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The World:

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by Gordon Lindsay

THE WORLD: 2000 A.D.

This book follows a different pattern from the usual expositions on prophecy which deal with the rise and reign of the anti-christ, the Great Tribulation, and the catastrophic judgments which follow, but not those events which come just before. The fact is, there was little in the Scriptures to guide prophetic writers concerning events occurring in this preliminary time.

But during the last three decades—a period measuring from the beginning of World War II until now — great and unprecedented changes have occurred — events obviously related to the apocalyptic events of the end-time. These dramatic years have swept us into the atomic and the space age with a rush. Events are now happening which are shaking the very foundations of society and in fact profoundly altering the nature of man's existence. The unfolding of these events of the last few decades throws great light on the previously hidden gap and shows us the general developments which will occur during the next thirty years, and which will merge into the apocalyptic judgments as recorded in the book of Revelation.

What will take place on the earth during these next thirty years? What will be the state of the world by the year 2,000? In this book we consider the present developments and their impact on the world. As has been said, "Coming events cast their shadows before." After surveying the significance of these tremendous influences on civilization and their effect on the world, this book then relates them to Bible prophecy and events that will occur during the Great Tribulation.

The following topics are included in the twenty-one chapters:

- The population explosion crisis
- The crisis in the cities
- The coming world famine
- The crime crisis
- The rise of black power
- The creeping inflation
- The "Big Brother" computers
- The moral crisis
- The atomic threat
- The race for the stars
- The future of world communism
- The coming of Christ.

The purpose of this book is to show how these developments portray the shape of the future in the remaining years of the twentieth century.

The World: 2000 A. D.

by Gordon Lindsay

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CHAPTER I

The Population Crisis—Thirty Years From Now

The population explosion is the great phenomenon of the twentieth century. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the world population stood at a little more than 500 million. At the time of the Declaration of Independence, it had not increased much more. But with the beginning of the nineteenth century the climb began to accelerate. By 1830 it had reached one billion, and by the time of World War I, one and a half billion. Suddenly the explosion began in earnest. About the year 1930 there was a marked decline in the death rate and an increase in the birth-rate. The result was that the gap between the two widened significantly.

By the year 1960, world population stood at three billion. At present the number is increasing by 50 million a year; in another decade it will increase 75 million a year. Sometime in the seventies, the number of people living will reach four billion. By the year 2,000 if the trend continues, the world's population will be over six billion. Statisticians inform us that were the growth to continue at this rate for another hundred years, it would reach the fantastic total of 21 billion by the end of the next century.

The major question this poses is how these extra billions will be fed, clothed, and housed. The problem is overwhelming. Great as the threat of communism is, just as serious is the effect of the population growth upon the future of the human race. In fact the two problems are interwoven. Red China has nearly 750 million people. Her aggressiveness backed by the pressures of an explosive population is driving her to madness. China now has the hydrogen bomb, and when she secures the means to deliver it, which will be in the next few years, the world may well watch out.

Fredrick Osborn in his essay *On Population* shows that human reproductive capacity has a potential of a 64-fold increase of population within a century. He adds that a study of fertility and mor-

tality in India indicates a population of 775 million people in that country by 1986. He points out that the increase of economic productivity in India nowhere nearly matches this growth and that undernourishment is the rule now; and long before 1986, mass starvation will begin. (It actually has begun in some areas.) He adds that no stable government could long continue under such conditions.

Robbins in his book *Too Many Asians* says, "Each new starving belly among the millions of already hungry Asians adds to the sum total of human misery by an amount almost unmeasurable. If humanity is to have a future, the unrestricted growth of population in already overcrowded lands must be brought to a halt." (See Chapter IV)

Can this great crisis be solved? Is it possible to expand the world's arable acreage? At present there are about 2.5 billion acres under cultivation, but this is less than an acre per person. Conservation economists claim that over two acres per person is needed to supply an adequate diet.

There is, of course, much more land in the world than the above figure, but 10 per cent of the earth's surface is covered with snow and ice. A considerable portion of the northern areas has a limited growing season of ten weeks or less. Desert regions account for 20 per cent of the land area. Vast mountainous regions where there is no possibility of food production, represent a further subtraction. Besides this, there are large areas in which the land has been ruined by erosion and improper farming methods.

It is interesting to note that there was a population explosion in the days before the Flood:

"And it came to pass, *when man began to multiply on the face of the earth . . .* And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he is also flesh . . . And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually . . . And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth . . . And the earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Gen. 6:1-11).

We can draw certain lessons from the events that occurred in those days which we believe are significant to our present time.

1. There was a rapid increase in population.
2. A parallel increase in wickedness.
3. Violence filled the land.

4. There was a disregard of the Spirit's call to repentance.
5. Finally, the warning of God's prophets, Enoch and Noah, of the coming judgment that would bring the antediluvian civilization to an end went unheeded.

As we know, the Flood came and destroyed that generation. Jesus likened the time of His Second Coming to the days before the Flood:

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37-39).

The great population increase with its attendant evils, the moral corruption of the masses, the rampant violence in the earth, and the ignoring of the call of the Spirit to repent marks as it did in the days of Noah, the doom of this generation. The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord cannot be far away, and as the prophet said, "Who shall be able to stand?" Only those who accept God's call and enter into the ark of salvation which God has prepared for this day.

While we believe the estimates of ultimate population of the earth will never be reached, and that birth control may retard the growth somewhat, the population explosion cannot be slowed in time to prevent starvation and other economic convulsions which will bring catastrophe to the world. Let us consider the effect of this population increase on the great cities.

CHAPTER II

The Fate of the Cities

For nearly six thousand years cities have grown into great metropolises and then have died. Some have survived. Damascus, for example, built shortly after the Flood, still stands today. But it is during the last century that a new thing has happened to the cities. A hundred years ago, only a few cities had as much as a million population. Suddenly they have increased in size manyfold. Scores of cities now number their inhabitants in the millions. What is the cause of this great growth?

There are several reasons for the startling increase. The earth's population has reached a point that when it doubles, it increases the number of people on earth not by hundreds of millions, but by billions. The birthrate has increased while the death rate has decreased. There is another factor. In the year 1950, our own city of Dallas was half a million. Now Greater Dallas has a million and a third. The truth is that the ratio of increase in the cities is greatly outdistancing that in the rural areas, or in smaller cities. This in the main is due to one factor — the development of automated farm machinery. In many cases one man can plant or harvest ten times as many acres as he could take care of a few decades ago.

A farmer's children see no future for them on the farm, and they move to the big city. The farmer himself, discouraged by his small income, may sell his farm to the syndicates and follow his children. It is this great influx from the farms in unison with the population explosion that is producing today's megatropolis. (See next Chapter.)

This runaway increase has resulted in an unprecedented crisis in the cities, and population experts tell us that continued growth is irresistible. They say that birth control, which is slowing the birthrate somewhat, will not prevent the cities from becoming much larger than they are today. The metropolises

are already facing chaos, and warnings are clear that without drastic changes, they may not be able to survive. The art of living will become more and more difficult with a crippling effect on people, their morals, health, and safety.

How large will the cities get? Masotshi Malsushitu, former president of Rikko University, Tokyo, Japan, according to *U. S. News and World Report* (Nov. 6, 1967), says: "Some day the Tokyo-Osaka metropolitan area alone will contain 200 million people — equal to the present population of the U. S. and 20 times the present population of Tokyo, the largest city in the world today."

The world-famous city builder Constantinos Doxiadis, speaking of the population explosion in the cities says:

"Realistic studies show that even if birth control decisions were taken today by the United Nations, it would take one generation's time to implement them throughout the world. If so, the present population of the earth which is almost 3.5 billion people would be 7 billion by then (2,000 A.D.), and because of the ongoing forces, the population of the earth would level off at 12 billion, if we repeat, we could institute birth control measures today for the whole world.

"As this is not probable, it is much more realistic to think that the population of the earth will continue growing beyond the 12 billion mark and will reach a level of 20 to 30 billion, or according to some people, 40 to 50 billion people. We limit ourselves to the reasonable assumption of 30 billion people, almost ten times the present population."

In view of this, city planners conclude that the problems that vex the cities today will get progressively worse — noise, pollution, congestion, crime. This developing situation has already caused the upper-income people to flee the cities and middle-income people are following suit. This has left the weakest groups, Negroes in particular, in this nation to take the places vacated by them. Thus the racial and economic problems develop.

Suburban areas in the U. S. are following a sprawl-pattern with leapfrogging over vacant land. These cannot be served by mass transportation, but by private automobiles only. In the meantime, the downtown areas suffer.

Forgetting for the moment, conditions thirty years from now, let us note that on November 20, 1967, census bureau calculations showed that the U. S. passed the 200 million mark. Clogging the freeways of America are 75 million automobiles, two and a half

times the traffic of 1947. A bizarre result is that New York City travel in downtown streets averages six miles an hour against eleven miles an hour attained by horse-drawn carts a half a century ago!

In a mass society such as New York, people know each other only at a point where paths happen to cross — teacher and pupil, physician and patient, and so on. The effect is an impersonal relationship. This explains why a New York girl can be attacked on the streets while passers-by ignore her.

This mass society will result in many changes during the next few years. For business to operate, it will be necessary to stagger the hours to prevent traffic jams on highways. Not only in business and industry, but schools, even in the primary grades may have to operate around the clock. Every urban authority agrees that *the next thirty years will witness startling and fundamental, and possibly catastrophic changes in city living.*

The coming crisis of the cities is really a series of crises, each interlocked with the other. To get a clear picture of these circumstances that will so certainly affect the vast majority of Americans living today, we shall study each one in particular. Let us consider the population shift from the farms to the great cities which has tremendously added to their problems.

CHAPTER III

The Crisis of the Farm

When God set up a theocracy in Israel, the nation was largely agricultural in character. The farmer and his farm were the backbone of the nation. The neighboring countries such as Phoenicia carried on an extensive maritime trade and did little farming. The wealth gained in this way built up a materialistic and idolatrous economy. All that mattered to the Phoenicians were the sensual pleasures of life, with little or no concern for those things that pertained to the spirit.

As was the case of Israel in her early centuries, our own nation, America, for the first hundred and fifty years of its existence, was largely an agricultural economy. But with the coming of the twentieth century, things began to change. During the past three decades, that change has accelerated beyond all anticipation. Our society has experienced a fundamental transformation. We are moving from a rural economy to an urban economy.

The following statistics show the rapidity of the change. In 1935 there were 6,800,000 farmers in the U. S. A quarter of a century later the number had shrunk to a little over 3,700,000 an average loss of 130,000 a year. Today there are a little over three million farms. One can drive on any highway in the U. S. and see scores of empty farm houses.

What has happened? The development of the syndicate farm has displaced the small farm. Just as a small manufacturer cannot compete with Ford or General Motors, the small farmer cannot compete with the big farms with their costly labor-saving equipment and automation. For example, a huge diesel tractor with a four-bottom, two-way plow that runs day and night sells for about \$40,000. A small farmer cannot afford such equipment, nor use it economically. A mechanical cotton picker gathers as many bolls as 20 farm hands. In 1910 it took 147 man hours to produce 100 bushels of corn. Some farmers are now able to raise

that much with four hours of labor. Airplanes are being used today by the big companies to spread fertilizer and insecticides. Small farms cannot do this.

How did these giant farm corporations secure the money to handle such large operations? The answer is ironic. The plight of the small farmer who long has been in serious trouble caused the government to grant vast farm subsidies. These millions of "fringe production" farmers formed a sufficient voting bloc to influence legislation to provide large grants of money to the farms. In a single decade, \$20 billion was voted by Congress for subsidies. Expenditures are now totaling up to \$7 billion a year.

But did the small farms get the benefits of these vast sums? No. Too late the farmers awakened to the situation. They saw that the syndicates were getting the lion's share of the farm subsidies. At the same time they discovered that for the few dollars they did receive, there was an ever-tightening of controls restricting their own activities. They began to see that a bludgeoning bureaucracy in Washington was stripping them of their last bit of independence. When they read reports of how men like Stanley Yonkers, who was "fined" out of business for growing wheat to feed his own chickens, they became scared (*Reader's Digest*, March, 1959). They were amazed to learn that there were no less than 200,000 people on the agricultural payroll, or about one for every eleven wheat farmers!

These payrollers swarmed over their farms, acting like little Caesars. Those who were not "cooperative" got smaller allotments than others. To secure cooperation a "loyalty oath" was required. Farmers were required to sign an oath to support all government programs.

All signs indicate that it is too late to save the small farmers. They still continue to move to the city, adding to the problems of a nation apparently destined to become ninety per cent urban.

What is the significance of all this? The farm has always been the bastion of human dignity and independence. In the great depression of the thirties, men retreated to the land and thus were able to survive. In the past centuries, the farmer was often able to escape the harsh decrees of a despot. He enjoyed a considerable freedom and liberty to worship as he chose because the autocrat in power did not have the means to maintain a constant surveillance of those in rural areas.

