

A MESSAGE FOR OUR TIME – PART I

The following is based on a sermon given at My Father's House church, Elma, NY, on September 14, 2008.

THE OVERIDING REALITY

“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!” (Matt 24:32-33)

“...knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation.”But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” (2Peter 3:3-4, 7)

We live in very unique times; - the like of which we've never seen. So much of what this newsletter is about is the marshalling of the evidence that we are indeed living on the edge of the Last Days, - The Day of The Lord. I am not writing here to convince you of that fact. That is the everyday work of this newsletter. The other related but separate task of this ministry is to sound the alarm among those that call themselves Christian. We are all charged by God to do so. **“If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand”,** reads Ezekiel 3:18.

So knowing what we know; - what we are supposed to know, I have a very important question to ask. *‘Do we really trust God?’* Do we have REAL faith? As Jesus Himself asked, “Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”. Or to put it another way, Does what we believe about God affect the way we live? Does what we know about the Times – affect the way we live? We read the news; - Israel, Iran, Iraq, terror threats, Pakistan, EMPs; - But we don't live in that reality. The reality that we live in involves; how we're going to pay the bills, and getting the kids to dance and soccer and getting ourselves to church, and the work around the house and the car needs fixing and on and on. But the fact is: That other REALITY is overtaking us!

So we see, - in many cases the TRUTH of our situation, - but refuse to acknowledge the situation we're in. Jesus faced a similar situation with the Jews of His day. He was riding into Jerusalem after His triumphal procession of Palm Sunday. He had just been feted and honored and hosanna-ed and recognized as King and Messiah. It should have been the prime moment of His ministry here on earth, yet He instead expressed an incredible sadness. Here is the Gospel account as recounted in Luke 19:41-44. **“Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, ‘If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”**

Did you notice that last line? He held them responsible, because, as He told them, - **“you did not know the time of your visitation”**. We are responsible...to know...the Time of our Visitation. Christ leaves no room for us to plead ignorance. He left none for the Pharisees, who despite their witness of His many miracles and signs and wonders, - were always asking Him for another sign to prove just *who He was*. On one occasion He told them: **“When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot *discern* the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.”** (Matthew 16:2-4) Strong words, those!

His actions should have been compelling evidence for them of the overriding reality of their time. It is the same for us. Just as they were given all of the Scriptural / prophetic evidence to recognize His first coming; - So we too are faced with the same compelling evidence. We too face an overarching reality that is greater than the reality we live on a day-to-day basis. **JESUS CHRIST IS LIKELY GOING TO RETURN IN THIS GENERATION!!!**

Did you get that? It's a reality I can hardly get my head around. The Man who did those miracles, and calmed the sea, and walked on water, and raised up Lazarus, - is likely coming back in my natural lifetime. The very Word that spoke the cosmos into existence, - and sustains it with *His* word, - will be arriving soon! The God / Man who died and rose to pay for my sin is on the doorstep!! All Scripture points to Him, Old and New Testaments. His first coming defined history and gave it meaning. His second coming will put an end to history and establish His Kingdom.

Now it is said that the Bible is 70% history, - a record of exact fulfillments in everything that has come to pass. That portion of Scripture that pointed toward His first coming gave His generation more than ample reason to believe. It revealed His pedigree; - a Son of David, from the tribe of Judah, born in Bethlehem, spent time in Egypt. Isaiah 53 reveals His character and career and temperament and sufferings and details of His suffering and a mode of death that was unknown and not invented, when that passage was written hundreds of years before Christ. Zechariah 11:13 called the price paid for His betrayal so exactly and the circumstances and purposes perfectly so accurately, when he prophesied Christ's betrayal. **“And the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty *pieces* of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.”**

