

The Sackcloth Times

A Publication of Faith On The Earth

July 2010

THANKS FOR YOUR READERSHIP / THE ONGOING ISSUES OF THE SACKCLOTH TIMES

For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the LORD is not turned back from us.
- Jeremiah 4:8

In their streets they shall gird themselves with sackcloth: on the tops of their houses, and in their streets, every one shall howl, weeping abundantly.
- Isaiah 15:3

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes....
- Daniel 9:3

Thanks to everyone who reads *The Sackcloth Times* and previous issues of *Faith On The Earth* newsletter. This small paper / online newsletter will continue as long as the Lord allows.

This is just a note to tell you that *The Sackcloth Times* monthly newsletter is now replacing the old *Faith On The Earth* quarterly newsletter. It is meant to be a short, monthly reminder to all of what is going on around us, as it relates to Bible prophecy and the end times scenario in which we live. It is also a reminder that if there were ever a time to "put on our sackcloth," so to speak, it is now.

With the presidency of Barack Obama, a horrendous cloud of evil hangs over the United States as never before. As a nation, we are living under a curse, and God's people must band together while standing for all that is true, regardless of the consequences. We may be silenced, spat at, slandered, and otherwise treated unfairly (to say the least), but we have to keep going. Jesus' return is ever near.

A large portion of the world's people have been turned over to their reprobate minds by God, as they have not heeded the truth of His Word. It is apparent that the nation of the United States is now being shoved hastily down a path towards godless socialism, as the voices that rise against this evil tide are drowned out by power-hungry corrupt individuals in our government. The voices of morality and the voices of reason have been cut off.

The bottom line: stay close to God as ever, and stay

close to those you know are part of God's family. Pray for unsaved loved ones, as there is still time for them as long as they are alive and breathing today! There is a remnant Church that will be called upon in these final hours, and we must be spiritually prepared, forsaking whatever God calls us to forsake in order to stand in these final days.

12And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.
Matthew 24:13

HAPPY DAYS AREN'T HERE AGAIN

We in America today are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of any land. The poorhouse is vanishing from among us.

- (Then) Republican candidate for president in 1928, Herbert Hoover

It has been twelve months of unprecedented advance, of wonderful prosperity. If there is any way of judging the future by the past, this new year will be one of felicitation and hopefulness.

- *New York Times*, January 1, 1929

We do not dare to use even a little soap, when it will pay for an extra egg or a few more carrots for our children.

- An unemployed father in Oregon, 1930

One woman said she borrowed 50 cents from a friend and bought stale bread for 3 cents per loaf, and that is all they had for 11 days except for one or two meals.... Another family did not have food for two days. Then the husband went out and gathered dandelions and the family lived on them.

- Report of Philadelphia investigator, 1931

...the economy is getting stronger by the day.

- Barack Obama, June 4, 2010

We are headed in the right direction.

- Barack Obama, July 2, 2010

2For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

3For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

4But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4

Many of us alive today did not experience the Depression of the 1930's firsthand. We have seen pictures of bread lines, out-of-work businessmen selling pencils and apples on street corners, and of the shantytowns, or "Hoovervilles," the dilapidated communities resulting from the newly homeless trying to piece together some shelter for their families.

Do we think it can't happen again?

We hear that things are turning around, even though unemployment inches higher every day as more jobs are lost and more of the already unemployed run out of benefits. The new health scare plan is sure to cause unheard of cutbacks for small and large businesses, as they have to make up for funds lost to yet more new renderings unto Caesar via taxes and various other burdens. Hiring is not on the foremost agenda of a company with these new government-imposed financial restraints on the horizon.

The Bible tells of a time when money has no value anymore. Since it cannot save man spiritually, the error of man having put so much trust in it will come to a most devastating end. Ezekiel 7:12 tells us, "The time is come, the day draweth near: let not the buyer rejoice, nor the seller mourn: for wrath is upon all the multitude thereof." This was a prophecy against Judah before the wrath of God was poured upon them for their having turned from God. This is also a warning to us in these last days of spirituality without salvation. Plenty of people believe in "something." Few believe in the One True God and have trusted in Jesus for their eternal lives.

They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

- Ezekiel 7:19

The wrath is coming upon "the multitude thereof." No one will be untouched by the economic distress that is coming upon all nations. Ezekiel 7:10 tells us that "the rod hath blossomed, pride hath budded." Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." The pride of man has come to its culmination on a global scale. The

stubborn will of man to go his own way, taking credit for his own gain, leaving the truth of God behind him, and forsaking God's hand of help and salvation, is finally demanding its toll. This country has seen depressions. Many nations have seen depressions. We have not yet seen the likes of the depression ahead of us.

