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WATCH AND PRAY

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Cor. 14:8).

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

To say that we live in a complicated world is an understatement. The current events of our time show that confusion abounds all over the globe even as humanity continuously grapples with calamity and crises.

When a global pandemic was declared in March of 2020, most people regarded it as an extraordinary and rare event. In fact, the Covid-19 pandemic was said to be a "once in a hundred years event."

However, a piece published in August 2022 by the British newspaper known as *The Times* argues that outbreaks of deadly diseases are becoming more frequent. "The eruption of ebola, Sars, Mers, Zika, and now monkeypox are abundant evidence that what was true if you look back in time is no longer valid if you look forward," the piece states.

The article later goes on to say, "The increasing rate at which novel pathogens are infecting humans means the probability of new pandemics will grow threefold in the next few decades. It is no longer reasonable, therefore, to regard a pandemic as a once-in-a-

century risk. The next one will be along much faster than that unless we change our ways."

The article further discusses an assortment of crises including inflation, the war in Ukraine, exorbitant energy costs, and devastating drought while suggesting these problems will not be resolved any time soon. "Now, we have to get used to the idea that normal is not coming back," the author writes.

The general theme of the above-mentioned article is that the world is not only fraught with danger, but is growing measurably worse. While the author of the article might not realize it, this premise lines up perfectly with what God's Word tells us about the tumultuous days leading up to the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In Luke 21:9, Jesus tells us there would be "wars and commotions." However, these problems would only be the first of many to imperil our world.

Indeed, humanity has gravitated toward war for thousands of years. In 2003, the *New York Times* reported that over the past 3 400 years, the world's population has only been at peace for 268 of them. At least 108 million people were killed in wars during the twentieth century. Thus, war in itself is not a sign of the end, because war is a byproduct of sin, and as long as there is sin in the world, there will be wars.

Nevertheless, Jesus gave us other signs to watch for that indicate the world is growing



closer to its final end. Luke 21:10-11 tells us, "Then said He unto them, 'Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And great earthquakes shall be in diverse places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven.'"

Jesus further warns in verses 25-27, "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; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

In this era of pandemics, megadroughts, heat waves, massive wildfires, flooding, economic uncertainty, and widespread violence, there's absolutely no question that we see "distress of nations with perplexity" and

"fearful sights." It is also quite interesting that Jesus warned of "men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth."

Here let it be noted that researchers from Texas Tech University published research in August 2022 which indicates that watching and reading too much news can make people mentally and physically sick. Those who check the news frequently often suffer "significantly greater physical ill-being," the research finds.

When Daniel the prophet was shown a vision of the end times in Daniel, chapter 8, we are told that he was so distressed by what he saw that he fainted and was "sick certain days" (Daniel 8:27).

The events of this age are very heavy and at times difficult to bear, but ignoring what is happening in the world isn't a viable solution. At the con-

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Die Donkies is Weg!

Israel wou 'n koning hê! Dit sou die eerste keer in hul geskiedenis wees. Het hulle God verwerp? Was die profeet Samuel nie genoeg nie? Sou dit 'n goeie of 'n slegte verwikkeling wees?

Kom ons oorweeg Israel se voorafgaande geskiedenis. Eers was dit die patriargale periode (Abraham, Isak en Jakob). Daarna die verblyf in Egipte. Na die volk se uittoeg uit Egipte breek die periode onder Moses en Josua se leierskap aan. Daarna volg die tydperk van die Rigters en daarna breek die tyderk van die konings (die monargie) en die profete aan, want die volk het gesê hulle wil 'n koning hê soos al die ander volke rondom hulle.

Samuel was baie ontsteld hieroor! Toe hy daarvoor gebid het, het God vir hom gesê dat dit nie vir hóm is wat hulle verwerp het nie, maar vir GóD wat hulle uit Egipteland uitgelei en aldeur vir hulle gesorg het. Maar Samuel moes nou doen wat hulle vra. Hy moes egter die regte van die koning aan hulle voorhou. Want hý sou die koning en heerser wees. Hy kon allerhande eise aan hulle stel. Die volk sou in sý diens staan. Nét die beste sou hom toekom: slawe, slavinne, werkers, arbeiders, dienaars, soldate, goud, silwer, en vele meer... Hulle moes hóm dien en hy sou oor hulle héers!

Die aangewese koning was toe Saul. Maar wie was hierdie Saul? Aanvanklik was daar 'n mooi ligkant: Saul is deur God Self uitverkies om koning van Israel te wees. Hy was jonk en aantreklik; trouens, onder die hele volk was daar niemand so skoon en mooi van aansien soos hy nie. Hy het kop en skouers bó die volk uitgestaan. Hy het 'n pragtige koninklike beeld geslaan. Vroeg in sy jong lewe as koning (30 jaar oud), is hy bewonder en gerespekteer deur die volk.

Hy het ongeveer 42 jaar regeer, rondom 1 000 v.C. Hy was die jongste seun van Kis uit die stam van Benjamin. Hy was nederig, 'n gewone skaapwagtertjie, en het ook na sy vader se donkies omgesien. Toe ontmoet hy vir Samuel, die profeet en Rigter van die volk wat al oud geword het en nie meer sy gewone pligte kon nakom nie.

Samuel het hóm in sy krisis aangetref terwyl hy op soek was na sy vader se donkies. Die velde het oopgelê, geen grensdrade nie, en hulle donkies was weg! Dit was hulle vervoermiddel, hulle pak-esels, waarvan hulle afhanklik was vir hulle lewensbestaan! Dit is so goed om te sê: "My kar is gesteel!" Of: "My vragmotor of bakkie waarmee ek my brood verdien, is weg, of stukkend!" Toe loop Saul met die voet om na hulle te gaan soek. En so gebeur dit dat hy by Samuel uitkom. **God stap in sy krisis in om uitkoms te gee.** "Die donkies is gevind en nou is jou pa oor jou bekommerd," sê Samuel vir hom. Daar was gedurende daardie jare geen manier om Saul op te spoor nie, geen briefwisseling, telefoon of selfoon soos ons dit vandag ken nie. Daarom kon Samuel hom gerusstel.

Ons het genoem dat Saul gering was in sy eie oë. Samuel spreek egter God se seën oor hom uit en deel hom mee wat hy alles vir God moes doen. Maar Saul reageer só: "Is ek nie 'n Benjaminiet, uit een van die kleinste van die stamme van Israel, en my geslag die geringste uit al die geslagte van die stam van Benjamin nie? Waarom spreek u dan so met my?" (1 Sam. 9:21).

Hierdie nederigheid was 'n goeie eienskap van Saul. Ons sien dat Saul deur sy hele lewe sy grootste suksesse gehad het wanneer hy na God opgesien en Hom gehoorsaam het. Hy het suksesvol oorlog gevoer teen die Ammoniete, Edomiete, Moabiete en die Filistyne. Maar toe slaan Satan op hom toe en hy oortree God se Wet en Sy bevel. Hy tree op na eie goeddunke en wysheid. In plaas van nederigheid, selfverheffing! Jaloesie teenoor Dawid na sy sege oor Goliath. Daarom het hy probeer om hom dood te maak. Hy het 'n harde hart gekry, afgestomp teenoor God, en hy het geestelik blind geword.

