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FAMINE AND BIBLE PROPHECY

Some meteorological experts believe that the world is on the threshold of new and alarming global weather patterns that mankind is ill prepared for. The New York Times news service has announced that many weather scientists expect greater variability in our Planet's weather and, consequently more risk of more local disaster in places where conditions in recent years have become accepted as the norm.

The worst drought since the dust bowl days of the 1930's has gripped the Bread Basket Section of our Nation for several months. Earlier forecasts of bumper grain crops by the U.S. Department of Agriculture have been shattered. In Iowa, drought conditions so stunted the corn crop that the Nation's great corn farmers cut the crop prematurely for silage because it would obviously be useless for grain. The rains came too late. Drought has also devastated much of Ohio, Illinois, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and other large grain producing states. While the recent rains will do much to alleviate the situation and allow farmers to prepare seed beds for the winter grain crops, it came too late to help the acute situation this year.

THE DELTA

Those travelling to the Southern Baptist Convention noticed that much of the Mississippi Delta had been flooded. The Spring flooding of the Mississippi backed up water into the tributaries and flooded out the rich Mississippi Delta which is another major food producing area for the Nation and the world. Soy Bean crops, a major source of world protein have been devastated.

MEANING

It all spells famine. It makes the 24th Chapter of Matthew and certain sections of the Book of Revelation read almost like the morning newspaper. Jesus taught his disciples that a characteristic of the perilous days just preceding His return would be famine. Weather scientists are seeing the emergence of new weather patterns that seriously threaten the ability of mankind to produce food and to feed himself. Here are some of the alarming trends:

(a) The Monsoon rains have been late and scant over agriculturally important regions of India while Bangladesh has been having floods. Whether it be drought or floods the end result is the same - the loss of food production.

(b) Parts of Europe and the Soviet Union have had problems at both ends of the weather spectrum this year. Too hot and too dry sometimes in places and too wet and cold at others.

(c) In North America, ice is lingering abnormally on the coast of Newfoundland. New evidence shows that the Gulf Stream is fluctuating toward a more southerly course.

(d) In the United States, the world's most important food producer, a severe drought that began last Fall in the Southwest has spread Northward and Eastward. Some areas that suffered from devastating drought have scarcely known drought before in their history. There have also been recent reports that Spring Wheat in the United States has been badly hurt by hot dry weather. Meanwhile, the Southeast has been abnormally wet. Weather specialists are watching all the signs, both good and bad.

Food and famine are not new concepts. In the whole complex equation of food resources, and population, the element that is least controllable and predictable is weather yet weather can spell the difference between abundance and disaster almost anywhere. While man has performed some great and admirable feats and some almost in defiance of God, there is no question but that God still controls the weather and man is still helpless in the face of His elements and either he is blessed by them or ruined by them. It is broadly conceded now that experts in weather, climate and agriculture have given much thought to the prospects for the coming years and decades. A unit of the National Academy of Sciences is preparing a major report on climate changes. The date service of the

FOOD AND FAMINE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is organizing a special group of experts to keep close watch on global weather as it relates to food production. A Workshop convened by the National Federation of Institutes for Advanced Study prepared a detailed report on the impact of climate change on the quality and character of human life. The summary of the statement of the report is one of the grimmest forecasts to be made in recent years. Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, one of the Nation's foremost scientists in the field of climate, believes that there is a growing consensus in this field that agrees with the Workshop's assessment.

PRESENT FAMINE

Already, famine grips the earth. Starvation is a major cause of death in India. Hundreds of thousands have starved to death along the Southern edge of the Sahara Desert. In the Middle East, Jordan and other nations are heavily dependent upon Israel and Egypt for food. It is obvious that the biggest task facing mankind in the years just ahead is the task of feeding himself.

Speaking of America, the Chicago Tribune News Service stated that although the economic dimensions of the recent drought in the American Midwest are not yet fully defined it has already cost billions of dollars in losses to major crops in some of the Plains states, the Central Corn Belt, and the Southwest - the world's most productive food growing areas.

Indications are that world-wide famine is imminent. These predictions have not come from Pre-millennial Baptist Preachers but from economists, agriculture experts, and weather scientists.

