

## Confluence of Two Seas

“And when day came, they could not recognize the land; but they did observe a certain bay with a beach, and they resolved to drive the ship onto it if they could. And casting off the anchors, they left them in the sea while at the same time they were loosening the ropes of the rudders, and hoisting the foresail to the wind, they were heading for the beach. But striking a reef where two seas met, they ran the vessel aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern {began} to be broken up by the force {of the waves.}” (Acts 27:39-41).

As Paul was traveling to Jerusalem, Prophets gave words of knowledge about what was lying ahead for him, and urged him not to continue, however Paul said, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus” ( Acts 21:13).

Paul was falsely imprisoned, witnessed before the council in Jerusalem, Felix and Festus, governors of the province and King Agrippa. He finally appealed his case to Caesar.

Festus, because of Paul’s appeal, determined to send him to Rome. A ship was chartered and Paul was placed in custody of Jullus, a Roman centurion. Because of miscalculations concerning the weather, the ship was caught in a horrible storm and was being blown across the Mediterranean Sea. The ship approached Malta, a group of islands in the Mediterranean some sixty miles from Sicily. It ran aground in the sand, a result of two swift sea currents clashing together. The Bible says it was a place where two seas met. Because the ship was immovable, it was beaten apart by the waves and the wind. Those who could swim were ordered to make their way to shore, and the others were instructed to float on broken pieces of the ship. Was it finally the end of the trip and of Paul?

Remember, the end of your life cannot come if you are fulfilling God’s will and you hold a word of prophesy in your heart given by the Lord. His word can never fail. It is forever settled in the heavens. Paul, when he fell under the light of the Lord while traveling to Damascus, a word was given to him by the Lord. He was to stand not only before his own people, the Gentiles, but also kings.

Paul was not traveling to Rome in first class seating, but he was going. The route that God uses in getting you to the place of your destiny may not be convenient, without some stress and pressure, nor painless, but He will get you there. Because the ship ran aground on an isolated island, did not end the ministry of Paul. He, in the three months on the island, established a church in the powerful demonstration of His word. Even today, on February 10<sup>th</sup> the people of the island of Mata celebrate the Pauline tenure by reading his story of the shipwreck.

It appeared that the ship was driven by the wind to Malta, but really it was driven by the Holy Spirit. It was God’s determination to establish a witness on this particular isolated island. This gives some indication of the extent God will go to in order to spread the gospel throughout the world.

Confluence means a flowing together, especially of two or more streams.

On this voyage to Rome, the ship that was carrying Paul ran aground where two seas met and it began to be broken apart by the wind and waves.

The journey of the church has been from the cross, through centuries of unbelievable persecution, the Protestant, Holiness, Pentecostal movements, and now is heading toward the beach of the end time. I sense that the flowing together of the church and the clash with others religions and political governments is close at hand. An unparalleled season of crisis is gripping the world and in this season the church must complete the great commission.

### **The clash of the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of the world.**

"And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, ( 33 AD) and {that} kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy" (Dan 2:44-45).

The history of the four world empires beginning with Babylon and ending with Rome is easily available in our libraries. As the image depicted, the Roman Empire divided into ten divisions and their cohesiveness was compared with clay mixed with iron. Otherwise, the ten divisions were weak and could not control the world kingdoms and their divisions.

The confluence of God's kingdom, the church, resembling a speeding stone, and the world kingdoms is described by the above scripture. God wins! The political powers lose! One is Spiritual and the other Political. The confluence or the clash of two flowing streams brought total ruin to the works of flesh.

### **The gravest threat to civilization, according to the world analysis, is global warming.**

To some thinkers the gravest threat to our civilization is global warming. In their effort to push their political agenda, they have, for the most part, misled the public by using certain scientific finds to obtain their objective.

### **The gravest threat to civilization, according to the scripture, is a lukewarm church.**

Personally, I believe the gravest threat to our civilization is a lackadaisical church as described in Revelations chapter three. "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked."

The two major issues before the Christian Community are: the trust of the Church and the development of the Church.

The Church can be pictured with two booster rockets attached to it. Which booster rocket is more important? This is a fact: if each booster rocket does not have equal thrust, then a crash is inevitable.

### **The close of this age is a season of crisis.**

Presently, December 2006, the world is grappling with the nuclear capability of North Korea and Iran. The stability of the East and the Middle East is in question and the answer to the problem is difficult.

The days of Noah and Lot are described by Luke: "And just as it happened in the **days of Noah**, so it shall be also in the days of the Son of Man: they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same as happened in the days of Lot: they were eating, they were drinking, they were buying, they were selling, they were planting, they were building; but on the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just the same on the day that the Son of Man is revealed" (Luke 17:26-30).

The clash of Cultures and the Church translates into a season of crisis. And as the currents of two seas broke apart the ship that was transporting Paul to Rome, so will the true Church break up the influences of Satan over the world.

We must be about our “Father’s Business” to cover the earth with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

The Luke Warm Church is not going to stay that way, but there will be those who invite Jesus in and sup with Him.

Leon C Willis