

PROPHETIC TRUTHS FOR TODAY

Unveiling the End-Time Events

by

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CHAPTER THREE

THE PRESENT WORLD SITUATION IN THE LIGHT OF BIBLICAL PREDICTIONS

“And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him 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).

IT IS our purpose to correlate certain events and developments of our times with Biblical predictions. I classify myself with those Bible teachers who believe that the Word of God offers concrete predictions relative to the world situation, particularly during the period designated as “*the end times*.” Logically we base this on the remarkable way in which many predictions of the Bible have already been fulfilled to the very letter.

Let us take, e. g., the prediction made by Christ concerning the destruction of Jerusalem with its magnificent temple. It was precisely fulfilled about 35 years later when Titus destroyed the city and killed most of the inhabitants during the frightful siege which ended in a capitulation by the Jews.

Jesus predicted the dispersion of the Jews, and that they would be the object of hatred by all nations. Nineteen hundred years of history corroborate this prediction completely. In Matthew’s Gospel Jesus gave a comprehensive outline of the future of his nation in the famous Olivet discourse. Not only did Jesus predict the scattering of the Jews to the four corners of the earth, but He also predicted a return of the descendants of Abraham to their native land in the latter days.

The budding of the fig tree was the sign given by our Lord to mark the fulfillment of this prophecy. When I was in Israel a few years ago I found evidence that Jews had returned from 72 countries. In the past few decades over 2,000,000 Jews have returned to their ancient homeland, which marks the greatest migration of Hebrews since the days of Moses and Joshua.

Our Lord predicted the judgment over certain key cities in the land, places which had sinned against the light, namely, Capernaum, Chorazin, and Bethsaida. As we followed the coasts of Galilee a few years ago we saw nothing but rubble where once these cities had existed. Only Tiberias was still flourishing, and it is well to remember that no woe was pronounced upon that city. What a complete vindication of Christ’s own words!

Christ predicted the Gospel message would proceed from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth. Our Lord had a little band of ordinary men who were thrust out into a cruel, pagan empire. No one can deny that the Gospel has come to every continent, island and subdivision of geographical areas of the globe. The fulfillment has been literal, and precisely in conformity with Christ's prediction.

This rather long introduction is necessary, I believe, to *establish that a great many predictions have been literally fulfilled*; that others are *now being fulfilled*, while still others *will be fulfilled in subsequent periods*, especially after the church age ends. Our best procedure will be to single out some predictions, and seek to match the fulfillment of such in our own times. Let us take the areas which may be placed in the category of the world, and not the church or Israel.

JESUS PREDICTED AN UNPRECEDENTED FEAR-PSYCHOSIS

In Luke 21:26 we read, **"There shall be on earth distress of nations with perplexity, men's hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."**

In our generation this predicted fear has become universal. Men fear Communism and the Soviet threat. Men's hearts are paralyzed with fear of destruction by nuclear weapons, radioactive dust particles, and germ warfare. These are too dreadful to contemplate. Heart disease has become the number one killer. Millions also are becoming neurotic.

J. Edgar Hoover says one American out of every twelve is in need of mental help. Medical doctors tell us that over 60 per cent of all people in our hospitals are there not because of organic trouble, but nonorganic; nevertheless they must have help. Never have people resorted to drugs as now, such as aspirin, Anacin, Bufferin, Emperin, and sleeping tablets. Others resort to chain smoking.

Our modern life is so geared that if you miss one section in a revolving door, you have lost the schedule for the day. Russia is motivated by the same fears. The men in the Kremlin are frantic. The downgrading of Stalin a few years ago sent chills through areas where one billion people are living under Communism. Now these fears are in the world. The apostle does not include the Christians in the same class. **"God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind"** (II Timothy 1:7). The author of Hebrews writes, **"We are persuaded better things of you"** (Hebrews 6:9). A careful student of present-day conditions will have no difficulty in matching the predicted fears with our age.

THERE WILL BE A COMPLETE MORAL COLLAPSE

Any student of present world conditions knows that principles; honor and integrity, are being abandoned more and more in favor of expediency. Moral standards of government are fearfully low. We as a nation sit down with atheists, thugs, and cutthroats at leading conference tables. We recognize nations whose moral concepts are non-existent.

We concluded the Korean war not on the former historic American principles. Rather than get bogged down in a long war with China, we entered into the ignominious armistice at Panmunjom. In the matter pertaining to Israel and the Arab states, we gear our policy to the oil interests. In other words, expediency is substituted for principles.

In social life this generation has taken the road that leads to *complete moral disintegration*.

Obscenity and moral rot are eating at the very core of our civilization.

