

~ What Is this World Coming To? ~

“What’s this world coming to?” It is an unsettling, but familiar question these days. It is heard in supermarkets, on university campuses, at the office during lunch break, in the private chambers of government officials, at home before TV’s evening news...

Senseless violence... looting on the heels of calamities... vicious crimes... spiraling debt, recurrent recession... persistent unemployment... corruption at every level of government... the unpredictable energy crunch... heartbreaking famine and poverty... earthquakes... AIDS... religiously motivated wars and killings, hostage taking... drugs... moral degeneracy.

Do *you* ever wonder what this world is coming to?

When Jesus Christ walked on earth, he spoke in anticipation of just such a time; “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth.” (Luke 21: 26)

The question of suffering and evil has always been an enigma to man. Philosophers of all times and ages have pondered the question to no avail. But the Scriptures provide a logical answer to this question, which leaves one in awe. Whatever this world is coming to, assurance and even comfort lie in knowing that the Word of God predicted today’s phenomenal happenings – beforehand. God permits evil to prove that man, without God, can only result in man’s inhumanity to man. What is this world coming to? It is an understanding of what results when man is separated from God.

Many Bible prophecies, in fact, predicted the conditions and events of our day as signs of the end of the world – today’s headlines written nearly 2,000 years ago! Even before Jesus came to earth, the Prophet Daniel, in Daniel 12: 1-4, gave four signs that mark the “time of the end”, or the end of the world:

1. A time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation
2. Many shall run to and fro

3. Knowledge shall be increased
4. Daniel's people (Israel) shall be delivered

Jesus identifies himself with the prophecy in Daniel, "when Michael shall stand up", as when he himself would return at his second advent.

In Matthew 24: 12, our Lord speaks of one of the signs of his "coming" (Greek, *parousia* translated *presence*, *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon*) as a "great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be".

The two signs, unprecedented trouble and the restoration of the State of Israel, stand related. Just as urban renewal requires the demolition of the old, so the full establishment of Christ's Kingdom requires the removal of our corrupt civilization. (Hebrews 12: 26-28) In its place, God will set up his Kingdom on earth beginning with Israel. In the Gospel account according to Luke 21: 29-32, When Jesus speaks of the fig tree blossoming, it is also recorded that he says, "So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled".

The generation that witnesses Israel restored as a nation will also witness the complete end of the world or age, and the full establishment of the kingdom of God. Never before has a nation regathered to its homeland and re-established as a nation.

For a more comprehensive treatment of the signs of the time of the end and the establishment of Christ's kingdom, send for a copy of *What Is this World Coming To?* Click **REPLY**, and send an e-mail asking for it. Include the name of this publication, your name, and your mailing address. ♦

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