

The Time of Trouble at the End of the Gospel Age

(The discourse below was prepared as the second part of a symposium at the Phoenix convention, Nov. 24, 1978. Bro. Ted Smith gave the discourse in full in his home Ecclesia, Bellingham, Nov. 17, 1978—there was not time enough at the Phoenix convention to use all the material prepared for the discourse.)

In our handling of this subject, we will divide it up into sections and in this way we may get more out of it and perhaps fix a few important points in our memory.

As an introduction to the first section we will ask the question: Where do we find the subject mentioned in the Scriptures in simple and direct form? There are two places: one in the book of Daniel and the other from the lips of our Lord. Let us take Daniel first, chapter 12, verses 1 to 4. Here are a number of happenings, future from Daniel's day all grouped together: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

We are aware of the increase of knowledge, starting before any of us here were born. We have witnessed the "running to and fro," and we have all shared in this running for many years now. We think of airplanes as the vehicles of Daniel's prophecy. And as to "the time of trouble," I don't think any of us have any doubt about that when we consider the condition in the world today—trouble, trouble, on every side, EVERYWHERE! And the intensity of the trouble is increasing every day. The spirit of revolution and anarchy has taken possession of individuals and groups and even nations. We find it easy to accept the thought that we are indeed in the "time of the end"—the end of the old order in preparation for the new order—the Kingdom of God.

Next we turn to the words of our Lord and see what he has to say about a time of trouble. Matt. 24:22 to 22: "But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day; for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world, to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days shall be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened."

Taking careful note of what our Lord said we note that he does not speak of the time of trouble, but uses the words "great tribulation" but the idea is exactly the same—intense

trouble. And Jesus added that a similar tribulation would never be experienced by mankind again. Then our Lord added the ominous words—ominous words in one way, and encouraging in another: “And except those days shall be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect’s sake, those days shall be shortened.” The tribulation would be so intense and deadly that all flesh would be in danger of extinction. But our Lord added the words of encouragement that “for the elect’s sake, those days would be shortened.” We are all familiar with the construction placed on this verse by the Pastor—that by the elect, by The Christ, the tribulation would be terminated. However there is another translation that suggests, the thought that the elect in this case would refer to natural Israel, the elect along natural lines, and that the tribulation would be terminated for the sake of natural Israel’s survival. Both of these thoughts could be true from the standpoint of the Divine Plan.

Now we shall launch into our second section—a consideration of various prophetic scriptures in the New Testament and particularly in the Old Testament, practically all of them in symbolic language. These all refer to the time of trouble, the time of tribulation; and we marvel at the understanding the Pastor had of symbolic language. Most Christian writers take all these things literally and there are a few popular books today that suggest some of the most fantastic ideas based upon a literal interpretation of symbolic language describing the time of trouble. One idea that seems to be popular today is that the Antichrist is to be a literal man who is to appear in the very near future and for awhile all mankind would bow down in submission to this fantastic man. Papacy is entirely ignored!

There are so many symbols used to describe the time in which we are living and the immediate future, that it is difficult to know which one to start with. You are all familiar with the scriptures containing these symbolic statements.

We shall have to start somewhere, so let us begin with Isa. 63:4: “For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.” Let us take particular notice of this word vengeance, as we will consider this in a special way in another section of our study. Another similar text is found in Isa. 34:8, “For it is the day of the Lord’s vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.” In Mal. 4:1 we read: “For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Understanding the Divine Plan as we do, the simple thought is that the proud and the wicked will experience intense trouble and when the trouble is over there will be neither root nor branch left for the proud and the wicked to work through. All their doings will be done away with. The Apostle James said in chapter 5, verses 1 to 6 that the “rich men would weep and howl for their miseries,” because they “heaped treasure for the last days,” and they “kept back the hire of laborers by fraud.”

Joel 2, verses 1 to 11 gives us a description of the time of trouble. V. 2 speaks of the time as “a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness.” And truly it is a day of uncertainty and gloom because mankind doesn’t know what to do about their troubles or how they are going to end. The effect of rebellion and anarchy is described in the 3rd verse as “a fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth.” The 6th verse gives this description: “Before their face the people shall be much pained; all faces shall gather blackness.” The 11th verse describes the trouble this way: “And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army; for his camp is very great; for he is strong that executeth his word; for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?” Amos, 5:20 has this to say: “Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?”

