

THE GREAT TRIBULATION



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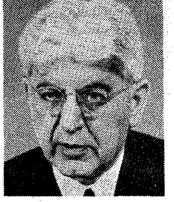
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GOD'S NEWS ... BEHIND THE NEWS RAY BRUBAKER - COMMENTATOR BOX 10475 ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. 33733 Top money men see grim future



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The WASHINGTON POST SERVICE notes: "Some of the most powerful leaders of the world's major financial center here are openly fearful that strains in the money market could result in at least a few banks and industrial failures in the next six months."

For instance, did you know the Franklin National Bank of New York City, (20th largest in the US) would have gone under except that the Federal Reserve Board bailed it out with a loan of an estimated \$ 1 billion?

Accounting for much of the financial problem faced in this nation is our astronomical national debt of almost half a trillion dollars. Did you know it takes over \$ 100 million every day just to service the national debt?

What is true of the United States is also true of other nations which are facing financial bankruptcy.

The main difficulties arose when oil-producing countries began to make huge profits from new, high oil prices. David Rockefeller, president of Chase Manhattan Bank, has noted the oil producers' reserves will reach about \$ 140 billion in 1975, and will pass \$ 200 billion in 1976. By 1985 the payments could create reserves of \$ 1.2 trillion. Don't you see how countries like Italy, Japan, Great Britain, and other European states would soon go broke paying out that kind of money?

The Rev. L. A. Steller, a Portland, Oregon, pastor, writes: "Many are convinced that history's greatest financial collapse lies just ahead!" Writes Steller: "I believe the pressures which will bring Antichrist to prominence in the world are not basically religious, but ECONOMIC. When men can neither buy nor sell because the world monetary system has collapsed, it will take a master statesman to get things going again." He goes on to predict a very simple system of commerce and exchange that needs no money, only a number and mark of identification.

How close the coming of Antichrist must be as we witness our monetary woes.

What should be the Christian's attitude to the financial dilemma which we face?

My friend, may no one be so foolish as to think it can't happen here. Even the Scriptures warn of a tremendous financial crash unparalleled that is just ahead! Mystery Babylon the Great is about to fall! With Babylon's fall we read of economic chaos that follows: "The merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more."

However, before Babylon's fall we can expect a measure of prosperity to exist. With the appearance of the coming Antichrist, we read how he will stimulate business activity. Daniel writes: "And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand." (Daniel 8:24)

The Apostle James, referring to the coming of our Lord, warns the rich of coming calamities seen in the Endtime. Listen as he writes: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you...Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." (James 5:1,3)

So we might ask--What good is it to have stocks and bonds laid away, along with money in the bank? Would it not be better invested bringing eternal dividends?

Our Lord encouraged his disciples, saying: "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Mt. 6:20,21)

While we consider it worthwhile to have monies invested in property and land, it is still far better to put our money to work for God.

One thing is absolutely certain--one of these days our money isn't going to be worth the paper it's printed on. We are living on a false economy that is bringing us fast to a monetary crisis and bankruptcy. What then should be the Christian's attitude concerning his money?

First, while our money is still worth something, we believe it should be invested in worthwhile Christian enterprises.

No greater authority than Willard Cantelon agrees. Speaking to a Christian audience, he advised: "Don't hoard your money. Give as much as you can to the work of the Lord and use it also for your own needs. Tomorrow you may not have any."

Cantelon is author of the NEW WORLD MONETARY SYSTEM. He has met with men chosen to advise the President of the United States. His advice should be accepted by those whose love for souls and dedication to Christ find them in a position to help evangelical causes.

Second, as much as possible, begin living within your income. Pay up back bills that could be a financial strain in the event of an unexpected depression.

As Rev. Steller suggests: "God's people ought to set their houses in order, pay off their indebtedness, stop foolish impulse buying, and once again live within their income. As much as possible, we should strive to be independent of the system. If you have the money and you need it, buy it. Otherwise, do without!"

Sounds like good advice!

Finally, let us not become unduly alarmed about the future. Christians must expect conditions to worsen. Yet, in the midst of coming chaos there is a calm, for we know the Lord will see us through these times of uncertainty. Witnessing present-day trends should not alarm us, but only cause us to "look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28).

