Herbert W. Armstrong brings you the plain truth about today's world news and the prophecies of the World Tomorrow!

**Great Tribulation**

… or Armageddon, or the Second Coming of Christ, or the judgments and the plagues of God. Listen my friends, you are living in a mighty upset world today. This world went wrong at a pretty even gait, generation after generation, century after century, ever since the beginning of the world up until 1914 when suddenly this world erupted. It erupted in World War I. Of course, there had been wars all along, but nothing like world war, explosion into World War I and World War II where lifetime after lifetime through thousands of years the world went along as it was all totally different from the world you and I know today, a world without our modern inventions.
Oh, think what a slow world it was compared to the world we live in today! And what would some of the people of only 75 or 100 years ago, or back in the days of Abraham Lincoln, what would people of that time think if they would awake out of their graves to see the world in which we live.

Well, after that slow moving world continually going along about the same way, then all of a sudden there came the inventions, just recently here in very recent times of the steam engine, the railroad engine, the motor, electric lights, the telegraph, the telephone, the automobile, the radio, electric washing machines, electric refrigerators, electric appliances and conveniences too numerous to mention, the radio and television and also along came the airplane, the machine gun, TNT bombs, then tanks, submarines, battleships and finally the atom and the hydrogen bomb guided missiles.

They didn’t have any of those things back here just a few years ago. They had never had them in ALL the history of the world. Think of the modern tractors and the farm implements we have today and think of how they used to have to farm through all these years until just recently.

I wonder my friends if you can realize it. Here we are living in this modern world. We take these things for granted as if it had always been this way. You’re living in a world that is erupting,
a world that is changing so drastically, so rapidly. It is nothing like the world had been for almost the 6,000 years, up to 100 or 150 years ago. And as a matter of fact, most of the change has come in this century in the last 50 years, in the lifetime of many of us and many of us have seen most of this come.

And where are we today? Today this world is in jitters. It's in fear and terror of war that can now lay waste an entire continent without warning. And scientists say we’re on the very threshold now of destroying all human life from off this planet earth. That is now possible, and we seem totally oblivious to the danger and what’s coming.

I tell you my friends, we’re going along trying to enjoy all these modern gadgets, trying to sit six hours a day being amused and entertained and taken off to some kind of a happy dreamland to get our minds off of reality to escape the facts and reality of life, to hide our minds from what is coming so that we can do something about it and prevent it. An average American family just
think of it now, spending six hours a day before television sets being amused and entertained.

You know all of these inventions in themselves are all right. They’re good. Television can become a very wonderful thing. As a matter of fact, think of the power of radio and now television even goes further because you not only hear the sound, you also see. You see and hear and the same time. Television brings across its message whatever it may be with terrific impact, both through sight and sound simultaneously, a very effective medium.

But what are we doing with it? HOW ARE WE USING IT? Is it just to while away our time, to amuse and entertain ourselves, most of us? It brings with it a tremendous responsibility on your part. And it’s going to require a little bit of self-control and guidance over your children, over your own selves as to whether you use it wisely.

Are your children sitting away there in the daytime hours with their legs crossed and getting in a warped position, and they’re going to grow up looking crooked and deformed, looking at T.V. when they ought to be out running in the fresh air sometimes? Now there are some programs that are very beneficial
and educational for children. Television can be used as one of the greatest educational mediums that ever came, just the same as radio, only even more so and more effectively, but what are we doing with our modern inventions?

 Somehow here in America we get the idea that it's the best way to live. The idea is to do everything just as cheaply as you can, as poorly as you can, but get as much for it as you can. Beat the other fellow if you can, charge too much, give too little.

 That seems to be our philosophy of life and we're all trying to beat one another, and I tell you my friends we are riding to the greatest fall that has ever happened to any nation. We're losing our balance, and we're forgetting ourselves. We're losing ourselves, and it's about time to wake up because the end of the world IS coming no matter what people think.

