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The Coop Report...

Rain, Wind, & Fire...

God Speaks…

"[2]…You have defiled the land
with your prostitution and wickedness.
[3] Therefore the showers have been withheld,
and no spring rains have fallen."

Jeremiah 3 (NIV)

For those who have been *hoping* to see an end to the worst drought in recorded history for the Southeast, you had better start *praying.* For some time now, I believe God has been speaking to America with the changing weather patterns that have produced record heat waves, droughts, and flooding in various parts of the country where this sort of weather is simply not normal.

Throughout Biblical history, God's chosen people have continually strayed from the narrow path that leads to a closer relationship with God as they became infatuated with worldly *idols.* Although some of these *idols* have changed in substance through the last several thousands of years, many have not. Fine homes, money, jewelry, fine clothing, precious metals, rare perfumes, and sexual promiscuity continue to compete for mankind's time and devotion. As our level of comfort with our environment improves, we continue to look for more ways to satisfy our craving for more, but we are never satisfied. Arriving at one plateau in our careers, we are prone to hunt for the next level that we believe will *really* satisfy all of our ambitions…all of our dreams.

Several thousand years ago, the wealthiest man in the world intentionally set out to find that which would finally satisfy his worldly appetite. After spending what would amount to millions of dollars be in today's valuation of his coffers, he finally concluded:

"[10]He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. [11]When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on? [12]The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep."

Ecclesiastes 5: 10-20 (NASB)

As we continue to worship our idols, we also continue to allocate less and less time for reading God's Word… building a stronger relationship with Him and focusing on what is truly important -- where we and our neighbor will spend eternity. We continue to store up for ourselves treasures on earth. We regularly forget who really owns these "things" we find so attractive and forget our ministry mission for God's Kingdom.

God, as benefactor of all that we do have (a really patient God) eventually gets upset with us when we worship idols instead of Him. He gets angry with us when we live for our own pleasures instead of His. Can you imagine what it would be like to seek, to gather, to possess, and give with the same exuberance and tenacity the one thing here on earth that is *not* of this world, that is, the *Word of God*? Well, God can…and that is what He wants of us. I am convinced that America was indeed God's last and final attempt to establish an anchor from which the Great Commission could be completed. The world was supposed to be evangelized from the wealth of vast natural resources He has provided us along with the great wealth and power that He alone has also provided America.

In the absence of our obedience to Him in this mission of ministry, God has been slowly changing things. With increasing momentum, God has been exercising His authority in directing the elements to get our attention. He is patient, but even He has His limits.

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> *"[5]The Lord saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. [6] And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. [7] So the Lord said, I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. [8] But Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord."*
>
> *Genesis 6: 5-8 (NSRV)*

As God responded to the wickedness of Noah's contemporaries, God, I believe, is responding to our present day immorality. God is not at all happy with the results of His last and final attempt to create a nation that will continually seek His blessing. The America of today is far from the America that He founded with a band of faithful Christians who risked their all on the hope that they could live in a land that would permit them to grow in personal relationships with Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If you have had opportunity to read the selected "The Coop Report…" publications on paper or on my web site or my book (*The Spiritual, Moral, and Civil Decay of America*), you already know of my positions and warnings about what has been happening in America for the last 60 years. Misinterpretation of the 1st Amendment has legalized sexual immorality of all sorts including pornography, public lewdness, the homosexual lifestyle (including gay marriages), and has made great strides towards abolishing the Christian Church and all of its influence on our society.

Our country continues to take a deadly nosedive towards destruction as a result of the loss of our spiritual relationship with God. We are now suffering the effects of a morally decadent society. Soon (and I have already seen some evidence of this), our country will see civil anarchy take root. Once this happens, our nation will cease to exist.

This week alone, we have seen or heard about:

- Our President and Congress honoring the Dali Lama with a taxpayer-paid banquet and a gold medal…while Christianity continues to be relegated to the back room.

- A city council voting 6-1 against a law that would make it illegal for young men to wear those ugly baggy pants that expose underwear and sometimes other stuff, like gang membership…while children wearing a cross or other Christian symbol to school are sent home and reprimanded.

- A school district in Maine has passed a ruling that will provide birth control to girls as young as 11. What is more shocking is the parents of these children who opt to get the pills from our public school system will not be informed of their child's choice to be on the pill, on the basis that many young children do not have caring parents who can teach their children the importance of abstaining from sex until they are married
- A pedophile videotaping his molestation of a 4-year old girl…and his defense attorneys are having him claim he is innocent

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God Speaks (again)

"[7] I also withheld rain from you
when the harvest was still three months away.
I sent rain on one town,
but withheld it from another.
One field had rain;
another had none and dried up.
[8] People staggered from town to town for water
but did not get enough to drink,
yet you have not returned to me,
declares the LORD."

Amos 4 (NIV)

Is there any hope of a revival of America's Christian roots? Yes, there is a possibility, but it can only happen if committed Christians begin to stand up and stop the onslaught of our spiritual and moral decadence…

God Answers…

[13] So if you faithfully obey the commands I am giving you today—to love the LORD your God and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul— [14] then I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and oil. [15] I will provide grass in the fields for your cattle, and you will eat and be satisfied. [16] Be careful, or you will be enticed to turn away and worship other gods and bow down to them. [17] Then the LORD's anger will burn against you, and he will shut the heavens so that it will not rain and the ground will yield no produce, and you will soon perish from the good land the LORD is giving you. [18] Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [19] Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [20] Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, [21] so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

Deut 11 (NIV)

Let's quit "wishing" and "hoping" for rain. Let us humble ourselves before the Lord, confess our iniquities, seek His forgiveness, and pray for rain.

We are together in Christ,

Brian

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