

# STRAIGHTWAY

*And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].*

## CHRISTIAN PURITIES FELLOWSHIP

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## The End Time: Bible Prophecy Concerning Israel Part One

Dr. H. T. Spence

This is the last *Straightway* issue for the year 2012. In this issue and the first issue in the coming year are expressions from my heart in the light of what I believe God's remnant will face in the immediate and near future. This remnant must get ready for what appears to be the closing of this Church Age as well as the transition to an epoch of new political world powers. I do not pretend to be some prognosticator; however, after some forty-three years in the ministry and dedicating my life to the study of the Bible, history, and the contemporary, I believe it is evident that we are living during

the overlapping of two ages. God's people stand in the most crucial epoch of human history; it is a transitional moment, and we must be ready in heart and life for what we must face both in the light of Christ's secret coming and the coming of Antichrist to rule the earth for a season of time.

### The Bible and Prophecy

It is obvious from reading the Bible that this revelation from God is a two-dimensional book: It is a book of *history* from its perspective of time, and it is a book of *prophecy* from its perspective of eternity. This

*This edition includes two more articles*

**The End Time: Daniel's Last Week—Part Two**

**The End Time: The New World Order—Part Three**

revelation is like the keystone in a stone arch. Like *history*, only a certain part of that keystone is visible; like *prophecy*, much of the success of the stone arch remains invisible to the human eye. All of the crucial, invisible parts of a well-built stone arch are drawn together by the keystone; nevertheless, we only see the face of the keystone. Prophecy in the Bible is always hidden though it may be manifested in prophetic words. It is only after the prophecy becomes history that we look upon it with an accurate interpretation.

There is no book in all of history that presents the uniqueness of prophecy like the Bible; across its pages are at least 8,145 prophecies. These prophecies of Scripture become the permeating power of history. Infallibly rendered by heaven they tell of what is coming and become the keystone to bring everything into continuity.

To help us to see this uniqueness,

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the Book of Daniel becomes a classic view of these two dimensions of history and eternity. This book has two natural divisions: the first six chapters are historic (though prophecy is sprinkled through these chapters); the last six chapters present prophecy. Chapter 1 reveals the surface of a keystone: God bringing four young men down into captivity in Babylon. At the end of this chapter we learn that Daniel continues into the first year of Cyrus, a period of seventy years filled with prophecies! God's providence brought forth this young man Daniel into his prime at an early age, made him a part of a Gentile empire, and sustained him into another Gentile empire.

Although this keystone of history was visible, that which undergirded the history of the Book of Daniel was prophecy. We must understand very clearly that behind all history is prophecy. It is prophecy that makes clear the unfolding continuity of history. History only unfolds in the light of God's sovereign appointment. Although we must acknowledge that the foreknowledge of God is part of it, we do not undermine in any way the sovereignty of God. In spite of what man will do with his own will, God is making certain His plan is fulfilled. His plan is not given in the light of what man would do; it is in the light of what God would do amidst man's doings. The hidden law of the keystone, though partially visible, is the invisible power maintaining the continuity of human

history's unfolding. Thus, the invisible (prophecy) becomes visible (history).

The Bible reveals to us there will be epochs. Epochs are certain periods of time marked by distinctive features, events, or crucibles which alter the course of history, accelerate a direction of history, or bring to naught a direction of history. Epochs are of great importance. An epoch can be marked by a person that arises in history (like Cyrus) or an event (the Babylonian Captivity). We may think an age is going along in a certain direction and destiny, when all of a sudden God brings a crisis that changes or alters the course of world history. Therefore it is important that we not automatically conclude that what is presently unfolding will continue unaltered; a new epoch could easily arise and change history.

The Battle of Armageddon will be a classic epoch that comes to change the direction of what seems to be the inevitable, final destruction of Israel or the inevitable, final destruction of man. And in that one battle, which we believe (according to the Book of Daniel) lasts for thirty days, there is this drastic transition from the collapse of humanity in a matter of days till the triumph of world peace through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Epochs, bringing a transition of the old to the new, usually produce a radical change. But in the acknowledgment of this principle, the epochs we have alluded to eventually brought final good. We must never look at anything that happens or anyone arising in history,

no matter how great, as the inevitable conclusion because it could change. The conclusion we must come to is that God is in history because He gives prophecy, no matter how delightful or how dark any given epoch may be.

### **The Appointment of Israel**

When God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt in the fifteenth century B.C., it was His desire to bring about a new dispensation, a new economy, a new working of God in the earth. Chapters 12 and 13 of Exodus record that right after the midnight hour some three million people made an exodus from the land of Goshen in Egypt to birth a new nation overnight. God then hid them in the wilderness forty years while the nations of the world were in transition. This marked the beginning of a new era that was to affect powerfully all the future of the world's history. Up until this time in Bible history, God used a Flood to judge the world; He used fire and brimstone against Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities of the plain. Now, with the birth of Israel overnight, God had chosen a different strategy by which to judge the world. This nation now became His judge in the earth. For the first time, a people in the earth became His sword; a people of the earth became His scepter. How will this work?

Note the Lord's plan in Deuteronomy 32:7, 8:

*Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father,*

*and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee. When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam [Gen. 10], he set the bounds of the people [or He set the bounds of the nations] according to the number of the children of Israel.*

Geographically, Jerusalem is the center of the earth; this is where God placed His judge, Israel. It is the appropriate place for God's sword, God's scepter to rule the world from the centrality of the earth.

