

# **THE PROPHETIC WORD IN CRISIS DAYS**

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by

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## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **THE CRISIS OF THIS PRESENT HOUR**

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The world today is on fire. A mighty blaze is sweeping across the face of the globe, and it is spreading into many realms. Let us analyze this advancing flame which threatens the stability of men and nations in this crisis hour.

*There is first of all a raging flame of political revolution.*

The world is witnessing a struggle of nation against nation as never before in history. Among the nations of the world, some are striving to be born, some are involved in violent ideological conflicts, some are in the throes of confusion, some are locked in bitter struggles for survival, and some are in fact being overthrown.

Fourteen independent nations have recently come into existence on the continent of Africa alone. Communism has gained a foothold in the Western Hemisphere. There are some two billion, nine hundred million people on the surface of the globe today, and of this vast number only about eight percent are professing Protestant Christians. At the present rate of population increase only two percent of the population of the world will be professing Protestant Christians by the year 2010, assuming that the present rate of Protestant advance will continue. In addition to the unrest, the suspicion, and the distrust among nations there is the declining influence of true Christianity, and therefore the only force that could possibly stop the spreading flame lacks the vitality to do so.

There is also a flame of renascent religion in our day. Some of the older religions of the world are engaging in missionary activity on an unprecedented scale.

- The Mohammedans claim that they are winning ten converts for every Protestant convert

throughout the world.

- Buddhism is raising its head in the East with a new hope of adding millions to its fold.
- Judaism, long opposed to a policy of proselyting, now has a society devoted to that very thing.

Here in America and in certain other nations a mighty wave of apostasy is in evidence. It is taking the form of unbelief, skepticism and agnosticism, and the flame of compromise is even invading evangelical circles. The flames of materialism, secularism, and worldliness are gaining entrance to the bastions of the faith. The whole world is ablaze. We are living in a crisis hour.

*At such an hour the prophetic Word of God has the only message that can calm the troubled heart.*

Without the voice of God ringing in our ears today, the world-shaking events that are taking place might well discourage and depress us. But because God has spoken, we should neither be troubled nor confused, for the very fact that perilous times are upon us is in precise fulfillment of the Word of God. Thus we have the assurance that the God of this universe has not been taken by surprise. All things are proceeding in accordance with His design for the age.

Everywhere today there are signs that the return of the Lord for His church is drawing near. Seven of them, which have especially impressed themselves upon us in the past twenty-five years, are the following:

- (1) the consolidation of European nations in fulfillment of portions of the book of Daniel;
- (2) the confederation of northern nations centered in Russia, in fulfillment of the thirty eighth chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy;
- (3) the awakening of nations of the Far East, after long slumbers, in fulfillment of Revelation 16:12 which describes the marching of the kings of the East to the battle of Armageddon;
- (4) the return of Israel to the promised land for the first time since the days of Nebuchadnezzar;
- (5) the coming of the atomic age in answer to suggestions in II Peter chapter three concerning the melting of the elements with fervent heat;
- (6) the beginnings of a world church, evident in the increasing trend toward ecumenicity and in the closer relationship of Protestantism with Romanism, in fulfillment of the prophecy concerning ecclesiastical Babylon in the book of Revelation;
- (7) the sweeping flame of apostasy with its spirit of compromise and capitulation to error — a development that is taking place so rapidly as to almost bring dizziness to Bible-believing pastors in this country.

The only conclusion from these developments is that the return of the Saviour is near. Every Christian should make himself ready for that event, but in the meantime he should be doing something about the advancing flames that threaten the world today.

Some time ago I was visiting lecturer at a missionary conference which was conducted on a mountain in East Africa. During the conference a forest fire broke out in the valley below and a mighty mile-wide wave of flame, encouraged by high winds, began to sweep up the side of the mountain so that the entire mission compound was threatened. To combat this threat a most interesting strategy was adopted. Instead of rushing for buckets of water, the missionaries and the Africans merely started a counter-fire. In this manner a certain area in the pathway of the advancing flame was completely burned out. The result was amazing; when the mighty conflagration reached the burned area, it immediately stopped.

The very best method of meeting all of the advancing flames of our time is the counter-fire method. The best way to meet fire is with fire.

The advancing fires of communism, materialism, secularism, agnosticism, skepticism, discontent, unrest, and revolution can best be met and controlled by the fire of the Holy Spirit of God. The greatest need of the hour is for God's people to have their fires of devotion to the Son of God rekindled at the altars of the Holy Ghost.

**~ end of chapter 7 ~**

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