

B.T.'s "Stayin' Alive!"

By Ariel Bar Tzadok

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The times, they are a'changin! The troubles, they are a'growin. Who does not see this? Who does not care? How many will do what is necessary to prepare? How many will, in the end, succumb to the great cleansing?

Think about this, if we were about to experience a global apocalypse, a combination of global terrorism run wild, coupled with WWII and numerous natural (and unnatural) disasters, how many of us would want to survive it? If you knew that "the bomb" or "the asteroid" were heading your way and was about to drop on your head, would you duck and cover, run and hide, or would you just accept the inevitable and sit put, open all your windows and doors and welcome destiny as God so sees fit to arrange?

It really is all about attitude! We can all want to either surrender to fate or fight for survival, but there are equally no promises and no guarantees that we will either live or die. Great disaster can strike and topple even the most prepared, and at the same time, disaster can pass over one who has nothing to prevent it. Try as we will to direct our destinies, in the end, we always find out, that regardless of whatever we do (and sometimes don't do), the Will of Heaven always supersedes the will of mere mortal humans. It is rather humbling and at the same time rather depressing. It doesn't look like we can do much about anything!

I see something terrible happening around the world. The attitude of radicalization which we so often ascribe to radical Islam is now being adopted by almost everyone else. Extremism and intolerance seems to be becoming the norm of every group. Even those groups that extol their openness and love of others are quickly turning to become open and loving only to those who are willing to embrace their view of things. We are quickly becoming a world of radicalized elements.

Eventually, and in not too long an order, somehow and in someway, all the opposing radical camps will eventually explode and unleash virulent wrath and warfare upon each other. When this begins, God only knows where it will end. Each group will be transformed into ruthless self-centered groups of survivalists whose only concern will be the destruction of others, even at the cost of the unbeknownst destruction of themselves.

Divisions and disunity abound. There is no more respect for others different from ourselves. There is nothing more than mere superficial tolerance. Each group within itself teaches its members how they alone are right, and that when the apocalypse comes, it does so to punish all the others who do not share the group's so-called self-evident convictions.

Think about this, when hard times arrive, we might enter into a period of chaos similar to what inflicted Europe during the time of WWII and the Holocaust. What will we do then? The answer is not ominous or mysterious, the answer is simple. We will either survive or we won't. And I am not sure that this decision is in our hands. When chaos reigns, times are tough and as the saying goes, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going."

It is amazing, but true, that those who “headed to the hills” to flee the Nazis during WWII and survived were not the robust, prepared survivalists. No, many of those who survived were senior citizens, children and other more timid, less aggressive individuals. Yet, under the circumstances of the hardships they faced, they were all transformed. The weak became strong, the timid became bold and the fearful became fearless. Although they were not prepared to be soldiers and survivalists, they were transformed and they fought and they survived. For whatever reasons known in Heaven, those chosen to survive were not the ones any betting man would have betted on before the onslaught of hostilities.

The outlook for our future is bleak. I do not see how things can get better on a global scale and avoid or neutralize all the growing factionalism, divisions and hatred. It looks like the world is about to explode. Yet, just when this will happen and what will be the final straw that breaks the camel's back to make it happen is anyone's guess. Biblical prophecy (as well as the predictions found in other cultures and religions) all point to a coming apocalypse. Although I do believe in the Bible, prophecies about the apocalypse is the one area that I would be very happy to see go unfulfilled.

In the eyes of some, I am not radical enough. I certainly am not a fundamentalist or an elitist. I do not want to see all the good in the world “flushed down the toilet” because of all the bad therein. I would love to be able to embrace in friendship those different from myself, those of different faiths, cultures or whatever. Yet, as optimistic and nice as I try to be, I come up against the harsh reality, that while I might be willing to reach out, many others are not willing to be reached. I have found so many who preach love and openness to actually be very elitist and judgmental, possibly harboring a hatred or racism that they cannot even admit to themselves.

When the time comes, and come it will, many who claim to be open will be discovered to be very closed. Those thought to be nice may actually be very not nice. Those who we thought we could depend on will become completely undependable. Those who preach love we might find do nothing other than to practice hate. When the times of crises and testing comes, all the present facades and false faces will be stripped away over night and when the sun rises upon the days of trial, we will find and see the true faces of those presently hidden under masks. And what we will see, I am sure, will frighten a good many of us.

When the time comes, each of us will have to decide who we really are under the masks that we presently wear. When the time of crises comes, we will see who truly is a child of God and who is a child of the devil. Our actions will betray us. What one does, and how one acts will define and identify who is truly who. During WWII, when the masks were removed, we found many righteous souls long hidden under unrighteous masks, and we also found many monsters who used to be concealed under the masks of piety and religion. Each of us will be known by our deeds, by the fruits of our actions.

The harsh times are coming and there are no promises for anyone. No one knows and no one can say whether they will be destined to either live or to die. Only Heaven knows our future and it is up to us to learn practically and realistically how to draw closer to Heaven and to maintain righteousness. This will be determined not by one's stated doctrines of faith, but rather by one's behavior and moral character. Who one really is, on the inside, is what will come to the surface when the proverbial “poop hits the fan.”

I know that a lot of people are still waiting for a miracle to occur to make all the world's problems disappear. I only wish that such magic was real. Unfortunately, I know that it is not. While there are no guarantees with regards to the future, there are nevertheless lessons we can learn now that can help strengthen us to face any potential future.

I believe that an investment in character building information is the best investment one can make at this time. What can make an individual to become an actual better human being will be soon proven to be worth more the silver and gold.

Silver and gold are gone once spent. What is bought can be easily taken or stolen. Even when kept, it too is eventually used up. Food is eventually eaten and gone. All that we have that lasts is a different kind of food, a food for the soul. This is what transforms the meek and the weak into warriors and survivors.

This is best summed up in these words, *“And He [God] afflicted you and let you go hungry... so that He would make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but rather by whatever comes forth from the mouth of the Lord does man live.”* Deuteronomy 8:3

We are entering a period of human evolution, where as a race we will be called upon to evolve into higher spiritual beings. We will be taught to leave behind our silver and gold and even our physical bread. We will enter a period, that from day to day, we will not know what will be. We will not know where our next meal will come from. We will not know how we are ever to survive. We will lose everything familiar to us. And yet, those who eat of Heaven's bread will be nourished, will be guided and they will survive.

Those who place their trust in Heaven and allow Heaven's Hand to mold them into the new spiritual beings that our world now requires will find themselves surviving and thriving. However, even as they have changed so too will the definitions of surviving and thriving. Eating God's bread will not make one fat of flesh. It will not fill one's storage house with supplies, silver and gold. But, one will be filled with a spirit, a knowing and a comfort, that will enable them to overcome everything and live to see the sun shine of a bright new day.

The evil in one's heart will be the worst enemy one will face. One's own evil innards will rise up and sabotage oneself, bringing assured doom down upon them. The racists, elitists and hate-mongers will not survive. They too will succumb, most likely in the false faith of their elitist beliefs. Those who will indeed survive may not be recognizable today, for looking at them today, they would be the last ones we would bet on. Yet, Heaven looks upon human beings with Divine Eyes. God sees what we mortals do not. God knows our hearts and he knows how to sift between the good seed and the bad, and sift indeed, He will.

Invest wisely now, your time and your money. Invest in that which you can take with you, that which will keep you alive, that which cannot be stolen, that which Heaven smiles upon. Invest in learning wisdom, righteous character and proper morals.

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