

# This Generation

by Leroy Surface

As the Jews' seventy years of captivity in Babylon came to an end, the prophet Daniel prayed for understanding of what was yet to come. God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Daniel of another "seventy weeks," or 490 years in which they would serve other nations. Those years were added to "finish the transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy." Daniel 9:24. At the beginning of the seventieth week of the prophecy, "the Messiah, the Prince" would come to accomplish all these things.

Jesus came into His ministry in the same year designated for the Messiah to come, and He accomplished everything God had promised when He died on the cross just 3½ years before the end of the 490 years, or in the middle of the seventieth week of the prophecy. The 70th week continued another 3½ years as God "poured out His Spirit" Joel 2:28 in Jerusalem and the regions of Judea. This marked the end of the 490 years determined upon the Jews, and the gospel began to go to the Gentiles. The year was 33½ A.D. The prophetic time of the Jews was fulfilled, and the times of the Gentiles were just beginning.

Understand the significance of what I say now. From the time circumcision was instituted by God with Abraham until the end of the seventy weeks prophecy to the Jews was 1933½ years. From that time until June 1967, the end of the times of the Gentiles, was exactly 1933½ years. God gave equal prophetic time to both the Jew and the Gentile. A coincidence? It could hardly be so. Sadly, both Jew and Gentile rejected Jesus Christ, and the "times of the Gentiles" ended on June 6, 1967, when Jerusalem returned to Jewish control. Jesus told us this would happen, saying, "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24.

This event marked the beginning of the generation of which Jesus said, "this generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." In this generation the nations have been in moral decline, as evidenced by institution of "legal" abortion, pornography, drugs, gay marriage, and the fact that America has become an idolatrous nation. This generation has brought the greatest "falling away" and "apostasy" since the dark ages. "Another gospel" has been preached, and "another spirit" has been received. At the same time, sexual impurity has become rampant in many churches, with some surveys showing 68% of evangelical men regularly view pornography, along with 54% of their

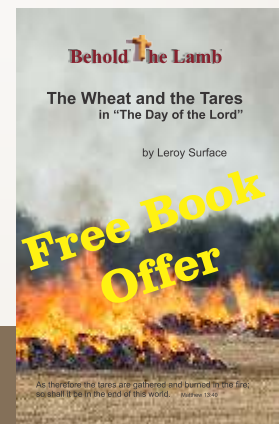
pastors. Most "believers" today believe sin is the norm for a child of God. What is most amazing to me is the fact that "Christian ministers" are preaching to the largest crowds in the history of the world, while at the same time we are losing the nations. In America, the "spirit of antichrist" is presently taking control of our national government. Sadly, it had to find a place in the church before it could come to our nation.

Jesus said "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not" Luke 12:40. I can remember when Israel became a nation in 1948 and there was a stir in churches. People were "getting ready" for Jesus to come. Again, in June 1967 during the six day war in Israel the churches filled up with people who were "getting ready." Across the nation people gathered in all night prayer meetings, crowds filled the churches, believing that at any moment Jesus would come.

Perhaps some can remember the phenomenon of 1988. A man wrote a book titled "Eighty Eight Reasons Why Jesus Must Come In 1988." Multitudes around the world were convinced. Again the churches filled to capacity with people seeking to "get ready" for Jesus to come. In each of these cases the multitudes soon cooled off, and people went back to their self-centered living, seeking the things of this present world rather than the things of Heaven. The next alert came in the year 2000, and vast multitudes were again "getting ready." Vigils were held, while others made a pilgrimage to Rome. Still others made the trip to Jerusalem to meet Jesus when He came. Everyone with any Christian belief at all was "getting ready." Sounds good, right? Except for one thing. Jesus did not say, "get ready," but rather He said, "be ready." He did not say He would come when the multitudes expect Him and prepare themselves, instead He said He would come "...at an hour when ye think not."

Even though very little has been said about the return of Jesus in recent years, He is still coming. This is still the generation which Jesus said "...shall not pass away till all be fulfilled." One thing is certain, those who wait to "get ready" will not "be ready" when He comes. The unfaithful servant who said in his heart "My lord delayeth his coming" Luke 12:45 was not ready when his lord came.

The "foolish virgins" slumbered and slept without oil in their lamps. They had prepared for an earlier time, but he came in an hour that they thought not. Today is the day of salvation. Now is the acceptable hour. Tomorrow will be too late!



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