

Our earthly fortunes to be instantly reversed.



here is one thing of which you can be certain, and that is that things are not as they appear. As I write, God is presently doing two things in the world and He is doing them simultaneously, silently, and invisibly: 1) He is discarding those who are currently rich, famous or influential (those whom God calls "the chiefs"), and 2) He is preparing the *next* world's future administrators directly in the midst of these chiefs. The key to remember is that these ongoing operations are 1) simultaneous, 2) silent, and 3) invisible. The players have long been in place. The chiefs have no idea what is happening to them. We, however, have full knowledge not only of *their* impending fate, but of our own; we have been advised; God has put us on notice—

- ▶ "Yet wisdom are we speaking among the mature, yet a wisdom not of this eon, neither of the chief humans of this eon, who are being discarded" (1 Corinthians 2:6).
- ▶ "Your life is hid together with Christ in God. Whenever Christ, our Life, should be manifested, then you also shall be manifested with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:3-4).

Judgment comes upon this Earth in an hour (Revelation 18:10). God snatches us away to our celestial allotment in an instant (1 Corinthians 15:52). These two processes have been long underway. No one will be able to call us an overnight success, just as none can accuse God of robbing the chiefs of their hour in the sun. Their "hour" has lasted 5,990 years.

Our overnight success? Please. Their hasty judgment? Spare me. God makes us aware of this as well as that. For the chiefs, they continue in oblivion as did the Earthlings of Noah's era. Only a handful of that day were apprised that the ugly boat in the back yard was the rescue from impending oblivion. Nothing has changed.

As you walk among the chiefs—whether actual or those merely deeming themselves to be so—I want you to be so aware of the coming reversal that you can feel it in the air. Feel it just as surely as you sense the coming of fall. The chill is not your imagination. The chiefs cannot feel the turning of Earth (they're too self-occupied), while we wrap sweaters about us and cast our eyes heavenward.

The monumental transference of power sits on the cusp. It comes not by lengthy reformation, nor by the fruit of interminable human debate, but in accord with a predetermined thunderstroke of God. As our apostle writes—

In my opinion, whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God's purpose it has been so limited—yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God.

(Romans 8:18-21, J.B. Phillips Paraphrase).

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