

The World Today, in That Coming Day

THE PROPHETS HAVE SPOKEN, AND THEIR WORDS WILL COME TO PASS

“And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the Lord thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness [distress], wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee.

So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave.

So that he will not give to any of them the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straightness [distress], wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates.

The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,

And toward her young one [after-birth] that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children whom she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straightness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates.

If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, *THE LORD THY GOD*.

Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful [remarkable], and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sickness, and of long continuance...

And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldst not obey the voice of the Lord thy God" (Deut. 28:53-59, 62).

(Note that the warnings and curses in Deuteronomy chapter twenty-eight have to do with *the Jewish people ALONE*, though the Gentile nations have been and will be caught up in the matter.

The expression, "the Lord thy God," appears three times in the quoted section [vv. 53, 58, 62; cf. vv. 1, 2, 8, 9, et al; Deut. 30:1-10]. And *ISRAEL* is the *ONLY* nation on the face of the earth with a God, allowing for this expression — a Biblical teaching with its basis in Gen. 9:24-27.

"The gods of the nations" — *all of the Gentile nations*, with Israel *NOT* to be reckoned among the nations — are clearly revealed to be *NOTHING* compared to the one true and living God, *the God of Israel* [Ps. 96:5; cf. Ps. 33:12; 72:18].

Or, in the light of II Cor. 4:4, along with Dan. 10:12-20 — Satan, "the god of this world ['age']" — "the gods of the nations" are, as well, clearly revealed to be *DEMONS*.

[For additional information on the preceding, refer to the author's article, "The Intractable Middle East Problem".]

The quoted verses from Deuteronomy chapter twenty-eight (cf. Lev. 26) are both preceded and followed by prophesied judgments which have befallen the Jewish people at times in the past but are about to befall the same people after a fashion without precedent in the 3,500-year history of the nation.

God is ABOUT TO pull out ALL stops in order to place the Jewish people in such DIRE STRAITS that repentance WILL ultimately be forthcoming.

The severity of *THAT* which the Third Reich brought upon the Jewish people in Europe immediately before and during the WWII years, though only part of world Jewry was directly affected, *DIDN'T* bring about repentance.

NOR had *ANY* of the persecution, going back millenniums, to times preceding Messiah's first advent, brought about repentance.

BUT, that ABOUT TO befall the nation during an unfulfilled seven years remaining in the Jewish dispensation during Man's Day —Daniel's unfulfilled Seventieth Week — WILL be of such severity that the nation WILL be left without a choice OTHER than to CALL upon the God of their fathers.

As previously stated, many of the judgments described in Leviticus chapter twenty-six and Deuteronomy chapter twenty-eight have befallen the Jewish people in the past. Accordingly, expositors sometimes look at these different times in past history for fulfillments of these sections of Scripture.

But there is ONLY ONE TIME in ALL of human history where ALL OF THESE THINGS, IN ALL OF THEIR SEVERITY, CAN BE SEEN BEFALLING ALL OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AT THE SAME TIME. And THAT time is BOTH yet future and ALMOST upon us.

Evidently, millions of Jews alive in the world today are going to find themselves leaving that typified by the time of plenty during Joseph's day (*for it WILL end, EXACTLY as in the type*) and entering into that typified by the time of famine which then followed during Joseph's day (*for it WILL then begin, EXACTLY as in the type*).

And also, *EXACTLY as in the type*, that about to befall the Jewish people *WILL BE OF SUCH A SEVERE NATURE* that previous conditions, of a completely opposite nature, *will NOT* even be remembered in that day (Gen. 41:25-32, 53-57).

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Evident from the times in which we live and that which can be seen occurring all around us (living at a time very near the end of the dispensation, with lawlessness, civil unrest, homosexuality, etc. running rampant, and unrest in the Middle East existing on a scale heretofore unseen), *events occurring in the world today can ONLY be, at least after some fashion, setting the stage for that which will be occurring when time during Daniel's Seventieth Week, the Tribulation, begins.*

And, as seen in that which Christ revealed to His disciples in the Olivet Discourse, *wars, famines, and pestilences (plagues, diseases)* are things which will mark the first part of the Tribulation (Matt. 24:7; Luke 21:11), with *famine* singled out as a major factor during the last half of the Tribulation (Rev. 6:3-8).

But, with famine of the nature which will exist in those days, other things — plagues, diseases, and all types of unrest — *could ONLY continue from the first half of the Tribulation and accompany the famine.*

And the world is rapidly moving in this direction on both fronts — famine, with the accompanying plagues, diseases, and all types of unrest.