 It doesn't mean the end of the earth's existence. What is this world anyhow? This world, my friends, is the pattern of civilization that has been built up, the system, the ways of humanity contrary to the laws that God Almighty set in motion, the laws that will give us blessings if we go along with them, that will work for us, that will do things for us, that will make life happy and abundant and joyous, or which are going to bring curses upon us and make us reap what we sow if we break those laws. Well, we're breaking them.
Yet, some people scoff about the end of the world, Armageddon and the Second Coming of Christ. My friends, scientists today are confirming what Jesus foretold about the Great Tribulation and about these things.

The disciples had asked Him. Matthew 24 once again, I’m going into this so often because it’s the very pivot of all prophecy in your Bible. **A third of your Bible is prophecy, and you know about 90 percent of prophecy is dealing with this present, pulsating, dynamic, eruptive, explosive time in which we live!** And here is the heart and center crux of ALL prophecy that fills a third of your Bible. This is very important.

Privately, His own disciples, some of them came to Jesus. They said, “Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming?” The Second Coming of Christ. Why, Christ said, “If I go, I’ll come again!” **Your Bible says He’s coming as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He’s coming in all the supreme power and glory of the Creator God!**

When He came before, He came begotten as a human virgin, and He was God made flesh, and He was tempted in all points like as you and me. He came as the Lamb of God, a tender, innocent, mild little Lamb, and so when they struck Him, He just turned
the other cheek. They spit in His face, and He didn’t answer back. They put a crown of thorns on Him! They nailed Him up to a cross! They stabbed Him in the side with a spear! They gave Him vinegar and gall as a drink when He was thirsty!

He just looked up to heaven and said, “Father in heaven, forgive these poor people. They know not what they’re doing.” He had the love of God. He came to set us an example of the kind of Spirit, the kind of attitude we ought to have. Very few of us seem to have anything like that today.

But listen, when He comes again, He’s coming as God! He’s coming in the POWER of God! He’s coming in all the GLORY of God and all the holy angels with Him! He’s not coming as a little Lamb like, meek, humble, kind and loving Man that will let them step all over Him as He did before.

He’s coming now to RULE, and He’s going to rule ALL nations with a rod of iron. Thank God He’s coming! If He weren’t, I want to tell you, my friends, we ARE approaching the END of EVERYTHING.

Our scientists say that it is now possible to ANNIHILATE human life from off the face of this planet! WE’RE STARING SUCH A POSSIBILITY IN THE FACE! Why do we hide our eyes like silly ostriches? Why do we try to indulge in pastimes just to while away our time, go off in a happy dreamland?
Or is it so happy? We fill our minds with crime and murder, detective underworld, police stories, all that sort of thing, illicit love. We don’t use our minds. We don’t have to work them. Oh no, it’s a disgrace to work, so we seem to think!

And so today you find in all your advertisements, your commercials and everything, the idea is like this, “Now don’t work. It’s a disgrace to work. Here’s another push button that will do the work for you.” Yeah, we’re getting to the place even it’s going to be too much effort, isn’t it, finally to reach over and push the button? Yes, it is. Then what are we going to do? Get some kind of a gadget, I guess, that has mental telepathy in it and when we just think the thought it will turn. But you know we mustn’t think, either! That might exercise the brain a little bit. And so I think someway we’ll have to get something where we can just pass out. We keep trying to pass away our time anyhow.

You know, honestly, when we take a good look at ourselves, my friends, aren’t we just a little bit foolish, we human beings? Where do we think we’re going, anyhow?
Announcer: Herbert W. Armstrong will return in a moment, but first this offer concerning literature of related interest:

After 40 years of experience and education, Herbert W. Armstrong, founder of Ambassador College, has proven the success of seven basic laws. He has now condensed these concepts into the valuable booklet The Seven Laws of Success. It reveals the dynamic principles that have aided so many successful men. These laws worked for him, and they will work for you. These dynamic principles apply to anyone in any walk of life: student, housewife or businessman. If you’ve been reaching out for a challenging goal, this informative booklet The Seven Laws of Success can mean the difference between success and failure. (You may read the booklet, The Seven Laws of Success, on the Church of God-Faithful Flock’s web site at http://www.cog-ff.com/booklets/index.htm. COG-FF’s provocative magazine, The Philadelphia Remnant, at http://www.cog-ff.com/.)

