

ECONOMICS IN PROPHECY – THE COMING TIMES OF REFRESHING

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These notes are based on a taped lecture given by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God, he resigned in January 1974 because of unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

Here is a general statement: “It is my opinion”, says Dr. Martin in his lecture, “that in general, the Western world will enjoy a measure of prosperity in the next ten years. I am not a prophet, and we need always to be more than wary of those who claim to add to prophecy, and shun them for the false prophets that they are.”

The Bible is our standard, and our sole source of prophetic information. Christ authorized and closed the Canon of His Scriptures through John in 96 A.D., and Christ warns not to add or detract from them.

Revelation 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Righteousness also exalts the individual, and the way nations and people are exalted is partly in their prosperity. Prosperity rests to an large extent to co-operation between individuals and countries. Every human being in the world is potentially in the Royal Family of God. The process of getting the Gospel out to the world and producing a new Bible in its proper order will need a basis of prosperity to achieve those aims.

There are seven major points leading to prosperity.

1. Prosperity rests on people's desire, ability and will to work energetically on the land, and work the resources God has given us. The so-called 'Christian' nations are still prosperous despite the staggering level of national debt.

2. Having proper goals and resolve will create prosperity in those countries which basically had the Bible as a part of their heritage, provided of course they do not abandon the Biblical principles of prosperity.

3. Honesty is a vital trait in economics, both towards our fellow humans, but also towards everyone in business, and towards the government even to the matter of taxes, where Christ instructed us properly. to 'render to Caesar'.

4. Fairness towards all is an important character trait, not only towards our neighbour including all who live in our countries, but also in our dealings with other nations.

5. Confidence, (con-with, fidere-faithfulness) another vital character trait which leads to trust, confidence in our imperfect governmental systems which should be by-for-and of the people, which sadly they do not always live by. Everything we do should be done legally within the system we live under, especially in the area of economics.

6. Forgiveness is an essential trait. People who are bankrupt should do everything in their power to repay those they owe money to, but at the end of the day, a measure of forgiveness of debt should be in our hearts, both individually and nationally.

7. There needs to be a return to the principles of economics that God has spelled out for us in the Bible. To do that, those who have the Bible need to revisit it, respect it, blow the dust off it, and start reading and applying its laws of finance in their private and business lives.

God's economics principles and laws can and will ensure prosperity.

Sadly the majority of people are not suddenly going to take a renewed interest in the Bible, it is not in their hearts and minds to do so. God is going to have to send out a Spirit of Restoration which will cause people change their attitudes, and to take a different view of the Scriptures.

Acts 3:19 Repent (change your attitude to others, yes but also to ourselves) ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, (so that) when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

Our attitude to ourselves needs to reflect who we are. Those who are repentant and members of Christ our elder Brother's ekklesia, we who are Members of the Royal Family of God are pioneers in this present evil world.

There is only one Person between us and the Father, Jesus Christ. No man has any power over us in the spiritual realm.

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

We need to be about our Father's business!

There is a spirit of fear abroad in the world, and this needs to be replaced with a spirit of optimism and positivity despite all that goes on around us.

Again, Acts 3:19 Repent (change your attitude to others, yes but also to ourselves) ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, (so that) when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

This is not talking about a 'religious' revival.

If the Apostles were here today, James, Peter and John would not recognize **any** of the denominations of 'Churchianity' with which we are all familiar as being truly Christian. The Christianity that turned the world 'upside down' as the Jews saw it, introduced a new era of a different Covenant between God and human beings.

Further they would be dismayed to say the least to see that Christianity had become polluted with pagan beliefs like the 'Immortality of the Soul', Saturnalian Sun worship now called 'Christmas', and the sex worship of Ishtar now called 'Easter', and had absorbed many other ancient idolatrous practices.

The Apostles would hardly credit that 'Churchianity' meeting buildings are now infested with idols of 'Mary' and other 'Saints' which congregations pray to and worship; impressive buildings filled with statues, pagan emblems, and even pornographic symbols built into the stones of their architecture; and abound with images purporting to be of Christ which in fact are the god Zeus with long hair. Christ was a Nazarene, Christ was NOT a Nazarite, he did NOT have long hair, and He drank wine.

The Apostles would be horrified to observe that the ancient child murderous sacrifices to the god Molech were continuing in our era under another name, now called 'abortion' or euphemistically 'termination'.

The Apostles would be incredulous that ministers of 'Churchianity' were openly supporting homosexuality, and preaching 'same sex marriages' in the name of 'true love' between consenting adults, yet nothing was being done to bring these practices to a screeching halt.

The Apostles would be astonished that the church officials from the highest to the lowest were also well aware of the verbal, physical, and sexual abuse of young children by their ministers, and that nothing was being done to censure their activities.

The vast majority of 'Christian' people have no idea that their religious ideas and practices are against Christ's teachings. They do not realize that their lives are so involved with paganism and idolatrous worship at all. They think there is nothing wrong with 'Easter' or 'Christmas' but what they represent God HATES. Pagan religion is so entwined in our everyday society nobody notices it. Does anyone ever appreciate that the days of the week, and most of the names of the months are those of pagan gods?

