

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter June 1994

Dear Brethren,

Here is June again, the beginning of the productive time of the year. Let us take advantage of this summer season to make our spiritual lives as productive as possible, redeeming the time because the days are evil.

Current Events: Economic Problems of America, Britain, and Europe

The resolution of any problem is always predicated on understanding its source and cause. Why are America, Great Britain, and Europe experiencing unprecedented problems economically and socially? To fully understand we must go back in time and history.

Who Are America, Britain, and N.W. Europe?

God is the Creator of all things. He created Adam and Eve. They became the parents of all human beings (Acts 26:17). As this human family grew, by will and purpose of God, it was divided (Gen. 10:1-5). Specifically those divisions occurred with respect to a particular people God would use at a later date (Deut. 32:8). These specific peoples are modern day Israel.

From the beginning God purposed to use the Children of Israel in a unique way. They were to set the example, in all things, for the rest of the world to follow (Deut. 4:5-8). And they were forbidden to acquire, or follow, any of the ways and customs of these Gentile nations (Deut. 12:1-4, 29-32). These customs and practices of the Gentiles involved every facet of life—religion, government, culture, economics, education, etc.

The monetary basis of Israel's economic structure was the *shekel*. The word shekel, in its broadest sense, means weight. And that weight was very specific (Ex. 30:13, 24, Lev.

27:25, Num. 3:47, Ezek. 45:12). The *gerah* was the smallest weight among the Israelites. It took 20 *gerahs* to make one shekel.

Great Blessings Promised

God chose Israel to be a peculiar people for Himself (Deut. 7:6). They were to be a holy people. They were to bear responsibility over all other nations. Though at first the smallest numerically, they were to be accorded divine favor (Deut. 7:7). For faithful obedience they were to be highly blessed, in prosperity and health (Deut. 7:14–15). Of Israel God said: "And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers . . ." (Deut. 8:17–18). Since there is always a moral basis for any blessing, what was, and still is, the premise of their great wealth—prosperity? Solomon said: ". . . but a just weight is his [God's] delight" (Pro. 11:1, last part). Real prosperity is based on stable currency—a just and unalterable weight. The economic standard of a just and moral nation does not change.

Obedience to God is foundational. A part of required obedience is faithfulness to economic laws imposed by God on any nation with which He is concerned (Lev. 19:35–37). It reads: "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight [includes money], or in measure. Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the Lord." In the repetition of the law, the above concepts were greatly emphasized. They read: "Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. For all that do such things, and all that do unrighteously, are an abomination unto the Lord thy God" (Deut. 25:13–16).

Obedience and faithfulness to God in respect to *all* laws and statutes would have resulted in universal prosperity for Israel (Deut. 28:1–14). Yet, such circumstances were never realized. Why? (Deut. 28:15–68, Lev. 26:14–39). Instead of promised blessings, the chosen people of God would (and will likewise in these last days, as we shall soon see) fall under intense and devastating curses—including those of economic origin.

Blessings that Turned to Curses

Historically the curses of Israel are accurately recorded in the Bible itself. Due to disobedience they lost their blessings. They had turned to Gentile customs, ways, and

practices. Being forced out of their native land—the promised possession—they soon lost their identity. Most modern-day Children of Israel do not know who they are. If they do not know who they are, is it sensible to assume they are obedient to *any* of the laws of God? On the contrary, having turned to the ways of the Gentiles, which they adopted as their very own, it is not strange that they do consider themselves to be Gentiles. What were the causes for their devastating curses?

In Proverbs 11:1, first part, we are told: "A false balance is abomination to the Lord . . ." For centuries the Gentile world had practiced every abomination imaginable. Is it farfetched to believe such a corrupting spirit as that which motivated the Gentiles did not become an integral part of Israel's orientation? Moses said to Israel: "When the Lord thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. Thou shalt not do so unto the Lord thy God: for *every* abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods; for even their sons and their daughters they have burnt in the fire to their gods. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deut. 12:29–32). Did Israel turn to Gentile ways? Please see Psalms 106 and 107. False balances, even an entire economic system, prevailed in all the Gentile world. Israel borrowed this system. She was told what to expect as a consequence for turning to Gentile ways. The warning is applicable to these last days (Deut. 32:8, 17–20, 29). The continuation of that ancient system does prevail in our time (Rev. 18:3, 7, 11–15, 23–24). The time element of the prophecies of Revelation is quite clear (Rev. 1:1). It is the time of the actual revealing (the actual appearing) of Jesus Christ (II Thess. 1:7). That time is the present. Soon we are going to see the actuality of these ancient prophecies materialize in our very presence.

