

(S93)

First United Church Broadcast Sept 27 1970

Theme Music

Introductory Sentences :-

There's a great crack opening up in the earth.
The Sun will be darkened at noon.
The Abused earth will give forth death and not life.
The end of an age is at hand.

Do you ever have times when you feel this kind of language to be appropriate?

Signature:-

This is CKWS, the evening broadcast from First United Church.
..... Tonight the Metropolitan Council of the United Church is taking part in the broadcast. Our Theme is "A Word for the end of an Age."

Hymn 137 Verse 4 sung as a solo

It is a time of the shaking of foundations. Western Civilization is deeply troubled. Splits are widening all over the place:- between old and young, between colored and white, between haves and have nots. Western Civilization, with its enormous technological skill seems unable to cope with its flaws. It cannot narrow the gap between its rich and poor. It cannot get out of its current wars, and seems unable to escape its impending conflicts. It lives under constant threat of atomic disaster. It knows it is running out of time to reverse the trend towards destruction of its natural environment. The dispossessed are fast losing hope in anything but violence. The futility of attempting constructive remedies is driving an increasing number to revolutionary rage. Viet Nam is a slow signal, and the hijacking of the airliners in Jordan a sudden sign, that Western Civilization is amazingly vulnerable. For many today, the strange language of old that spoke of an age coming to its end, sounds fearfully appropriate.

Taking part in the broadcast tonight are three members of the Metropolitan Council of the United Church of Canada..

Jack Shaver

Gordon Laird

Jim Chisolm

The Council is a newly created instrument of the United Church of Canada, charged with the oversight of the Urban mission of the church in the lower mainland..

Jim Jack Gordon.. would you chat for a while about where it's at? What it looks like from where you are ... charged with this thing... at a time of revolution change. When many are feeling the end of the age?

Dialogue with Council Members:-

Prayer of Confession

Hymn 277

Sung while seated. - Move up

Jack?

Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 32: 1-15

" And Thou Lord God Hast Said to me , "Buy the field for money and get witnesses" - though the city is given into the hands of the Chaldeans."

Anthem :

Glen

Announcements :-

Quartet

7:30

~~7:30~~ 7:34

Sermon:

A Word for the end of an age

Jack

7:40-7:49 →

Followed by Gordon interviewing Pat Ferguson
(~~and friend~~) & DOUG FABIAN.

Glen

Hymn

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Verse Three will be sung as a solo.

Benediction.

Recently I was taking part in a Bible Study during which we found ourselves before the 13th Chapter of Mark's gospel.

This chapter has been called the little Apocalypse. It is full of strange language and notions. It is a whole collection of comments and opinions about the last things, about the end time, about the end of the age. I'm sure we came to no agreement as to what it all meant. We were a very mixed bag of people. But in a strange way we all felt drawn to this chapter. I am certain that I remember a time when this would not have happened. — many of us would have passed right over the chapter in search of something ~~that was~~ more relevant.

Our little group actually considered the matter for a while. There was something about our time and age, about the space we were in, that made these notions & this language, strangely appropriate — The signs keep appearing — The language of the Apocalypse — That's the space we are in.

Crisis in Natural Environment

Crisis appearing in structures - hierarchical hierarchy
Value dislocation & conflict - Hard to know what's right & wrong.
Western Technological Civilization

Errors - event comestably
war →

Dispossessed - Nations - Fragment of nation
Violence rage fragmentation
exacerbated conditions - more violence - rage - fragmentation

Style or spirit? -

* I can remember - yesterday -
get along with things - make it better, better
create confusion - improve it
improve it.
Basic assumption { so devastated
process " when undermined

Now: - Best creation - Floundered at hand
start again ~~not~~ from again.

* I can remember - yesterday
things - acquire more & more wisdom - How that
mattered.
Now start all over again.

* I can remember - yesterday
when I felt very differently about the future.
- prepared for a new or less known thing
- lost I until I had settled my
unwise future, secured it.
- I thought I knew some things which
I could secure that future
eg. I imagine marrying anyone - without timely release
unless - knew what they were going to do -
worked out.
Now: - meaningless to ask that ~~now~~ - if had all worked out - what?
unreasonable total -

THESE ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS of what ~~the~~ ~~community~~
has come to be called APPOCALYPTIC TIMES

IS you feel as I do

That we are in them.

That it is extremely possible that the west has had it

That we are at the end of an age

Then I commend to you Jeremiah's enigmatic story
that we come upon in Chapter 32

Jeremiah anticipated destruction of his nation -
Due to its Folly & Rebelliousness -

- focusing its life on ~~formalities~~ inner contradictions

a lot of people didn't believe this

a lot of people thought things were all right for

a lot of people hated him because he was always

crying "violence and spoil"

— in fact he complained about it himself.
on occasion.

Unique among the Prophets - up to his time - he did not
set in detached righteousness against the nation. He
painfully identified with the nation whose doom he foresaw.

Finally - Zedekiah the king was furious at him for
declaring - during the siege of the city that it
was the will of God that Jerusalem fall and that
the king go captive to Babel.

Put Jeremiah in prison

AT THAT POINT

Word of the Lord -

Addresses - VERY ONE

Timely
Timeliness

} Focusing The
Nation's attention
on its coming
DOOM

BUY A FIELD

EXCHANGE MONEY

GET WITNESSES

WRITE UP A DEED

That's How you live in Apocalyptic Times!

The one most aware that it's the end of the age

The one most to know - that it matters that you
buy fields for money - get witnesses

In convinced that.

Lest I Mess up the word that is
coming to you now from Jeneviah's Parable
I should leave it right there.

Before we join in song & hear
a Hymn - Ask Gordon Lind to Talk to
Mrs Pat Ferguson - Doug Fabian
(And her friends)

bugy + selly + witness - the know about