- Sensuality, the overemphasis of sex in magazines, art and literature is everywhere present.
- Nudist societies are flourishing;
- Homosexuals are organized to promote their moral rot.
- The sins of Romans 1 are prevalent in our days.
- Noah's days of lasciviousness and violence are repeated.

Jesus referred to a reappearance of the days of Noah and Lot, and that it would characterize the latter days. The sins of Sodom are now mainly the sins of our generation.

Dr. Petrim Sorokin, long time head of the Department of Sociology at Harvard University, believes our civilization will witness a complete moral collapse. He points out that there is no hope for a civilization once moral disintegration has set in. Certainly our own age is analogous to the description given of the closing generation by Christ. The Apostle Paul in Second Timothy 3:1-5 also gives a detailed prediction of latter days. I heard a great judge say recently that he thought within a decade we would witness a complete moral catastrophe.

MEN SHALL BE LOVERS OF PLEASURES

In Second Timothy 3:5 Paul states clearly that **“Men shall be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.”**

A hundred thousand people will storm into a stadium to see a prize fight or a major sports contest. More than 100 million Americans attend sports or theatrical activities weekly, while only *one-third* of that number attend Sunday school.

- Movie stars are paid salaries greater than that of the President of the United States.
- Baseball players are often paid wages as great as corporation executives.
- Athletic stars draw larger crowds than renowned scholars. Sports properly balanced can be valuable, but we have gotten into a sports-mania.
- Americans spend 11 billion dollars for liquor in one year and 4 billion for tobacco.

In fact, more is spent on tobacco yearly than the sum total of all the expenditures of all church activity in the country.

Sunday has become our biggest holiday; it is no longer a holy day. It is the day of open theaters, fairs and of shops. It is a day of commercialized amusements.

Sunday is a day when our highways are most congested by cars, when accidents are most numerous, when our hospitals receive the largest number of injured, and when the undertaking establishments receive their largest number of dead. On the opening of the hunting and fishing seasons, the roads are filled with cars. From bumper to bumper you see them move on to the recreational areas. Our radios, television programs, signboards, all appeal to the physical and to the sensual, hence magnifying the appetite for pleasure. All this we see, while on the other hand, Sunday evening services are on the way out.

Prayer meetings are getting smaller and smaller, despite all our transportation conveniences. Go into a hundred homes and observe how pitifully little Christian literature is found. Soul-building material is almost absent, while in each room there is a radio and the latest in comforts. Christian schools can scarcely survive in the midst of plenty. Religious papers are often subsidized. Never has a generation been as pleasure-mad as the present one. This is predicted for the latter days.

VIOLENCE ON EARTH

In Genesis 6:11 it is stated, **“The earth was filled with violence.”** This was prior to the flood. It has been predicted, **“As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man.”**

The present generation has been the most warlike and violent one in all human history. Not only have we seen international wars, but regional conflicts have characterized the first half of the century. Never in the annals of human history have so many rulers and governments toppled. In Matthew 24:12 it is stated that **“iniquity shall abound.”** In other words, lawlessness shall leap over all previous boundaries. Each newspaper gives new accounts of hideous crimes, such as rape, murder, and every conceivable expression of violence. Nearly all prisons and correctional institutions have witnessed internal insurrections. We have seen vandalism and loose gangs of delinquents operating in all our major cities until life is no longer safe for decent citizens.

On the international front there has been recent violence in Africa, Laos and in the Middle East.

In Hungary some years ago unprecedented violence broke out. It has been estimated that since Stalin's tyranny began, over 10 million people have been liquidated in Russia. From reports that I have been able to piece together, it is apparent that over 20 million have been liquidated in China since the Red regime took over in 1949. This is the greatest mass destruction of life the world has ever known.

During the war 6 million Jews were killed in Hitler's wild rage. About one-third of all the Jews in the world were butchered in one decade. Respect for law and order is vanishing more and more as we near the final end of the dispensation. Forces are loose now which no man can tame.

Remember, **“As it was in the days of Lot . . . even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”** The leaders of Sodom sought to batter down the doors of Mayor Lot's house in order that they might commit unspeakable crimes with the angelic visitors. The international violence of our day is a repetition of Lot's generation.

I have now touched on some evidences that we have been ushered into the end times based on Biblical predictions.

In a later lecture we shall see how all the signs are in agreement for the first time since the Biblical predictions were made. It is a sobering fact to see how precisely events and developments within our generation fit with the Biblical predictions. Indeed we need to be like David's men, about whom it was said, "**They had an understanding of the times.**"

The Scriptures furnish us with *a complete blueprint for the latter days*, and it behooves us to correlate these predictions with events of our generation.

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