

# **INTERPRETING THE TIMES IN THE LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES**

The rise of Nazism and the Soviet Union came with the promise of a new world to replace the strife and injustice of the old. (A gate to a new frontier and a better life) The thinking that dominated Germany and Russia was extreme and violent and brought change to their long established constitutional forms.

# Totalitarianism

Lenin and Stalin destroyed all opposition.

The killing of a person was not a soul destroyed but an implement discarded.

Efforts were made to exalt the power of the central government and limit the rights of the individual.

The party was more than people. The party is the embodiment of the revolutionary idea in history.

# **Socialism and Progressivism**

Socialism led the changes in Britain embodied in the Labour Party founded in 1900.

In the United States, the progressive movement was embraced by Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, and William Howard Taft.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was the leader who articulated a new basis for understanding rights and forms.

# **Winston Churchill**

## **by Larry Arnn**

Churchill warned that socialism in Britain would lead to the same kind of despotism that prevailed in Germany and in the Soviet Union. He warned United States of the threat to freedom and to the Constitution that protected that freedom. This would be accomplished by exalting the power of the central government and the limitation of the rights of the individual.  
(p.xxxi)

# Understanding Our World

Bishop Gene Robinson, a homosexual Episcopal cleric said: “We have allowed the Bible to be taken hostage, and it is being wielded by folks who would use it to hit us over the head. We have to take back those Scriptures...What an unimaginative God it would be if God only put one meaning in any verse of Scripture.”

Rob Bell said: ...it is “misguided and toxic” to believe that “a select few Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven, while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell with no chance for anything better.”

## **2 Timothy 4:3-4**

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.”

# Elimination of God

America is in the process of removing God from every area of life through political correctness and other means.

Prayer, Bible reading, and any concept of God has been banned from government, schools, and all public life.

What was once considered evil is now good and what was once good is now evil.

We now celebrate what was condemned and condemn what was once celebrated.

There is a disparity between the media elite and everyday people. True Christianity is rarely depicted as a natural part of life. The media perpetuates the notion that the consumer has the right to feel good and enjoy freedom.

The age of the internet is the age of the self and the selfie.

“I post, therefore I am”

“Cognito ergo sum” (Rene Descartes)

Human interconnectedness has been raised to global levels at unprecedented speed.

Everyone is now everywhere, and everyone can communicate with everyone else from anywhere at any time, instantly and cheaply.

Since there are no absolutes, morals change as society changes.

What is considered immoral for one person may be amoral to another.

Religion is an opium that people are given to dull their sensitivity to their miserable conditions in the real world.

# Ten Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Observe the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness.
10. You shall not covet.

## **Amos 8:11**

“Behold, days are coming, declares the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land, not a famine for bread or a thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the Lord.”

Jonathan Cahn said: “The attempt of a nation to defy the course of its judgment, apart from repentance, will instead, set in motion a chain of events to bring about the very calamity it sought to avert.”

## 2 Chronicles 7:14

“And My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Assyria attacked Israel-732, 722 B.C.

Babylon attacked Judah-605, 586 B.C.

## **E.M. Bounds**

“The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men...What the church needs today is not more or better machinery, not new organizations or more novel methods. She needs men whom the Holy Spirit can use—men of prayer, men mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through men...He does not anoint plans, but men—men of prayer.”

## **Romans 1:18-20**

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

## **Romans 1:21-23**

“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.”

## **Romans 1:24-31**

Therefore, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity...

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions...

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God and longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind...

## **Romans 1:32**

And, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.”

# WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

1. Hermeneutics
2. Near and Far View
3. Times of the Gentiles
4. Focus on Israel
  - a. Abrahamic Covenant
  - b. Seventy Weeks
  - c. Seven Feasts
5. The Church

# **William Wilberforce**

Born in 1759, the only son of a very prosperous family of merchants in Hull, a large seaport city on the northeast of Great Britain. His father died when he was nine. His mother, being ill, sent William to live with a wealthy uncle and aunt at Wimbleton. His mother didn't realize that they were devoted Methodists.

William was now exposed to George Whitefield, John Newton, and William Cowper.

When Wilberforce's mother found out about this Methodist influence, she along with his grandfather raced to rescue him from the clutches of these pious fanatics.

They exposed William to parties and other forms of worldliness trying to extinguish whatever spark of Methodism that existed in him.

Wilberforce entered Cambridge when he was sixteen years old and became interested in politics under the influence of William Pitt.

Pitt and Wilberforce were elected to Parliament at the age of twenty.

In 1784, Pitt and Wilberforce travelled to France with Isaac Milner and, under Milner's influence, Wilberforce became a believer in the existence of God and in Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Wilberforce began to see the terrible conditions around him and visited John Newton in December of 1785 for advice. Under Newton's influence, William tackled the slave trade, the abolition of slavery, the awful conditions of child labor, filthy prison conditions, prostitution, and alcoholism.

# Wilberforce's Plan

1. Total submission to the will of God to attack the conditions of his day.
2. Commitment to prayer and the memorization of Scripture.
3. Reliance on a solid community of devout Christian brothers and sisters.

# **Wilberforce's Accomplishments**

He took the Gospel into the mainstream of British culture.

The slave trade was abolished in 1807.

Slavery was abolished in 1833 just three days before his death at 73 years old  
(Born in 1759)