In addition, Deuteronomy 20:10 tells us of the laws of warfare:

*When thou comest nigh unto a city to fight against it, then proclaim peace unto it. And it shall be, if it make thee answer of peace, and open unto thee, then it shall be, that all the people that is found therein shall be tributaries unto thee, and they shall serve thee. And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it: And when the LORD thy God hath delivered it into thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword: But the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the LORD thy God hath given thee. Thus shalt thou do unto all the cities which are very far off from thee, which are not of the cities of these nations. But of the cities of these people [or nations, in verse 17, or the Canaanites], which the LORD thy God doth give thee for an inheritance, thou shalt save alive nothing that breatheth.*

This passage of Scripture tells us there are two contexts of cities. There are the cities of the people that inhabited Canaan. At the time

of Israel's entrance into Canaan the cup of these local nations was full; Israel was to utterly exterminate these cities. There were also cities "very far off" from Israel. These cities were treated differently. First they were to confront them. If they declared peace, then Israel was to make them do tribute; if they refused to have peace with Israel, then they were to utterly destroy that nation. These verses declare that God's intent was not simply to give a land to Israel (we call Canaan), but He appointed Israel to be the judge of the earth and scepter or ruler of the earth, with absolute control of Canaan; and those beyond Canaan, those very far off (what was known at that time as the ends of the earth) were to be under tribute. Nonetheless, according to Judges 1, Israel did not do this! Therefore, they were unable to go to the cities far off and make them serve Israel.

This reminds us of Adam. Though God told him that he was to have dominion over everything of the earth, He did not *initially* give him that. He gave Adam the Garden with the responsibility to keep it; however, Adam did not keep the Garden. He permitted a serpent to come from the field into the Garden, and he refused to do the will of God in that Garden. And according to Hebrews 2, the rest of the world will not come under his dominion. Also in Hebrews 2, "we see not yet all things put under him [man]" (v. 8). It was the same with Israel. They were to rule not only

Canaan but also the world. The God of heaven appointed them to be the ruler.

The Book of Judges reveals that Israel went through four hundred years of declensions into apostasy. They were up and down, a little reviving here, a little reviving there (under rulers such as Hezekiah and Josiah). We do read of the days of David and Solomon, at which time the kingdom was growing well beyond Canaan. But neither one of these men went to the ends of the earth.

### **Prophecy of the Transition of the Kingdom**

God had desired through the theocracy of Israel (and later more specifically Judah) to rule all the nations of the earth. God gave Israel from the days of Moses to the days of Zedekiah a thousand years to do right, to conquer, to overcome beyond the boundaries of Canaan. Israel failed to perform God's will; they did not overcome Canaan, to say nothing of the world. Because of the nation's sins, their perpetual backslidings, God made a transition of epic proportion. He changed His approach to rulership in the world.

We must remember the promise given in 2 Samuel 7:16 long before the captivity of the Jews: "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever." Isaiah 55:4, 5 states that it was God's will for the people of the earth (or

the "nations" in the Hebrew) to come to David. That was God's wish. In spite of all of the sin and all of the apostasy in Judah, only one dynasty ruled from the days of David to Zedekiah. Nevertheless, the prophecy here is that David's kingdom would be *forever*.

Because of the permanence of the apostasy in the days of Zedekiah, God made a dispensational move. Since Israel did not conquer the earth, God took the scepter from Israel (through the tribe of Judah) and gave it to the Gentiles to rule the world. It was the hope that once the seventy years of the captivity were over that the transition of the scepter would be given back to Judah (Daniel 9). But as Daniel was coming to the sixty-eighth year of the seventy appointed years of captivity, God explained to him that, "Seventy weeks [of years] are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city" (Dan. 9:24). Not just seventy years but 490 years are appointed for Israel under Gentile powers.

Four hundred eighty-three years passed from the day of the announcement to rebuild the city of Jerusalem to the very day that Christ entered into Jerusalem on the triumphant Sunday. By Acts 1:6 it seems that the disciples believed that all of the prophecy had been fulfilled: "When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus did not deny the fact of a restoration;

note the way He answered in verse 7, “It is not for you to know [or discern] the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put [about the kingdom] in his own power [or authority].” The answer was that it was not time for this restoration to take place. Sixty-nine weeks of years had been concluded; but there is a final week yet to be accomplished. We have been waiting two thousand years for that final last week to pass from being prophecy to being history.

Note Jeremiah 27:12, 13:

*I spake also to Zedekiah king of Judah [the last king] according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live [and if you do this, you will live]. Why will ye die, thou and thy people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the LORD hath spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?*

Zedekiah’s reign became the epoch for the transition. At the end of his reign God took the scepter out of Judah’s hand and gave it to Nebuchadnezzar. It is for this reason that Nebuchadnezzar is viewed as the head of gold in Daniel 2. God honored him by making him the first ruler of the “times of the Gentiles”; God granted him the permission, the appointment to rule the world. At this point in history Babylon will be the largest empire that ever existed; each empire thereafter increased in geography (the Medes and the Persians, the Greeks and the Macedonians, and Rome). The power

of the Gentiles to conquer and rule the world continued to spread. This power still continues until a final world ruler will encompass literally the entire planet Earth with the scepter.

God used Nebuchadnezzar to judge the world, including judging Israel. Note Ezekiel 21:25:

*And, thou, profane wicked prince of Israel [Zedekiah], whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem [take away the symbol of the scepter, the symbol of global rulership], and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low [the Gentile], and abase him that is high [the Jew]. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come [Christ Jesus, the Messiah] whose right it is [to rule]; and I will give it [the diadem to] him.”*

This is a prophecy giving us tremendous insight that the scepter of the Gentiles will not cease until the coming of Jesus Christ to set up His kingdom. This has not happened yet. In Luke 21:24 Christ declared:

*And they [the people of Israel] shall fall by the edge of the sword [beginning with Nebuchadnezzar], and shall be led away captive into all nations [Gr., Gentiles]: . . . Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles [the appointed seasons of the nations] be fulfilled.*

To this day the Gentiles are ruling the world by divine permission.

### **The Nation of Israel**

The question may be asked, why are the nations of the earth so against Israel? Satan knows the prophecies

of Scripture. Although they have not become visible yet, the invisible energy and power behind history as it unfolds declares that *God is going to take the scepter away from the Gentiles and give it back to Israel*. Satan knows that prophecy, and his plan through the nations is to destroy Israel in order to destroy the prophecies of such a future return. Psalm 2 declares that the nations are against the Lord and His anointed. When this Psalm was penned, they were against the Lord and against His anointed, who was David. But at the Captivity this appointment of rulership was given to the Gentiles, and it continues to this day.

