

PEERING INTO THE FUTURE – PART II

It's on everyone's mind. Something is coming. We are living in a time...or so they say. You don't have to believe in the Bible to see what is coming upon the earth: The oil crisis, nuclear Iran, the Palestinian question, a food crisis, economy staggering, dollar plunging, terror, Iraq, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, the rise of Asia, natural disasters, crazy weather, earthquakes, radical Islam, radical homosexuality, radical greens; - altogether spelling the death knell for the culture we knew. Where does it all end? How does it all play out?

Man's View

LEAP 20/20 has an interesting history. This was the think tank that predicted the fall of the Soviet Union long before it happened. For the last year or so they've been warning of the emerging crisis that is falling upon the world. This summer they thought it necessary to put out a special edition because of what they see as the coming crisis. Here's the way they put it in their sub-heading. "The world plunges into the heart of the global systemic crisis."¹ This is no fantastic or idle speculation. The evidence that something is afoot is all around. Forbes Magazine tells us that the soaring price of oil will actually make America "go broke". Right now the US consumes about 21 million barrels per day, or about 15% of an American's net take home pay. Should oil go up to the predicted \$200 per barrel, Americans would be spending about 22% of their income on petroleum products, not including coal or natural gas. In the words of the article, "the U.S. will be broke long before oil prices hit \$200 per barrel". The total annual cost to the American economy would be about \$450 million.² A hefty price indeed.

Elsewhere we see an inflationary trend and a rise in "loan delinquencies" and bankruptcies that could "create even more problems for the banking system".³ And one analyst writes that any attempt to hold the dollars value by raising interest rates would only cause foreign investors to sell off American bonds, ultimately hurting rather helping the dollars exchange rate. The author's conclusion: Fed Chair Bernanke can "jaw bone" all he wants, but ultimately "There won't be a rebound".⁴ Economic analyst James Mcfarlane gives us a list of what we can expect. The following factors will all be trending upward: Inflation, long-term interest, gold & silver, unemployment, energy prices, unemployment, food prices, personal and municipal bankruptcies, - in general, volatility. The US dollar, equity markets, real estate and personal freedom, - will all be going down.⁵ And that's just on the economic front. Like the folks from LEAP, JR Nyquist believes the problem is more widespread in nature. He sees a long-term trend of Western fecklessness that threatens the entire system. Nyquist writes: "America is disintegrating from a combination of permissiveness, distraction and false principles. One day soon America's financial structures won't be able to support the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force. And when that happens, the balance of power will shift dramatically from West to East."⁶

The LEAP article pulls all of these trends together. After looking at eight specific areas they lay out a scenario for the period leading into 2010.

- **Dollar Panic** – Loss of confidence in currency and economy "destroys the American psyche". Year ends at EUR 1= USD 1.75.
- **Failed Attempt at a Globalized Economy** – World needs but doesn't get Washington under trusteeship, - "provokes the system's break".
- **The EU** – The center slows down, the nations on the periphery go into full recession.
- **Asia Trouble** – Economic downturns in American and Europe lead to high inflation and collapse of Asian export market.
- **Latin America** – Mexico & Argentina in financial crisis.
- **Arab World** – Pro-West regimes in crisis from Egypt to Morocco.
- **Iran** – "70 percent probability of an attack by October 2008 confirmed."
- **Banking** – World banks, especially American & British will be in lots of trouble.⁷

Wilkerson's Word

Theirs is a frightening scenario. The world seems to recognize the problem, but has little clue to the source of the problem or its ultimate outcome or prescription for its cure. So I turn to the prophetic words of David Wilkerson, pastor of the Times Square Church in New York City. I am one who is always hesitant to relate the prophecies of men, - knowing the test of a prophet given in the Bible, - and cognizant of the frailty of humanity. Yet I offer the words of Rev Wilkerson, based on his track record. He is the founder of Teen Challenge and the author of many prophetic works; - and many of his prophecies have come true already. Weeks before the 9/11 attacks, Wilkerson suspended other activities in his church and dedicated that body to prayer for this country. Now ten years ago he wrote a book titled: *America's Last Call: On the Brink of Financial Holocaust*. In a recent newsletter, Wilkerson summarized again what he believes God told him was coming to America and the world.

