

(1). "The Challenge of Tomorrow."

Introd:- (1). 30 million people will always remember Novem. 10th, 1965..Partic. the time..5.24 p.m...For at that moment N.Y.City was plunged into an abyss of darkness. Elevators slid to stop between floors. Subway lights went out, leaving stygian blackness as trains rolled a few feet and stopped for hours. Traffic lights blinked off. The gaudy neon signs of Times square disappeared.. as though some boy had pulled the plug. Blackness enveloped that great metropol. area..New York City. Unbelievable! Almost imposs. No fiction writer ever imagined a plot based on such weird circumstances. But it happened and almost 1,000,000 people were stalled underground.. trapped in the subways.

(2). When it was all over..a large sign was posted on the subway trains..explaining the causes of the blackout, and thanking people for the way they responded. The statement ended thus: "Thank you; when it was the darkest, you were your brightest." A fine epitome of what happened!

(3). I need not make any application of the story. There is something in a man that responds to challenge..and that makes a REAL man brightest in the darkest hours.

- When Moses brightest? When heir of Pharaoh? No..when delib. chose wilderness journey..leading slaves out...
- When Joseph brightest? Ruling Egypt? No..when resisted blandishments, tempt. of evil woman..kept his purity.
- When 3 Heb. men brightest? Ruling in Bab? No..when tossed into furnace for their integrity.
- When Daniel brightest? Pres. of Med. Persia? No..when pillowed head on flank of tawny lion for God's sake.
- When Jesus brightest? "Hosanna"? No. "It is finished"
- Sir Winston Churchill said..in darkest hour of last world war..June 18th, 1940.."Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say: 'This was their finest hour'".

I. Today, ~~men of the New Church~~..I want to begin ~~my first session~~ with Theme and Text ~~so appropriate chosen~~...

(a). For in and around it I believe there is gathered a Rebuke for the Past...a Rallying cry for the Future.. and a Remedy for the Present. And I believe that you ~~men~~ are here to soberly, sensibly and on the fear of God face the issues of today..and accept the challenge of God. This is not time for fun and games. Its time to face the darkness and shine for Jesus Christ.

(b). Let me read text again.. Josh. 3:4 "Ye have not passed this way heretofore." Spoken on eve/ of one of most imp. forward movements in history of Israel. On very border of Prom. Land..place of new power, new food, new victories, new possessions. Behind them lay the great wilderness..and 40 yrs of futile wandering around..getting nowhere..after the great Exodus out of Egypt..Passover nig Spoken to young men and women...prob. up to 40 or 50 yrs of age. And HEREIN LIES REBUKE FOR PREVIOUS GENERATION. Why had they not passed that way 40 yrs before? Why had not these people been born IN the land of Prom? God's ans. is "Because of unbelief". Bec. when facing dark days ..difficult tasks..they failed to trust God..walk in bright light of His ways. Refused CHALLENGE..to hazard...

(c). Too often this is parable of X'n life...and a rebuke to ev. merely nominal X'n. YES! Out of Egypt..freed from bondage of sin..redeemed by our great Passover, Christ sacrificed for us..Sheltered beneath the Lamb&s shed blood...but per. 40 yrs ago..we ought to have trodden the path God still sees ahead of us...to victory and fruitfulness. Signif. word in Deut.1:2..."There are 11 days journey from Horeb (Sinai) unto Kadesh Barnea"(border of land). 11 days..and it took them 40 years!

(d). And with Rebuke..there comes solemn sense of RESPONSIBILITY. (~~Later discussion..gen. gap~~)..~~But as a man I~~ believe that, in Biblical sense I am responsible for my wife..my children and grandchildren. I am called to do all in my power..beyond my power as I seek God's power..to set my family on God's ways as early in life as possible. I am to set a goal as Joshua did.."As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Mrs. J..Little J's and J'ettes! Cecil Carter..writing re. Y.P. facing Univ..and teaching that is anti-Biblical..partic. Th. of Evol.."Let us stand on guard for Canada's school children. Study the real evidences of science and give very wide circulation to the literature that deals with it. Prepare your own children with God's Word of the subject BEFORE they are exposed to the devil's lie; or else be prepared to lose your children". Serious words! God stir our hearts! <sup>B.</sup> I am here bec. my father laid hold on God for family. Ek.

II. Now turn to chron..geograph. side of text...

(a). Per. what we have mostly in mind as read today. ~~Here we are - January. Named after Janus..two-faced god. Looking both ways. So as we have looked back..turn now other way..face 1970.~~ "Ye have not passed this way heretofore." Never been a 1970 AD..and never a yr. like it

(b). What, be like? No longer do preachers have to turn into fore-tellers. Scientists, sociologists, psychologist doing job for us..splendidly! All we have to know is the unbreakable Word of God.."In the last days perilous times shall come". Unmistakeable. Now men of world are saying "True indeed". (Quotes from Time Mag).

(c). Thus..~~men of the church~~..I am convinced that 1970 is one of the "last days years". Time for man on earth is running out..rapidly..more rapidly than we think. Dr. Frank Fraser Darling of the Coservation Foundation of Washington D.C...speaking of the population problem...

"None of us can see that the world will escape the horrors of famine on a large scale. The very large catastrophe to which we are heading will not happen as the result of one cause, but as a culmination of several factors - famine, war, pestilence and pollution." AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT OUR LORD FORETOLD IN Matt. 24:6-7. "There shall be wars and rumours of wars..famines, pestilences and earthquakes in divers places." Dr. Darling forgot the earthquakes!

Concerning air pollution Dr. Paul Ehrlich..prof. of biology at Stanford Univ says this..(quote 2.) + flood of ghostary

(d). And as long as Jesus tarries..(surely not long..but per. through this untrodden year)..we are called to walk in such a world..dark, dark world...and shine for Him! God's rallying cry for future...is to challenge men of God to be their brightest when it gets to be darkest!

III. Today we face vital question..HOW? Are we able to live as we should in dirty, apostate, godless world?

(a). I am sure ~~prayer of those who arranged this retreat has been and is that these hours might help us prepare to meet challenge of untrodden ways of 1970..live for God.~~ Let me say two things. FIRST:- Our text is only half a text. And a text without context can become a pretext Read vs.3-4.."And they commanded the people, saying, When ye see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God and the priests the Levites bearing it, then ye shall remove from your place and GO AFTER IT. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about 2,000 cubits by measure: come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye must go: for ye have not passed this way heretofore." That ARK..is typical of the very Holy Presence of Christ. Speaks of His Person..in His redemptive work and power. Now..see what teaches us, as it did Israelites. FOLLOW THE ARK! They did..and so we obey our Lord's command: "Follow Me". That's simple, utter obedience of surrendered heart. BUT.."There shall be a space. Why? That Ark might LEAD in untrodden path. SO WITH US..Never run ahead..X.

May Spirit of God burn this deep in souls. FOLLOW THE ARK..OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR... GO AFTER HIM! ALL THE WAY! No task here for playboys..No John Marks..running home from 1st miss. journey when going got tough. Soldiers! AND LET HIM LEAD. That means finish to our own ideas. Dying gasp of own ambitions. Not "I will follow thee BUT" c/f Stephen.."Good..I am looking for X'n to get stoned to death..Let's go".

(b) SECOND:- Read text following..vs.5 "And Joshua said unto the people, SANCTIFY YOURSELVES: for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you." Tomorrow you tread the unknown way..~~on into 1970..TODAY~~ sanctify yourselves..~~now~~ ..while this retreat is on. Do it. Don't miss it. NOW.

(c). How? It means lit.."To make holy". And that involve getting abso. RIGHT WITH GOD. C/F Wm. Aberhart's Bible. That may well mean confession. Not easy. Involves humili ..yet returning prod. learned to say hardest words in human language.."I have sinned". It will mean separation. Even from something good that the best might come in. It must mean sep. from everything with taint of evil. It will mean sacrifice..with such a willing heart that it seems no longer sacrifice..just love giving to the Saviour..of time, talent, substance, children...It will mean SURRENDER..full and complete..to the whole will of God. God grant this to all of us..for tomorrow lies in TODAY. Tomorrow God will do wonders..if we sanctify ourselves TODAY.

It's our move..II Chron 7:14. "IF my people, which are called by my name, , shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." That's His guaranteed promise!

Conclus:- 1. Here is the CHALLENGE OF TOMORROW..wrapped up in today. Out time is short. The way is untrodden. But we can meet it..all its challenge in the power of the Risen Lord. Will you let God rouse your spirit? Vance Havner: "The same church members who yell like Comanche Indians at a ball game on Saturday sit like wooden Indians in church on Sunday" ! Is that true of us? 2. Time's running out. This may be our last year of earth-service for our Lord. AND GOD CAN DO WONDERS. What an army of priests could not do in those 400 years after Malachi closed the O.T..one man "SENT OF GOD", Hohn the Baptist, God-fashioned, God-filled, God-fired, did in 6 months! Lord, do it again. Fill us with Thy Spirit (over).



Paul Ehrlich, prof. of biology at Stanford Univ.

has made a number of frighteningly convincing prophecies

One is that competition for food and raw materials is going to become savage among the nations as populations grow. He says that US industrial plans alone envision use of nearly all the non-Communist world's mineral reserves by the yr 2,000, a relatively short period of time.

Then there is the atmosphere. People and engines are using up oxygen at an alarming rate; one trans-Atlantic jet burns 35 tons. We are voraciously cutting down the forests that convert carbon dioxide to oxygen, and DDT may be having an impact on the ocean's micro-organisms that similarly produce oxygen. One day, suddenly, the world's billions of creatures may literally be struggling desperately for a last breath.

The increasing carbon dioxide in the air gradually warms the oceans and could, it is feared melt the polar ice caps at a rate fast enough to flood the coasts of our continents. Daniel Patrick Moynihan counselor to Pres. Nixon, warned here recently that the atmosphere's carbon dioxide content would grow about 25% by the yr 2000. Prof. Ehrlich believes the heating problem is so grave that, by the 21st century, we shall have to prohibit the use of any fuel for transportation.--- If men are still here, that is.

Andrei Amalric..Russin writer.

"Having discarded the old Christian morality, the Kremlin is desperately trying to substitute nationalism, with its inherent cult of force and expansionist ambitions. China will launch a war with Russia somewhere between 1975 and 1980 - as soon as Peking had amassed a credible nuclear stockpile. The USSR will not survive until 1984. A disastrous end, resulting from internal upheaval and war with China, is not very far off.

① The National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence.....a grim picture of future life in urban America.."We solemnly declare that this nation is entering a period in which our people need to be as concerned by internal dangers to our free society as by any probable combination of external threats. The city will be composed of high-rise, high-security apartment houses and prospering commercial areas, surrounded by squalor. In the suburbs, behind window grilles and electronic surveillance equipment, the nervous home-owner will always keep his gun handy.

The inflation spiral will keep right on.

TIME MAG..December 19/69

1960's...A Romantic Era.. "Ask not what your country can do for you, said John F. Kennedy, "Ask what you can do for your country."

The words were uttered less than 10 yrs. ago yet it could have been a century. That summons to duty and patriotism sounds irredicibly nostalgic to ears grown used to a decade of shouts of raw passion, cacaphonous protest and violence.

The bright promise that began the '60's turned to confusion and near despair as the decade ended. Psychiatrist Frederick Hacker calls the ending of the 1960's "A rendezvous with manifest absurdity".

① Americans landed on the moon; back on earth their cities festered, and their atmosphere was befouled

At Amherst College commencement the class valedictorian declared: "Our parents and our teachers believe in adulthood; our wish is to stay immature as little children."

Given little to believe in or rebel against by their liberal parents, the young filled the void with their own life-styles.

Many adult Americans were shocked by the most obvious manifestations of the new romanticism-nudity, casual sex, obscenity.. These were, of course, intended to shock.

1970's: Nudity onstage and on the screen, perhaps even outright pornography will be taken for granted the new frontier of shock probably will be violence and cruelty.

Japan will dominate Asia. War between China and Russia cannot be ruled out. Arab-Israel conflict will probably drag on for years.

## A PRAYER

Lord, help me to be:  
Self-reliant, but not self-sufficient  
Energetic, but not self-seeking  
Steadfast, but not stubborn  
Tactful, but not timid  
Serious, but not sullen  
Loyal, but not sectarian  
Unmovable, but not stationary  
Gentle, but not hypersensitive  
Tenderhearted, but not touchy  
Conscientious, but not a perfectionist  
Disciplined, but not demanding  
Generous, but not gullible  
Meek, but not weak  
Humorous, but not hilarious  
Friendly, but not familiar  
Holy, but not holier than thou  
Discerning, but not critical  
Progressive, but not pretentious.

-Author unknown



God demonstrated His supreme power ~~at~~<sup>of</sup> those Titans of that day!  
HE WILL DO IT AGAIN. I expect miracles. (~~Blasphemy next 2 Sun..~~  
~~05:00 - 8 a.m.) (910 KC)~~). Certain to come. Pray for God's mirac.  
moving in our day..c/f James 5:17. "How dreadful of Elijah to  
pray for such calamity." What Alberta farmers say of preacher.  
who did that? But physical suffering far smaller calamity than  
ungodliness and moral failure. A kindness if brought people  
back to God, saved souls. purified morals. PRAY GOD TO MOVE!  
For revival. "Not promised in Scrip". Neither was Wesleyan..  
Welsh..Bible does not say be no revival. Ask God move!

(b). SECOND:- GOD ALWAYS HAS A MAN TO MATCH THE HOUR!

If this is little men's big day..God will find His Big Men...  
Elijah came after 40 yrs of moral and religious deterioration..  
Ahab and Jezebel reigned.."He did evil above all that were  
before him..There was none like Ahab, which did sell himself  
to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel  
his wife stirred up. "Crush worship of Jehovah". Zero hour!  
AND GOD'S CHAMPION AROSE! The times are calling for an Elijah,  
and an Elijah appears! The greatest prophet arises at worst  
stage. True always. Popery smothering Europe..God had his  
Martin Luther..John Calvin..Sevenerole..Huss. When morals  
and religion utterly degraded in Britain..God had His John  
Wycliffe..Wm. Tyndale..George Whitefield..John Wesley. AMEN!

Conclus:- 1. Last word will be sharp..to point.

TODAY WE LIVE. Among the human Titans..ungodly men and movement  
It cannot be otherwise than this:- That GOD IS LOOKING FOR  
HIS MIGHTY MEN..WOMEN..TO STAND, LIVE, MOVE, PRAY, PREACH,  
WITNESS FOR HIM. 2. What will YOU be, do for Christ today????  
"Poor..little..weak". BUT GOD..."Peter, filled with the Holy  
Ghost". God is saying surely.."Quit you like MEN..be strong".  
..not like fops..dandies..prigs..infants..LIKE MEN.  
In closing moments..let us..you and me...lay ourselves at the  
feet of Jesus afresh..at His disposal..Resolve be BEST MEN..  
BEST WOMEN we can poss. be for Jesus Christ. What say you?

But Elijah is called "Man of like passions"

Lethbridge Evng Fce July 18/76

Armstrong - May 2/76

Gideon Convention - Three Hills - Sept 19/64

Winifred - Feb 16/64 - (Dome from Red Deer)

Highland Memorial Ch - Calgary - Feb. 9/64



# Berean Bible College

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