In our day and time, we are beginning to see providence slowly commence the removing of that scepter from the hands of Gentile authority. What epoch will transpire to grab that scepter? It will be the Battle of Armageddon. This is the reason the nations of the earth are against Israel. They are afraid. Just as in the days of Pharaoh in Exodus 1, the nations fear the Jews will become too many, that they will rise and take the kingdom over. The Devil knows the prophecies of the Bible that they (Israel) are to come back. As long as Israel was scattered to the ends of the earth, there was no way for this kingdom to come back. History has told the story repeatedly of the two thousand years of the persecuting, scattering, and killing (genocide) of the Jews in the European countries; now all the countries of the world are

out to destroy this small nation.

We understand that God did not allow Israel to be destroyed before the birth of Christ, because that seed had to come from them. Now that Christ has already been manifested, what is the purpose of Israel? Their purpose is bound up in the prophecy that they will rule the world! We have seen in the past two thousand years the prince of this world endeavoring to exterminate them; it is no small miracle that they have even had a seed alive. The nations have kept them in ruins; the nations have kept Canaan in ruins; the nations have controlled Jerusalem. There seemed to have been no hope for them to ever return. Six million of Hitler's twelve million executions were Jews. He was part of the Devil's plan to exterminate them before they arose mightily in the earth.

It is amazing that in the period of each of the World Wars of the twentieth century, out of the worst conditions epochal events brought providences to the Jews. On November 2, 1917, right after World War I, a letter was sent by the United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Baron Walter Rothschild (2nd Baron Rothschild). Baron Rothschild was head of the Jewish League at that time; Balfour's letter became known as the Balfour Declaration. A brief excerpt declared:

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people [that had never been



known before], and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of the object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

This Balfour Declaration became incorporated even in the mandate for Palestine. Right after World War I, all of a sudden, a land was to be established for the Jews; this land was Canaan. It is a land that through history has been designated by God in the center of the earth for them. Following the great Holocaust of World War II and its extermination of six million Jews, Providence moved toward the birth of the nation of Israel. The 1917 Balfour Declaration provided for Jews to come back to the land; then in 1947-1948, they became a nation. They had not been known as a nation since the Babylonian Captivity!

Another epoch occurred between June 5 and June 10, six days in 1967. The Six-Day War was fought by Israel against the neighboring states of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, known as the United Arab Republic at that time. Israel did the impossible: they took possession of the land and Jerusalem. Although the United Nations had appointed Tel-Aviv as Israel's capital, in the Six-Day War Israel claimed Jerusalem as their capital. This scared the Gentile world. It seemed most logical that the heavy-

weight champion in that area, the Islamic Arabs should have won. If the war had been extended for even six months or a year, Israel would never have survived. An Almighty God allowed a swift conquest in six days; their enemies were still reeling in shock.

Over the centuries tension has been mounting between Israel and the Gentile world. The Gentiles in their hatred against God believe they cannot allow Israel to take the scepter back. The Gentiles have grown weary of hearing that Israel is the so-called anointed nation versus the Arabic world which declares they are the anointed ones. The centuries have expressed this tension through the Arabic world's walling up the Eastern Gate, building a mosque over the Holy of holies, and burying the Islamic believers by the thousands right outside the Eastern Gate. They will do anything and everything to stop prophecy.

How do we know the prophecies are true? Because that keystone is seen behind them. Tracing the finger down the arch, prophecies are becoming history. What was invisible is now becoming visible. The nations of the earth do not want that scepter to ever go back to Israel. There will be one to arise who will endeavor, at least on the surface, to settle the commotion, to settle the uneasiness; he will be the Antichrist.

The Antichrist is viewed from two perspectives in prophecy. First, he is



seen as the apex of the scepter of the Gentile nations; he will be the first one to literally control the entire world. He will even make a covenant with the Jews presenting himself as their friend. This befriending of Israel appears to occur during the first 3½ years of Daniel's last week. However, in the last 3½ years, Antichrist will turn against Israel and rise to be the world leader of the remaining nations on the earth. Second, he will bring the culmination of the times of the Gentiles. There will be no other Gentile to rule. The Battle of Armageddon will be the resolve of this time period.

This last week of Daniel stands in prophecy and has not yet become history. According to Daniel 9:24, six things about the Jews and Jerusalem must be accomplished before the end of those seventy weeks of years: 1) to finish the transgression, 2) to make an end of sins, 3) to make reconciliation for iniquity, 4) to bring in everlasting righteousness, 5) to seal up the vision and prophecy, and 6) to anoint the most Holy. These things were not accomplished in the 483 years leading up to the Messiah.

These events will finish the transgression (the apostasy) of the Jews, making an end of Israel's sins, making reconciliation (or *kaphar*, the final "atonement") for iniquity. We call the last 3½ years of Daniel's last week, Israel's Day of Atonement. This is when a remnant of the nation of Israel will turn to God and realize

they have crucified their Messiah; this will make an end of sins and make atonement for their iniquity. The first three in the listing of Daniel 9:24 will need the troubles. The last three will need the presence of their Messiah. Following their atonement, when Christ will come back to fight the Battle of Armageddon, there will be the ushering in of everlasting righteousness, the sealing up of the vision and prophecy, and the anointing of the most Holy.

Note Zechariah 14:1, 2:

*Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations [the Gentiles] against Jerusalem to battle [the final annihilation of the city]; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled [ransacked], and the women ravished [raped to pollute the Jewish line]; and half of the city [Jerusalem] shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people [the remnant; the small part of the remnant] shall not be cut off from the city.*

When it appears that it's over—the genocide of Israel—"then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations [the Gentiles], as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east" (Zech. 14:3, 4).

