
Perspectives on History

We are writing a new history today. This history is being written not with a pen, but with the mixture of the blood, sweat, and tears of the people who are faithful and loyal to God. This history will be read by millions of people in the future. The billions that will compose the future and all those that make up the past will stand on its foundation. How stable it will be, is up to us. If we leave the legacy of a tear-stained and purified history, and in turn create a pure civilization and a shining new world, then not only our children but our children's children and their children too, will live in peace and be able to fulfill their God-given purpose. Once God's side wins over Satan's, the world will be at peace for the first time in its history. The world will no longer be charged with the negative ions of hatred, mistrust, and resentment. And the new history will be glorious.

The real magnitude of God's existence will become evident once we advance from the individual level to the level of family. If we can deal with the scope of the universe and all humanity with a parental heart, the family of man will expand its consciousness and true relationships will develop between not only individuals, but families and nations throughout the world: We are the ones God is asking to secure a future for humanity. And He is imploring us to keep working so that in the future, humanity will live with Him. But in order to abide with God, a person must be pure. The road proceeding from this evil and sinful world may be narrow and steep, but it *does* lead to the threshold of God's palace. Without walking it, there is no way to meet Him. We have to reach a certain standard of perfection. When we do, this world will also be transformed in the pure light of God.

History has witnessed the coming and going of many trends which are often repeated generations later. Skirt lengths go up, then down, then up again. Ties vary in width, and double-breasted suits are occasionally "in" and occasionally "out." Sometimes it is fashionable for people to wear long hair, yet sometimes short hair is in vogue. Sometimes people are more cultured in their behavior and have high ethical standards, other times general morality plummets. When societal ethics reach such a low that a rebellion against such decadence ensues, a revival comes about.

We can expect such a renaissance in communist countries. Such a spiritual renewal is now in the making, and I believe it eventually could incite a rebellion against communism. The see-saw of power is out of control—and Satan soon will find himself unable to lift the weight of God off the ground.

The water which flows down the river wends its way through valleys and mountains; it seems to run incessantly. It just comes and goes, constantly surging, constantly turning according to the bends it must follow because of the effects of soil erosion, rains and snows, and even sunlight. History is quite the same. Children are born, they grow up, and sooner or later they die. People live, meandering their way to the ocean of eternity. They follow certain bends because of the erosion, the rains and snows, and the sunlight they experience in their lives. Rivers may start as a tiny trickle in the mountains, but all eventually end up in a larger body of water. After each individual completes his cycle of history, he finally returns to the ocean of God. That is one reason we should never consider our lives only in a minute perspective: we are part of the river of history.

Never look at history in a narrow sense, observing just one nation. Always look at the history of the entire world. God definitely has a hand in directing history. Of course He depends upon the actions and movements of human beings, but in a way He pushes humanity into a certain direction. He has erected so many foundations—through the prophets, through Jesus, through Father. What Father does today turns the wheel of history, and allows God's side to advance. When we follow Father and produce the results God needs, the spirit world responds and cooperates. Spiritual beings begin to move human hearts and within societies, and through that, the history of the world accelerates even further.

The sensitive people in this world cannot help but see the moral decay of human society. They observe that people are longing for something—for love, for God. Because people have a hard time meeting God, they give up easily. They look for love in other ways—sometimes in extremes, sometimes in the abstract. Perceptive people are able to see that much of humanity, in its hope to find a substitute for the love of God and once again to find the way home, has become almost despondent. Nevertheless, those who witness these trends can also recognize that such behavior in itself is a cry for God, a deep longing to be saved from the wretchedness and misery of life, in this world which Satan still rules.

We are confronted today with something mankind has never before had to face. The nation of America which God desired to be the framework upon which to construct the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, is in danger. And she places the rest of the world in jeopardy because she is quite timid about

reaching out to save other nations. Surely the Soviet Union *is* a superpower, and surely its ideology represents the enemy, a very real threat to freedom. But unfortunately, America's peril is presently due more to internal decay than from the invasion of foreign forces. This assault is much more invisible. Immorality is rampant. Pornography, wife beating, homosexuality, child abuse, incest, "kiddie" porn, drug abuse, even gluttony—the list of the elements contributing to America's deterioration is far too long. But fundamentally, they all stem from one fact: man walked away from God. There is currently an intrusion made upon the churches of America to prohibit the free exercise of faith, but it must be stopped now. If people in that country lose the right to exercise their beliefs, what will become of this world? Does any other so-called democratic nation have the resources or the stamina to stand up to communist aggressors?

