

America's Hope Monthly

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The Church Age Closes With Great Shaking and Violence

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PART ONE

In this article I wish to show from the Scriptures that unprecedented violence and shaking are to characterize the closing of the church age (the present age) and the opening of the kingdom age. Let us turn to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ relative to the end time in which we live.

Luke 17:26: "And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." These are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ himself, and these words speak volumes because they refer to the closing of this age.

Verse 27: "They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all." All we need to do to find out what conditions were like in the days of Noah is to go back to the 6th and 7th chapters of Genesis. But before we do, I would like to comment on the expression "and destroyed them all." Does that mean that all mankind is to be destroyed? No, it doesn't mean that in the light of other Scripture.

As we consider Genesis 6, we learn what types of people are referred to when the Lord said "and destroyed them all." Noah was not destroyed but was preserved and protected in his physical life, he and his daughters.

The people that are to be destroyed, I believe, are identified in the 6th chapter of Genesis: "And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men . . ." I believe that the sons of God were the Adamites. ". . . they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose." So one of the things that characterize Noah's time was racial intermarriage. Throughout the Scripture this is strictly forbidden for the Isaac-sons.

Verse 3: "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man . . ." Here you have another characteristic of Noah's day and generation: they resisted the purpose and the will of God. One of the most tragic things today is simply this that great hosts of good people are so ignorant concern-

ing what the Scriptures have to say about our day that they actually resist with all their might and effort the ushering in of the kingdom. They are working day and night to maintain the old order and the old things that the Scriptures teach must be destroyed, and they are trying to bring the people and this generation back to something of the past. This cannot be done. This is not the purpose of God.

The old order and everything in it that is unscriptural must go. There is little in religion and practically nothing in finance that can remain in the kingdom age or in the kingdom order. So today we have a resistance and a rebellion against the word and the will of God for our day. And it would not be so bad if it were just among the communists, the modernists, the unbelievers and the atheists, but you find this among Christian people. You find this among born-again believers. They insist, regardless of the evidence to the contrary, that the Jews are Israel that the church is the kingdom, and they refuse to realize and recognize the fact that the church age is closing and the kingdom age is upon us.

We find that the spirit of God was striving with man. Now let us note something further in verse 11: "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." Jesus said as it was in the days of Noah so will it be at the closing of this age. I have given you several of the earmarks of that age; here we have more. One is corruption. The other is violence.

What did Jesus mean and to whom did He refer when He said that the flood came and destroyed them all? Did He destroy Noah, or the people who wanted to live according to the Word of God? No! They were not destroyed. It was those people who resisted the word of God for the nation and the people who devoted their time, their effort and their energy to the corruption of others. The people who violated God's civil, moral and social laws are those whom He destroyed. It is a handful of people, and thank God only a handful, who actually spend all their time, their effort and all their

resources to corrupt this nation, our youth and everything possible. These are the people who are to be eliminated. These are the people Jesus had in mind when He said "and destroyed them all."

Then there are people who are given over to violence. I think we can over emphasize the wickedness of our day. It was true that the apostle Paul said that evil doers would wax worse and worse but who is it that supplies the finances for the thousands of broadcasts every week given over to the preaching of the gospel and to preserving our constitutional republic? Are these people evil doers? They are giving hundreds and thousands of dollars every week to support Christian and patriotic teaching and preaching.

I am aware that evil doers are waxing worse and worse. I am aware that there are people who are corrupting this nation and I am also aware of the fact that there is a great deal of violence. But I think that some publicity and some recognition could be given to the fact that there probably are more good people, and I am speaking of humanly good people, in this nation today than at any time in our history. Are these people who send billions of dollars worth of aid and help throughout the world all wicked? Are they all corrupters? Are they all violent? It seems that the media likes to emphasize the violence, the corruption and the wickedness in order to spread these evils throughout the nation.

When Jesus said "and destroy them all," He was not referring to the millions of good people in this nation who desire nothing more than to live and let live; and I might add that this generation of American people are perhaps more generous, more tolerant and more kind than any previous generation.

I think there has been too much emphasis and too much publicity given to the corrupters and to the violent people and to the people who defy much that is Christian and that is constitutional. According to the words of the Lord and to all the prophets these are the people that are going to be destroyed. I know that there is a teaching that the Christians are going to be destroyed. No, the Christians are not going to be destroyed. It is the wicked in this kingdom nation who are going to be eliminated.

