

THOUGHTS ON OUR FUTURE

By Oliver Cameron
with Ole Wik

What do you think lies ahead?¹

I think we don't have much time, because there is no way you are going to turn the population around to living responsibly toward the environment. We piddle at it, and some people take it more seriously than others, but it's going to take more than recycling your shopping bags and maybe cutting back a little bit on mileage and buying a car that uses less gas and runs part-time on electricity. They may get hydrogen working, but human nature is not going to change that quickly.

That's why I am especially pleased with opportunity to write these things. I don't have any idea whether in the course of things there will be very much time for people to make use of what we are working on. But when the next generation comes around after the destruction of the end of this age, maybe those people are going to have to go through the same process that all civilizations have gone through, of gradual development and then decline. So if any of these things persist in the awareness or capabilities of some of the survivors, maybe they will be of use.

I've gotten a little far along here. I'm not a religious person in the ordinary sense of the word. I'm not a theologian, but I am a philosopher, and I read the scriptures from the perspective of a philosopher. I've seen enough of the mayhem that is going on in the world. After my experiences in World War II, I decided to figure out what it's all about, why people are the way they are. That's what's behind my writing. I'm satisfied that I've got it worked out pretty well.

I think that our industrial age is destroying the environment. It's happening much more rapidly than most people expect. Being human, we don't want to look at things that we don't want to see, and many people don't take it very seriously. That's what makes me think that we may not have too much longer.

There's a lot of talk lately about Peak Oil, the notion that before long oil production will not be able to keep up with demand. The price of fuel will then skyrocket, and the world economy won't be able to handle it.

That's key to it, but if that doesn't happen soon enough, it'll be too late. Maybe it's already too late. Industrial and automotive emissions are not going to be cut back to avoid melting of the ice, and if sea level rises by even a couple of feet, that will make a tremendous difference.

It's predicted that sea level will rise more than that, and that it's happening more quickly. The worse it gets, the farther it goes. When you thaw out permafrost, you are releasing greenhouse gases. As the ocean warms up, it can't absorb as much CO₂.

I think we've passed the tipping point already. That makes what you and I are doing right now more significant. There may be a time before the end of this age when people are going to need these skills and the mentality that goes along with them, but for the most part people are just going to die, I guess.

Computers are destroying the Earth too. Just think how much paper is printed on only one side. Some people save any paper that has a blank page on it and put it into their printer. I get quite a lot of mail, bills from the post office, advertising, and they use just one side.

I can't help but think that even though our fiber-optic cables enable us to communicate with computers and emails and so forth, human nature and the economy are such that they want a bigger market.

The world is already full, and is being destroyed. When you bring India and China into our modern age and everybody wants a computer and becomes interested in communications and wants something more in the way of a higher standard of living, an auto, on and on, adding all these people is going to make things worse.

When you think of individuals, you can't help but want the best for them, for them to have life that's a little more comfortable. But they are humans, and they don't know that there's a stopping limit. They want more.

I'm aware of all this through the news magazines. In the Bible, these are things we should more or less expect. Taken together, they make me think that the end of this age is approaching quite rapidly. Of course in the scriptures these things are prefigured by symbolic representations, but I've made a long effort to comprehend them and compare them with what's going on in the world, and that's my conclusion.

That's one reason I'm especially grateful to get what knowledge I have of adapting to a lifestyle in which not everything is available. There may briefly be more people needing to provide themselves with a home when they don't have a lumberyard to provide their materials.

Human nature is such that it's more emotional than thoughtful. Immediate wants are paramount, regardless of the cost or long-range effects. Of course the politicians in our democracy have to satisfy those wants and keep the economy going in its destructive way, and now when they see that they have to do something about it, they find themselves in a situation where they can't do enough.

We're caught in a web of circumstances that we can't manage. If the ocean rises three or four feet, imagine what is going to happen to New York City.

It's anybody's guess how long that is going to progress before the end of the age, but it seems to be approaching faster than we had expected. All of history is a demonstration of ways that don't work. It's reasonable that this age would end with a big demonstration that even though we've been given a lot of intellectual material to work with, so that we have our industrial age, it's clear that this is not the answer to mankind's problems.