He who feeds the sparrows and clothes the lilies of the field will surely take care of us. "Are we not much better than they?" asked Jesus. (Mt 6:26)

Most of all, our hope is in Him who promised to come again and take us unto Himself. So, witnessing world conditions we would pray, "Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

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What About the Economy?



How good is the economy?

Pollster Albert Sindlinger says recent phone interviews with 4,800 Americans would indicate the US economy is "bordering on a depression."

One of President Ford's first accomplishments was to sign a bill which will permit Americans to buy and hold gold. But Willard Cantelon, author of the NEW WORLD MONE TARY SYS-TEM, says: "Don't buy Gold. Tomorrow it may not even buy your lunch!"

Eliot Janeway, economic forecaster says: "I can see an epidemic of bank failures."

Albert Sindlinger, president of Sindlinger & Co, reveals the result of recent surveys in which many Americans are concerned with bank failure. He notes: "Our surveys show 2 out of every 10 are thinking of taking their money out of banks." He adds: "A few have already done so." NEWSWEEK magazine (7/8/74) inquires: "Is the World headed for recession?"

Prof. Karl Schiller, West Germany's former Minister of Economics and Finance observes: "We are faced with a situation in which the unthinkable is thinkable."

"The unthinkable is a global slump--the real possibility of a world recession brought on by an unforeseen succession of economic developments," notes NEWSWEEK.

Britain, too, faces one of its "worst economic crises," according to THE ECONOMIST of London. Italy is declared to be the worst of any of the industrialized nations.

Viewing the situation, the Common Market's commissioner, (Sir Christopher Soames), says the tearing apart of the economic cooperation between nations would be "disastrous."

Fred Bergsten, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, observes: "These predictions of a collapse of the world monetary system and financial systems are particularly wild."

A more recent issue of NEWSWEEK quotes an economist for a Wall Street firm who sounds the alarm, saying: "The danger that the economy may get out of hand is greater than at any time in my career."

Harvard Professor, Otto Eckstein, points out that we are in the midst of the "worst inflation since World War I."

And comments Albert E. Sindlinger, one of the most prominent and respected marketing research experts in the nation: "There's no doubt about it. We're in for some tough times."

Even CHRISTIANITY TODAY magazine has something to say about Economics, which it calls the "dismal science." "Dismal," notes this journal, "is an apt word for the most prominent economic factor of our day; the worldwide spiral of inflation. No respect of ideology, the inflationary spiral has caught up Communist and capitalist nations alike. It bids fair to produce a depression far worse than that of the twenties."

"As yet," notes this magazine, "no one seems to have an adequate explanation for why it is happening, and no one seems to have any real notion of how it can be stopped. We are bold to suggest that economists make a serious effort to find out what Scripture has to say about economic matters."

The EVANGELICAL NEWSLETTER notes: "Predictions of national and worldwide depression are not idle talk anymore. Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board has warned that inflation is jeopardizing America's future."

This periodical goes on to point out dangers ahead and asks: "Will Evangelicals Be Ready when the World goes broke?" For instance, the conservative London-based ECONOMIST flatly predicts that "the world's rich countries are digging the foundations for a major world depression."

Lindley Clark, Wall Street Journal's economic editor is wondering out loud about the possibility of "domestic unrest, militant strikes, consumer uprisings" which are spreading worldwide.

One official observes: "The snap back in economic activity expected by many forecasters following the end of the energy crunch has not yet appeared." He notes further: "Consumer spending remains sluggish in real terms, unemployment is climbing, factory output has not changed much in the past few months and now home building is threatened with a renewed decline."

Another observer writes: "...while the economy may no longer be declining, it is flabby and slack."

As we see it--Uncle Sam is sick--suffering from old age-living on false stimulants to keep him alive. Whether we are able to celebrate our Bicentennial may depend on maintaining our nation's health in the months ahead. Few civilizations have lived out a 200-year existence. Will we?

What worries most Americans is the financial picture. Inflation is destroying the value of the dollar. Skyrocketing prices are a sign the economy is facing a virtual collapse. Strikes for higher wages only further disrupts the economic equilibrium as some reap the benefits of higher wages while others maintain a wage scale they may have had for years. All of these indications declare openly that we are preparing for the day of our ultimate economic collapse.