But where population is concentrated in the cities, the situation is vastly different. Totalitarian systems are, under these circumstan-

ces, able to exercise almost absolute control of the people. The significance of the farm exodus to the cities is obvious. Within a few more years, ninety per cent of the population will be either in the cities or in commuting distance to the metropolitan areas. As long as a nation remains democratic, this presents no grave danger. But should a nuclear war become imminent, our nation would probably be forced into a dictatorship. Any regime in power would be in a position to exercise absolute control over every citizen of the country.

But now let us take a closer look at the consequences of the population explosion in certain countries like India, which is rapidly pushing toward a crisis unprecedented in its history.

CHAPTER IV

Mass Famine by 1975!

“There shall be famines . . .” (Matt. 24:7).

“And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand” (Rev. 6:5).

What will be the immediate effects of this exploding world population? The answer is that we are suddenly brought face to face with the possibility that world famine such as history has never known is just around the corner and will be of such a magnitude that no foreseeable remedy can avert it. This has been brought out clearly by William and Paul Paddock in their startling book, *Famine 1975!* That date is only seven years away. These experts in their documented book show us that a strange phenomenon is coming to a head, a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions — mass famine!

Roger Revelle, director of the Harvard Center for population studies said a few years ago:

“We are in the presence, perhaps, of a *turning point in human affairs so immense that we do not perceive it*: 1966 may be the year in which sufficiency in food disappears from the world and famine becomes a recurrent and habitual condition . . . No doubt—for a decade at least—actual starvation will be rare and localized, and disaster on a grand scale will be forestalled by modern means of transport and by emergency actions . . . but once the overall trend is the wrong way, it will be progressively harder to reverse.”

The prediction is now beginning to be fulfilled.

The Paddocks point out that the hour has come when the population of the world means an increase of billions of people. Birth control, while successful in a few countries will not stem the momentum.

Until World War II, many of today's hungry nations were exporters of grain. Now they are importers. The tremendous scope of this change has caught the world off guard. Only the vast bread market of the U. S. and the steady flow of our surpluses abroad have averted mass starvation. But now those surpluses are gone. In 1965, B. R. Sen, Director General of the FAO stated in a letter, "The stark fact is, that it is now no less than seven years since there was any appreciable increase in food production per head of the world's population . . . The outlook is alarming. In some of the most heavily populated areas, the outbreak of serious famines within the next five or ten years cannot be excluded." At this time, three of those years have gone. There appears to be one conclusion: that the hungry nations have lost the capacity to feed themselves from the land available to them.

Egypt, for example, is on the verge of starvation. Had Nasser spent the last ten years dealing with this problem, he might have lessened the danger, but the efforts of those years were wasted, spent largely in preparing for a senseless war against Israel. The building of the Aswan Dam will increase Egypt's productive area one third. But this is cancelled out by an increase of Egypt's population by a third during the same period. Only massive aid from Russia props up Egypt's economy today.

Another factor in the world situation is the fact that the population of the hungry nations includes an unusually large proportion of children. These require only 1600 calories a day. But in another ten years the same ones will need 2800 calories — almost twice as much.

It is pointed out that a nation on the verge of starvation may temporarily adjust to the situation. But should there be a year of little rain, or the spring should come late, or something should affect the harvest, the population then would slip over the brink into the chasm of catastrophe.

Such would have happened in India already had not the shipping of vast supplies of grain by the U.S. staved off disaster. But the situation is only temporarily relieved. India faces the frightful possibility of a nation-wide famine within the next few years. Nevertheless, she seems to have little sense of urgency. Some 200 million cows continue to wander about the country eating up the produce. India as a whole uses only three pounds of fertilizer per acre of ground, compared with Japan's 300 pounds. Consequently her yields are poor and getting poorer. By 1974 India will have a population of 620 million. There is no chance that

America can make up the terrible food deficit then. Such a situation must surely result in violent internal disturbances. A food riot broke out in Calcutta when I was there in 1966. The cry was, "Shoot us or give us bread." Obviously, India is headed for disaster. As Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman says, "More human lives hang in the balance in the race between food and people than have been lost in all the wars of history." India with her enormous masses is in the forefront of this imminent catastrophe.

Is there some dramatic method by which the world can drastically increase its food production and thus avert mass famine? Many non-food products are synthetically produced, but so far there has been no real "breakthrough" in the production of synthetic foods. And the few so far produced are notoriously tasteless and, therefore, unacceptable to the public.

Moreover, we are told that none of the panaceas offered in Sunday supplements such as harvesting the ocean, agricultural research, or desalination of water, etc., can materially change the picture in time to stave off the impending disaster.

President Johnson in his statement to the House Agricultural Committee said, "The time is not far off when all the combined production on all the acres of all the agriculturally productive nations will not meet the food needs of the developing nations — unless present trends are changed." This deficit gap, according to most projections, will occur by the year 1975 — although some put the date as a little later. When the hour strikes that the gap cannot be filled, it will, according to Senator George McGovern, be a "disaster on an enormous scale."

Are there any national larders still full that can help meet the desperate need? What about Soviet Russia? Russia, formerly a grain exporter until five years ago, is now importing large quantities of grain. In a three-year period, Russia paid out \$800 million for wheat. Only America has food to give away, and she has been exporting vast stocks.

Incidentally, it might seem that America's immense gifts of food to the hungry nations would draw forth their gratitude. For some strange reason this is not so. We are living in a day when there is little gratitude. When a nation has more than another, it excites envy more than anything else. India, for example, a recipient of enormous food shipments from the U. S. has consistently followed an anti-American policy. Only when her own land

was in danger from invading Chinese Reds did India suddenly have a good word for the U. S.

Through the years since World War II, America has given away over \$100 billion to nations in need. A substantial part of this has been for food. But now at last these surpluses are almost gone.

There are (in 1968) according to the Paddocks in their book *Famine 1975!*, only seven short years remaining before the great famine begins. This brings to mind the seven good years in Egypt before the great dearth. The only difference apparently is that there is no Joseph around to prepare for it. The world as a whole is not yet fully aware of the approaching catastrophe. Notwithstanding to all appearances the third horseman of the Apocalypse — mass starvation, symbolized by the man with the balances — is ready to ride (Rev. 6:5). And when he does, millions will die.

It is interesting to note the Paddock's final recommendation. Since they see famine inexorably coming, and that the U. S. will in no way be able to meet the tremendous need, the country should determine which nations to help and which ones to let starve. Logical; but who would want to be the one to make the terrible choice?

The conclusion: Mass famine is not thirty years off, but may begin on a large scale as early as 1975.

CHAPTER V

The Crime Crisis

We have mentioned that violence was concomitant with the increase of population at the approach of the great Flood. Likewise today with the population explosion, there is a terrible increase in crime. In assessing the future situation, we must take a brief look at what has happened during the past few years. Circumstances approaching anarchy have developed already in a number of cities in our nation. Many are becoming alarmed and are asking, "What is happening to our country?" Riots struck no less than 100 cities in the last few years. Our congressmen and leaders are asking whether the U. S. is drifting toward anarchy.

The chilling facts are that in the five years between 1962-1967, *crime has risen 62 per cent in this country*, and a wave of violence is spreading throughout the nation. If this rate continues by the time the eighties roll around, then that which stands for law and order will have practically lost the battle; and chaos will be the result.

Moreover, there are few signs at the moment that this trend toward crime and violence can be slowed down, let alone stopped. There is an ominous unrest everywhere. Rebellious students are taking over the colleges. High schools have become racial battlegrounds. Anti-war demonstrators march on the Pentagon and harass high officials. Cabinet officers have been hooted down, and on occasion physically menaced on college campuses. Even the U. S. President feels it necessary to keep demonstrators from getting advance notice of his public appearances.

While officials of our government encounter trouble in speaking, agitators are permitted to speak freely and even to incite rebellion against the government. Fred Brookes, a "black power" advocate told Senate investigators he would approve the shooting of Mrs. Lyndon Johnson. Mass demonstrations which got their start a

few years ago as demands for civil rights, have turned into protests for almost anything conceivable. In some areas there are reports that guns are being stockpiled by rioters for future use. Even the public schools are troubled by vandalism and looting.

With the rise in violence has come the use of psychedelic drugs. Hippie communities have sprung up all over the country. These young people reject all the standards most societies live by.

Before we can analyze the situation as it will be 10 or 20 years from now, let us take a brief note of the causes of these things. While there are various reasons, nearly every official agrees that the roots of crime lie deep in American society: a breakdown in family life. Parents no longer are able to keep their children under control. Those who do attempt to discipline their offsprings are faced with the problem that other young people are given free rein to do as they please; and naturally their own children cannot understand why they can't have the same "privileges".

With this situation in the home there is a growing contempt for the law. Moral values are deteriorating. The church has largely lost its grip. Civil rights leaders tell their followers, they have a right to disobey laws they consider unjust. Violence is gaining wide acceptance as a way for people to express frustration and resentments. Summed up, the fact is that society is sick, very sick indeed.

But perhaps one of the greatest factors in the increase of crime is the leniency of the courts toward the criminal. The Supreme Court has issued ruling after ruling favoring the lawbreaker. For example, any officer who finds weapons or contraband in an automobile during a routine check cannot legally arrest the man, although it is clear that he has broken the law. If the man decides that his rights have in some way been infringed upon by a policeman, he can bring the officer into a federal court and sue him personally for damages. Any confession obtained from a suspect is inadmissible as evidence, if police question him without letting him first see a lawyer and warning him that he has a right to be silent. These are but a few of the rulings that have taken the teeth out of law enforcement. As one prosecuting attorney declares, "It is getting increasingly difficult to get victims of rape and assault to testify." They are afraid that the guilty person will go free and come after them and retaliate. The fact is that these court rulings are sharply reducing the effectiveness of the police with the consequent increase in crime.

Professor Fred Inbaw of Northwestern University Law School declares:

"We are heading for anarchy in this country. This is reflected not only in rioting and student troubles but in a rising wave of restlessness . . . The court I feel, must bear a fair share of responsibility for this growing laxity. There has been too long an overemphasis on individual rights as against the right of the public to live in reasonable security."

What is the significance of the unprecedented rise of crime and lawlessness? It is one more sign that the end of the age is upon us. Of the antediluvian age the Divine Record declares, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Gen. 6:11). Paul describes today's conditions in II Timothy 3:1-4:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

What will be the situation, not thirty years from now, but only ten, or twenty years? Every indication points to a state of lawlessness never known in the history of our land. Women and children will not be safe on the streets at night. It is a picture of a nation rapidly becoming criminal. People desire the fruits of others' labors, rather than earning them themselves. There is a willingness to resort to violence to obtain what they want. The world has always had crime, but when a preponderance of the people become lawless, that nation is on the road to anarchy.

And where will anarchy lead? When a nation becomes so lawless it cannot govern itself, there will arise a cry for a strong man, a dictator. That is what happened during the French Revolution. Out of that period of violence arose Napoleon who brought order out of the chaos, but having accomplished this he became obsessed with an unbounded ambition; so that by the time he was finally exiled to St. Helena, the flower of Europe's youth lay in the grave. Certainly anarchy and chaos will produce a climate favorable for the rise of the antichrist.

Even at the present time, many people, especially our young and disillusioned youth, are ready to follow any glowing individual that weaves dreams of a man-made Utopian society of so-called love, brotherhood, solidarity, and financial security. The antichrist, who will be the masterpiece of Satan, will initially be manifested as a "light angel"; for "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (II Cor. 11:14). As the serpent deceived Eve by suggesting that she *disobey God to be more like God*, the antichrist will employ the subtle tactics of promoting and justifying evil to bring about "supposed good."

It is not improbable that the antichrist will utilize the philosophy of Christianity but deny the divinity of Jesus Christ. He will be specifically and particularly "antichrist." It will be the art of deceiving through the "half-truth"—Christianity *without* Christ; brotherhood and love *without* the regeneration of man's spirit through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. And, "if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober" (I Thess. 5:4,6). Christians today should diligently study the Word of God and memorize Scriptures; for the Word of God is a lamp unto our feet, illuminating the snares of Satan that will be placed in the path of mankind.

CHAPTER VI

The Crisis of "Black Power"

Because of the limitations of space, we cannot discuss in detail the wrongs inflicted on the colored race in years gone by which are at the roots of the present racial struggle. We know that slave traders committed a fearful crime in their kidnapping of Negroes and exporting them to America as slaves. Certainly our nation paid dearly for this in the terrible Civil War that resulted in the deaths of 600,000 men out of a total population at that time of 30 million people.

