

STRAIGHTWAY

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

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“Thy Kingdom Come”—Part One

Dr. H. T. Spence

Thank God for the Model Prayer found in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6 and its similar presentation in Luke 11. The Lord in the previous verses of Matthew 6:5–9 gives these important words: “And when thou prayest,” “but thou, when thou prayest,” “but when ye pray,” and “after this manner therefore pray ye.” Prayer is going to become more and more a vital part of the Christian life as we head further into the dark global powers of the apostasy leading to Antichrist.

One of the great truths found in this burden of prayer given in Matthew 6 and Luke 11 is the

phrase “Thy kingdom come,” which follows the declaration that the *name* of God is to be hallowed. In every aspect of man’s existence today, Western civilization is leading the way in blaspheming the name of God. Amidst the powers of man’s growing, aggressive sins, the kingdom of Satan is being permitted to accelerate its deepening influence over man. Because of the rejection of God and His name in the earth, the problems of man have come to epidemic proportion with no solutions. The “saviors” that the world governments set forth have only empowered and emboldened

This edition includes two more articles

“Thy Kingdom Come”—Part Two

“Thy Kingdom Come”—Part Three

the irreversible tragedies and despairs of humanity. The *only* hope we have is for God to answer prayer: “Thy kingdom come.”

God has revealed in His Word to this planet that He is yet going to establish His Kingdom in this world of time. Though Satan has entered in and conquered the world of man for the time being, and the whole of mankind is under his dominion, God will come and turn this world and all its kingdoms into His own glorious kingdom to be given to His beloved Son.

What does this mean? It means the absolute reign of God; it means the law and the rule of God. The Bible presents the Kingdom of God from three perspectives. (1) In one sense the Kingdom has already come; it came when the Lord Jesus Christ was here. We read in Matthew 12:28, “But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God

is come unto you.” He declared that the Kingdom of God is come; it is here now. As He was exercising the power, the sovereignty, the majesty, and the dominion, this was the Kingdom of God. So in this sense it had come. (2) The Kingdom of God is also here at this moment in the hearts and lives of all who have placed their trust in Christ and who have entered this kingdom through the New Birth presented in the third chapter of John. (3) But the day is yet to come when His Kingdom shall be established here upon the earth. This is what we must be praying for, “Thy kingdom come.” We must ever pray for God’s Kingdom to come to the hearts of men, and ultimately, for this manifested kingdom to come and rule the earth. It is a most crucial hour for us to pray to our Heavenly Father, “Thy kingdom come.”

Daniel’s Prophecy of History

Before His kingdom comes there is a final kingdom to come in history, and our present generation is leading us to it. It is evident that our own country the United States is setting the precedent for the world’s needed changes to bring about this final kingdom of man. We now rank at the top of global governmental corruption and flaunting deception; our country may represent the worst of human degeneracy in history, if not equal to that of Rome. While our country burns, Nero plays golf and feeds the fires with his debased lusts. There is no recovery of our

STRAIGHTWAY

O. Talmadge Spence, Founder
H. T. Spence, Editor
President

Foundations Bible College
P. O. Box 1166
Dunn, NC 28335-1166
800-849-8761

www.straightwayonline.org

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country. “Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:13). According to prophecy the worst is yet to come; Revelation 18 is the record of the final Antichrist kingdom. Our country is rapidly and boldly filling up its own cup of iniquity; her sins are reaching up to heaven—God will remember her iniquities. May God in His wrath (which we are already experiencing) remember mercy to the Remnant.

Originally, global governments and kingdoms existed to benefit mankind; in the End Time, this purpose will totally collapse. We must carefully note the prophecies found in Daniel, the prophet chosen to give us the process of Gentile governmental kingdoms and how they would end. The “day of man” in history commenced with Nebuchadnezzar and culminates with the “man of sin” (sin’s most evil man), and the son of perdition (linked with the very Devil in spiritual offspring). Luke records the words of the Devil to Christ in His wilderness temptation, “All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it” (4:6). Christ did not deny this statement, and in the past two thousand years its veracity has only intensified. How will the “day of man” and his kingdoms end?

Daniel 2 references a dream Nebuchadnezzar had that reveals the great decline of world governments and

kingdoms. It must be remembered that most dreams are not revelations from God. Jeremiah speaks of dreams being as chaff to wheat when compared to the Word of God (Jer. 23:28). This prophet also warned the people not to listen to dreams. Nevertheless, this dream of Nebuchadnezzar was given by God as plainly manifested in Daniel’s interpretation. The dream was one that gave the history of man from Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom to the end of the Antichrist kingdom. It begins with the “gold” of Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon; yet with each succeeding global government in history, there is a decline of value and quality.