Could it be that there are forces within our country seeking to further these aims. For example, if certain elements cannot succeed in destroying our nation by such tactics as impeaching the President, they may try other plans that would create a depression to accomplish these same objectives. It is well-known that the Communist plan is that ultimately our country falls like ripened fruit into their hands.

Certain Scriptures come to mind to explain a dilemma that in reality is worldwide. Economic woes are especially felt in Italy, Canada, Australia, Iceland, Sweden, Denmark, and England, as well as in the United States.

Writes James: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." (James 5:1-3) This is a lament applicable to our day for are we not living in the last days?

First, we see problems arising which no one may have ever suspected happening that would affect all of us. For instance, can you imagine a time coming when we may have to be without electricity, or water? The energy crisis along with an alliance of nations unfriendly to the United States could cause havoc on a global scale.

Second, we see nations in turmoil with property no longer safe from fire, bombings, and the like, and no one free from rape or robbery. One even faces being attacked in broad daylight. While the newspapers report some of these happenings the violence we are witnessing on a world scale is only the tip of an iceberg.

Most homes and some businesses are built for beauty rather than for safety. They are designed for appearance instead of being fireproof and burglar proof. So what chance of protection does the average citizen have? If someone wants to destroy your property, or break into your home, he probably can do it. Especially in our larger cities is this already happening. However, in every community you will find forms of violence that is related usually to drugs and drunkenness which are major causes for this malady.

Did not our Lord say that there would come a time when "men's hearts" would fail them for fear? What fear already is gripping much of our world today on account of violence. Our Lord also described the day of His coming as likened unto Noah's time. Genesis 6:13 finds the Lord telling Noah, "The earth is filled with violence." And he goes on to declare of mankind, "I will destroy them with the earth."

Beloved, as tragic as it sounds there is where we are today. We face the judgment of Almighty God on account of our sins. And what we are seeing today is the beginning of the end as outlined in the book of Revelation where woes and wrath are outpoured upon the world. How wonderful that man can still repent and turn to the Lord. Today is still a day of salvation!

In addition, we see famine conditions which are unparalleled in the history of mankind. As one writer put it--Whereas in Bible times we read of famines that affected thousands, today's forecast of famine will affect millions.

Some who understand what is happening are already storing supplies of food for desperate days ahead. While it is true that mass hysteria only hastens the day of our destruction, yet we consider it a wise move to prepare for the worst that could happen. Having food stuff on our shelves might be considered wiser than to have money in the bank. With the cost of food rising constantly we might add--the sooner we can store vital commodities away the better.

While there are those collecting gold and silver coins these cannot be eaten. Naturally it is better to hold these metals than to have paper dollars that are worthless. But in the final analysis, it is better to have grain than to have gold, and to have foods in storage than money in the bank.

Most of all, believing our Lord's return is near and hastening, we should make such spiritual preparation so as to be ready to meet Him whenever He appears.

While it is wise to prepare for the unknown future and to "occupy 'til He comes," yet the prophetic forecasts would all indicate our Lord's Coming is near and hastening. For that day let us all prepare!

All of us are called to be ready for our Saviour's Return. As a bridegroom awaiting the day of marriage to his bride, so we should look forward to being united with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

By loving Him, living for Him, after coming to know Him in forgiveness of sins, let us continue to serve Him, and loyally follow as one of His faithful disciples.

Indeed, with conditions we have described today coming to pass in our time may we look up, and lift up our heads, realizing our redemption draweth nigh.

To one and all our Lord has commanded, saying: "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

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The Coming Great Tribulation XTRA: <u>St-Detersburg Cimes</u> Economic Experts Predict ... Amelicans Are in

President Ford's summit conferences on the economy reflect the concern for our nation's financial health and welfare.

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As one newspaper observes: "There is a spectre of doom in the air, a feeling substantiated by daily stockmarket dives, unemployment lines and foundering family budgets..."

Dr. Harold Dye, dean of the University of South Florida's Business Administration College, says: "Whether or not the country slides into a depression depends on what's done to prevent it. If nothing's done, we'll definitely slip into a mild depression," he noted. ST. PETERSBURG TIMES 9/29/74,6-E

Simultaneous with a faltering economy is the threat of world famine.