In discussing the subject of "black power," we wish to say that the vast proportion of the Negroes are law-abiding and many of them are among our finest citizens. They, themselves, decry the fringe group which has resorted to violence. Our purpose, however, in this chapter is to note the prophetic significance of the "black power" movement.

In order to understand what the future holds regarding the Negro revolt, let us briefly review the present situation. Since World War II, year after year Negroes have flooded into the cities of the West and the North. This influx has resulted in immense and unsolved problems in the cities. Tax resources have dried up; business and industry are moving out. The great cities are tending to be left with a hard core of Negro neighborhoods, often concentrated in the slums. At the same time the whites have been fleeing to the suburbs. *Recently they are being joined in their flight by middle class Negroes equally fearful of their lives and property.*

Still the flow of Negro immigrants from the rural South continues. These constantly add to the big-city slums, where crime, unemployment, and fatherless families are taken for granted. Against this background, anarchy threatens to spill out across the cities, and in time over the nation's countryside.

Major riots began in 1965 with the one in Watts, California. Others followed in 1966. But the year 1967 saw the greatest display

of racial violence in the nation's history, with major outbreaks in Detroit, Newark, Toledo, Cleveland, Rochester, Cambridge (Maryland), Cincinnati, Tampa, and many other cities.

The situation has reached the point where "black power" has begun to threaten the security of America. Moderate leaders who were permitted to lead the struggle for Civil Rights on the basis of non-violence, are now being ignominiously pushed aside in favor of advocates of the use of terror. If the situation is critical now what will it be ten years, twenty years from now? We let the militants give their own answer to that. One of the outstanding intellectual exponents of the "black power" movement gives us his views of what may be expected (*U. S. News and World Report*, May 22, 1967):

"I sense that the black power people feel that we have been using the wrong tactics in the past. We've been singing when we should be swinging; we've been praying when we should have been preying, or flaying—you know skinning alive."

Dr. Hare predicted, "A black blitzkrieg . . . like a thousand riots sweeping the country . . . killing is not bad or good in itself. It can be bad if you kill a person for no cause, but it gets you a Medal of Honor if you kill a person in a situation in which the establishment finds killing desirable.

"In the matter of possible guerrilla war . . . I do not see why it is so impossible in this country. What's so different about this country? And what's so different about the blacks, as compared to other groups, that would never come around to that if other means were not successful? Of course Civil War would probably be harder here than anywhere else, but I don't think it's impossible. There has to be much organization—and before that so much discontent and loss of faith by so many persons. So if it's comforting to you, it's going to be quite a while yet, *though not so far off as to be outside our life span.*

"We've worried too long about what white folks think about us—about the white backlash. What we need to do is lash the white backlash with backlash. We've tried to change white hearts and souls. We failed. So there has to be some alternation of methods. I understand that only 30,000 persons were actively involved in the Russian Revolution.

"Some persons have all kinds of theories—such as say get a few pounds of this drug LSD and drop it in the water supply of each major city and disorient the city."

Thus does a leading black power exponent set forth the aims of the militants. Stokely Carmichael, another extremist, outlines

plans of the black power advocates. In a London interview he said, "In Newark we applied war tactics of the guerrillas. We are preparing groups of urban guerrillas for our defense in the cities. The price of these rebellions is a high price that one must pay. This fight is not going to be a simple street meeting. *It is going to be a fight to death.*"

In Cambridge, Maryland, Rap Brown urged the Negroes to "burn the town down." He added, "But don't tear down your own stuff. When you tear down the white man, you are killing him in the money. Don't love him to death. Shoot him to death . . . Get yourselves guns . . . This town is ready to explode." Referring to the Pine Street Elementary school, Brown said, "You should have burned it down long ago." *A few hours later it was burned to the ground.*

Thus leading spokesmen of black power set the course for the future as they see it.

The struggle at the present moment is not only between the whites and the blacks, but it is between the moderates and the extremists. Among the Negroes of the moderates' movement, Charles S. Hyneman, professor of government at Indiana University said, "I look for this struggle to go on for three to five years, and during that time we must be prepared to move very quickly against any attempt to incite riots. If the Negroes let themselves be taken over by Stokely Carmichael and LeRoi Jones types, *then I fear we're in for a great bloodletting beyond anything we've ever seen.*"

What then does the future hold? Although some look for an immediate revolution to occur in America with city after city going up in smoke, we are of the opinion that the black power extremists will not reach their goals in the immediate future. Two things will militate against this:

First, there is a tremendous pressure in government and industry to furnish jobs for the unemployed. The recent report to the American president emphasizes this need. A mammoth effort in this direction should have been made long ago. The greatest sin against the Negro since the Emancipation Proclamation has been to leave him idle.

The second thing is that the cities are preparing to employ force to stop riots before they get started. These two measures, together with the influence of the moderate Negroes will probably prevent a Negro revolution now. But they will not silence these powerful

forces that have been set in motion. There will continue to be riots and disturbances. People fear what will happen during the next few years. Black power will watch for its hour, and when that hour strikes, the dam will break, and this combined with the destructive forces will cause the situation to deteriorate until perhaps no one can restore order except he be given dictatorial powers. When that happens the hour of the antichrist will be at hand.

In closing our remarks on this subject, we urge both white and colored Christians to unite in prayer that the forces of anarchy and chaos will be restrained and that we shall not have a racial war.

CHAPTER VII

Inflation During the Next Thirty Years

Inflation has become a part of American life. The dollar of 1939 is worth less than 40 cents today. From this a most interesting fact emerges. In the 1930's the Federal debt was less than \$50 billion. An article written at the time by a noted economist said that if the debt ever reached \$100 billion, it would be beyond the ability of our government to liquidate it. But the government has found a way—that is by inflation. Something over \$200 billion was owed by the Federal government after World War II. We owe nearly \$300 billion now. But this \$300 billion is worth about the same as \$200 billion in terms of 1945! At least \$100 billion has been chipped away by inflation.

Who paid this \$100 billion? The people who had life savings, insurance policies, annuities, etc. The amount owed has increased 50 per cent, but the dollar buys about 50 per cent less.

What causes inflation? Any economist can give you the simple answer: When a government spends more money than it can raise by taxes, it makes up the difference by printing more paper money or by selling bonds. This puts a lot more money into circulation. It is an unwritten law that when a nation experiences a rush of spending power, prices tend to rise. People bid against each other in buying. If on the other hand there is a shortage of money as in the depression, prices tend to drop in order to attract buyers. But if there is plenty of money, that is the time when manufacturers raise their prices. The spiral then begins. With prices rising and goods costing more money, unions put on pressure for a raise in wages, with a threat of strikes unless they get their demands. And thus we have inflation. This inflation has raised the U. S. money supply from \$138 billion in 1945 to nearly \$350 billion at the time of writing.

In the past years, when people feared inflation, they would protect themselves by getting gold for paper money. Withdrawals

of gold were always a sign to the administration in power to take remedial measures. However, the present law prevents a private citizen from owning gold.

People who have their money in land or goods do not feel the inflation. They keep their prices marked up in step with the rising wholesale level. But as we have said, those who have saved their dollars for old age, whether in the form of bonds, savings accounts, insurance policies, or pension plans are losers. When they get their dollar back, the purchasing power has shrivelled. In other words, the value has been taken away from them and given to those who go into debt.

If the above spiral continues for a length of time, there is developed an economy of inflation that is very difficult to stop. That is the situation we have in America today. *U. S. News and World Report* (Jan. 22, 1968), forecasts what inflation will bring in the next 30 years. It does not take into consideration the strong possibility of accelerated inflation, but makes its prediction only on the basis of what has happened in the past. Using as a measuring stick what has occurred during an equal time stretching backward, it comes forward with some surprising forecasts, indicating that coming inflation will have a drastic effect upon costs for services and commodities that every family requires. Here are some of the forecasts of what will take place in the next 25 or 30 years:

“Men have complained about paying \$2 for a haircut. They can look forward to \$10 haircuts by the year 2,000. Women who now spend \$12 for a visit to the beauty shop probably will be paying \$40. The price of a house will be at least twice the present cost. Today’s \$30,000 house is likely to sell for around \$60,000. The price of a new car will go up more than 100 per cent. A year in a private college costs about \$2500 today. Inflation, if it is the same as in the past, will carry the cost of a year in a private college to \$6,000 or more.”

The above estimate is based on the rise in prices during the past 30 years. But creeping inflation beyond a certain point tends to accelerate. The effect of accelerating inflation is graphically illustrated by what happened in Germany after World War I. Her treasury was low in gold. With an unbalanced budget the government began printing money to pay her bills. In two years’ time, the mark which had a value of four for a dollar, by the end of 1920 was selling in London for 74 for a dollar.

Inflation was out of control. One year later it was 7260 to a dollar. Then the bottom dropped out. Before the year passed the old mark had dropped until its value was four billion to a dollar. All savings, all insurance policies, all pensions were wiped out. The people in their hopelessness were ready to listen to Adolph Hitler, the madman who led them down the road to destruction and ruin.

Inflation in America is not yet out of control. But if what happened in Germany takes place here, then all savings would be wiped out. If the present trend continues, money will depreciate at an ever-increasing pace.

CHAPTER VIII

The "Big Brother" Computer

George Orwell wrote a book entitled *1984*, in which he described an advanced police state whose citizens could not make a move without Big Brother knowing all about it. The idea seemed fantastic at the time. Suddenly the age of the computer bursts upon us, and its imminent intrusion upon citizens' privacy becomes a matter for debate on the floor of Congress. Congressman Cornelius Gallagher of New Jersey who is conducting an investigation into the invasion of privacy says, "It is certainly conceivable that a potential Big Brother might make excellent use of a big button on a dossier bank (operated through a master computer) for his own purposes and for the sake of increasing his own power."

Almost unnoticed the computer revolution is affecting every part of our country. It is startling to note the degree to which business and government, and even the sports field, have adapted to the computer.

A football coach feeds the past performances of the opposing team into a computer and predicts (with 82 per cent accuracy) the next move of a quarterback, and then signals his team what countermove to make.

Candidates are needed for top government posts. Some 25,000 cards of potential appointees are run through the computer, and the person or persons are picked with the talents that the administration is seeking.

Gradually, but steadily, all government and big business is being run by computers. But there are many who see it as a Frankenstein monster that will in time makes slaves of the population.

It was about the year 1950 that computers became a business in the USA. By the year 1966 some 30,000 were in use by companies that produce 70 per cent of the nation's goods and services. These companies now employ an army of 100,000 programmers. Computer sales in 1966 were about one billion dollars.

David Sarnoff of RCA declares that the business is doubling every year, and that by 1975 there will be 100,000 computers performing 400 trillion calculations a year. Some of the machines can perform a million calculations a second.

Dr. Jerome B. Weesner, dean of science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, considers the development of the computer as one of the turning points in history. He says:

“The computer with its promise of a million-fold increase in man’s capacity to handle information, will undoubtedly have the most far-reaching social consequences of any contemporary technical development.

“The potential for good in the computer and the danger of misuse, exceed our ability to imagine.”

By 1970 the general public will begin to feel the impact of the computer. According to George Mitchell a member of the Federal Reserve Board, your bank computer will automatically write checks for you and pay your monthly bills — rent, insurance, and utilities. Mr. Mitchell foresees the checkless, cashless society.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit System now building in San Francisco says that its passengers will not need money. Instead they will buy a money ticket with a magnetically recorded value. Each time they insert it into a turnstile, a computer will automatically deduct some of its value. The same device can be used all over town.

Physicians will use a computer to diagnose and predict a patient’s condition. Lawyers always concerned with legal precedents, and who must tediously locate them in a library will through a teleprinter ask a computer about precedents for a particular legal situation and get the answer in a matter of seconds. Already an entire encyclopedia has been put on a computer, and the time will come when it can be asked any question in its pages and get the answer at once.

All this is interesting, but computers will have the most significant effect on the social welfare of our nation. It is easy to see that this strange machine can in time become a “Big Brother” watching over every citizen of the country. Already in New York and Chicago they are now by a computer device tracking down traffic offenders who ignore their tickets.

In the Internal Revenue department, the computer will soon produce a revolutionary effect. All the information from the Census Bureau, Social Security, etc., will be fed into a monster computer reservoir. Into it also will be pooled the vast sources of information obtained from banks and investment houses, con-

cerning deposits and investments. Suppose you have money in a bank in another city and you forget to include the interest in your tax returns. You received some dividends from certain stocks and you failed to mention this. Or you sold a piece of property in another part of the country and you did not include it in your returns. Some months later your number is fed into the computer, and all this information is assembled and analyzed. A light turns red or a bell rings! Your dishonesty has been revealed!

No one can complain because the machine reveals dishonesty. It will no doubt be of assistance in combatting crime. But there are sinister complications that are foreseen by our lawmakers and national observers, not to speak of those who are familiar with Bible prophecy. Computers can be fed or programmed by employees who are themselves dishonest. Moreover, the giant computers are themselves subject to breakdowns and mistakes. This can result in some strange and unpleasant circumstances. One man for example received a check from the government for several million dollars! It is needless to say he didn't cash it. This goes to show that mistakes are possible, mistakes that could cause acute embarrassment.