1) Famine

Famine is *ALREADY* a major problem in certain parts of the world, and, with the passage of time, *it can ONLY* increasingly become a major problem worldwide.

An increase in food production during modern times has NOT kept pace with the increase in world population. Global population has doubled during about the past half century, and it is expected to double again during a comparable length of time in the future. With the passing of each day, about one-quarter million people are added to the about six and one-half billion inhabitants of the earth.

(A doubling of the population is *NOT* a doubling of a previous number *BUT* a doubling of the current number.

That is, three billion doubling to six billion [near the current world population], six billion doubling to twelve billion [projected population in about another fifty years or so], twelve billion doubling to twenty-four billion [projected population in some 100 years or so], etc.

Of course, *the TIME for this to occur on the projection does NOT exist.* We are too near the end of the Man's Day. It has been given only to illustrate *WHAT* has been occurring with the world's population in this exponential manner over the past 100 or so years and *WHY* the world is increasingly finding itself with more and more problems, which will be brought to a head during the coming Tribulation.)

Agriculture, along with a number of different things related to agriculture, *could ONLY top the list* of problems which man is faced with today. And, as previously stated, *agriculture, over the years, has NOT kept pace with the population increase.*

And other major problems exist which are either directly or indirectly related to agriculture.

For example, *supplies of fresh water and quality soil* — vitally necessary for agriculture — are both being depleted and/or polluted.

Then there *are the natural resources* which are being depleted, some vitally necessary for the support of even human life itself.

And the list could go on and on and on...

For years, water has been pumped from underground reservoirs much, much faster than it has been replenished (e.g., water for farmland use pumped by multiplied thousands of wells from the Ogallala Aquifer lying beneath the surface of western Texas, western Kansas, and much of Nebraska forms one such usage), and wells are continually having to be dug deeper and deeper as the water levels continue

to drop lower and lower (about 80 percent of water usage worldwide today is for agriculture alone).

And it is evident that water usage after this fashion can't continue indefinitely. Matters are already far beyond the point of no return; and though major changes are being worked on, proposed, and even worked out in some instances, *the inevitable can ONLY occur with the passage of time* — an increasing non-availability of fresh water for crops which the world has to have, resulting in an increasing non-availability of food, resulting in increasing unheard-of prices for the food that will be available, resulting in an increasing famine on a level heretofore unseen in the world...

2) *Pestilences*

Then, along with the preceding, *there will be pestilences (plagues and diseases), along with the pollution of existing land and water*. And, in the light of things occurring in the world today, it would take little imagination to see how numerous things already in place could very well lead into the first part of the Tribulation and then escalate, accompanying the corresponding famine, during the latter part of the Tribulation.

Super-strains of viruses have already appeared, some which cannot be controlled, due in no small part to the abuse of drugs to control diseases throughout past decades.

Then there are current viruses/diseases such as COVED, AIDS, etc.

3) *Putting It All Together*

When this is all put together, *one has a very SIMILAR picture, IF NOT an EXACT picture*, of escalated conditions during the Tribulation, particularly during the latter part of this seven-year period.

Whether or not present conditions as previously described will play major roles in how conditions will evolve and be-

come during the Tribulation can, of course, not be stated for certain. The matter has been presented in this manner *only to show that the world is quite ripe for that which Scripture states is about to occur.*

That is to say, as previously seen, conditions which could very well result in prophesied future conditions are currently in place.

THEN, something else needs to be considered.

TIME is fast running out. As previously stated, we are ALMOST at the END of Man's Day. We are ALMOST at THAT TIME when these prophesied events can ONLY begin occurring.

How Bad Will It Really Become?

During that future time, with famine (among other connected or related things) escalating and running rampant, exactly how bad will conditions become?

The answer to that question, from a Biblical standpoint, is very simple:

God is going to allow conditions in that coming day — “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:7ff) — to become AS BAD AS IT TAKES to bring about the Jewish people’s repentance.

That which happened in Europe during the reign of the Third Reich — the extreme persecution of the Jews throughout Europe and the extermination of 6,000,000 in the death camps — WASN’T enough to effect the nation’s repentance.

What will it take to bring about their repentance?

What will it take to bring this nation to the end of themselves, to the place where they will have NO choice BUT to call upon the God of their fathers?

It will take EXACTLY the things which the Word reveals are about to occur in the world — NOTHING LESS!

