

May 25, 2014

Mostly Personal...

Loved Ones,

Every couple of weeks or so I find myself talking with someone who wants to know more about the thing we call **The Long Emergency**. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the term, I encourage you to order the CD series in the bookstore (*The Long Emergency*), or you may do just as well to get the single **Long Emergency Update** CD that is more recent.

I am most frequently asked, “Do you still believe the Long Emergency is coming, and if so, do you have any idea of when things will happen?”

Let me respond by saying three things:

- (1) Yes, I still believe the things we discussed way back in 2008 are coming to pass. If you'd like to hear the same basic vision from someone else's perspective, you can go to the Streams Ministries website and listen to **The Perfect Storm** presented by John Paul Jackson. David Wilkerson has also written about those days, and a couple of his books are available here at Christian Life and are also available from many online sources.
- (2) Concerning the “when” - I told you in 2008 that I believed the LE would be determined by:
 - How earnestly the church prays
 - The degree to which Americans are willing to *turn from our wicked ways* and *return* to The LORD
 - And I also said there would be several *points* or *markers* that would affect what happens. I was speaking in terms of our relationship to Israel, our care for the truly poor, issues of justice, civil liberties, and whether we would make serious efforts to bring our economy under control.

My personal opinion is that we have passed the point of whether or not the LE will happen (it will), and right now we are making decisions as a nation that will determine the extent of our future trouble. It is God's delight to show mercy, and I believe humility and repentance can mitigate these events. Yet we must remember He is a righteous God who calls our hand on apostasy and rebellion.

At the same time, I am convinced God has a plan of redemption, but the solution will not be primarily financial or political – it will be found in spiritual matters.

- (3) I also believe we must continue to pray. 2 Chronicles 7:14 gives us the process:

- God's people must humble themselves. We must acknowledge our weakness and inability to solve our problems without God's wisdom.
- His people must pray.
- And America must turn from her wicked ways.

Let me encourage you to review the sermon and notes you were given a couple of months ago entitled **An Appeal to Heaven**. I am still under that same strong impression to pray and intercede for our nation. I will continue to do so until He lifts the burden – and I encourage you to do the same thing.

Next week I will answer the second most asked question – *Do you still believe persecution is coming? If so, what do you believe it will look like in America?* The answers to that question are being formulated in the spiritual realm right now. I'll share more with you in the next **Mostly Personal**.

I love you,
Pastor Stephen