As the NEW YORK TIMES SERVICE notes: "During the last few months the world food crisis has developed from what once seemed to be another exaggerated doomsday forecast to a reality...threatening to take the lives of millions."

The article continues by suggesting, "There is, however, disagreement among world food specialists on how long the crisis might persist. Many experts believe it is only a temporary phenomenon...Others contend it is the beginning of what could be decades of unrelenting misery for much of the world."

Many are asking, What is happening in America? Are we facing another great depression? What should Christians be doing about it?

Anyone acquainted with their Bible knows that economic disaster is one of the forecasts for the endtime along with famines, wars and pestilence.

For instance, the Apostle James writes: "Go to ye rich, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you." He goes on to observe, "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days."

What an accusation.

Whereas the Apostle Paul suggests, "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content," many are not content without the luxuries of life in their various pleasing dimensions.

Someone has reflected that before the Great Crash of '29 the country was bathed in riches. But then the Crash came, followed by the years of Great Depression.

Will this happen again?

Some say--a depression, if it comes, will be far greater than anything we have ever seen. Among these forecasters is Robert L. Prestin, noted Research Economist, who predicts "a depression of a magnitude never before experienced in this nation."

On the other hand, there are those more optimistic seers who see the U.S. as 'older and wiser,' so that this time around we will not be caught unaware. There'll be no panic, no confusion, no feeling of hopelessness!

In order to gain a preview of what's ahead--how this age will end--let us look at the Scriptures.

In Matthew 24, our Lord recounts how it will be in the Last Days. The disciples have just asked Him privately, saying: "Tell us, what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

In verse 21, our Lord replies: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Did you hear it?

What's ahead? The answer is "Great Tribulation, such as has never been nor ever shall be again."

Talk of World Wars and World Famines. What the world has endured will be a picnic compared to the Tribulation that lies ahead. Although the context shows this prophecy relating primarily to Israel's plight in the destruction of Jerusalem, it could also relate to coming future peril under Antichrist. Other Scriptures, however, indicate that the coming tribulation will be worldwide.

For instance, turn to Luke 21, where our Lord has just recounted the parable of the fig tree. In the parable, Israel's restoration as a nation is considered to be a sign of Christ's soon return.

It is then our Lord warns: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth."

Did you notice--the "whole earth" will be ensnared by this coming day of the Lord!

What Jesus described as a time of tribulation, Daniel calls a time of trouble. Turn to Daniel 12:1, where we read: "... and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time..."

The SECOND COMING BIBLE suggests that most expositors rightly find this to be a reference to the final time of the great tribulation at the termination of the present course of the world. (Page 235)

In other words, what's ahead is described as a "time of trouble." Although primarily referring to Israel's plight as a nation, it is also a reference to the peril of all who will be alive at that time.

Now turn to Mark 13:19-20, where we read: "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

This is the golden age of science and medicine. Massive research holds high hopes for earlier detection of diseases along with miracle cures.

On the other hand, the evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of pestilence and disease resulting from mass famine and wars so that the grisly form of death is seen stalking the land. In days ahead we see "afflictions" such as have not been from the days of creation and neither shall be.

The Greek word used here is THLIPSIS, meaning "Pressure," and could relate to physical as well as spiritual suffering.

The same word was used by Paul to describe the anguish and torment of days of oppression that he endured. Yet, writes Paul, "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself..."

Paul spoke of being troubled on every side, yet not distressed...perplexed, but not in despair...persecuted, but not forsaken...cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus...

Here was Paul, the great apostle, recounting the miseries he endured that would find most Christians today complaining about their lot. How uncomfortable we have it if we must lower the thermostat or turn off the air conditioning system. Well, Paul never knew those luxuries in the jails where he stayed. They were damp, dismal dungeons.

Did he complain? No, he called all of the unpleasant circumstances which he encountered, "light afflictions." We would call them awful, cruel tortures, wouldn't we?

Anyway, wrote Paul: "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (2 Cor. 4:17)

Think of it!

What do you do when you're afflicted? You call a doctor or take some medicine. Well, that's all right, but it's not what the Scripture suggests you do.

Turn to James 5:13, where we read: "Is any afflicted? let him pray."