And THAT’S HOW BAD CONDITIONS ARE GOING TO BECOME, with the nations of the earth caught up in this right along with Israel.

1) The Prophets

During the Tribulation, particularly during the last half, *two-thirds of the Jewish population of the earth will die* (die because of hunger or accompanying plagues or diseases, or be slain at the hands of the Beast and those who do his bidding).

There are statements pertaining to all of this in a number of prophecies, *but in two books, the two-thirds number is given; and in one of these books a division of the two-thirds is given, showing part dying because of famine and pestilences and the other part dying, either directly or indirectly, at the hands of the Beast.*

Note, from Zechariah, the passage usually quoted pertaining to the two-thirds being slain:

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: And they shall say, The Lord is my God” (13:8, 9).

Then note what Ezekiel has to say about the same matter, providing additional information:

“Thus saith the Lord God; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her.

And she has changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them.

Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that are round about you;

Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations.

And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of thine abominations [a statement which can place this during *ONLY one time — during the future Tribulation*].

Therefore the fathers shall eat the sons in the midst of thee, and the sons shall eat their fathers; and I will execute judgments in thee, and the whole remnant of thee will I scatter into all the winds.

Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord God; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I diminish thee; neither shall thine eyes spare, neither will I have any pity.

A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with the famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them.

Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the Lord have spoken it in my zeal, when I have accomplished my fury in them" (5:5-13).

Note how bad things will become for the Jewish people, *SOLELY through the famine and accompanying pestilence. And this could ONLY exist among the nations as well, though NOT to the extent that it will be seen among the Jewish people.*

The Gentiles will have access to at least some food, *but THIS will NOT be the case with Israel.*

Conditions in the world for the Jewish people during the last half of the Tribulation *will become FAR, FAR worse* than conditions became for them in Nazi Germany and much of the remainder of Europe immediately preceding and during WWII.

The Jewish people during this time *will NOT* be able to purchase food; *NOR* will they be able to barter or sell their goods (Rev. 13:16, 17), with perhaps food in view.

2) Matthew 25:31-46

This is the “why” of *THAT* stated in Matt. 25:31-46 — which has to do with the Gentiles’ treatment of the Jewish people during the Tribulation and *THAT* which will result when Christ returns and deals with these Gentiles on that basis.

Saved Gentiles at the end of the Tribulation will be judged on *ONE* basis *ALONE*, with a *POSITION* in the *KINGDOM* in view.

They will be judged SOLELY on the basis of their treatment of the Jewish people during the Tribulation, which can ONLY be in the realm of helping or NOT helping them in different fashions — providing or NOT providing food, shelter, necessities of life, etc.

(Over the years Bible students have had problems with Matt. 25:31-46. *BUT*, if one will pay attention to the *CONTEXTUAL* setting and the *EXACT* wording of the text, problems, as is so often the case with *ANY* text, will *NOT* exist.

This passage, ending the Olivet Discourse, deals with *EXACTLY* what is stated in the text. It deals with Gentiles befriending/helping the Jews during the Tribulation.

There is NOTHING in this passage about salvation by grace and a person supposedly showing that he has EITHER been saved OR not saved by his works [the usual interpretation of the passage, which is an IMPOSSIBILITY, for a person CAN’T do anything to be saved, stay saved, or show that he has been saved; IF he could, salvation would cease to be by grace through faith.]

3) Inconceivable Conditions in *THAT* Day

The passage from Matt. 25:31-46 illustrates the “why” of that stated in verse ten of the previously quoted section of Scripture from Ezekiel chapter five. As seen in this verse, food will be so scarce in the camp of Israel in that coming day that canni-

balism will exist. Matters in this respect, as clearly stated in Scripture, will be brought to the place that even those in a family will slay and eat other members of that family.

Inconceivable? Impossible?

Hardly!

Not only has this happened in history but Scripture clearly states that it will happen again — *on a much broader scale* — during a time in the immediate future when conditions will become so severe (famine, among other things) that, apart from the Lord's intervention, the human race *could NOT* survive those days (Matt. 24:22).

But Israel brought to the place of repentance through this persecution will effect the Lord's intervention in man's affairs *ONCE AGAIN*.

During *Elijah and Elisha's day*, conditions surrounding famine became *SO* severe that an ass' head and dove's dung were sold for pieces of silver; and, as well, there is an account of a mother killing and boiling her own son for food (II Kings 6:24-31).

And the Tribulation and time immediately following will, so to speak, *be Elijah's day AGAIN*, when he appears, with Moses, here on earth in the land of Israel during the first half of the Tribulation, and then accompanies Christ to earth at the time of His return, following the Tribulation.