Satan is ecstatic because this trouble indicates to him that all power will soon be his. But God is desperate to counterattack. The only hope is the the Messiah. Those who follow him help illuminate the minds of people throughout the world. When they shine the light of faith and the beacon of salvation to the dark corners of this world, exposing the filth and the crimes of Satan, God has hope that people will begin to turn back to Him, thus obliterating the need to prolong the agony He has felt throughout history.

It does not matter what your disposition; history moves on whether you are in a good or a bad mood. History goes by day after day. Something is always happening—wars, disasters, floods, famines—all of them are part of the history of restoration. But whether you sit on the fence or swim in the mainstream will determine your benefits. In any case, the current of history keeps flowing.

God has a schedule to keep. The train is moving at a good clip now and whoever does not climb aboard will not be able to travel at this fast momentum. As history progresses, some powers are strengthened, others weakened. The struggles between East and West, North and South are not just figments of our imagination. The global conflict absolutely exists.

The line of history is not straight. It goes in waves or circles and constantly repeats itself. The flower children, the punk rockers, the rock and rollers, the yippies and the yuppies all represent "steam" which has been released by the valve of history because too much pressure built up. "They are

expressions of the times. They are an experience of history. But after the steam evaporates, for a time, a certain state of "normalcy" returns to society.

We must consider that Satan always tries his best to downplay every advance made by God. For instance, Satan will not just let God shine out His beauty through culture and the arts. He has to get in on the act, and he strives to take center stage. It is the peripheral appearances—the punks and the burns—who manifest *him*. But they are not of vast and earthshaking importance to society; moreover, the trendiness he introduces rarely lasts more than a few years. What is important are the activities of the mainstream of God's dispensation. Despite the evolution of the groupies, God's clear and clean water of life ripples through the ages. His is the central stream of development.

We have to take responsibility to make sure that the suffering history of the world is not prolonged. We must be responsible to write a new history, not with blood, but by dipping the pen of truth in the inkwell of love. We must understand past history not from the viewpoint of a spectator, but really try to empathize by involving ourselves emotionally. As we read the Principle and see in print the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, we must picture and visualize what went on during those eras. We must picture too how the last four hundred years have been the preparation for the Messiah's coming during this age. We have to read between the lines of the history books which explain about the Crusades, the reformations, and the holy wars. We have to envisage those who rode across the plains with the cross embroiled on their banners.

Truly, the sufferings throughout history can paint such vivid pictures. Through recalling the episode of how Cain slayed his brother Abel in such wrath and vengeance, we must conclude and then proclaim: Never again! Since Unificationists understand that our era provides the chance for mankind to terminate such a history, begin a new one, and again be touched by the heart of God, we naturally feel a resolute responsibility to intervene in any way possible to make human history follow the right direction.

It is difficult to start anew. And it is difficult to turn the course of history to that right direction. We must be able to perceive that a multitude of events makes up history. Change does not come in an instant or after a "big bang." Many small events lead up to something big. For instance, compared to the population of the world, there is but a handful of Unificationists. Yet we must realize that we are making a great impact on history. Even though it may be quite invisible to us, it is definitely felt by spirit world and Heavenly Father.

One thing is sure: we are in the midst of the greatest and most vital event in history. Never before has humanity been so close to extinction. Never before has the confrontation between good and evil been so extreme as it is today. You may think that years ago many people must have said something similar. While that may be true, today like never before, mankind has been confronted with the absolute possibility that the whole world could be completely obliterated.

Members of today's society have been burdened by the threat of nuclear war. Every day the news media explicates the world situation, giving detail after detail, making commentary after commentary. Nonetheless, on the whole, people are confused, and as a result have become quite numb. People have heard so much that perhaps they don't take the warnings seriously anymore.

Even though many people are exposed to this omen, the majority of them shrug their shoulders in indifference or hang their heads in despair, because they feel they personally cannot do anything about it. Some people have inwardly resigned themselves. They feel that no matter what they do, this day will someday just be history—so will their lives, so will this world. How do *you* feel?

Throughout the history of the world God sent many central figures in hopes that humanity would listen and follow them. But unfortunately mankind has not established a very good track record; it seems they either dismissed the prophets as heretics, or killed them.