Did you ever stop to think that the arthritis pain you are enduring, or the neuralgia, might be an indication that the Lord would like to talk to you?

You've heard it said that sometimes the Lord puts us on our back so we can look up!

The Psalmist wrote: "Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now have I kept thy word." (119:67)

Again, he says: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted: that I might learn thy statutes." (119.71) While we may moan and complain about our afflictions, it may be that the Lord is trying to teach us sympathy, love or patience.

It is true that no man covets pain, but pleasure. Yet it is likewise true that "afflictions" are seen coming on the earth....afflictions which have not been, nor shall ever be again.

Paul's description of the coming ordeal of suffering seen befalling the world, might be linked to atomic or nuclear destruction. In 1 Thess. 5:3, he speaks of "sudden destructionas travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

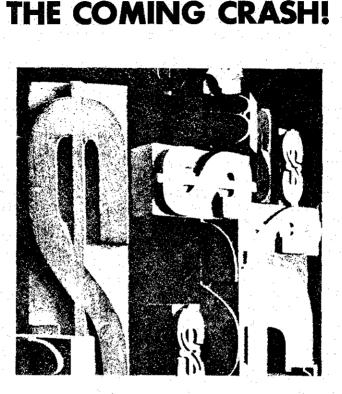
That's not a pleasant picture but it describes what's ahead!

But notice, he goes on to paint a prettier scene for the saint. He writes: "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light..."

Really, we're not looking for calamity, but for the King. We're not expecting wrath, but we're anticipating the rapture. Darkness is the realm of satanic activity. As children of light, we're looking for Him Who is the Light of the world.

I cannot tell you what suffering we may endure, what persecutions we might experience, what hardships we might go through. From abroad, an article behind the Iron Curtain bears the title, ARE WE IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION? Many are already enduring heartaches and afflictions. Who are we to be spared all such coming calamities? Could it be that something must happen to unite God's people everywhere into praying, "Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus."

At least, our message is clear. Whenever our Lord does come He wants us to be waiting with joyous anticipation and expectancy. His admonition to all is: "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"



In a Gallup Poll on the economy, a late survey shows that seven persons out of ten believe that the economic situation will worsen during the next six months. So it is not a makebelieve threat that exists. The crisis is very real.

The threat of an economic crash is not only common to the United States; it is worldwide. That's why I believe the coming of the Lord to be very near. The coming storm will be the worst ever, and we should learn how to prepare for it or pray to escape it.

Clyde H. Farnsworth of the NEW YORK TIMES SERVICE, writes: "In the capitals of London, Paris and Rome, in the farming villages and in industrial towns stretching from Narvik, Norway to Naples, Italy, the fear of a financial collapse is dominating conversations and shaping attitudes of caution in spending."

Observes Farnsworth: "Increasingly grim economic prospects are rattling Western Europeans as never before in the postwar era..."

Did you hear it?

At a meeting in Washington of the International Monetary Fund, some of the world's financial leaders met to discuss the economic crisis which we face and to try to resolve some of the problems.

President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger, have both called for closer cooperation between nations--cooperation on a global level--to avoid a world depression, or worse.

Are things that serious? Do we face a depression?

In the Callup Poll referred to earlier, nearly half of those interrogated believe that a depression is coming similar to the one the United States suffered during the 1930's.

Actually, reports we might give are not too encouraging. For instance, Robert L. Prestin, noted Research Economist, has predicted "a depression of a magnitude never before experienced in this nation." When Prestin was asked: "When will it happen?" he replied, "It has already started."

We understand that Karl Marx declared depressions to be an inherent characteristic of capitalism, and that these economic calamities get worse as time goes on.

Those willing to talk about the days of the great depression tell of widespread unemployment with people roaming the street looking for food. It was the day of the bum and the hobo, with men going from house to house begging for food. Little children with hungry stomachs would stop at neighbor homes to beg for a crust of bread and a glass of milk.

In Chicago, people stood around garbage dumps to dig with sticks for bits of food and vegetables.

Yes, that was the worst disaster in America's economic past--the Great Depression.

One of the results of that era was the increased suicide rate. As one Senior Citizen recalled: "It seemed like every day you'd pick up the newspaper and see headlines about another man jumping out of a skyscraper--out of his office window.