So here's the truth of the matter. His generation should have expected Him. And the fact is: They did. As the capper, God used the Prophet Daniel, to even give them the exact timing, - if they could see it, - of the coming into His Kingdom. Now God just didn't have Daniel prophecy something. He proved the man first. When King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that his wise men, (or Magi), not only interpret a dream for him, - but do so without being told the dream, - on the pain of death; - It was Daniel, with God's help that was able to do so. Daniel prophesied the fall of kingdoms, and he told the king that he would be crazy for 7 years, before coming to his senses and worshiping the true God. He laid out in advance the coming of Alexander the Great and detailed the breakup of his kingdom into four parts. Daniel was a certified prophet. He was the real deal. And so when God used him to reveal the prophecy of the 70 weeks and the arrival of the Messiah, the Pharisees and scholars took him seriously. Now when was the last time you went up to somebody in the mall and asked them: ‘Are you the Messiah’? Didn't happen, did it? But the Jews of Christ's day expected Him. They were looking for their Messiah in the 1st century. They inquired of John the Baptist if he was the Messiah. The Essenes, - that monastic group that gave us the Dead Sea Scrolls that have confirmed the accuracy of Scripture, - were waiting and expecting the Messiah. The Pharisees expected Him.

It is because of that that Jesus held them responsible. We too are called to that standard. And that expectation has implications. Because He's expected again; - since He'll likely return in our lifetime: **HE HOLDS US RESPONSIBLE** too. As Peter described it, we may live in an age of scoffers, - yet we are called on to know the season; - to understand the reality that overtakes us. We are to look at the times in which we live and understand the parable of the fig tree, - and see **“all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!”**.

Now I know that some will say that there have always been people saying it is the Last Days, there has always been trouble and famines and pestilences and earthquakes and wars. That is true. Yet the Bible has been very specific in laying out the characteristics of these last days. Here's just a quick review of some of the prophecies fulfilled already or in the process of being fulfilled. As foretold by so many Scriptures, Israel is back in the land, the nation is reborn. The frequency and magnitude of earthquakes occurring in diverse places is increasing exponentially. Hardly a week goes by without a major temblor. The weather is getting more volatile. Wars and rumors and terror are everyday occurrences. Mark of the Beast technology is in place to institute the totally controlled economy spoken of in Revelation. The EU is assuming the shape of the old Roman Empire. An exact alignment of nations - [with the ancient peoples clearly named] - is taking form to fulfill the prophecies of Psalm 83, (the war of the inner ring of Arab states) and Ezekiel 38, (the Gog-Magog invasion with Iran, the outer tier of Islamic states and possibly Russia). Even nuclear war is described in Zechariah 14:12. **“And this shall be the plague with which the**

LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.”

The Bible is specific and exact. And because we have this very specific information, - revealed to us by God in His word, - **WE ARE RESPONSIBLE TO KNOW THE TIME OF OUR VISITATION**. And because we have this great revelation, we can know how God deals with nations in rebellion. It's a serious thing. [*We'll pick up here next week*]

A COSTLY BAILOUT

With the US financial markets in panicked free-fall, and American and foreign stock exchanges reacting in fear, President Bush announced last Friday that the government would be putting up hundreds of billions of dollars in tax payer money to rescue the failing financial infrastructure. The plan is to take “bad mortgages” off the books of troubled lending institutions, and make them the responsibility of the American taxpayer. At the same time, measures were announced to limit selling short, joining the UK in this policy. More than that, the US Treasury “has promised ‘hundreds of billions’ to save the US markets using its own gold reserves”.¹ Almost immediately, stock markets began to rise at the prospect of the government backed guarantees. Congressional leaders however warned that the bailout could cost Americans \$1 trillion in revenues.^{2 3 4} Yet the effects of the crisis are likely not over. One expert sees the outcome as being the creation of a new financial world order featuring increased government regulation and risk control.⁵ The increased ‘partnership’ with government can be seen in the arrangements made already to bailout Freddie and Fannie et al. A sort of national socialism – the Germans called it Fascism, - (meant here in the economic sense), - seems quickly to be taking form. But even that may not be enough to stem the tide in the long run. Acknowledged financial prognosticator Gerald Celente predicted last fall that we would see a “Panic of 2008”, that would eventually bring the dollar into a free-fall, losing up to 90% of its value. Celente says “We are going to see economic times the likes of which no living person has seen”, with gold moving up to around \$2,000 an ounce and the US relegated to a lower standard of living.⁶ Already by Monday, the dollar had fallen for four straight days on concerns that the bailout would eventually exceed the ability of America to pay for the project. Predictions see next year's deficit rising by about \$30 billion, with one effort predicting that the dollar will be “crushed” in the process.⁷ Not to fear: The one-worlders have a solution already designed.

