

IMPASSE OF TIME

By Conrad Barrett

No generation has lived under such staggering influence of worldwide depression and fear that now envelops this one. We are constantly being agitated by propaganda and facts, which add more fuel to the passionate fires of rebellion and revolution. Actually, we are in a global dilemma. Truth is being distorted into fallacy and fallacy is being converted into a pseudo-truth. Revolution and restlessness have now come to live with every country. Our end is not yet!

Just where does this generation stand on the calendar of events? Are we at the end of the world, or are we nearing the end of a particular period in God's planning? No generation has faced a more precisely revealing situation than we. At this moment we are on the brink of something which should be far more disturbing for this world than a nuclear holocaust. Naturally, fear mounts in us when we think of what could happen should we become victims of a worldwide nuclear showdown. But this generation has the promise of divine intervention.

Whether we realize it or not, God still holds the reigns of this fast-moving world. Our change has not taken Him by surprise. His finger is still on the affairs of men and no one will overstep the prescribed boundaries, which He has established to govern this generation.

The Bible, the greatest book ever written, has a modern, up-to-date message for this age. We have not out-smarted God. Neither have our education nor our scientific progress antiquated the Bible in any sense of the word. The Bible not only contains the history of man; it points clearly to the finality of all flesh. Let us not rationalize the seriousness of this hour. This world is aflame now with the fires of Hell. These fires will become hotter and spread farther as this generation encounters the future. The Bible points out in clear, understandable language that in these last days we can expect "wars, rumors of wars, nations shall rise against nation, kingdom against kingdom; there will be famines, pestilence's and earthquakes in divers places, - many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many, and because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matt. 24:6-12). Other signs of the times are children being disobedient to parents, marrying and giving in marriage, eating and drinking to excess, and an increase in atheism and skepticism. Also, we are developing a trend toward a one-world church and a one-world government which will be finalized with the coming of the anti-christ under whose leadership the mark of the beast will be instituted (Rev.13: 16-18). The anti-christ will be able to reach his position by flattery.

In this hour of political and moral corruption, Satan is using every avenue possible to lead men farther and farther away from God. Many preachers of the gospel are leaving their pulpits. Some are bypassing the message of salvation in order to help stir up social and racial strife. These are false prophets of the times. The message of Christ is peace and love rather than strife and confusion. Scores of Christian laymen are relaxing their fervor for God. They are burying themselves in the cares of this life and in the deceitfulness of riches. Jesus warned against such things (Luke 21:34-36).

Divine intervention is destined to break into the affairs of humanity. We are at the impasse of the ages. Jesus Christ will make the next move from heaven. His first move will be to rapture the saints (Luke 21:34-36). This advent may occur at any moment. When this great rapture takes place, it will be like turning the lights out at night for this world. The great tribulation will then begin. Darkness denser than we have ever known will envelop the world. The forces of evil will be free to move throughout this world diverting and changing until the world becomes a complete den of iniquity. The Mark of the Beast will be instituted during the tribulation. This mark simply means you can neither buy nor sell unless you have identification with the beast (government),

but the Bible points out that upon taking the Mark, the person who does so, will be tormented with fire and brimstone (Rev. 14:9-10).

Don't wait until the judgment of God is poured out upon this world to begin thinking about your need of Him. Jesus said, "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matt. 24:21).

The fury of the ages has come! Jesus is about to appear! The great tribulation spoken of in the Bible is now setting in. The world is in trouble! Our God is moving! He is preparing His people for the greatest exit ever known to humanity.

You can be prepared and can go when Jesus comes. Remember, however, religion is inadequate; one must have Christ. Your church alone can't save you; you must have the Christ of the Church. Baptism can't save you; it takes the blood of Jesus to wash away sins. In these last days you cannot afford to be wrong! Jesus said, "Search the scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life" (John 5:39).

The cost of rejecting God is expensive. None of us can afford its price. It is very easy to become overly occupied with the ups and downs of everyday living and forget the most important facets of life. Noah's generation rejected his simple message. Only eight people were saved from the flood.

In describing this event Jesus pointed out that they "knew-not". In other words, they did not take the words of Preacher Noah seriously.

Does this message find you in almost the same frame of mind? Are you skeptical about this message?

Noah's generation was selfish. They became complacent and thought they were self-sufficient. The shallowness of their lives was realized only after it was too late. When Noah and his family entered the ark, it began to rain; the fountains of the deep were broken up. The flood was a reality. This realization came too late for those outside the ark.

Don't let Christ come before you are prepared!

Jesus mentioned both the incident of the flood and the destruction of Sodom and compared them with His return. He pointed out that as it was in the days of both these judgments so would also His coming be. The Bible tells us that only eight people were saved during the flood. What happened to the others, including the children? They were destroyed. Why? Because the parents and other adults scoffed at Noah's preaching.

Parents ought to be concerned about the spiritual welfare of their children. There is much more to life than food, clothing and shelter. Children usually follow their parents.

If you are a parent, to where are you leading your children spiritually? It's time to think about this!

There were three people saved when Sodom was destroyed. They were Lot and his two daughters. Lot's wife looked back toward Sodom. She was warned not to do so and as a result of her disobedience she became a pillar of salt. The judgment of God awaits those who reject Him in every generation.

Remember, as soon as Noah and his family were securely in the ark, the flood came. As soon as Lot and his daughters were safely out of Sodom, the judgments of God came, and as soon as the prepared ones are raptured, the judgments of God will be poured out upon this world. The great

tribulation will then bathe this world in seven years of sorrow and excruciating pain unequalled in world history (II Thess. 2:1-9). At the end of those seven years Jesus will visit this world by destroying the anti-christ and reigning for a thousand years.

You and your family need not encounter this tribulation. Get right with God - today!

You can be saved by repenting of your sins and confessing Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Then, you should be baptized if at all possible. A Christian life is lived by following Christ. Regular church attendance, Bible reading and prayer are vitally important for every Christian. Allow Christ to come into your life now, live for Him with all your heart, and when Jesus comes you will be raptured to the marriage supper of the Lamb while the world faces this great tribulation.

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