Now let us consider what Daniel says about the same period. He speaks of the time of trouble and violence. In Daniel 12:1 we read: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble." This, of course, is stated throughout Bible prophecy. This time of trouble is at hand because of our ignorance. All the evils, the misfortunes and the distresses that are upon us as a generation are not necessarily punitive. They are not necessarily upon us as a punishment or a judgment. They are upon us because we are ignorant of the purpose and the will of God for our time and for our nation.

For instance, when our forefathers came out of Egypt, we are told that they could have taken another route, a shorter route with less difficulty, but God had to take them the route He did with all its distress, anxiety, danger and all of the upheaval that they had to endure because they did not understand. We are being forced like cattle because we will not consider the Word and the will of God.

Much of the trouble today is due to the fact that we're passing from one age into another age and we do not understand what it is all about. Because we do not understand, we cannot intelligently walk in the scriptural and the right way during this transition period.

Daniel saw our time and he said there shall be a "... time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time." Note that this is the distress of nations.

People speak of the great tribulation. The church has been in tribulation from the day of Pentecost. The expression "the great tribulation" is not found in the Bible. The tribulation, the trouble, and the violence at the end of the age was something that was to come upon the nations because we've come to the end of the church age and we're going into the kingdom age. This is distress of nations as Jesus said, and nations are in such trouble and such distress throughout the earth that they fly from one conference to another. They go from one country to the other seeking aid and counsel and agreements because of the trouble.

Daniel said there would be trouble such as there never was since there was a nation. "... even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered." However, Scripture has been canceled out until it means practically nothing to the people to whom it should bring joy and hope for deliverance.

Twice in this verse we have the expression, "thy people." What people was the Holy Spirit referring to when He inspired Daniel to write, "thy people shall be delivered?" We can clarify this and show who these people are.

They are the Isaac-sons. Daniel was a member of the race that came from Isaac through Jacob. Daniel was of the Judah kingdom, but Daniel was not of the Jewish religion. If Daniel were alive today, he would not be spoken of as a Jew. He was a member of the Judah kingdom, the Judah tribe; that is one thing. To be a member of the Jewish religion is something else. The latter is the way the word is used today, of course. Daniel's people were the people that Michael stood up for. I can establish this if you will think and follow with me, as we go back into Exodus 23:20. This was spoken to the Isaac sons, the Anglo-Saxon people. Six hundred years before there were a people known as the Jewish people God spoke through Moses to the Isaac-sons, saying:

"Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries." This Angel I believe was the same angel that Daniel refers to in the 12th chapter. He refers to the angel "that standeth for the children of thy people." The people that the angel stood up for, defended and directed are the people that we read about here in Exodus 23.

Turning to Joshua 5:13, we read: "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?" Who was this? I believe it was Michael. I believe it was the great warrior Angel that was appointed in Exodus 23.

Verse 14: "And he said, Nay, but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come, And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant?" Holding the thought, and the belief, that the Almighty has appointed a warrior angel to defend and watch over the Anglo-Saxons, His people, let us continue to show from the Scriptures that this present age, the church age, closes in a time of great trouble and great violence. This trouble and violence are largely due to the fact that there are so many things in our political and religious and especially in our economic system that the Almighty will not allow to enter into the kingdom age. Therefore as we read in Hebrews chapter 12 and verse 27 God is now using various forces to shake everything that those things which cannot be shaken, and that means systems in harmony with the Word of God, may remain.

Hebrews 12:28-29. "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire." Much of our trouble and violence, and a great deal of this upheaval that we are witnessing today is due to the fact that we are to receive the kingdom; the kingdom of God is to come into full manifestation, first in this kingdom nation and then it is to spread throughout the earth. And, of course, these systems that are not in harmony with the Word of God must be removed, and they will be. The unfortunate thing is that people do not take time to examine these systems in the light of Scripture to find out what is contrary and what is in harmony with the Word of God.

Note again the words of the Lord Jesus Christ relative to our day in Luke 17:23: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all."

Verse 30: "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed." Here again we are confronted with this question of what the Lord had in mind when He said "destroyed them all." Were all men destroyed in the destruction of Sodom? Of course, the answer is no. Certain types of people were destroyed, eliminated and removed from off the face of the earth in the justice and judgment of Almighty God.

