

World Events And The Bible

People In The News

Most people are very much concerned about what affects their lives and that of their families right now. But few are willing to speak or to think extendedly about death.

True, death is not a bright prospect, but it has a definite effect on one's daily life. Who of us has not experienced the grief and deep sense of loss over the death of a dear friend or beloved relative? A death in a family can change the family's entire pattern of life, destroy a stable income and cause loneliness or depression for the survivors.

Unpleasant though it may be, death is a daily occurrence with which you must reckon. You cannot prolong certain actions indefinitely. Tomorrow may be too late.

How has this affected you? Do you at times feel pressured by the shortness of life to try desperately to get all that you can out of it? Or, do you take the fatalistic view, concluding that, well, what will be will be?

THE FATALISTIC VIEW
Many people today believe that life and death are governed by fate. This is a basic concept of more than 477 million Hindus. In fact, fatalistic views are practically universal. Have you not heard people say, 'It just had to happen,' 'His time was up,' or, 'He escaped because his number wasn't up'? Such statements are frequently made in connection with accidents. Are they true? Consider an example:

During a demonstration flight at the Paris Air Show in 1973 the Soviet Union's supersonic airplane TU-144 exploded, killing its crew. Large sections of the aircraft hurled down upon the village of Goussanville, France. One woman there had just shut the bedroom door behind her when a part of the wreckage came smashing through the outside wall, completely demolishing the bedroom. She was unharmed.

Other did not escape. The victims included an elderly woman's three grandchildren, but not the grandmother.

Did those children and others die because their

"number" or their "time" was up? Were others spared because fate was not due to claim them until later?

Those answering "Yes" to these questions believe that nothing anyone might do can prevent a person's death if his "time is up." They feel that, despite any precaution taken, they simply cannot escape what fate dictates. This is a view similar to that of the ancient Greeks who considered man's destiny to be controlled by three goddesses — Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos. Clotho supposedly spun the thread of life, Lachesis determined its length and Atropos cut it off when the time was up.



Does fate control your life, or do you control yours?

Is such a fatalistic outlook reasonable? Ask yourself: Why do the number of accidental deaths decrease when safety regulations are obeyed and increase when

they are disregarded? Why can the majority of traffic deaths be demonstrated to result from human carelessness, drunkenness, error or lawlessness?

Viewed aright, death can teach us something valuable. When death claims victims, we can benefit from thoughtful contemplation about the way we are living our own lives. Some three thousand years ago a careful observer of humanity highlighted this, saying: "A name is better than good oil, and the day of death than the day of one's being born. Better is it to go to the house of mourning than to go to the banquet house, because that is the end of all mankind; and the one alive should take it to his heart... The heart of the stupid ones is the house of rejoicing." — Eccl. 7:1-4.

Not at birth, but during the full course of our life, does our "name" take on real meaning, identifying us as to what kind of persons we are. The person whose heart is, as it were, in a "house of mourning" is one who gives heartfelt consideration to the way he is living his life, regardless of how short it may be. He treats it as

something precious. He does not reflect the shallow, reckless spirit characteristic of a place of revelry. Rather, he exerts himself to lead a meaningful, purposeful life and thereby contributes to the happiness and welfare of fellowmen. CONTRIBUTED BY THE CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES EDENTON, N.C.

FROM NAGS HEAD
Miss Bea Skipsey of Nags Head spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Fenton Britt.

VISIT IN STOVALL
Mr. and Mrs. S.M. Whedbee spent several days last week with relatives in Stovall.

NEW BERN GUESTS
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Futrell and daughter of New

Bern visited Mrs. J.R. Futrell, who is a patient in the Albemarle Hospital, on Sunday.

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL
John Brers returned home Friday from the Albemarle Hospital, where he

underwent surgery last week.

NORFOLK GUESTS
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bradford of Norfolk, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Ward on Monday.

VISIT AT CLAYTON
Mrs. T.P. Byrum of Hertford and Mrs. Clyde

Bunch of Edenton spent several days last week in Clayton with Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Baker, Jr.

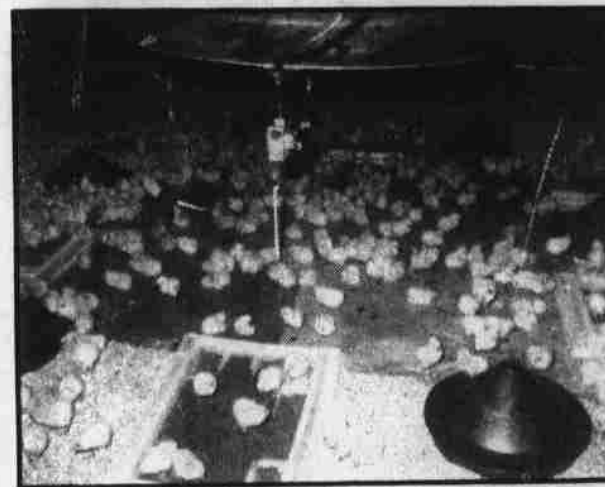
NORFOLK GUESTS
Mr. and Mrs. H. Ray McCoy of Norfolk, Va. were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wilcox on Tuesday.

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Mr. & Mrs. William Charles have made history for Perdue in the R-C area. Thursday, March 13th, Perdue placed the 1,000,000 baby chick capacity in the Northeastern Carolina area.

This achievement is well ahead of our planned goal. Perdue's goal was to have 70 chicken houses by the 31st of March, 1975. As of March 10, 1975, Perdue has signed contracts for 83 chicken houses.

With the announcement of Perdue's new eight million dollar processing plant in Bertie County, our two million hatchery in Northampton County and the new two million dollar feed mill that is under construction in Hertford County, Perdue means business in North Carolina.

These are milestones for Perdue in their quest for progress in the Roanoke-Chowan area.

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- SIRLOIN TIP ROAST \$1.15
- RUMP ROAST \$1.39
- HAM AND SHORT RIBS 99¢
- STEW BEEF 99¢

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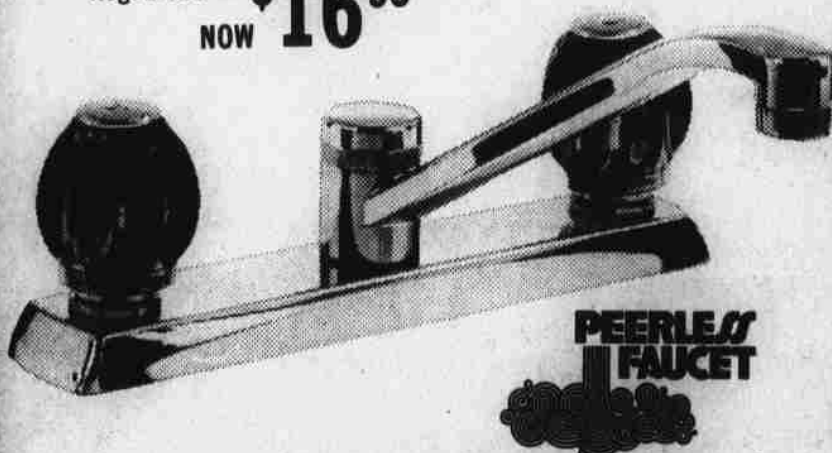
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