Saul het inderdaad gróóť geword in sy eie oë. Op 'n dag moes hy in oorlog uittrek teen Amalek soos wat God hom beveel het. Hy en die hele volk saam moes hierdie volk uitwis en hulle koning Agag "met die banvloek tref," insluitend al hulle diere en al hulle vee. Hy was egter ongehoorsaam aan



God en het van die vee gespaar asook hulle koning. Hy was weer eens eiesinnig en wederstrewig.

Toe sê Samuel vir hom: "Het die **HERE** behae in brandoffers en slagoffers soos in gehoorsaamheid aan die Stem van die **HERE**? **Kyk, om gehoorsaam te wees is beter as slagoffer, om te luister beter as die vet van ramme.** Want wederstrewigheid is 'n sonde van waarsêery, en eiesinnigheid is afgodery en beeldediens. Omdat jy die woord van die **HERE** verwerp het, het Hy jou as koning verwerp" (1 Sam. 15:22-23). Onthou, God het voorheen vir hom gesê dat hy hom in sy nederige posisie gevind het en hom verhef het om te regeer oor al die twaalf stamme van Israel, maar nou het hy afgewyk van hierdie goeie weg.

Nou hoekom het God hom nie gehelp nie? Hy sou, maar Saul het Hom nie gevra nie! Sien, God gee aan elke mens 'n eie wil. Met ons eie wil sondig ons en is ons persoonlik aanspreeklik; of met ons eie wil keer ons tot God en vra Hom om ons te red, leiding te gee en te help. Dit bly ons keuse! God het niemand 'n zombie gemaak nie. As Saul maar net gekies het om klein en nederig te bly. **Laat ons waaksaam wees, want hierdie versoeking kan ons elkeen tref!**

Samuel het ook in die begin van hulle ontmoeting vir hom gesê, toe hy hom as koning gesalf het, dat hy sy dienaar voor hom moes uitstuur: "...**maar staan jy eers stil dat ek jou die Woord van die HERE kan laat hoor!**" Hierdie opdrag was baie belangrik en kan as voorbeeld vir ons dien! As ons in ons beproewinge en versoekinge éérs stilstaan om te hoor wat

God sê, en dán doen wat Hy sê, sal ons veilig wees! Ook veral nádat Hy tyd met ons spandeer in ons beproewing. Ons moet n.a.v. Saul se voorbeeld leer dat ons moet luister en doen. Maar as ons nie luister en doen nie, word dit 'n verkeerde lewenstyl wat wegneig van God. En dan verval ons in die hande van Satan! Maar tog, as dit gebeur, is God se Hand van genade steeds oop vir ons, want die Woord sê: "Hy vergeef menigvuldig" en "aan Sy liefde is daar geen einde nie!"

Kyk maar na die lewe van Dawid wat Saul opgevolg het. Was sy lewe volmaak? Nee! Hy het ook BAIE foute gemaak en gesondig, maar elke keer weer met trane van berou teruggekeer na God toe. God het gesê: "En nadat Hy hom (Saul) afgesit het, het Hy Dawid vir hulle verhef as koning, van wie Hy ook gesê en getuig het: Ek het Dawid, die seun van Isai, gevind, 'n man na my hart, wat al My welbehae sal doen" (Hand.13:22).

Laat óns Dawid se voorbeeld volg, al struikel ons dikwels, en Saul s'n nie. 'n Groot les! Keer ALTYD weer terug na God toe. Sy deur staan áltyd vir jou oop. Soos die arms van die vader vir die verlore seun! Soos Saul en ook Dawid gesalf is vir elkeen se besondere roeping, het God ook elke kind van Hom gesalf vir sy roeping binne die Koninkryk van God. Het jy al jóú roeping gevind?

God het gesê: "Gaan die hele wêreld in en verkondig die Evangelie." Hoe pas ook jy hierin? As jy weggedwaal het, keer terug na God en wandel in jou roeping en ervaar Sy salwing op jou lewe!

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GOD COMES TO US

Have you ever noticed how in the Scriptures men are always going up into the mountains to commune with the Lord? Yet in the Scriptures we hardly ever hear of women going to the mountains.

But we know why. Right?

Because the women were too busy keeping life going; they couldn't abandon babies, meals, homes, fires, gardens, and a thousand responsibilities to make the climb into the mountains!

I was talking to a friend the other day, saying that as a modern woman I feel like I'm never "free" enough from my responsibilities,

never in a quiet enough space I want with God.

Her response floored me! "That is why God comes to women. Men have to climb the mountain to meet God, but God comes to women wherever they are."

I have been pondering her words for weeks and have searched the Scriptures to see that what she said is true. God does indeed come to women where they are, when they are doing their ordinary, everyday work.

He meets them at the wells where they draw water for their families, in their homes, in their kitchens, in their gardens. He comes to them as they sit beside sickbeds,

as they give birth, care for the elderly, and perform necessary mourning and burial rites.

Even at the empty tomb, Mary was the first to witness Christ's resurrection. She was there because she was doing the womanly chore of properly preparing Christ's body for burial. In these seemingly mundane and ordinary tasks, these women of the Scriptures found themselves face to face with divinity.

So, if like me, you ever start to bemoan the fact that you don't have as much time to spend in the mountains with God as you would like, remember, God comes to women! He knows where we are and the burdens we carry. He sees



us, and if we open our eyes and our hearts, we will see Him, even in the most ordinary places and in the most ordinary things!

He lives. And He's using a time such as this to speak to women around the world!

[Heather F].

PHALA E KGOLO YA MODIMO (THE GREAT TRUMPET OF THE LORD)

DITEMANA

O tla roma baengele ba gagwe ka tumo e kgolo ya diphala, ba tla phutha batlhaolwi ba gagwe kwa ntlheng tse nne, go tswa sekhutlong sengwe sa magodimo go ya kwa go se sengwe... Ka ga letsatsi leo le nako eo ga go itse ope, le fa e le baengele ba magodimo le e seng Morwa, fa e se Rara a le esi... Ka moo, phaphamang! Gonne ga lo itse letsatsi le Morena wa lona o tla tlang ka lone... Ka moo, le lona, nnang lo iketleeditse; gonne Morwa-Motho o tla tla ka nako e lo sa e gopoleng (Matheo 24:31, 36, 42, 44; Buisa Matheo 24 yotlhe). Ka ga tsogo ya baswi le go tla gape ga Morena.

Bakaulengwe, ga re rate gore lo tlhoke go itse ka ga bone ba ba robetseng, gore lo se hutsafale jaaka ba bangwe ba ba se nang tsholofelo; gonne fa re dumela gore Jesu o ne a swa, a ba a tsoga, le bone ba ba swetseng mo go Jesu, Modimo o tla ba isa nae. Gonne se re se lo bolelelang ka Lefoko la Morena ke se: Rona ba re phelang, ba re salelang go tla ga Morena, ga re kitla re raka ba ba robetseng. Gonne Morena ka esi o tla fologa kwa legodimong ka mokgosi le ka lentswe la moengele yo mogolo le ka phala ya Modimo, mme baswi ba ba swetseng mo go Keresete ba tla tsoga pele. Morago ga moo rona ba re setseng re sa ntse re tshela re tla tsholelediwa kwa loaping ka maru mmogo le bone go ya go kgaatlhantsha Morena. Mme jalo re tla nna le Morena ka gale.

Gomotsanyang he ka mafoko ao (1 BATHESALONIKA 4:13-18).

