

October 2008 – The Current Economic Crisis

Earlier this week in my Bible study time, the Spirit led me to do an unusual word study. We had just watched CNN reporting on the worldwide economic meltdown going on, interviewing people who were apprehensive, speaking about the fear and uncertainty that is driving this chaos. Experts are numb with fear and an inability to explain the reasons, and unable to find an answer. Oh, the blame game is unending, and the reasons are many, but the answers are significant only in their absence.

Anyway, as I was having my quiet time that morning with the Lord, He led me to Luke 21. For most of the chapter from verse 9 and onward, Jesus is answering His disciples' question about what will be the signs of His second coming. As I read verse 26, "men fainting from fear, and expectation of the things coming on the earth. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken", it occurred to me that this really describes the outlook of men today regarding this crisis. Then it was as though the Spirit whispered in my ear to look at the Greek meanings for the words translated 'powers of the heavens will be shaken'. Hold on to your seats.

Powers – One of the meanings this Greek word has is; "the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth"⁽¹⁾

"Of the heavens" – Instead of heavens this word can also mean "the universe or the world"⁽²⁾

Shaken – This word can also mean "to cast down from one's (secure and happy) state"⁽³⁾

So, this verse could also be translated in this way:

Luke 21:26 'men fainting from fear and expectation of the things happening on the earth. Because the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth in the world have been shaken so badly they have been cast down from their secure and happy state.'

Now before someone accuses me of twisting a verse to make it fit, consider that many times prophecies were not understood until they were being fulfilled or had already been fulfilled. Many times it is in the fulfillment of prophecy that we see the true meaning and intent of God in the prophetic word. The Jewish leaders in the days of Jesus, those 'experts' in the Word of God, stated that, "no prophet comes out of Galilee!" (John 7:52) And yet, the greatest of all was to come out of Galilee, though He was born in Judea. How can the Messiah be King and Suffering Servant? Only through the lens of history can this paradox be understood.

Why would Jesus in Luke 21:26 say the 'powers of heavens will be shaken' if in verse 25 He tells us about 'strange things happening in the sun, moon, and stars'? Is it repetitive emphasis? Possibly, and we may still see a 'shaking' of the heavens. But, it is equally possible God was foretelling the current economic crisis. The meanings of these Greek words would support that. We know also that things are being put into place to move the world toward a one-world economic system through which the Antichrist can exert world influence. If Jesus foretold the current times in Luke 21:26, then is our response to be like that of the rest of the world? Panic? Uncertainty? Certainly not. In fact, He says in Luke 21:28, "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

We do not have to fear because He told us what to look for to know that we were near the time of His coming for His bride, the church. We do not have to be apprehensive or fearful, but we should be wise and watchful; a servant about his Master's business; because He is almost here! Maranatha!

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(1) *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*

(2) *ibid.*

(3) *ibid.*