

CANADA'S NATIONAL BIBLE HOUR - E. C. Manning

“Things Which Must Shortly Come to Pass” Part Four

In recent broadcasts we have been talking about what the Scriptures call ***“Things which must shortly come to pass.”*** We have examined three areas in which there is reason to believe events of far-reaching significance will take place in the not far distant future. This conclusion is based on two premises:

(1) when we see certain situations already developing, simple logic, and knowledge of the laws of cause and effect enable us to predict with a fair degree of accuracy what the ultimate consequences will be.

(2) The prophetic Scriptures give an even more accurate and comprehensive insight into what the future holds in store. No one should deny himself or herself the valuable foreknowledge that can be acquired from these two sources of prophetic insight.

In our opening talks, we discussed two future developments of worldwide importance which ultimately will result from situations already evident. The first is the very real probability that the monetary systems of some nations ultimately will collapse as a result of pyramiding and self-perpetuating debt. Usury, which is an integral part of the system, creates more aggregate debt than the system generates money to repay it. The result is a progressive increase in the aggregate of private, corporate, and public debt which in recent years has reached astronomical levels. Because debt creates more debt in the form of interest, it is not only self-perpetuating, but it pyramids, i.e. the aggregate amount not only grows but grows at an ever increasing rate. The only way the un-payable portion of the aggregate debt represented by interest charges can be liquidated is some form of debt repudiation or other method of cancellation. This is what takes place when **individuals** or **corporations** seek relief from un-payable debt through bankruptcy – something that is happening on an ever-increasing scale. Even more serious, **whole nations** now are perilously close to national bankruptcy and the repudiation of billions of dollars of foreign debt. Debtor nations have been propped up by advances from the International Monetary Fund and by creditor nations lending them still more to pay the interest on what they have already borrowed. But obviously this pyramiding of un-payable debt cannot go on indefinitely without precipitating a major international financial crisis. The economic and social consequences are frightening to contemplate.

Then we looked at another situation that is developing today in the area of human attitudes. This was drawn to our attention by the Apostle Paul in II Timothy 3 to his co-worker Timothy. I hope you will re-read that chapter and see how clearly it describes a wide range of human characteristics and attitudes which have become commonplace in 20th century society. Paul points out that the consequences of these attitudes and characteristics will be what he refers to as the ***“perilous times”*** of the last days. Having regard to how prominent these attitudes and characteristics are today, it is reasonable to conclude that the perilous times which they will produce are among those things which must shortly come to pass. In our last talk, we examined one of the **specific Biblical prophecies concerning that same future time**. We noted the sequence of events foretold in II Thessalonians 2. **The first**, which may take place at any time, is the appearing of Jesus Christ to remove His Church and the Holy spirit from this

world. The removal of the restraining influence of the Church and the Holy Spirit will open the way for the coming anti-Christ to emerge on the world scene. I want to say more about this in a moment, but first, be sure you understand the rest of what Paul foretells in II Thessalonians 2. He points out that, prior to Christ's true Church being removed, Satanic influences will be actively at work, conditioning the human race to accept the leadership of the anti-Christ when he emerges on the world scene. ***"The mystery of iniquity doth already work,"*** Paul says. That is, the evil characteristics in human nature are right now working to undermine faith in and loyalty to God and Jesus Christ and the Bible and in the eternal verities it affirms. The anti-Christ's coming, Paul says, will be ***"After the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish."*** That again is something clearly evident on every side today. Society already is well conditioned not only to tolerate but to embrace godlessness and immorality and dishonesty and violence and all the other evil things which will be personified in the anti-Christ, including the acceptance of a world government of which he will become the supreme, godless head. When you see how far this conditioning process already has advanced, it surely is reasonable to assume that the appearing of Christ to remove His Church and the Holy Spirit must be very near at hand.