DIKAKANYO

Ka ditemana le kgaolo e re batla go gopola bana ba batlhano ba ba ileng ba tlhokofala kwa sekolong sa Vyfhoek mo toropong ya Potchefstroom. Go ile ga na le kotsi e e botlhoko fa go ne ga thubega leotwana la lori mme la thula mme la bolaya bana ba batlhano. Ditemana tse le thero e e ne e le thero ya bofelo e ba e utlwileng kwa kopanong ya bofelo kwa sekolong mme e nnile le thero ka nako ya go ba tshwarela segopotso. A le rona re ithute go tswa mo ditemaneng tse jaaka bana ba Vyfhoek ba ile ba ithuta.

Go na le sefela sa Seesimane se se opelang ka ga phala e kgolo ya Morena e e tlileng go lela fa Jesu a tla ka maru go tla go tsaya bana ba gagwe.

WHEN THE TRUMPET OF THE LORD SHALL SOUND

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more, And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair; When the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore, And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there...

REETSAFA:

<https://youtu.be/CRwD3iUkUs8>

KGOTSAFA:

<https://youtu.be/CaiKE0Lax-g>

Sefela sa re fa phala ya ga Jesu e lela le nna ke tlabo ke le teng fa

maina a bidiwa. Ditemana tse re di nopotseng di ruta gore Jesu o tla leetsisa baengele phala e kgolo e e tla itsisa ka ga nako ya gore bana ba Modimo ba tle go tsewa mme ba ye kwa legodimong. E rile ka nako e Jesu a tlhatlhogetseng kwa legodimong ka letsatsi la tlhatloso, Ene o rile gore o ya go baakanyetsa ba ba mo amogetseng, ba ba dumelang mo go Ene go nna Mopholosi wa bone. Morago ga go ba baakanyetsa Jesu o tla tla go tsaya bana ba gago. Letsatsi la gore a tle ga le itsiwe ke ope mme ga re itse gore ke leng. Fa re buisa Matheo 24 le ditemana tse dingwe mme re lebelela ditiragalo tsa mo lefatsheng re bona gore go tla ga Jesu go gaufi. A wena o tlabo o le koo fa phala e kgolo e lela mme go badiwa maina ka legodimong. Fa o ntsha mowa mme o sa tlhole o na le bokgoni jwa go tlhophatshono ya gago e tlabo e fetile. Tlhophatshono gone jaanong. Fela jaaka o sa itse letsatsi la Morena gore ke leng le letsatsi la gago la bofelo ke leng.

THAPELO

Morena Jesu Keresete, ka kopo mpoloke. Ke a go ikanya gompieno jaaka Mmoloki wa me mo maleong a me. Ke a leboga fa o sule ka ntlha ya me ebile botshelo jo bo senang bokhutlo ke mpho. Jaaka ngwana wa Gago, jaanong botshelo ba me bo mo diatleng tsa Gago. Ke neela botshelo ba me go ikaya mo go wena go tloga jaanong. Ka Leina la Jesu Keresete. Amen.



Johan Zerwick
Sêlê ke 083 458 3837

Sesupo: Saene leina la gago

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks,
eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of Earth shall gather over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

When the roll is called up yonder, x3
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

On that bright and cloudless morning when the dead in Christ shall rise,
And the glory of His resurrection share;
When His chosen ones shall gather to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

Let us labour for the Master from the dawn till setting sun;
Let us talk of all His wondrous love and care.
Then when all of life is over and our work on Earth is done,
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

WATCH AND PRAY

Continued from p. 1
clusion of Luke 21, Jesus admonishes His people to pay attention to what is happening around them. Luke 21:36 declares, *“Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

Thus, we see that it is not just enough to watch, but we must also pray. Through prayer we form a bond and establish a connection to God in Heaven.

With that connection we find the strength to endure, and as it tells us in Matthew 24:13, *“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”*
In closing, I urge every reader

to put on the whole armour of God as we continue to watch and pray. Ephesians 6:13-18 offers these inspiring words, *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and*



supplication for all saints.”
If you have not yet repented of your sins and dedicated your life to God, I urge you to do so now! “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).
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UNPRECEDENTED DROUGHT AND FLOODING

We have never seen anything like this before! There are some parts of the globe that are being absolutely devastated by endless drought, and there are other parts of the globe that are being absolutely devastated by relentless flooding. So if you happen to live some place where weather patterns are still behaving normally, you should consider yourself to be incredibly blessed.

In all my years, I have never seen extreme conditions in so many areas of the world simultaneously. This is a major red flag, but unfortunately the vast majority of the general population is still not paying attention.

Over the past few months, I have written article after article about the droughts that we are currently witnessing all over the planet. Right now, Europe is experiencing the worst drought that it has gone through in at least 500 years, and the rivers are getting so low that “hunger stones” are now being revealed for the first time in centuries...

On this front, too, Europe's rivers are turning up bleak

omens - the receding waters in parts of central Europe have revealed old “hunger stones,” markers placed along riverbeds that locals centuries prior left as guides to earlier droughts. One stone that emerged out of the Elbe read: “When this goes under, life will become more colourful again.”

Here in the United States, the western half of the nation is suffering through the worst multi-year megadrought that the region has experienced in 1 200 years, and this is causing all sorts of very serious problems... Nearly 75% of California is in either extreme or exceptional drought, considered worse than severe, according to the *US Drought Monitor*. It's so bad that scientists say the ongoing drought in the western United States marks the region's driest 22-year stretch in more than 1 200 years. The conditions have affected a broad swath of regions and industries.

California wells are going dry. Farmers are either paying a premium for water or letting their fields sit empty. And there is growing concern that water exports from the Colorado

River could come to a halt.
Not to be outdone, China is currently being hit by the worst drought that it has seen in all of recorded history... China is in the grips of its worst drought on record, which has dried up parts of the Yangtze River and impacted swaths of the country's industrial sector.

But did you know that at the same time we are also witnessing some of the worst flooding in modern history? In Pakistan, it has been raining and raining and raining...

“Much of central and northern Pakistan has had 200-600% of normal rainfall with over 1 000% of normal rainfall in southern Pakistan,” Nicholls said, adding that wet weather is common in a La Niña pattern. “Karachi, Pakistan, had 1 397% of normal rainfall in July - 248 mm of rain versus a normal rainfall of 18 mm.

“For the season, rainfall has been 1 001% of normal in Karachi.” All of that rainfall has caused a flooding disaster in the country that is absolutely unprecedented.

In fact, it is being reported that

“entire villages” have been completely wiped off the map... Pakistan's foreign minister said the calamitous floods gripping the country are 'a catastrophe on a scale that I have never seen' as the death toll soared above 1 000 and an area the size of Britain faced going underwater.

Tens of millions of Pakistanis have been forced to flee their homes as entire villages have vanished, with dramatic footage capturing hotel collapses, helicopter rescues, and narrow escapes.

Pakistan is an enormous nation, and we are being told that one-third of the entire country is currently covered by water... One-third of Pakistan has been completely submerged by historic flooding, its climate minister says. Devastating flash floods have washed away roads, homes and crops - leaving a trail of deadly havoc across Pakistan!

“It's all one big ocean, there's no dry land to pump the water out,” Sherry Rehman said, calling it a “crisis of unimaginable proportions”. What a horrible, horrible tragedy!

