



REPENT

AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

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WHERE NOW AUSTRALIA?

Without doubt we live in momentous times as the year 2003 begins to unfold. Ever since terror struck from the skies on 11 September 2001, an horrific event that was mirrored a year, a month and a day later in the Bali disaster which hit much closer to home, we have lived in a changed world. No longer can we be blasé about the threat of terror even in our very midst. In fact, it does not matter where we look the rapid and ever-increasing deterioration in world conditions just cannot be ignored.

Drought, Fire, Salt

In Australia we are experiencing the worst drought on record, salinity is fast devouring much good farming land and ruining many of our waterways and rampant bushfires have destroyed many homes and threatened the lives of hundreds of Australians. Unprecedented national debt continues to mount inexorably though the seriousness of the matter is never raised in public debate. Moreover you might ask why as a nation we cannot arrest the immense flow of drugs that is destroying the lives of many of our youth or the constant stream of immoral filthy movies that continue to pour out of Hollywood, England and elsewhere. Not to mention the debauched "music" that has taken over the minds of so many of our people both young and old. Or the muggings and murders of the defenceless in our society, many too afraid to venture out of locked and barred homes at night. And hanging over all is the threat of total war that could burst out across the globe between the West and the Islamic nations when the United States' belligerence towards Iraq explodes into full-scale conflict.

Reaping the Harvest

Yet to those who know their scriptures all these grim events come as no surprise. We have ignored the promises of God's Word and now we are reaping the harvest. Therefore "darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people" (Isaiah 60:2) in the last days before the return of the Lord to this earth. In fact as the darkness of sin and rebellion against God and His Christ spreads across the lands the warning comes as a clarion call: "Blow the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble for the day of the Lord is coming; for it is at hand." (Joel 2:1)

A Time of Tribulation

Be warned! We are heading for a time of tribulation "unequaled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equalled again. And except those days be cut short no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened" (Matt 24:21). The time is drawing ever closer to the prophesied hour when God will actively intervene to punish sin that is fast approaching its zenith. It was prophesied long ago that in these last days "people will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Tim 3:1-4). This is happening today! Even now He is warning us through the natural calamities that are striking more and more that His patience has just about run full course. The Holy God

will not sit idly by while the nations, and especially His elect repeatedly and wilfully flout His laws and mock His Son who suffered and died for them on a cruel Roman cross at Calvary. Soon and very soon He will cry out, "Enough is enough!" In the not-too-distant future the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His mighty angels and will deal severely with those who neither know God nor obey the gospel. "They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His power on the day He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who believed." (2 Thess 1:9-10)

God Never Changes

You don't believe it? You believe that life will go on just as always? Are you one of the scoffers saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? Ever since our fathers have been laid to rest everything still continues on just as it has always done from the beginning of the world." (2 Peter 3:4) Think again. God never changes. He is always appalled by violence, lawlessness, corruption, deviant behaviour and defiance of His laws. But His longsuffering toward His creation has restrained His hand, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Ultimately however He can tolerate these things no longer. Jesus Himself warns us: "Just as it was in the days of Noah so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom fire and brimstone rained down from heaven and destroyed them all." (Luke 17: 26-29)

"She'll Be Right"

So, where now Australia? The choice is ours. Do we continue on the present road we are travelling of blithely meandering along with our "she'll be right, mate" attitude to our future ruin or do we do an about-face and return to the ways of God that once brought much blessing? Remember God is merciful. He will forgive and remember our sins no more if we will but repent and forsake our wicked ways. His Word says so: "If at any time I announce that a nation or a kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned." (Jer 18:7,8) Four hundred years ago God allowed this country to be called the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. Our humble beginnings in obedience to Jesus Christ won us favour and abundant blessings from Almighty God as His blood covenant people called by His name – Christians. But today we have broken the covenant and forsaken Him, the Fountain of Living Waters and Source of all Goodness. But even at this eleventh hour it is still not too late to make Jesus Christ Lord of Australia. It only depends on our willingness to get right with God through acknowledging our sin and our deep desire to accept Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life for each of us as individuals and our country as a whole.

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PRAYER

Omniscient God, Author and Finisher of our faith, we thank You for revealing Yourself in these uncertain times to Your people as we humble ourselves in obedience to Your inerrant Word. Sovereign Lord, release Your fire from heaven to purge and purify us of our pride, self-righteousness and double mindedness to act in faith on that Word. Blessed Holy Spirit, continue to sanctify our hearts and minds so we may speak for You with wisdom in the midst of a perverse and sinful generation. We thank You, Father, for Jesus our friend who bore all our sins and woes at Calvary. What a privilege it is to carry all our troubles to You in prayer through Him! Thank You for the assurance that we should never be discouraged for Jesus knows our every weakness and the desires of our hearts and in His arms He will hold, shield and guide all who know and trust Him. Heavenly Father, in the power of Jesus' blood we bind every antichrist, man-made scheme and conspiracy at work in this nation and in His name we release Your own plan and purpose for this the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit. We pray all these things in the triumphant name of Jesus Christ our coming King of Glory and Lord of Lords. Amen.

R.A. Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His Holy Name. Amen

REJOICE & SHARE THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.