

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

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BEHOLD, HE COMES!

When Dwight D. Eisenhower was holidaying in Denver, Colorado back in the fifties, his attention was drawn to an open letter in one of the newspapers which told how six-year old Paul Haley, who was dying of incurable cancer, had expressed his wish to see the President of the United States. Spontaneously, the president decided to fulfil the boy's wish. One Sunday morning the president's big shining car pulled up outside the Haley home and out stepped the president, who walked up to the front door and knocked on it. The boy's father, Donald Haley, came to the door dressed in his blue jeans, an old shirt and wearing a day's growth of beard on his face. Behind him was his son Paul. You can well imagine the surprise they got as they opened the door. "Paul," the president said to the small boy, "I understand you want to see me. Glad to see you." He then shook hands with the boy and took him out to see the presidential car. Afterwards, he shook hands again and left.

Everyone in that neighbourhood probably talked about that visit of a thoughtful president for a good while to come. The only person not entirely happy about it was Donald Haley. He could never forget the way he was dressed to meet the president. "Those jeans, the old shirt, the unshaven face---what a way to meet the president of the United States!" he lamented. Of course, as the visit was unannounced, he could not have been expected to be dressed in his best suit. But for the rest of his life he regretted that he had not gotten up a bit earlier that day, had had a shave and put on a clean shirt.

As a Thief in the Night

The day we meet Jesus Christ, the King of kings, likewise is unannounced. He promised to return one day, as a thief in the night, when He was least expected. Jesus may come and find us, like Donald Haley, unprepared. If He doesn't come while we are alive, then death may come and find us unprepared. One way or the other, we can easily be caught unawares. In His parable of the ten virgins He gives us sound warning. "Then the Kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise."

He Will Surely Come

Why were the five considered foolish? Even though they had brought oil it had run out. Isn't it strange that these young women had come to the wedding at night with no oil for their lamps? Yet is it any stranger that countless people in the world who have some vague idea that Jesus Christ will return at some time but are quite unprepared for His coming? The fact that He has delayed His coming for so long has caused many to scoff that He will ever come. However, His return is mentioned in 23 of the 27 books of the New Testament. In fact one out of every 30 verses mentions the subject. There are 318 references to it in 216 chapters in the New Testament. One Twentieth of the entire New Testament deals with this subject. "Jesus Himself said, "Hereafter shall you see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven." He will surely come, just as the bridegroom came and found the foolish virgins unprepared.

The Wise Virgins

Why were they wise? Knowing that the oil is the spiritual resources of God and that He provides for the times of crisis and need they are prepared for the darkness and what it brings. Consequently they were prepared when the bridegroom came. If we think that we can wait till the last minute before we are ready to meet our Maker we don't know when the last minute will be. The bridegroom came and the foolish virgins found that it was too late---just as you will if you are waiting for the last minute to get ready. As a matter of fact, Jesus wants us to be ready--- or why would He have given clues as to the times that will pertain on earth at His coming. He said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the days when Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." The wicked In Noah's day scoffed at the preparations of this godly man, saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation."

The Babylonian Monetary System

In Revelation 16:12 we read about an affliction associated with the great river Euphrates a river that flows through Iraq, the land of old Babylon. It symbolises the Babylonian system that the West has adopted through the Rothschild usury banking system and through the Roman system of politics. The "spirits of devils" have been taking their toll on the leader of the west---America. They have undermined and torn down all things good and healthy in America. For centuries the West has been the centre of the merchants of the earth and the headquarters of the international usury banking system--- a system of theft that is coming more and more into disfavour as it flaunts its power and riches before the world. Against this backdrop we see the playing out of the prophecy of Rev. 16:12 where the kings of the east begin to rise to power over the West. This is happening now. Everybody knows that China is on the move and fast overtaking the economy of America. Moreover, the Beijing government has almost no debt while Washington has nearly \$145 trillion in debt. Enough said! Because of China's newfound status as the world's new super power it is now willing and able to dictate economic policy to the rest of the world... including America. The way of "the kings of the East" has been prepared.

Much Tribulation

Jesus warned that there will be much tribulation on earth, "then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then all of the tribes of the earth will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with power and great glory." Scripture also tells us: "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the angel's call, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Those who are unprepared shall suffer "the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord." It's all up to each one of us. Are you ready?

Prayer

Lord God Almighty, our gracious Father in heaven and Spirit of the Great I AM, as Your ambassadors we acknowledge that *all* authority in heaven and on earth has been given to the LORD JESUS CHRIST who is the Way, the Truth and Life eternal who by His matchless grace in His virgin birth and victorious resurrection has promised to return as King of kings and Lord of lords and Deliverer and Restorer of nations. We recognise, O Lord, that He is the Captain of the Lord's Host, seated at the Father's right hand interceding for us as we seek to win the lost into Your Kingdom of love, joy and peace. Blessed Holy Spirit, we pray for *all* parents and children to have their spiritual eyes opened, not to be ignorant of the Lord's coming but to be prepared, taking up their cross now and growing in grace and knowledge as they follow Him. Dear Father, help us to usher in our promised King of Peace---the LORD JESUS CHRIST---who is coming speedily to reward each one according to his/her work in His coming millennial reign, to the glory of our Almighty Creator and eternal 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.