A lot of men who lost fortunes couldn't cope with it. The suicide rate in 1932 was 17.4 per 100,000 while in 1972, it was 11.7.

One of the major disasters of the depression was the loss of hundreds of thousands of homes each year from foreclosure. These homeless people would then travel from place to place staying any place where they could find a roof over their heads. "People got closer, shared recipes, clothes, even food," comments one observer of the past. "There was none of this hatred you see now," observes another. An investment advisor wrote to us after reading our RADAR NEWS article, (Sept., 1974) WHAT ABOUT THE ECONOMY, to say: "My view on the economy is in agreement with your last letter. I have felt that all investments will eventually be absolutely worthless (except food and clothing.)"

He continues: "The only thing I've been investing in is gold-related areas. However, this, too, is soon to be worthless and I'm advising my clients of this. As a matter of fact, I'm going to forget about the money-making business completely as soon as I can get another job."

Does the Bible have anything at all to say about the economy during the period of the Endtime?

Indeed, it does.

First, we think of our Lord's prophecy that the days of the Son of man will be "as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded." (Luke 17:28)

This is the kind of generalized activity that we are seeing today. It is indicative of the prosperity we have enjoyed. However, ours has been a false sense of prosperity with an eventual collapse seen up ahead.

The declining stock market is a barometer of what is happening. We are already seeing a repeat performance of the last depression except that the wise will act while there is still time, and the foolish will suffer the greater loss.

In the second place, the Scriptures would indicate that the economy will go into a tailspin that will produce catastrophic results.

James writes: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your silver and gold is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your fleshas it were fire. YE HAVE HEAPED TREASURE TOGETHER FOR THE LAST DAYS."

Then, a few verses later, James suggests: "Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord." Again, he says: "Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

These verses suggest to me that we are going to see some difficult times ahead before Jesus returns for His own. While we look for Him momentarily, and expect Him any moment, there is a time ahead that will call for spiritual strength and physical endurance such as we have not seen before. Whereas, in the last depression there was assistance offered by neighbors who shared their goods and services, and cooperation prevailed, we find this greatly lacking in our day. Actually, the world is gone mad with rioting and revolution, plundering and pilfering, replacing virtues once known to our society.

In Honduras, during the recent hurricane, when there was food made available, the people went at each other with machetes in the battle over the food even though there was enough available for everyone. That's the way it will be during the coming depression.

Our third observation is that the time is ripe for a world government that will regulate commerce, control the economy, and ration all food.

In Revelation 13:16 & 17, we read where this coming world ruler "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 number of the beast, or the number of his name."

Did vou hear it?

On the other hand, we read in Rev. 14:9, "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."

That believers on the earth will be faced with the grave decision to refuse to bow to the World System of Antichrist is evidenced in Rev. 14:12-13, where the saints are mentioned. We read: "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

Then a voice from Heaven is heard saying concerning these who refuse to accept the identification in their forehead or in their hand, "Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Suddenly, John the Revelator sees one coming upon a white cloud, having in his hand a sharp sickle, and on his head a golden crown. An angel from the temple is heard crying: "Thrust in thy sickle and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." And we read, "The earth was reaped." We would like to believe that this represents the rapture which occurs before the coming awful great tribulation.

Some disagree with this interpretation pointing out in our Lord's parable of the wheat and the tares that they would both grow together until the harvest, and then the tares would be bundled to be burned followed by the wheat being gathered into the granary. (See Matt. 13:30)

However, our only observation might be that this parable could refer to the period at the end of the 1,000-year millennial reign of Christ when the final harvest is in mind. Our Lord later interpreted the parable, saying: "The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels." (v.39)

Then we would point out that after the first reaping by this one who is likened unto the Son of man seen upon a white cloud, there follows another reaping. An angel with a sharp sickle appears and is told: "Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe." We read: "The angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and the blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs." (or, approximately 176 miles.)

This, we believe, is the battle of Armageddon when the wicked of earth shall be gathered together for that awful judgment of destruction and doom.

The question we leave with you today, is--in which group will you be if you're living when this occurs?

There is evidence of dark days ahead, but there is hope extended to the believer, while dreadful times are in store for all who are outside of Jesus Christ.