## Conclusion

We will see America turn its back on Israel, as part of all the nations against Israel, to make sure the scepter will never be regained by them again.

Yet we know in Zechariah 14, when Jesus comes and fights the Battle of Armageddon, He will then go back to the city of Jerusalem and set up the kingdom. This will be a key throughout the ends of the earth: the Jew has taken over the world. It is not just that Jesus Christ is going to come and rule and reign. But He is a Jew that will take over the kingdom; a Jew will come back and fight for the Jews to get that land back; it will be the Jews who will be restored permanently to their land. He's a Jew. He's a Jew, and that is another reason why the Gentile world hates Jesus. But this is

His chosen people through Israel.

The Bible tells me to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Pray for that nation. They are in apostasy. They are not Christians; they still are in a posture of rejection of the Messiah, *but* they are coming back. It does not matter what Washington does nor how other nations in the earth join together in their intense hatred against Israel; it still must be said that Israel is the apple of God's eye. May God help us in these days to live with a consciousness of these end-time prophecies. S

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# The End Time: Daniel's Last Week

## Part Two

Dr. H. T. Spence

This second article brings us to a deeper understanding of both the principle and spirit of prophecy. The Christian finding himself in the End Time of the last days must come to know prophecy for his time, not only the *seasons* of prophecy but also the *spirit* of prophecy. This article is to reveal these burdens as well as view this rapidly changing “new order” that the world has entered. As a Christian I must see my age, and I must discern the Word of God for my times.

In the previous article we took careful note of God's divine purpose in world rulership. In the aftermath of the Flood, God divinely appointed Israel to be the nation for world rulership. God made it clear through Moses that it was not because of any merit of Israel; it was because of His own love and compassion upon them that the nation was chosen (Deut. 7:6–8). Through His servant Moses, God birthed the nation of Israel. By the days of Joshua the nation was already giving evidences of their falling away (Josh. 24:14, 15). The four hundred years of the Book of Judges exposes seven great declensions into apostasy. Although God's will was accomplished to a degree, in the days of David and in the earlier days of Solomon, afterward there was a continued decline in Israel. Finally, after some nine hundred years from its beginning, God transferred

man's scepter of rulership from Israel to the Gentiles, the “nations” of the earth.

### The Book of Daniel

An observation needs to be made concerning the Book of Daniel. It is Daniel who deals with the times of the Gentiles. No other book in the Bible presents the entire spectrum of the history of the times of the Gentiles. Daniel's spectrum begins with the final overthrow of Zedekiah and culminates at the beginning of the Millennium. This is the reason Daniel does not deal with the two previous empires of Egypt and Assyria. Though these nations did rule, God did not view them as holding the scepter; they were not part of the “times of the Gentiles” which began with the overthrow of Zedekiah and the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. Although in Revelation 17, John will go all the way back in history and pick up Egypt and Assyria, he is not dealing with the times of the Gentiles *per se*; rather, John addresses global world history. We must carefully mark in our understanding of the Book of Daniel that the times of the Gentiles commenced with Nebuchadnezzar.

Let us observe this transfer of the scepter from Israel to the Gentiles. How is this going to resolve, and what is to take place in the future? The student of the Word must understand that the prophet Daniel uses several

concepts of time. The term *years* is mentioned, but we must keep in mind that a year in the Jewish calendar is 360 days rather than 365; therefore, a prophetic year is always measured as 360 days. There is also the phrase *weeks of years*. One “week of years” would be seven years, a year for each day of the week. Therefore, seven weeks of years would be  $7 \times 7$  or 49 years. In Daniel 9:24, the *seventy weeks of years* is  $70 \times 7$ , or 490 literal years. In this passage 483 of these years take us from the time of the announcement of the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the time that Messiah is cut off, the Triumphant Entry of Christ. (I present this with careful detail in the book *The Canon of Scripture*.) Out of the 70 weeks of years, 69 have been accomplished to get us to the first coming of Christ. What remains of Daniel’s prophecy is one week, or 7 years, until the second *open* coming of Christ. This last remaining week of years equals 2,520 days. Concerning the Antichrist, Daniel 9:27 states the following:

*And he [Antichrist] shall confirm the covenant with many [the Jews] for one week [the seven years of Daniel’s Last Week]: and in the midst of the week [3½ years, 42 months, or 1,260 days] he [Antichrist] shall cause the sacrifice [within the temple we believe he will build for the Jews] and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it [the place of worship to God to become] desolate, even until the consummation [the final 1,260 days], and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate [or the desolation].*

By chapter 12, Daniel’s prophecy is in the midst of the week, leaving only 1,260 days left before Christ comes back to the earth. In this chapter two questions are asked. Verse 6 gives the first question:

*And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders [of Antichrist]? And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever [now, the answer] that it shall be for a time [one year], times [two years], and an half [½ year, making 3½ years]; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people [the Jews], all these things shall be finished.*

At this time in prophecy, the first 1,260 days have become history. But in verse 8, Daniel said, “And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?” Daniel is not asking about the end of the wonders of verse 6 (Antichrist); he is asking what will bring the end of the total consummation? Now note the actions of Antichrist at the beginning of the second 1,260 days in verse 11:

*And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away [when Antichrist declares himself to be God in the Holy of holies], and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.*

Here 1,290 rather than 1,260 days are referenced! Since 1,260 days culminate Daniel’s last week of 7 years, what are these 30 additional days?

We believe these additional 30 days provide for the Battle of Armageddon. The Battle of Armageddon is the epic event of global proportion that ends the Gentile's possession of the scepter. Twelve hundred sixty days complete the Antichrist reign, and 30 additional days complete the removal of the scepter from the Gentile world (not just Antichrist). Now, note verse 12:

*Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.*

This verse speaks about 1,335 days! I think we understand the 1,260 days to be the last half of Daniel's last week; the 1,290 days adds an additional 30 days for the Battle of Armageddon. What is this additional collection of 45 days? Daniel does not reveal what takes place during these 45 days; suddenly Gabriel speaks to Daniel in verse 13:

*But go thou thy way till the end be; for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot [or inheritance] at the end of the days.*

As a representative of the nation of Israel, Daniel is commanded to take his rest until the time when Israel will take up its inheritance. Speculatively, these remaining 45 days could be appointed by God as the time that Christ will take to renovate the planet Earth for His kingdom.

