality. Allied with this wave of impurity is the ever-growing liquor industry. It has passed the eleven billion dollar mark of sales a year in consumption of alcoholic beverages.

In our nation we have at present six million alcoholics, with 500,000 new alcoholics added to the ever-expanding list each year. Records reveal that approximately one out of every ten who drinks becomes an alcoholic. We have more taverns than churches, more dispensers of liquor than preachers of the gospel. The liquor industry is flourishing.

When I spoke on this matter in New England not long ago, an economics professor came up to me after the service and said, "Would you like a few additional statistics?" He pointed out that in the recession of 1960 the liquor industry was the only major business which flourished. It experienced no recession at all. In fact, it went full speed ahead, while an economic slowdown was experienced in nearly every other sphere of business.

The destruction of tens of thousands of lives on our highways and on our streets seems to bring to the nation no real concern. The majority of traffic accidents, which often end in tragedy, are caused by people who drive while under the influence of alcohol. Liquor is not only bad as an isolated institution; it is an ally of vice, prostitution, and gambling. It helps to promote these evils on a national scale. The present liquor situation in America is a national disgrace; it is an ugly wart on our modern civilization. Truly, it is a monstrosity which will help to destroy human civilization in the end-time.

MATERIALISM AND SECULARISM

Another monster which has appeared on the arena of our present civilization is the growing power of secularism in our society.

Secularism and materialism go arm-in-arm in downgrading our spiritual heritage. J. Edgar Hoover says the forces of secularism are directing their most concentrated assault against the very wellsprings of our strength as a people. He is more knowledgeable on these matters than most people. What he states is alarming.

In most of our public schools and higher institutions of learning, it has become fashionable to undermine students' respect for orthodox Christianity. The biological concept of evolution has spilled into nearly every textbook which deals with origins, anthropology, and history.

Dr. Albert Hyma, professor of History at the University of Michigan, and one of the few non-secular professors in History, said recently, "Unless a reverse comes or a marked change in this regard, the United States is doomed just as surely as an ancient Babylon disintegrated."

Dr. Henry Steele Commager, a nationally known historian, said a few years ago, "The average college graduate in America is a thoroughly secular person."

In recent years I have taken some advanced studies both at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Minnesota. My findings are identical with those of Drs. Commager and Hyma. In a current course which I am taking at the latter institution, our professor is priding himself that he is a cynic, and he has expressed the hope that members of the class are cynics like himself. He spent several lectures recently in downgrading our early national leaders, including the father of our country. Our spiritual heritage he ignores completely.

Secularism and materialism are handmaidens of communism, for both are like the latter, totally worldly in outlook and emphasis. It might be well to point out that socialism is a first cousin of communism, or communism by the installment plan. Communism seeks to stimulate the forces which are detached from religion and spiritual values. When men focus all their attention on earthly values, that is, the secular and the material, there remains no important restraining power in human society.

A professor was dismissed recently from the University of Illinois by the dean for saying that he saw nothing wrong for young people to have sexual relations outside of the married state. Fortunately that institution had a dean who had stamina sufficiently strong to cause the dismissal of such an unworthy professor. Not all institutions would have acted in a similar manner. I understand there has been on foot efforts to have the man in question reinstated through petition.

If the belief in God, the Bible, and in the supernatural is shaken, it is understandable that restraint and discipline in society will be impossible to maintain. It is the spiritual codes which bring the necessary discipline in human society. The old Puritan codes led to righteousness in America because they were based upon the Holy Scriptures.

But when men do not believe in a personal God, or in a hereafter or judgment, there remains no major restraining force to preserve a nation.

The Communists know if they can break the moral fiber of the western society, they will have conditioned it for a later takeover.

Dr. Max Lerner, who spoke at a meeting of the Minnesota Education Association recently (Many protested his appearance) indicated no fear of Communism. Life Magazine quoted him as saying recently, "No democracy is worth the risks of a nuclear war." The famous old Bertrand Russell, the extremist, who has an affinity for antichristian causes, gave forth a slogan, "Better Red than Dead." If the American people lose their stamina in risking a nuclear war for freedom, then they are not worthy of survival. What can save America? Our 124 million church members won't achieve this. The greater number of these have been brought into the various denominations without recognizing the need of regeneration. We might call it a modern mass production program in getting church members.

Nominal Christians, or mere church members, however numerous they are, will not turn the tide. The expanding program of merger of denominational bodies, and the accelerated ecumenical movement, despite all its massiveness, will not produce the miracle of reconstruction of human society.

The first great tower of Babel was built in order to achieve a monumental greatness of human civilization. The great spiritual Babylon of the end-time, referred to in Revelation 17 and 18, will have a fate like that which overtook the first Babel on the plains of Shinar. It was destroyed.

Repentance and national humiliation are the only means available for America in order that it might outride the storms of secularism and materialism. There are no indications, however, that such a change spiritually is coming to the people of our country. Unbelief, neo-orthodoxy, and a dilution of Bible doctrine for the sake of expedience, seems to be the order of the day. The continuous growth of secularism and a materialistic way will eventually sink our civilization.

Such a catastrophe will come, according to the prophetic Scriptures. The end-time is unveiled for us in prophecy. A remnant will remain as overcomers. God has His purposes linked to the remnant. The regenerated, or the born-again people, will never submit to the forces which are assaulting the very citadels of civilization.

The redeemed company will be vindicated when Jesus returns, and the entire number will enter into His presence at a time when the last great catastrophe strikes an apostate civilization.

~ end of chapter 22 ~

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