Going back to Isa. 34:1 and 2 we read: “Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people; let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations and his fury upon all their armies; he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.” Yes, Satan’s empire will disintegrate because it is contrary to God’s law—all wickedness must be erased from the earth. Jer. 19:10 reads this way: “But the Lord is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king; at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.” We find a similar thought in Jer. 25:31 to 33: “A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the Lord hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind (we notice a new symbol here—a “whirlwind”—and a severe whirlwind is very destructive) shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.”

We are all pretty familiar with Zeph. 3:8, 9: “Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey; for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger; for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.” This is what the 8th verse has to say; and how glad we are for the happy thought given us in the 9th verse: “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.” Yes, after the trouble is over, then the pure truth will be given to mankind and whosoever will may partake of the water of life freely.

In Luke 21:25 and 26 we read: “And there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring.” Yes, how perplexed mankind are—no one has a solution to the distressing problems of today. And the “sea and the waves” of restless mankind are roaring against the rocks of society. Military dictators attempt to maintain the present order while

guerrillas seek to tear down the present order. There is a constant seesawing back and forth. Portugal and Spain have just recently emerged from a long siege of dictators. New and old African nations are in a state of turmoil.

Isa. 63:1 to 3 contains some interesting language: “Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, traveling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me; for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.” Here we have the idea of “vengeance” again, and we will leave this for consideration in a later section. This reminds us of Rev. 6:9 and 10: “And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held; and they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?” And Rev. 17:6: “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus; and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.” Yes, there has been great injustices in the past and there is a necessity for justice and vengeance. God only is capable of doing what is right in the way of justice and vengeance.

The treading of a winepress is mentioned in Rev. 14:18 and 19: “And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud voice to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.” And Rev. 19:15: “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” This is a very striking and meaningful symbol—“a sharp sword that goeth forth out of the mouth of the king of kings that smites the nations.” The truth on all subjects is the sword that is used of the Lord to conquer the nations and rule them with a rod of iron. We see the beginning of this work—truth along all lines is upsetting old powers and relationships and is also bringing to the light many of the selfish schemes used by those in high authority in government, finance, religion and politics. It is freely admitted that people are losing their respect for those in high authority. Millions of people today don’t vote because they have lost faith in their political leaders.

Isa. 11:4 says this: “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.”

In Daniel 2nd chapter we have an interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of empires and the process used to destroy the fourth empire, Rome. V. 34 says that "a stone was cut out without hands and it smote the great Gentile image upon the feet; and the result was the breaking into pieces of the whole image, and the breaking would be so complete that the wind would carry it all away." And the 44th verse declares that "the God of heaven would set up a kingdom that would break in pieces the Gentile image and consume it." Ever since 1914 we have been witnessing the crushing process and we are certain the great ruling families understand this perfectly, for there has been nothing but a time of trouble and it is all leading to the final episode—the wind of anarchy will carry it all away. There have been two devastation World Wars since 1914 and several smaller wars and the nations are all trembling for fear of a final atomic war to wipe out the human race entirely. Truly as Jesus himself said, unless these days would be shortened or terminated by divine power and wisdom, no flesh would survive. I was impressed with this very point when the first atomic bomb was dropped by the U. S. upon Japan. The trouble is in spasms as prophesied in 1 Thess. 5:1-3: "As travail upon a woman with child." We have been in the very midst of this process ever since 1914.

The trouble "in the end of the world" has been described by Jesus in Matt. 13:49 and 50 as "furnace of fire, accompanied by wailing and gnashing of teeth." Peter uses similar language in 2 Pet. 3:10: "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." How true all this is—this trouble has come in an unexpected manner, likened to the coming of a thief. But the Lord's people are wide awake and know what is going on. Isa. 28:21, 22 speaks of this as a strange act on the part of the Lord. Those whose lives have been wrapped up in national and international affairs of earth, would never imagine such a thing as that the present order would be subject to a consuming trouble. A "strange act" indeed as they would view the matter. And in the same chapter, V. 17 the prophet tells us that the Lord would "lay judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." How significant are these expressions! Stern and inflexible truth, "hail" would destroy all the refuges of lies—no longer would deceit be successful in taking advantage of people; and "waters" of truth and exposure would bring to light the hiding places of deceivers and the selfish. This reminds us of the mood of the public today. I can well remember some literature received several years ago from a prominent politician. He said "people were losing confidence in their government." And this man was a respected leader and not a Communist in any sense.

Another description is given us in Psalm 46:1 to 3: "therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling

thereof.” The first great mountain carried into the midst of the sea was Russia. There is a slightly different picture given us in Psalm 97:5: “the hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord.” Here the hills are “melting,” not carried into the midst of the sea, as in the case of Russia. The Pastor brought to our attention that Great Britain was an illustration of this process. Government leaders were not so inflexible as government leaders in Russia, and the result was a modification of the regulations of government and England has not been carried into the midst of the sea, at least not as yet. But Russia was different—no modification was accepted, only harsh and inflexible rulership, and the result was a complete destruction of the rulers—governmental, financial and religious—a change from a harsh empire to a different form entirely—communism, the “sea.”

Other verses in the same Psalm 97 are interesting—verses 2 to 4: “Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. A fire goeth before him, and burneth up his enemies round about. His lightnings enlightened the world; the earth saw, and trembled.” These last few words are thrilling to think about: God’s “lightnings enlightened the world”—truth along all lines is educating the people, and the result is a “trembling earth.” The 8th verse describes our condition, in contrast with a trembling earth—“Zion heard and was glad.” Yes, how glad we are to know the divine plan—that the Kingdom of God will be able to solve all of earth’s ills and bring in a rule of righteousness and equity and peace for the blessing of all mankind.

There is some wholesome advice found in Zeph. 2:3: “Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger.”

Isaiah gives another interesting description in chapter 24:20 to 22: “The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard.” A drunkard is dizzy and he is unable to keep his balance, and walks in an unsteady manner. A drunkard cannot think straight and doesn’t know where he is going and talks irrationally. We marvel today that the world’s wise men cannot see their way clear to try to change their ways and thus change the course of the world. Apparently very few want to admit that selfishness will not work and so they blind their eyes to the fact that they are standing on the very edge of a dangerous precipice or on the edge of a burning volcano.

Well there are more interesting descriptions of the Time of Trouble, descriptions largely in the form of symbolic statements. We will go on now to our third section—a consideration of the thought that “vengeance” seems to be one of the purposes of the Time of Trouble upon mankind. You remember we started out with Isa. 63:4 which reads as follows: “For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and year of my redeemed is come.” We can do nothing better than quote a few words from the Pastor in Vol. IV, page 19, par. 1: “...All through the Gospel age the Lord has taken cognizance of the controversy, the strife and contention, in nominal Zion. He has observed how his faithful

saints have had to contend for truth and righteousness and even to suffer persecution for righteousness' sake at the hands of those who opposed them in the name of the Lord; and for wise purposes the Lord has hitherto refrained from interfering; but now the day of recompenses has come, and the Lord hath a controversy with them, as it is written, 'For the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying and killing and stealing and committing adultery they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish.' (Hos. 4:1-3.) This prophecy, so true in the fulfilment upon fleshly Israel, is doubly so in its fuller application to nominal spiritual Israel—Christendom." We quote further along, the final short paragraph of the chapter entitled The Day of Vengeance, page 20, par. 3: "Thus the Lord will smite the nations and cause them to know his power, and he will deliver his faithful people who go not with the multitudes in the way of evil, but who wholly follow the Lord their God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. And even this terrible judgment upon the world, as nations, thus dashing them to pieces as a potter's vessel, will prove a valuable lesson to them when they come forth to an individual judgment under the Millennial reign of Christ. Thus, in his wrath, the Lord will remember mercy."

The thought of recompense and vengeance is given to us in connection with the opening of the 5th seal of Rev. 6:9 to 11: "And when he had opened the 5th seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held; and they cried with a loud voice, saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?' And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

We find an interesting paragraph on Reprint page 1702, col. 2, par. 3: "And as a punishment equivalent to all other punishments combined for shedding of righteous blood was exacted of the closing generation of typical Israel, just so it will be with the closing generation of this Gospel age—the present generation. The knowledge and advantages every way of the present generation, above those of all previous generations, make its responsibility correspondingly great; and its penalty for hardness of heart, unreadiness to receive the Lord and his kingdom, and resistance of the truth, now shining out upon every side as never before, is to be equivalent to the combined judgment upon all who have despised, rejected and persecuted God's people throughout the age. And thus we read that when Babylon's fall is complete, after God's people, heeding his voice, have come out of her, then, in her overthrow will be found—'the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.' (Rev. 18:24) No wonder, then, that her fall will mean a great 'time of trouble.'"

Another interesting symbol that is somewhat related is found in Rev. 16:10: “And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain.” There has been a lot of “gnawing of tongues” for many years now on the part of Papacy. Certain teachings, “tongues” of the past have been causing a great deal of trouble and there is much strife over these teachings. It is an interesting fact that much of the strife over Papacy’s teachings has come from her own people. We remember not so long ago that some of the Catholic saints of the past that were revered and worshipped have been repudiated by Papacy as no longer entitled to be prayed to. Also the teaching of celibacy of the priesthood has been the subject of attack. And Papacy no longer uses harsh words against Protestants as during the dark ages, but speaks of Protestants as our “separated brethren.” Quite a come down indeed! And all of these things, are taking place in a gradual manner. It is essential to our stability and peace of mind that we take the fulfillment of these prophecies just as they come, in the time the Lord has chosen—gradual. If we do not do this we will get excited and think we have to revise our thinking on prophecy and figure out some fulfillment that corresponds to some parallel that appeals to us strongly.

We found an interesting comment from the Pastor’s pen regarding the trouble upon the nominal church—trouble that is in the form of retribution for unfaithfulness. “...and since the nominal church has frittered away nearly 2,000 years and accomplished worse than nothing in the direction of the conversion of the world, she must reap the reward of her doings—the punishment due her mis-arranged systems.” (Reprint page 1122, col. 2, par. 7.)

Here is another remark that is interesting: “We believe that the nominal Church clergy and leaders will particularly suffer in the universal overthrow of the present order near at hand because they actively opposed the truth; some because they kept quiet.” (R5750:2-top.)

We will proceed now to the fourth section of this study. In looking up what we could find in the Reprints on the Time of Trouble, we ran across a few conservative statements of the Pastor that we thought were very important for us to consider carefully, so we can have the same spirit. Personally, I take my cues from the Pastor as to the spirit we should have.

I feel there was no one more qualified to express opinions on prophecy than the Pastor. As to the teachings of the Divine plan, the Pastor spoke with great assurance and dogmatically. And on prophecy there is much that we can feel assured of—that we are on the right track. For instance I think we can feel assured of our Lord’s presence since 1874. I think we can feel assured that the Times of Restitution began in 1874. I think we can feel assured that the Jubilee Trumpet started to blow in 1874. I think we can feel assured that the Kingdom and the Day of Judgment started in 1874. I believe we can feel

confident of 1914 as the End of the Times of the Gentiles. There are other details that we can feel assured of reasonably.

But it is a fact that the Pastor, in expressing opinions used language that showed he was not positive on some things; and this is the proper attitude to take, and does not indicate uncertainty of our belief in the divine plan nor uncertainty on prophetic themes that we have reasonable proof of. For instance he said: "...some may be inclined to anticipate too much, too speedily." This was written as early as January, 1885, Reprint 707, par. 1. In September (15th), 1913 he said that "It would be very unwise for us to speculate on anything not revealed in the Bible." (Reprint 5317:2-5.) May 1, 1914 he wrote: "We had expected that if the Gentile Times should end with the present year, this would surely mean that all the bride class would participate in the First Resurrection change from earthly conditions to heavenly conditions before the end of the present year. Although this was not stated positively, it was pointed out to be the logical conclusion. Now it does not look so. We see Scriptures which are not yet fulfilled..." (R5449-3.) Then on down to the fifth paragraph he wrote: "As for the Editor, he will be just as pleased to have the Lord's will done in the one way as in the other. Indeed, if allowed to have a voice in the deciding of the matter, we would feel afraid to exercise such a privilege." This is under the subheading We Fulfill Our Promise, and there is more under this subheading that is worthy of our careful consideration. In the article entitled Resume of the Ending of the Times of the Gentiles, dated Oct. 15, 1913 the Pastor remarked: "The new king will not set up his kingdom in a minute or an hour or a day." (R5382:2 last par.) In the same article he said: "But it is true that we thought that the 'fire would come down from heaven' much more rapidly than it has come." (5329-5.) And we are witnessing and experiencing the fact that the burning is still going on, over 64 years beyond 1914. Near the end of the article (R5329:2-2) he said this: "These conditions have been coming gradually—and are coming on time—though not so rapidly as we were expecting. God's movements are usually very slow." We found an interesting remark about the U.S. (R5854:2-1) dated Feb. 15, 1916: "America's first share of the trouble may be in its secondary stage, that is, revolution; or in its third stage, anarchy. Notwithstanding our blessings and great prosperity in many ways, there is a spirit of discontent—a selfish grasping for future blessings and an impatience at their delay." (R5854:2-1.) We can say AMEN to this! We call your special attention to an article which appeared in the same Tower with the announcement of the Pastor's death. It is on Reprint page 5989 and entitled "THE EARTH TREMBLED"—AND FELL.

In the fifth section of our study we will bring to your attention a few excerpts from secular writers. They are really thrilling because they confirm our viewpoint on prophecy. It is evident that certain serious writers are deeply concerned about the condition of mankind and world conditions.

The first one we have is in the form of a cartoon. It is entitled DAWN COMES UP LIKE THUNDER. This is dated July 20, 1954 from the newspaper The Christian Science Monitor. It shows a picture of the Dawn and an Asiatic standing with his back to the sun. From this Asiatic is an extended and Gigantic shadow entitled NATIONALISM. Yes, Dawn is coming up “Like Thunder!”

The second clipping is from the same newspaper and dated Oct. 26, 1955. It is very short and entitled “Earl Warren Warns Against Totalitarianism.” He said “The problem haunts the work of all our courts these days.”

The third clipping is also from the same newspaper and is dated April 7, 1951 and is headed: ASIA: AREA OF RESTLESS MILLIONS. How true this is!—“Restless Millions.” And more millions have been added who reside in Africa, especially South Africa.

Another clipping from the same newspaper is dated April 25, 1952 and is headed HUMANITY IN REVOLT. Yes, the Jubilee Trumpet has sounded and the result is that all “Humanity Is in Revolt.”

The fifth clipping was sent to me by Sister Eidson and is from the Vancouver Sun and dated about the middle of June, 1956, and is headed “NO DIKING OF ASIA TORRENT, SUKARNO SAYS.” President Sukarno of Indonesia spoke to the Canadian Parliament and said that none should “underestimate the force of the nationalist ‘torrent’ pouring over Asia and Africa.” “It is a mighty torrent,” he said, and “we are in the midst of an historical change which is vital for the whole world of mankind.” “It is a national torrent and that torrent is not directed against anyone or any nation. It is a torrent whose object is the greater freedom, the greater liberation of mankind.” How is that for the blowing of the Jubilee Trumpet?!

Next we have an item from the N.Y. Sunday Times, dated Nov. 26, 1961. Certain responsible men were warning people not to put their trust in fall-out shelters. Dr. Laughlin, a physicist said “So-called fall-out shelters would give no protection from the fire storm which very likely would be created, or from the blast effects. Fall-out shelters would possibly be useful if you could have assurance that you were hundreds of miles away from the blast center.”

There was an ad in the N.Y. Sunday Times, dated Mar. 30, 1969 entitled OVERKILL. This ad was paid for by parents of students in the University of Chicago. These students had been expelled because of dissent to the firing of a radical woman teacher. At the end of the ad, the parents said this—“There must be dissent if a nation is to live free.” The word OVERKILL had been used previously to indicate the vast accumulation of bombs

that would destroy all mankind several times over. Truly mankind is in a terribly agitated state of mind, and no wonder!

Another item was in the N.Y. Sunday Times, dated Sept. 27, 1970 and was on the subject of Campus Unrest over the whole nation. USUALLY IT IS THE EDUCATED WHO SHOW THE FIRST SIGNS OF UNREST!

Here is one that is a striking fulfillment of prophecy—instead of beating their swords into plowshares, they are beating their plowshares into swords. This is from the N.Y. Times, dated Sunday, July 14, 1974. It is headed: FOR SALE: ARMS AND MORE ARMS. “The United States, long the world’s number One arms merchant, has lengthened its lead with \$8.5-billion in sales in the past fiscal year, almost double the figure for the previous 12-month period.”