Daniel was told that at the end of 1,260 + 30 + 45 days, he would be in the Millennium. Immediately, God closes the book! The purpose of Daniel's prophecy was to reveal the entire history of the Gentiles in

rulership and then the return of the Jew to his inheritance. Daniel ceases at this point.

For greater clarity we now turn to Revelation 11:1:

*And there was given me [John the Beloved] a reed like unto a rod; and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.*

Now what is John measuring here? John has been commanded to measure the temple which Antichrist will build to seal his covenant with the Jewish nation. Amidst the hatred of world leaders for the Jews, the Antichrist will outwardly sympathize with Israel. Although Israel has deeply appreciated the assistance of the United States (though this is declining), they are still longing for a world leader to fully recognize their place in the earth. As the surrounding Arabic world continues its oppression, Israel is longing and looking. Is there someone of global authority that will step in to help us?

Part of the deception of the Antichrist is his pretending to be a friend; part of the tokens of that friendship will be his building of this temple. When does its construction begin? It begins with Daniel's last week. Now note Revelation 11:2, 3:

*But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city [Jerusalem] shall they [the Gentiles] tread under foot forty and two months [3½ years]. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand*

*two hundred and threescore days [1,260 days or 3½ years], clothed in sackcloth.*

Daniel's last week begins when this man, the Antichrist, rises in power among the nations and makes a covenant with the Jews. For 1,260 days (3½ years), he pretends to be Israel's friend. In the midst of the week (at the end of 3½ years), he will enter their Holy of holies and declare himself to be God (2 Thess. 2). This event commences the final 3½ years. The Antichrist empire will last only 3½ years, the shortest in history.

The first 3½ years of Daniel's last week are covered in Revelation 11; the last 3½ years begin in Revelation 13 and continue to chapter 19. Daniel's last week ends when Jesus returns in Revelation 19 to fight the Battle of Armageddon. This entire history of the "times of the Gentiles" concludes with Daniel standing in his lot, his inheritance, in rest. Rest from the nations, rest from the Gentiles, rest from persecution, rest from global suffering upon them—this is the beginning of the Millennium!

With the image of Daniel 2, God gives a brief view of the times of the Gentiles leading up to the last stand of the Gentiles. He begins with the head, which is Nebuchadnezzar (Babylon), followed by the Medes and Persians, then the Greeks and Macedonians, and then Rome. We have been waiting for two thousand years for a last empire to rise. God has predicted no other empire to rise before this last stand against God—

this final thrust of the scepter of the Gentiles.

The reason for this dream of Daniel 2 is noted in verses 28 and 29:

*But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed [and these were the thoughts], what should come to pass hereafter [or when I die; this world leader is wondering what is going to take place in a global proportion after he dies]; and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.*

[God has condescended to answer the question Nebuchadnezzar has been thinking about.]

*But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart [or the answer to this question that has been disturbing you] (v. 30).*

Now note this response beginning in verse 31: "Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image." This great image we will find out was like a man. It was built, formed, fashioned like a man by men.

*This great image whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible [wondrous or spectacular]. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay [making the image one of a man,*



representing a Gentile world rather than the theocracy of Israel]. *Thou sawest [this image] till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. . . . [and scattered them till this stone, the latter part of verse 35] that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

This is the quickest world history lecture we get in the Bible. Twenty-five hundred years in four verses. What does all of this mean?

*This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. Thou, O king, art a king of kings [that sounds like Jesus; and this is going to be an important observation that Daniel gives. You are a king of kings]: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power [or authority], and strength, and glory.*

This will not be mentioned of any other empire. This is an important truth; the other empires will arise on their own, in the providence of God. However, *God personally has taken the scepter away from the Jew or Israel and placed it in the hand of Nebuchadnezzar.* Nebuchadnezzar, thus, is to be a king of kings. God gives him glory and power and strength and the kingdom.

*And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven [notice this universal dominion] hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold (v. 38).*

No other world ruler has received this acknowledgment by God; it marks a global epoch transition.

It must be acknowledged that of all of the prior Gentile nations, Babylon during the days of Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest that had ever arisen. The following world empires are all inferior. The image moves from gold to silver to brass to iron to the mixture of iron and clay; nevertheless, Gentile world rulership began with a good man, Nebuchadnezzar. Although in Daniel chapter 3, Nebuchadnezzar is dedicating an image to himself, at the end of that chapter he is lauding the God of heaven. Yes, he is very proud, stating that he has built this vast empire (Dan. 4); but after seven years of insanity, when God gives his mind back, he proclaims statements that no other Gentile king has ever made or will make in the future. He was the greatest; he was the golden age of man.

Then we notice that “after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee.” It is just a sentence referring to the Medes and the Persians. And then another “third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth” refers to the Greeks and Macedonians. God does not even spend time on them. “And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things.” This will be the empire into which Jesus Christ will come—the Roman Empire. The empires are continuing to decline in worth. The iron ruling with an iron scepter destroying or assimilating people typifies the slaves of the Roman Empire that made up



eighty percent of the population.

In Daniel 2:42 and 43, we find one re-maining empire:

*And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong [the Antichrist's kingdom, the last kingdom of man], and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men [this will be the lowest; we've hit the dust now; the last kingdom will be miry clay]: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.*

Verses 44 and 45 will be the culmination of the coming of the Antichrist kingdom. This is where we are—between verses 40 and 41—we are in the ankles. The ankle is a joint linking the leg to the foot that has the ability to move, flex, and change direction. A flexible ankle period in the history of world empires will have to come about before the time of the feet kingdom of the Antichrist.