Well, I tell you, there are weapons abroad now today, my friends, that can really cause plenty of trouble. What do you know about civil defense? You know, a hydrogen bomb can strike where you live. What are you going to do about it if it happens? Or are you just too busy trying to entertain and amuse yourself to every think about it?

These disciples came to Jesus. They didn’t think it was silly to ask about the end of the world. They said, “Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming?” They didn’t scoff at the Second Coming of Christ.
“And the end of the world?” Now, actually, of course, the word “world” comes from the Greek word “aeon,” which means “age.” It doesn’t mean the earth being blown to bits or anything of the sort. It means the end of an age, the end of a time that God has allotted to allow human beings, under the principle of free moral agency to EITHER obey God and to come voluntarily under His rule or to reject God’s rule, set up their own governments, their own ideas, choose their kings and that’s what we’ve done.

And so we have wars. We give lives, and everything else, precious human lives on the battlefield fighting out which kind of a HUMAN idea of government is going to survive when EVERY LAST ONE OF THESE IDEAS OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS EARTH ARE DIAMETRICALLY CONTRARY TO FUNDAMENTAL BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GOD and to the Laws, the MOVING, LIVING, VITAL, LAWS that God Almighty has set in motion!

And those laws are LIVING things. They are moving. They are acting with force and energy. God created all force and energy, and all the laws that exist. All the laws of gravity, of chemistry, of the laws of physics, and there are Spiritual Laws that operate, that regulate your happiness, your relationships with your neighbors, your relationship with God, if any.

Now Jesus answered that they were going to go along with people being deceived, people coming in His name saying He was Christ and then wars and rumors of wars. Yes, we’ve had those all along. But, finally, He began to show how things were going to speed up here at the end. How the world
was going to erupt. Finally, nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom and world war, then famine, then pestilences, then earthquakes, and they’re coming faster and faster.

“Then,” He said, they shall “deliver YOU up to be afflicted and shall kill you!” Both the individual, the religious personal and also the national things of the Great Tribulation. “These,” He said, “All these things are the beginning of sorrows,” or of trials, of tribulation.

And then in verse 21, “for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not from the beginning of the world unto this same time, no, nor ever shall be, and except those days SHOULD BE SHORTENED there should NO flesh be saved alive!”

There you are, Jesus Christ was saying we’d come to the time when if God Almighty didn’t intervene, the supernatural power to save mankind from himself, that human life would be wiped off the face of this earth. That’s what your scientists are saying today.
Now, was Jesus foolish? Was He crazy when He said that? Did He know what He was talking about? Well I say, did Einstein know before he died when he mentioned these things, and do these great world scientists know what they’re talking about? They’re alarmed, my friends. They admit it, and many a noted scientist has confessed it in the public press that he’s very much alarmed.

But it seems that we have to go to one extreme or the other. Either we’ve got to lose our heads and get into some kind of MASS HYSTERIA, or else we go to the other extreme and like the foolish, silly ostrich, stick our head down in the sand, well, of movies, and T.V. and just going off into this some kind of oblivion of happy dreamland, getting our eyes off of things – ESCAPING! We’re a pack of escapists I sometimes think.

Well, I tell you, my friends, about 90 percent of prophecy applies, either directly or indirectly, either directly or in the type and anti-type of dual fulfillment, ideally the main fulfillment is the one to come now, these prophecies apply about 90 percent to the time in which we are living – this pulsating, dynamic world erupting time when the whole world is about to explode.

And it’s about time we wake up and begin to read what it ALL MEANS! What’s back of it all? There is a purpose being worked out here below. God Almighty is bringing that purpose, and God Almighty has told us in words that were written and committed to writing that have been preserved in spite of every effort to destroy them through the centuries and centuries and centuries.
God has REVEALED that at this time things would SPEED UP and all these inventions and things would come and knowledge would be increased. Men would RUN to and fro, not walk any longer. Well, we’re at that time now. So why don’t we look at it?

