There Is a Way of Escape

You need to be prepared. You need to know why — and when — and where — the next nuclear holocaust will strike, and how to escape. This article makes plain why God allows war — and the provision He makes for those who seek His protection!

by Herman L. Hoeh

SCORES of thousands were caught unprepared in Hiroshima and Nagasaki when two atomic bombs plummeted out of the sky and cremated two Japanese cities in 1945.

Millions of Jews and people of other nationalities perished under Hitler's reign of terror. Most could have escaped — but they didn't. Why?

Because they were unprepared — unprepared to believe in the *reality* of war — unprepared to believe what others could *see* happening all around them.

No Place to Hide?

Military men know what the next war will be like. They live with the realities of the nuclear age. At their fingertips are the buttons which could annihilate half of the earth's population in a matter of minutes — and make the entire planet unfit for human habitation for 100 years! They frankly confess they know of no place to hide. Think of it! No human hideaway to which man can flee on his own. But is there really no hope of escape?

These men — aware of the realities of military science — are TOTALLY UNAWARE OF THE GREATEST REALITY OF ALL — *GOD!*

Isn't it time we sought to discover Him — to find out what He has to reveal about the way to peace, about the frightening events of these next few years *before* we have universal peace? Isn't it time we looked into His revealed knowledge — the Holy Bible — to find out why we have wars, and how we can escape utter human extinction, and live in a world of peace at last?

It Is Time We Knew

Scientists now admit that the world is madly racing on to the catastrophic climax of 6000 years of misguided human civilization!

It is time we awakened to these frightening events. Your future — your very life — is at stake. It is time we recognized that civilization hasn't much time left, unless a supernatural God in heaven intervenes on earth to stop madmen from destroying all life on earth in their crazed dreams for world conquest.

There is a *reason* why this world is in chaos — with nations leaping like wild animals at each other's throats. But almost no one seems to understand.

It is time we looked to the source of all knowledge and found out the Plan being worked out here below. It is time we looked to the Revelation of God to man — the Bible.

The cause of chaotic world conditions is made plain in Jesus' startling prophecy about the "TIMES of the GENTILES."

Jesus' Amazing Prophecy

Let's notice Jesus' prophecy of the "times of the Gentiles" in Luke 21:24.

Jesus told His disciples that "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the *times of the Gentiles* be fulfilled."

This prophecy is not speaking of a period of peace, but of *war*. It is a message for our day — a time when the Gentiles are conquering and destroying, when they are ruling themselves contrary to the way of God who is Creator and RULER.

Remember that one of the keys to understanding this prophecy and all prophecy is DUALITY. There is always a forerunner which is a type of ANOTHER FINAL GREAT FULFILLMENT. The *original* fulfillment occurred at the destruction of Jerusalem which climaxed in 70 A.D.

Exactly what did Jesus mean by the "times of the Gentiles"?

When did they begin? How long will they last? When do they end?

Common Teachings in Error

It is the common assumption that the times of the Gentiles are a period of blessing on the nations. It is argued that since God took away *the blessing* of being great and dominant nations from Israel and Judah, and since the Gentiles for centuries have been dominant nations, that human rule is a *blessing* bestowed upon the Gentiles.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

Then again, many claim that the times of the Gentiles are synonymous with the times of Judah's punishment, that the Gentile times have already ended — some say in 1914, others say in 1917 or 1936. Some even think that it might end this year. But all these *supposed* dates for the ending of the times of the Gentiles are mere guesses!

The truth is that almost no one really knows what the times of the Gentiles are. And yet without an understanding of the meaning of this prophetic period, you *cannot* grasp the real significance of present-day, world-shaking events or understand what's going to happen in the next twenty-five years. Let's not assume; let's *study the Bible itself* to see what these times really are.

Times of Israel's Punishment a Key to Understanding

Israel [not to be confused with the *modern* nation of Israel which is descended from the tribe of Judah] was promised great national blessings,

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Prophecy

Philadelphia [the prophesied end-time Church of God, doing the Work of God] write: . . . 'I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an *open door*' " (Rev. 3:7-8).

The Apostle Paul spoke of a *door* flung open before him to PREACH THE GOSPEL (II Cor. 2:12). Remember, Jesus promised, "This gospel of the kingdom SHALL be preached in all the world . . ." (Matt. 24:14), and promised to *make a way* for that message of hope and good news to go — by flinging open the massive DOORS of radio, the printing press, television, and personal evangelism. He promised those doors would *remain open.*

". . . And no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" (Rev. 3:8).

Yes, the very elect would NEVER become corrupted by false doctrines, or be muzzled by boards of men — they would not deny the name of Jesus Christ, or His true doctrine!

Later, Jesus gave the exhilarating GOOD NEWS to those faithful ones who put the WORK of God far above their own personal considerations. He said, "Because thou hast KEPT the word of my patience, I ALSO WILL KEEP THEE FROM THE HOUR OF TEMPTATION [TRIBULATION], WHICH SHALL COME UPON ALL THE WORLD, TO TRY THEM THAT DWELL UPON THE EARTH"! (Rev. 3:10.)

Yes, Jesus promised SAFETY. He promises supernatural PROTECTION to His own elect.

On the Wings of an Eagle

God brought the ancient Israelites out of Egypt on symbolic "eagles' wings" (Ex. 19:4). This symbolized the loving care and *protection* of God for His own children. Notice, now, an amazing prophecy. It is about the same *Church* of God addressed in the promise of protection we have just read in Revelation 3. "And to the woman [the Church] were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent" (Rev. 12:14).

In this end-time prophecy, John writes of the last, end-time REMNANT Church which is to ESCAPE the terrible WAR and tribulation that will soon strike our heedless people. They are, just as the ancient Israelites, carried to a place of SAFETY in the *"wilderness"* by the supernatural power of Almighty God, their Banner, their Shield, their Protector!

To those who will truly *repent* of wanting *their own way,* and who will come to God through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice, He promises spiritual, supernatural, MIRACULOUS *shelter!*

If you are one who desires to obey God — and who really wants God's protection — then here is GOOD NEWS! We have three articles available for your personal study:

"What Is a Real Christian?"

"What Is Real Repentance?"

"Why Does God Hide Himself?"

They are sent free as a service in the public interest. □