



# 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*

**VOLUME 10:1-2**

**JAN/FEB 2005**

## **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

The world has been stunned into a state of shock. The cataclysmic tragedy of the combined earthquake and tsunami of Boxing Day last year has continued to reverberate across the globe as people everywhere try to come to grips with the unprecedented disaster that created havoc in South-east Asia and beyond. Many are asking, what is going on? What will happen next? Well, the Bible tells us plainly that these sorts of calamities will strike the earth in the last days, before the return of the Lord. At such a time like this it would be most prudent to discern the sign of the times, for this world is racing ever faster, like a film spool that accelerates more and more as it nears its end. Over the past decade or so the momentum of life has continued to speed up incredibly as knowledge has virtually exploded. It is just as Daniel prophesied some 500 years before Christ that "at the end of time... knowledge shall increase." What an understatement! He also foretold that "many shall run to and fro". And never before in the long history of man on this earth has there been so much "to-ing and fro-ing" as today.

### **The Last Days**

But there are many other signs to indicate we are now in the end times. Jesus Himself had quite a lot to say about the conditions that would exist in the last days. He warned us to be ready because they would herald His second coming. He prophesied that "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank, they married... until the day that Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all" (Luke 17: 26, 27). Today we eat, drink, marry, buy sell, work and sleep until Boxing Day believing that life as we know it will always continue without any divine interference. Now we are not so sure. At that time God was an Unseen Observer – and exceedingly angry because the earth was corrupt in His sight... and filled with violence (See Gen 6: 11). Consequently, all except eight who trusted God and heeded His word were swallowed up in the global flood that destroyed the ungodly.

### **Ten Commandments Flouted**

Is it any different today? Immorality, perversion, lawlessness, corruption and greed are steadily dragging the nations of the world into a mire of iniquity. Biblical values are scorned: fornication and adultery are common; homosexuality is widely flaunted as an acceptable way of life; Satanism and the occult are rapidly gaining more and more converts to their ranks; alcohol and other drugs are ensnaring more of our youth in their clutches; pornography is everywhere; abortion is rampant; profanity on the media has risen dramatically, and morality among young people is at an all-time low. The Ten Commandments are not only brazenly flaunted but are regarded as dictatorial and archaic, clear evidence of sinful man's pride and rejection of God's holy Word.

### **Earthquakes, Famines, Epidemics**

The Lord also predicted that "there will be great earthquakes in various places and famines and epidemics" (Luke 21: 11). Apart from the recent horrific earthquake in Indonesia registering a massive 9.0 on the Richter scale, over 75 major quakes of 5.8 or above have been recorded in the last two years! Places struck included Japan, Iran, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Greece, California, Taiwan, China, Alaska and Turkey, to name just a few. Famines have continued to beset Africa, notably Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan. As for

epidemics, over the last 25 years more than 20 million people have died of AIDS worldwide, three million alone in 2003, the highest total of all. Furthermore there are the rapidly growing diseases of the Western world: heart disease, cancer and diabetes, victims of the last doubling over the last ten years with over half a million Australians falling victim to its deadly sweet embrace.

### **Nation Against Nation**

Jesus also foretold that in the last days, "you will hear of wars and rumours of wars... for nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom" (Matthew 24: 6, 7). Today the media is constantly reporting incidents of conflict – in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, Sudan, Columbia, Philippines, Indonesia and so on, as well as potential trouble between India and Pakistan, China and Taiwan, Iran and North Korea with their neighbours. With many nations in possession of weapons of mass destruction it would take just one small spark to engulf the entire planet in a nuclear war – the war to end all wars! Only those "who dwell in the secret place of the Most High" need not fear for "though a thousand may fall at your side... it shall not come near you" (Psalm 91)

### **Perilous Times**

The Apostle Paul also prophesied that "in the last days perilous times will come. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God". (2 Timothy 3: 1, 2, 4) How true of our world today! The desire to serve our own selfish ends, irrespective of others' rights and the community at large, has swept across the nations. Responsibilities are brushed aside and rights demanded. Pleasure is our No 1 priority.

### **Cashless Society**

A further sign of the times is the steady movement towards the cashless society. Computers now control all bank accounts, cards of all sorts are replacing money and debts are mounting alarmingly as we as a nation and as individuals live today on tomorrow's income. Moreover, according to the Scriptures, in the not-too-distant future these cards will be found wanting, so they will be replaced by a lasered number on the hand or head of each person – that cannot be lost, stolen or damaged. Obviously it will be a foolproof means of identification – but not necessarily for our good! As the Bible warns: "And he (the prophesied beast or antichrist) causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, so that no one may buy or sell except the one who has the mark or name of the beast, or the number of his name... His number is 666." (Revelation 13: 16-18). Be warned, however, those who receive the mark will "drink the wine of the wrath of God" (Revelation 14: 9, 10).

### **A Clarion Call**

Other signs of the Lord's return and the end of the age include preaching the gospel to all nations, the growth of false Christs and the return of Israel to her own homeland to ultimately accept Christ as Messiah. The evidence overwhelmingly points to the awesome fact that we are living in those times. Jesus' warning comes to us like a clarion call: "but take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the cares of life and that day come on you unexpectedly. Watch therefore and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21: 34, 36) Are you ready?

### **PRAYER**

Sovereign Lord, God of infinite mercy and grace, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! Dear Father, as blood-covenant servants of the living God, we thank You for the cleansing blood of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for each person to reconcile us to Yourself. We come, O Lord, in deep humility to receive through the Holy Spirit wisdom, knowledge and strength to serve as Your ambassadors in this sin-sick world that desperately needs to repent and receive Your mercy and forgiveness in these perilous times. Gracious Father, give us grace to constantly trust in You as we are guided and led by Your Spirit to worship in love, truth and wisdom. And Lord, as we wait expectantly for Your return, build us together as a habitation of God through the Spirit to enthrone JESUS CHRIST as Lord of Australia. 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 IN FAITH THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.**