But the really sinister aspect of the whole matter lies in what might happen some day when the system is perfected. Even at this moment the government has accumulated a frightening file on its citizens. The defense department has collected 14 million life histories in the course of its security investigations. Much of the material, along with true statements, contains lies and idle gossip. The Civil Service Commission has a dossier on the life histories of another eight million people who have applied for federal jobs. These files hold the darkest secrets of many persons who have committed questionable acts.

Much of this information contained by these agencies is freely exchanged between federal offices. Pressure is now rising to gather all this information into a master computer system, cross-indexed, computerized, and coordinated. Can this be stopped? Congressmen say, "Probably not." Bureaucrats seem to have a Big Brother Complex. The way is open for the compilation of a master file of information on the lives of every citizen of the nation. There, recorded and instantly available will be information on any violation of the law, any traffic conviction (the machine never forgets). The amount to the penny a man has earned each year, his religious convictions, his political views, his attitude toward the administration in power.

Suppose in time of national emergency a man with sinister intent should achieve power in our nation, one can see frightening possibilities by which he and his computer could secure absolute control of the lives of all the citizens of the land.

Word comes that New Haven, Connecticut, will be the first city in the world to put its entire population under a computer plan. *U. S. News and World Report* (May 15, 1967), declares:

“This data bank, first of its kind for a local government is counted on keeping close touch with every sector of the city and with all its people . . . Envisioned is a system in which a central computer will relate events in the city in a way to cut crime, prevent fires, speed traffic flow, track down welfare cheats . . . What is involved in the data bank is an unprecedented co-ordination of facts about individuals. Lives of New Haven residents to a large extent are to become available to city officials at the push of a button . . . Into the computer will go people’s tax statements and their property holdings. Any brushes with the law however minor will be fed in. So will reports on welfare applicants, school and health records, and court decrees. All of this information and much more will be electronically cross-indexed and be available in a split second.”

This giant computer is planned to be in operation about the time this book goes to press — mid-1968. But even Hartford officials realize there are hazards of the machine invading personal privacy. Tight security is planned to protect the central file.

Other cities will no doubt follow Hartford because of the great efficiency of the computer and saving of dollars. Well and good for the present, but what will happen if and when a dictator gets control of America, and he has all these files at his command?

We ask the reader to draw his own conclusions as to what relation this strange machine has to the prophecy in Rev. 13:7-8, 16-17.

“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world . . . And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”

CHAPTER IX

The Crisis of Air and Water Pollution

The smog in Los Angeles has received a great deal of publicity, but this is only the beginning. The atmospheric poisoning experienced in that area is only a harbinger of the universal pollution of the elements. For example, in Polk County, Florida, a dozen phosphate plants produce nearly one-third of the world's output of phosphate. Each day 4½ tons of fluoride pour into the air. As a result, many square miles of shrubbery and citrus groves have been ruined. Large herds of fine Brahma cattle have perished.

U. S. health authorities inform us that air pollution will soon be a major hazard in 300 American cities, affecting adversely the lives of many millions of people. This atmospheric contamination now makes it almost impossible to have a garden in a large city. Until the year 1940 air pollution was not a major problem, but with the population explosion and the vast increase in chemical production and automobile exhaust, it has suddenly become a world hazard, affecting many great cities. Unless drastic steps are taken, catastrophe is sure to result.

These conditions are enormously aggravated by what is called atmospheric inversion. Warm air rests above the cold and prevents the polluted air to blow away. New York City was visited by such an inversion in November, 1953, when the mass of polluted air stalled in the city for ten days, causing the death of more than 175 people. New York, fortunately, escaped the kind of disaster that hit London in 1952, when a toxic smog covering the city killed 4,000 people. Public health officials fear that a prolonged inversion will result in a similar catastrophe in some American metropolis.

Perhaps the most significant development arising from air pollution is the effect on the world's climate. In the article "With Every Breath You Take" in September, 1965, issue of *Reader's Digest*, Howard Lewis says:

"Air pollution is already changing the earth's climate, experts point out. Each day we burn more fuel, releasing more carbon dioxide into the air. Meanwhile, man has built vast urban areas with their superhighways and destroyed millions of miles of vegetation, which would consume carbon dioxide by photosynthesis. With nothing left to check this increase, in the years ahead the planet's temperature will rise, through what the scientists call 'the greenhouse effect . . .' Thus warmer winters and less snow are likely to cause striking evolutionary changes.

"The Conservation Foundation pointed out recently that the earth's temperature is likely to increase by about 45 degrees within 500 years. But a change only half this great would cause violent flows in the planet's air circulation, and the most destructive windstorms in history. Many life forms would be annihilated on land and in the sea. Polar ice caps would surely melt, inundating coastal areas, including cities such as New York, Boston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Houston."

Scientists have produced overwhelming evidence that polluted air is a cause of disease and in many cases death. Not only are the eyes injured but the irritants cause nausea and diarrhea. Moreover, they have a damaging effect upon the respiratory system and the heart. Illness records in factories show an absence factor in direct relation to the local air pollution.

Dr. Lamont C. Cole, a noted scientist, says in *National Inquirer* concerning the dangers of air pollution:

"Smug and arrogant man is filling the seas and skies with untested chemicals and pollutants which under the right set of circumstances could kill off all life—plant and animal within one year. It may already be too late. The world could smother itself by using up the oxygen supply. Preliminary studies show the U. S. and other industrial nations are using up oxygen 1.6 times as fast as it is produced. Green plants are the only source of oxygen. When man breathes, he takes in oxygen and gives off carbon dioxide. Green plants reverse this procedure—through the process known as photosynthesis—by taking in carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen. If anything should happen to the sea plants, industrial nations would not be able to import oxygen. If any one of the estimated half-million untested chemicals now being dumped into the sea turns out to be fatal to plant life, then the earth's death sentence will be sealed and a tragic cycle set to carry out the verdict. Once the poisoned sea begins to kill off the sea plants, the world will lose the source of about 70 per cent of its oxygen.

There is no way to replace it. Without oxygen all plants and animals will die. It will take about one year from the time the first oxygen diatom in the sea begins to die until the earth's last living thing suffocates.

"Also the burning of fuel adds carbon dioxide to the atmosphere faster than the oceans can convert it back to oxygen . . . *Some estimates give only about 30 years before the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will have doubled.* This is surely enough to disrupt the earth's radiation belt and change the temperature of the earth, making it hotter." (This could cause the ice caps at the north and south poles to melt, raising ocean levels 200 feet and flooding the coastal areas. This, however, is speculation and can only be considered a possibility).

Dr. Cole goes on to add that nuclear fission produces deadly waste products, especially dangerous radio activity in the form of tritium. He notes that the prediction of some Oak Ridge scientists that a powerful economy such as we have in the U. S. using nuclear power from fusion reactors would produce tritium in "unacceptable world-wide dosage by the year 2000."

In this chapter we have omitted mentioning contamination of the rivers, a circumstance that threatens the nation almost as serious as air pollution. The nation's drinking water is endangered. Fish are dying in the streams and the lakes. The rivers are rapidly becoming open sewers whose water is unfit even for commercial use. Some estimates put the cost of cleaning up the water-ways of America at 100 billion dollars. We are told that time is running out and that failure to initiate an effective program in the immediate future could result in national catastrophe by the year 2,000.

CHAPTER X

The Course of the Church During the Next Thirty Years

Our Lord, depicting events of the final days of this age, in His prophetic letters to the seven churches shows that at the time of the end the conditions in the church will be represented first by the faithful Philadelphia Church to which the Lord gives the promise that they will be kept from the hour of temptation which is to come upon all the world:

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (Revelation 3:10-11).

Then He also describes the Laodicean apostate church as neither cold nor hot, but lukewarm and which He will be forced to “spue” out of His mouth:

“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:15-17).

We will consider the Philadelphia Church first. This church of prophecy does not represent just one group, but rather true believers everywhere. Many have thought of the Pentecostal blessing as an experience confined to members of the Full Gospel Churches. The recent revival has changed this thinking and it should. If the experience of the Holy Spirit infilling is for all believers, it should reach hungry hearts in all denominations. Pentecost is therefore an experience, not a denomination, and so it has crossed over all organizational lines. Many noted min-

isters and religious leaders, hungry for the Pentecostal experience have received, and in not a few cases have succeeded in bringing the blessing to their own congregations.

This glorious outpouring of the Spirit has come in fulfillment of the prophecy in Joel 2 which also had its first fulfillment on the Day of Pentecost. Peter quoted the prophecy in Acts 2:17, 18, 21, 39:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: . . . And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved . . . For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

During the next couple of decades we shall see an ever-increasing outpouring of God's Spirit upon all flesh, reaching out into all churches, even Catholic, without regard to denominational lines.

Nevertheless, with this great move of the Spirit in the Philadelphia Church the prophecy also shows that there will develop a corresponding apostasy in the Laodicean Church. We regret to say this spirit of apostasy will in some cases even cross over into Full Gospel ranks.

Recent events show how far the spirit of apostasy in the nominal church has advanced. One contributing cause has been the teaching of evolution in the schools and seminaries. If man descended from the beast instead of being created in the image of God, then the Bible record is false and the Scriptures can no longer be considered as authoritative. Liberal theologians have practically discarded the Genesis account of creation in favor of the atheistic view that all came about through evolution.

At the same time, while evolution is freely taught in the schools, the United States Supreme Court has downgraded the Bible by making it an offense to read the Scriptures in the schools. One Madelyn E. Murray, a blasphemous atheist, who achieved notoriety for advocating the vilest form of “free love” brought suit in the Supreme Court to secure repeal of a ruling made in 1905 by the City of Baltimore that the city's public schools should include reading without comment a chapter of the Holy Bible or the Lord's Prayer. The Supreme Court ruled against Bible reading and in favor of the atheists.

Some professed ministers have brazenly announced to the public that "God is dead." How much further can apostasy go than this?

When one leaves the anchor of the Scriptures, he drifts over perilous shoals. An example is the case of Bishop William Pike. After rejecting the Bible as the Word of God, he became the victim of the most perverse delusions. Recently it is reported that the ex-bishop is now dabbling in spiritualism and has supposedly established contact with his dead son, who some time ago committed suicide. What he has contacted, of course, are familiar spirits which impersonate the dead. The bishop has also publicly endorsed adultery under certain circumstances. It is not surprising to hear that his wife outraged by his practices and teachings, has divorced him. Thus, in brief, is the story of a man who once held a high and respected position in the church, but who rejected the divine authority of the Scriptures to become a "free thinker." Many others are following the same route.

During the next few decades, we may witness the spirit of apostasy sweeping through the Laodicean Church. A humanist and materialistic philosophy will supplant the authority of the Bible.

How can we then expect a great revival? This is a big world and two entirely different forces can be at work at the same time. The greatest apostasy of history took place when the Jews rejected their Messiah, an apostasy so far-reaching that age-long dispersion came on the people. Yet, during the same period, the greatest revival of all history took place. The Book of Acts is witness to the extent of that visitation.

Today we see the Laodicean Church moving in the direction of a super-church. According to *U. S. News and World Report* (July 25 1966) eight of the most powerful Protestant denominations have blueprinted a merger designed to bring together twenty-four million churchgoers in the 1970's. Narrowing too, according to the report, is the gap between Protestants and Catholics. Joint services are becoming commonplace, although these do not yet include the sacraments. In the meeting of the Consultations of Church Union in Dallas, Texas, a maximum timetable of thirteen years to complete the merger was set.

Many church leaders in these denominations are voicing their fears that one big church for Christians would not solve the problems confronting the churches, and they predict dire consequences. They are right. To those familiar with prophecy, they can see that out of this great merger of denominations there will emerge Mystery Babylon, the church which will come under divine judgment (Rev. 17).

CHAPTER XI

The Moral Crisis

What will be the moral condition of the world 30 years from now? The picture we regret to say is a dark and ominous one. Even today the deterioration is far advanced. One of the causes of the moral collapse is the vast increase of the use of intoxicating beverages. The Bible speaks of the revelling and excesses that occurred before the flood:

“But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark”
(Matt. 24:37-39).

Isaiah speaking of the judgment coming on Israel in his day ascribed it to the excessive use of strong drink by the people (Isa. 5:11-14, 20-22).