Economic Problems Today

It does not take an economic genius to realize America, Great Britain, and Europe are suffering. There has to be a reason, obviously. Is it possible that the reason is as ancient as the problem experienced by the Children of Israel? First a few observations of astute men of our own day.

In a book entitled *Capitalism Vs. Capitalism*, (Michael Albert, Four Walls Eight Windows, New York) a rather succinct evaluation of natural and international economic maneuvering is creditably presented. What is interesting in the brief history is how modern Israel (America, Great Britain, and N.W. Europe) is trying to solve its economic crises. They

have turned to the "brilliance" of their own minds—the ways which seem right to men. They believe they can make the fabric of that which was initially borrowed from the Gentiles come together in an acceptable way and that peace and prosperity will be universal. Little do they believe or remotely understand the fate of all their endeavors—a fate once experienced by their ancient ancestors. For thousands of years, under the influence of the god of this world—Satan—men have attempted to find an acceptable way, in this case economically, without subscribing to the ways of God, laid down by God at the time He called and established Israel as a nation. The end of their endeavor is near. The whole house of cards is prophetically scheduled to collapse. The ways of men, although they may seem to them to be right, are not predicated upon the premise of perpetuity—that which remains indestructible. The real foundations of all ways of men are soon to be revealed. What a day of revelation! Economically speaking, every change of currency values is a violation of cardinal laws of God. Honesty and integrity demand unalterable, unchanging premises. Men's ways are changeable. They are ways thought out by themselves, usually with an ulterior motive—a motive for gain and advantage. To men they may be sold as ways of good and right, but the results are categorically misery, confusion, and every evil thing for most.

Destined to Befall Israel

People of modern-day Israel are destined to become vassals. They will become the servants of a greedy and evil elitist group who will control them mercilessly. They will be the recipients of that which they deserve although the forces used by God to bring about tribulation and suffering are far from personally acceptable, morally, ethically, and religiously, in the sight of God. These evil forces will be used for the sole purpose of punishing a people who refused to obey the will of God. The people of Israel must finally learn that God rules in heaven (Dan. 5:21). That He alone controls the destinies of all nations. That obedience in the way to all that which the people have ever really wanted—blessings, prosperity, safety, protection, and good health. This day of true glory is soon to come.

The Elitists Fall

Once the people of modern Israel have been tried and tested, God will turn His avenging purposes upon those who were temporarily victorious—the elitists, the great men of the earth. They are destined to fall and rise no more. Their wealth and power will avail them nothing in the day of their judgment (Pro. 11:4). The global structure established in an effort to insure their perpetual control and economic advantage will collapse (Dan. 8:23–25). We read: "And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the

full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and holy people. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: and shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand." The word "craft" (v. 25) means "balances of deceit" in Hebrew. Their use of economic manipulation is destined for ultimate failure. Inflation, deflation, and other economic forms of manipulation are not functions of the economy. They are the result of human intervention. Such manipulations are an abomination to God. Contrary to the laws which require a stable and unchanging economic base. What are the results of these manipulations? The wrath of God (Amos 8:4-8; 6:10-16, James 5:1-8). Read also the eighteenth chapter of Revelation. The whole Babylonian system is to fall. Its replacement is glorious and beautiful. Eventually the people will cry out to God for a just way (Psa. 94:3-23).

The Kingdom of God

Christ will rule supreme. The faithful will share in the glory of that kingdom. It is a time when all things will be restored—including a just and equitable base for trade and business (Acts 3:19-21). It is a time even the Gentiles will recognize right. A time when they will reject their former ways and willingly subscribe to the ways of the true God—the God of Israel (Deut. 29:13-28).

