

## World Conditions Marking the Last Days – Global Changes in Nations and Governments

**Revelation 6:15-17** - And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

### What influence have social and religious institutions and why do people seek shelter in them?

- **Luke 21:26** - Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. – **Isaiah 2:19** - And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he arises to shake terribly the earth.
- Regarding influence, this fall the Pope is meeting with world leaders on climate change. The Pope will present a plan showing his influence on a modern issue and to maintain the government's status quo. **Isaiah 8:12** - Say ye not, A confederacy, to all *them to* whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid.
- The last 20 years trend of trouble includes morality failing – little emphasis on rights/wrongs – all going towards showing the need for the kingdom.
- In one respect the world's problem is the failure to heed divine counsel. **Proverbs 11:14** – Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety. **Psalms 78:72** - So he fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.
- Heartwarming to know that the Lord's kingdom will resolve all mankind's of problems. So sad seeing the extent to which men will go to get away from trouble.
- People are seeking something they know that is safe and stable, perhaps all they know is what they learned from their family, but they don't know how to go to the Lord. Men need to consider **Isaiah 1:18** - Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.
- What do people find in the nominal churches? One answer is community and recognition. Jesus did not accept glory from human beings – men should seek the glory that comes from God. This "high thinking" has to be brought low. People are looking for security, trying to get to heaven on the coattails of their belief and good works. They act on what they believe but seem fearful of looking more deeply into the scriptures as to what God wants from them. **Joh 5:41-44** - *I receive not honour from men. 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. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?*
- Decline of social circumstances have caused men to look for help within the social systems, homelessness for example. People are trying to care for themselves and their own families.
- People do seek stability through social and religious institutions, but the true stability is in God and Christ. May we claim the true source of security: And HE shall be the stability of your times...! **Isaiah 33:6** And soon our whole human family will experience this True Stability!
- D632 – The Law of the Lord which will then go forth from Mount Zion, the Kingdom, and be promulgated to all the people from Jerusalem, the world's New Capital, as the Word of the Lord by his "princes," will at once take hold of what are already recognized as "crying evils." Moral reforms will be instituted along all lines; financial, social and religious questions will all be recast in harmony with both Justice and Love. Judgment will be laid to the line, and righteousness to the plummet (**Isa. 28:17**); all of earth's affairs will be squared and plumbed with righteousness—and will be brought into strict conformity thereto.
- Mankind has much liberty but is not satisfied. God's spirit has not been poured out on all flesh. Heavy responsibility on the church – where much is given, much is required. Some are looking for answers and truth, and we can give beauty for ashes to those seeking.
- Satan is directing men into further darkness, they are not getting true peace and answers. **2 Corinthians 11:14** – And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. **Proverbs 16:18** - Pride *goeth*

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before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. 1 Peter 2:9 - But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

- People are running from trouble trying to find an answer to mankind's trouble. They run from one thing to the next, hoping that somehow they will find peace and safety. Amos 5:19 – As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.
- Knowledge and liberty, when combined with selfishness are powerful oppressors of mankind. D307-308 - Thinking people are just awaking to the fact that knowledge and liberty united constitute a mighty power which may be exerted for either good or evil; that if, as a lever, they move upon the fulcrum of love the results will be powerful for good; but that when they move upon the fulcrum of selfishness the results are evil—powerful and far reaching evil. This is the condition which confronts Christendom today, and which is now rapidly preparing the social elements for the "fire" of "the day of vengeance" and recompenses . . . In chemistry it is frequently found that some useful and beneficial elements suddenly become rank poison by the change of proportions. So it is with the blessings of knowledge and liberty when compounded with selfishness. In certain proportions this combination has rendered valuable service to humanity, but the recent great increase of knowledge instead of exalting knowledge to the seat of power, has enthroned selfishness. Selfishness dominates, and uses knowledge and liberty as its servants. This combination is now ruling the world; and even its valuable elements are rendered enemies of righteousness and peace by reason of selfishness being in control. Under these conditions knowledge as the servant of selfishness is most active in serving selfish interests, and liberty controlled by selfishness threatens to become self-license, regardless of the rights and liberties of others. Under present conditions therefore, selfishness (controlling), knowledge and liberty constitute a Triumvirate of evil power which is now ruling and crushing Christendom—through its agents and representatives, the wealthy and influential class: and it will be none the less the same Evil Triumvirate when shortly it shall change its servants and representatives and accept as such the masses.
- **Psa 76:10** Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.
- **Zephaniah 2:3** Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.
- **Joel 2:1-2, 11** Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for *it is* nigh at hand; A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, *even* to the years of many generations . . . And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp *is* very great: for *he is* strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can abide it?
- Not realizing that they have been used as the Lord's great army to overthrow oppression, to bring down the proud and to thresh mountains (kingdoms), they shall boast themselves of the victory of Liberalism. D547 - The prophecies brought to our attention and publicly proclaimed since the beginning of this "Day of Vengeance" are rapidly culminating; and, as shown in the preceding chapters, all men are able to see something of the dark outlines of the trouble coming closer and closer until now, apparently, society is like a tinderbox all ready for the match—like a powder magazine, ready for explosion any moment—like an organized army, ready for the assault at the word of command . . . Mankind in general is unconscious of the Lord's interest in this battle: and almost all the contestants gird on the armor for personal and selfish interests in which they rightly realize the Lord could not share; and hence, while all on every side are ready to invoke the Lord's blessings, few count on it—all seem to rely upon themselves—their organization, numbers, etc. None will be more surprised than the "powers of the heavens," the great ones of present

