



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

A WORD FROM THE BIBLE ON 'GLOBAL WARMING' AND 'CLIMATE CHANGE'!

There has been much written of late on the subject of 'Climate Change' and the state of the environment.

A teenager from Sweden, Miss Greta Thunberg, has been to the fore. Her profile and prominence is mainly a creation of the media, but she does embody a growing concern about what MAN has done and is doing to this world!

Weather patterns may indeed move in cycles but plastic and rubbish in the oceans is not an cyclical occurrence and cannot be dismissed lightly!

However, the Bible tells us authoritatively and clearly what lies ahead in the not too distant future. It reveals the judgments of God which will come upon this morally corrupt earth, corrupted by the hand of man.

Man's sin is ALWAYS followed by God's JUDGMENT AND WRATH!

That is a despised and mocked truth but a truth nevertheless.

Below is what I wrote almost a quarter of a century ago. This article comprises my comments on Revelation chapters 8 and 9 in my book, "Shadow of the Antichrist."

The book may be obtained from '[The Sovereign Grace Advent Testimony](#)' Secretary, Mr. Stephen Toms.

It is also available as a PDF and can be downloaded from the "[The Burning Bush](#)" website.

I trust it will help to prepare you for that which will undoubtedly soon be seen upon the earth. The first 'trumpet' announces God's judgment of fire upon the earth. It is not without significance that in recent days we have read of 'unprecedented' fires in California and in Australia and other places. These, in a way are mere 'natural' occurrences but that spoken of in Revelation chapters 8 and 9 are supernatural happenings.

Please remember that the Book of the Revelation, God's last inspired word to His Church in this age, was written, as all Scripture is, for our learning.

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass (or literally, come to pass in a short time, IF); and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand," chapter 1:1-3.

Let us remember the words of Paul to the Church at Rome:

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof," Romans 13:11-14

The period of the seventh seal.

Revelation chapters 8 and 9.

The further you go in a study of the book of the Revelation, the more detailed becomes the subject matter of the visions. The nearer we get in our study to the event of the ages, the return of Christ, the greater the detail of the information given. It is akin to the record of history. The further back you go, the less detailed are the records available. It may be likened to the information we would give to someone travelling to our



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

home who is a complete stranger in the area. The first section of the journey would require few directions. It would be sufficient for directions to be given that would place the traveller on the road that would lead to our home. It would be necessary to become more specific only as he neared his destination. Then he would need increasingly detailed information of turn offs and prominent landmarks until he was guided to our door. So it is with prophecy. As we are taken nearer to the return of Christ, the significant and graphic pointers that herald that event are given in increasing detail and numbers. The period of the opening of the seventh and last seal is divided into seven smaller periods, the beginning of each one being signalled by the sounding of a trumpet. In this study we shall look at six of those trumpets.

I. THE SILENCE IN HEAVEN.

"And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour," Revelation 8:1.

This silence has been likened to the hush that descends upon a battlefield before the commencement of hostilities. God is about to stretch out His hand upon the earth in judgment. The trumpet, the ancient instrument of communication on the battlefield, is about to sound its commands. All heaven listens attentively for the signal that will herald the final phase of the conflict of the ages.

1. The sinfulness of men has provoked these judgments. "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts," Revelation 9:20-21.

Here is a six-fold description of mankind generally. Six being the number of man, we have a picture of what man will become as he progressively breaks free of all moral restraint. Devil worship. The final apostasy will centre upon the total rejection of God. Man is an atheist at heart. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God," Psalm 14:1. The end of this age will see open and blatant denial of God and the worship of the devil. "For that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God," 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" Revelation 13:4.

Idol worship. Man has surely reached his lowest level of intellectual turpitude when he bows in worship before an idol of metal or wood or stone. It is on the increase in this age. In lands, where the gospel swept it away at the reformation, it is returning with a vengeance. It has become almost fashionable to become an idol-worshipping Romanist. Hundreds, if not thousands of members of the Church of England have been led by their disaffected clerics into the fold of Rome. Among these blind and deluded devotees have been ministers of the British Government, members of the Royal family and celebrities from the world of so-called entertainment. The shameful display of Mary-worship at Walsingham in Norfolk, England, when the Romish doll is paraded with great pomp and ceremony through the tiny village, amidst much chanting of 'Ave Maria' and swilling of beer by monks and priests, is an example of the evil traditions of the dark ages. It is true of them as it had been of the believers at Corinth before their conversion to Christ. "Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led," 1 Corinthians 12:2. The worship of idols is but a cover for the worship of devils, though I am sure that few of the worshippers realise this. "What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing? But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils," 2 Corinthians 10:19-20.