The purpose of it, as far as I can see, is so that people who are willing to try to live responsibly will have a vivid demonstration in history of what happens if we don't live in the way that most people have had to live down through the centuries. That just doesn't work for very long.

Things are going to get bad enough that we'll have an idea of what's happening, but the end of the age is going to come with a tremendous cataclysm—comparable to the flood

of Noah's time, but not by water—similar to what happened when Moses brought the Israelites out of Egypt.

Velikovsky² wrote about not only a local but a worldwide phenomenon when the Earth and Venus came close together and Earth traveled through the tail of Venus, I guess. In the book of Revelations the Bible foretells that there will be a cataclysm much worse than that one. It will completely destroy most people and all of the artifacts of mankind, but there will be a few people that will be taken out of the way, just as Noah's family was saved at the time of the Flood.

It doesn't say exactly what will happen, but a few human beings, the seed, will be gathered from around the world. When the world is habitable again, they will be brought back to the Earth and start another experiment in the history of mankind. The experiment requires that it's the same human beings that are living here now.

In the Garden of Eden story in the Book of Genesis, Adam and Eve didn't appreciate what they had until they had experience with evil, as well as good. As a result of that need for experience with both good and evil, it says that for man it brings thorns and makes it difficult for man to make a living, that women will have problems with childbirth, and so forth.

I have come up against a number of times where people are saying that it can't be good if the Creator created this pain and trouble that they're in. As a result, they weren't willing to listen to what I had to say about it.

But the implication of the Millennium is that, to start with, people will be given what we think of as being an ideal situation to grow up in. The world will be ruled by Jesus with a rod of iron, which I take to mean that troublemakers will be dealt with right away.

His helpers will be people who have been trained as his disciples, and they will be used as governors during that time. At that time Satan will be loosed from his chains and allowed to go raise Cain. People will have a chance to get acquainted with evil as well as good, and will have the freedom to be evil.

The implication is that without having a natural experience of the results of wrongdoing, people have no basis, not enough appreciation of a good way of life, to be willing to maintain it. That's my interpretation of what the end of this age is going to be like.

Christianity is the biggest farce in the world, following Saint Paul. Whenever Christian missionaries come back here on furlough and start going from church to church to raise money for the mission field, their theme is "We need help, we need money. The dying heathens are all going to go to hell because they don't know Jesus."

What they are saying, basically, is that if the Creator requires that people know about a savior but those people have no access to knowledge about that savior, then He can't save them. They automatically go to hell.

If you have any sense of right and wrong, that means that the Creator is not good, because He's condemning innocent people for not having an opportunity to do something that is required. If there's no way for them to do it, then there's no justice.

I don't understand how preachers can be so stupid. They are preaching that sort of thing without realizing the implications of what they say. There has to be some other way for judging whether people are qualified into permanent life.

Jesus has emphasized that it's not based on a knowledge of Him, but on a knowledge of how we want to be treated: the Golden Rule. Whether people know anything about formal religion or Jesus or whatever, and regardless of what religious ideas they grow up with, they are judged by what they do in relationship to other people.

We all know how we want to be treated, so that's a firm basis for judgment. There are various places in the Bible that are about judgment of various groups of people. In the first half of the 25th chapter of Matthew, he's talking about people who knew what was expected of them, and were judged accordingly.

After verse 31, when all of the nations are gathered for the Judgment, the sheep will be separated from goats. It's obvious that none of these people knew anything about Jesus or religion, and that they will be judged based on what they did when their fellow man was in need.

Both groups made the statement "When did we see you in trouble and not help you?" Jesus replied, "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these, you've done it to me." That is a fair basis for judgment. That's important, as far as I am concerned, because it establishes that the Creator is good.

I'm not an evangelist. When you starve alongside starving people and experience warfare first hand and people are shooting at you and you are killing them, it changes your perspective of things. It's been a long time since we have had very many of those experiences, and people soon forget. Reading about isn't the same as feeling it.

Will it be hard to prepare for what you see coming?

There's no way to do it.

1) This essay stems from a series of telephone conversations that Ole Wik had with Oliver between December 2007 and February 2008. Highlighted text indicates remarks made by Ole.

2) Immanuel Velikovsky, 1895-1979. Oliver is referring to his book *Worlds in Collision*.