THE SCOFFERS

For years men in their vanity have scoffed at the Biblical prophecies concerning the Lord's return and the conditions that will surround it. We have even heard preachers hoot at these prophecies

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and make jokes about them. We have heard them sneer at any suggestion of fulfilled prophecy. It would seem now that a normal degree of intelligence would dictate that men should at least take a second look at the prophecies of God's Word concerning the conditions that will characterize the days prior to our Lord's Return. II Timothy 3: 1 - 8 teaches us that men will not humble themselves - they will not repent - but their rebelliousness will worsen and their self-centeredness will deepen but God's people have cause to rejoice, because we see signs that lead us to believe that the day when we will see Him face to face is hastening on.

CORRECTION PLEASE

The theme of the July-August Home Missions Magazine was The Christian and Politics. Contained in that issue is an article by Everette Hullum called, "Beyond The Ballot Box". On Page 19 the article stated that I "fought strongly for a Bill to build new medical schools". This was apparently written because of an editorial that I had written in Baptist United News supporting an expanded medical school at East Carolina University. The State Legislature appropriated the money for such but it was a hard fought issue.

The article implied, however, that I was leading the fight or that I was in it practically alone. I did not lead the fight. I was not in it alone. The real leader of the struggle (and I prefer to say struggle rather than "fight") was Rev. Coy Privette and several members of the Legislature who were allied with him. I had suggested to Mr. Hullum that he interview Brother Coy Privette. He stated that he had made attempts to contact Mr. Privette but was unable to. I was happy that provision was made for the expanding of the medical school at East Carolina. I supported the move editorially in Baptist United News. I would have been happy to have done anything within my power to assist the proposal in the Legislature but the article implied that I was a leader in the fight and I wanted to correct that impression. Coy Privette did a masterful job and the people of North Carolina will be indebted to him in the years ahead for his vision and foresight in helping to promote this legislation.

Another quotation may have left the impression that I believe political ethics and women's rights are "ridiculous". I do not believe that political ethics are ridiculous. I do not believe that rights for women are ridiculous. We need to promote political ethics and respect the rights of women but I do feel that it is ridiculous for Christians and churches to be obsessed with these things to the neglect of their basic ministry.

THE LAUSANNE COVENANT CALLS BIBLE INFALLIBLE

The Lausanne Covenant signed by Evangelist Billy Graham and evangelical leaders from throughout the world refers to the Bible as being infallible. In a section dealing with the authority and power of the Bible the Covenant said, "We affirm the Divine inspiration, truthfulness and authority of both Old and New Testament scriptures in their entirety as the only written Word of God, without error in all that it affirms, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice."

Nearly half of the 4,000 persons present for the Congress responded by signing the Covenant. Dr. Jaroy Weber, President of the Southern Baptist Convention, declined to sign the Covenant even though he stated that he agreed with the basic principals of it. His refusal to sign stemmed from his fear that his signing would be interpreted as an official act on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention. There were some who felt that it was too ecumenical in nature. Others felt that it smacked of social actionism in some sections.

The Covenant declared that evangelism is primary in the church's mission of sacrificial service. It also affirmed that "reduction of foreign missionaries and money in an evangelized country may sometimes be necessary to facilitate the national church's growth and self reliance to release resources for unevangelized areas. Missionaries should flow evermore freely from and to all six continents in a spirit of humble service."

A section dealing with the Christian's responsibility in the sociopolitical world stated "although reconciliation with man is not reconciliation with God, nor is social action evangelism, nor is political liberation salvation, nevertheless we affirm that evangelism and sociopolitical involvement are both part of our Christian duty. The salvation we claim should be transforming us in the totality of our personal and social responsibilities."

The Covenant further challenged

that "those of us who live in affluent circumstances accept our duty to develop a simple life style in order to contribute more generously to both relief and evangelism."

The Congress was attacked vigorously by Dr. Carl McIntire, a fundamentalist Presbyterian preacher from the Philadelphia area and radio speaker on the "Twentieth Century Reformation Hour". He also heads the fundamentalist organization called the "International Council of Christian Churches". One of McIntire's associates was first scheduled to attend the Congress but was unable to go at the last moment. Dr. McIntire, himself, as Editor of the Christian Beacon went. He was denied credentials as a member of the Press but was welcomed as a Visitor. He refused to attend the Congress unless he was admitted as a member of the Press. He picketed the meeting outside the Meeting Hall as a protest to being denied credentials as a member of the press. McIntire has been attacking the Congress and Dr. Billy Graham since that time.

The statement of the Lausanne Covenant on the authority of Scripture has been warmly received by conservative, evangelicals throughout the world because they see the authority of Scriptures as basic to any evangelistic or missionary thrust. In his opening address the evangelist pointed out that theological liberalism was on the decline while evangelicalism is flourishing.

During the course of his address Dr. Graham said, "Biblically, evangelism can mean nothing else than proclaiming Jesus Christ by presence and word, and by trusting the Holy Spirit to use the Scriptures to persuade men to become His disciples and responsible members of His church. He further stated that evangelism and the salvation of souls is the vital mission of the church. The whole church must be mobilized to bring the whole gospel to the whole world."

CRIME RATE SOARS

Attorney General William B. Saxbe has reported that crime in the United States rose 6% in 1973. He called the upward trend "harsh, bitter and dismaying". Speaking to a Conference of Big City Police Chiefs, Saxbe said: "We can now perceive with shocking clarity that we have suffered a severe set-back." According to FBI figures the crime rate held steady for the first nine months of 1973 and then soared in the last quarter. It soared to 16% more than the comparable period of 1972. Saxbe noted that the full year report for 1973 will show that crime actually increased during 1973 by 6%, not the 5% that was earlier predicted. He expressed disappointment in the performance of a Justice

Department Agency, "Law Enforcement Assistants Administration". He noted that the Agency has only recently set up a comprehensive way of measuring the effectiveness of its spending program. It has spent 2.3 billion dollars on crime fighting during the past 6 years.

DR. HOPKINS' ADDRESS

Many have inquired about the address of Dr. Julian S. Hopkins who is now available for Bible Conferences and whose expenses to such Conferences are paid by an interested layman. His address is:

Dr. Julian Hopkins
3100 Beaufort Street
Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

EDITORIAL

BY:

ROBERT M. TENERY

The machinery is being set up for the selection of a General Secretary Treasurer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina who will succeed Dr. W. Perry Crouch upon his retirement in December of 1975. North Carolina Baptists need to be considering now what kind of man he should be to assume this important office in the Convention. As far as the Convention structure, the General Secretary-Treasurer is the most important person in determining the direction of the Convention. The selection of a new Executive Secretary will be one of the most important decisions that the North Carolina Convention has faced in a long time. The theological stance of the Convention Organization is largely determined by the theology of the General Secretary-Treasurer. He will also be the most influential person in determining the kind of emphases that we have as a Convention - whether we will emphasize social actionism or evangelism or something else. He largely determines the kind of people who fill staff positions at the Baptist Building.

THE COMMITTEE

Of course, the make up of the Committee who will select and recommend the man to fill this important position is going to determine the kind of man they are going to recommend. Already we are hearing calls for all shades of theological persuasion to be represented on that committee. We beg to differ. Only men who are committed to the Scripture and who accept the Baptist Faith and Message without any strange interpretations should be a part of this committee. Liberals have no place on the committee whatever. The great body of our people are not liberal and it is inconceivable that a liberal could represent any significant segment of Baptist life. Again, we have grave reservations about those employed by Baptist Institutions serving on the committee. Certainly, employees at the Baptist Building should not be on the Committee. This would be comparable to allowing administrators in the halls of Government to determine who the Governor will be. The people should determine who the Governor of North Carolina should be. Likewise, Baptist people should determine who our General Secretary-Treasurer will be. Therefore, those on the committee should be representatives of grass roots Baptists.

THE MAN

The man who is selected to serve in this position should be a man who is unapologetically committed to the inerrant Word of God. He should be a man who accepts the Baptist Faith and Message at face value and who doesn't hedge in his

theology with a bunch of devious theological hypotheticals. We have seen come men sidestep in their theological commitment by building complicated theological mazes around simple issues and they sometimes get credit for being "deep" when they are just "muddy". We don't need such a man in the office of General Secretary-Treasurer. He should be plain and communicative about his theological position.

NO ARROGANCE

There is no place in the office of General Secretary-Treasurer for an arrogant man or an air of self importance. If the General Secretary-Treasurer of the North Carolina Convention is to work effectively and constructively with the pastors and the people of North Carolina he must recognize the simple fact that he is one among equals. Arrogance and haughtiness will kill the effectiveness of any man.

NEW IDEAS

The General Secretary-Treasurer should be a man with new and fresh ideas for the promotion and proclamation of an old message - that of Christ and Him crucified. Churches always blunder when they try to find a man who will carry on and keep intact every program of the former pastor. It seldom ever works. Every pastor has a distinctive approach that is all his own. Sometimes a church needs the change of pace that comes with a new pastor who thinks differently and who does things differently in the local church. So it is with our Convention. To be sure, the Convention doesn't need a General Secretary-Treasurer who will endeavor to tear down what is good but neither should he be a man who is afraid to change that which is not effective.

At this point let it be said that our search for a new General Secretary-Treasurer should by no means be confined to the boundaries of North Carolina. It is not absolutely necessary for us to look outside the bounds of the State of North Carolina for our leadership but it just may be that God has a man out there somewhere else who has some fresh ideas, insights, and enthusiasm that we need in the office of General Secretary-Treasurer. In fact, there are North Carolinians in other states who have served with distinction and who have demonstrated their leadership ability and their warm heartedness. It is possible that God could lead us to one of them whom He could use in the North Carolina Convention.

PERSONAL SECURITY

Our leader should be a man of personal security. A man of personal insecurity and lack of confidence in his own leadership ability sometimes feels that he must surround himself

with a bunch of "yes" men and he will not do much by way of leading our Convention forward in an aggressive program for Christ. We need a man who will look for the most able and aggressive leadership available and will not fill the Baptist Building with a bunch of milque toasts, yes men and proclaim to the North Carolina Baptist people that they are able and dedicated leaders.

WATCH THE COMMITTEE

North Carolina Baptists need to watch the make up of the committee. If we see a committee emerge with a liberal sprinkling of men with a history of supporting liberal causes or either being in sympathy with them, then North Carolina Baptists need to make preparation to nominate a General Secretary-Treasurer from the floor who is able to fulfill the job. We have noted on past committees that even a few liberal men on a committee usually tends to steer that committee in the direction of liberalism. Such men are usually adamant in that they will have their way or they will not consent to anything. It is surprising how great the inroads of liberalism are already. A few years ago convention officials were forever denying that there were any liberals among us. Now some of those same officials are saying that they should be represented in the organizational life of our convention. The future of our convention will largely be determined by the decision that we make now as Baptists of North Carolina. To be sure, the local church is going to be around until the Lord returns. We venture to say that there will be local Baptist churches preaching the Gospel and enjoying the blessings of God upon their ministry when Conventions are dead buried and forgotten if the Lord tarries. The local church is the New Testament unit and the Lord has promised to sustain it but we believe that something effective can be done for Christ through denominational structure or else we would not be involved in it in any way. In order for this to come to pass we must constantly have leadership that is dedicated to the most basic tenets of the gospel message.

PRAYER

Above all, North Carolina Baptists need to be at prayer seeking the leadership of the Holy Spirit and asking our God to so intervene that our Convention will be placed under the leadership of His man whoever he may be and wherever he may come from.

Baptists United for Spiritual Revival (a North Carolina organization) is in friendly co-operation with the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship which is a Convention-wide organization.

EDITOR QUESTIONS ELECTION OF DR. LOLLY

Dr. Randall Lolly, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Winston-Salem since 1962 has been named to succeed Olin T. Binkley as President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Editor Bill Powell, of the Southern Baptist Journal, has questioned the wisdom of Dr. Randall Lolly's election because of Lolly's involvement at the Dedication Ceremonies of the \$60,000,000 Schlitz Brewery near Winston-Salem a few years ago. In an open letter to Dr. Lolly, Editor Powell stated, "Of course this was a matter primarily between you and your church until the news came that you will become a prominent employee of Southern Baptists on August 1. But now that millions of Southern Baptists will be helping to pay your salary it becomes a matter of national concern." Editor Powell also reported that a group of South-

eastern Seminary Students began the circulation of a petition in opposition to Dr. Lolly's election when they learned that he was under consideration by the Search Committee. He reported that the students dropped the petition when they were told by the Chairman of the Search Committee that Dr. Lolly was no longer under consideration by the Committee. Editor Powell stated that "they were quite surprised to read of your election only a few days after they were informed that you were no longer being considered." Dr. Claude Bowen of Winston-Salem was Chairman of the Search Committee.

