## Is it Just Me?

Is it just me, or do you ever feel that our team may be losing? Do you ever feel that our cause and our principles, while worthy, noble, and right, have been highjacked and are now being held hostage with no hope of a safe and expeditious release? Or is it just me?

We continue to faithfully persevere in spite of the most obvious of spiritual declines, knowing assuredly that truth will always prevail. But could it be that ONLY in the end does truth win? What about that timeless interval between our launching out and our final arrival, wherein the journey becomes more complex than the destination? Do you ever think of that?

History bears out that there have been times and eras and even long extended seasons where the church or truth, in general, suffered great defeats, but in the end, righteousness always seemed to prevail. However, entire generations were all but out of spiritual commission during those difficult and trying seasons of time due to great oppression.

Early in Israelite history, we read that an entire generation ultimately arose that knew not God. How did that happen unless something or somebody went terribly off the rails?

For 70 years, Israel went into captivity. Many in that generation were born, lived, and even died as Babylonian slaves. Not a good time for truth.

It was 600 years after David's death before the great Josiah revival unfolded. Mostly 600 years of spiritual chaos and darkness whereby wickedness ruled the day and righteousness was indeed under great assault. Truth was emphatically and unashamedly forgotten during that evil era by all scriptural accounts.

Then there were the 400 years of silence where the voice of God was not spoken to any man. Period. Several lost generations of truth-seeking men of whom we have very little record were invisible and undoubtedly living in great despair for 400 years. What we do know is that the last word from God through Malachi was anything but comforting, and then came the silence—the long agonizing silence for anyone hungering for truth and thirsting for righteousness. The first voice to break those 400 years of tormenting silence was ultimately beheaded for speaking truth. Christ was subsequently born at the close of those same 400 years of silence and unfortunately found a religious system wherein truth was greatly perverted and the priesthood hopelessly corrupted. Those same infamously corrupt culprits leading the religious masses of the day ultimately hung Him on a cross shortly after His spiritual partner was also beheaded, and those 400 years of silence obviously produced a pitiful and demonic gross spiritual darkness lending to the notion that it wasn't a good time for the celebration of truth.

Could the church be approaching another such spiritual transition prior to the rapture where the great falling away overwhelms the faithful remnant, to the point we suffer great loss as never before in our history, yet prior to our ultimate redemption? Do you ever consider those things?

The great prophetic end-time revival, as recorded in Old Testament scriptures, is indeed a biblical fact for sure but a truth that is understood to be primarily fulfilled through the nation of Israel and ultimately during the millennial reign of Christ while initially beginning during the tribulation period. End-time revival promises are certainly not a scripturally prophesied church-era event. The church will be raptured by the time Israel experiences her great and mighty spiritual reawakening, or her promised end-time revival. The falling away period IS, however, one of the signs of the approaching end of the church era, not the nation of Israel's final days.

So, do you ever think that the ominous prophetic falling away from truth, or what is defined and understood as the great apostasy during the last days of the earthly mission of the church and before the catching away of the bride of Christ, could be upon us now? Well? It sure ain't looking good for the home team these days or....

... is it just me?

Bill Pitman