

AUSTRALLA

"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 13: 1-2 Jan/Feb 2008

HEADIN' FOR ARMAGEDDON

On 6 September 2007 an event occurred that could have triggered a massive conflagration with worldwide ramifications in the potential powder-keg of the Middle East In fact, a very senior British ministerial source was quoted in a leading newspaper as saying: "If people had known how close we came to World War III that day there'd have been mass panic. (Prime Minister Gordon) Brown really would have been dealing with the bloody book of Revelation and Armageddon." Well, what did happen on that critical day which has been hushed up by all concerned? Israeli jets attacked a military installation inside Syria at Dayr az Zawr where a cargo of nuclear material had just been shipped from North Korea. Apparently Syria was about to build a nuclear facility to add to its stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons to complete its weapons of mass destruction program, which the Jews strongly believe should be prevented at all costs. But Syria is not the main problem. It is Iran, whose leader, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has threatened that if anyone attacks her nuclear facilities, she will "fully activate" her proxies in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq against Israel, moderate Arabs, Iraq and US interests. Government officials may continue to keep the Israeli air strike shrouded in mystery, but the danger still remains. The Middle East is steadily growing more volatile, and everybody knows it. The ultimate problem confronting us is whether human beings on this planet can survive. We are dangerously close to World War III! And, moreover, today a number of nations possess mega bombs thousands of times more powerful than the atom bombs dropped on Japan to end World War II

The Great Day of God Almighty

This is now 2008, a new year that will undoubtedly bring many scientific advances and other changes to our world But it will also bring us closer to the fulfilment of biblical prophecy for these end times in which we live. How interesting that the leading English newspaper should refer to Revelation and Armageddon. What exactly is Armageddon? It is a Hebrew word that means Hill of Megiddo in central Palestine and is where many battles were fought in biblical times and where the British under General Allenby defeated the Turks in World War I It is named in the 16th chapter of Revelation as the assembly point for the great Day of God Almighty when the armies of the world engage in the last momentous battle between good and evil. Whether symbolic or an actual place, Armageddon has awesome overtones of an apocalyptic calamity for the inhabitants of planet Earth that will bring an end to life as we know it. For that's exactly what World War III could well mean! It is a grim scenario indeed, and not to be ignored, considering the number of nations in possession of nuclear weapons and the distinct possibility of such weapons falling into the hands of terrorists.

The Days of Noah

The world is now in quite a tizzy over "global warming", believing that unless manmade emissions are drastically reduced dire consequences will follow as low-lying areas across the globe are flooded and countless millions killed. Though this is highly debatable, it is certain that this world is ripe for judgment by the Lord God whose divine laws for righteous conduct are constantly flouted, whose Son's sacrifice on the Cross for the sins of the human race is spurned, whose name is continually blasphemed and His Spirit grieved 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 Noah entered the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all." (Luke 17: 26-27) Today, we eat, drink, buy, sell, work, sleep and some still marry, believing that life as we know it will always go on the same. That's what they thought in Noah's day. But God was an Unseen

Observer---and He was immensely angry because "the earth was corrupt in God's sight and filled with violence". The people of Noah's day had turned their backs on God to live in gross sin. Is it any different now? Immorality, perversion, violence, crime, corruption and greed are steadily dragging the nations down into a mire of iniquity. We, too, are headed for judgment if we fail to honour God in the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Eleventh Hour

No matter what the world may believe, God is the Lord of history. His hand has always been on the affairs of men. He has been guiding, leading, watching over events on our planet and every now and then the evidence of His omnipotent hand can be seen. The Bible confirms this: "He does according to His will with the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth" (Daniel 4: 35). Consider the following. Does this speak of coincidence or of the work of the Great Designer? On the eleventh day of December 1917 Jerusalem was liberated after centuries of Turkish rule. It was a significant event, for at long last the Holy City was free from the yoke of the infidel and again in Christian hands. It cleared the way for the long prophesied return of the Jews to their promised homeland. Exactly eleven months to the day, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month (11 November 1918) the Armistice was signed. God's clock was striking eleven, drawing the world's attention to the fact that the midnight hour was approaching--and is now drawing nearer and nearer.

The Midnight Hour

Jesus told the Parable of the Ten Virgins as a warning to be ready for the midnight hour. "At midnight there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; come out to meet Him!' Then all the virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps have gone out.' But the wise replied, 'No, lest there is not enough for both of us and you; but rather, go and buy some for yourselves.' But while they went to buy the oil the bridegroom came, and the virgins who were ready went in with Him to the marriage; and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came saying, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us.' But He answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I know you not.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man is coming." (Matthew 25: 1-13) Jesus Christ is the bridegroom who through the ages has been preparing a bride for Himself from among His loyal followers, those who acknowledge Him before men and whom He has sealed with His Holy Spirit. Yet God doesn't want one person to perish. In fact, this is His message to each of us: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." (John 5: 24)

Perilous Times

Time is running out fast. We are indeed "headin' for Armageddon". We live in a time of the prophesied "wars and rumours of wars" and of "great earthquakes, famines and pestilences". We also read "that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy—lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 3: 1,2,4). Today, responsibilities are brushed aside and rights constantly demanded. In fact, pleasure seems to be our No 1 priority. Even now, however, at this late date He knocks at the door of your heart. If you will just open it to Him, He will come in and be your Saviour. You will receive His Spirit, and by the power of that Spirit you will not fear whatever the future holds and will wait expectantly, eagerly for His coming. You will, indeed, be able to say with the Apostle Paul, "We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." The choice is yours. Will you swallow your pride and acknowledge Him as your Saviour and Lord? Will you not heed His words of warning: "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"? Why not start this New Year getting right with God?

PRAYER

Almighty God of Life, Light and Love, we come before You cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus in humility and gratitude for Your saving grace to us who believe. As joint-heirs with Christ and citizens of Your glorious Kingdom of Righteousness, we join the hosts of heaven to love, praise and worship You as the Great I AM, recognising Your rule of limitless sovereignty, Your unfathomable love and unbounded mercy, Your infinite wisdom and knowledge, Your supreme authority and almighty power, Your majestic splendour and awesome holiness, and Your righteous judgment. Merciful Father, forgive the folly of both leaders and citizens who spurn Your gift of salvation, flout Your holy Word and resist Your Holy Spirit. Open their eyes, we pray, so they will truly repent and receive JESUS CHRIST as their Saviour and Lord before it is too late. Abba Father, thank You for Your promise that You will never leave nor forsake us, that in CHRIST we are eternally secure in the Rock of All Ages, our blessed Lord. We pray this in the majestic name of Jesus to whom one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Amen

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