

# Is Another Great Awakening Still Possible?

BY PASTOR BRIAN BRODERSEN



***Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?  
Shew us thy mercy, O LORD, and grant us thy salvation.*** Psalm 85:6–7, KJV

As we look at the events occurring in the United States and around the world, particularly in the Middle East, we may wonder—where is it all heading? Are we on the brink of another world war, as some speculate? Are we about to see the prophecies of Ezekiel 38 and 39 concerning the Islamic invasion of Israel fulfilled? Is the church about to be raptured, ushering in the judgment of the Great Tribulation?

From a biblical standpoint, any one or all of these are possible. The world certainly seems ripe for judgment as it attempts to rule God out of its affairs.

Consider the outcry in Britain over the visit of creationist lecturer, Ken Ham. The British press pulled out all the stops in their attack upon Ken and his message.

*The Guardian*, one of Britain's leading newspapers, published a letter by Professor Niall Shanks of East Tennessee State University in which he stated, "If the experience in the United States is anything to go by, this attempt by assorted Christian fundamentalist Taliban-wannabees to turn the clock of science back to the Middle Ages will not stop with biology."<sup>1</sup>

Professor A. C. Grayling from the University of London declared, ". . . the creation myths are based on nothing but the fantasies of the ignorant who lived long ago . . . to tell children that ancient traditions, the dreams of our uneducated forefathers, and holy writings which must not be questioned or impugned for fear of blasphemy, are sources of authority about the world on a par with science, is a travesty."<sup>2</sup>

Oxford University professor, Richard Dawkins, a great opponent of creationism, stated to the press, "Any science teacher who denies the world is billions (or even millions) of years old is teaching children

a preposterous, mind-shrinking falsehood. These men disgrace the honourable profession of teacher."<sup>3</sup>

Finally, one editorial in the *London Times* read, "So long as the antibodies of common sense are all around (as in Britain they are) early exposure to religion can provide a sort of inoculation, and I would personally encourage bands of hooded nuns, creepy evangelists, bearded rabbis and one eyed

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imams to tour our primary schools wailing incantations and scaring the wits out of kids as a living demonstration of the madness of religion."<sup>4</sup>

These are just some examples of the rhetoric coming from many of the journalists and humanistic leaders in Britain. And, of course, the outcry in the United States whenever we talk about the subject of creation is very similar. This widespread attack on creationism, and any serious belief in God in general, may cause us to conclude that judgment is inevitable.

Britain is not the only place where hostility to God is becoming commonplace. In April 2002, the United States Supreme Court voted in a six-three decision to protect under the banner of Free Speech certain forms of child pornography. There are numerous cases in United States courts attacking the public display of the Ten Commandments. We may ask ourselves—how much longer can it go on? How much worse can it get? These circumstances could easily lead us to the conclusion that God's patience has run out and judgment is right around the corner. But, there is another possibility, and that is the possibility of revival in the church and a spiritual awakening in the nation.

It may be hard to believe that a spiritual awakening could happen at this stage, but a quick overview of American history will reveal that as bad as the moral climate is right now, it has also been bad in the past.

America has experienced three major spiritual awakenings. They are referred to as "Great Awakenings" because they were movements of the Spirit of God that impacted the very core of the nation and actually altered the course of our history.

In addition to the three Great Awakenings, there have been several smaller moves of the Spirit of God that have impacted local areas. Yet, some

might say, "We're just too far gone. There's no way we could see another spiritual awakening in light of the spiritual condition America is in right now!" That might be true, but there are a few things we need to remember when considering whether judgment is imminent or mercy is still possible. We need to remember God's nature, and we need to remember His interaction with men and nations throughout world history. ☞

***In the next issue, we will consider the subject of judgment—God's strange work.***

<sup>1</sup> *The Guardian Letters*, Professor Niall Shanks, East Tennessee State University. Guardian Unlimited on the Web, March 11, 2002. <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,3604,665237,00.html>>, (February 20, 2003).

<sup>2</sup> A. C. Grayling. "The Last Word on Rationality." Guardian Unlimited on the Web, March 16, 2002. <[http://www.guardian.co.uk/saturday\\_review/story/0,3605,668041,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/saturday_review/story/0,3605,668041,00.html)>, (February 20, 2003).

<sup>3</sup> Tania Branigan. "'Creationist' school has evolution debate." Guardian Unlimited on the Web, April 9, 2002. <[http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk\\_news/story/0,3604,681133,00.html](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,681133,00.html)>, (February 20, 2003).

<sup>4</sup> Matthew Parris. "There's God's Way, Darwin's Way—and the Third Way." *The Times* on the Web, March 16, 2002. <<http://www.newsint-archive.co.uk>>, (April 15, 2003).