

# RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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What's in the Future?

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What's in the future for this world? We see international turmoil, the wickedness of man, death, loss and destruction everywhere. The words "we live in perilous times" were spoken a long time ago. Has it always been this way, or is it getting worse? Where are we going with all this? Are we going to have peace? And if we are not going to have peace, how close are we to the end of the world? In recent events at the United Nations, the leaders of Iran and Venezuela received much applause as they attacked the United States. Bush found a passive-aggressive audience, our haters were celebrated. Is this the moment when all the nations of the world will be arrayed against Jerusalem as the Bible says it will be just before the end of the world? Jerusalem itself is under siege right now, but also we who belong to Christ are Jerusalem, and the United States is the only Christian country left in the world. The only other Christians were our close friends the British, but they are becoming more apostate every day, more anti-Semitic and more anti-Christian. The Church of England is falling away fast, with the head guy, the Archbishop of Canterbury, holding Druid services, imagine. Prince Charles, when he ascends to the throne, will have, among others, the official title of Defender of the Faith, the Christian Faith that is, in England. But, presently he dabbles in New Age stuff, witchcraft light. Christianity is pretty much dead in the rest of Europe. They retain the beautiful church buildings, but the buildings are cold and empty inside. It fits, then, according to the Bible, that both the United States and Israel, would be more and more isolated in front of the world, as we approach the end of time. Regarding what the future holds for this world, I can tell you what it holds. It holds more of the same, more wickedness, more death, more loss and destruction. And it will not slow down, but increase. That's what my Bible says that the future holds. But at the very least it holds death. Even if we are spared the witnessing of the end of the world, a hole in the ground is what awaits us individually.

And then what? Many say nothing will happen, you die and that's it. Lots of smart people over the centuries, and today, have said that. Is that what's ahead? Obliteration, non-existence? Would that be stupid. Study and struggle for what? Everything is for nothing. The memory of my existence would last maybe a

couple of generations past my nearest family members, and then it will disappear. It will be as if I had never existed. Is this the future? The dreams that were never fulfilled, the projects never completed, the wonders never investigated, the streets never crossed, nothing got done at the end, what was it all for? What a waste of time. Is that what life is? Birth, a short time full of trouble and death? Being born and having to die without any possibility of living again would be the most cruel joke ever imagined. Why let me taste life at all? I didn't ask to be born. But to let me be born, taste life and then die..., I don't know. It sounds pretty pointless to me.

But the man who is in rebellion cannot be enticed with blessings, no matter how good they are. The man who is in rebellion is cynical, cruel, scornful. I know him. Intimately, I know him. I see his beady eyes staring at me when I shave. Oh, yes, I know who that guy is. Of course, God in his mercy brought me to my senses and changed all that. I'm not in rebellion against him anymore, no way. How can anyone go against God? He is the self-existing one from everlasting to everlasting, he is all wise, all powerful, all resourceful. Who can stand before that? What can this world tell me that I don't know? The sum of this world is that life is hard and then you die.

The really bad part of rebelling against God is that not only would it be bad just to die, but what if Hell exists? If Hell exists it would be infinitely worse than just dying. The same smart people who say that when you die that's it also, of course, scorn the idea of the existence of Hell. They have said, and say, that Hell is simply an invention of the Church to frighten people into behaving the way the Church thinks is right. Hell does not exist. Where is Chamberlain when I need him? I saw him coming off that plane waving that piece of paper in his hand. He was so sure. Peace in our time, he said, Hitler will not attack us, he said. I have his signature in this piece of paper, he said. Where is one of those smart guys that will guarantee me with his signature that Hell does not exist? I guess the dead ones of yesterday and the live ones of today will find out in the Day of Judgment.

I'm not done with this yet, I'll continue next time. Salvation is paramount. Goodbye for now.