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UNPRECEDENTED DROUGHT AND FLOODING

Continued from p. 4

Needless to say, this is having an enormous impact on agricultural production... A situation report from the United Nations stated that nearly 800 000 livestock, a vital food and livelihood source for Pakistanis, have perished amid the monsoon **floods**. Around 2 million acres of crops and orchards have also been impacted. I expect those numbers will go even higher as the full extent of the damage becomes clear. This is yet another very serious blow to the global food supply, and it means that our rapidly growing food crisis is going to get even worse.

There are areas in Africa that are dealing with unprecedented **flooding** right now as well. For example, Sudan is in the midst of yet another round of severe **floods**, even as much of the Horn of Africa struggles with catastrophic **drought**. The *Save the Children Organization* says 83 people have died and another 146 000 have been affected by the **flooding**. Whole villages have been submerged, with nearly 44 000 homes partially or completely destroyed. People living in the Gezira and River Nile states

have requested assistance from the British-based NGO.

Authorities in Sudan have declared a state of emergency in a third of the country's provinces. Central Darfur, South Darfur, and West Darfur also have seen some of the worst impacts. This is what I mean when I say that **global weather patterns have gone completely haywire in 2022**. Much of the planet is either getting way too much rain or way too little rain.

Let me give you another example. Here in the United States, even as the western half of the country suffers from endless **drought**, we are witnessing crazy **flooding** along the Mississippi River... Major **flooding** across America's heartland will continue for weeks to come as the Mississippi River surges south. The deadly onslaught of rising waters and storms has killed more than two dozen people in Missouri and Illinois. In all, some 7 million people in 15 states were under threat of **flooding**, according to CNN meteorologists.

So why is this happening? Is someone trying to tell us something? All of this **drought**



and all of this **flooding** are going to be really, really bad for global food production. The stage is being set for the sort of historic global famines that we have been warned about, and even now food prices are starting to surge dramatically all over the planet.

But most people still don't seem too alarmed. In fact, most people still seem entirely convinced that everything will work out just fine somehow. Hopefully they are correct, because at this point the vast majority of the general population is completely and utterly unprepared for any sort of a major disruption to their cur-

rent lifestyles. But these are such troubled times, and people need hope. John 3:16 tells us about the hope that God has given us through Jesus Christ: **"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."** If you have not already done so, I strongly urge you to ask Jesus to be your Lord and Saviour today!

<https://endoftheamericandream.com/is-someone-trying-to-tell-us-something-we-are-being-hit-by-unprecedented-drought-and-unprecedented-flooding-at-the-same-time/>

Net Genoeg Lig Vir My Volgende Tree...

Mense blameer God dikwels vir die tragedies in hulle lewe en sluit hulself dan juis af van die Een wat hulle pyn kan wegneem.

Ons sou egter nie hierdie fout maak as ons twee dinge onthou nie: **God is goed, maar Satan kom om dood te maak en te vernietig**. Dit is baie belangrik om nie hierdie twee feite in 'n tyd van verlies te verwar nie.

Dit maak nie saak watter soort **verlies** jy ly nie, jy moenie probeer om **jou** arms om die verlies te slaan nie. **Laat toe dat God Sy arms om jou slaan**. Hy ken jou lyding en sal jou die vertroosting van Sy Teenwoordigheid en die genesende salf van Sy Liefde gee!

As jy elke dag tree vir tree met

God deur jou verlies stap, sal hierdie pyn wat eindeloos lyk, in werklikheid mettertyd bedaar en sal jy weer vreugde ervaar!

Geen medalje is op die spel as 'n verlies vinnig verwerk word nie. Dus hoef jy nie die proses van genesing te probeer versnel nie. Gee jou aan elke stadium oor. Golwe van smart kom en gaan en keer terug wanneer jy dit die minste verwag.

Selfs wanneer jy begin vergeet, sal iets jou skielik herinner aan dit wat jy verloor het en jy sal opnuut die pyn voel. Moenie daardie tye vrees nie. **Gryp die Here in daardie tye aan!** Elke oomblik van die reis op hierdie pad sal 'n ander deel van genesing bring. Elke traan sal 'n

lagie van die wond reinig. Elke herinnering sal 'n salf vir die siel word.

Tydens 'n tragedie is dit normaal om te voel asof die lewe heeltemal tot stilstand gekom het. Eintlik is dit die lewe soos jy dit **geken** het, wat tot stilstand gekom het. Jou **nuwe** lewe gaan voort **sonder** dit wat verloor is. Jy kan dit nog net nie insien nie. Selfs al is dit moeilik om jou die toekoms voor te stel as enigsins anders as wat dit op die oomblik is, is genesing en herstel besig om te gebeur. Jy sal nie altyd so voel nie, **maar dit sal ook eindig**. Die verlies kon dalk onverwags gewees het, maar die oorgang na jou nuwe lewe moet **tree vir tree** afgelê word.

Strek jou hand uit en neem jou

Hemelse Vader se Hand in tye van nood en verlies. Hy wil jou vertroos en jou smart op Hom neem. Hy wil saam met jou wandel en jou las dra. Soek Sy ferm Arm elke oomblik en Hy sal jou nadertrek na Hom toe. Selfs al lyk dit of jou fontein van trane nooit sal opdroog nie, moet jy **voortgaan om in die Lig van God se Teenwoordigheid te wandel en jy sal die ander kant van die rivier van smart bereik**.

Dit maak nie saak as jy nie voor jou kan sien nie. God sal nie net genoeg lig vir jou volgende tree verskaf nie, Hy sal jou ook in staat stel om dit te gee!

[Net genoeg lig vir my VOLGENDE TREE, Stormie Omar-tian, *Struik Christelike Boeke*, 1999].

Raak Stil voor die Here...

Daar is tye van rus en tye van chaos in 'n mens se lewe. As ek praat van chaos bedoel ek nie 'n probleem hier of daar nie, maar sommerk 'n stortvloed van probleme! Dit kan bestaan uit 'n magdom klein probleempies wat saam 'n massiewe berg vorm, of 'n aantal groot probleme wat nie minder raak nie, maar dikwels net meer.

In tye van groot probleme probeer ons drastiese dinge om alles te hanteer of op te los. Ons maak planne, ons gesels met ons vertrouelinge daarvoor, ons kry professionele hulp indien nodig. Ons huil, skep moed, raak depressief, voel beter en huil dan weer.

Omdat mense almal uniek is, gee almal raad oor hoe hulle die probleme sou hanteer en glo my, die raad verskil drasties van een persoon na 'n ander. Naderhand raak ons verward en besluit een dag een ding, net om die besluit die volgende dag te verander.

Omdat ons in 'n kitswêreld lewe, verwag ons ook vinnige oplossings. Dit is emosioneel uitputtend as die oplossings nie kom nie. Dit is 'n afwaartse spiraal wat ons insluk, besig hou en ons tyd steel. Dit benadeel ons denke negatief. Ons sukkel om logies te dink, verloor perspektief en kan ook nie meer die Stem van die Here in ons lewe hoor nie.

Ons maak staat op mense vir hulp en soos die chaos vermeerder, vervaag die Here in die agtergrond tot op 'n punt waar ons nie meer Bybel lees of bid nie. Dit is juis in tye van groot swakheid dat die Here in ons lewens werk (*"En Hy het vir my gesê: My genade is vir jou genoeg, want My krag word in swakheid volbring"* - 2 Kor. 12:9).