Even if they did, they would think it was of no importance at all as they make their way to church services on the day of the Sun. Or if the idea was even considered, they would not think it of any relevance that our calendar is based on pagan ideas.

Names of the days of the week we use: Sunday was named after the Sun god. Monday was named after the moon goddess. Tuesday was named after the god Tyr. Wednesday was named after the god Odin. Thursday was named after the god Thor. Friday was named after the goddess Frigga. Saturday was named after the god Saturn.

Names of the months on our calendars:

JANUARY: Named for Janus, the Roman mighty one of portals and patron of beginnings and endings, to whom this month was sacred.

FEBRUARY: This name is derived from Februa, a Roman festival of purification. It was originally the month of expiation.

MARCH: It is named for Mars, the Roman mighty one of war.

APRIL: This name comes from the Latin APRILIS, indicating a time of Fertility.

MAY: This month was named for Maia, the Roman female deity of growth or increase.

JUNE: This name is sometimes attributed to June, the female mighty one of the marriage, the wife of Jupiter in Roman mythology. She was also called the "Queen of heaven" and "Queen of mighty ones."

JULY: Named for the Roman emperor Julius Caesar, who was deified.
AUGUST: Named for Octavius Augustus Caesar, emperor of Rome; also deified.

The calendar the world goes by now is the Gregorian (a Pope of long ago) calendar which is Solar based.

God named the days by number, first, second and so on, and the seventh was called the Sabbath day, a day of rest. The Jews have been guardians of the Sacred Calendar, which is Lunar/Solar and the phases of the Moon and Earth's position determines months for thousands of years.

Matthew 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? 11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.** 12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. 13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

Yes, John the Baptist, who was a type of Elijah, had come first, but Christ was also talking about a future time just before the second advent when another 'Elijah' would appear and begin to restore all things.

Malachi 4: 5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

The Elijah to come will promote healing within families as they turn to God. The last six chapters of Zechariah were actually written by Jeremiah, but tacked onto Zechariah under inspiration by Ezra who canonized the O.T.

Zechariah 12:1 The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

This chapter starts with stating the great authority with which it was given to Jeremiah. I am the Creator, and the donor of the life giving spirit in man.

Zechariah 12:2 Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.

There is clearly prophesied a coming siege of Jerusalem, whether by troops, embargoes, sanctions, or whatever. But the nations, that set the siege against Israel are going to find that Israel becomes a 'heavy burden' financially or in terms of being a huge problem, and the result of their attacking Israel will be that they shall be cut in pieces.

Zechariah 12:3 And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth (perhaps the United Nations?) be gathered together against it. 4 In that day, saith the Lord, I will smite every horse (weaponry) with astonishment, and his rider with madness: and I will open mine eyes upon the house of Judah, and will smite every horse (weaponry) of the people with blindness.

Zechariah 12:9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

This is all occurring just before the second coming of Christ.

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him**, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

God is going to cause there to be an awakening in the hearts and minds of the Jews and Israel, they are going to realize at last that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah that they had been awaiting, and bitterly regret that they had rejected him for over 2000 years.

Zechariah 13:1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

God is going to clean up Israel. They will not do it of their own accord, they will like us, have a miracle occur in their minds and be given a new spirit of repentance.

Zechariah 13:2 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

People who dabble with 'spiritualism' do not realize that who they are 'hearing' is not their aunty Joan, or uncle Sam, nor are they praying to 'Mary' who is long dead, they are being deceived by demonic spirits to believe in them because they have allowed the Immortality of the Soul to pollute their minds.

Just as Christianity has been perverted by pagan influences, Judaism also has its own idols, its own invalid practices, its own false prophets, its own abominations, and God is going to clean it all up. When this begins to happen it will be on the television every night, and the world will see it all happen. The times of refreshing are coming to this world.

Zechariah 13:3 And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the Lord: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth. 4 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision, when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear a rough garment to deceive: 5 But he shall say, I am no prophet, I am an husbandman; for man taught me to keep cattle from my youth. 6 And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

Those who turn to God, and repent of their past rejections of Him, will turn against the religious leaders and those who have perpetuated wrongdoing in the name of religion. Those who were responsible for misleading the people will claim to be farmers, and never to have been in the religion 'business'.

Our nations have inherited all the pagan practices of Hellenism, the integration of which started in the 5th and 6th Centuries A.D. and continue to this day to be totally intertwined with what people have come to believe it 'Christianity' How can it be, when if they were truly 'Christians' there would be a unity of the faith, not a hundred plus arguing denominations.

If we did not have the assurance that the times of refreshing are coming, the U.S. national debt of around 3 trillion (in 1992 when this talk was given, and now in 2013 over 21 trillion!!), the raging inflation and joblessness is affecting millions. Usury is a wrong principle, and no debt should go beyond 50 years at the Jubilee, as all debts would be cancelled. What a difference that would make in our world of finance today.

