

# WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD TODAY?

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

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We have the paradox of millions facing starvation in the midst of the greatest plenty ever known. **WHY IS IT?**

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## THE WHOLE WORLD A SEETHING OF CHAOS AND DESPAIR

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Every major nation in the world save only four—the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan, has been overthrown in revolution, and many of the smaller nations besides. There has been a great deal of talk of revolution even here in America!

And in the midst of all this starvation, misery, and fear, five million armed soldiers—twice the

peace armies of any former period in history—stand in readiness for the next world war! Central Europe today is a vast powder-magazine, filled with smoldering hates, pent-up suspicions, diabolical ambitions, merely awaiting the tiny spark that will set off the explosion that threatens to wipe out whole civilizations, and even to wipe mankind from off the face of the earth! And foreign correspondents cable that the sparks are now hissing all around that powder-magazine!

Consider the complete picture of the world condition of today—the whole world bankrupt, the commercial structure a wreck, politics corrupt, governments overthrown, morals never so lax and loose, misery, fear, hunger and want on every hand, and the one great final conflagration of world war about to be ignited. Look back over history, and COMPARE! We are now going through a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation!

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

#### THIS VERY CONDITION FORETOLD NINETEEN HUNDRED YEARS AGO

About nineteen hundred years ago, the disciples of Jesus of Nazareth came to Him privately and asked: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3).

And He answered, in the awe-inspiring prophecy

"Take heed that ye be not deceived . . . 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 be from heaven." (Luke 21:8-11).

Just recently these things have come to pass. The world war was the first which truly fit the description "nation against nations, and kingdom against kingdom." There have, of course, been earthquakes down through the years, but they have been growing recently far more frequent and terrible, until just a few years ago the greatest earthquake in all history occurred in China, de-

stroying over a million souls. The most colossal famine in history occurred recently in Russia. The most disastrous pestilence the world ever knew was the flu epidemic at the time of the world war—more deadly than the war itself!

Now let us continue this remarkable prophecy, beginning with the 25th verse: "And," (at the time of the end), "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."

Could words more accurately describe, IN GENERAL, the conditions we now see in the world? No past condition ever fit this description, so we know it applies to the present world trouble. Numerous other prophecies throughout the Bible point in the details. And all agree as to what shall now immediately follow—catch it, for this is now SOON TO HAPPEN!

"And then shall they SEE the Son of Man (Christ) coming in a cloud WITH POWER AND GREAT GLORY." (verse 27).

#### OTHER PROPHECIES FILL IN THE PICTURE

Let us now take a hurried glance at some of the other prophecies scattered through the Bible describing details of this world catastrophe.

The outstanding aspect of the trouble is the unemployment situation and the paralysis to business and industry.

In the 8th chapter of Zechariah, beginning verse 7, is a picture of the beginning of the next age, when Christ shall have returned to restore peace to the world. Then in verse 10 we read: "for before these days," (just before the Second Coming of Christ) "THERE WAS NO HIRE FOR MAN, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction; for I set every one against his neighbor." How true that is today! So God Almighty knew, some twenty-five hundred years ago, that this world-wide unemployment situation

would arise at this time, that it would be in a time of affliction, and that every one would be against his neighbor! And, mark you, it is just before the second coming of Christ!

But WHY all this unemployment? WHY is money not circulating? WHY must the majority suffer want in the midst of such plenty today?

This is the age of the machine. During the decade, 1920 to 1929, wages increased very little, hours remained the same, but through the increased use of machines, PRODUCTION INCREASED FOUR TIMES AS FAST as during the previous twenty years. THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL MORE OF EVERYTHING.

But W - H - O was to buy more? The workers couldn't, because there had not been enough increase in wages. Neither could the farmers. Nor the independent business man, nor the "white collar" worker. Foreign demand was decreasing. The increased production should have provided the increased purchasing power with which it might have been consumed. But it didn't. Why? Because almost all the gain which accrued from the rapidly mounting production WENT INTO CORPORATION TREASURIES! It went to make more rich men than the world ever knew, and to make rich men richer. But the rich man could not consume the rapidly-mounting surpluses—there were not enough of him!

Meantime, the run of financial collapses abroad threw fear into American capitalists, and they became afraid to finance new industries which might have absorbed the men being rapidly thrown out of work by the machine. This rising tide of unemployment reduced buying power. This, and tightening credit, in turn reduced valuations on real property and stocks, and so the rich man's wealth began to shrink. These conditions, in turn, made competition still keener, which forced the installation of still more labor-saving machines, throwing still more men out of work. Round and round in this vicious circle it kept on going.

Because our rich men, in their shortsighted selfishness, withheld from the workers their right-

ful portion of the gain from the increases of production, they have only brought misery and woe to themselves—and now it is the rich men who wail and howl and weep the loudest. Their wealth has been fast shrinking. They have withdrawn silver and gold from circulation, and in stark fear have kept it in hoarding. It is becoming rusty and cankered from disuse! More than one-seventh of the nation's actual gold and silver is still in illegal hoarding! And more millionaires have committed suicide since 1929 than in all previous years combined!

#### THE CAUSES OF THE DEPRESSION VIVIDLY PROPHESED

Now see how accurately God Almighty was able to paint in this detail of the 1933-4 picture nine-hundred years ago!

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud. . . . the coming of the Lord draweth night." (James 5:1-4, 8).

Never in all history, until after 1929, has the condition here described been seen in the world. These are THE LAST DAYS! The COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH! Are YOU ready?

#### THERE ARE JUST TWO CLASSES —IN WHICH ARE YOU?

Today, as the end of this world swoops rapidly down upon us—the tribulation already here—the "Day of the Lord," with its terrible, almost unspeakable plagues of torture and pain, now about to fall on all who refuse to surrender wholly to Almighty God and come under His divine protection—there are just TWO CLASSES of people in the world. And YOU, yourself, are in one class or the other. There's no middle ground.

Will YOU be able to stand it, when, as the heavens open as a scroll (Rev. 6:14, 15), you are forced to look upon His glorified face—the seven last plagues about to fall—the second coming of Christ about to occur? "And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it." (Rev. 9:6).

Or have you, through real and complete repentance and accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour from sin and from sinning, placed yourself under divine protection, with God's promise of everlasting LIFE in the Kingdom of God, so that you can say with Paul: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that LOVE HIS APPEARING." (II Tim. 4:8).

If you are now in the LOST class, praise be to Almighty God for His great love and tender mercy, THERE IS YET TIME, if you are WILLING and will heed the warning without delay.

Eternity is staring YOU in the face this instant. There is not much time for you to decide. You will determine your own fate.

Everyone senses that some great upheaval—some great SOMETHING is about to happen to the world. The present conditions, all prophesied in the Bible, are TOO REAL to trifle further or delay longer. Don't rebel another minute against Almighty God—Creator of the universe. He is warning you, inviting you, in LOVE, to surrender fully to Him, and do it NOW.

Go, just now, to a private room or place, before you lay this paper down, and confess your sins to God. Throw yourself upon His mercy. Surrender to Him and everything He commands you in the Bible, completely. Accept Jesus as your Saviour from sin. Read, and obey, John 3:16; Acts 2:38; I John 1:9, 7; Romans 10:9, 10, 13; John 6:37 and 5:24; Isa. 55:6-7.

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