

HIGHWAY TO HAVOC

Released by Federal Civil Defense, this photo depicts the extent of total destruction if an H-bomb should fall on New York City, according to data obtained in the 1952 explosion. With the Empire State Building as ground zero, the fireball would spread over three and one-quarter miles, from Washington Square to Central Park. More recent H-bomb tests have revealed that the area of total destruction might extend ten miles or more.

“**P**EOPLE everywhere are deeply troubled by what seems like a fated and predetermined march toward ever greater disaster. Many have come to feel that nothing can be done to avert the plunge toward ruin. They see mankind driven on, by angry gods, no longer master of its fate.” Thus wrote Bertrand Russell in the *Canadian Reader's Digest*, December, 1953.

That the writer had any Apocalyptic picture in mind when he penned these words is doubtful. But the Bible student can hardly fail to find his thoughts turning to the vivid imagery of the book of Revelation as he reads them. “And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” Revelation 16:13, 14.

These “angry gods,” or unclean spirits, are apparently becoming more and more impatient and seem to be spurring the world toward ultimate havoc.

Recently I was thumbing through a book published prior to the first world

History's Approaching Climax

by THOMAS A. DAVIS

Signs of the Times
1954

war. To one who has grown up in an age of global wars, global in a sense never before known, the facts related were revealing. With an obvious sense of shock the writer gave facts and figures pertaining to the financial and physical costs of war before 1914.

TOMORROW

Just leave with God tomorrow's unknown way,
Sufficient the anxiety today;
He understands the path which now you take
And works together all things for your sake.
He knows the future's hidden from your sight;
He only wants your next step to be right.
That done, the next He will make plain to you
And so on, yes, until your life is through.
So lift your eyes—behold your faithful Friend
Who'll lead you on until your journey's end:
And then that walk so sweet on earth begun
Will go on in the life that is to come.

STANLEY COMBRIDGE.

Writing of the Boer War, fought between the British and Dutch in South Africa around the turn of the century, he said that England lost 7,810 men, with 12,209 wounded. Describing the Crimean War, he recorded that the Western Powers lost 428,000 men, and the Russians 325,000, a total of 753,000 dead. Turning to the Russo-Japanese war, which he described as being “unparalleled in the history of the world,” the writer stated that there were 218,429 Japanese killed and wounded, with the Japanese sufferers totaling 439,755. Then he said, “Add to these the Russian losses, and the number will be nearly a million wrecked and injured men in this one war.” Summing up the total amount spent on wars during the nineteenth century, he reckoned it was “nearly £4,000,000,000.”

How small these figures seem today! How insignificant they would appear even to that author had he been writing on the same subject but a few years later. For suddenly the world was plunged into a struggle so vast that it made the Russo-Japanese war seem like a minor conflict.

According to *The Encyclopedia Americana*² all the wars fought during the 125 years preceding 1914 cost 5,000,000 lives. During World War I France alone lost 1,500,000 men, with 1,000,000 crippled

and wounded. During the four-year period that it lasted, 12,990,570 lives were snuffed out.

It has been estimated that the hostilities of 1914-1918 cost the nations an aggregate of \$337,980,579,657.³ The United States alone reportedly spent \$25,000,000,000 on that struggle.⁴

Yet the horrors of World War I were dwarfed by those of World War II, which swept, like a cloud of death, around the earth. It has been reported that 6,500,000 German servicemen and civilians were killed, and 2,000,000 partly or totally disabled in this conflict. "Russia counted fifteen million dead and at least thirty million wounded and incapacitated soldiers and civilians in the second world war."⁵ And when one recalls the destruction wrought in Stalingrad, Hamburg, Berlin, Hiroshima,

London, Coventry, and a thousand smaller cities and towns, the mind trails off into a gray haze of unrealizations.

But was that the end of war? Nobody believes that it was. Today the world awaits the next burst of fury which surely must sweep civilization from the globe unless God intervenes. For we are all aware that the weapons now available are more destructive than anything before developed. Said *Newsweek* magazine a short time ago, "Today a handful of enemy planes can carry more destruction in their bomb bays than all the total tonnage of bombs dropped by the entire combined efforts of the British and American forces in the second world war."

When the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, imagination faltered. But knowledge of the hydrogen bomb

has brought the world to despair. Mankind, dumbly, with uncomprehending eye, awaits a cosmic burst of terrible, fantastic splendor—then eternal silence.

But this is not to be. The last grand finale to the mounting, age-long, tragic symphony of human history is not to be sounded by world-destroying men, performing under the demoniac direction of the prince of wickedness. For when it seems that all is about over, and evil shall close the score, through the unmeasured reaches of space shall be heard a sound not heard before on land or sea. "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trump of God."

"And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sung as it were a new song before the throne." "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints." Revelation 14:2, 3; 15:3.