May I direct your attention to a passage of Scripture found in the greatest source of foreknowledge in the entire Bible. I refer to the last Book of the New Testament, commonly called the Book of the Revelation. This Book of prophecy is unique in that it was given by God Himself to His Son, Jesus Christ, Who in turn through an angelic emissary conveyed it to the Apostle John while he was in exile in the Isle of Patmos. The Holy Spirit wrote a foreword to this prophetic masterpiece. Let me read what He wrote in Revelation 1:1-3, ***"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John: Who bare record of the Word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that He saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."*** The first eight verses of the Revelation 6:1-8 describe what are referred to as the **Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse**, about whom much has been said and written over the years. I think it would be both interesting and profitable to re-examine what this unusual passage of Scripture tells us about those things which must shortly come to pass. May I read the first two verses of Revelation 6? ***"And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."*** These verses and those that follow foretell in symbolic language four major developments of worldwide importance for the days ahead. They are significant not only because those events will profoundly affect all peoples and nations, but because they give an insight into important changes in public attitudes which must precede these developments and which are in fact the very changes we see taking place at the present time. Time wise, Revelation 6 is speaking of developments on this earth after the church of Christ has been removed, and the future Anti-Christ has emerged on the world scene. In his vision, the Apostle John saw a book sealed with seven seals. The book contained God's indictment against the world that had repudiated Him, rejected and crucified His beloved Son, and chosen to go its own way. When the seals of the book are broken and the book opened, there will take place a series of events embodying divine Judgment on a generation who have

become completely godless and wholly given over to the pursuit of human desires.

Listen carefully to John's description of what he saw when the Lamb opened the first of the seals. ***"I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer."*** A rider on a white horse: a horse when used symbolically in Scripture represents something strong and powerful. White speaks of perfection, goodness. The saints in glory, the Bible says, are arrayed in white robes. In Revelation 19, there is a symbolic description of Christ's personal return to this earth to establish His millennial kingdom. He is depicted as mounted on a white horse: that is, coming with power and majesty in all His divine perfection and holiness. There is a striking similarity between the description of Christ as the rider on the white horse in Revelation 19, and the rider on the white horse John saw in his vision recorded in chapter 6. Either they both symbolize Christ, or else the ride on the white horse in Revelation 6 is a pretender, a counterfeit, a usurper of the role God intends should be Christ's. The context bears out the latter conclusion.

The goal of the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6 is to conquer; he goes forth with that objective. He is given a crown by people willing to vest authority in him and accept him as their leader. He has a bow in his hand: a bow symbolizes both a promise and an instrument of conquest. When Christ comes, Revelation 19 says, He will have on His vesture a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. The rider on the white horse in Revelation 6 has no revealed name. He will conceal his true identity until he succeeds in his crusade to conquer the allegiance of men. All of this clearly suggests that the rider on the white horse in Revelation 6 symbolizes the coming Anti-Christ. He will represent himself as the champion of a new world order of justice and equity and peace. He will denounce the establishment of the past. He will hold out promises of a new world order, a new morality, a new financial and economic system, a new political structure. He will be a world federalist and a crusader for world government, a self-proclaimed champion of the poor and oppressed. He will, the Scriptures says in Daniel 11:21-24, ***"do that which his fathers have not done, nor his father's fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches."*** He will take from those who have and give to those who have not. The whole world will wonder after him and say, ***"Who is like unto him?"*** They will put him at the head of a world government, and only when it is too late will they realize that they have given unlimited power to a ruthless dictator who will require all men to give allegiance to him before they will be permitted even to buy or sell.

All this takes on added significance in the light of what is happening today. The establishment of a world government headed by a socialistic radical world leader will be possible only when the foundations and bulwarks of a free and democratic society have first been destroyed. It will not be possible until the majority of people have lost respect for and confidence in democratic government and our competitive enterprise economic system. It will happen only when the old standards of morality and self-discipline will have been abandoned and our present social and economic and political orders undermined to the point where the public clamor will be death to the entire old order and demand for someone ready to bring into being a whole new collectivist society with a world government under which humanism will flourish and human desires be fulfilled without the restraints imposed by the old convictions and a morality based on a recognition of man's responsibility to a sovereign God.

There was a time when it would have been difficult to imagine such an attitude on the part of mankind ever being possible. But this is no longer so. The disintegration of traditional moral, social, economic, and political structures going on today makes this ultimate outcome not only possible but inevitable unless there is individual and national repentance and a turning back to God on a scale far greater than we have ever seen before. It is possible because there is no limit to God's amazing grace. ***"God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*** But the decision rests with mankind. That is why, week by week through this radio broadcast, we appeal to you and to the people of this nation to turn back to God and His righteousness while you still have the opportunity. Won't you take at least the first step today, by inviting Jesus Christ to be your personal Saviour and sovereign Lord and committing your life unreservedly to Him?: If you will, bow your head wherever you are listening and tell Him so right now as our invitation hymn is sung. May God bless you.