### **Christ's Wilderness Temptation**

Matthew 4 and Luke 4 both give an account of the wilderness temptation of Christ. Whereas Luke presents the spiritual unfolding of this event, Matthew presents its chronological sequence. The Gospel according to Matthew emphasizes the kingship of Christ; thus, his presentation of the wilderness temptation depicts Satan tempting the King of kings. The first temptation concerns the turning of stones to bread. Many kings have built their kingdoms on their ability to supply bread; hence, a welfare state.

Our President wants to bring America to such a welfare state; he wants to be our “bread king.” After the feeding of the five thousand, the people rose up and wanted to make Jesus king. They loved the welfare from a bread-base kingdom.

With the second temptation, Satan took Christ to the pinnacle of the temple in the city of Jerusalem. Then Satan spoke:

*If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

If a bread-kingdom would not appeal to Christ, maybe a kingdom built upon the supernatural, the spectacular would appeal to him. This represents those kingdoms built upon false religions, signs and wonders, or the empty charismatic hopes. Oh, how the people will flock to such a king.

In the third temptation Satan promised Christ a great reward if He would but worship Satan. By now Satan had taken Christ from the wilderness floor, to the pinnacle of the temple, and now to an exceeding high mountain; his promise of power continues to rise. Note an unusual miracle granted by God to Satan in Matthew 4:8:

*Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them.*

Here the Greek word for *world* is *kosmos*, speaking of mankind's

world systems. Satan was granted the ability to show Christ in a moment of time all the glory of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greco-Macedonia, Rome, and other coming kingdoms. He displayed for Him the glory and magnificence of them all. The mountain in the Bible is the sign or token of empires, kingdoms. Satan took Him to an exceeding high mountain to show Him this. “And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.” This is the culmination—devil worship.

Note Luke’s account of the same temptation:

*And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time (4:5).*

In Luke’s context, the Greek word for *world* is *oikoumene*, the inhabitants of the world. Whereas in Matthew the Devil had promised all the world systems, Luke adds that all its inhabitants would be included. Satan would grant Christ not only the governments of the world but also the authority to control all its people. All of this was shown to Christ in a moment of time. Satan promised him all the mass world evangelism He could ever desire if Christ would but fall down and worship him. However, in Satan’s words to Christ, it is also revealed that the power to do this had been given to him; it was given to Satan by men of history who had or will have made covenants with the Devil for their own temporary power

and glory in the Earth.

The Devil has always been looking for a man who will totally commit himself to Satan’s authority. “If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.” Satan had the power; he had the authority; he is the prince of this world. However, Jesus answered, “Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God [and Luke adds], and him only shalt thou serve” [or commit your entire life to servitude].

In all of these temptations, it was the Devil saying, “Jesus, you want humanity? You want mass evangelism? I’ll tell you what. I’ll give you a shortcut to conquer them; I’ll help you out. Everything you have desired to do in coming to the planet Earth, I will help you to accomplish.”

## Conclusion

There is a man coming to whom the Devil is going to truly give all authority and power! He will give him all the glory and authority of all the past kingdoms; this individual will possess the power to control the entire planet Earth. In light of these truths, where are we now? It is clearly evident, according to the Book of Daniel, that we are beyond the head, the breast and arms, the belly and thighs, and beyond the legs. Are we in the transition from the legs to the feet, in the ankle period? It has been two thousand years since these Roman legs made their appearance. How near are we to a one-world system controlling

the planet? How near are we in its control of all of humanity, of all people, of families, of marriages, of childbirth, and of our elderly? How close are we to the satanic conquest of humanity? In the continuing articles we want to deal with these

sobering questions and what we can expect will come upon the planet in the next few years. Amidst an ever-growing consciousness of these developments, we cry as John of old, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."



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# **The End Time: The New World Order**

## **Part Three**

Dr. H. T. Spence

The twentieth century witnessed the greatest transition in human history toward man's desire for a new world order. No other century had faced a world war, yet alone two world wars. Because of limited transportation means, earlier wars occurred in local, restricted geographies. Because of limited weapon systems, mass destruction was never known on the scale as witnessed by the atomic bomb in the twentieth century. World War I brought new concepts to warfare; World War II brought humanity to a whole new level of thinking in regard to conquest. We witnessed faster means of transportation on the ground and in the air. Man's concept of conquering and controlling humanity continued to increase in the earth. The twentieth century witnessed the face of the world and its governments globally change with increasing speed.

### **A New World Order**

One important global event occurred on June 12, 1987, a day set aside to mark the 750th anniversary of the city of Berlin. While speaking at the Brandenburg Gate near the Berlin Wall, President Ronald Reagan gave his famous cry: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." As pressure grew from both Rome and global governments, Russian resistance collapsed. Finally on November 9,

1989, after years of strict communist control, East Germans were allowed to cross over into West Germany. By June of 1990 the wall was officially dismantled, marking an epic moment of the twentieth century.

Two months later, on August 2, 1990, the world quickly learned of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. On February 24, 1991, a lightning fast, one-hundred-hour ground war was fought by a world order army of thirty-eight nations brought together by the United Nations. With cameras carried into battle by embedded media, the events were seen by satellite around the world.

On September 11, 1990, during the buildup to the Persian Gulf War, President George H. W. Bush addressed Congress with a speech entitled "Toward a New World Order." Then by 1992 the European Community (formerly the European Economic Community, ECC) was rising in power, emerging as a possible forerunner to a hypothetical United States of Europe, U.S.E. As the twentieth century drew to a close, a greater world consciousness was rising among its leaders.

