



REPENT AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

VOLUME 10:12

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THE WORLD-CHANGER

Once again, the celebration known as Christmas is with us. For many it is merely a time for family, exchanging gifts and festivities of various kinds. To others it also has a deeper meaning. They commemorate that time in history some 2000 years ago when a Babe was born in Bethlehem. But He was no ordinary baby. That Child who was born in a manger, not on 25 December in AD 0 but probably in September-October 4 BC, was destined to transform this world as none other before or since. An unknown author has said it so well: *He was born in an obscure village; He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was thirty. He then became an itinerant preacher; He never held an office; He never had a family or owned a house. He did not go to college; He had no credentials but Himself... Nineteen centuries (now almost twenty) have come and gone and today He is still the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that ... ONE SOLITARY LIFE.*

Propitious Conditions

He came to this earth at the very time God had prepared. At no time previous to His advent were the conditions as propitious as then. For the first time there was law and order throughout the known world, imposed by the authority of Rome. There was a common language, Greek, by which all could communicate. Thirdly, thanks to the Romans, a network of good roads crisscrossed the entire empire. Thus His gospel could be carried from the Middle East to far-off Britain and all points in between. And it was. The Apostle Paul, in particular, but also other disciples journeyed far and wide with the divine message of new life in Christ, to keep His covenant of love and obey His commands. For the baby Jesus had grown up, revealed Himself as the Son of God come to earth to be the Light of the World proclaiming the coming Kingdom of God. Finally, the forces of darkness crucified Him on the Cross but on the third day He rose triumphant from the grave. Forty days later He was taken up into heaven, but not before He promised His disciples that, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth".

Birth of Democracy

Ten days later the disciples were suddenly filled with the promised Holy Spirit and in its power turned the known world upside down as the Christian Church was born, liberating thousands from pagan darkness. Consequently down through the ages the nations that accepted Christianity, especially in Europe, witnessed both material and spiritual development while much of the world stagnated, bogged down in a quagmire of poverty, misery and death. The acceptance of the gospel by the British nation was the major factor in the birth of democracy and individual rights. Even from the earliest days the gospel had spread widely in Britain and by the time of Alfred the Great the Ten Commandments had become the law of the land. Subsequently Great Britain and her dominions and the United States of America have led the world because Christianity has been the basis of their existence. Christ's presence was evident in Australia's discovery, settlement and growth through the godly men and women ... from governors to explorers to politicians and pioneers ... who played a vital role in our development. We were a people uniquely blessed by God.

Materialistic Humanism

But how times have changed. Much of the Western world has turned to materialistic humanism as its religion and many nations once proudly Christian have deposed God and rejected Christ. Yet, ironically, while the critics and sceptics would have us believe that Christianity is a dying faith that has lost its

relevance in the 21st century, statistics tell a very different story. Following Jesus' crucifixion the Christian Church took 1430 years to grow to 1% of the world's population. It took nearly another 500 years (until 1940) to grow to 3% of the world's population. However, in the past sixty years the number of Bible-believing Christians has reached 11.2% of the world's people. Bible-believing Christianity is growing at 6.9% per year - that is three-and-a-half times faster than the increase in the world's population.

Outselling Secular Songs

In 1900, Africa had only 3% Christians. Now more than 55% are Christian and the Church is growing by an estimated 28,000 new believers every day. In 1900, Latin America had only about 50,000 Bible-believing Christians. Currently, there are an estimated 37 million Christians on that continent. In 1950, China had only one million Christians. Now, there are more than 100 million. Modern Christian records are repeatedly outselling secular songs by the millions in Western countries despite the airplay given to the latter on mainstream radio and television. The JESUS film is now available in 914 languages and more than 5.4 billion people have already seen it, with an estimated 201.2 million making a decision for Christ. And every week about 1200 to 1500 new churches are planted world wide through new conversions.

Western Apathy

So, despite the general apathy to Him in much of the Western world Jesus Christ is alive and active in large parts of the rest of the world. But what is the result of rejecting Him in our own society? Crime is increasing at an alarming rate. Drugs and suicide are claiming an ever-growing number of people. And our morals are going down the drain. It is time to realise we are spiritual beings made in the image of God and that we shall never find true happiness and the real purpose of life until we find them in Him, the Light of the World. He is the One who down through the centuries inspired hope and vision and determination in the hearts of those who loved Him, to make this a better world. It is only Jesus the Son of God living in men's hearts and minds through His Holy Spirit, that will save this world from the darkness that threatens to engulf us in these climactic last days before He returns in triumph to set up His kingdom of Truth, Righteousness and Peace on this earth.

Forget Human Pride

If we are truly serious about the future we must forget any semblance of human pride and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the only answer to this world's woes and our own basic need for a Saviour. There is no other. For though "being in very nature God He made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death... even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of JESUS every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father". Time is running out - fast! Before the judgment of God falls on planet Earth in all its overwhelming awesomeness, it is imperative we put our trust in *THE WORLD-CHANGER*, born at Bethlehem who once died to be our Saviour but now lives to be our glorious King.

PRAYER

Loving Father, Lord God Almighty, hallowed be Your name. As Creator of the universe, You loved the world so much that You gave Your only Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins and who is now seated at Your right hand as Great High Priest interceding for those who love You. Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Source of ALL provisions - spiritual, material, financial and emotional - obtained through grace by means of the Cross. Blessed Holy Spirit, thank You for showing us the victory we have in Christ Jesus who is the Truth to set us free from the bondage of Legalism with its Law, Philosophy with its Humanistic Psychology and Mysticism with its fuzzy thinking. Holy Father, as prayer warriors clothed in full armour, we pull down all strongholds of deception, rebellion and unbelief and bring them to the obedience of Jesus Christ. Sovereign Lord, we commit this message 'The World-Changer' to You, for You are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask according to Your power at work within us. May Your sovereign Will be accomplished by this nation acknowledging that faith in Christ is Your requirement for national blessings; that Your eyes are on the nation whose God is the Lord. Merciful father, we pray too for people all over the world to humble themselves and have their hearts and minds cleansed with the blood of Jesus, the one and only World-Changer and coming King of Glory. Abba Father, we ask all this in the triumphant and gracious name of our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST. Amen

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas Season and a Glorious New Year 2006.

R.A.: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His Holy Name. Amen.

REJOICE & SHARE IN FAITH THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.