Murder. Where there is subservience to the devil there will be murder for he was "a murderer from the beginning," John 8:44. Not only will murder become more frequent, but it will become accepted. By that I mean, it will not be considered with the abhorrence that is in keeping with such an awful crime. The pun-



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

ishment laid down for it in God's law, capital punishment, has been almost universally abolished. Mitigating circumstances will be increasingly promulgated, as in some recent cases where women, who had murdered their common-law husbands in retaliation for beatings and were given a jail sentence for murder, were released from prison, when it was decided by the courts that they were not really guilty of murder and that a much shorter sentence would be more appropriate.

A new attitude to murder is also seen in the public 'rehabilitation' of men such as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness who are commonly believed to have held positions of leadership within the IRA terror campaign in Northern Ireland, in which many hundreds of Protestants have been brutally murdered, simply because they were Protestants. It is quite in order, but a few short months after the last IRA murder, for UK Government ministers to be seen shaking hands with these guilty men and smiling and posing for the press, as they enter talks with these erstwhile terrorists who have never unequivocally renounced terrorism or repented of their crimes. Since 2007, we in Northern Ireland have seen this "new attitude" toward murder reach new depths with the establishing of a coalition between the murderers of Sinn Fein/IRA and the Democratic Unionist Party. Those who professed undying abhorrence of murder and terrorism abandoned their "principles" and that for the purpose of obtaining political position and power. There has been no repentance on the part of the murderers. Rather they have continued to glory in their activities, dismissing them as being of little significance. The Democratic Unionist Party, whose slogan once was 'And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free', John 8:32, have, at best, feebly objected to such a spirit of glorying. This is none other than the defiance and rebellion that will provoke God's judgment upon this world.

Sorcery. This practice will become very common in the last days of this age. The word for sorcery is pharmakeia from which we get pharmacist. It is linked with the administration of drugs. It literally refers to 'enchantment with drugs'.

Drug-taking is a practice that is becoming ever more common. A survey in the 1990s, commissioned by the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, indicated that pupils at school who do not take drugs will soon be the exception. Some 80% of 700 school attenders, interviewed in Manchester and Liverpool in England, acknowledged that they had been offered drugs before they were 16 and more than half of them had tried them. It has been claimed by the authors of the survey that over the next few years, particularly in urban areas, 'non-drug trying adolescents will be a minority group. In one sense they will be the deviants' (National press, 25/7/95). A more frightening picture is painted in more recent news reports which appeared in 2010. It was reported that a gang of primary school pupils had been suspended after they were found dealing drugs in the playground. Teachers caught the four nine-year-old boys selling wraps of cannabis to fellow pupils between lessons for 50p each. In a sophisticated operation, one boy would collect the money from pupils while another handed out the drugs.

Link this drug-taking with the rise of interest in the occult and you can see that which is spoken of in this chapter coming to pass. 'Mystic Meg' is a rather comical female who, for a time, was featured each week in the choosing of the numbers for the national lottery in the United Kingdom. That 'figure of fun' will become more and more a 'figure of fear', as increasing darkness takes hold upon the mind of the nation. Interest in witchcraft and wicca have become endemic in television programmes for adults and children. Suddenly, satanism is respectable and 'fun'! What a horrible realisation will yet break upon mankind! Fornication. Illicit sexual behaviour of all forms is becoming increasingly accepted in society. The heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, has openly acknowledged that he has committed adultery and married the woman with whom he committed adultery. She now carries a royal title. That, it seems, has not jeopardised his right of succession to the throne. Adultery became the norm for his former wife, the late Princess Diana. Such an flaunting of her sin did not damaged her public standing in the eyes of the majority in the nation. United States former President, Bill Clinton and the late François Mitterand, a former president of France, are two other international figures who openly acknowledged their infidelity. A recent report by a committee within the Church of England called for the abandoning of the term 'living in sin', because it was offensive when referring to those who co-habited outside of marriage. Similar noises have been heard from other religious camps. Sodomy has been legalised. Sodomite couples have even been considered as suitable for the adop-



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

tion of children. In certain circumstances it is punishable by law for one to express abhorrence of this detestable and wicked practice. The brazen adherents of this shameful defiance of God's law are becoming ever more open and bold. Government ministers openly proclaim their shame. There are even sodomites in the ministry of some ecumenical denominations. Many of them occupy prominent positions of power. All of this points to the increasing moral corruption which will trigger God's judgments, even as it did in Noah's day and in Lot's day.