President Bush's announcement of a "new world order" was not the beginning of this concept. Woodrow Wilson used the term during the development of the League of

Nations following World War I. The term was used loosely during development of the United Nations following World War II. The concept finally filtered down into pop culture with John Lennon's satanic prophecy "Imagine." In this simple ballad, he prophetically cried for this new world. Its message imagined a day when there would be no countries existing, no religion, no heaven, no hell, no personal possessions, and everyone living for today. Then and only then, he believed, would the world become as one. Lennon's dream was a world of hedonism without religious faith, without national pride or sovereignty; it was a one-world government overseeing communal property. Without any personal possessions to fight for, he then reasoned there is no need for war. Amidst his philosophical global idealism, it is interesting to note that he died with an estimated \$250 million for his mistress and his son to inherit.

Powerful voices continue to rise in the earth pressing the world toward a communal life enjoyed through "taxing of the rich"; ironically, these voices will never allow themselves and their possessions to be affected by such measures. Though Acts 4:34-37 speaks of the early Christians' selling what they had and giving the money to the Apostles to be distributed for the needs of the Christians, we must never forget they did this voluntarily as the Lord led them. This sharing was *not* forced upon them; only a portion of Christians were led of God to do

this. This passage of Scripture does *not* promote communism, Marxism, or socialism. This giving was done as the Lord impressed hearts to give. In these early days of Christianity, many were coming into this new faith at Jerusalem; many decided to stay in Jerusalem because of their hope of hearing more of this gospel message of Jesus Christ. These new converts needed daily provisions. There is no indication in the Book of Acts that this "need" would continue throughout the coming years. What we are hearing from the American President and from all of the political leaders going back even to the early part of the twentieth century is a completely different concept. They seek ultimately a Marxist, communist government dictatorially controlling every aspect of humanity; a government that leads to the oppression of its people.

### **A New *Kosmos***

A crucial word presented in the New Testament is *kosmos*, a Greek word simply translated as "world." The word could mean "the world of mankind" or "a world system controlled by man, alienated from God." Its context dictates its interpretation.

Between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2, something happened to God's created world when chaos and darkness appeared on the earth. We believe at this time a portion of the angels fell under the powerful influence of Lucifer, who then became Satan. Genesis 1:3 commences the six days

of creation; the earth once in chaos now becomes the earth in *kosmos* or “adornment” (the literal meaning of this Greek word). God’s creation brought *kosmos* or an adornment of law, order, design, perfection, and beauty.

However, since the fall of Adam, man has been creating his own “world order.” Psalm 2 sets forth man’s desire to build his own world without the acknowledgment of God: man’s world versus God’s world or man’s world view of order versus God’s world view of order. Man today believes that without God he can order his world through science and technology; he believes he can bring about universal peace, universal prosperity, and universal religion without God. He envisions a world system or order without the need of God or the principles of His Word. This late in history he believes mankind has arrived at a golden age ready to birth that utopia for which man has long searched by himself. World rulers are now speaking more openly of a world order to come; it is one that has never been known before, transcending cultures, borders, languages, ethnicities, political ideologies, and especially religions. They eagerly await the emergence of a “new world order.”

### **History and Its Call for a New World Order**

The call for a new world order goes back to the building of Babel in Genesis 11. This early civilization at Babel sought a single controlling

government mixed with a unifying religion symbolized in a great tower. Ever since the Tower of Babel men have written about their own hope for a similar utopia. The word *utopia* suggests an imaginary ideal community or society. Appropriately, the term *utopia* (coined by Sir Thomas More in 1516 for an imaginary island in the Atlantic) is a Greek-based word meaning “no place.”

Perhaps the first recorded utopian proposal is Plato’s *Republic* written almost four hundred years before Christ. He called for a small number of individuals chosen to be trained to become society’s “philosopher-kings.” These brilliant leaders would eliminate poverty and deprivation throughout the inhabited world by justly distributing all of the collected resources. Eventually all individuals opposing their plan would be weeded out, leaving only a peaceful society given over to pacifism—the ideal society for Plato. Amid these ripe conditions, the philosopher-kings would be able to implement their plan for a perfect world.

Aristotle responded to Plato’s *Republic* by declaring that society would never permit such oppression unless they either were *forced* or *deceived* into such a takeover. Both force and deception have been used by leaders throughout history to bring about their personal concept of a utopia. When Thomas More wrote his *Utopia*, he presented it as the blueprint for a working nation. Interestingly, since the sixteenth century, debate has

continued concerning whether the prefix to More's *Utopia* was actually a pun on *eu-topia* or "good place" along with the meaning of *u-topia*, "no place."

As Christians we must realize that man will never be able to bring about a "good" place; man is born in sin and shaped in iniquity. Man will try to beat his swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks (Isa. 2:4), but only the coming of Christ back to the earth will usher in His millennial kingdom. Man's world order will always fail. The twentieth century has proved this through attempts by Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler, Hussein, and the constant failure of Marxism and the various breeds of communism. Nothing perfect will ever come about through man. Although God gave the scepter to a "golden" king of Babylon, the "times of the Gentiles" will end in a world empire of iron mixed with clay.

The End Time will witness the worst example of world rulership. Even now we are witnessing a global oppression of humanity through the world governments; if God did not intervene, mankind would eventually destroy itself. The Bible predicts that Christ will come and take the kingdoms of this world and produce His own; this will be the saving of humanity. His peace will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

In spite of the constant failures of man and his governmental attempts, he continues to vigorously press for a

new world order for humanity. Walter Mills in *Road to War, America from 1914 to 1917*, made the following observation about Col. Edward Mandell House, an aid to Woodrow Wilson:

The Colonel's sole justification for preparing for such a bath of blood for his countrymen was his hope to establish a new world order of peace and security as a result.

On July 26, 1968, the *New York Times* in an address to the International Platform Association, quoted then New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller as he called for "the creation of a New World Order." In the book *The Occult in the Third Reich*, Adolf Hitler is cited as saying "National socialism will use its own revolution for the establishing of a new world order." In 1974, Richard Garner (former deputy assistant to the Secretary of State under John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Baines Johnson) in his work *Foreign Affairs* stated the following:

In short, the house of world order will have to be built from the bottom rather than from the top down, and end-run around national sovereignty eroding it piece by piece will accomplish much more than the old-fashioned assault.