As ons ophou spartel en begin stil raak, sal ons besef dat die antwoord nie by onself of by ander mense lê nie, maar by die Vader. Omdat ons maar mens is, spartel ons soms om te laat gaan en dit aan die Here oor te laat. Onthou egter, Hy is die Skepper van die heelal, Hy is heeltemal bevoeg om ons elkeen te help, te red, te verlos, liefde te gee, en om ons te vergoed vir wat die vyand by ons wegeneem het.

Hy is die Een wat die stryd namens ons sal stry as ons Hom toelaat.

Kom ons ondersoek 'n paar situasies waarin ons onself mag bevind:

Teleurstelling

Teleurstelling is 'n gevoel wat ons het wanneer ons lewensomstandighede anders uitdraai as die verwagtinge wat ons koester. Almal van ons sal teleurstellings in ons leeftyd ervaar. Selfs mense vir wie ons lief is of wat ons vertrou, kan ons teleurstel.

'n Voorbeeld hiervan is Jesus se teleurstelling in Judas se verraad. Judas het sy liefde aan Jesus bely, maar het Hom tog verrai. Nog 'n voorbeeld is Jakob wat jare vir Laban gewerk het om met Ragel te trou, maar toe word Lea aan hom gegee. Hy moes toe nog veel langer werk om met Ragel te kon trou.

Tydens sulke teleurstellings ontstaan daar dikwels wraak- of wrokgevoelens teenoor die persoon wat ons teleurgestel het. In Romeine 12:19 staan daar: *"Moenie julle wreek nie, geliefdes, maar gee plek vir die toorn: want daar is geskrywe: Aan My kom die wraak toe, Ek sal vergeld, spreek die Here."*

Dit is baie belangrik om ons seer kry en pyn aan die Here te bely. Gee dit vir Hom. *"Werp al julle bekommernisse op Hom, want Hy sorg vir julle"* (1 Petrus 5:7).

Ons moet hier braaf wees om diegene wat ons teleurgestel het, te vergewe. As dit moeilik is, maak dit 'n saak van gebed. Soms is die teleurstelling so diep en ons so swak, maar met die Here se hulp sal ons dit regkry!

Moet jy dalk jouself vergewe, liewe mens? Deur die kruisdood het Jesus al klaar voor jou probleme en verkeerde keuses te staan gekom en daarvoor gesterf sodat jy vry kan wees.

Niks is so erg dat ons nie vergifnis daarvoor kan ontvang nie. Bely nou jou teleurstelling en jou eie sonde voor die Here, Sy genade is vir jou genoeg (2 Korinthiërs 12:9).



Is jy vermoeid?

As ons liggaamlik moeg is, kan ons gaan slaap. As ons emosionele rus nodig het, kan ons 'n tyd lank verlof neem. Hoe vind ons rus vir moeilike lewenskwessies wat die dieptes van ons hart aanraak? **Raak stil voor die Here.** Kom net soos jy is en sonder jouself af in Sy teenwoordigheid. Pak al jou probleme voor Hom uit. Daar is niks wat ons vir Hom kan wegsteek nie. Hy het ons gevorm in ons moederskoot.

In die Teenwoordigheid van die Here is daar rus. Daar word nie van jou verwag om goeie werke of uitermatige godsdienstryke na te jaag sodat die Here vir jou iets in ruil daarvoor sal doen nie. In die Teenwoordigheid van die Here kan ons ophou spartel en kan ons geestelike rus vind wat ons sal versterk, al is ons vlees hoe swak. *"Kom na My toe, almal wat vermoeid en belas is, en Ek sal julle rus gee"* (Matt. 11:28).

Voel jy eensaam?

Pynlike gebeure soos dood, egskeiding of verbrekking van verhoudings tussen vriende of ouers en kinders kan vir ons as mense groot smart besorg. Voel jy alleen, voel dit asof daar niemand is na wie jy toe kan gaan of wat vir jou omgee in jou tyd van smart nie? Selfs Jesus vra in Matt. 27:46 *"My God, my God, waarom het U my verlaat?"* In sulke donker tye voel dit of daar geen hoop is nie. Die werklikheid is dat God nooit Sy Seun Jesus verlaat het nie, al het Jesus dit so ervaar. Hoeveel te meer sal ons as mense dan eensaamheid en smart ervaar? Trane bring vir ons

verligting en dan belowe die Here dat Hy ons nooit sal begewe of sal verlaat nie (Hebreërs 13:5).

Soos wat die Vader nooit vir Jesus alleen gelaat het nie sal Hy ons ook nooit alleen laat nie. *"...maar julle droefheid sal in blydschap verander"* (Joh. 16:20). Die Heilige Gees is ons Trooster in tye van eensaamheid en pyn. Laat Hom toe om jou te troos. *"En Ek sal die Vader bid, en Hy sal julle 'n ander Trooster gee om by julle te bly tot in ewigheid"* (Joh. 14:16). Omdat die Trooster by ons bly tot in ewigheid, is ons nie werklik alleen nie. Ons hoef nie die Trooster te gaan soek nie, Hy bly in ons!

Ons is maar almal reisigers hier op aarde. Nie een van ons is vrygestel van probleme of pyn nie. Kom ons wees barmhartig teenoor mekaar, vol medelye en nie haastig om te oordeel nie. Ons sien soms nie die hele pad wat 'n ander persoon stap nie. Wees teer met die onervare jongelinge, medelydend met die oues van dae, simpatiek met die armoe-diges en sukkelaars, verdraagsaam teenoor die wat swak is en die sondaar en oortreder... Een of ander tyd in jou lewe sal jy ook ander se medelye nodig kry.

Kom ons raak stil voor die Here en betree Sy rus wat alle verstand te bowe gaan. Dit is die een plek waar jy eerlik kan wees, niemand hoef te beïndruk nie en net jouself kan wees. Lê jou pyn, vrese, teleurstellings en ander gevoelens voor die voete van die Here. Hy verstaan en wag vir jou! -BJR

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SUFFERING FOR CHRIST?

CRUSHED, overwhelmed, devastated, torn - these waves of feelings wash over those who suffer, obliterating hope and threatening to destroy them.

Suffering has many forms - physical abuse, debilitating disease, social ostracism, persecution. The pain and anguish tempt a person to turn back, to surrender, to give in.

Many first-century followers of Christ were suffering and being abused and persecuted for believing in and obeying Jesus. Beginning in Jerusalem at the hands of their Jewish brothers, the persecution spread to the rest of the world - wherever Christians gathered.

It climaxed when Rome determined to rid the Empire of the “Christ-ones” - those who would

not bow to Caesar.

Peter knew persecution firsthand. Beaten and jailed, he had been threatened often. He had seen fellow-Christians die and the Church scattered. But he knew Christ, and nothing could shake his confidence in his risen Lord.

So Peter wrote to the Church - scattered and suffering for the faith - giving comfort and hope, and urging continued loyalty to Christ.

Peter begins by thanking God for salvation. **He explains to his readers that trials will refine their faith.** They should believe in spite of their circumstances; for many in past ages believed in God's plan of salvation, even the prophets of old who wrote about it but didn't understand it. But now salvation has been revealed in Christ.

In response to such a great salvation, Peter commands them to live holy lives, to reverently fear and trust God, to be honest and loving, and to become like Christ.

Jesus Christ, as “the living Cornerstone” upon Whom the Church is to be built, is also the Stone that was rejected, causing those who are disobedient to stumble and fall. But the Church, built upon this Stone, is to be God's royal priesthood.