People of this age are no different. They desire to kill the prophets because they want to "kill" or submerge their own conscience. They do not want to be reminded of their sin—neither the sin in which they were born, nor the sins they commit every day. Mankind killed so many who represented God, and even murdered His son, Jesus. Throughout the history of the world, mankind has virtually always acted contrary to the will of God.

We must succeed in defeating communism. If we don't, the communists will become an even bigger obstacle to God's will. Some people say, "Better red than dead." I say, "Better dead than red!" If Satan—in the form of communism—takes over, the spark of original life within us will be extinguished and we will be worth little more than our own flesh. But if our soul dies, will God be able to reach us?

Realistically, what will happen to God's plan if communism takes over? Will God literally have to destroy the world and start up again with a handful of people as He did in Noah's time? If that happens, mankind may only be able to start again with a stick and a stone. The highly developed technology and scientific advancements of today will become unknown. I don't only want to talk doomsday, but it is a definite possibility. God cries out trying to warn us, trying to tell us what could be. But so few people have listened to God, so we now take up this commission and proclaim these same words.

This time in history is crucial. We who are working expressly for the will of God must be so serious. This is not the time to play. This is not the season to waste time. *Is it just three minutes to midnight?*

All of history has been a pathway of suffering for both God and humanity.

The governments of this world rise and decline. In the span of ten years, the world structure changes. But God prevails. God has one plan, one direction.

The time might come when God will be forced to take shortcuts. The time might come when Satan will act so wild that people once again cry out for goodness, because they are sick to death of evil. What those people would actually be crying for, is that God's will be fulfilled. The people working to establish the will of God would determine to re-create the world centered upon God, to build "one world under God." They intend to uncover that secret garden of His love that has been unseen by all humanity far too long. I am convinced that it is just a question of time before that happens.

It may be hard to comprehend such a fact; observation of the world's state of affairs does not yield a pretty or comforting picture. But this generation, with its many failings—from satan-worship to the gross inhumanities man still commits toward his fellow man—will be short-lived. All generations are quite transitory. Each fades away and the next generation is born. The clock ticks away many minutes of history every day; God sees many things we do not see. We see what goes on today—for example, we see who holds certain political offices, and then we may speculate what might happen during their terms—but God sees possibilities many years into the future.

In order to grasp more of God's plan, we have to come to understand His heart. We have to appreciate the purpose that God originally had in creating this beautiful universe. It makes our unity with Father, who also keeps this vision, all the more timely and important. He knows God's master plan. He also perceives Satan's presence and the way in which he works. But Father also knows that Satan's kingdom is just a temporal one. He knows that this satanic world will eventually be transformed into a godly one. And he tries to instill that same hope in us.

We have to understand that humanity has a way out, that we all have the chance to come back to God. The whole universe was created in such a way that a perfection and oneness with God can only be experienced once everything is fulfilled according to the will of God. Therefore, we must not become hopeless and despair when we view the state of this miserable world and its history. We must not struggle with small things. We must keep in mind that there is a new future for us.

What went on in Noah's time? What is supposed to happen when Christ returns? In the time of Noah, people led their lives according to personal desire. They acted as if nothing was wrong. They no doubt heard the rumors that some crazy guy named Noah was building an ark because some being called God, asked him to. But they laughed and went on with the business at hand. Then all of a sudden they were astonished—the flood Noah talked about came after all. The people who had laughed at this devout man stopped as soon as their homes started filling with water.

History repeats itself today. Atheists just laugh about and at the people who are religious. Even religious people laugh about Reverend Moon who believes a new world can be constructed, because God assured him it is possible.

God sent the rainbow as a promise that He would never again flood the world as He did back in Noah's time. But the Bible indicates that what He promised in the Last Days is fire. Many people in this age have read the Bible and must be aware of that possibility. How do they feel when they see the news reports about rounds of gunfire which explode in so many nations of the world? How do they feel when thousands die in fiery air crashes? What do they think about when they see how gas pipes burst in an earthquake, and flames race through buildings and city streets? Do they remember Mount Vesuvius and say, "But look. That happened way back in Pompeii and the world did not end!" While that may be true, we must remember that the world is affected by fiery destruction. The volcanic eruption in Columbia happened only a very short while ago.