In 1976, President Jimmy Carter stated, "We must replace balance-of-power politics with world-order politics." The Illuminati, who have been working for centuries to bring about such a world order, in their writings taken from the 1780s, also declared, "It is necessary to establish a universal regime and empire over the



whole world.” *The Human Manifesto II* of 1973 was signed by an elite group from various segments of society; in this work they affirm the following:

We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and move toward the building of a world community, a system of world law and world order based upon a trans-national federal government.

On April 25, 1983, Benjamin Creme, a guru of the New Age movement, noted in a prestigious lecture: “What is the plan? It includes the installation of a new world government and a new world religion under Maitreia.”

Concerning this push toward a new world order, it does not matter who is in the White House or who leads the State Department. There has been a single thread of purpose connecting the White House, the State Department, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission, and even secret societies and extreme New Agers: they all believe there *must* be a new world order. This new order requires the elimination of national sovereignty and its replacement with world government, world police force, world courts, world banking and currency, all controlled by an elite class of new visionaries. This belief has been behind all the Presidents of this past century and certainly that of the present. Although some Presidents portrayed themselves as “Christian” or “conservative,” rhetorically imply-

ing they were against globalism, yet behind the scenes they were promoting it. Rising with our present administration in Washington, there is the extreme pressure toward a complete redistribution of wealth. In this global fever there must be the eventual elimination of biblical Christianity. Many, including our President, believe that for such a new world order to succeed there must be a decreasing of the world’s population to enhance tighter control over humanity.

In an article on the new world order in the *SCP Journal*, Tal Brooke, quotes Brock Chilsom, director of the United Nations World Health Organization:

To achieve world government it is necessary to remove from the minds of men their individualism, their loyalty to family, to family traditions, to national patriotism, and the religious dogmas of history. (Summer 1991).

The core premise of a new world order is aptly summarized in the Rothschild publication *The Economist*, in its cover story of June 28, 1991, entitled “The World Order Changeth”:

There should, however, be no illusion that a global police force run by a global democracy is feasible. Those who have carried the winning ideas to the top of the mountain and now wish to spread them will not allow this process to be vetoed by a semi-converted or by plain, tough means. If that sounds painless, it is not. The mountaintop is thick with those who would rather not see trade that is liberal, aid that is

too principled, or arms control that is too self-denying. America needs to remember that a willingness to involve others is not enough to make a collective world order work. *There must also be readiness to submit to it. If America really wants an order, a new world order, it will have to be ready to take all of its complaints to the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade], finance the multilateral aid agencies, submit itself to the International Court, bow to some system to monitor arms exports, and make a habit of consulting the U. N.* (Emphasis added).

Are Americans willing to be bound by the actions of the United Nations to condemn a nation such as Israel that is following the dictates of the New World Order? For that matter, would Americans be willing to be drafted into an army by the United Nations mandate to fight a war of its choosing rather than America's choosing? This is what our administration is pressing hard to bring us to. Though the last presidential decision of President Bush before he left office was to plunge us into deeper debt, we have not gotten over the shock of what the past four years have brought upon our country. Even within the hours after the most recent election, laws passed without the voice of Congress are leading us into a future that is without any horizontal hope. Will the new world order usher in a glorious era of peace? Or is it the beginning of a dictatorial world nightmare?

### **Why the New World Order?**

Why has the concept of a new world order, along with its overtones

from secret societies and the occult, progressed consistently over an extended period of time? Wealth does not explain it, for the people behind the concept have gained wealth beyond their dreams. Political power does not explain it, for all these players have enjoyed their moments of pinnacle power. Capitalism does not explain it, because powerful men have made their billions through capitalistic enterprises. There is something more. There must be another power at work which has succeeded in molding and shaping the United States' public policy toward one clear goal, the goal of world government. Many books have been written on the subject. Some point to the influence of the eighteenth century elite group, the Illuminati; others point to the demonic "ascended masters" of the New Age religion; and still others have pointed to the world designs of a well-known but secret fraternal order manipulating the international banks and multinational corporations.

However, we must realize as believers in Scripture that while God has a plan for this world, the Devil also has his plan for the world. Ever since God's intervention at Babel, the Devil has been pressing to bring mankind together under one world government and one world religion controlled by his man, the Antichrist. It is God Who has prophesied that this would happen; He is in control of it all; it is part of His plan to allow a foolish shepherd to be the consummating product of man.

America will not return to its former days of glory. It is weighed in the balance, as Babylon was, and is found wanting. The writing on the historical wall of our country has sealed our fate. We must either be overthrown as a nation, assimilated by other nations, or broken into pieces.

America was the last deterrent toward the vision of an Antichrist world order to come. Basically, all other countries are further down the road to the new world order than we are. However, more than ever we are escalating toward the destruction of our national sovereignty in order to more aggressively embrace this New World Order.

### Conclusion

In our next issue of *Straightway*, we want to present what we believe is ahead in the next four years to conform us as a nation toward the coming of Antichrist. We do not believe that our nation's President is the Antichrist; nevertheless, he truly is a forerunner, one who is making ready a people prepared for Antichrist. Only God knows what He will permit to take place before the Rapture and what will come with aggressive force after the Rapture. We simply must be ready to face whatever will come by God's divine permission.

We are Pre-tribulation Rapture believers. I know there are those in Fundamentalism who believe the Rapture takes place in the middle of Daniel's Last Week, and still others

believe it will take place at the end of the Tribulation Period. We certainly do believe that antichrist systems have been in the past and are in existence in the earth today. The Antichrist could be alive on the planet today and rising in the political world. Yet we believe that before he comes to complete power as an international leader, the saints will be raptured. We must be ever "watching and waiting" for that Blessed Hope to take us away before the great and terrible day of the Lord. The Lord said, "Behold, I come quickly." And may the cry of John be our daily prayer, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." S

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