

EDITORIAL:

'Worlds in Collision or Kingdoms in Conflict'

Immanuel Velikovsky published his best selling and controversial book "Worlds in Collision" in 1950 which proposed the idea that the earth had suffered from catastrophic close-contact with other planets. The academic community vigorously refuted his theories for explaining the extraordinary events recorded in the Bible and other ancient literature. Despite being a founding member of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a respected psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, he had ventured into the dangerous world of attempting to give credence to Biblical history and consequently, he like many others was shunned.

The Scriptures clearly show that unusual global events have occurred in the past i.e. the Biblical flood in Genesis; the Exodus from Egypt; the Sun standing still in Joshua; the earthquake in the time of Uzziah (Amos 1:1). They will again characterise the times before Jesus' return. Look at Rev 8, particularly the star, 'Wormwood' in verses 10-11. The challenge to us today is not IF it will happen - it is already - but what kind of people will we be WHEN it does happen to us? Those in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Haiti and many other nations have already been tested in recent times. How will those in more secure parts of Britain, Europe and N America fare in the coming days? The challenge from scripture is "Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in



holy conduct and godliness?" Luke 21:28; 2 Peter 3:11

Earthquakes cannot be ignored. But what of the less obvious shakings that are going on today in the professing church, in the

nations of the world and especially in the Land of Israel? Whilst the physical is getting all the press, the spiritual conflict between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of darkness is coming to a climax and yet going almost unnoticed by those in the church.

In Matthew's gospel record, the ministry of Jesus was not so much about debate, more a demonstration of the Kingdom of God. What He initiated was a clash of Kingdoms. He said in Matt 12:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you." He demonstrated by utterly transforming people's lives that His words carried authority. And what is more, He gave the same authority to liberate people from Satan's kingdom to His disciples, so that they too would bring about the Kingdom of God by the same actions. Controversial? Indeed! No-one ever spoke (and acted!) like this man.

There is much written today of the coming Kingdom and we are being encouraged to notice all the signs that show that it is near. But what has happened to the Church's practise of confronting Satan's kingdom and setting people free from his grip? The disciples were indeed students of the Word

but the gospel they preached was not just about words but rather a demonstration of spiritual power. Power to set men free; deliver them from darkness to light; give them life and hope for the future, when they had only known darkness and fear. Please read: Acts 26:18; 1 Cor 2:4,5; 1 Cor 4:20; 1 Thess 1:5.

I believe that the unique connection we have with the Messianic body in Israel serves a huge purpose today. It vitally connects us to a People who understand the power of the enemy to influence the surrounding nations in their desire to destroy Israel physically. Battle is messy, painful, unpredictable and costly. However they are aware of something much more important and that is confidence in the Spirit of God to confront the power of the enemy who is seeking to destroy the lives of the Jewish people from within. The Messianic Body has been birthed in the crucible of affliction and today is living in the power of the Spirit to set men free from Satan's Kingdom into the glorious liberty of the Kingdom of God. Although like the gentile Church it has its imperfections, I believe it has set us a real challenge and that is, to have a renewed confidence in the person and work of the Holy Spirit to change lives. Jesus clearly shook the

religious establishment of His day. Declaring and bringing about the Kingdom of God was messy, undignified and sometimes frightening but was to the blessing and release of those involved.

But I believe that in our desire to bring order in the Kingdom and a structured discipleship programme for its citizens we run the danger of doing exactly what the Pharisees accused Jesus of – “This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub...” Matt 12:24. Some might rightly complain about excesses and abuses in today's church but it is a lot easier to use the rudder to steer a ship when it is moving than one which is in dock and unable to sail anywhere.

So today let's encourage one another and renew our faith in God that despite the power that Satan wields in this world, our God "... is able to do exceeding and abundantly above all we ask or think – according to the power that works in US." Eph 3:20 Finally, Heb 12:28 says this, "Therefore since we have received a Kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

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