

Freedom Day Message:**THIS PERVERSE GENERATION IN PROPHECY**

"THAT this evil world is sinking fast as a result of the iniquitous acts of men, especially among the so-called civilized people, is a fact. Even a fool knows that all is not well in this world. From daily happenings reported in newspapers and other information media, men are becoming more and more apprehensive as to where the world is heading for." This was stated by the President of God's Kingdom Society, Brother E. T. Otomewo, in his message of goodwill to all branches of the Church in Nigeria and abroad during the observance of the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ this year.

According to the holy Scriptures, Jesus Christ was born without sin and his life on earth throughout was characterized by holiness. He came to free mankind from the bondage of sin and death, and to reconcile men to God the Almighty Father. Christ himself said: "... The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." (Matthew 20: 28) The importance of his mission to the world therefore cannot be over-emphasized.

The God's Kingdom Society celebrates the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ yearly in the month of October. Both the Holy Bible and profane history testify to the fact that he was not born in December but in October about 2000 years ago.

The observance of his birth anniversary, which is rightly designated FREEDOM DAY, therefore offers a good opportunity for men to be warned against sin so that the peace and goodwill with which mankind was blessed at his birth may be their lot. It is in this regard the message of President Otomewo is vitally important and timely.

Here is the full text of the message:

Members and Friends,

HAIL JEHOVAH AND JESUS CHRIST!

On behalf of my fellow sheep and myself I give thanks to the Almighty God through Jesus Christ our Redeemer for sparing our lives till this day; and may we live to see better days to worship and praise Him.

We are gathered here-as you already know from the oral and printed invitation-to celebrate the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ the righteous, the greatest advocate of the freedom of God. For the salvation of mankind he came to the earth and shed his precious blood. He himself said: "...I am come that they (the sheep) might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10: 10) He deserves, therefore, the worship or honour we are doing to him to the glory of God the Father.

This is an occasion for true Christians to give serious thoughts to the works of Christ and the message of hope, comfort and life he brought for the spiritual enlightenment of men on earth. And so I am taking this opportunity to recall and expound on certain prophetic statements of Jesus Christ which have relevance to this our age.

Evil World

That this evil world is sinking fast as a result of the iniquitous acts of men, especially among the so-called civilised people, is a fact. Even a fool knows that all is not well in this world. From daily happenings reported in newspapers and other information media, men are becoming more and more apprehensive as to where the world is heading for. But diligent students of the Bible know that the destruction of this wicked world is imminent so that the now order of things under Christ, now in the making spiritually, may hold sway.

In the book of Matthew chapter 24, Jesus Christ uttered a prophecy concerning the tribulations that would befall mankind the maneuvers and deceptive acts of the devil through his prophets to lead many people astray; and other signs that would mark the last day or last period of this sin-ridden world. He warned strongly against the menace of false prophets and bogus Christs that would play upon the credulity of people who are spiritually careless and undiscerning.

And in the book of Luke, the twenty-first chapter, reading from verse five, he foretold of serious events that would take place at different ages. As regards the end of the world he said: "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven..." These signs which Jesus said would mark the end of the world otherwise called the last day, are daily staring us in the face. The world had been seeing and suffering the sinful consequences of war since man sinned against God; but never before was there any war of such a global magnitude as that of 1914-1918 which marked the beginning of the end of this evil world. And it was rightly designated World War I by both historians and statesmen. St. Paul, filled with the holy spirit, also made prophetic statement as to the evil character of men in the last day or end of this world. He wrote: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." -2 Timothy 3: 1-5.

We do not need to be told that this prophecy is now fulfilling even to the letter in our time. Are children, at the instance of the devil, not disobedient to parents today? Are men of integrity who are trustworthy easy to find? Do some men not love pleasures more than God-paying fantastic sums of money to go from one town or country or continent to another merely to watch football matches or athletics when they cannot pay even 5/- taxi fare to and from a religious assembly to worship God in fellowship with their neighbours? Are some people not highminded today-wanting to build mansions or estates overnight? and is it not such disposition that have led some into serious troubles for acquiring wealth through bribery and corruption or fraud? Do some men and women not take pride in sinful acts today? Are shameless girls and women not parading the streets, offices and even entering church buildings in mini dresses that sometimes expose their thighs and pants and thus entice some men to lust after them in their hearts for which they put themselves in the danger of God's judgment and condemnation? (Matthew 5: 27, 28;

1 Corinthians 6: 9, 10) And is blasphemy not now the order of the day with many people—some going to the length of even saying that "God is dead" just because He is merciful, patient and does not take vengeance hastily as rash, proud and vain men do?