And famine, of a similar type seen during his day in history will be seen again during his day yet future (cf. Lev. 26:29; Deut. 28:53-57).

Then the preceding is just part of a much larger picture.

The death of two-thirds of the world's Jewish population would be little more than about 9,000,000 as the Jewish population of the earth presently stands.

BUT, what about the billions comprising the remainder of the earth's population?

At least one-fourth of these individuals are going to die during or immediately following this time as well (cf. Rev. 6:8-10; 7:9, 13, 14; 9:18; 11:13; 13:7).

Why?

How?

Hunger, plagues, diseases would address part of the matter; judgments during the Tribulation would address other parts; mandatory Beast worship, taking his mark would address more...

And, as seen, many going through this time will not make it all the way through. Only the ones enduring until the end will be delivered out of this time (Matt. 24:13).

Inconceivable conditions will exist in that day (famine, plagues, diseases, cannibalism); the government of the earth will be *of an inconceivable form* (things recently seen in ISIS and/or Al-Qaeda could be no more than a forerunner or prelude to something far worse existing in that day); and the resulting carnage which will follow (consisting of over a billion people), as well, *can ONLY be looked upon in an inconceivable fashion.*

4) Joseph's Day, Our Day

As previously seen, in the Book of Genesis, during Joseph's day while in Egypt, there were seven years of plenty which were followed by seven years of famine.

And the years of famine became so severe that the preceding years of plenty were NOT even remembered (Gen. 41:29-31, 53, 54).

And the preceding — a type of that about to occur, showing *two complete periods of time by the two sevens of years* — relates *EXACTLY* how conditions presently exist in that which "Egypt" typifies, *in the world* (during the time of plenty), and how conditions will shortly become *in the world* (during the time of famine).

We're living during the time of plenty; BUT, this time is ABOUT to end, with the time of famine to follow. And the latter, in complete keeping with the type, will be SO severe that the former will NOT even be remembered.

And you DON'T want to be here (a time which CAN'T possibly be very far away)!

IF saved, you WON'T be here. You will have been removed into the heavens, with ensuing events occurring there (the judgment seat of Christ and things beyond).

BUT, IF unsaved, and alive at the time when the Church is removed, you WILL be here, awaiting ensuing events as well (events as previously described).

(One thing needs to be clarified about that stated in the preceding several paragraphs.

A removal of Christians into the heavens preceding the Tribulation on earth is *NOT an escape from God's judgment, for ALL Christians removed will, at THAT time [preceding the beginning of the Tribulation on earth], appear before Christ at His judgment seat.*

And regarding Christians in that day, placing the matter in a correct Scriptural setting and perspective, Donald Grey Barnhouse, longtime pastor of a large Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia during the first part of the past century, stated on one occasion [perhaps on other occasions as well], "That which many Christians appearing before Christ's judgment seat will experience in that coming day will make them wish that they were back on earth going through the Great Tribulation.")

Then, One Other Thing to Consider

As previously stated, the Church (*ALL Christians — the living at that time, and the dead from throughout the dispensation, resurrected*) will be removed from the earth into the heavens preceding the Tribulation.

And Israel, along with the Gentile nations (billions of people, evidently from the times in which we live, people alive today), are going to go through this time of unparalleled trouble, suffering, death...

But think for a moment about the scene in the world once all Christians have been removed.

In most countries, it will make little to no difference (e.g., Moslem countries, or countries with only a sprinkling of Christians).

BUT, note a country such as the United States, where millions of Christians can be found working and heavily engaged in almost every conceivable type job. *WHAT'S going to happen when the individuals holding all of these jobs, without any advance warning, are suddenly no longer here?*

How long will the power stay up, the water keep running, the gasoline pumps keep working, the grocery stores remain open — and the list could go on and on — when key individuals in all these jobs are suddenly no longer here to provide service and help?

ONLY ONE THING could possibly exist in much of the country, particularly in large cities, for at least a time — Mass Chaos!

And *HOW* will this possibly play into aiding or helping bring matters to pass in order to correspond with the manner Scripture describes these things existing in the world during this future time?

Of course, we *CAN'T* know the answers to these questions; *BUT*, we *CAN* know *HOW* things are about to become.

And the latter is ALL that God has revealed; and, aside from a corresponding understanding of the signs of the times, the latter is ALL that we really need to know.

Simply leave the matter for God to work out in His WAY and TIME, which He WILL DO!