The last clipping we call to your attention is dated April 20, 1974 and is entitled THE BODYGUARD BUSINESS IS BOOMING. The first paragraph reads “The rich and the famous, the high and the mighty, are pressing the panic button and standing in line at leading security agencies to employ protectors... Pinkerton’s, Inc., and Burns International Services, Inc. are being flooded with inquiries about personal protection. Says a Burns spokesman: ‘VIP’S, the heads of banks and oil companies, are fearful that they and members of their families are potential targets of kidnapers, extortionists and political extremists who would hold them hostage against millions in ransom. Every man’s hand against his neighbor seems to be the order of the day.’” And where is our protection?—Where is our place of safety and peace? We have knowledge and have made a covenant with the Lord by sacrifice and we have the right to apply Psalm 91:1 and 2 to ourselves: “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in him will I trust.”

We have been a subscriber to the bi-monthly paper from Washington, D. C. entitled THE WASHINGTON SPECTATOR. The editor is Tristram Coffin a reporter who does not hesitate to be a “whistle blower.” We have picked out a few items all from the year 1978.

This one dated Nov. 1, 1978—we quote from the first paragraph: “This is a story for our time, of how a President and his closest adviser came through a series of ordeals and found sanity. The account is personal, based on my own remembrance, and suddenly came into focus one day [now notice these words] as I stared out on an unruly sea and thought of our restless world.” In the next paragraph he said: “Presidents—and indeed most politicians—live much of their time in a world of fantasy.” “In a world of fantasy”—if this is true, is it any wonder the world of reality is in trouble?

The next one is dated October 1. The first three paragraphs read: “In the middle of a miserable Washington summer, the House of Representatives took a step that still puzzles and troubles Congress-watchers. One observer likens it to children who, unaccountably, abandon their innocent play and dash off into senseless violence.

“After only an hours debate, the House voted 218 to 156 to commit the U.S., in effect, to at least \$6.5 billion for a nuclear aircraft carrier and escort ships which the President and Secretary of Defense said were not needed, which the prestigious Appropriations Committee chairman pleaded against, and on which the Navy is divided.

“This is a symbol of a great moral dilemma that hangs over America like a dark storm cloud and is avoided by the political establishment. This is the Congress that voted overwhelmingly—the House vote was 339 to 60—for the largest military spending program in history: \$119.2 billion...”

The next one is dated August 15, 1978 and is a quote from President Eisenhower on the Demise of War. This was from a letter written by the President in 1956. “We are rapidly getting to the point that no war can be won. War implies a contest; when you get to the point that...the outlook comes close to destruction of the enemy and suicide for ourselves...then arguments as to the exact amount of available strength as compared to somebody else’s are no longer the vital issues.

“When we get to the point, as we one day will, that both sides know that in any outbreak of general hostilities...destruction will be both reciprocal and complete, possibly we will have sense enough to meet at the conference table with the understanding that the era of armaments has ended, and the human race must conform its actions to this truth or die.”

At the date July 1, 1978 we find the first article entitled INTO THE TORMENT OF AFRICA. How significant is this title!—“Into the Torment of Africa!”

May 1, 1978, on page 2 is this from the Miami News: “In a world swelling with population and fighting poverty, disease, famine and all kinds of life-shortening processes, it is sheer insanity that the nations of the world are squandering an estimated \$330 billions annually for military hardware. Imagine that 25% of the world’s scientific manpower is engaged in military pursuits and that 40% of all research and development is geared to military purposes. And this country is right in the thick of this military madness, catering to an annual defense budget that has reached the \$116 billion mark and is aimed at a \$130 billion plateau, and is still acting as the chief death merchant through annual arms exports of \$12 billion...”

March 15, 1978 starts out with an article entitled “THE FIRST DUTY OF SOCIETY IS JUSTICE.” One of the authors of the preamble to the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, wrote that!

There was THE U.S. NEWS WASHINGTON LETTER, dated Friday, Feb. 10, 1978 and the first paragraph had these words: “A great political power struggle is boiling behind the scenes. It involves lobbyists for Big Business and Big Labor—the giants.” Yes, there shall be “giants in those days!!”

The last one we have is dated Jan. 1, 1978 and the first article was entitled WHO RUNS YOUR GOVERNMENT? That is a question that is asked persistently today—who is running the government?! And the true answer is very disturbing to thinking people today, and people are thinking today as never before because the Jubilee Trumpet is blowing loud and long and persistently!