When we connect with God in deep prayer, do we feel responsible for the entire world, for all humanity? Don't you sometimes feel such a deep anguish and agony in your heart for people you don't even know? Haven't you sometimes felt pain for all of mankind? We have to understand that there *is* a possibility that this world will be blown up. Enough nuclear weapons and destructive forces to do that have already been developed. We presently have many thousand times the explosives than were used in World War II. It would just take a few minutes to blow up this world. What would be left? Forty days and forty nights of nuclear fallout?—perhaps. But what would be left of humanity after that? God may have shown Adam and Noah a place to go, but if this world no longer existed, would all creation have to start from the beginning again?

You cannot just close your eyes, say that you don't want to think about it, and refuse to hear anything more. What does the man who only has forty days to live begin to think about? If a person has cancer, doctors often can pinpoint how long he may live. When such a piece of news is handed to someone, he must cope with it. It is inevitable that each of us will die. We can never escape from reality by throwing the dice and simply hope for good odds or the magic number that would erase that inevitability. We all have to face God sooner or later. Therefore, now is the time to prepare yourself. You can stall it by pushing it away for a while, but you cannot make it go away. Each of us must eventually meet God, and history has been a progression toward that day.

History will definitely prove Unificationists right or wrong. We must fulfill our part so that people will not talk about us in the future with the same kind of acidic tones they use today when they talk about historical figures.

For God there is no heat or cold, and no weekends off—no time as we know it. There is no time for Him to feel fatigued. There is just the perpetuation of history.

We should view history as the millions and millions of people walking up the hill toward their true home. We are now a very short distance from home. We already see the contours of the mansion. We already behold Heavenly Father standing in front of His house with outstretched arms. If we go a little further, we will see Him face-to-face. This is our cur-

rent position. Throughout history, millions of people trudged this steep and narrow path to God. We are the very ones standing before His palace, ready to walk in.

Yet Heavenly Father is waiting for everyone, not just for us. For that reason, our mission to witness is so essential. We must explain to people about the long-suffering history of God. We must reveal the true image of God to people so that they may have the confidence to return home to Him. We ourselves must be assured that when we pray, our Heavenly Father stands directly in front of us with His arms outstretched; we have only to take a few steps to walk right into them.

We must not forget there are transactions going on between God and Satan. Satan definitely wants his portion: he still owns this world. But God wants to take it back. They negotiate: you give me this, I'll give you that. God cannot arbitrarily snatch people away. Were He to try, Satan would go after those people with a vengeance. God has not been able to do what He pleased because mankind united with Satan and became his children. That is why we must be bought back. That is why Christianity claims and believes that by shedding his blood, Jesus bought us back from Satan. Jesus paid to gain spiritual redemption for us by giving his life.

At Noah's time, the only people who had value in the eyes of God were Noah and his family. They were the only ones to survive the flood judgment. And through them God could begin a new providence. But even after being delivered by the hand of God, Noah's son Ham still thought according to his old way of thinking. The feeling of shame was still in his blood and he renewed his relationship to Satan, his old father. If Ham had not made his mistake, the foundation for restoration might have been created, and the prolongation of providential history until the time of Abraham, would not have been necessary.

God knew and trusted Noah. Noah was the extract, the representative, of humanity at that time. He was the best and most righteous person God could find on earth. God watched Noah until the ark was finished, and only sent the flood after it was completed.

God definitely watched Noah closely, and watched Noah's everyday attitude. He saw his determination. But Noah's family was of great concern to God. Everybody criticized Noah, including his wife, yet Noah just carried on despite all the opposition. When the flood came, all the members of his family who survived, bowed before him. Noah was like their "god." From that point on they absolutely should have known that God was with Noah, or that Noah represented God to them. When it began to rain, the members

of his family probably looked through the portholes of the ark and I am sure they must have exclaimed, "Oh, he was right after all! From now on I will believe anything he says!" It must have been an absolute conversion experience! Yet Ham criticized his father's nakedness, and this became a devastating setback for the dispensation of God. And this is the heartbreak of God's history which no one has understood until now. Events which now reveal to us how broken the heart of our God has been throughout these thousands and thousands of biblical years.

History is written down by people but it is documented in the spiritual world. Whether or not our activities will be recorded by people on earth, they *are* history. And it is those activities which will definitely become substantial and evident to posterity.