Dr. Lolly's participation in the dedication services of the Schlitz Brewery stirred controversy across the Southeast in the late Spring of 1970. Mr. Norwood Robinson, who was President of the Winston-Salem

Chamber of Commerce offered remarks at the dedication service in which he said, "It is my understanding that the beer consumption in the State of North Carolina is the lowest in any state in the union per capita. It is further my understanding that we here today have the largest beer manufacturing plant in the world. Now, sir, you were very wise in selecting my Baptist friend Dr. Randall Lolly to come up here and pronounce the Invocation (applause). I suggest to you that most of those people back there whom you couldn't get to sit down were Baptists (applause) and we are going to correct this consumption situation."

TEXT

The text of Dr. Lolly's prayer is as follows: "Dear Lord we thank thee that Thou hast made us so that we can enjoy new beginnings and that Thou has made us so that we can participate in dedications and make commitments and enjoy new, fresh relationships. Our hearts tell us that industry is people, so we thank thee, O living God, for the persons who have been plunged into the life and fabric, the process of living and deciding and being in our community. We thank thee for them and their families. We thank thee, O God for the influences that shall be engendered and the relationships which shall be enjoyed because of new friends from this plant and this industry moving into our community. Grant them all the resources, wisdom, and skill that shall be demanded of that industry and give them, O God, thy presence and thy peace and give us all the fruits, the joys of this day of dedication and the relationships and commitments that shall ensue to us all from it. In the strong name of our Lord we pray. Amen."

EXPLANATION

In response to Editor Powell's inquiry, Dr. Randall Lolly issued a statement "explaining" his action. Dr. Lolly began his statement by saying, "There is a thin line between 'explaining' an action and 'defending' an action. I would not prefer to defend the prayer that I prayed at the Schlitz plant in May 1970. Rather, I would like to explain the context of that event. The thrust of his statement was that he prayed the prayer because of his concern for people."

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JEW'S ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR WORLD WORSHIP CENTER

Plans have been announced for the construction, this summer, of a new, international House of Worship for the Jews which will be called the "Jerusalem Great Synagogue". It will be the first structure of this type to be built since the destruction of the Temple 1904 years ago. The restoration of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem is a longed for dream, and a Messianic sign for the Jews as well as a prophetic sign for Christians. Rabbi Dr. Maurice A. Jaffee told AP Religion writer, George Cornell that "no one is suggesting that this means the restoration of the Temple". But, the President of the Union of Israel Synagogues added "There are parallels." The Synagogue will be a central place of worship to which Jewish pilgrims from all over the world can come to pray just as they did to the Temple of old. Another parallel is that Jews all over the world are being encouraged to contribute to the expenses of building the structure, just as were the Jews of old to build the original temple.

The major stone in the construction of the Synagogue will be "radiant stone" which is identical to that of the original temple. It will be situated East of the headquarters of Israel's Rabbinical Authority, just as the historic Temple was. The Building Stone which is sometimes called "golden stone" has characteristic proper-

ties which cause it to change colors during the course of a day from gray to white to gold as the sun angles across the sky. Dr. Jaffee cautioned the AP Religion Writer George Cornell against drawing too many comparisons although he did allow analogies. He stated that "one gets into hot water even to hint at such a thing (as restoring the temple)". He stated that at the present time conditions are out of the question for restoring the Temple". He apparently made this assertion because such a project would be interpreted by evangelical Christians as another indication of the imminent return of Christ while many Jews link the restoration of the Temple to the coming of the Messiah. Dr. Jaffee noted that non-Jews seem almost more concerned about it than many Jews.

The first Temple was built by Solomon about 1,000 BC and was destroyed by invading Babylonians in 585 BC. It was later restored. The second temple, better known as Herod's Temple, was burned by the Roman Legions in crushing a Jewish revolt in 70 AD. The legions were under the command of Titus. The crushing defeat of a Jewish revolt marked the end of Israel as a nation until its restoration in 1948. It also marked the end of an International Place of Jewish Worship until the Jews gained access to the wailing wall in the Six Days War in 1967.

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