- **A Meltdown in the Bond Market** – Beginning especially in the Fall of '07, the bond markets began to suffer serious losses with securities insurers losing big and a general uncertainty pervading the whole sector.⁸
- **God's Judgment Will Strike Suddenly** – The US economy, (and that of the world), - is poised to take a hit.
- **Real Estate Crash** – We're riding in the middle of that one with seemingly more to come. Wilkerson says many homeowners would see their houses repossessed. And thus it goes!
- **An Ominous Rise in Homosexual Power** – Gay marriage, - the invasion of our schools / curricula et al
- **The Collapse of the Dollar** – Our currency is held up only by the fact that most oil is still only sold in dollars and foreign purchases of T-Bills, financing the \$3 trillion US debt.
- **America Loses Control of Its Economy** – See above & ...that's just what the LEAP people are seeing.
- **Wall Street in Complete Confusion** – It took \$30 billion of Fed money to save Bear Stearns. What's next?

Yet still the US, - people and politicians alike don't get it! Both are seeking billions of dollars in new programs from a government that is hopelessly in debt, and a nation that struggles to pay the interest on that debt. As David Wilkerson puts it: "...a political madness is gripping America".⁹

Interesting about all this is that Wilkerson's writings from about 10 years ago mirror today's actual situation. There's even a closer parallel if we look at one of his earlier writings. Writing in 1993, he foresaw three nations going bankrupt. First a "European or North African or Eastern nation is going to default". (Not very specific, but it gets better.) "About 2 weeks after the first country defaults...the 2nd country is going to go down, probably Argentina or Brazil and we will kind of live that out and people will settle down and say 'Well maybe its not going to hurt.' But two weeks after the first country goes down, Mexico is going to default on \$100 billion." Now if you've been paying attention to the countries mentioned by LEAP 20/20, you will have seen that they just been mentioned again: Argentina and Mexico. Wilkerson goes on: "When the banks open the next day at 9:00 am in the morning \$15 billion an hour is going to be withdrawn from our American banks. They are going to be running our banks". He then proceeds to describe the effect that this will have on the country: "...we're going into six months of the worst hell America has ever seen---there's going to be chaos---not even the National Guard's going to be able to quiet it down---we're going to have to call out the whole U.S. Army...There's going to be fear like we've never known – judgment at the door".¹⁰ You take this for what it's worth.

Where Do We Go From Here ?

So no matter who we are to believe we are in for a ride. What can we do? James Mcfarlane of 321Gold has a few ideas: Buy gold, buy food, grow food, stock up, keep cash, take security precautions.¹¹ That's the practical side. Here's one that's even more important. REPENT!! We are a nation that for the most part has rejected God. We've instead built an idol of our own making; - a god of tolerance rather than holiness; - a deity of permissiveness rather than truth. But despite our wholesale rejection, God is "a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful" (Nehemiah 9:17), when we repent. Here is the call to our nation, - the Church. It is found in 2Chronicles 7:14. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

WAKING UP TO GOD'S PLAN

By special contributor Pastor Lynn Zankl

Hi folks, Pastor Lynn here again, and no, it's not about evolution this time. I want to talk to you about being a Christian, in what are turning out to be some difficult times. There is no need for me to re-voice what Rob so succinctly reports to you each week, but, I believe that things are going to drastically change for us here in America, and as God's representatives we need to be prepared to respond to a hopeless and scared people.

We all know that our dollar is deflating, and that we have become the largest debtor nation in the world, carrying a 3 trillion dollar debt. On top of that, it is estimated that the average American family is one hundred thousand dollars in debt. Our economy is so out of balance that the nation's economy could collapse at any moment. The recent floods in the Midwest have destroyed billions of dollars of food crops; famine in the US is a real specter; - and if not famine, at the least high cost for food. We all know where gas prices are going, without any relief in sight. Industry is demanding that workers take drastic cuts in pay for the same work, and at the same time increase the cost of their own products. There comes a time when one cannot support the other and the whole house of cards comes tumbling down. Folks I am not trying to be a prophet of doom or an alarmist, but we have got to wake up and see that perhaps things are not going to be the same in America as we have come to expect them to be.