Now, recently I’ve been showing you. The United States is actually, we find now, the most amazing fulfillment of prophecy of all. Curious to find out who the United States is and how God has kept His promises that He made to Abraham and fulfilled those promises in us?

And here we are today, the descendants of the birthright tribes of ancient Israel, the descendants of the ancient Joseph who was sold down into Egypt and of his sons Ephraim and Manasseh. If you don’t understand that, you don’t even get the first beginning key that will unlock Bible prophecy. You’ll never understand Biblical prophecy, because it won’t make sense. You’ll read things that apply to Israel, that mention Israel, you’ll try to apply it to the Jewish people, and it just won’t fit. It won’t make sense. You’ll be bewildered. You’ll just give it up. It won’t make any sense to you at all. You won’t understand a thing.

But once you understand this key, and you open up your prophecies and begin to read them, they make sense. Now, we’ve been going into the prophecies back here in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, and I was reading that. And I was showing you that corresponds to the very things
that Jeremiah wrote and pertains to OUR TIME NOW. And I was showing you, my friends, that there were both the blessings and the cursings set before our people.

Now, God has kept the promises He made to Abraham after 2,520 years of taking those promises away from His people because they did NOT way back there obey God. But He has given them to us because Abraham DID obey God, and God had promised UNCONDITIONALLY to Abraham, so we’ve had to have those promises IN SPITE of ourselves.

Now, I have shown you where He had said that our land would have rain and yield its increase if we’d obey, but He said here in verse 24 of Deuteronomy 28, “The Eternal shall make the rain of dry land of powder and dust from the heaven shall it come down on thee until thou be destroyed,” if we disobey. That’s one of the curses.

We’re getting a beginning of that, a foretaste of it now. God has given us the blessings because Abraham obeyed, but God HAS KEPT His promises to Abraham and He has fulfilled them. Now, in order to keep His promise to Abraham, God doesn’t need to go on fulfilling it any longer.
Look at the way we’re living, what we’re doing today, and God is about to punish as a Father always punishes His child if He loves His child and God is about to punish us.

Now, I’ve been reading to you the 30th chapter of Jeremiah, the prophecy of what is coming and it’s the same Great Tribulation, and it’s the time of OUR national trouble! And it’s coming on us, that’s WHO it’s coming on, and it’s the next thing to happen, and it’s coming soon. It’s coming very, very soon and I was reading to you that a YOKE is going to be on our neck! I said to you WHO would put that yoke on our neck!

And it isn’t even communism because there is another enemy that we don’t recognize it, that is rising up faster and SPEEDIER than communism. Communism is slow moving. They’re trying to get ready to conquer us. Yes, they’re trying to get ready, but they’re moving a little too slowly and there is another fast moving, Blitzkrieg type of an enemy that is going to move a little bit faster and is going to get ready to attack us, even before they do.

And a yoke is going to be on our neck unless we repent and return to our God is doing it, He says here in verse 14 of (Jeremiah) 30, “All your allies have forgotten you; they seek you not; for I,” God says, “have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one,” that is yet to come.
When this was written, my friends, both Israel and Judah had already gone into captivity. Now this is a prophecy. This isn’t pertaining to what happened way back there 600 years before Christ. The invasion of Israel, of whom this is speaking, had occurred 721 B.C., and Jeremiah wrote this, my friends, down into 518 B.C., and the invasion and the captivity of Judah had occurred in 604 and 585 B.C.

And Jeremiah was, well, he would have been among the captives, only he was given absolute freedom and even expense money by the general of the invading armies of the Chaldean empire. That was because God had a mission for Jeremiah to perform. Oh, what a thrilling mission it was! You’ll read about it in this booklet I’ve been telling you about. (Read The United States and Britain in Prophecy at http://www.cogff.com/booklets/index.htm.)

Now, it is a time of war and not of peace. It’s a time of our national trouble, but Christ at His Second Coming is going to remove that yoke. And He says, “I will save thy seed from afar and thy seed from the land of THEIR CAPTIVITY! And Jacob shall return and shall be in rest, shall be quiet and none shall make him afraid.”