Men have always drunk, but they were usually proud of the virtue of their women. This was true even in the old saloon days. Today, however, women frequent the bars, drink until their moral sensibilities are numbed, and their male companions seem satisfied to have it that way. The terrible truth of the shocking increase of the evil was frankly discussed in the May, 1962, issue of *Reader's Digest* which gave a startling report on the circumstances involving women alcoholics in America:

“Statistics on the prevalence of alcoholism are necessarily estimates. According to Yale's *Quarterly Journal* of studies on alcohol, there are somewhat more than five million sufferers in the United States. How many women does this include? Researchers on the slim evidence available, have long held there is one woman alcoholic for every five and a half men—thus three quarters of a million women.

“Yet there are those who suspect that the proportion of women is really much higher. They note for example that in

big cities closed Alcoholics Anonymous meetings—for alcoholics only—are nearly evenly divided as to sex. And Dr. Ruth Fox, medical director of the National Council on Alcoholism says, 'In this past decade, I have seen 1,292 alcoholics, 789 males and 503 females. I think this means that the figures around the country are way off.'

This means that if there are three million male alcoholics, there are two million women subject to alcoholism. *Reader's Digest* adds this last word, "Just because they are women, the rules on alcoholism will not change. Unless they are helped to stop it short, their drinking is sure to be a long slow descent into hell."

RISE OF ILLEGITIMACY

The drinking of women has been a prominent factor in the swift decline of the nation's morals. One of the sad results has been a great wave of illegitimacy. In the first seven years of the fifties there was according to *Time* Magazine 202,000 illegitimate births a year in America—a rise of 50 per cent in illegitimacy since 1950. Now some 275,000 illegitimate children are born each year. If the rate were to climb no higher, it would mean that in time 14 million of the people of America would have been conceived by unwed mothers. In some sections of the nation the rate is much higher. In Washington, D. C., nearly half of the children are born out of wedlock! A recent estimate is that there will be 370,000 illegitimate births a year by 1970.

Lloyd Shearer says in *Parade* "If your teenage daughter marries, the chances are even money 50-50 that she is already pregnant. If she and her prospective husband are both of high school age, her pregnancy is an 80 per cent certainty. An estimated 20 per cent of all brides in this country, regardless of age are pregnant at the time of marriage."

Time Magazine suggests four reasons for the rapid rise in illegitimacy. (1) Modern psychology which suggests sex repression damages the personality. (2) A "live today, for tomorrow we die" philosophy of the H-bomb age. (3) Broken homes, depriving adolescent boys and girls of moral guidance. (4) The alluring depiction of sex promiscuity in plays, movies, programs, and novels.

MASS MURDER OF OFFSPRING

Sad as the story of illegitimacy is there is still a darker picture. Millions of mothers both unwed and wed deliberately murder

their unborn offspring by abortion. With consciences hardened by immoral living and because others do it, they tell themselves that to kill a person after birth may be murder, but if killed before birth it is not murder. Surely such reasoning is as false as it is tragic. The spirit is in the child long before the ninth or eighth month of gestation. Children born as early as six months have lived. Because the act is done before the birth of a child does not lessen the sin. Abortion in America is a ghastly story, incredible but true.

The *Saturday Evening Post* lays bare the terrible story of this mass murder — a story that rivals crimes of Hitler and Eichmann. True, Hitler, and Eichmann murdered millions of Jews whom their warped minds considered to be enemies. Eichmann was given a chance to defend himself in Jerusalem. But what defense can a mother give for the murder of her unborn offspring?

Informed estimates place the number of abortions per year from 750,000 to 2,000,000. Since the number of births in America is about 4,000,000 annually, that means that for every three persons living there is a murdered unborn infant resting in a nameless grave.

According to the *Post* report, one half the patients operated on for abortion are married women, and are not the friendless unmarried girl who finds herself in a hopeless predicament as is popularly supposed.

Abortion is murder and can only bring terrible regrets to those who commit it. Moreover, the suffering that they may go through as a result of these illegal abortions which are performed by reckless and irresponsible quacks is beyond description. Surgical instruments are often unsterilized. Lethal doses of anesthetics may be administered. This shabby business is practiced by fly-by-night operators who live outside the pale of the law. Some 5,000 women die each year as a result of abortions, and thousands of others have to endure intense pain the rest of their lives. And what about judgment on a land whose women will indulge in such criminality against their own flesh and blood?

In the days of the Flood, violence filled the earth. It brought on the Flood. The violence in that day was committed largely by men. Today millions of women are guilty of the scarlet sin of murder.

If evil has advanced to such an extent today, what then can we expect thirty years from now? For Sodom there was nothing left but judgment. It was a city that wallowed in wickedness

and perversion. The angels cried to Lot saying, "Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed" (Gen. 19:17).

The year 2,000 will not see the world we see today. The nations are ripening fast for judgment. There is reason to believe that before the century turns, the present civilization will, as did Sodom, have passed away. Jesus portrays the picture in Luke 17:28-30.

"Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

THE EFFECT OF THE "PILL" ON MORALS

A new development accelerating the moral collapse of youth is the "pill." *U. S. News and World Report* (July 11, 1966), gives a report on the effect of the "pill" on the morals of America. It says, "An era of change in sexual morality is now developing in America. Fear is being expressed that the nation may be heading into a time of sexual anarchy. College girls everywhere are talking about the pill and many are using it. The pill is turning up in high schools too. Result: widespread concern is developing about the impact of the pill on morality."

The magazine adds: "At Brown University it was disclosed last autumn that the campus health director had prescribed the pill for two unmarried co-eds at Pembroke College, the undergraduate school for girls. The health director's action was defended by Brown University president . . . Many clergymen and educators see the pill as becoming a major element in the crumbling of past standards of sexual morality."

Previously the fear of pregnancy held back many a girl from losing her virginity. Now that the fear is largely disappearing, another barrier that has kept youth back from the precipice has been removed.

Since college administrators are sanctioning the giving of the pill to unmarried co-eds, what is the significance of this relation to America's destiny? It is not an exaggeration to say that the nation is headed toward a moral collapse not unlike that of Sodom.

THE WAVE OF PORNOGRAPHY

A leading factor in the moral deterioration has been the U. S. Supreme Court. It has consistently made rulings which have

permitted obscene literature to re-enter the mails, which had been previously forbidden by the postal authorities.

The *Reader's Digest* (March, 1966), gives a shocking story of this rising flow of pornography through the mail. It notes that half a billion dollars worth of obscene materials are distributed each year through the post office. Many of these books and magazines contain every kind of perversion possible to imagine. Nudist magazines have proliferated by the scores. They are filled with photographs of nude women. Films, pornographic records, stag movies "portray the worst in perverted sex," says the *Digest*. They play a dominant part in perverting the youth of our nation.

NUDITY NOW TOLERATED IN RESTAURANTS AND THEATERS

Newsweek notes that some 200 restaurants in Los Angeles and San Francisco have waitresses completely nude above the waist. At the same time movies are being made in Hollywood in which actresses are entirely without clothing (*Newsweek*, April 19, 1965).

When the city authorities took San Francisco's Off Broadway Night Club to court for obscene exhibitionism, Judge Leo Friedman instructed the jury to return a verdict of "not guilty." The lawyers pointed out that the U. S. Supreme Court ruled in March, 1965, that nudity and sexual acts on the screen were not obscene.

HOMOSEXUALITY

We need not linger on the subject of the rise of homosexuality in America. Of all the evils of this day, none is more disgusting than the practice of Sodomy. It is difficult for a normal person to understand the urges of a homosexual. The only explanation is that it is a form of demon possession. These unclean spirits once tolerated, soon utterly control the person. Until recent years homosexuals kept themselves under cover, since society regarded them as moral lepers. But times have changed and they have now come out into the open. They have their own magazine, their own organization and officers, one of whom unashamedly explained the ways of the homosexual to the public via a television network! The name of that organization is of all things, *Pride!*

Thus, the time has come when homosexuality is gaining acceptance in America as a way of life, no longer to be merely tolerated, but accepted. Recently, a minister in the San Francisco Bay area announced that he would accept these homosexuals into his church, not for the purpose of rehabilitation, but to accept them as they are,

in which case, there is every reason to believe that they will seek to subvert others to their perverted activities.

Much more could be said, but this information thoroughly documented by responsible national magazines shows that the moral rot of American society is far advanced. The situation is not unlike that of Sodom on the eve that the angels came to pronounce its doom. All evidence indicates that the America as we know today will be no more, when the year 2,000 rolls around.

CHAPTER XII

Transportation and Communication 1975 and after.

"Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?" (Isa. 60:8).

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Dan. 12:4).

A book of this nature would hardly be complete without a brief consideration of how people will travel thirty years from now. Three decades ago commercial travel was mostly by train or bus, averaging on fast express approximately 60 miles per hour. A few daring persons who could afford it went by plane at something over double that speed. Today millions of people fly by air at 600 miles an hour and long distance travel by train is being rapidly phased out. Considering the vast changes that have occurred since 1940, what can we expect in this field in the next thirty years?

In a former book we discussed the sign of the airplane, that according to the prophet, in the millennium the peoples of the world would go up to Jerusalem each year to worship (Zech. 14:16-17). Obviously this would be impossible if there were not some speedy means of transportation such as is afforded by modern air travel. Previous to World War II, missionaries required up to six weeks to get to distant stations. Now they are able to go to the farthest point on the opposite side of the earth in less than 24 hours. With the coming of jet planes in 1958, travel by air has been tremendously accelerated, cutting in half the time required to reach any destination.

But the present jets, speedy as they are, are not the last word. Plans are well along to put supersonic planes into commercial service by the mid-70's. These SST's will fly between 1400 and 2,000 miles per hour, and will cross the Atlantic in much less than three hours. People leaving London for New York at dusk would have a unique experience. Outracing the sun they would

see the dawn break in the West! Slowly the sun would rise until finally by the time the passengers would be ready to land in New York, the sun would be in the afternoon sky. Two hours later they would see it set again!

Not long ago President Johnson announced that the Air Force has taken the wraps off a secret plane, the A-11. This plane built for the U.S. Air Force has flown well over 2,000 miles per hour on level flight and can attain a ceiling of up to 100,000 feet. The significance of this achievement is that the problem of tooling titanium, the metal that can withstand the high temperatures generated at supersonic speed, has been solved.

Announcements have followed in rapid succession which inform us that new planes are being built that will hold 250, 500, and even 900 passengers. Facilities of present airports are not equipped to handle passengers on such a large scale. Consequently airports built even as recently as five years ago are now becoming obsolete. Revolutionary changes are being introduced in the planning of new air terminals.

Our Dallas' Love Field Airport, completed in 1957, has a ground area of some 2,000 acres. The proposed Dallas-Ft. Worth airport, a joint effort of the two cities, will have nearly ten times that area.

These new airfields are being completely redesigned. The "finger design" of the present airways with hallways stretching in all directions will be a thing of the past. Elevators, escalators, moving sidewalks will carry the passenger to his plane. Passengers changing airlines will travel in small unmanned electric cars, running between the terminals through tunnels.

Helicopters will come into their own in transferring passengers from the airport to the heart of the city. Los Angeles plans to have eight "metroports" strategically located throughout the metropolitan area. The first will be built over the old railway station.

With the aid of sophisticated instruments, airports will rarely be closed down because of fog. Tickets will be issued automatically by machines accepting credit cards.

THE NEW TRAINS

While trains are no longer able to compete with air travel on long distance runs, they are, nevertheless, finding a place on shorter runs in areas where population is fairly dense. Plans are well underway for a new kind of fast lightweight train which will operate in cities between Boston and Washington. These

will travel up to 125 miles per hour and will be electronically controlled. Because of loss of time required by passengers in going back and forth to the airports, these fast trains will be able to compete with plane travel. As is well known, the Japanese and the French have developed trains that go even faster than 125 miles per hour. The Tokyo-Osaka run has proved to be a great success economically.

MASS TRANSIT IN THE CITIES

Within the cities themselves new rapid transit systems are envisioned as an alternative to gradual strangulation of the cities by auto travel. One of the systems is the sky bus, demonstrated by Westinghouse in Pittsburgh. Trains are operated quietly by a central computer. They may run every two minutes at speeds much faster than autos and will operate regardless of the weather.

The forerunner of the expected surge in big-city transit is the Bay Area Transit System of San Francisco. It is the first completely modern system in 60 years — a seventy-five mile electronic network of subways, elevated lines, surface tracks, and underwater tunnels. Cars boast lush interiors with padded seats. Trains will run every 90 seconds during rush hours with speeds reaching 80 miles an hour, all programmed by computer. Fare collecting will be automated. A commuter inserts money into a machine, gets a card, which when dropped into a gate slot will permit the person to enter. Some service will begin in 1969, with the project to be completed in 1971.

COMMUNICATION AND TELEVISION

Elsewhere we have written on the impact of television on the world in the days of the antichrist. In the book entitled *40 Signs of the Soon Coming of Christ*, written thirteen years ago we called attention to Revelation 11:9 which states:

“And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.”

The implication was that people of many nations were able to view this scene at Jerusalem by some means such as television. Today world television is a reality. As a matter of interest, it was shortly after the six-day war that television was first introduced in Israel.

