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What's Happening To The World?

The recent, disturbing events in this world are causing most people to wonder just what is happening. When two planes flew into the World Trade Center buildings in 2001, it was as if a giant hand slapped us all awake. When the United States struck back in Afghanistan, demolishing Al-Qaeda and putting the Taliban under ban, it wasn't long before the Palestinian problem erupted again and the world's attention was turned to Israel. The USA was hit by tropical storms causing extensive damage to Louisiana and neighboring states.

More recently a sniper or snipers began shooting down innocent citizens as they went about normal daily routines. Terrorists struck in Bali, Kuwait, and Yemen. The groundwork was laid for an invasion of Iraq and the specter of biological and chemical warfare raised. The possibility of nuclear events caused by rogue nations nags the minds of the people. We all wonder, just what is going on? Where will it all end? How did we as a nation get where we are?

Long ago, a prophet in Israel declared to that nation, "They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind." "You have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception." "Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord." (Hosea 8:7, 10:13, 12) Earlier in the same book of Hosea, he speaks for Yahweh, the God of Israel and says, "Woe to them, because they have strayed from me! Destruction to them, because they

have rebelled against me! I long to redeem them but they speak lies against me." He goes on: "They do not turn to the Most High; they are like a faulty bow. Their leaders will fall by the sword because of their insolent words." (Hosea 7:13, 16)

Can the same be said of the United States of America? Can the same be said of numerous countries around the world which are suffering similar torments? Well, let's focus our attention on the USA and if the shoe fits other countries, they can put it on too.

Proverbs 14:34 says, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." I can hear the groans and mockery of some who would say, "Oh please, don't start with that religious stuff. This is a complex situation and religious bigotry will only make it worse." My response is this: Anti-Christ bigotry is what has brought it all to pass.

No human society could be considered perfect or even near-perfect, but there was a time in this country when we were a whole lot closer. There was a time when movies could not be released if they contained profanity, and especially obscenity. Why was that? We had a movie review board which made decisions on that matter. But mostly it was because the population would not stand for it. Such a crass manner of speaking was uncommon and unacceptable. In many of our schools the day began with prayer and even a Bible verse. We generally accepted that we were a Christian nation and acknowledged God even in our

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schools. What happened? The movie review board was disbanded, discontinued. The Supreme Court decided that prayer in school was establishing religion and causing shame to children who might have atheist beliefs, or who were of another religious persuasion. So God was expelled from school, even though He didn't do anything wrong!

Now, I am old enough to have seen all this taking place. I remember when the above events occurred. I watched the rest unfold through the years. Prayer was taken out of the schools in the mid-1950's, as was censorship of the movies. Soon movie producers began to push the envelope of public acceptance with greater and greater instances of objectionable scenes. Our inner cities began to experience a tremendous increase in violent, criminal behavior in school settings.

By the early 1960's we were confronted with an epidemic of marijuana use and no body of medical evidence to face down the proponents of "getting stoned". Seeing that they did not die after smoking a joint, the young libertines began to experiment with more drugs like LSD, speed, cocaine, banana peels, (yes, banana peels: remember "Mellow Yellow?") and whatever they could think up. Many of them died as a result.

The legislatures of many states began to decide that homosexuality was not a criminal act and decriminalized it. More and more that "lifestyle" was pushed on the populace as a normal way of living. The major cities like San Francisco, California began to have burgeoning groups of people indulging in homosexual

activity. Soon the symptoms of a decaying society began to be manifest.

In the early 80's a truly disturbing discovery was made. A new disease, AIDS, was plaguing the homosexual community especially, transmitted through bodily fluids, generally through sexual practices. Instead of quarantining those with this lethal disease, and recording for the authorities those reported to have it, as had been done with other STDs for decades, it was decided to leave anonymous those infected. This was because of the maniacal, rabid militancy of the homosexual community. They simply could not face the fact that their practices had exposed them to a deadly, horrid disease.

Rather than admit that their activities had helped introduce a deadly disease to humanity and was spreading it like wildfire, they tenaciously fought to preserve the environment that guaranteed HIV would spread unchecked to the population at large. Blood drives were organized in San Francisco which forbid the exclusion of homosexuals.

The blood supply became contaminated, dooming others who were totally unsuspecting of the danger. Along with the above developments, there was a groundswell of interest in astrology and the occult. Many became intrigued with tarot cards and ouija boards. The New Age movement began taking hold with its belief in spirits who would come and guide individuals and channel themselves through such. In spite of the fact that The Bible warns against all of the above practices, people flocked to such ideologies in droves.