And that’s us. That’s our people, and it’s all prophecy that it SHALL come and as I say, ALL of the past captivities of Israel and Judah had ALREADY occurred several years before this was written. Now that means a future
captivity. It’s a prophecy. It’s for our time. The last words in this very chapter say, “In the LATTER days you shall consider it.”

Oh, it wasn’t in the former days, and in the ancient history days, but NOW, “the latter days” means now, our time now, the time of the end. And God says here as I was reading, “for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity! Why? “Because thy SINS WERE INCREASED!” Because thy sins were increased.

My friends, why don’t we hear more preaching about the sins in our nation, arousing our people and awaking us, instead of just lulling us to sleep and saying that, “Well, if you just accept Christ as your Savior. He died for all your sins as you know, past and present and future. You have indulgences now, just go ahead and commit all the sins you want. You just accept Christ or receive Christ and profess Him before men.” My friends, “Just confess the Lord Jesus Christ.”

And He said, “WHY DO YOU CALL ME LORD, LORD, and DO NOT the things that I say?” Lord means ruler. Why do you call Him Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, when you don’t obey Him, when you don’t obey what is written in the Word of God. Jesus is the One that said that man shall live by every Word of God, every word in the Bible. Jesus is the Word and the Bible is the Word in print and there you are.

Now then, oh, I don’t have much time, but I wanted to go on to read some more of
this in the 30th chapter of Jeremiah, “at that time,” and it’s the time when all of this is going to happen. We’re going to be delivered from all of this, and this **Great Tribulation** when our people are going to go into a national captivity and slavery after this TERRIBLE calamity of complete national drought. Our land will be like dust all over this nation and disease epidemics are going to come if we don’t wake up and turn back to God!

God is going to punish us, but listen when it happens, “at that same time saith the *Eternal* will I be a God to all the families of this world and they shall be my people.” We are, after all, a chosen people, but we’ve got lessons to learn, and God is going to teach us, after which, my friends, we are going to be the greatest nations on the earth once again, after we’ve learned our lessons.

“Thus saith the *Eternal*, the people that were left of the
sword found grace in the wilderness. In the Moffatt translation, let me read that to you here, “I will be a God to all the families of Israel. They shall be my people, for this is the Eternal’s promise. Those who survive the sword shall find grace in the dungeon, in the dungeons of their captivity, when Israel yearned for rest. Then in a far land the Eternal appeared saying, for behold I loved you, so now I draw you gently home. Once more I will settle you, oh, maiden Israel. Once more you shall take the tambourine

and dance merrily. Once more you shall plant vines upon Samaria’s slopes.” See it is speaking of Samaria, not the Jewish people. They were in Judea. This is Samaria, the Israel people of the Northern Kingdom, the birthright people. Oh, God help you to understand and to understand the difference between the birthright and the scepter and between Israel and Judah.

“For this is the Eternal’s word to Jacob, shout out loud in the top of the nations,” and so on. “The Eternal has saved His people, the remnant of Israel.” That’s the last generation. It is speaking of our time now.

Well, I want to go on with that. There is so much there and in the next program I’m going to take that up and go right on again, the 30th and the 31st chapters there of Jeremiah and the 50th and 51st and some of these other places. These prophecies are amazing! And, my friends, we need to
understand what is going to happen, and you can have absolute, complete protection through it all if you will turn to God to obey Him as well as acknowledging Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

Announcer: Because of the importance of this subject and other related topics, we are pleased to offer the following free literature. (Ticking clock) In our world, time is important. Events move fast.

Only change is certain, and predicting the future is everyone’s concern. In recent years, a rapidly growing number of thinkers have foretold a coming watershed in human events, the arrival of a major transition in civilization, even a climax to history. The future, as most people know, is also a theme of the Bible, prophecy! Now, a free booklet, The Wonderful World Tomorrow, What It Will Be Like surveys the Bible’s major prophetic themes, showing how they also consistently point toward a soon coming climax to human events and a transition in human civilization to a better future. The full color booklet, The Wonderful World Tomorrow, What It Will Be Like, may be read at http://www.cog-ff.com/booklets/index.htm. See the promises of a new world coming.