Next, Peter explains how believers should live during difficult times. Christians should be above reproach, imitating Christ in all their social roles - masters and servants, husbands and wives, church members and neighbours. **Christ should be our model for obedience to God in the midst of great suffering.**

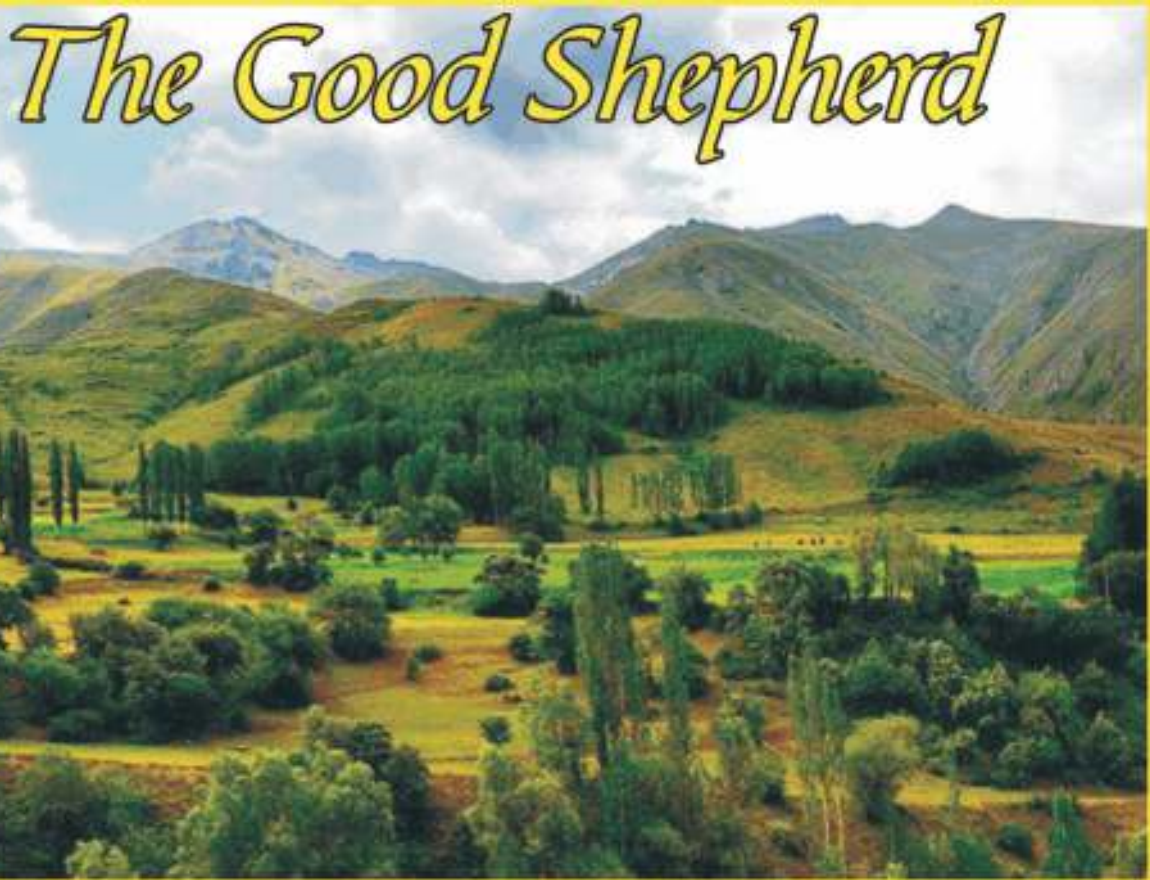
Peter then outlines the right atti-

tude to have about persecution. **Expect it, be thankful for the privilege of suffering for Christ, and trust God for deliverance.**

Next, Peter gives some special instructions. Elders should care for God's flock, younger men should be submissive to those who are older, and everyone should trust God and resist Satan.

When you suffer for doing what is right, remember that following Christ is a costly commitment. When persecuted for your faith, rejoice that you have been counted worthy to suffer for your Lord. He suffered for us; as His followers, we should expect nothing less. As you read 1 Peter, **remember that trials will come to refine your faith. When they come, remain faithful to God.** [Life Application Study Bible, NLT, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois, 2007].

David's poetic praise to God
Yahweh is my best Friend and my Shepherd.
I always have more than enough.
He offers a resting place for me in His luxurious love.
His tracks take me to an oasis of peace
near the quiet brook of bliss.
That's where He restores and revives my life.
He opens before me the right path and leads me
along in His footsteps of righteousness
so that I can bring honour to His Name.
Even when Your path takes me through
the valley of deepest darkness,
fear will never conquer me, for You already have!
Your authority is my strength and my peace.
The comfort of Your love takes away my fear.
I'll never be lonely, for You are near.
You become my delicious feast
even when my enemies dare to fight.
You anoint me with the fragrance of Your Holy Spirit;
You give me all I can drink of You until my cup overflows
So why would I fear the future?
Only goodness and tender love pursue me
all the days of my life.
Then afterward, when my life is through,
I'll return to Your glorious Presence to be forever with You!
(Psalm 23:1-6 The Passion Translation)



'N SNY BROOD - MACARONI EN KAAS

Talle kere het ek al kinders van God hoor sê: "Rossi, ek hoor nie God se Stem nie. Hoe gaan ek dit regkry?" Ek wil jou vandag BEMOEDIG met hierdie woord en getuienis.

'n Rukkie gelede het ek 'n suster in Christus bedien. Sy het 'n fantastiese getuienis met my gedeel van hoe sy God se Stem gehoor het op 'n stadium in haar lewe. Sy wou eendag vir 'n vriendin 'n geskenk koop, soos lekkerruik seep of iets soortgelyks en toe sê God deur Sy Gees: "Nee, kry vir haar kaas!" Sy het gevra: "Here, is U ernstig?" En

God het deur Sy Gees aan haar bevestig dat sy dit moes doen.

Sy het geluister en is na haar vriendin. Die vriendin het gesê: "Ek is so hartseer. My man hou baie van macaroni en kaas, maar ek het nie kaas nie. Die suster in Christus sê toe: "God het gesê dat ek vir jou kaas moet bring - hier is dit!" **Albei was in trane oor God se getrouheid en voorsiening!**

Dit het "nie somer net" gebeur dat die vrou God se Stem so goed gehoor het nie. Sy is vroeër tydens 'n aanval op 'n plot deur drie mans verkrag en het in haar

donkerste uur na God uitgeroep om haar lewe te spaar. Daarna het sy 'n baie nou pad saam met God gestap, en al hoe meer in Sy heerlijkheid inbeweeg.

Ja, hoe "nader" ons aan God leef, hoe beter gaan ons Sy stem hoor! Wanneer iemand met jou praat en jy al hoe verder wegbeweeg, gaan jy al hoe minder die persoon se stem hoor en op 'n stadium niks hoor nie, maar wanneer 'n mens werklik 'n nou pad saam met Christus stap en Hom volg, sal 'n mens Sy stem duidelik herken! **"En wanneer Hy Sy eie skape uitgebring het, loop Hy voor hulle**

uit; en die skape volg Hom, omdat hulle Sy Stem ken" (Joh. 10:4).