Why not turn to Christ while there is still time. Discover pardon for your sins, along with deliverance from evil. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

Witnessing economic trends that will become eventually, for the world, her time of great tribulation, we have only one message--GET READY!

Indeed, "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

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Columnist Jack Anderson, speaking at a gathering of the University of South Florida, told 2,000 assembled guests that hard times are ahead.

Anderson observed we're on the "brink of a national nervous breakdown." But he went on to say: "You have seen nothing yet." He predicted a "worldwide economic calamity."

Robert L. Prestin warns: "If the inflation is not held back, then the economy goes berserk." And that is what is happening today.

Will there come a depression?

Dr. Arthur Weimer, consulting economist for the U.S. League of Savings Associations, says he is confident the country is not heading for another depression. "No, I don't think so, primarily because the built-in stabilizers will work," says Weimer, referring to Legislation enacted since the disastrous 1930's.

One of these safeguards, he notes is the protection of your account up to \$ 20,000. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation was created in 1933 to protect your money in the bank up to a certain amount. A bill before the Congress would supposedly protect your account up to \$ 50,000.

would supposedly protect your account up to \$ 50,000. Banks that are members of the FDIC pay an insurance premium and this money is supposed to be available any time in case the banks fail.

Now, according to author Harry Browne, the FDIC has only 4.7 billion dollars to cover insured bank deposits of 393.3 billion dollars (as of 1971.)

Concerning the increase of insurance from \$ 20,000 to \$ 50,000, he notes: "The net effect will be to lower the ratio of the agency's reserves to liabilities -- from bad to worse! Your supposed protection is rapidly disappearing! THIS, he notes, "IS WASHINGTON'S BEST KEPT SECRET." The second safeguard that is noted is the emergency power given the Federal Reserve after the Great Depression. Banks in the 1930's were unable to get the money needed and were forced to close. Today they can borrow from the Federal Reserve.

The fact is that the government printing presses are printing paper money 24 hours a day trying to keep up with the demand! The money, without gold to back it up, is completely worthless!

Thomas Jefferson once warned: "I believe banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than our standing armies. Already they have raised up a money aristocracy that has set government at defiance. The issuing power should be taken from the banks and restored to the people to whom it properly belongs.

"If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all property until their children will wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered." (Page 73, Vol. 1, Jeffersonian Encyclopedia)

IS THIS WHAT WE WANT?

Another safeguard designed to protect our citizens is SOCIAL SECURITY. The Social Security Act, which became law on August 14, 1935, provided pensions for old people when they retire from work, along with benefits for their widows or orphans, unemployment compensation insurance for workers and public welfare to state governments.

What about Social Security?

This report from Washington says: "The Social Security System is broke. It is about two and a half trillion dollars in the hole. This means if no new workers were admitted today, and taxes collected remained the same, and benefits paid only to those already covered, the system would be two and a half trillion dollars short over the next 75 years.

"To make it a little more clear, the experts figure the system will be short \$20 billion by 1980, and we have a national debt six times larger than estimated.

"America's Social Security is verging on becoming America's 'social insecurity." - Liberty Lines.

From a political standpoint we cannot see the problems relating to the economy, being solved until the appearance of a world government ruled over by one with supreme powers to regulate the economy.

This we see coming!

President Ford, in addressing the United Nations, said: "Failure to cooperate on oil, food and inflation could spell disaster for every nation represented." Incidentally, during his speech, President Ford interjected praise for Secretary of State Kissinger. The tribute to Kissinger brought the only applause during the 20-minute address of the President.

Is this not indeed significant?

Kissinger, being foreign-born cannot become president of the United States. But there is no law against aliens being President of the United Nations.

Even most Arabs think that Kissinger, a Jew, is a genius. Premier Sadat of Egypt calls him a "Miracle Worker."

Were Kissinger to be invited to a high post in the United Nations, and then Nelson Rockefeller become president of the United States, you would find a winning combination that could spell temporary success for a world government.

It is the belief of many men in government that only a world organization such as the United Nations can solve world problems.

Among the strong advocates for such a world government is Nelson Rockefeller. Rockefeller is also a supporter for greater U.S.-Soviet cooperation.

In fact, LIBERTY LOBBY, in a confidential report to its readers, stated: "Hardly known at all to the American people, is Nelson Rockefeller's role as an agent for the Soviet Union."

