

I don't know whether anyone would have answered and said, Well, Why don't you do away with your fire department? Why don't you do away with your police systems? Why don't you do away with having locks on your doors? On your windows? If you won't protect from the distant danger, why do you bother to protect from the near danger? For a brief time the defenses were neglected. The mobs swept through. They swept across. They swept into England. England had had Roman towns, high civilization there at many places in England for 150 years there is no written record from England what happened! As the barbarians swept into England and reduced it to near cannibalism from which gradually civilization developed again over the course of centuries.

This was what they had to face. Civilization was sipped out. In Schaff's Church History, the 3rd vol. is entitled "300 to 600 A.D." Once I went thru the book to see how much it has about the first half of that period--300 to 450, and how much about the period 480 to 600. I found that at least 4/5 of the book deals with events during the first 150 years! The next 150 years there is very very little because comparatively little is known about that period. Probably at least 4 out of 5 people in S. Europe and N. Africa could read and write. There was a high level of literacy, and a great spread of information from one section to the other.

Then, let's say, by the year 460 or 470 there was not one person in 15 who could read or write. Conditions completely changed. as they swept through and the old civilization came to an end.

The Lord said, In this world you shall have tribulation. We have our little troubles But few of us know what tribulation means. But I believe we ought to recognize the possibility that it may come to us in our lives. I think we ought to recognize that; we ought to prepare for it. We ought to fill our minds with the Scripture. We ought to think through: Am I ready in spite of forces in spite of all sorts of misery to stand for the truth of God? Do I have the Word of God so deeply impressed in my mind that if conditions were to get like they are in Russia, and to a great extent still in China, to such an extent that it is almost impossible to get a copy of the Word, I would have enough in my mind that I could live off what I have in my mind as far as my spiritual life is concerned?

Four years ago the Russians sent a large force into Afganistan. They began to seize that country despite the fact that at least 9/10th of the people did not want them. Pres. Carter said, We will not send our athletes to Moscow unless the Russians stop this and withdraw their troops from Afganistan! He succeeded in persuading the American athletes to put up with that loss of taking part in those games for the sake of defending the people of Afganistan and defending their liberty.

During the 4 years that have passed there have been at least 100,000 of the Afgans who have been killed by the Russian troops. Over 2 million have fled as refugees into other countries. Within the past week -- the present week there have been Afgan villages burned to the ground and every citizen in them killed in the attempt to try to sweep out the resistance of those people who do not want a situation in which it is a crime to tell your children that there is a God! They do not want a situation in which they are