



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

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THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

As the doors of a new year swing open we are being confronted by a world that is changing at an alarming rate. The impact of the onward, inexorable march of the development of civilisation and the rapid increase in its population is having a greater and greater effect on the environment. Consequently, never before has mankind shown so much concern for the natural world as now, as it sees its very existence threatened. Rainforests that once seemed impregnable are now succumbing at a terrifying rate to the bulldozer, the saw and the match. Deserts are steadily encroaching on the arable land and salt is devastating large areas of once-productive farmland. Then, to add to this global environmental degradation, the world is experiencing a barrage of natural disasters---such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, typhoons and floods, searing heat and extreme cold---unique in recent history. And *global warming!* Consider the world situation in 2006.

Searing Heat

This past northern summer much of Europe was wracked with searing hot conditions that devastated large swathes of farmland. In the famous water city of Venice and in the Netherlands rising water levels spurred urgent meetings by civic leaders to discuss how to prevent their city and countryside from drowning. In Africa, especially in Kenya, the Horn of Africa and Ethiopia, natural calamities, extreme weather, droughts and floods had disastrous results. Over the last three years water storage along the Congo River basin has dropped significantly and the Zambezi and Nile basins are showing signs of marked drying up. In the New World over 60% of the United States suffered from drought or exceptionally dry conditions---especially California where wildfires destroyed 750,000 acres and 3,600 homes; in Alaska millions of dollars worth of damage was caused to buildings and roads by melting permafrost; and in Hawaii floods caused damage costing millions of dollars.

Ice-Sheet Melting

Ice in the Arctic is diminishing rapidly, causing major problems for the wildlife such as the polar bear; Greenland's massive ice-sheet is melting much faster than expected; and the Antarctic ice-sheet is shrinking in no small measure. In South America, the largest river in the world, the Amazon, was reduced to a mere trickle by an unprecedented drought seriously upsetting the fragile ecosystem of the Amazon forest, pushing animals and plants to extinction and destroying the health of the forest known as the lungs of the earth. In the Andes of Peru, alpacas that have for centuries provided a livelihood for farmers there, perished in cold snaps with the temperature plummeting to -30 degrees Celsius. In Asia, crops in India have failed so continually that farmers are committing suicide; glaciers are melting in the Himalayas and several lakes have burst in Nepal and Bhutan. Worse, the disappearance of the glaciers could dry up major rivers as far away as China, India and Vietnam. Closer to home, New Zealand has suffered floods, snowstorms and harsh weather causing millions of dollars worth of damage last winter. Then, of course, there is Australia. Right across the continent much of our traditionally productive regions have experienced unprecedented drought and fungal diseases, bringing untold heartbreak and hardship to farmers in rural areas in most states. It is the worst drought ever known in Western Australia and nearly so in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. Now, the country is so dry it has become a tinderbox that is starting to burn as bushfires break out all over the place, thousands of hectares of forest are consumed, houses destroyed and lives lost.

The \$64,000 Question

It cannot be denied that the whole planet is being affected by alarming environmental crises that go way beyond anything we have known before. Extraordinary weather is responsible for the loss of millions of lives and the destruction of untold quantities of valuable property. The \$64,000 question is: Why? Why is it all happening now? Is it due to global warming as we are constantly being told by the media, numerous scientists and "greenie" politicians? According to a UN report on climate changes soon to be issued it is claimed that, while human activity is responsible for warming the planet, its effect has been overplayed and should be reduced by 25%. In other words, though the impact of global warming on the environment cannot be ignored, the situation is not as dire as predicted. So, what is really going on? Contrary to popular belief, the bizarre climate changes we are now experiencing are not the basic causes of the environmental disasters. Rather they are the result of gross mismanagement of biblical laws for agriculture and biology, by stripping the soil of its fertility through monoculture, cutting down vast areas of forest and pouring huge amounts of pollutants into the air and waterways. Indeed, by ignoring these God-ordained laws, man has sown to the wind and reaped the whirlwind.

The Beginning of Sorrows

Yet whatever the cause for these natural disasters, they strike us now at this particular stage in the history of the world *BECAUSE THEY WERE PROPHESED!* In response to His disciples' question, "What will be the sign of Your coming and of the end of the age?" JESUS, the Lord of heaven and earth, replied, "There will be famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places. All these are *the beginning of sorrows*." (Matt 24:7-8) Moreover, "there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift your heads, because your redemption draws near." (Luke 21: 25-28.) The present state of flux is the forerunner of the birth of a new age, the coming Kingdom of Christ on earth. The letter to the Romans states, "For we know that the whole creation groans and labours as if in the pangs of childbirth. Not only so, but even we, to whom the Spirit is given as first-fruits of the harvest to come, are groaning inwardly, waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body." (Romans 8:22-23)

Birth Pains

Even now this old earth of ours is beginning to groan as a woman in birth pains, in agony but also in expectation. For Christ who created all things in heaven and on earth, "visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, principalities or powers" is coming back to inaugurate His reign on planet Earth. His return is imminent. The fulfillment of prophecy strongly indicates that this is so. Time is running out fast. Yet God doesn't want anyone to perish. "Behold I stand at the door and knock," Jesus says. "If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him, and he with Me." He knocks at the door of your heart. If you open it to Him, He will be your Saviour and Lord and, by His Spirit in you, you will not fear whatever the future holds, but will wait expectantly, eager for His coming. Indeed, His return will satisfy the longings of both the earth itself and those who know Him spiritually. The anguish and the groaning will cease when Jesus' feet again stand on the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem. From that day forth "the Lord shall be King over all the earth" and the world will be at peace at last. All who are vile and unholy, unbelieving and abominable, all murderers and sorcerers and idolaters and liars will be excluded. But the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their heavenly Father. Will *you* be one of them?

PRAYER

Almighty God of infinite mercy, grace and truth have mercy on us at this time of the beginning of sorrows which is coming on the earth. For Omniscient Father, with repentant hearts we come humbly in full surrender to Your Spirit to love and thank You for being our Covenant-keeping God whom we can trust at all times. We acknowledge that Your inerrant Word has declared that JESUS CHRIST is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation and that in Him we are redeemed through His blood. Blessed Spirit of Life, renew the minds of those who are being deceived by false philosophies, heretical teaching and esoteric beliefs that have beguiled and led many of Your servants into spiritual bondage. In Jesus' mighty name we pull down the principalities and powers of darkness opposed to Your divine truth and set them free. Abba Father, help the spiritually blind to see, the spiritually deaf to hear, and the lost to be drawn into Your coming Kingdom of eternal righteousness, peace and love. We ask all this in Jesus' triumphant name for the glory of God. Amen.

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

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.