The real estate explosion of the 1990's and first part of the 2000's, as well as the stock market explosion during this time has finally come to its end. My own house, bought in 2006, has lost half its value in just 4 years. And yet we're told we're on the road to recovery.

In 1929, a song called "Happy Days Are Here Again" was published. That was the year the stock market crashed, sending devastating economic waves across the world, plunging once prosperous families into poverty. In 1932, the song was used in FDR's presidential campaign. It has always been the way of either pop culture or political figures to pump optimism into rallying crowds.

So is the way with Obama telling us we're "on the road to recovery." The man who singlehandedly is spending more money than the government has, or could even recoup in several decades of bleeding its citizens dry, is telling us we're on the upswing.

When peace and safety are preached from the evil ones, we know to look up, because Jesus is our only safety net.

There is a storm brewing in the economy. Our country's road to socialism is coming with a heavy price. We are watching United States' sovereignty crumble quickly as we feign friendship with countries that hate us, so one day we can eventually merge with them.

One world, one government, one people—that is the plan. God's people cannot stop it because we are a minority in a world of those who have grown accustomed to their bailouts and dependency upon the "powers that be." The reprobates abound. They want the Antichrist to save them. Although prayer does work, and God always hears our prayers and He is always in control, some things just do have to run their due course.

Suicide and mental illness rates soared during the Depression of 1929-1930's. We will be seeing them soar again. While they wait for their savior, the Antichrist, to bail them out of their financial holes, people are doing whatever they can to hold onto whatever they do have.

A woman in financial trouble in Massachusetts faked her son's death so that she could collect his insurance money to pay for her mortgage and other bills that were behind. She then tried to fake her own death when things got tight again to be granted more time in paying the mortgage.

Sane minds are not capable of these kinds of lies. Demons are infiltrating the minds of people who are stressed out just trying to keep up with their daily expenses and don't have the money to do it. Instead of calling out to God and letting themselves be steered towards Him, the only One who truly can deliver in times of trouble, they will lose their grip on reality as the financial condition of the world worsens.

The only manmade answer to the problem is a massive "deliverance" by a world leader we know from the Bible who will be everything opposite Christ. He is known to Christians as the Antichrist, and he will promise great things and, for a time, deliver those great things. People will believe him and take his "mark" in order to be freed of debt and in order to buy and sell again:

"And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." (Revelation 13:17)

This counterfeit time of Jubilee will seem like a wonderful thing for a short while, and seem like a stressful burden lifted off many backs, but it is the very thing that will lead the world to its ultimate destruction, the battle of Armageddon. Anyone who has given their mind, heart and will to the Antichrist, will have an eternity in the lake of fire awaiting them.

Just as Esau sold his birthright for one meal, many will sell their rights to eternal life in Christ for a short-lived chance to prosper financially again. Esau lost a worldly blessing. So many today are forfeiting an eternal blessing. The words of Jesus, from Mark 8:36 apply: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

And let's also remember 1 Corinthians 10:12:

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

OUR NEW ONLINE IDENTITIES - A PRELUDE TO THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Under the guise of "online safety," a new way to identify internet users has been proposed by - but of course - the U.S. federal government. According to a Fox Business News Report, this identification system is called the "Identity Ecosystem."

It is proposed that every computer user have a special ID for all online transactions. Most are aware how the current system of usernames and passwords work. Every bank, every secure website and shopping cart, has a way for a customer to "log in" to their network. You create your own special username, and then assign a password to it that is blanked out when typed in. Only you and the administrators of the particular site are ever to have access to that password.

But as we also know, cyber criminals are getting more and more advanced and they are able to hack into and access private passwords, and they are able to steal whatever they will.

To many, a universal identity system would seem like a terrific idea: one username, one password, one huge network where you are uniquely you, and the other guy is uniquely the other guy. Even the criminals would have to have their own special ID and could therefore be easily tracked, making theft a more difficult thing.

So you see, it is because of our "safety" that this universal system must be put in place.

Even now, every computer itself has its own IP address. If Big Brother really wants to find you, or know what you "Google" on a daily basis, he can do it. Records of your online habits and transactions are out there. The "Identity Ecosystem" is just one more step to make it easier for him. Your personal, private information wouldn't take a minute to find. It would literally be at the fingertips of a government employee, at a few strokes of the keypad.

Of course, we shouldn't be surprised that this proposal is in the works, especially under our current *Obamanable* administration.