The chaos that all of this is producing could call for something even more drastic. According to the Wall Street Journal headline and the economist Mario Draghi, it may become necessary to invoke a ‘global solution’. Draghi is part of a group of central bankers and financial regulators, - and that by the way is the direction in which all the power is flowing.⁸ Others are calling for an international “Central Credit Clearinghouse”.⁹ You see, the American taxpayer may not be able to handle the burden alone should the economy continue to tumble. The long term danger is that the government will not be able to sustain the bailouts without a collapse in the currency that would make the dollar almost worthless. The New World Order types already have a solution in mind. The Amero, a currency for all of North America has already been proposed and undoubtedly could be ramped up fairly quickly to take over for a failed dollar. This would please the families that control the world's central banks, as they have long lobbied for establishing regional currencies like the euro as steps on the road to a totally integrated global economy with its very own medium of exchange. It is possible that the Amero could be introduced as electronic money right from the start. If you think that's too fantastic to be credible, you would be wrong. This newsletter dealt in detail with the barely hidden move toward a North American Community. It's interesting that right now five members of the Gulf Cooperation Council have approved a plan to put in place one currency for that region by 2010.¹⁰

It would be helpful here to look again at Pastor David Wilkerson's writings. Rev Wilkerson does have a record of uncanny accuracy. Weeks before the 9/11 attacks, God moved him to suspend all other activities in his church and dedicate that body to prayer for this country. Ten years ago he wrote a book titled: *America's Last Call: On the Brink of Financial Holocaust*, that accurately warned of the bond market meltdown and the collapse of the real estate markets. According to Wilkerson, this will lead to the collapse of the dollar. Interesting about all this is that Wilkerson's writings from about 10 years ago mirror today's actual situation. There's even a closer parallel if we look at one of his earlier work. Writing in 1993, he foresaw three nations going bankrupt. First a “European or North African or Eastern nation is going to default”. (Not very specific, but it gets better.)

“About 2 weeks after the first country defaults...the 2nd country is going to go down, probably Argentina or Brazil and we will kind of live that out and people will settle down and say ‘*Well maybe its not going to hurt.*’ But two weeks after the first country goes down, Mexico is going to default on \$100 billion.” [You may recall as reported here in the past that Argentina and Mexico were the same countries mentioned by LEAP 20/20.] Wilkerson goes on: “When the banks open the next day at 9:00 am in the morning \$15 billion an hour is going to be withdrawn from our American banks. They are going to be running our banks”. He then proceeds to describe the effect that this will have on the country: “...we’re going into six months of the worst hell America has ever seen---there’s going to be chaos---not even the National Guard’s going to be able to quiet it down---we’re going to have to call out the whole U.S. Army...There’s going to be fear like we’ve never known – judgment at the door”.¹¹

TERROR WARNING

Northeast Intelligence’s Doug Hagmann warns that terror network activity patterns very similar to that tracked before the London attack of July 2005 have led experts to believe that al-Qaeda is “ready to execute [a] terror operation in [the] US”. Terror operatives have been dispatched to America and Europe for attacks “in tandem”. New York, Washington, Denmark and Jordan are possible targets.¹² Futurist Marvin J Cetron, - who before 9/11 predicted that terrorists were preparing to use jet aircraft as weapons, - has listed some of the prime targets of future terrorism. Those he believes are highly probable include; - US oil refineries, high-tension wires in western states, tourist attractions like the Disney theme parks and an e-coli attack on Wall Street and Capitol Hill. Other possible targets include the natural gas storage depot near Boston and an EMP attack against Northern Virginia.¹³ Highlighting these warnings, authorities are hunting for an al-Qaeda cell believed responsible for the Marriott Hotel bombing the capital of Islamabad that at this writing is responsible for 60 confirmed deaths.¹⁴ That attack came on the heels of the recent attack on the US embassy in Yemen.