We, as Christians are Gods emissaries, bringing His truth, deliverance, and supply to the world around us, but if we are sleeping, caught off guard, and not prepared, we will be help to no one, not even ourselves. How then, do we become prepared?

Wake up, first of all, to who God is. Heb 11:6 says to us.... **“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to Him... MUST... believe that He is, and is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”**. Understand this scripture and you will understand a great deal of Gods character.

Faith is the #1 requirement to please Him... ALL things in our Christian walk are based on our faith that God is exactly who He says He is, - and without that faith, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE to please Him. That doesn't mean that God puts up a road block that we cannot get around, but, that we are not able, we don't have the capacity, nor the strength to please Him. That little word *please*, does not mean making nice nice, but it means to be acceptable. In other words without faith we cannot even be acceptable to God. When coming to God, we MUST, - (that means that it is absolutely necessary), - that we believe that God is... Commit ourselves to the truthfulness of God, that He is exactly who and what He says He is,... and that; He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. The word translated “rewarder”, is a word that means “Wage Payer”, God pays wages to those who diligently seek Him. Just as **“the wages of sin is death”** (Rom 6:23): The wages of God are life, and life **“more abundantly”**. (John 10:10)

Because of these promises of God, we can also believe God when the Bible says in Phil 4: 19, **“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”**. God will supply all that we need, during these times; not so that we can heap it upon ourselves, but so that we can meet the needs of others. We need to be a people of mercy and compassion, just as our Lord demonstrated to us when He was on earth. In fact the word of God says to us in 1Corinthians 10:24 **“Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth”**.

So, how should we respond to a crisis situation in the United States? Does God have a plan for us to follow? Do the Scriptures teach us anything to know what to do? Look at Luke 6:38, **“Give.... And it will be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall MEN give into your bosom. For with the same measure that you mete, withal it shall be measured to you again”**. Do you, can you, see the beauty of Gods plan to meet your needs and at the same time to meet the needs of others so that you can show them the way of salvation, and everlasting life? It is in a time of crisis that people begin to hoard for themselves. During the panic of Y2K, at the beginning of the year 2000, - many Christians hoarded a great amount of things to preserve THEMSELVES. This is not Gods plan for His church. If we are willing to trust God, and believe that He really does know the beginning from the

end, and do what He says for us to do, many will see that we are on to something that will help them. If we, in a time of crisis, or not, are willing to do it Gods way, we will give what He tells us to give, even though we may have need of it ourselves.... according to His word, He will cause MEN to give back to us, meeting our needs and giving us the ability to give more to others. God's plan is faultless, and will certainly work in our lives if, - IF, - we have the faith to believe that God is exactly who He says He is, and is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Thanks for listening. Pastor Lynn

CONFUSING SIGNALS

Rumors of both war and peace in the last week or so have moved the oil market first up and then down. Fear of an impending strike on the Iranian nuclear facilities has been building with talk of unilateral Israeli action fed by reports by one Pentagon official who opined that there was "an increased likelihood" that Israel would carry out an attack before the end of the year. He pointed to two "trip wires" that could serve as the 'go signal' for action; - the first involving a sufficiency of nuclear fuel produced at the Natanz facility, - with the second being the impending delivery of the sophisticated SA-20 Russian air defense system.¹² A few days later, another source told ABC that Israel would not wait until Iran was nuclear capable but would strike "before they get to that point. The Russians responded with cryptic warnings of their own.¹³ As did the Iranians, who were more specific, eventually getting around to threatening Tel Aviv and the American naval presence in the region.¹⁴ All that war talk brought the price of oil to record highs.¹⁵

