

## **TRUE AUSTRALIAN STORY**

The Tasmanian Wolf, (now extinct), in the early days of settlement in Tasmania, enjoyed fresh mutton, and was causing considerable loss to the farmers flocks of sheep and lambs.

So, the farmers arranged a day to chase the Wolf with their hounds. They started very early in the morning, and the hounds soon picked up the scent near a creek and the chase was on. The hounds were away and the farmers following on horseback like the old English fox and hounds hunt.

As the chase proceeded the farmers caught occasional glimpses of the Wolf. He was well ahead of the hounds, and was heading for the mountains. The way soon became too steep for the horses, so the farmers waited in the valley below, and watched with binoculars.

Now and then they saw the Wolf winding its way to the top of a ridge, along to a part where there was a sheer cliff at least three hundred feet high. It looked like the Wolf would be trapped as it came to very edge of the cliff, but then they watched as the Wolf did something very strange. The Wolf carefully turned around, and quickly retraced his steps to a large rock beside the trail, jumped quickly aside and lay down on the cliff side of the large rock.

It was not long of course, before the hounds came bounding along past the rock, noses to the ground, full speed ahead on the hot scent, slightly uphill.

The farmers were aghast! They fired their guns and shouted loudly but to no avail. They watched helplessly as their prized hunting dogs went over the cliff, one by one, and hurtled to their death on the rocks three hundred feet below!

When all was quiet, they watched as the Wolf leisurely rose, ambled up to the edge of the cliff, surveyed the carnage below, and then turned and calmly went on his way.

This story for me, graphically illustrates how Satan works, setting traps for the unwary. This old world is racing to its close, noses to the ground, chasing dollars, houses, lands and cares of this life, unaware that just ahead is eternal death for all who neglect to study the whole scene, and who fail to hear the warnings shouted to us from the Scriptures.

We are very near the end of the trail for this world. God is shouting to us to watch and see the signs and warnings He has given in His Word. In His love, He is calling, nay shouting, "STOP! Watch out! There is danger ahead!"

In the book of Daniel, chapter 12 and verse 4, after the Lord gave Daniel a number of visions of the end times, God says,

**“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”**

For approximately six thousand years, men have travelled on foot, or by animal drawn carriages, or on horseback. Sea travel has been by sailing ships, and there was no air travel till my day. For six thousand years, weapons of war have been bows and arrows, spears and swords. For six thousand years men have carried on the way of life from ancient times, planting by hand, harvesting by hand, without any significant change, but just in my short lifetime of eighty-four years, rapid change has happened so quickly, fulfilling the Scripture that “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”

When I was just sixteen years old, the cane was cut by hand with a cane knife, then it was loaded by hand on to cane trucks for the mill. I was carting those cane trucks out of the paddock with a wagon and three draught horses. Now, a machine does the whole process while the driver sits in his air-conditioned cab listening to his favourite music, with a truck and driver beside, with the driver also in an air-conditioned cab with his radio or music, as the first machine loads the cut cane onto his truck for the mill. What incredible **increase in knowledge, just in my lifetime!**

The last trip we did to Sydney was fascinating in that I did not realize how our roads have been so crowded with so **“many running to and fro”**. The highways are literally filled with many thousands of vehicles moving at incredible speeds, or sometimes not moving at all, if there is a “peak period” or some other hiccup like an accident. The road makers are not able to keep up with so **“many running to and fro”!** As soon as a highway or freeway is completed there is need for more lanes or wider roadways. In some areas hundreds of new vehicles are parked in huge lots waiting to be sold. What incredible change, just in my lifetime!

Well, that’s just the beginning of the **“increase in knowledge”** just in my lifetime!

Where do I start to list the amazing **“increase of knowledge”** in communications, with small hand devices that you can speak to, and they’ll write your letters, or tell you where to go to a designated address, or you can ask it any question and it will find the answer for you in a spoken reply immediately. You don’t even need to touch it. Just speak to this tiny thing and it will respond! Even children have them and play all sorts of weird and

amazing new games on them. No one seems to talk to each other any more. We are all looking at our phones or listening with ear plugs to music or presentations. Jump on a train and everyone is busy with their phones, or even walking along the street.

What about air travel, with our huge one hundred tonne jet aircraft travelling at incredible speeds through the sky, one after the other, carrying people all over the world so quickly. What about helicopters, and satellites and travel into outer space? **“many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”**

What about sea travel, undersea travel, driverless cars already on our roads, medical and surgical procedures that boggle the mind, the internet, and smart television, chemical revolution, plastic in so many forms, and the list just goes on and on. This is all happening in my lifetime.

What about the increase in wickedness. The evil in our world today defies all bounds. How much more wicked can people become? If the Lord doesn't come soon, He'll need to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah!

Notice what Jesus Himself says about all this in Matthew 24. To answer the disciples question, **“Tell us, when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world.”**

Jesus speaks the whole of the rest of the chapter, explaining all the signs that we are now seeing. In verse 15, He even says to read Daniel the prophet! But what really made me sit up and take notice was what Jesus says in verse 34.

He says, **“Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.”**

Now the generation that Jesus was speaking to, His disciples and others there at that time, have all passed away. So what generation is Jesus referring to?

It has to be the generation that sees all these signs happening. Hey, that's my generation! You and I are seeing all this **“increase of knowledge and many running to and fro”** in our lifetime, in our generation.

So, are we running blindly along with our noses to the ground, chasing money, pleasure, houses and lands, and completely oblivious to the fact that the end is very near. The counsel of Jesus Himself is so important. In verse 44, He says,

**“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”**

Are you and I ready? We believe we are very close to the start of the three and a half years of the “time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation”, Daniel 12:1, Revelation 11:1-3, Revelation 13:1-5. (42 months; 1260 days: time, times and a part all fit within the three and a half years.)

I pray earnestly that all who read this message will see that we are very close to the events foretold in prophecy, leading up to the return of our Lord and Saviour, not as a mere man but as **King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Rev. 19:16**

May we be ready to welcome Him in peace is my earnest prayer. If anyone reading this would like to discuss more fully the signs that are so clear in God’s Word, feel free to contact me and my dear companion Naomi.

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