The Telstar and Early Bird satellites which have been set up

have made it possible to send live television across the oceans. In fact such telecasts occur quite often now. David Sarnoff, board chairman of RCA said some years ago that it is more than probable that within twenty years television broadcasts will be carried "live" throughout the world.

He continues, "This advance will be made possible through satellite systems. This holds enormous significance for people everywhere in entertainment, information, and education. Audiences of a billion people may be watching the same program at the same time with automatic language translations providing instant comprehension of the program's content."

But the estimate of time was too long. Such telecasts of major international events are now occurring. In a few more years regular telecasts will bridge the oceans.

In the March, 1966, *Reader's Digest*, David Sarnoff spoke again of another imminent development in television which will probably occur within five or six years. He foresees Russia in that time setting up a competitive world-wide satellite complex. With high-powered satellites, they will be able to broadcast directly to any home television set in the world. Moscow already broadcasts directly to Vladivostok, 4,000 miles away. These programs can then be received anywhere: in the jungles, in the deserts, in the remote regions of the earth. Thus, communism will have a new means to transmit its deadly doctrine to any nation in the world. General Sarnoff says,

"When a Soviet Satellite can telecast directly into a Kansas farm, who will keep this form of communism from turning to a deadly weapon, an instrument for massive subversion and incitement of conflict? The appeal of television from far-off sources, ultimately in full color, will be most irresistible. Propaganda, subtle or crude, will come excitingly packaged as entertainment, culture, or education. Thus a potential for mutual understanding and sharing of knowledge may boomerang in deepened tensions and hatreds.

"The time to head off the palpable threat is now. If we delay even five years in coming to grips with the problem of international regulation, the disorders resulting from the lack of it may pass beyond control."

General Sarnoff has been right in many of his predictions in the past. His warning concerning the danger in the communist use of world television is a sobering one. It is one more proof that the world stage is being set for the appearance of the antichrist.

CHAPTER XIII

What of Space—Thirty Years From Now?

The coming of the space age was not ignored by the prophetic word. Jesus said, "Fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven . . . And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations . . ." (Luke 21:11, 25).

On October 4, 1957, Russia put her first sputnik into orbit, an event that inaugurated the space age. America followed and a few months later she put a satellite in the sky. During the next few years both Russia and the U. S. launched a number of satellites into space, and on April 12, 1961, a Russian astronaut by the name of Gagarin was put in orbit and brought back to earth alive. (As we write, word comes that Gagarin was killed in a plane accident.)

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy made an announcement that the resources of the U. S. were to be mobilized to put a man on the moon before this decade ended. During the past seven years, much in that direction has been accomplished. Men have orbited in space, walked in space, rendezvoused with another space ship, and performed other startling feats.

The question now is, will man's attempts to land astronauts on the moon be successful? Will the predictions that actual colonies will be established on the moon materialize? Before we answer this question, let us consider a few facts: The moon itself is a dead body. It has no atmosphere, no erosion, no weather; nothing happens on the moon except the slow change from day to night and night to day. A moon-day is about 28 earth days in length from sunset to sunset. During the day the temperature rises to several hundred degrees. At night it falls to several hundred degrees below zero. To live even for a few minutes on the moon, one must have a specially constructed space suit that will withstand an absolute vacuum, can be heated, and will furnish oxygen for

breathing. God prepared the earth as a habitation, but the moon is a barren, sterile, and airless planet, harsh and forbidding as close-up photographs clearly demonstrate.

Will man reach the moon in this decade? Next year, 1969, is considered the target date for reaching the moon. It is probable that man has the capacity to land men there. But let us say this: Man will find nothing on the moon of any value to him. If men land on the moon, it can be for only a few minutes. The loss of life in the venture could be shocking. The thought of establishing colonies on the moon is pure imagination.

We shall soon have the answer to whether men will fulfill President Kennedy's timetable.

It is true that God gave man dominion over the earth; therefore, he has always had the right to explore any part of the world. But does this dominion extend to the moon? The moon is the only body under the gravitational domination of the earth and is, therefore, in a sense a part of the earth system. For this reason the moon may be considered to be included in man's field of exploration. Nevertheless, some scientists working on this project are inclined to believe otherwise, and that man will never reach it. We will have to wait for the full answer.

However, we can say that any attempt of man to land men on other planets or to visit the stars will surely fail. God has created an impassable gulf between earth and the stars that can never be bridged by mortal man. Any attempt to cross this barrier reminds us of the prophecy of Isaiah 14:13:

"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also
upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the
north."

Satan in his rebellion sought to ascend above the stars of God. Today men are attempting to do the same thing. There is no chance that they will succeed any more than Lucifer succeeded when he said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."

While it is interesting and entirely proper to study the marvels of the heavens which witness the handicraft of God, it is forlorn hope indeed for man to imagine he can ever reach them by his own efforts, or even to be able to communicate with them. At Greenback, West Virginia, scientists in the year 1960 began their vigil in search of signals from intelligent beings existing elsewhere in the universe. Even the nearest stars from which men are trying to

intercept signals are eleven light years away. This means that if a message were received and we could send one back, it would require altogether 22 years. How much better to know that we can talk to heaven and get an answer back at once! God said to Jeremiah, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not" (Jer. 33:3).

We, therefore, state categorically that mortal man (not those translated) will not reach the planets nor the stars by the year 2,000 nor any time after.

The Scriptures declare, "The heaven, even the heavens are the Lord's, but the earth he hath given to the children of men" (Psa. 115:16). Russia's mad attempt to ascend to the stars reminds us of the days of Babel when men pooled their knowledge in a vain effort to reach heaven.

Those on earth who dream of ascending to the stars by means of space ships will never see their dream fulfilled, no more than those who hope to lift themselves to heaven by their own bootstraps of good works or by their own ingenuity.

CHAPTER XIV

Atomic Holocaust Before Year 2000!

“And the cities of the nations fell” (Rev. 16:19).

On August 6, 1945, the world entered the atomic age. A nuclear explosion was set off in New Mexico a month earlier, but on the August date an atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima. Some 100,000 people were blotted out of existence. Another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki a few days later, killing additional tens of thousands. These events brought a swift end to World War II.

The original atomic bomb was equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT. Pictures taken of Hiroshima after the explosion revealed a scene of unparalleled devastation and destruction. Yet the bomb used on that city was primitive indeed to the thousands now lying in the arsenals of America and Russia. A 20-megaton hydrogen or “hell-bomb” is roughly 1000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. Soviet Russia has exploded bombs even more powerful.

The great question that people are asking is whether this frightful weapon of destruction will be used again? For men now have at their command a potential power that could utterly destroy the earth.

The Bible is not without hints as to the answer to this question. *Atomic weapons will be used again undoubtedly before this century runs its course.*

Never before did men possess a weapon by which they could destroy the entire earth. Some men as a last act of desperation would have been glad to have had it — Hitler, for example, before he committed suicide in April, 1945 — but they did not have the means at their disposal. Today it is possible. Man’s moral capacity to rule himself has not kept pace with his ingenuity and inventiveness.

There have been so many articles written of the terrible and universal destruction that would result in the matter of minutes

from a nuclear war, that the public's capacity to realize the full meaning of such an overwhelming calamity has been numbed. Suffice it to say that those who make these dire predictions of a nuclear holocaust are not exaggerating, but only giving us the grim facts.

Indeed, as time passes, the picture grows increasingly frightening. Scientists tell us that in event of a war with Russia, within a half hour's time, three fourths of the populations of both countries could be dead or dying, first as a result of the blast, and second from the enormous fires which would be created. These would be of such dimensions as to provide an indraft of cyclonic proportions. The fires thus created would burn until all was consumed.

But what about those at a distance from the cities? Would they escape the dangers of the blast? No. Many would die from the deadly fall-out. This fall-out resulting from the explosions was not at first recognized as so great a hazard, as it later proved to be. The after-effects of radio-active contamination now appear to be just as great a menace to the population as a whole as the explosion itself because of the enormous areas it can cover. One man died from its effects seventy miles away from the scene of the Bikini explosions! Winds can drive the deadly ash for enormous distances. Once sufficient radio-activity gets into the human bones, there is no escape from a slow, consuming death.

How grave is this danger? Scientists tell us that should enough strontium 90 be released in the atmosphere from atomic explosions, it could endanger every living thing on earth.

But the hydrogen bomb is not the last word. The neutron bomb is on the way. It is not designed to destroy the buildings of a city but to kill off the population, so that an enemy could take over an undamaged city instead of ruins.

Senator Thomas Dodd of Connecticut as reported in *Time Magazine* declares: "We are in mortal peril. More than a year has passed since I first spoke of the folly of the test ban moratorium. I mentioned the neutron bomb would operate as a kind of death ray. It would do next to no physical damage and result in no contamination, but it would immediately destroy all life in the target area . . . At that point we might find ourselves confronted with the terrible choice between surrender and all-out nuclear war."

One thing might be added about the neutron bomb. Once it

is developed all the nations would be able to use it, as its major ingredients are comparatively cheap and plentiful.

Recently there has been much talk of an anti-missile defense. At the present moment an uneasy peace between the super powers is maintained by what is spoken of as "the balance of terror." That is, both Russia and America have such power to destroy that neither dares to attack the other. However, should one of the two nations perfect an anti-missile defense, it is easy to see that the entire picture would be radically changed. The country that had no such a defense developed would be at the mercy of the other.

For a long time it has been believed that no defense of this kind was possible. Nike systems have been set up in America, but U. S. military experts frankly declare that they are at best only partially effective and indeed are becoming obsolete. For some time Russia has been setting up a new kind of anti-missile defense system, and recently America has begun to construct a limited system, ostensibly against the Chinese nuclear threat. Our nation nonetheless, is a long way from having a system that could render a nuclear strike ineffective.

But the search has continued for the "perfect anti-missile weapon." Recently science has come up with what is called the "X-ray defense." To explain: a nuclear explosion transmits much of its energy in the form of X-rays and gamma rays. The gamma rays are the most powerful. Missiles carrying special X-ray warheads would be fired into space to intercept a hostile oncoming missile. In the vacuum of space, these rays travel at the speed of light. On meeting a nuclear warhead, the rays are stopped and converted into thermal energy. This could theoretically disarm or render the warhead harmless. To counteract this we are told the enemy would attempt to harden the missile and protect it against the X-rays. And so the race between the offense and defense goes on, with the offense always outracing the defense.

If an X-ray defense is perfected, its effectiveness will depend on having at least 15 minutes to seek out the trajectory of the oncoming missile. Russia, anticipating this, has come up with the "orbital bomb," which purportedly can be triggered to release with reasonable accuracy over a selected target anywhere on earth.

The element of psychology enters strongly into the theory of the orbital bomb. Man never feels easy if he believes something is about to drop on him out of the vast silent spaces above him. In World War II, it was the V-2 "buzz bombs" that occasioned

the great fear among the people of London. The main advantage the enemy has in the employment of the orbital bomb is that it can be triggered to reach its target in a matter of seconds, giving no time for the defense to destroy it.

The truth is that atomic warfare is a frightening thing from every aspect. Those in the area of a blast would be annihilated, and the only survivors would be a few persons who had made the most elaborate preparations for surviving the catastrophe. As Harrison Brown and James Real said in their *Community of Fear*:

“A ten megaton burst into the atmosphere 30 miles above the earth could set fire to combustibles over 5,000 square miles on a clear day . . . It is said that a single Polaris submarine has the destructive capability of all the munitions used in World War II, but one seldom hears the corollary that the amount of suffering would probably be much greater. To repeat, the nature of the danger—nuclear holocaust—is beyond comparison with anything in history. For the individual it threatens death, torture, isolation, and the prospect of a chaotic, primitive way of life.”

Will there be an atomic war between the nations? We believe that the “balance of terror” will restrain the employment of this doomsday weapon for the time being. But prophecy indicates that when the antichrist arises, he will not be averse to using it. Revelation 13:13 declares, “And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire to come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.” Of peculiar significance is the fact that the Greek word for heaven is “ouranos,” which is the root word for “uranium,” the essential heart of the atomic bomb!

“And the cities of the nations fell.” Does this mean that the entire earth will be destroyed? *The evidence is that before this century ends, there will be an atomic war.* Nevertheless, we say that God will not permit it to go on until the entire population of the earth perishes. His plan involves a 1000 years of millennium, which is to follow the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord. The destruction will be fearful but not total, as is seen in the words of Jesus: “And except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:22).

CHAPTER XV

Gas Warfare This Century

In all the talk about the threat of an atomic holocaust, people have almost forgotten that there is such a thing as poisonous gas warfare. In World War I, a comparatively mild gas, mustard gas, produced 73,000 casualties. For the few brief months our soldiers were in active combat, this was a rather high figure.