In the interpretation by Daniel, the head was made of gold representing Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon. Another kingdom inferior to Nebuchadnezzar’s, designated as the breast and arms of silver, characterized Medo-Persia; next was the belly, made of the more inferior element brass, which symbolized Greco-Macedonia; then another kingdom identified by legs of iron, represented Rome; and finally, the feet of iron and clay mixed signified the most inferior kingdom. This last kingdom was described as potter’s clay, baked into hardness with iron mixed with it, yet it was very brittle like pottery. It is also implied that the fifth part was degenerated, or a modified form of the fourth kingdom.

While the king in his dream was looking upon the image, a Stone, described as “cut out without hands,” struck the image at its feet with such an impact that the whole image was reduced to dust, and the wind carried the component parts away like chaff. The Stone then “became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” The spectacular and most important part of the dream was the Stone that struck the image. It is to be carefully noted that the point of striking is clearly at the feet. This sets forth the fact that there is to be a kingdom that will supersede all those represented in the image. It will be set up “in the days of these kings,” which appears to suggest that each of the toes in the feet represents a king; a time is coming when ten kings will reign at one time in a federated kingdom. At that time the kingdom symbolized by the Stone will be set up, displacing all previous kingdoms, and will stand forever.

The Centuries of History

Over twenty-five centuries have passed away since Daniel interpreted the dream of Nebuchadnezzar. Much of what he foretold in his prophetic interpretation has now passed into history. In its entirety the image stands for a period of time. Beginning at its head and running to its feet, there is a chronological order of events set forth. The beginning of this period was in the days of Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom; the end of this period is when the God

of heaven sets up the everlasting kingdom on earth. It is significant that the symbol of a man is chosen to set forth this period of time when man runs the kingdoms of the world. Before this period God ruled the heart of the world (Canaan) through His chosen race Israel. During this period of the image, man rules the world, including that center of Canaan. After this period God will take over the governments of the world; they will become His own.

The symbolism of the image is contrary to every theory of evolution, reversing the supposed order of evolution. The evolutionist starts with mud and ends with gold; the image starts with gold and ends with mud. History, according to the evolutionist, started with disorganized elements and will end with a high order of government; the image begins with a high order and ends in anarchy.

As much as we appreciate the concept of government known as democracy, such a government is but one of the final steps to anarchy. America was not given a “democracy” by its founding fathers; it was given a “republic.” The latter is a government for the rights of all men; the former is a government of the majority. In the philosophy of government, democracy is always followed by a socialism that yields to communism. The absolute monarchy of Israel failed because the man who was at the head of it was a failure.

But government “by the people” will also fail through the fact that the men that compose it prove a failure. We are in the final days of the total collapse of human governments and kingdoms; our own government has now become socialistic and quickly leaning to dictatorial oppression. Government has now become an enemy to man, just as chaff (though a friend to the seed at the beginning) becomes an enemy to the seed later. The seed must be rid of the chaff in its completion. The same with human government; it has come to a complete failure, and though a man called the Antichrist will come with the symbol of hope and peace through his government, he will simply seal the death and destruction of human government. In the final collapse there will come again the absolute monarchy with Christ the King, and the government forever shall rest upon His shoulders.

The Stone from Heaven

It seems evident by the consensus of commentary interpretations that the Stone out of the great mountain typifies the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. But there is a variation of application by the commentaries. One theological school thinks the kingdom began when Christ came the first time, making the application spiritual and the process gradual through the centuries since. We have acknowledged in the earlier part of this article that Christ at His first coming did establish a kingdom,

but not the fulfillment of the Stone in this passage in Daniel 2. That kingdom at His first coming was a spiritual kingdom into which we are born through the power of the Holy Spirit. This would deny the establishing of a kingdom on the earth to replace those represented by the image. But Christ made it clear to Pilate that His Kingdom (at that time) was not of this world, and He told His disciples in Acts 1 that He would not establish the earthly kingdom at that time.

We believe, however, that this prophecy awaits fulfillment at the second coming of Christ. There are several factors for this view.

When Christ came the first time, the Roman Empire as a world-wide power was only thirty-one years old. If the striking of the Stone was typified by His first coming, we would surely have looked for the place of striking to be higher on the image than the feet, particularly at the legs. But since it is specifically stated that the Stone struck the image at the feet, it seems plain that we are to look to some other event than the first coming of Christ for the fulfillment.

