

Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

## The Prophet's Complaint

I'm sure you've heard the old axiom: Once bitten, twice shy. Or maybe you heard it another way: Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. I think that old saying may lie behind my skepticism of would-be prophets. More than once, I have declared that I have never encountered anyone whom I considered a genuine prophet, in the biblical sense. And I have no patience with *pretenders* to the prophet's office, though I *have* encountered a few of them.

One thing that made a major contribution to my skepticism was a book that appeared in 1967. The title was *Famine 1975! America's Decision, Who Will Survive?* by William and Paul Paddock. The book had all the statistics, and was shocking in its conclusions and recommendations. I was a lot younger then, and rather more gullible. The book electrified me. I started gathering my own statistics and making my own graphs. I did graphs of population, graphs of food production, graphs of the progression of certain diseases. And I came up with a fascinating picture. All my graphs appeared to be exponential; that is, they curved

upward in the present. And if one extrapolated—extended the curve into the future—all of these trends were exploding in 1975!

As a young student of the Bible, I became very excited by all this and wrote my own article on the subject, pulling in many other trends apart from population. It was published in a religious magazine, but I hope it has long since perished because it was, like Paddock's book, dead wrong. What happened? Well, population growth was already slowing, and food production exploded in the years following. Development in disease-resistant crops had been underway even as the Paddocks wrote their book. 1975 came and

went without encountering the end of the world.

What is it about disaster that brings so many would-be prophets out of the woodwork? It was something Jesus said that fuels this sort of thing, but there is a common misunderstanding in it. The disciples came to Jesus and asked, "What shall be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Jesus' reply has been oft cited as to things to look for as harbingers of the end: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows" (Matthew 24:6-7).

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## Giving Made Easy

Never has it been easier to give your tithes and offerings to CEM. You can go online to [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net) and make a donation using your credit card, or you can have your bank make automatic direct bank transfers. With the price of postage going up, this can save you time and money. CEM very much appreciates all donations—small or large. We are constantly adding new radio stations, more printed materials for young and mature alike, and online services to feed you spiritually. But never forget that your generous donations are helping us reach the world with the vital Gospel message. Read "What *Born to Win* Listeners Are Saying" starting on page 2 and see how your help is decidedly making a difference!

## Important Announcement!

We hit a snag this week, something we had not quite expected. The Post Office has hit all mailers with staggering increases in the cost of mailing, and the cost of mailing cassette tapes quadruples this month. It wasn't just the rate increase. That we could have handled. It was changes in the categories that seriously affected our bulk mailings.

So we are forced into moving more quickly than we had intended to discontinue using cassette tapes. We will, starting immediately, only be making our audio materials available in two ways—CDs and web downloads. Downloading sermons from the web is by far the most efficient. If you wish, you can then make your own CDs to use as you will. Some of us older folks may need a kid to show us how it is done, but it is far more efficient than the Post Office.

None of our sermons are copyrighted, so they may be copied and distributed at will, as long as you don't change the content. Radio programs are copyrighted, but may be copied freely for your own use. You need permission to go further than that.

For a while, we may be making some of our *albums* available in cassette form, but not for long. Our machines are getting old, and we can't get parts for them. It appears the cassette tape is about to go the way of the old eight-track.

Also, we are now discontinuing the use of the video cassette recorder. Sermons will now be available only on DVD. The world moves on, it seems.

Postage is going to be hitting us hard, but we are in the business of supplying stuff to the folks and we have to bear up under it. It is the cost of doing the work. Nevertheless, you can help by starting to use the Internet to obtain all our material, instead of the mail. You can also contribute through the Internet or by direct bank transfers. The most helpful thing you can do in this regard is to set up a regular contribution.

The Post Office is becoming terribly unreliable. I had two significant checks to insurance companies destroyed by the Post Office, and they were good enough to let me know what happened—*three months later*. It nearly caused me to let important policies lapse.

Part of the problem is because everything is being done by machines. That is why so many of our CDs have been damaged in recent weeks. We paid extra for hand sorting and still got machines. And shattered CDs. Maybe the Post Office should begin hiring immigrants. Everybody else is.

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## What *Born to Win* Listeners Are Saying

“Your card and note was indeed welcomed. Please accept my thanks and appreciation.

“My appreciation also extends for the many tapes and CDs I have received from you. Because of macular degeneration, I am confined to my home, as well as unable to read. This explains why your tapes and CDs are so valuable.

“I have always had a keen interest in biblical history, but never really understood much of the Old Testament. I compliment you on your unusual ability to bring it to life in a down to earth common sense way. Thank you so very much” - BT.

“Thank you for all the educational helps you make available for us out here in ‘tape’ land.

“Our daughter and son-in-law are studying out of the second book in the adult study series and are progressing so fast we can hardly keep up with them. They are comparing things they hear from the ‘Discovery Channel’ and ‘History’ channel with things they are going on the Internet and getting information about the Bible. . .” C/RP

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Thus a flurry of earthquakes can generate an excited flurry of prophets telling us the end is near. They are like the little boy who cried wolf. They have become the butt of cartoons showing white bearded prophets carrying signs that say, "The End is Near."

Where is everyone making their mistake? They overlook the most important part of what Jesus said: "...see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is *not* yet." That is the first mistake that would-be prophets and prognosticators make, but only the first.