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ecclesiastical control, who, going about to establish a plan of their own for the Lord, have neglected his plan as revealed in his Word. To these the Lord's work of the next few years will indeed be a "strange work." See also R622:3, R362:2; Q23:6

- **Isaiah 2:10-21** Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty. The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall be* upon every *one that is* proud and lofty, and upon every *one that is* lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, *that are* high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan, And upon all the high mountains, and upon all the hills *that are* lifted up, And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall, And upon all the ships of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures. And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made *each one* for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.
- **Malachi 3:6** For I *am* the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. **Isa 40:8-9** The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
- Isaiah 33:7-24 - As the light increases, both sides become more cunning as to how to advance their respective selfish ends, and how to detect and meet each other's moves. The breach is rapidly widening and preparing for what God has predicted from of old--"A time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation," "no, nor ever shall be." ('Dan\_12:1') This trouble is the beginning of the purgatorial fire of the day of the Lord. In it the mountains [kingdoms of earth] shall melt and flow down like wax [to the level of the people--equality], and those which do not melt shall be removed and carried into the sea [swallowed up in anarchy], while the earth [society and general order] shall be removed. See 'Psa\_46:1-11' for a symbolic presentation of these retributive and purgatorial troubles coming upon the world, remembering that in the symbolism of Scripture mountains signify kingdoms; earth, the social fabric supporting kingdoms; sea, the lawless or anarchistic elements; and heavens, the religious influences.

### Additional References:

- Regarding Revelation 6:17 - B139 - The Greek word *epi*, here used, is generally translated *on*, but has also the significance of *over* and *about*, and is so translated many times in the common version. The thought is that of protection, not of destruction. The common view of this passage, that it teaches that wicked men will get faith enough to pray for literal mountains to fall, is absurd. The real fulfilment is already beginning: the great, the rich, and no less the poor, are seeking to the mountains and rocks and caves for shelter from the darkening storm of trouble which all see is gathering.
- D45 - In that time (and, bear in mind, it will probably be within the next few years) financial institutions, including insurance companies and beneficial societies, will go down; and "treasures" in them will prove utterly worthless. These caves and rocks of the mountains will not furnish the desired protection from the wrath of this "evil day," when the great waves of popular discontent are lashing and foaming against the mountains (kingdoms—Rev. 6:15-17; Psa. 46:3); and the time will come when men "shall cast their silver into the streets, and their gold shall be as though it were unclean [margin]: their silver and their gold shall

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not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord. They shall not [with their wealth] be able to satisfy their souls, neither [to] fill their bowels: because it was the stumbling block of their iniquity."

- R268 - Rev. 6:15, figuratively describes that time of falling of kingdoms when every mountain (kingdom) and island shall be moved. The kings and chief ones, as well as bondmen, will recognize in this trouble that "the great day of his wrath is come," and will seek to make alliances and to hide themselves from the sure coming storm. They will seek to be covered and protected by the great mountains (kingdoms) of earth and to be hid in the great rocks of this world's societies, (Masonic, Odd-Fellows, etc. ;) but they shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's anger, for "all the kingdoms of the world shall be thrown down," and instead of these mountains (kingdoms) "the kingdom of the Lord becomes a great mountain, and fills the whole earth."
- R1963 - The tendency of all as the storm approaches will be to seek cover, protection, under the great mountains (kingdoms) and in the rocks of society (beneficial orders) (Rev. 6:15-17); and many will flee from the country to the cities. The "overcomers" who will "escape all these things coming upon the world" (Luke 21:36) will indeed flee to the mountain, the Kingdom of the Lord, and be [R1963 : page 82] safe, but none others can attain to it.
- D149 - But in vain will protection and security be sought under any of the kingdoms of this world. All are now trembling with fear and alarm, and realize their inability to cope with the mighty, pent-up forces with which they will have to deal when the terrible crisis arrives. Then indeed "The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low." "In that day [now so very close at hand—'even at the door'] a man shall cast his idols of silver and his idols of gold...to the moles and to the bats, and go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord and for the glory of his majesty when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.
- B140 - The great day of trouble will be recognized, and from its storm all will seek protection, though few will recognize the judgments of the Lord then abroad in the world as the result of his presence, the setting up of his authority, and the enforcement of his laws. In the end, however, all shall recognize [" see "] the King of glory; and all who then love righteousness will rejoice to obey him and conform themselves fully to his just requirements . . . That will be a time of retribution upon all who by fraud or force, sometimes in the name of law and under its sanction, have unrighteously grasped the rights or property of others. The retribution, as we have seen, will come from the Lord, through the uprising of the masses of the people. In their distress, loathe to part with a dollar or an acre, or an assumed right or dignity long enjoyed and long undisputed, yet seeing the approaching retribution, many will seek the covering of the hitherto powerful organizations—civil, social and ecclesiastical—to promote and shield their interests, feeling that alone they must fall. But these shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's anger.