I think we could get some further light on this in II Peter 2:6 "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly." Now this is something quite specific and very definite. It says that this destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha was a warning; it was an ensample to those who would give themselves over to corruption, violence, and a life that would defy God's laws and God's word.

Verse 7: "And delivered just Lot . . ." In the book of Genesis you'll find that according to our standard of what a Christian should or should not be or do, Lot did not measure up too well. Lot was spoken of as a righteous man, but he was not the same type of person as Abraham. Abraham was what we would consider today a dedicated, spiritual and very godly man, separated from everything that was evil and contrary to the Word of God. Lot chose a different life. If you will read his life story in the book of Genesis, you'll find he identifies himself to a certain extent, at least his family did, with the social and political life of Sodom and Gomorrha. Nevertheless, when the time came for God to bring judgment and destruction upon Sodom and Gomorrha, Lot was delivered.

Why did God deliver Lot? We find something here that I think is quite revealing, comforting and encouraging. There are millions of people in this nation who are not born-again believers, but they are humanly speaking very good people. Now note this that is stated about Lot.

Verse 7: "... vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked." We have millions of people just like that in our nation today. We have a handful of corrupters, we have a handful of people who seem to delight in corrupting everything they possibly can whether it be the youth, religion, recreation, or most anything that they can get into. And we have a handful of people going throughout the nation stirring up violence and animosity. But we have millions of good people in this nation who are vexed with these filthy lies, "filthy conversation," and these agitators and subverters, these corrupters who delight in corrupting people and corrupting systems.

Verse 8 speaks of Lot as a righteous man. He was righteous in the sense of national righteousness; he was not so righteous when it came to what we know as personal or Christian righteousness. "For that righteous man dwelling

among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds." The things that troubled Lot was this unlawfulness, this violence and this disregard for law and for authority. This apparently was one reason why God arranged that he was taken out of Sodom and Gomorrah before the fire fell.

Verse 9: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."

There is something very significant here to which we should give thought. There is a teaching, and people seem to have the idea, that as we go into this time of judgment, devastation and destruction the Almighty will bring indiscriminate destruction upon people who are good, bad or indifferent. That is not true. According to the Scriptures we find that there are certain types of persons that will be and must be eliminated first, of course, from among the kingdom people and then throughout the earth.

Note how similar the 30th chapter of Jeremiah is to the prophecy of Daniel which we considered earlier. Daniel prophesied there would be a time of trouble in our time the like of which there has never been since there was a nation. But then he said that Daniel's people would be delivered.

Before we read from Jeremiah 30 let me call your attention to the time indicator in the last verse of this chapter. "The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it . . ." Done what?

Destroyed the wicked from among His people. "and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it." Here we are in the latter days and we are on the radio and in print considering it.

Now Back to Jeremiah 30:5: "For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace." And that's our day.

"Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child?" That is a strange question isn't it? Well, there is a reason for it, "wherefore do I see every man with his hands

on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?" The time we are now going through is spoken of throughout the Scripture as a time of tribulation — not annihilation, and not complete destruction. The prophets, the Christ and the apostles speak of this time as a time of travail. They liken it unto the birth of a child.

Why did they do this? Because something is coming forth out of this time of trouble and violence and anxiety and sorrow. What is it? The kingdom of God is going to come in its full manifestation.

Jeremiah said he sees every man with his hands on his loins. What does that symbolize? It symbolizes that there is nothing that man can do. Man will be confronted with a world wide condition and situation that is beyond him and he cannot handle it. But God Almighty will bring the kingdom into full manifestation.

Verse 7: "Alas! that day is great . . ." What could be more apparent? This is the day of great things. In education, production, communication, travel or invention this is the day of great things! Things are done today on a scale never imagined or dreamed of in the past. Certainly this is the great day.

And he says, "that none is like it: It is even the time of Jacob's trouble . . ." Who is Jacob? That is the Bible name of the Anglo-Saxon people of today. We could write volumes on the trouble that has come to the Anglo-Saxon people. You can begin with World War 1, the Depression, World War II, and the trouble we are in now. Then consider the trouble that came to Germany, Britain, to France, and the trouble that came to the old world as well as the new world. So we are in the time of Jacob's trouble. Daniel and the Christ said it would be trouble for nations.

This is the tribulation, the trouble that the Anglo-Saxon people are in today, but "thy people," the people of Christendom shall be saved or delivered.

To be continued next month.

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