Ever since I got sucked in by *Famine 1975! America's Decision, Who Will Survive?* by the Paddocks, I have been a major skeptic. Where did I make my mistake? When that book came out in 1967, with all its statistics and information from the Club at Rome, etc., it was every bit as convincing as the strongest arguments for global warming today. And as persuasive then as the arguments that we were entering a new ice age 20 years ago. The problem with this stuff is that we tend to assume *that present trends will continue uninterrupted*. Mark Steyns new book, *America Alone*, is enough to give you nightmares. He postulates something similar to William and Paul Paddock—a population explosion, but this one is among the Arab populations of Europe. For every child born to a European family, Muslim families have ten. This is a fact on the ground, and if present trends continue, Europe will

become Eurabia. It is eerily like a prediction found in Deuteronomy:

The alien who lives among you will rise above you higher and higher, but you will sink lower and lower. He will lend to you, but you will not lend to him. He will be the head, but you will be the tail (Deuteronomy 28:43-44 NIV).

This is only one of many disastrous results that follow. But I feel confident that present trends will *not* continue. What we don't know is which, of many possible forces, will change them. History does not continue in a straight line.

I would like to tell you more, but space does not permit. You will want to hear a recent program I did titled, *The Prophet's Complaint*. It is only available on CD now, but we want you to have a copy you can share with friends and others. It is an important insight into what the future may hold. Just check the box on the enclosed card and send it back to us in the envelope we have provided. The CD is *FREE*, but you will have to ask for it.

Keep in touch and be alert. God only knows what is coming next.

Watching and waiting,

*Ronald L. Dart*

PS. Please be sure to read the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter. We are being forced to make a major change in the media we make available to the public. And we will tell you about another way you can help in the work of CEM and *Born to Win*.

*What Born to Win Listeners Are Saying  
continued from page 2 . . .*

"Mr. Dart - You have been an inspiration for my faith. Your teachings are the best from any Bible teacher I have ever heard. For that I pray that you be blessed. Could you please give me directions for getting a Home Passover Service guide? . . ." - BR.

"Mr. Dart, I just wanted to let you know how blessed my husband and I were when we heard your message on the day Jesus was crucified. We had just been discussing how the world goes to sunrise service and have already missed the real resurrection the evening before. I believe we were listening on WLND-ND, 1060 AM, 12-1 p.m. . . I would like a CD if possible of your message on the crucifixion or is it Christian Holidays? . . ." - JN.

"I really enjoy listening to your broadcast on my way to work so early in the morning. I appreciate your clear explanation of the word and how you make it easy for me to form a mental picture of the passages. I 'get it.' I am also able to remember the message throughout my day as you make it applicable to today's way of life. Many thank yous and blessings be upon you!" - T

"Your weekend programmes have been quite a guide and a companion to me and members of my community. This is portrayed via the Christian knowledge and expository explanation of some of the most difficult portions of the Bible. A lot of unbelievers and Muslims within my community have come to understand the true being

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*What Born to Win Listeners Are Saying  
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of God and have accepted Christ by faith, thereby denying any and all former vices in life and ways of living. Truly your programmes are heaven sent, through God's servants, to save souls, especially within these local communities; to escape total condemnation in Hell, into Life everlasting in Heaven with God. Thanks too for the 5 Fongbe Bibles you sent to us freely" - Listener from Nigeria

"I am saved through the blood of Christ through your programme. When we get to heaven I will first of all embrace Jesus and those responsible for the programme and lastly the programme producer. Thank you very much" - Listener from Cotonou.

"I am one of your regular listeners. I gave my life to the Lord through listening to your programme but in secret as I was a Muslim. But through a child of God, I have been drawn closer to your programmes. I immediately changed my name from a Muslim to a Christian name. I am suffering heavy persecution. I have left my home as I would have been killed. Please pray for my endurance" - Listener from Benin

"I listen to your programmes. I want to become a Christian but am afraid of what will happen to me. Also the persecution I will face. If I should become a Christian my family may shun me. Please pray for me. I do not know what to do. Please do not mention my name on the radio."

"I come from another religious background and my family hates

Christianity. But my wife and I secretly read the Bible to our children each evening. We became Christians through your program. Though times will be tough, we believe God will strengthen us" - Benin Republic.

"I am 17, and I enjoy your program a lot. Not only does it encourage me to be confident and determined in Jesus, but it also helps me to trust in Him" - Togo Republic.

"I want you to know that I have never in my life paid attention to any religious presentation. I spent about 30 minutes listening to Ronald Dart's 'Born to Win' teachings on 'THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.' It was an interesting teaching that has cleared my doubts and answered several of my questions regarding the Ten Commandments. Another thing is the 'Sabbath' issue; which I never believed but become now a believer through your systematic exposition of the Bible. It is unbelievable that I can become a believer on this once rejected doctrine. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for bringing me to Christ and my household. I want you to know that here in the University which is 100 miles away from Benin Capital; the Lord is doing something new. Many don't believe what they are seeing that a habitual sinner like me will ever repent and begin to talk about Jesus. Oh I am so happy that Christ has saved my life. I have also started '7th Day Christian Union' in the University which is attracting many students. . . ." - Benin

## *In Memory*

Christian Educational Ministries gratefully acknowledges the generous donation made in memory of Virginia Roberts Cummings who passed away April 26, 2007. Acknowledgement may be made to Mr. and Mrs. Willie Oxendine of Perry, FL. Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to this family in their loss.

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## *Radio Update*

**Evansville, IN**  
WVHI 1330 AM  
M-F 8:30 a.m.  
Sat. 7:30 a.m.

**San Antonio, TX**  
KDRY 1100 AM  
M-F 6:30 p.m.

**Lufkin, TX**  
KYKS 105.1 FM  
Sun. 7:30 a.m.

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*That the man of God may be proficient  
and equipped for every good work.*