Here is a little of what Fox reported:

"The Identity Ecosystem would allow Americans to choose to obtain a single authenticated ID for online transactions. Like a passport, this single ID could travel with them online and be used to access everything from e-mail, to online health records and banking information. Furthermore, the Identity Ecosystem would only reveal the least amount of information necessary for each transaction.

"To highlight the potential consumer benefits of such a system, the White House's proposal uses the example of an individual filling a prescription online. Under the 'smart ID card,' the pharmacy would only receive proof that the individual is over 18 and that the prescription is valid. No other information like birth date or the reason for the prescription."

How wonderful and easy and safe this all sounds! At least that is supposed to be our response. "The least amount of information necessary for each transaction" is available to the merchant, pharmacy, bank, etc. And yet because it is all in one place on one huge network, controlled by the government, all information Big Brother wants is available, from your days as an embryo to your birth, to everything you bought from childhood to death, from every sniffle you ever had, every prescription you ever filled, every person you ever knew, every movie you ever rented, your employment, vehicles owned, etc.

If that doesn't sound like the Mark of the Beast, I don't know what else it could be.

Many different ID systems have been proposed over the years. This one is different because we have become a world that cannot operate without the convenience of the internet. In just one decade, we have all become “linked.” We’re one big world, one united Tower of Babel.

Here is a good example. I actually make my living from the internet now, selling children’s items. If I have a buyer from Portugal, or Italy, or wherever they would speak a language other than English, and they email me in their own language, all I have to do is use an online translator and I can interpret their email and respond to them in their own language.

Obama has even said he wants no household without a computer. He has plans to reach into the ever-empty pockets of government again and “wire” every home. For those who have resisted the internet - and that is, or should be, every individual’s choice, as some just prefer not to have it - you may find an Obama representative on your doorstep soon enough with cable wires and a modem.

For all the negative aspects of the internet, such as the availability of graphic porn and even gambling sites, the internet can certainly be used for good purposes. It has enabled ministries to get the Gospel out there, and it has enabled many to begin their own businesses. What happens when the Beast tries to control every crevice of the internet community and its transactions? I, for one, will be out of a job. Ministries that have been able to reach around the globe with the Gospel, but do not want to be controlled by the government, will be forced offline.

Technology is truly making way for the rise of the Antichrist system.

People of God, we must be prepared. It is “change” we were peddled, and it is “change” that we are being belted with.

HAS TELEVISION DONE THIS??

by Andrew Strom.

According to A.C. Nielsen, in a 65-year life the average American will have spent 9 years glued to the TV. Now think about that for a minute. Nine years of their life spent - doing what? Achieving what? Can we imagine in our wildest dreams that this is what God wants for us?

Statistics also tell us that on average, parents only spend 3 - 5 minutes per week in meaningful conversation with their children. And yet the average child watches television for 1,680 minutes per week. So who is raising these children? Parents or the TV? Who is molding their minds, values, and attitudes?

Why do so many Christian children rebel and turn from God in their teen years? Is there a connection?

We all know that a household of godly LOVE balanced with loving DISCIPLINE is the ideal for bringing up children. But I want to put it to you that HOURS OF INFLUENCE also make a huge difference.

I once wrote an article pointing out the two biggest factors in this: TV and SCHOOL. In other words, TV hours and peer pressure. These 2 things alone have the power to change your child’s life. And many times they are ripping them away from God.

In that article I recommended getting rid of TV and also starting to home-school. Many thought I was too radical. But we have seen it work big-time. And we learned the hard way.

What do children do when they have no TV? They read books, they create things, they play with others. And they grow up without that awful worldly cynicism and rebellion in their eyes.

God bless you all.

Andrew Strom.

The above was excerpted from an email sent through Andrew Strom’s ministry:

<http://www.JohntheBaptistTV.com>

NOTE ABOUT DAVID J. MEYER OF LAST TRUMPET MINISTRIES

If any of you has ever read *The Last Trumpet* newsletter, published monthly through Last Trumpet Ministries in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, you may already be aware, its author and the ministry’s pastor, David J. Meyer, passed away after a few months’ illness on June 8, 2010.

He was bold in reporting on the evils of this current world system and dedicated his entire life to God and ministry. He was a former witch who repented and got saved, and he went on to warn others of the nasty underworld of the occult and witchcraft.

Although he will be missed, we know he is with Jesus now, where he always spoke of being someday. Please lift his family up in prayer as they continue the newsletter and ministry he began 30 years ago. It was Pastor Meyer’s wish that his family would do this.

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