UPDATE ISRAEL

The news only gets crazier. Here’s a sentence from a story on FOX News. “... Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned Sunday the military would strike back against anyone targeting his country’s nuclear facilities, during a parade featuring a banner calling for the end of Israel.”¹⁵ Juxtapose that with the fact that Russia, China and Germany have rejected the findings of the IAEA and the corroborating evidence of Israeli and American intelligence services that point to the fact that Iran is fast pursuing nuclear weapons. Even the somewhat compromised UN agency provided photos and documents proving that Tehran was fitting their Shihab rockets to carry nuclear weapons. Still, diplomats from the above mentioned countries, rejected the evidence as conclusive, so that their governments could continue to stall any real solution to the dangerous situation. And in a curious move, Israel’s figurehead President Shimon Peres will shortly address the UN, stating that Israel is against military action against the Iranian nuclear sites. [In the convoluted Israeli system, - it must be noted that their president is not part of the government, and that in this particular case, - that opinion does not reflect the governments opinion in the matter.]¹⁶ And in fact, Israel seems to be quietly preparing for the contingency of a strike. It is taking delivery of more ‘bunker busters’ from the US, refitting aircraft for refueling duties, and now it has officially reversed its position and said that Iran is now rapidly moving toward the production of atomic weapons.¹⁷ As for Washington: Though currently pursuing the diplomatic route, just this last July, President Bush gave an “amber light” to the notion of an Israeli attack. As one official explained, “Amber means get on with your preparations, stand by for immediate attack and tell us when you’re ready”.

ONE YADA

NORTH KOREA – The Communist dictatorship has announced that it will be breaking the UN seals on its Yongbyon nuclear reactor. Just last week, the North Koreans revealed plans to re-start that plant.¹⁸ The North has already successfully tested home-grown atomic weapons.

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- ¹ Lee Jones, US Government to secure mortgage market with gold reserves, Money Marketing, UK, September 19, 2008
 - ² Bush, Paulson Call For 'Significant' Infusion of Taxpayer Dollars to Lift Economy, FOX News, September 19, 2008
 - ³ US pledges financial rescue plan, BBC, September 18, 2008
 - ⁴ Mike Allen, Paulson plan could cost \$1 trillion, Politico, September 19, 2008
 - ⁵ Danielle Levy, New Wall Street crisis will create a new financial world order, City Wire, September 16, 2008
 - ⁶ Forecast: US dollar could plunge 90 pct, UPI, November 19, 2008
 - ⁷ Bo Nielsen and Stanley White, Dollar Falls on Concern U.S. Bank Bailout Will Strain Finances, Bloomberg, September 22, 2008
 - ⁸ Deeper Crisis Would Call for Global Solution, The Wall Street Journal, September 16, 2008
 - ⁹ Lehman Collapse Spurs Call for Central Credit Clearinghouse, Bloomberg Financial, September 16, 2008
 - ¹⁰ Jerome Corsi, The coming 1-world currency, World Net Daily, September 21, 2008
 - ¹¹ David Wilkerson, as quoted by Lark of the Morning, August 1993
 - ¹² Douglas J Hagmann, Intelligence: Terror operation in US, Europe possibly imminent, Northeast Intelligence, September 17, 2008
 - ¹³ Expert Reveals Possible Prime Targets of Terrorism, News Max, September 10, 2008
 - ¹⁴ Pakistan hunts Al-Qaeda after hotel blast, Breitbart, September 22, 2008
 - ¹⁵ Iran Warns Against Attacks on Nuke Facilities, FOX News, September 21, 2008
 - ¹⁶ Russia, China, Germany reject US evidence of Iran's covert nuke program, DEBKAFfile, September 20, 2008
 - ¹⁷ Israeli intelligence revises estimate: Iran is progressing fast towards a nuclear bomb, DEBKAFfile, September 21, 2008
 - ¹⁸ IAEA removes seals at Yongbyon plant, Press TV, September 22, 2008