Theft. Theft may seem a minor thing, a thing that has been a common practice throughout the ages. Common it may be, but I am sure that it will reach new depths as this age advances toward its close. Dishonesty, the seedbed of theft, is more prevalent now than ever before. It has become quite acceptable for those who are otherwise quite respectable members of society to steal from employers, from shops, from just about anybody when an opportunity arises. A robbery took place in Dublin, Republic of Ireland and was widely reported. The robber was hotly pursued by the police. As he ran, bank notes began to fall from the leg of his trousers down which he had stuffed his loot. Passers-by grabbed what they could and were most reluctant to hand it over to the police. Hundreds of pounds were never recovered, having been taken by citizens who felt that it was quite in order to hold on to such a windfall. A phrase has become very prevalent in the utterances of those expressing the view that life has been unkind to them. They say they have a 'right' to a house, to a substantial and steady income, to an underpinning of their lifestyle by government funds, to just about whatever takes their fancy. Such a view is the product of the so-called 'welfare state' and has been promoted by successive political parties urging upon the electorate an expectation of such 'rights' in order to win support and ultimate political power. The populace, having been urged to demand these 'rights', naturally expect them. Where it is commonly believed that we have a right to that which others seem to be enjoying, then it is a short step to concluding that, all other avenues to our obtaining it being apparently closed, we have a right to take it. Of course, such thinking lies behind the moral theology of Rome. Her great 'moralist,' Alphonso Ligouiri, teaches that, if our neighbour has an abundance of that which we have need of, it is no sin to steal from him. Such teaching has produced the thinking in countries such as Italy, Portugal, the Irish Republic and Spain that has resulted in the fraudulent appropriation of countless millions of pounds by citizens claiming grants from the funds of the European Community to which they have no rights. Dishonesty will reach epidemic proportions before the end of the age.

2. The prayers of believers have produced these judgments. "And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake," Revelation 8:3-5. The prayers of all saints regarding the wickedness of this world are going to be answered. The believer has ever been vexed by the sin taking place around him. That vexation has given rise to prayers and they will be answered. Some of the utterances of David are representative of the feelings of the child of God amidst the wickedness of this world. "Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law. Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law. I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word," Psalm 119:53, 136, 158. The prayers of God's people will bring God's judgment upon the earth. "Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me," Psalm 92:11. "And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?" Luke 18:7. We have already seen that even in heaven the saints continue to pray such prayers, Revelation 6:10-11. The "little season", mentioned in 6:11, is coming to an end and the time of wrath and vengeance draws near.

3. It should be noticed that the instruments associated with gospel mercy are now used in judgment. The trumpet is first mentioned in the Bible as the instrument that featured in the announcement of the law of God to Israel. The censer was the symbol of intercession at which the high priest ministered on behalf of Israel. These now become the instruments of judgment. Paul called the preacher of the gospel "a savour of death unto death or a savour of life unto life," 2 Corinthians 2:16. That, which saves those who



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

believe it, will damn those who reject it. It was to this truth Christ referred when He said, "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust," John 5:45. The words of life shall become the words of condemnation to those who refused to obey them.

II. THE DEVASTATION ON THE EARTH.

1. Creation is at first the chief subject of judgment. "And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up," 8:6-7. In the judgments we may observe the gradual procedure of God. The inanimate creation is the first to feel His wrath and natural forces are employed by the Lord. A similar commencement to the judgments in Egypt may be observed. There the first judgments fell chiefly upon the creatures of the fields and then increasingly affected men. There all the judgments involved only natural phenomena.

"And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood; and the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed," verses 8-9. The second trumpet brings a judgment that results in a third of the creatures in the sea and a third of the ships and their crews and passengers being destroyed.

"And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; and the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter," verses 10-11. The third judgment brings a poisoning of a third of the waters and many men die as a result. "And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise," verse 12. The fourth judgment, with its darkening of the sun, will likewise bring great discomfort to men.

2. A woeful pronouncement. "And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound," verse 13. If men only realised what their sin will bring upon their heads, they would understand why even the angels utter a groan at the prospects faced by sinners. This verse makes clear that the three woes are synonymous with the last three trumpets.

III. AN INVASION FROM HELL.

This triple woe pronounced by the angel indicates a significant new phase of the judgments as their severity increases. The Lord no longer confines Himself to using natural forces as instruments of judgment. Now He releases the powers of hell upon men. It should be noticed also that men are now the only target of judgment. "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. . . . and their power was to hurt men five months. . . for to slay the third part of men. . . . By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths," Revelation 9:4, 10, 15, 18.