Since World War I, lethal gases have not been used in warfare, except in sporadic instances such as Mussolini's adventure in Ethiopia. Nevertheless, as the Allies plunged through Germany in 1945 they discovered vast quantities of a deadly gas called Tabun. It attacks the human nervous system through the lungs and eyes, causing death within one to five minutes. If the eyes and lungs are protected, the liquid droplets rapidly penetrate the clothing and are absorbed by the skin, bringing death within ten minutes to two hours (*Reader's Digest*, August, 1960).

It is obvious that Adolph Hitler had intended to use this deadly weapon on a massive scale. What then held him back? Only the fact that the Allies had warned that they were prepared to retaliate overwhelmingly. This actually was a bluff. The Allies did not have a comparable lethal nerve gas at the time. But since Hitler did not know this, he was afraid to use it.

After the Allies had forced the capitulation of Germany, they took most of their share of the captured gas out into the ocean and dropped it. The Soviets, however, took the stores that they had gotten and carried them back to Russia. Their scientists have been producing deadly gases ever since.

Red Russia has made it clear that in any future war she intends to use every weapon at her disposal. Her late defense minister Malinovsky reported publicly that the Red Army was being trained intensively in the use of chemical weapons. Soviet soldiers are required to carry in their pack the only partially effective antidote for nerve gas, atropine.

It will be remembered that in the Korean war, the communist propaganda machine continually flooded the news media with reports, all of them false, that the U. S. was using germ and gas warfare. The purpose in this obviously was to condition the minds of the Russian people to their own use of it.

A report from the U. S. was made public of the development and testing of the nerve gas. Four goats tethered on a barren mountain in Utah gave demonstration of the effects of the deadly gas. Two shells, containing gas from howitzers two miles away were fired in the vicinity of the goats. As newsmen watched by means of remote television, they witnessed the animals' dying in a little over a minute. In fact one goat was dead before the dust from the explosion had cleared from the television lenses. One goat had a mask provided, but in the excitement he tore the mask away, and after he had received a whiff of the low-lying gas, he too died.

There are other chemical agents in gaseous form that have been developed. One kind incapacitates men so that they feel no pain. Some chemicals can induce deep sleep. Still other kinds can render the victim temporarily blind or deaf. Hydrogen cyanide, the chemical used for executions in the gas chambers, is lethal within a few seconds.

Because gas warfare is outlawed, pacifist groups have put pressure on the U. S. to disband its chemical corps. But there is no such pressure exerted on the Reds. In fact Russia requires every citizen to take 20 hours of intensive protective training against gas attacks.

At present, America's tremendous hydrogen bomb arsenal is an effective deterrent against Russia's attempting nuclear attack. The odds are that when another major conflict eventually comes, gas warfare may be used before an annihilating atomic war. Since America is ill-prepared in the use of the deadly gas, there is a strong possibility that the communists will use it, or that they will supply it to their satellites. A war of survival will stop at nothing.

It will be remembered that gases used in World War I were sent forth in deadly smoke clouds. In this connection there is an interesting Scripture in Revelation 9:2.

"And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit."

We do not say that this Scripture directly refers to gas warfare, but it could be symbolic of it.

Another Scripture which speaks of "smoke" in the apocalyptic events of the end time is Acts 2:19:

"And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke."

The vapour of smoke could refer either to atomic or gas warfare. On the basis of the prophecies, it seems possible that deadly poisonous gases will be used either before Armageddon, or during that final war. And that will be before the year 2,000.

CHAPTER XVI

What About Communism, Year 2000?

What about communism which now threatens the world? Will the U.S. win the war in Vietnam? Will communism be halted and driven back so that it ceases to be a world menace?

First of all, let us say that communism is closely allied in spirit and symbol to the antichrist. Communism is red; the beast or the antichrist of Revelation 17 is described as scarlet-colored.

God speaks of His wrath being executed as a "sickle" for the harvest of "the grapes of wrath" (Rev. 14:7-19). Russia's symbol is the hammer and *sickle*.

The beast had the "feet of a bear" (Rev. 13:2). Russia is symbolized by the bear.

The antichrist will blaspheme and curse God (Rev. 13:6). Russia both denies and blasphemes God.

The antichrist or beast makes war with the saints (Rev. 13:7). Russia has practically eliminated religion among her youth, forbidding any teaching of God to the children. During the Stalin era, she murdered millions of her own subjects who believed in God.

These and many other signs link Red Russia with the antichrist system.

However, Russia is only a part — not all of the beast power. Daniel 2 shows that at the end time the beast is to be a dual power, as shown by the two legs of the image and the symbols of the systems: fascism and communism. Both work hand-in-hand at times, but also oppose each other at times. This was illustrated in World War II when Hitler and Stalin joined together to start the war but broke up (after being in league just 666 days!)

Fascism is represented by the iron in Nebuchadnezzar's image and communism by the clay. "So the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken" (Dan. 2:42-43). Russia and the antichrist will work together for a season but will be in conflict at the time of Armageddon.

Communism seeks to dominate the earth. To prevent America from winning the Vietnam conflict, Russia is shipping armaments there at the rate of \$6 billion worth a year. For all practical purposes, Russia is at war with America!

Experts tell us that the U.S. administration made a grave mistake in not striking all-out in Vietnam. She could have won in a short war. Slow escalation has given time to put the Viet Cong army on a guerrilla footing, with Russia and China supplying ample equipment. In the meantime, oil supplies and munitions have been dispersed over the country.

The greatest danger in Vietnam lies in the fact that the government there is weak. In our book written in 1966 we said, "America can win the war in Vietnam, but if the government of that country dissolves into a state of chaos there would be no possible way to make the victory secure. The country would be ready to fall into the lap of the communists the first moment after the U. S. troops left the country."

Today there is a hue and cry for America to get out of Vietnam. If we left Vietnam to its fate, Christianity would soon be destroyed in that land. China had 10,000 missionaries in 1947. Today under communist rule there are none. Were Vietnam to fall to communists, that would be the end of Christianity in that land.

America at the best can only stay the advance of communism. She cannot destroy it. It will continue to threaten the world; it will continue to spread its slimy tentacles all over the earth.

Communism working with the antichrist will be the major cause of the Great Tribulation. Following that, Red Russia will begin its last hour march toward Armageddon, as Ezekiel 38-39 describes:

"And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes" (Ezek. 38:15-16).

Russia will move south into the Holy Land. There the Lord shall utterly destroy Rosh (Russia) and at the same time save His people Israel.

On the basis of these developments, it appears likely that by the end of this century Red Russia and her atheistic communism will be no more. Only a remnant of her people will be left.

CHAPTER XVII

Israel and Egypt – Thirty Years From Now

Israel after winning the six-day war has resolved that she will never leave the Old City. The smoke of battle had scarcely blown away before she was tearing down the wall that divided the city into two parts. She would probably have agreed to return to the Arabs much of the territory that she has occupied, if the Arabs would negotiate with her. But Nasser seems to consider this a humiliation worse than death.

Egypt was the first great kingdom of history, but she persecuted Israel, the chosen nation, and from that time she has declined. God has not doomed Egypt to utter extinction, but said only that she would become a base nation. This has been true over the centuries.

“And I will bring again the captivity of Egypt and will cause them to return . . . into the land of Pathros, into the land of their habitation; and they shall be there a base kingdom. It shall be the basest of the kingdoms; neither shall it exalt itself any more above the nations: for I will diminish them, that they shall no more rule over the nations” (Ezek. 29:14-15).

Consequently Nasser’s dream of a great Arab empire will never materialize. The antichrist when he comes will ravage Egypt (Dan. 11:40-42).

The Bible clearly reveals that as judgment on Israel for rejecting Christ, blindness came upon her. But the same Scriptures also declare that this blindness will be removed after the “fulness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom. 11:25-29). Salvation then will come to Israel. “God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew” (Rom. 11:2). Ezekiel 37 in the “vision of the dry bones” shows how God will again turn to Israel. He says to the people, “I shall put my Spirit in you and ye shall live” (Verse 14). The capture of the Old City of Jerusalem by the Jews after the six

day war is an amazing fulfillment of the words of Jesus spoken 1900 years ago (Luke 21:24).

We shall, therefore, in the next few years, witness a remarkable turning of Israel back to her Messiah — something that already is on the move. Nevertheless, the Orthodox Jews will resist this and will even go so far as to rebuild their temple in the days of the antichrist (Rev. 11:1-2). The antichrist will pretend to be their friend, but at an ill-fated moment of his choosing, will throw off his mask and conduct a campaign of savage persecution against the Jews. This is the time of Jacob's trouble, spoken of by Jeremiah, "But he will be saved out of it" (Jer. 30:7).

The believing Jews will then publicly accept Christ as their Messiah. Zechariah describes how Israel shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son" (Zech. 12:9-10).

CHAPTER XVIII

America During the Next Thirty Years

Much that has been written in the previous chapters applies to America during the intervening time before the year 2000. However, in conclusion, we shall consider briefly a few of the outstanding problems that America is facing at this hour: violence at home, the Vietnamese war, and the nuclear peril.

First the situation at home. In analyzing America's grave internal crisis we cannot do better than quote from Richard H. Sanger's article in the April 1968 issue of the *Reader's Digest* entitled "Is Insurrection Brewing in the United States?" He said:

"Yes, it is quite possible. The evidence is that we are now in a transition: passing from mere nuisance demonstrations over civil rights and Vietnam to something much more violent.

"Leaders are now rising to mobilize the discontented. Also in the classic pattern are the efforts of the aggrieved to get action through peaceful delegations, then through the quiet demonstrations, then through nuisance demonstrations—the sit-ins, pray-ins, lie-downs, stall-downs, and so on. These movements escalate rapidly. I wouldn't be surprised next summer to see a dramatic and perhaps a widespread extension of burning and looting we saw in Detroit and Watts. . . . If that doesn't bring results, the next step usually takes the form of underground activities, material terror, the smashing of windows, the burning of cars. After that comes explosive terror, where picked and trained elements in the mobs begin to use guns and bombs. Personal terror and assassination get into this stage."

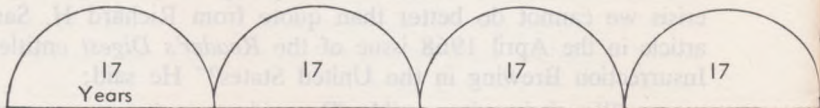
We need not elaborate. America is in dire peril from within. The situation is deteriorating rapidly. Other minorities seeing that violence is producing action, are resorting to the same methods. Latin-Americans are now taking their cue and are organizing protests.

THE VIETNAM WAR

The gravest issue at the moment, however is the Vietnam War. America is aghast at the shocking death toll that has reached over five hundred in a single week! It has largely lost its will to stem communism. The cry for peace almost at any price means that some kind of a compromise will be effected.

The Amazing War-cycles of America

(with one or two exceptions the U.S. has
a war every 17 years)



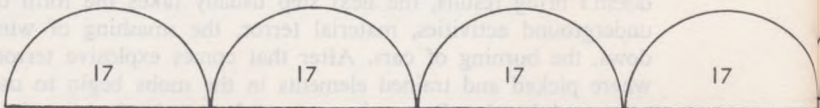
1729-33 A.D.
13 Original
States Formed
George Washington
Born

1746
King George's War

1763
French and
Indian War

1776-83
Revolutionary
War

17
Short
War with



1861-65
The
Civil War

1881
(No
War)

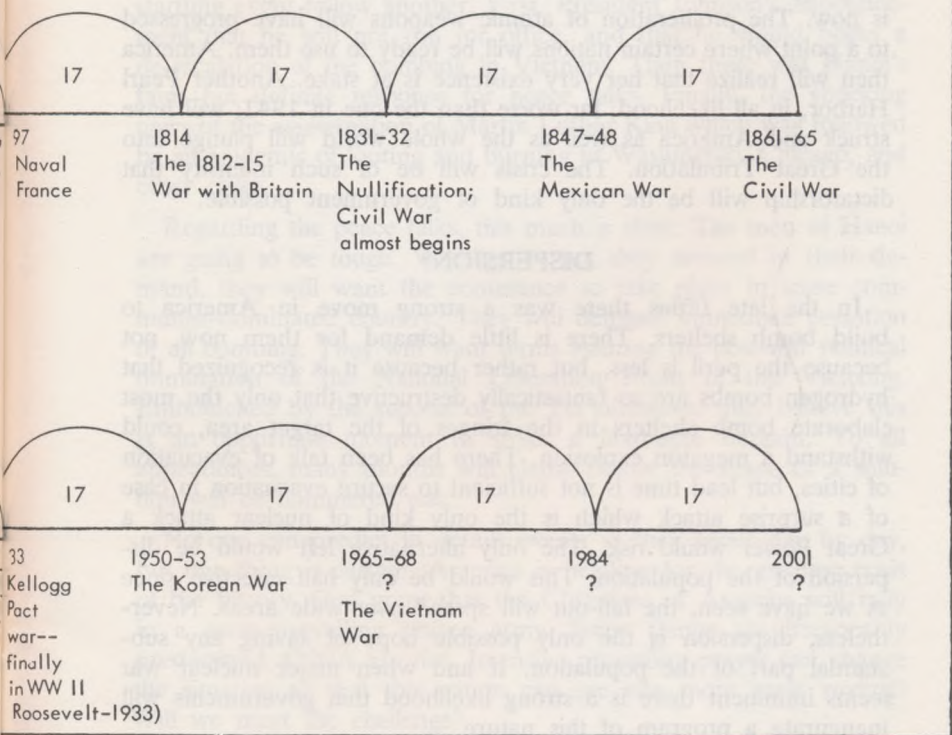
1898-99
The
Spanish-
American War

1914-18
World War I

1932
Briand-
Peace
postponed
but
eventuates
(Hitler and

THE UNITED STATES IN PROPHECY

In our book, *The United States in Prophecy*, we showed
but at regular seventeen-year cycles, — (with one or two
would probably be at war at least to 1967. It also shows that



that the wars of the United States have not occurred by chance exceptions). The above chart shows clearly that the United States a divine providence is overruling the affairs of America.