Ek BID nou vir jou wat hierdie getuienis gelees het: Here, help hierdie persoon om U Stem te hoor. Om nie net na U Stem te luister nie, maar ook te doen wat U sê. In Jesus se Naam. Amen.

[Rossi Rossouw, Evangelistic Association - "Surpassing excellence by grace"].

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OTHERS AND YOU

George D Watson

If God has really called you to be like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to follow other people, or measure yourself by other Christians, and in many ways He will seem to let other people do things which He will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers, who seem very religious and useful, may **push themselves**, pull wires and invent schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do that. If you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may **boast of themselves, of their work, of their successes, of their writings**, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin to do it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be **allowed to succeed in making money, or**

may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely that God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence upon Him, so that He may have the privilege of supplying all your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others **be honoured and put forward**, and keep you hidden in obscurity, because he wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade. **He may let others be great, but keep you small.**

He may let others do a work for Him and **get the credit** for it, but He will make you work and toil on without people knowing how much you are doing. Then to make your work still more precious, He may let **others** get credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward **ten times greater** when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for



little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never feel distressed over.

So make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign God with a mind of His own.

He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be His love slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are of the inner circle.

Settle it forever, then, that you are to **deal directly with the Holy Spirit**, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hands, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others.

Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this **peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life**, you will have found the vestibule of Heaven!

[The Pilgrim, Oct./Nov. 1996].

NEVER DOUBT THE WORD OF GOD!

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). Here are some men and women who mocked God:

JOHN LENNON:

In an interview with an American magazine, he said: "Christianity will end, it will disappear. I do not have to argue about that. I am certain. Jesus was OK, but His subjects were too simple. Today we are more famous than Him" (1966). Lennon, after saying that the Beatles were more famous than Jesus Christ, was shot six times.

TAN CREDO NAVES:

During a Presidential Campaign, he said that if he got 500 votes from his party, not even God would remove him from Presidency. Sure he got the votes, but he got sick a day before being made President. Then he died!

THE MAN WHO BUILT THE TITANIC:

After the construction of the Titanic, a reporter asked him how safe the Titanic would be. With a sarcastic tone he said: "Not even God can sink it". The result: I think you all know what happened to the Titanic...

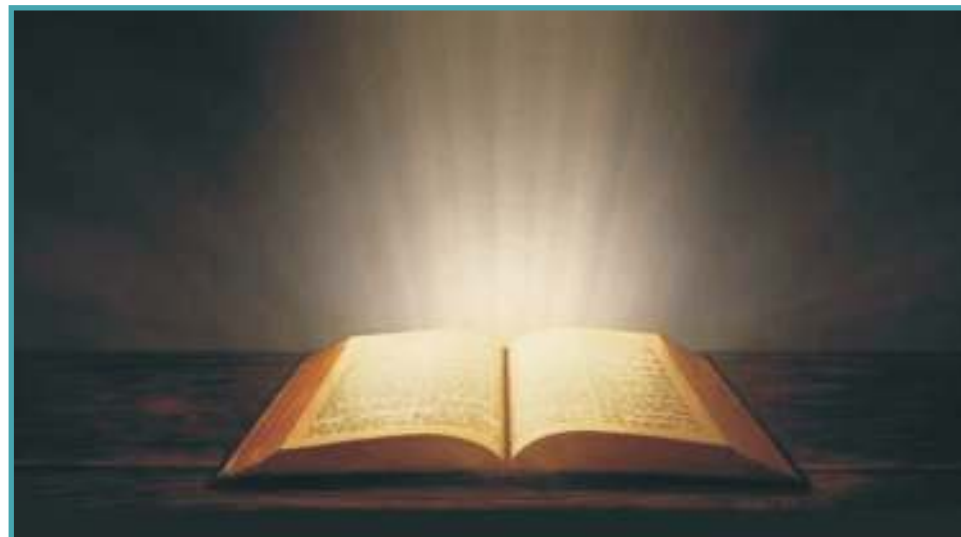
MARILYN MONROE:

She was visited by Billy Graham during a presentation of a show. He was a preacher and evangelist and the Spirit of God had sent him to preach to her.

After hearing what he had to say, she said: "I don't need your Jesus." A week later, she was found dead in her apartment!

BON SCOTT (The ex-vocalist of the AC/DC):

In one of his 1979 songs he sang: "Don't stop me, I'm going down all the way, wow, the highway to hell". On 19 February 1980, Bon Scott



was found dead. He had been choked by his own vomit!

CAMINOS/SP IN 2005:

In Caminos, a group of friends, drunk, went to pick up another friend. The mother accompanied her to the car and was so worried about the drunkenness of her friends that she said to her daughter, who was already seated in the car: "My daughter, go with God and may He protect you". She responded: "Only if He (God) travels

in the boot, 'coz inside here it's already full."

Hours later, news came that they had been involved in a fatal accident. Everyone had died. The type of car could not even be recognized, but surprisingly, the boot was still intact! The police said that there was no way that the boot could have remained intact. To their surprise, inside the boot was a crate of eggs, and not one was broken!

THE HORDES OF HELL ARE MARCHING!

The demonic army was so large that it stretched as far as I could see. It was separated into divisions, with each carrying a different banner. The foremost divisions marched under the banners of Pride, Self-righteousness, Respectability, Selfish Ambition, Unrighteous Judgment, and Jealousy.

There were many more of these evil divisions beyond my scope of vision, but those in the vanguard of these terrible hordes from hell seemed to be the most powerful. The weapons carried by this horde were also named. The swords were named Intimidation; the spears were named Treachery; and the arrows were named Accusation, Gossip, Slander and Faultfinding.

Scouts and smaller companies of demons with such names as Rejection, Bitterness, Impatience, Unforgiveness, and Lust were sent in advance of this army to prepare for the main attack.

These smaller companies and scouts were much fewer in number, but they were no less powerful than some of the larger divisions that followed. They were smaller only for strategic reasons. Just as John the Baptist was a single man, but

was given an extraordinary anointing for baptizing the masses to prepare them for the Lord, these smaller demonic companies were given extraordinary evil powers for "baptizing the masses".

A single demon of Bitterness could sow his poison into multitudes of people, even entire races or cultures.

A demon of Lust would attach himself to a single performer, movie, or even advertisement, and send what appeared to be bolts of electric slime that would hit and "desensitize" great masses of people. All of this was to prepare for the great horde of evil which followed.

This army was marching specifically against the Church, but it was attacking everyone that it could. I knew that it was seeking to pre-empt a coming move of God, which was destined to sweep masses of people into the Church.

The primary strategy of this army was to cause division on every possible level of relationship - churches with each other, congregations with their pastors, husbands and wives, children and parents, and even children with each other.

The scouts were sent to locate the openings in churches, families or individuals that Rejection, Bitterness, Lust, etc. could exploit and make larger.

Then the following divisions would pour through the openings to completely overcome their victims.

The most shocking part of this vision was that this horde was not riding on horses, but primarily on Christians! Most of them were well-dressed, respectable, and had the appearance of being refined and educated, but there also seemed to be representatives from almost every walk of life. These people professed Christian truths in order to appease their consciences, but they lived their lives in agreement with the powers of darkness!

It was clear that the power of the demons was rooted almost entirely in the power of deception, and they had deceived these Christians to the point where they could use them and they would think that they were being used by God!