Almost immediately however, came the 'rumors of peace'. Admiral Mullen of the US Joint Chiefs warned of the dangers that a third front, (a war fought between the Iraqi and Afghan theaters), - would put on the American military establishment.¹⁶ President Bush sent the same message to the Israelis themselves.¹⁷ Even the Israelis, - who had conducted a massive training exercise for an Iranian operation just weeks ago, - got in the game and reassured Washington, London and others that there would be no such attack occurring in the next few months.¹⁸ And then, early in the week, fed by the peace talk, oil took a plunge, dropping below \$140 per barrel.¹⁹

So what's going on? According to DEBKA Net Weekly, the reason is an ad hoc agreement between Washington and Iran. The Americans promise to forego taking out the Iranian nuclear plants in return for the Iranians calling off their boys in Iraq, - the pro-Iranian Shiite militias including Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army, and holding the line at \$150 per barrel oil. A stand-down by the Shiite forces would allow the US to concentrate its attacks against al-Qaeda and the Sunnis, where it is already experiencing a great degree of success, - would enhance the image of the Bush administration and improve conditions for a McCain presidency. Of course, the arrangement is tenuous at best, with neither side taking its military options off the table, - and the Iranians having the added task of maintaining control of some of the more radical elements of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. At this writing however, the agreement seems to be holding, though with pressure from both sides. The Iranians, for their part are conducting exercises, preparing for an attack against the US Navy in the Gulf: - While the American 5th Fleet, reinforced by British ships is practicing "tactics and procedures" aimed at preventing Iranian interference with the free flow of oil.²⁰

ONE LONELY YADA

SHADES OF THE MARK – "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads" (Revelation 13:16) The Brits have developed plans to microchip current and former prisoners by implanting RFID microchips under the skin which would contain vital information and would be able to be scanned by special devices. The Ministry of Justice plans to use the GPS-equipped chips not only on prisoners, but on those on conditional release and probation. The chips would be injected into the "back of the arm".²¹

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- ¹ LEAP / E 20/20 Summer Anticipation Bulletin, July-December, 2008, Global Europe Anticipation Bulletin Nr 26
 - ² Charles Biderman & Trim Tabs, Sky-High Oil Will Make U.S. Go Broke, Forbes Magazine, June 23, 2008
 - ³ Mark Gilbert, Faster Inflation May Unleash 'Financial Tsunami', Bloomberg, June 24, 2008
 - ⁴ Mike Whitney, The Game is over. There won't be a rebound, Counterpunch, June 2008
 - ⁵ James Mcfarlane, The Thin Red, White & Blue Line, 321Gold, June 23, 2008
 - ⁶ JR Nyquist, As Winter Approaches, Financial Sense, March 30, 2008
 - ⁷ LEAP / E 20/20 Summer Anticipation Bulletin, July-December, 2008, Global Europe Anticipation Bulletin Nr 26
 - ⁸ Bond Market Meltdown, The Market Oracle, November 2, 2007
 - ⁹ David Wilkerson, The Most Important Issue of This Hour, World Challenge Pulpit Series, June 2, 2008
 - ¹⁰ David Wilkerson, as quoted by Lark of the Morning, August 1993
 - ¹¹ James Mcfarlane, The Thin Red, White & Blue Line, 321Gold, June 23, 2008
 - ¹² Pentagon: Israel may attack Iran before 2009, YNet News, July 1, 2008
 - ¹³ Military strike on Iran would be 'catastrophic': Russian ministry, Yahoo, AFP, July 2, 2008
 - ¹⁴ Secret US-Iranian Dialogue Brings Oil Prices down, DEBKA NET WEEKLY, #354, July 8, 2008
 - ¹⁵ Middle East war threat rattles oil market, UK Telegraph, July 7, 2008
 - ¹⁶ Top Military chief warns against striking Iran, AFP, July 3, 2008
 - ¹⁷ 'Don't Bomb Iran', Bush warns Israel, New York Daily News, July 2, 2008
 - ¹⁸ Israel reassures West: No Iran attack in 2008, World Tribune, July 2, 2008
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 - ²⁰ Secret US-Iranian Dialogue Brings Oil Prices down, DEBKA NET WEEKLY, #354, July 8, 2008
 - ²¹ David Guterrez, UK to Begin Microchipping Prisoners, Natural News, June 21, 2008