



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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LIFT UP YOUR HEADS

Some time ago an American newspaper editor said when speaking of Hollywood, "Can anyone deny that movies are dirtier than ever? But they don't call it dirt. They call it 'realism'. Why do we let them fool us? Why do we nod owlishly when they tell us that filth is merely a daring art form, that licentiousness is really social comment?" To which Billy Graham added, "In the face of legalised pornography, the conscience of America (and Australia) seems to be paralysed. More serious than our fakery in art, literature and pictures is the collapse of our moral standards and the blunting of our capacity as a nation for righteous indignation. We seem to be insensible to the rowdiness of the stage, the glorification of burlesque, the drowning of our youngsters in violence, cynicism and sadism that is piped into the living room and even the nursery via television. We are struck dumb in the presence of bawdy-house literature which fills our best-seller lists with risqué novels that belong in the brothel. We are accused of tampering with the facts. But what facts? These are the facts of immorality, degeneracy and whore-mongering. These are not only American facts. They are facts that should put a blush on the flags of almost every nation under the sun."

Lot and Noah

So much for our modern standards of morality! In this so-called enlightened age, many people who can remember the days when lawlessness and depravity were virtually unknown, know just how Lot of old felt. Lot was oppressed with the filthy conduct of the wicked, his righteous soul being tormented daily as he saw the lawless deeds of those among whom he dwelt. But God delivered him when He destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah for their gross immorality "because the outcry against them had grown so great". Earlier, in the time of Noah, the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great and the earth was filled with violence and corruption. So He sent the Flood and destroyed them all---except Noah and his family. "And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed." (Luke 17: 26-30) These are the words of Jesus, Himself---the coming King. A little later He added, "Shall God not avenge His own chosen ones who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the earth?"

Crazy Weather

Yes, indeed, will He? That depends on each one of us individually and as nations of this world, including Australia. The Scriptures keep warning us that the signs are all around us that God is going to act once more to punish the gross wickedness that is now besetting the earth. Even the crazy weather across the globe this year alone, though explained away by practically everyone of significance as due to global warming, is in reality a warning that God is again going to intervene in

the affairs of mankind. Though few people understand or realise it, today's widespread erratic weather is a fulfilment of biblical prophecy. Yet never in living memory have so many countries witnessed such dramatic and destructive extremes of simultaneous droughts and floods. Weather calamities are striking everywhere from England and Wales to India, America to Australia, China to Europe, Pakistan to Japan. Whether torrential rain or dry heat, floods or fires, weather patterns are completely out of kilter. Not to mention the activity of earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanoes from Japan to Indonesia, Hawaii to Italy, Peru to the Solomons, and terrifying mudslides in the Philippines, China and India.

An Unseen Observer

As in the days of Lot and Noah, God was an Unseen Observer of the rampant evil on the earth, so He is now preparing to act again, this time in the return of His Son JESUS CHRIST. When Jesus was asked what would be the sign of His coming, and of the end of the age, He replied that His return would occur at a time of "wars and rumours of wars...famines, pestilences and earthquakes in various places". All these disasters would be the beginning of sorrows. (Matthew 24: 3-8) Moreover, we are told to expect that "in the last days perilous times will come"; that "men will be lovers of money, abusive, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." How true of our modern world! All things considered, there can be little doubt that we are living in those days just prior to the Day of the Lord. Yet His coming will still be a surprise *and a shock!* "For many will say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape." (1 Thess 5: 3) However, Jesus' followers are not in darkness about His second coming but they live in His light, aware that He comes as a thief in the night. Like the five wise virgins in the parable they are ready when the Bridegroom comes at midnight. The five foolish virgins, however, are caught unawares and unprepared and excluded from the wedding feast. "Watch therefore," Jesus warns, "for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." Be assured and be warned, it is now so close to midnight!

Distress of Nations

Righteous Lot and Noah were rescued when God destroyed the wicked of their day. He promises to do the same today: "Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth." (Revelation 3: 10) That testing will entail great distress of nations not knowing which way to turn, men's hearts failing them at the thought of what is coming upon the world; for even the celestial powers will be shaken. "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." But there is a special word of encouragement for His followers: "Now when you see these things begin to happen, look up and *lift up your heads*, because your redemption draws near". (Luke 21: 27, 28) "Watch, therefore, and pray that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." This message is for you, dear reader. May the widespread immorality, the increasingly erratic weather conditions, the earthquakes, floods, fires and droughts be a warning to prepare for history's greatest event---the return of the King in all His glory.

PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, the Great I AM, hallowed be Your majestic name; as covenant prayer warriors washed in Jesus' precious blood and empowered by Your Holy Spirit, we lift our hearts in praise to You, the only true God. Gracious Father, we thank You that Jesus purchased our salvation on Calvary and is now seated at Your right hand far above all earthly power and dominion. Sovereign Lord, we pray for the leaders and citizens of our nation to heed the message to *Lift up Your Heads* in these last, climactic days before the Lord's return. May they deeply repent of their sins---lust of the flesh, pride, greed and rebellion. Father, forgive them as they surrender their lives to JESUS CHRIST and invite Him to be their Saviour and Lord. Indeed, we thank You, Holy Spirit, for releasing resurrection life to all who repent and receive Your love and power. O blessed Father, may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, that all may accept Your holy Word as the boundless treasure that changes countless lives in this nation and the whole wide world for CHRIST JESUS, for the glory of God. Amen.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of 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.