

REPENT AUSTRAL

"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 14:5 May 2009

PARADISE LOST

Whichever way you turn, a black cloud hangs over Australia. From our economic woes to our constant breakdown in law and order; from the disintegration of family relationships and the upsurge in teenage binge drinking and drug dependence; from such natural disasters as devastating bushfires and unprecedented flooding; from the steady infiltration of militant Islam to the rural crisis; from the decline in our traditional values to our hedonistic attitude to life, the question comes loud and clear: Where have we gone wrong? Why have we lost our island paradise "down under"? Answer: SIN. Fifty years ago we were flourishing; "riding on the sheep's back" we were the envy of the world because of our abundant blessings. We then had a prosperous, stable and orderly society where people felt safe. Now we have rampant anarchy where the public, police officers, ambulance drivers, paramedics and other officials are fair game for alcohol-fuelled and drug-affected, undisciplined youth with no self-control and a blatant disregard for anyone but themselves. We then had a court system that ensured true justice for all. Now we have a soft-option judiciary preoccupied with the rehabilitation of the lawbreakers and offering little protection for the rights of the victim or society at large

A Dire Threat

Once we could justly claim to be a parliamentary democracy wherein the Westminister system of government was strictly followed, but now we are subject to the whims and wishes of political parties serving their own particular ideologies. Any attempt to question policies such as the imposition of multiculturalism on us draws forth the wail of "racist" from leftwing academics, vested interest groups and the media. This policy in particular was imposed against the wishes of the people, and now we face a dire threat from the fast-growing religion of Islam with its declared aim of world domination, be it through overt terrorism or the less obvious but more insidious means of migration and procreation. In fact, the influx of refugees and other "moderate" Moslems could well be the Trojan horse of the fundamentalist Islamists. Moreover, once in this country the next step in Islam's take-over strategy is for its women to bear as many children as physically possible---and receive the government subsidy of \$4000 per child! Consequently, as they grow stronger and bolder, sections of the Muslim community are demanding the adoption of sharia law here---a clear indication that they believe us to be sufficiently liberal, weak and gullible to ignore the sinister influence of this danger in our midst.

Economic Downturn

Once we had a strong manufacturing sector, producing everything from Australian cars and aeroplanes to Hills hoists and Victor lawnmowers. Now we have sold out practically every homegrown product in the name of "a level playing field". By signing the Lima Agreement in 1982 the government forced droves of farmers from the land. Pastoralists who have weathered drought, heat and isolation for 150 years to create an iconic enterprise now face their toughest battle to remain on the land as almost a decade of drought, the scourge of rabbits, wild dogs and low commodity prices take a heavy toll on their industry. But, sadly, they are not the only ones suffering loss as the nation faces its worst financial crisis since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although Australia is tipped to weather this present economic crisis better than many other countries, we still face difficult times ahead as tens of thousands are sacked, the manufacturing sector is in a state of collapse and business profits are tumbling. In order to save Australia from joining other countries in the massive global economic downturn the Federal Government injected \$10 billion last December to boost consumer spending and another \$42 billion has since been added to help stave off a probable recession, if not depression.

Infrastructure Projects

Part of this money, however, is not so much a stimulus but a bribe for votes. Moreover, there is no convincing evidence that this is the answer to the crisis. In fact, Britain recovered rapidly from the Great Depression in the absence of any fiscal stimulus. On the other hand, despite President FD Roosevelt's expansionary New Deal, the US recovery was slow. Now, here in Australia, future governments will face massive deficits to try to repair the nation's economy and our children and grandchildren will be called upon to bear the burden of this present splurge. Instead of pouring this vast amount of borrowed finance into these stimulus packages, the government would be much better advised to use this money for infrastructure projects to provide a lasting benefit for all future Australians. For example, a pipeline from the Kimberlies to Perth and Adelaide would not only provide an invaluable water supply for these capitals, it would also irrigate vast areas of barren, useless land and transform central Australia into a vast productive food bowl to help feed the starving masses in other parts of the world. To add to our economic woes, moreover, the Federal Government is pressing on with its Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in 2010 which will further exacerbate our economic woes as it forces mining companies, gas producers and other carbon emitting producers to curtail production in the name of an unproved theory that claims manmade carbon emissions are responsible for global warming.

The Key to Our Downfall

Yes, paradise has been lost. But how? Australia's failure is that, although we have been richly blessed in the past, most of its inhabitants do not understand why. They give credit to their own cleverness or to the god of luck but not to the God of the Bible whose moral laws for living we Australians received through our British Christian heritage and from the English Common Law. Therein lies the key to the downfall of once-Christian Australia. Her people do not understand the source of her blessings; nor do they understand the dark spiritual forces in the heavenlies that are at work in this world blinding us to the reality of God. So many people today generally accept only what they can see and have little faith. It is as Billy Graham once said, "Thus man has become secularised. He is now in danger of entering a state of spiritual nihilism. He negates spiritual values. He has lost his faith and denies any higher ideals than the satisfaction of his appetites."

Tripartite Beings

Yet if we see only the things that can be seen with the eyes we fail to grasp the real meaning of life. We are tripartite beings---spirit, soul and body. If we fail to understand this and ignore that we are basically spiritual beings the result is fear of the future and helplessness in the face of the seemingly unknown. In reality there are two worlds---the world of the senses and the world of the spirit. However, we live as though the world of the senses is the real world while the world of the spirit is vague, shadowy and ephemeral. Yet both worlds surround us, one tangible like water and the other intangible like air. We see one with the eyes and discern the other with our souls. We imagine we live in time and that eternity is here after. Nevertheless, the world of the spirit is all around us now, though the veil of sense hangs between the two. In fact, we dwell in eternity here though we take a small portion of it and call it time. We all need God. But how do we find Him? "Every hope we have of God," says Billy Graham, "every prospect we have of eternal life; every anticipation we have of heaven; every possibility we have of a new order---all must be linked to JESUS CHRIST." It is as we trust in Jesus Christ that the unknown becomes known; and when we are in Christ we experience God Himself. Our darkened lives receive the light of the eternal presence of God, and we see there is another world beyond the confusion, limitation and frustration of this world. Yes, paradise can be regained if we as individuals and as a nation repent and humbly submit to God our Father through Jesus Christ His Son, our Saviour.

PRAYER

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, the Great I AM, we thank You for revealing Your Amazing Grace in JESUS CHRIST our wonderful Saviour who is the Way, the Truth and the Life and the only One who can lead us to the Father. We also thank You, Lord, for Your finished work on the Cross to set *all* mankind free from the law of sin and death by conquering every satanic stronghold and presenting us to God the Father as 'a new creation' cleansed by Your precious blood. Abba Father, as covenant children, we thank You for Your gracious Holy Spirit as our Counsellor and Source of love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness and self-control. Thank You too, Lord Jesus, for being our great high priest interceding in our prayers for a great national harvest as masses of our people are delivered from the wiles of Satan. Gracious Father, anoint the message of "Paradise Lost" and touch the hearts of our leaders, fathers, mothers and children to deeply repent, obey Your Holy Word and come to *know* You through accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. Come and reign over this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit as Your PARADISE REGAINED; in Jesus' majestic name and for Your glory, we pray. 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.