Israel of today cannot hope to avoid the calamities prophesied to befall them due to their rejection of economic standards—as well as all other principles of right. They will have to learn the hard lessons of disobedience. This whole economic house of cards is foreordained to fall. What a day that will be!

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Births

Julie Shimon: Gave birth to a baby girl May 24, weighing in at 7 pounds, her name is Connie Miranda.

Deaths

Mrs. Betty Cavanah: Her husband Gail died on May 25 after an extended illness. He was in his late seventies. Our sympathies are extended to Betty and we pray that she may be comforted after suffering this loss.

Feast of Tabernacles

Anyone who is interested in participating in the music program at either feast location please send a note to the office including the nature of your contribution.

Office

Mr. George King is no longer in the employ of the church and wishes this announcement he has made to go into the *Announcement Letter*. It explains his reasons for the present condition.

Due to increasingly deteriorating health and other personal problems, I am no longer employed by the Church of God, The Eternal. I wish to thank all the brethren for their kind support for the past nearly twenty years. Serving you has truly been one of the great joys of my life. My sincere prayer is that you all remain strong in the priceless truth God revealed to all of us.

In Christian love, George King

We have accumulated a *significant* number of cassette tapes of varying lengths. They are available for distribution to anyone who requests them. They are used. However, there are many which contain considerable recording potential for home use. Please order only by quantity—they are not sorted by length. You may order as many as you would like. We want to get rid of them all. When they are gone, there will be no more for the present.

For any who may be interested, we have some old computer software available. For those interested, please call Mr. Kent Clark for description and details. Office hours are 9:00 A.M. to 5:15 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Telephone calls/visits—locally: For me to continue to bear the immense load of responsibility which has come to bear on my shoulders, I am asking for a little special consideration. In order to find any time for private reading, meditation, prayer, etc. I arise each morning at 4:30. To secure sufficient rest I need to retire rather early. Please try to call as early as possible in the day so that the conversation can be completed *prior* to 9:00 P.M. (Pacific Time). Preferably, please call through the office—from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Further, I am reserving Wednesday evenings for Myra. Since I am gone on trips so often, she receives so little of my time. Thursday afternoons and evenings are already scheduled, therefore aside from emergencies, I will be unavailable on Thursdays.

Your help will be so very much appreciated. With this kind consideration I may, with God's help, be able to continue serving you a few more years. Thank you so very much.

Comments

[Omitted for confidentiality]

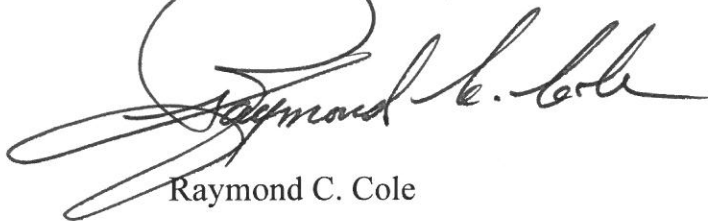
Trip Schedule

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|---------|-----------|---------------|
| June 11 | R.C. Cole | Canada |
| July 16 | R.C. Cole | Hawaii |
| July 23 | R.C. Cole | S. California |

Tape Schedule

| Tape Series | Mailed | For | Title/tape # |
|---------------|--------|--------------|------------------------------|
| WSE-BC 138-57 | 04/06 | 06/04 | Paul's Epistles #57 |
| WSE-RC 59-10 | 04/06 | 06/11 | Despair or Glory, Which? #10 |
| WSE-BC 138-58 | 05/04 | 06/18 | Paul's Epistles #58 |
| WSE-RC 62-1 | 05/04 | 06/25 | Do We Really Believe? #1 |
| WSE-BC 138-59 | 05/18 | 07/02 | Paul's Epistles #59 |
| WSE-RC 62-2 | 05/18 | 07/09 | Do We Really Believe #2 |
| WSE-BC 138-60 | 06/01 | 07/16 | Paul's Epistles #60 |
| WSE-RC 63 | 06/01 | 07/23 | What Is Expected of Us Now? |
| WSE-BC 138-61 | 06/15 | 07/30 | Paul's Epistles #61 |

In the love of Christ,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark