

The Illumination of Conscience

INTRODUCTION

The twentieth century has provided the greatest scientific, technological and medical advances this planet has ever seen.

- It has also produced the greatest amount of destruction and devastation, torture, oppression and genocide the world has ever known including two world wars and countless revolutions inspired by the ideologies of Marxism/Communism, Nazism, and Fascism.

Atheism, occultism, witchcraft, immorality, the dehumanization of the human person and the culture of death seem to pervade our society and the world.

God has been driven out of the marketplace and almost out of the Church.

Given this brief overview of the times in which we live, some are asking:

- Are we living in special times?
- Are we approaching the end of an era or maybe even the end of the world?
- If so, is God planning to intervene in a miraculous way in the near future?
- Are we paying attention to the “signs of the times” as Jesus instructed us to do?
- And, if so, what are the signs pointing to?

Pope St. John Paul's Speech in 1976 in USA

In 1976 Pope St. John Paul II gave us a prophetic warning about the times we are in at the conclusion of his visit to the USA.

Let's take a look at the Pope's warning contained in his farewell speech which he gave 44 years ago [while still Cardinal Wojtyla].

*We are now standing in the face of the **greatest historical confrontation humanity has gone through**. I do not think that wide circles of American society or wide circles of the Christian community realize this fully.*

*We are now facing the **final confrontation** between the Church and the anti-Church, the Gospel versus the anti-Gospel, Christ versus the anti-Christ.*

*We must be prepared to **undergo great trials in the not-too-distant future**; trials that will require us to be ready to give up even our lives, and a total gift of self to Christ and for Christ.*

*Through your prayers and mine, **it is possible to alleviate this tribulation**, but it is no longer possible to avert it . . .*

How many times has the renewal of the Church been brought about in blood! It will not be different this time.

If we are now facing the final confrontation between the forces of good and the forces of evil, between God and Satan, and Christ and Antichrist, then it follows that we are in the end times – **not** the end of the world but a series of historical events preceding and leading up to the end of human history and the world.

NOT the End of the World . . .

Note: According to prophecy, both Biblical and from Private Revelation, we are **not** speaking about the end of the world or of human history. The end of the world and human history will come after the long reign of Christ [a spiritual reign] and His saints **here on earth, in time and space** (Is. 11:1-9; Acts 1:6; **Rev. 20:1-4**; CCC# 672).

This “millennial” reign of Christ [the fulfillment of the Messianic kingdom on earth] will be a glorious time; a time of peace, justice and righteousness never attained on earth before.

- It will even surpass the state in the Garden of Eden before the Fall.

... But the End of the Age (Era)

In view of the coming **end of the era** prophesied in Scripture, Tradition, etc., it is not only appropriate to speak about what we are going to experience in the near future, it is mandatory – mandatory for our spiritual and physical wellbeing, preparation and survival.

Catholic Prophecy / Private Revelation

Before we go on - a word about **private revelation**.

As Catholics we are not bound to accept private revelation, but it would be imprudent to reject it, especially those revelations which have been approved by the Church.

In its wise, time-tested discernment of “private revelation” the Church reminds us of two guiding principles by St. Paul:

- *Do not quench the Spirit, do not despise prophesying, and*
- *Test everything; hold fast to what is good” [1 Thess 5:19-22].*

Prophecy is a charism of the Holy spirit that has continually guided the Church through the ages, revealing the will of the Lord and, at times, His plans. Pope Benedict XVI has said:

“In every age the Church has received the charism of prophecy, which must be scrutinized but not scorned.”

THE PROPHETIC MESSAGE

In Pope St. John Paul’s speech quoted earlier, the Pope mentioned the coming of a great tribulation associated with the renewal of the Church.

This coming event, according to prophecy [both private and Scriptural], will usher in a new era of universal holiness and peace.

Heaven has been trying to warn us time and time again over the past 170 years that if the human race does not repent and change its behavior, there is going to be **a momentous intervention by God.**

Since Fatima, the Virgin Mary has been revealing in her apparitions that the world is more sinful than ever, more sinful and more atheistic, she says, than at any time since the great flood.

Truth today is so lost that the most essential values of life are gone, totally discarded. The breakdown of the family, the cornerstone of civilization, is at stake for the first time in history. And because of this, the visionaries and mystics tell us that we're pushing the world to the brink of a cataclysmic event.

God is a good, merciful, kind and patient God who loves His children very much. He wants nothing but the best for them and that "best" is salvation and ultimately heaven.

Unfortunately, He sees His beloved sons and daughters destroying themselves, each other, and His very Creation. Despite all His warnings, most have not responded and many are on the way to Hell.

- God has tried Love and Mercy and mankind has rejected it. The last option is Justice. And we have been warned that the doors of Mercy are closing and the doors of Justice are opening.
- And so, we have reached the stage where only a cataclysmic intervention by God will catch our attention.

In the past, there have been major biblical events that have changed the course of life on Earth.

- The first came with the Fall in which Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commandment regarding the knowledge of Good and Evil and were cast out of the Garden of Eden, never to return.

Tragically, they chose to obey the Father of Lies rather than the Father of Life and Truth.

- Then there came the Flood which washed away all human life on Earth, with its accompanying sin, with the exception of one righteous man and his family.
- Then the total destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by fire.
- Finally, the long-awaited and greatest of all events occurred, the **Incarnation**, forever changing the course of human history.

“God became man so that man might become God”

[St. Athanasius].

- Today, another momentous event is about to occur and the vast majority of people know nothing of it.

The Illumination of Conscience

For several hundred years, a prophecy has circulated among Christians foretelling a day of Divine Justice - a unique day, a day that would bring immediate and miraculous change in the world.

- But this prophetic day of justice, unlike others describing God's angry wrath, is to be a day reportedly ordained by God as a “gift” to his people.
- This gift would allow us to see ourselves and our lives through God's eyes, while still alive.

PRIVATE PROPHECIES

Pope Paul VI

“Echoing the words of St. Paul that an ‘apostasy’, a great falling away from the faith would precede the Antichrist or “son of perdition” (2 Thess 2), Pope St. Paul VI said:

*The tail of the devil is functioning in the disintegration of the Catholic world. **The darkness of Satan has entered and spread throughout the Catholic Church even to its summit.** Apostasy, the loss of the faith, is spreading throughout the world and into the highest levels within the Church.”* —Address on the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions, October 13, 1977; reported in the Italian paper ‘Corriere della Sera’, on Page 7, October 14, 1977 issue.

Blessed Anna Maria Taigi, [d.1836]

*A great purification will come upon the world preceded by an **“illumination of conscience”** in which everyone will see themselves as God sees them.*

Mari-Julie Jahenny [d.1941]

*One more judgment will take place **before the last one**, a judgment of justice . . . Altogether with a judgment of glorious resurrection in peace and hope for the friends of God.*

The Coming Kingdom – Heede, Germany [Nov. 1, 1937]

At Heede, Germany, Jesus reportedly explained to four children:

*I will come with **My peace**. With a few faithful, **I will build up My Kingdom. As a flash of lightning this Kingdom will come** . . . Much faster than mankind will realize. I will give them a special light. For this light will come like the star that showed the way to the wise men. Mankind will experience my love and my power. I will show them **My justice and mercy**. My dearly beloved children, the hour comes closer and closer. Pray without ceasing!*

The above Kingdom will be established on Earth after the tribulation.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

If we are indeed close to the end of an age, or the end of the world, there should be signs to alert us, signs that we should be able to decipher if we are spiritually awake. Jesus said to the Pharisees and Sadducees:

You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the **signs of the times** [Matt 16: 1-4].

Jesus told us that we should be able to read the signs of the time. What are the signs of the times telling us? Are we aware that we are living in the “end times?” What does this mean? Do we care?

In addition to Scripture and Tradition, there are hundreds of private [non-Scriptural] prophecies warning God's people of the approaching end of the age/world and the state of the human race preceding and during this event.

Because humanity is in such a corrupt state these prophecies tell us that only repentance and a return to God and His ways will save us from a terrible Chastisement. See 2 Chron 7:14 below.

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

However, we have been told by the prophets, including Pope St. John Paul II, that it is too late to avoid the chastisement.

- However, our prayers and penances can mitigate the consequences of the chastisement.

WHAT THEN DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

In light of the above, what can we expect in terms of the apocalyptic events which lie ahead of the human race?

To answer the question, “What does the future hold?” Heaven [Scripture, the Popes, Tradition, the Fathers of the Church, etc.] has shown us that in the *near* future God is going to intervene in human affairs in a way never before seen on Earth.

- The coming momentous intervention is known by several names, but the most common are **The Warning** or **The Illumination of Conscience**.

It is also sometimes referred to as the **mini-Judgment**, because it will be like the Particular Judgment every soul experiences at death.

- The Warning will be the **greatest act of mercy** for the human race since the Incarnation. Every single human being on earth will experience it . . . it will be both global and intimately personal.

After this event every soul will know the full TRUTH about God, itself, its sins and their consequences. All rationalizations and excuses will be swept away. The soul will have two options – accept the truth and repent and draw closer to God, or reject the truth and face damnation.

According to the mytics, this gift of mercy is to be given to mankind now as an opportunity for countless souls to change for the better and return to God – for the world as a whole, to turn away from its evil path and back to its Creator.

GARABANDAL

No apparition of the Virgin Mary is better known for the prophecy of the coming “**Illumination of Conscience**” than the reported apparitions at Garabandal, Spain, from 1961 through 1965.

Four children from the village of Garabandal claimed that the Virgin Mary appeared to them, beginning on June 18, 1961. The names of the children are: Conchita Gonzalez, Mari-Loli Mazon; Jacinta Gonzalez and Maria Cruz.

Although these apparitions have not yet been approved by the church, they were not condemned and have had a vast, worldwide following over the years.

The Basic Message of Garabandal

During the apparitions, Our Lady predicted that a series of apocalyptic events which, she said, **would occur during the lifetime of the visionaries**, who were born around 1950.

Mary identified four major upcoming events:

- A Warning that would come from God,
- A Great Miracle, and
- A Chastisement that sounded like the Great Tribulation predicted by Jesus and recorded in the Gospels, and
- A Permanent Sign left at Garabandal until the Second Coming

The Warning . . .

The Warning will precede the Great Miracle and the terrible Chastisement – “like acts in a drama.”

How will this great event occur?

According to the visionaries and mystics God has ordained and will grant a great grace to the world.

- Through this grace the conscience of every human being – man, woman, and child – will be supernaturally illuminated by God’s divine truth, allowing us to see ourselves through the eyes of God.

The prophets say that it will be an experience similar to the **Personal or Particular Judgment** at the time of death. We will instantaneously see all our past sins as God sees them, and know, without a doubt, that God “exists.”

Most importantly, after this experience of divine truth, we will realize that God’s forgiveness and loving embrace is waiting for us, as it waited for the repentance and return of the Prodigal Son.

And that all we need to do is ask.

Again, according to the prophetic messages, this worldwide illumination of all consciences will occur **soon – in our generation** - and will redirect the human race back to God’s intended goal – reunion with our God, Creator and Father.

A Cosmic and Spiritual Event

The Warning will be accompanied by some sort of celestial event *“like two stars . . . that crash and make a lot of noise, and a lot of light . . . but they don't fall. It is not going to hurt us physically but we are going to see it and, in that moment, we are going to see our consciences,”* said one of the visionaries.

From time to time Jesus, and/or Our Lady have given more information on the Chastisement through different saints and prophets.

During the warning all movement on earth will stop for a short time. A plane flying in the air will stop in mid air for this period . . . all motors will stop.

On August 2, 1934, Jesus spoke to **Saint Faustina Kowalska** of the cosmic nature of the Illumination, which would come before the Day of Justice . . .

He said:

“All light in the heavens will be extinguished, and there will be great darkness over the whole earth. Then the sign of the cross will be seen in the sky, and from the holes where the hands and the feet of the Savior were nailed will come forth a brilliant light, which illuminate the earth for a period of time.”

From another visionary:

“For those not in the state of grace, it will be frightening.”

One of the visionaries of Garabandal [Mary Loli] said that she saw persecution of believers, and the pope in hiding, and then: silence as the Warning takes place.

Elaborating on the events leading up to the Warning, Jacinta saw a persecution or invasion by Communists and was told to pray that this be avoided . . . The important message was to make sacrifices, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament, and daily recite the Rosary.

The Times Are Near – Socialism and Communism Return

The visionaries believe that the time of the Illumination is near. Conchita speaks about the return of Communism – this was before the collapse of Communism in Europe and the Soviet Union between 1989 - 1991. Now we hear almost every day about Socialism and Communism sweeping the USA.

- Socialism is the first phase of Communism.

When asked when it would be, one of the visionaries of Garabandal, Conchita, said this:

“When Communism comes again everything will happen.”

The author responded: **“What do you mean by comes again?”**

“Yes, when it newly comes again,” she replied.

“Does that mean that Communism will go away before that?”

“I don't know,” she said in reply, **“the Blessed Virgin simply said ‘when Communism comes again.’** [excerpt from www.motherofallpeoples.com]

REVELATION AND THE SEVEN SEALS

Most authentic Catholic prophetic messages from reliable saints and mystics have a connection with Sacred Scripture regarding the End Times, especially with the Gospels and the book of Revelation.

Labor Pains

In the Scriptures and the various non-biblical prophetic messages dealing with the End Times, the End Time events are roughly divided in two groups or classes; the **proximate** [close-by, near] and the **remote** events.

For an example of proximate events, Jesus is recorded in the Gospel of Matthew [24: 4-8] as saying:

And Jesus answered them, "Take heed that no one leads you astray.

For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray.

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet.

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and

*earthquakes in various places:
all this is but **the beginning of the labor pains.***

Are the Seven Seals Being Unsealed?

The seven seals represent the beginning of a series of End Time judgments [the beginning of the Labor Pains] which correspond to the Gospel passage above and lead to the Great Tribulation.

Some saints and mystics believe that we are now experiencing the opening of the seven seals and that the above prophecies are connected with these seals.

There is a responsible Catholic website called **Count Down to the Kingdom** which has presented a series on the Seven Seals and relates these to current events and the prophecies above.

It is well worth watching.