An Associated Press dispatch once reported that if Rockefeller became president, he would work toward a "New World Order" based on East-West cooperation.

(Allen, Gary; op. cit. 7/26/68)

If Rockefeller is sympathetic to the Soviet Union, would he help promote the Soviet ideology of socialism?

According to one report, we are told that Walter Bedell Smith, former chief of staff to General Eisenhower, once "warned Eisenhower that Rockefeller was a communist." (Smith,Harris; THE SECRET HISTORY OF AMER. FIRST CIA: p. 367; quoted in Allen, Gary,-Op.cit.,p.19)

Rockefeller might not be a dues-paying member, but Robert Welch considers him to be in the echelon of the top 30 "insiders" in the global communist conspiracy.

We bring all these facts to your attention to set the pattern of events forecast ahead!

Whether President Ford decides to continue in government remains to be seen. We believe Rockefeller and Kissinger together could become the team to lead this nation into a world government that is controlled by a godless philosophy, namely communism.

We would simply call attention to Daniel's image of the fourth beast which he saw--one that was "dreadful, and terrible, and strong exceedingly." We read, "It had great iron teeth." And, "It devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it: and it had ten horns." (Dan. 7:7)

Could it be we have been concentrating on the "ten horns" which represent the ten nations in Europe seen uniting to form the revived Roman Empire, but we fail to identify the Beast?

Daniel goes on to remind us: "The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces." (Dan. 7:23)

Did you hear it?

And the next verse reads: "And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise." (Dan. 7:24)

We ask again--could it be that Biblical scholars have been spending all their time in identifying the ten kings which we believe to represent the Common Market countries of Europe which have pledged political federation by 1980?

By concentrating on these ten horns (or ten kings), have we failed to behold the Beast? Or by watching the nations of Europe, which represent the ten kings of this prophecy, have we failed to witness a World Government that is pictured here? For concerning the fourth beast which Daniel saw, we're told, it shall "devour the whole earth...."

At least, we see signs that we're living in the Endtime. And we wonder whether the United States in cooperation with the United Nations will lead the world into the fulfilment of this prophecy.

Furthermore, we see a monetary system coming which is due to replace our present financial institutions wherein no one can "buy" or "sell" unless he has an identifying mark. For anyone to accept this identification means one is forfeiting forever the right to eternal salvation. It's that simple. Take the mark of this world government and you cannot be saved.

John, in Revelation, seems to describe this same World Government. He warns: "Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" (Rev. 13:4)

Concerning this Beast, we read: "Power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." (v.7) This is what makes us believe that this represents a world government.

Then, concerning the mark that is required, we read: "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." John goes on to declare the angel's message, that "if any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture ...and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb:"

Think of it!

We read further, "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." (Rev. 14:9-11)

With the present Economic Crisis worldwide, don't you see the time is ripe for this prophecy to be fulfilled?

Willard Cantelon, author of the NEW WORLD MONETARY SYSTEM, says, "I have sat for hours in conversation alone with men chosen to advise the President of the United States. I have weighed their deductions and examined all their savings. It is one message. We are moving toward a world system, a NUMBERS SYSTEM run by computers, that will one day be under central control. If we follow the immediate tempo of inflation and the exploding population, you can almost measure the acceleration yourself and determine when the new system will come. There is not a conversant person in the world with whom I have spoken who would argue that such inflation would not bring a new system soon and take the world presently beyond the point of no return. No longer is the question, 'Is a new system coming.' The question is WHEN?"

Cantelon, addressing a Christian audience, also reminded his listeners to give their money to ministries they wish to support while the dollar has some value. Said Cantelon: "Don't hoard your money. Give as much as you can to the work of the Lord and use it also for your needs. Tomorrow you may not have any."

Reviewing today's facts and statistics makes us realize how close our Lord's Coming must be.

If not right with God, it's time to do some sober, serious thinking. Are you ready should Jesus return today? We know not the day nor hour when He will come, but we know He has admonished us to be ready.

By receiving Christ as your Saviour, believing He died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin, you can be forgiven. Then, by living for our Lord in a life of obedience to His will, you can be ready for whenever He shall return.

For He hath said: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."