As we noted in our book *The Vietnam War in Prophecy*, two things militated against a clear-cut victory in Vietnam. First, failure to go all-out when the war could have been won in a matter of months. Second, the corruption and lack of a will to battle communism on the part of the South Vietnamese.

Sooner or later, some kind of a settlement will be affected, but that will not end the problem of communism; it will only defer it. As the remarkable time-measures of America show (see chart) that a war would and did strike America in full force by 1967, so 1984 is the center date for the next cycle. Once war breaks loose again, the communist threat will be far more grave than it is now. The proliferation of atomic weapons will have progressed to a point where certain nations will be ready to use them. America then will realize that her very existence is at stake. Another Pearl Harbor, in all likelihood, far worse than the one in 1941, will have struck and America as well as the whole world will plunge into the Great Tribulation. The crisis will be of such intensity that dictatorship will be the only kind of government possible.

DISPERSION?

In the late fifties there was a strong move in America to build bomb shelters. There is little demand for them now, not because the peril is less, but rather because it is recognized that hydrogen bombs are so fantastically destructive that only the most elaborate bomb shelters in the fringes of the target area, could withstand a megaton explosion. There has been talk of evacuation of cities, but lead time is not sufficient to secure evacuation in case of a surprise attack which is the only kind of nuclear attack a Great Power would risk. The only alternative left would be dispersion of the population. This would be only half effective since as we have seen, the fall-out will spread over wide areas. Nevertheless, dispersion is the only possible hope of saving any substantial part of the population. If and when major nuclear war seems imminent there is a strong likelihood that governments will inaugurate a program of this nature.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that the Book of Revelation seems to indicate that dispersion of some kind will take place.

During the Great Tribulation the Sign Woman of Revelation 12 which represents God's people on earth, is said to flee to the

wilderness. Without attempting at this time to go into a detailed exposition of this intriguing prophecy, it is evident that some dispersion of the population is indicated.

In conclusion let us say that despite this time of confusion and anarchy which is now seeking world-wide expression nevertheless, there is apparently a brief period when it will still be possible to preach the gospel. God grant that we take full advantage of it.

APRIL'S WEEK OF WORLD-SHAKING EVENTS

As this book goes to press, the most eventful week since the death of President John F. Kennedy has occurred. Swiftly did one startling event follow another. First, President Johnson's announcement that he will not run for office, and that he would begin a de-escalation of the bombing in Vietnam. Then there was Hanoi's faint but definite response for peace talks. Finally, the shocking news of the assassination of Martin Luther King which was followed by an epidemic of looting and burning in Washington, Chicago, and other cities.

Regarding the peace talks, this much is clear. The men of Hanoi are going to be tough. Whether or not they succeed in their demand, they will want the conference to take place in some communist-dominated country. They will demand immediate cessation of all bombing. They will want terms assuring the post-war political domination of the National Liberation Front of the Vietcong. Emboldened by the success of the Tet offensive, they believe this is an opportune moment to strike a favorable bargain. To all appearances, many months will elapse before the shape of a solution will be hammered out.

No one can predict in details events as they occur day by day, but one thing is certain, America is heading for the greatest crisis of her history. God grant that the Christians of America will rally in a great prevailing prayer army. Some things are irrevocably predestined. Others are not. Intensive prevailing prayer can change the situation so that this nation can see one more great revival! Will we meet the challenge?

CHAPTER XIX

Man's 6,000 Years Completed--2000 A.D.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Gen. 1:1-2).

"But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (II Pet. 3:8).

God's Word declares that the creation of Genesis I occurred over a period of six days. However, God's days are not man's days of 24 hours. Peter speaks of a day with the Lord as a thousand years. God is eternal, and 24 hours is too short to reckon time with God.

God worked on the renewal of the earth for six days. On the seventh day He rested. According to Bible chronology, there was from Adam's creation until Christ some 4,000 years. This means that including the present dispensation, approximately 5968 years have elapsed since the fall of Adam — *or nearly six of God's days*. During all of this period God has been working to redeem man from his fall. Jesus said, "My father worketh hitherto and I work" (John 5:17). But the day of rest, the glad millennium, when Satan shall be bound a thousand years is at hand (Rev. 20). That day will complete the full week of 7,000 years of God's dealing with man. Thus we see that the next thirty years will practically round out the 6,000 years, at which time the millenium will begin. Thirty years is a comparatively short time indeed, and we must remember that the rise of the antichrist, the Great Tribulation, and the apocalyptic judgments should be all completed by that time. Somewhere in this period — we do not know the exact time — the coming of Christ for His people will probably take place.

CHAPTER XX

Will Christ Come Before the Year 2000?

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matt. 24:30-31).

There are two cardinal events in history, each of equal importance, which will overshadow all others. One event has already taken place — Christ’s First Coming in His birth at Bethlehem as the Saviour of the world. The other is His Second Coming as the Lion of the tribe of Judah to catch away His saints by rapture and to proclaim the day of judgment of our God.

What a thrilling hope we have — that in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, we shall be changed and caught up to meet the Lord in the air. And so shall we ever be with the Lord!

“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (I Thess. 4:17).

What joy! What a glorious moment, when we shall see Christ face to face! Our bodies will be changed into the likeness of His glorious body. Never again will we be subject to pain, sickness, or death. At the same time the bodies of the righteous dead shall be resurrected, and together we shall all join in one great triumphant meeting in the clouds.

Will this transcendent event occur before the year 2,000? There are two things to consider in the matter: First, according to Christ’s words, “No man knoweth the day or the hour.” Nevertheless, it is not intended that we be ignorant of the times and seasons as this

day approaches. The fact that the 6,000 years of man's week will be up by the year 2,000 strongly indicates that the Lord will be here by that time. But other evidence is even stronger. As we see crisis after crisis arising, the exploding world population, famines that ravish nations, the unprecedented rise in crime and violence, the surge of communism that seeks to impose atheism upon the earth, the threat of nuclear war that could annihilate the human race, and the moral corruption that is causing society to rot at the core, all are witnesses that the hour is at hand when the nations shall make their last march to Armageddon. Sober judgment based on these facts alone, all indicate that this great showdown will probably come before the year 2000.

CHAPTER XXI

The Bible's Answer to the World Crisis

Until World War II, modern thinkers declared that man by reason of his ingenuity and intelligence could solve all the problems that have beset the human society. Events that have occurred since that time have severely shaken this complacency. Humanists in those days supposed that an era had at last arrived in the process of evolution whereby the brutalities and violence of past ages would never be repeated. Education, the panacea for all man's ills they said, had so changed man's nature that the world was about to enter into a millennium of its own making. Then came the monster Adolph Hitler, a madman who hypnotized a whole nation and led it down a dark road. Men, women, and children by the millions were fed into the gas chambers in a fiendish display of malevolence never equalled in all the pages of human history.

Man possessing a superficial veneer of religion but without the illumination of the Spirit of God has a tendency, when a spellbinder appears on the scene, to be hypnotized by his promises. The antichrist will be a super spellbinder. He will charm the masses and lead them to their doom.

Man has indeed made dramatic advances in science. His inventive powers are of a high order, but unfortunately his ability to progress in the moral realm cannot keep pace. Although science has discovered many secrets of the universe which could be used to bless mankind, men have instead perverted them to uses which can bring about universal destruction. Indeed, man for the first time in his history has a means through nuclear warfare by which he can utterly destroy all life from the earth. Jesus foresaw this in Matthew 24:21-22:

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.”

It is clear that God will not permit destruction to reach a total extent, for there are still a thousand years of the millennium to be fulfilled. Nevertheless, the Bible shows that before that day arrives the world will pass through the greatest time of trouble that nations have ever known. This event is called the Great Tribulation. It was foreseen long ago by the prophet Daniel.

“And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; *and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time*: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book” (Dan. 12:1).

In the previous chapters we have discussed the profound developments that have so greatly affected society and which will affect it even more in the immediate future. At the present hour our nation is engaged in a major war which, if it should go on indefinitely, will bleed the nation white. And yet without doubt communism if left alone will spread like a cancer until it envelops the earth. In the meantime distracted by the agitators and a rebellion of youth, our own nation is being turned into a land of ferment and rioting. Those who live only for material things are determined to get their share. If it is not handed to them, they will get it by means of violence.

The world convulses as it passes from shock to shock and from one major crisis to another, and all the while the sword of Damocles — nuclear destruction — hangs perilously over its head. As riots, revolution, crime, and anarchy rock society to its foundations, the question is asked, “Where will all this lead?” The answer is that it can lead to only one thing — dictatorship. History shows that at such times people will cry for a strong man who can bring order out of chaos. Christians on the other hand cry for the return of Christ! Both will get the answer to their desires.

THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST

The Bible clearly teaches that as the age comes to an end, there will arise in the world a great deceiver, a man of tremendous power, a fascinating personality who will represent himself even as God, but who in truth is Satan's masterpiece. Paul speaks of this personage in II Thes. 2:3-4 as the Man of Sin, or Son of Perdition:

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, shewing himself that he is God.”

If it be asked why God should permit such a man to arise and exercise rule over the earth, the answer is that God sent the true Christ into the world to be its king. Alas, He was rejected; therefore, God will permit Satan to raise up his own false christ, whom the world will accept.

“I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive”
(John 5:43).

The antichrist attains power through deception. Moreover, there is an element of mystery about him — one who understands “dark sentences.” He will manifest preternatural powers that will deceive the world. He receives that power directly from Satan. By great signs and lying wonders he will delude the masses and draw forth their admiration and loyalty (Rev. 13:2-3). At the first he will appear as the benefactor of the human race, but later after he attains full power, he will throw off his mask and show himself as Satan’s supreme masterpiece. As Hitler before he showed his true colors as a mass murderer of Jews, represented himself to Germany as their saviour and leader, so the antichrist will obtain his position through flattery and pretense, but once in power, will carry on a war of ruthless extermination of those who profess the name of Christ:

“And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and to them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations” (Rev. 13:6-7).

In order to identify those who are for him and those who are against him, he will require a mark to be given, and unless people will take the mark, they can neither buy nor sell:

“And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his

name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six" (Rev. 13:16-18).

This then will usher in the Great Tribulation that Jesus speaks about in Matthew 24:21-22. *All signs indicate that this time of trouble will occur before the year 2,000.*

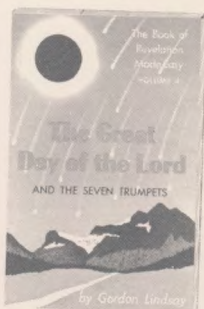
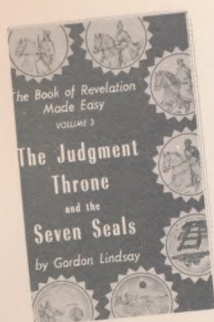
There is not space here to go into detail concerning the anti-christ's rise to power, his cruel reign, and his final doom.

Suffice it to say that Christ has warned us to watch and pray that we may be ready, for that hour that is swiftly coming on the earth, and that we might have a part in His glorious kingdom when He comes to set it up upon the earth.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

In closing may I ask, reader friend, whether you have surrendered your life to Christ? All of us are sinners, and as such we are without hope and without God. As Paul the apostle has said, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God has provided a Redeemer, a way of salvation in Jesus. If we come to know Him in true repentance, He will forgive our sins. To the convicted jailer in answer to his plea, "What must I do to be saved?" the apostle said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:31). This is the answer to the world crisis. All signs point to the probability that by the time 2000 A.D. arrives, Christ will be here.

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