Yes, we see all these things fulfilling clearly in our time and they conclusively bear testimony to the truth of Jesus Christ's prophecies which he uttered himself or caused his ambassadors and apostles through inspiration to write. The days are fast approaching when "the wicked shall be turned into hell (destruction) and all the nations that forget God". (Psalm 9: 17. See also Isaiah 26 verse 21, and chapter 60 verse 12, and 2 Thessalonians 1: 6-9) Therefore let wise and God-fearing people all over the world take warning before it is too late.

In spite of all the sinful acts of men the world over, Jesus Christ who is the mercy of God personified is ready to forgive us all our iniquities if we come to him soberly on bended knees, sincerely acknowledging our sins and asking for his forgiveness with a firm determination, by God's grace and power, never to lapse into soul-ruining acts again. So do not let your sins scare you away from Jesus. For he came to call sinners to repentance. He himself said: "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19: 10; Matthew 9: 10-13) He loves you and me and all his sheep elsewhere that was why he came to die for us so that we may follow his example by shunning sinful pleasures and all else that lead to sin and be saved. As it is written: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." - Ephesians 5: 11, 15-17.

And St. Peter, in his epistle stated: "Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentile which we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries. But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." - 1 Peter 4: 1-3, 7.

A Vital Question

Jesus Christ during his earthly ministry asked an all-important question, to wit: "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18: 8). Before I venture to answer this question, I wish to digress for a while to remind you of the blessing which God's angels bestowed on mankind when Jesus Christ was born about 2,000 years ago. "...Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men", chanted the heavenly host. (Luke 2: 13, 14) But why is it that men do not enjoy this blessing of the peace of God and goodwill? The answer, to an honest believing child of God, is not difficult to find. SIN, in one word, is responsible. The sin of UNBELIEF; the sin of CONCEIT; the sin of ARROGANCE and the sin of FALSE DOCTRINES SWALLOWED BY SOME WITHOUT EXAMINING THEM IN THE LIGHT OF THE SCRIPTURES. These and some others are the reasons why the world knows no peace. Moreover, do some men not take pride in agnosticism? And do some sceptics not claim to know the Bible more than those who believe in it and who are given to its diligent

studies and preaching? Up till today there are people who accept the false teaching that Christ was born on December 25 though they have no authority either from the Bible or from profane history for it. And when they are told the truth that Jesus Christ was born in October as clearly shown from the chronology of the Bible and in the gospel of St. Luke with the support of profane history, they find it difficult to believe. However, thanks be to God that many people have now seen the light and have accepted it after having read the pamphlet "WAS CHRIST BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY?" published by the God's Kingdom Society.

And now back to the question: "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" The answer is certainly in the affirmative. By the grace of God, he has come in spirit as clearly shown in the Bible supported by prevailing evidences; and he has found faith on earth but with a minority of the people. These are they who have not compromised his service with idolatry or blended his truth with the doctrines of devils and vain traditions of men with a view to pleasing men rather than God. Surely, Jesus Christ has found a people who esteem the widow's mite and who do not accommodate those attempting to serve God and mammon in his Church. And those people, I reaffirm, are few and are not popular in the world. In the eyes of unbelievers they are "the filth of the world" but God does not see them to be filthy, and though few they are, He will save them.

Those who preach God's word unadulterated, truthfully and fearlessly with implicit faith in God are rare. But those who corrupt the truth are many. St. Paul said: "We are not as many, which corrupt the word of God..." (2 Corinthians 2: 17) Jesus Christ was asked: "Lord, are there few that be saved? (Luke 13: 23) In his answer he said: "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: then shall ye begin to say, we have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. "- Verses 24-27.

If many will strive to enter the fold of salvation but will not be accepted, then Jesus was in effect saying that it is FEW people that will be saved. This is made more explicit in the account of Matthew at chapter seven, verses 13 to 14.

Notwithstanding the claim of some to intellectuality, or their pride in worldly fame, honour, wisdom and wealth, they cannot be saved UNLESS they serve God IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH, repeat, IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH. - John 4: 21-24; 8: 31, 32.

In the light of the foregoing, I appeal to you therefore to fear God and serve Him in TRUTH so that you may be identified with the FEW who now enjoy the peace of God and His good will, and who will be saved in God's Kingdom after the destruction of this perverse generation.

Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 11: 28-30, invites all his sheep to come to him so that he may relieve them of their burdens and so that they may find rest to their souls. With humility and by virtue of his grace, I join him in inviting those of you who have not come to him to heed his call today by accepting the truth of his gospel which has again been preached to you through this message or address. If you serve him with sincerity of heart in truth, if you believe that he was created by God and that he came to the earth for the

good of all as the Church of God-the GKS-teaches according to the Bible (Colossians 1: 12-18; Revelation 3: 13, 14; Matthew 20: 28), he will save you in his Kingdom which he has NOW set up on earth.

Members and Friends, my address for the Freedom Day Service for the year 1970 now draws to its end. Glory to God in the highest. May the peace and protection of Jesus Christ be the portion of all who fear and serve him sincerely in truth. Amen.