1. The likeness of these invaders, verses 7-10. They are described as warhorse-like locusts, verse 7. What an image of furious activity! Both creatures are noted for fury and voracity. The war horse is described in Job 39:19-25 as a creature without fear. Against the locust man, even modern man, has no defence. They wear crowns of gold, verse 7. Unto them was given power, verses 3, 5, 10. The word 'power' means that they had the 'authority' as well as the 'ability' to hurt men. They could not be resisted by men for they had divinely-given jurisdiction over their victims. They have faces like men, verse 7. The idea suggested is that of intelligence. They would deceive men all the more easily, being given the knowledge of men. They have hair like women, verse 8. Men with long female-like hairstyles have become part of the gender confusion in



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

which modern society indulges. It speaks of effeminacy and sensuality. If the shaven head in Old Testament times was the symbol of mourning, then the opposite surely denotes revelry. "Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem, and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath," Jeremiah 7:29. The Grecian and Roman empires, in keeping with former empires, came to an end in a wave of wanton seeking after the gratifications of the flesh. That same spirit will manifest itself to an unparalleled degree in the last days of this age. They have teeth like a lion, verse 8. Satan is lion-like in his cruel harassment of men. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour," 1 Peter 5:8. Fierce and cruel will be the regime that the devil will be permitted to inflict upon men. They have breastplates of iron, verse 9. They will be impervious to resistance and to all appeals for clemency. Their breast, the seat of emotion and tenderness, will be bound about with iron-like harshness. They have wings. Flying is the fastest means of transport known to man. With what rapidity this dark plague of evil will spread across the world! It will penetrate to all areas. The Romans needed roads to conquer. Wings make roads obsolete. There are few truly remote areas left in the world. There will be no hiding away from what is coming upon the world. They have stings. They injure rather than killed. They tortured rather than slew. They shall so afflict that men shall desire death. "And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them," verse 6. 2.

2. The leader of these invaders. "And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon," verse 11. This was not 'mindless' violence and disorder. It was executed under the directions of the devil. It must be said, that while much of the violence in which men engage seems to be without reason or purpose, in truth there is no such thing as 'mindless' violence. There is a mind behind it all — Satan's.

The invasion begins with a falling star. "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit," verse 1. I believe the star refers to the devil. He is depicted in Holy Scripture as gathering to himself a portion of the angels of heaven who followed him in his rebellion against God. The words of Isaiah 14:12-15 are a reference to Satan's fall into rebellion. There again there is a reference to the stars of God and Satan's desire to rule over God's host. "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit," Isaiah 14:12-15. God shall permit the devil to release upon the world the hellish powers that mercy has long restrained. Under king Satan, this dark host will come forth to plague men.

3. The limits of this invasion. There is a three-fold limitation upon it.

a. It is limited in the power it exercises. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, verse 5. What power God exercises over the devil! A similar restriction to that placed upon Satan, when he was permitted to afflict Job, will be placed upon him on this occasion. "And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life," Job 2:6. While Job's afflictions were to test the man of God and to show forth God's gracious power to keep His children, such will not be the purpose of God on this occasion. The subjects of Satan's attack will not be killed, but they will be tormented. The word 'torment' (verse 5) is the word so often used by unclean spirits when referring to their future punishment. "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" Matthew 8:29. This clearly indicates just what wicked men will endure at the devil's hands at the end of this age.

b. It is limited in the time that it will last. "And their power was to hurt men five months," verse 10.

c. It is limited in those targeted. "And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads," verse 4. Let every child of God rejoice that even in the midst of hell's invasion there will



The Burning Bush - Online article archive

be the barrier of redeeming blood that will keep the messenger of suffering from the door. Those with the seal of Christ upon them need fear no evil. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour," Isaiah 43:2-3.

IV. THE SATANIC INFLUENCE OF ANTICHRIST'S KINGDOM.

"Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates," 9:14. Here is an unloosing of the evil power that resides in Babylonianism. It is that releasing from restraint about which we have already made some comments. As Lazarus was loosed from the restraints of his grave clothes (John 11:44), even so shall there be a liberating of powers of evil angels, which are presently bound in the region of the Euphrates river.

Babylonianism will be a system not only of commerce and false religion. It will have a military arm. The loosening of the evil angels is swiftly followed by reference to a great army of "two hundred thousand thousand," verse 16. This army was to be the instrument by which one third of the men were killed. It is most likely that it is one third of the male population of the prophetic earth, the area around the Great or the Mediterranean Sea.

Great slaughter shall mark the advance of antichristianity. Apostasy and misery go hand in hand. Northern Ireland over the last 45 years ought to have learned this lesson. So ought the rest of the United Kingdom. Even the long-safe sanctuary of the infants' school has been breached by the devilish cruelty that has followed in the footsteps of national apostasy, as was witnessed at Dunblane in Scotland not long ago.