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The TV and movie media were especially effective in promoting these aberrations.

Concurrent with many of these developments was the Supreme Court decision in 1973 that a woman had the right to an abortion. Certainly the Bible was not considered in this decision, for in its pages we find David exclaiming, “I praise you because I am wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” (Psalms 139:14-16) Soon unborn babies were being slaughtered to the tune of over a million per year. In a few years we had outdone the holocaust of Hitler. And we have yet to repent of it!

As though the demons of hell had become incarnate, the 70's and 80's saw the arrival of Rock and Roll bands like Black Sabbath, AC-DC, Ozzy Ozbourne and others which threw off all “convention” and encouraged total abandonment to immorality and even went so far as to have “altar calls” for conversion to Satanism! To those who say that such statements are overkill and not true, I say, I was there. I was raising teenagers during that time. It was and still is hell on earth!

The product of all these developments is a society shot through with decay, immorality, deviation, occultism, perversion and untimely death. We now have a world where to insinuate that homosexuality is wrong is to be booted off the stage, excluded from the

inner circle of Hollywood, ridiculed in the press and on TV. To assert that abortion is wrong and criminal is to be labeled a bigot, a nut, and blackballed from the social circles of the elite. To declare that one should wait until marriage to have sexual relations, and then restrict such relations only to one's mate is to be laughed at, and scorned as a prude. To include it in a movie is to virtually cancel your chances of getting produced.

To be brutally frank, our society has come too much to resemble the description in Revelation 9:20, 21 when it describes the plagues coming on an unrepentant world: “They did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood--idols that cannot see or hear or walk. Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts.”

We have a world which puts its trust in gold and silver instead of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. We have a civilization that will not repent of the murders of millions of innocent children in the womb, which seeks to get direction from the magic arts of tarot, astrology and spirit mediums. We have a society which flagrantly ignores reality and the Word of God as it condones and promotes immorality of all forms. Thankfully, not all are of that sort. Gratefully, many have heard the call of God to a repentant life and have accepted the Lordship of Jesus Christ who will one day make all things right.

So what is happening to the world? Can we really be surprised that the warning of Scripture is proving true, that all these things

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would befall a decaying society? All these symptoms of corruption point to a time, which may come very soon, when God will step in and call a halt to the evil works of our civilization. Many things happening right now resemble the picture painted by the book of Revelation, the last book of The Bible, which describes the end of our world and the final creation of a New Heavens and a New Earth, wherein righteousness dwells. (2Peter 3:13)

Throughout the pages of the Bible, over and over again, the prophets insisted that the sins of the nation of Israel was the root cause of their vulnerability to attack from other nations. For instance, in Ezekiel 8:6, God is quoted thus: "Son of man, do you see what they are doing -- the utterly detestable things the house of Israel is doing here, things that will drive me far from my sanctuary?"

Notice that last sentence, "things that will drive me far from my sanctuary." The Word of God is here indicating that obeying the laws of righteousness, listening to the counsel of God, keeps God near and thus His protection is maintained. To turn from righteousness sends His protection away. So when we are attacked and suffer defeat, let us not blame God as if He were responsible, but look to ourselves for our abandoning of Him.

The question is, "What is my response to all these thoughts? How shall I handle this?" For me, or for you, today may be the end of the world. Those poor victims of the sniper in Maryland and Virginia had no warning that their lives were about to end. We have no guarantee that ours will not end today of

some other malicious event. It is time to accept God's evaluation of life and its purpose. It is time to turn to a loving God who sent His Son to die on the cross and take the penalty for our sins, so that we might have fellowship with God by faith in Jesus. If you have never done so, or if you need to do it again, pray this prayer or one like it.

"Father God, I recognize that I have been thinking and acting in a way which conflicts with your will. I have sinned in my thoughts and my deeds. I know that Jesus took the penalty for my sins, so I could come to you in His name. I trust in what Jesus did for me on the cross, not in my own goodness. Please forgive me for my offenses and draw me close to you. Live in me by your Holy Spirit so I can live in a way that pleases you. I ask it in Jesus' name. Amen."

If you don't have a Bible, get one. If you have a Bible, read it and ask God to help you understand it. Find a church where God is feared, revered and loved and where God comforts your heart as you turn to him. Resolve to live a life that is right in the eyes of God, by the power of God. By doing so, you will become like Jesus, the hope of the world.

We invite your feedback and support. Send your comments to:

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