This was because banners of Self-righteousness were being carried by almost all of the individuals so that those mar-

ching, could not even see the banners that marked the true nature of these divisions.

As I looked far to the rear of this army I saw the entourage of the Accuser himself. I began to understand his strategy, and I was amazed that it was so simple. He knows that a house divided cannot stand, and this army represented an attempt to bring such division to the Church that she would completely fall from grace.

It was apparent that the only way Satan could do this was to use Christians to war against their own brethren, and that is why almost everyone in the forward divisions were Christians, or at least professing Christians.

Every step that these deceived believers took in obedience to the Accuser, strengthened his power over them. This made his confidence and the confidence of all his commanders grow with the progress of the army as it marched forward.

It was apparent that the power of this army depended on the agreement of these Christians with the ways of evil!
[Extracts from "The Final Quest" by Rick Joyner, Whitaker House, 1996].

THE SECRETS OF GOD

Our beloved brother Paul writes to the Romans in what later became chapter 12, under the caption, **A Living Sacrifice to God**. In this portion he admonishes, *"I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him"* (v. 1). And you thought He was only interested in your soul! It seems not. **He wants all of you.** Boots and all. Thinking about it may bring an astonishing insight that God truly, deeply cares about your physical life too.

However, our spiritual and physical lives are too often at odds and it sometimes boils down to a real battle. We become at war with ourselves and we simply can not defi-

nately lay the finger on the source of this war within. Paul knew this very well. He must have fought a battle royale! Before the Lord had it out with him on the Damascus road, he must have grappled deeply with the course of destruction he was so bent on. I'm quite sure the Holy Spirit must have started sparking his heart and mind way before Damascus. That only breathed the flames of raw hatred hotter and higher. And then... God forced the issue.

How does God tame a heart like that? That is one of God's secrets which only the Spirit of conviction and the throne of Grace are privy to. One moment raging red hot hatred, the next (with quite a bit of history in between) Paul writes, *"Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them.*

Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honouring each other" (Romans 1:9,10).

A while later he writes an ode to divine love working in human hearts, *"Three things will last forever - faith, hope, and love - and the greatest of these is love"* (1 Corinthians 13). The words of a man who truly, deeply, personally experienced *"how wide, how long, how high and how deep His love is."*

What radical change the love of God has wrought in one hardened heart filled with anger and rage! Only the Spirit of God working within the spirit of man can perform such a miracle! He still does. Trust Him as you plumb the depths of the Word. And now, *"I pray*



that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:13).
- Helen du Plessis
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THE END OF CASH IS ON THE HORIZON

In recent years, people around the world have taken a growing interest in a new form of money known as cryptocurrency. This type of money, which is entirely digital and not backed by any central bank, tends to rise and fall dramatically. Despite its wild swings in value, a growing contingent of people view it as the future of money. Thus, we have seen cryptocurrency exchange websites heavily advertised on both television and the Internet as efforts are made to propel cryptocurrency into mainstream society. These efforts include endorsements by several professional athletes, including National Football League quarterback Tom Brady, who starred in a commercial for the cryptocurrency exchange website FTX last year.

NFL wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. made headlines in 2021 when he announced that his entire salary of 750 000 dollars would be paid in the world's most well-known cryptocurrency, bitcoin. Meanwhile, New York City's new mayor, Eric Adams, announced in January 2022 that his first pay cheque would be converted into cryptocurrency. "New York is the centre of the world, and we want it to be the centre of cryptocurrency and other financial innovations," Adams declared.

Governments generally dislike cryptocurrencies, such as bitcoin, because these currencies are unregulated, anonymous, and seen as competitors to money issued by central banks. In an effort to compete with cryptocurrencies, some countries have already begun to roll out digital currencies of their own. This includes China, which has developed a digital yuan. Under this system, transaction data is anonymous to other currency users and invisible to the banks that conduct the transactions, but

fully visible to the Chinese Government. Thus, the authorities in China can track every transaction conducted with the digital yuan and can confiscate money or restrict the flow of funds at will.

The new currency works hand-in-hand with China's recently implemented *social credit system*, which assigns a "social credit score" to Chinese citizens based on their behaviour. For example, playing video games excessively or jaywalking on public streets can lower a person's score, while government-approved activities can raise the score. Those who commit too many infractions can be banned from owning property, taking out loans, or purchasing airline tickets, amongst many other limitations.

It is easy to see the many ways a central-bank-controlled digital currency could become a privacy nightmare. Nevertheless, the Federal Reserve in the United States has been hard at work researching a digital dollar. In Feb. 2022, it was reported that the branch of the Federal Reserve in Boston, in partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), is already testing designs for a new digital dollar processing system. The new system is able to process 1.7 million transactions per second. "It is critical to understand how emerging technologies could support a CBDC (central bank digital currency) and what challenges remain. This collaboration between MIT and our technologists has a scalable CBDC research model that allows us to learn more about these technologies and the choices that should be considered when designing a CBDC," said Jim Cunha, Executive Vice-president and Interim Chief Operating Officer at the Boston Federal Reserve.

In March 2022, American President Joe Biden issued an executive order directing the American Government to focus new attention on cryptocurrencies. The order calls on the Treasury Department to develop policy recommendations on protecting consumers, investors, and businesses from the risks associated with unregulated digital currencies. More telling, the order declares that the President of the United States is "placing urgency" on the research and development of a digital dollar. These developments indicate that it is no longer a question of IF a digital dollar will be developed but WHEN a digital dollar will be developed. Here let it be noted that 87 countries around the world are in the process of researching and developing central bank digital currencies.

In Aug. 2021, the think tank known as the Brookings Institution published a piece with a headline declaring, "Cash will soon be obsolete. Will America be ready?" The article then urges the Federal Reserve to create a digital dollar. "The United States should develop a digital dollar, not because of what other countries are doing, but because the benefits of a digital currency far outweigh the costs," author Eswar Prasad insists. These purported benefits include providing the poor and those without a bank account access to digital transactions.

The article also suggests that a digital dollar would allow the government to disburse stimulus payments quickly and efficiently to all Americans. The Federal Reserve could use the digital dollar as a tool to impose *negative interest rates* during poor economic conditions. "If cash were replaced with a digital dollar, however, the Fed could impose a negative interest rate by gradually shrinking the electronic

balances in everyone's digital currency accounts, creating an incentive for consumers to spend and for companies to invest." I suspect most Americans would resent the Federal Reserve surreptitiously stealing money from their accounts, but that could easily happen when a digital dollar is introduced.

The article does admit that there are some risks involved with implementing a central bank digital currency. "Even with protections in place to ensure confidentiality, no central bank would forgo the ability to audit and trace transactions. A digital dollar could threaten what remains of anonymity and privacy in commercial transactions - a reminder that adopting a digital dollar is not just an economic but also a social decision." In other words, the author believes that the American people should surrender their financial privacy for the good of society. "The end of cash is on the horizon, and it will have far-reaching effects on the economy, finance, and society... With proper preparation and open discussion, we should embrace the advent of a digital dollar."

With so many countries now developing central bank digital currencies, I strongly suspect that these various digital monetary systems could eventually be merged into one, thus producing a **global cashless society**. This cashless society would become part of a worldwide economic system that seeks to unite the entire world under a **global antichrist government**. It is very possible that the world's population could find themselves unable to buy or sell without using digital currency.

- LAST TRUMPET NEWSLETTER, APRIL 2022, www.lasttrumpetministries.org

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