There is also the problem of the continuation of the Roman Empire in undiminished power for some centuries after the first coming of Christ. The description of the effect of the striking of the Stone seems to point to a catastrophic and sudden ending of the kingdom typified by

the iron and clay. There was no such ending nor has there been since Rome.

There are those who believe it was fulfilled in the moderate growth of Christianity in the world. But again, this does not correspond to the description that the Stone “became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” And it is evident today that true Christianity is not abounding in power and taking over the governments or the populace of the world. Even Neo-Christianity is beginning to wane in the earth as other religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam are fast rising in global acceptability.

As we read other prophetic descriptions in the Bible of the second coming of Christ, such descriptions favor the catastrophic demolition of the preceding kingdoms, and the sudden setting up of the Kingdom of Christ on earth. Psalm 2 describes this event. Note especially verse 9: “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” It is noticeable that we have here both the iron and the clay. Second Thessalonians 2:8 speaks in similar terms: “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy with the brightness of his coming.”

We will readily declare that the rapture is not presented in this passage, for that secret coming of Christ

is not identified with the purpose presented in Daniel 2. Christ’s coming for the Church saints is not shown in this vision. The entire emphasis in Daniel 2 is on the open revelation of Christ’s coming to the world, and He will be coming with His saints to set up the kingdom. We also read in Daniel 7:9–14 these most important words:

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Conclusion

Our only hope now in human

history is for Christ Jesus, our great Saviour and Lord, to come back and bring to naught the failing governments of the End Time. Thank God, the Antichrist kingdom will only last 3½ years. We must remember that Satan will through his king bring mankind on the planet Earth to absolute chaos and the very destruction of what humanity should have been through creation by God. Christ will not only have to come to save man from his own destruction but also renovate the earth and establish true peace through His presence in the earth. Only then will the lion and lamb lie down together; only then will the crops yield as God

intended; only then will war be no more; only then will the desert rejoice and blossom as a rose; and only then will God's Word, God's will, and God's knowledge cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

As we recognize the imminency of the secret coming of Christ, the Blessed Hope should be burning in our hearts daily. It is the final prayer of the Bible, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." But now, when insanity and debauchery rule the governments of the world, we equally pray, "Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom Come!" [S]

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“Thy Kingdom Come”—Part Two

Dr. H. T. Spence

As our days on this planet are pressing us to inevitable End-time prophecies concerning the coming of Antichrist and his kingdom, the remnant must take hope in the promise of the coming of God's Kingdom. First, this planet must pass through a “Great Tribulation.” We view the Great Tribulation different from Daniel's Last Week, though they both will lead to the same end—Christ's coming to earth to set up His Kingdom. The Great Tribulation is a judgment against the Gentile world and its global governments; Daniel's Last Week is a judgment against the Jewish nation. The Great Tribulation period seems to last longer than Daniel's Last Week. We know by prophecy that the latter will last seven years with two perspectives of that Week, each lasting 3½ years. In contrast, the Great Tribulation Period will last longer because it encompasses a greater time period as well as a broader geography. We must remember that Daniel's Last Week is part of seventy weeks of years determined against the Jews and Jerusalem (Dan. 9:24). These seventy weeks of years are to “finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.” Sixty-nine of these weeks definitely have been fulfilled.

Therefore, the last or seventieth week (comprised of seven years) will resolve these six characteristics that the entire seventy weeks of years are to bring to the Jews.

The fact that the Tribulation Period and Daniel's Last Week are two different concepts and purposes in God's economy makes it also probable that the length of each event is also distinctly different. The Tribulation Period begins earlier than Daniel's Last Week. Whatever the time for its unfolding, Daniel's Last Week runs parallel with the last seven years of the Tribulation Period; the latter brings a conclusion to the Gentile world kingdom, and Daniel's Last Week brings the judgment on Israel. This final judgment will lead Israel to repentance causing them to turn to Jesus as their Messiah.

This article turns our attention to those events that will finally lead to the coming of Christ to set up His Kingdom (to the Stone coming out of the mountain to destroy the image). We must carefully view this final kingdom *before* Christ's coming. Where are we in the light of this coming kingdom?

The Book of Revelation

The Book of Revelation must be carefully viewed as a sequential book rather than a fragmented book of time whose portions must somehow

be rearranged. Sixty-five percent of all the verses in this book begin with either the words *and* or *after this*. This indicates that the book must be read in the sequence in which its events are recorded. Therefore, the Tribulation Period begins in chapter 6, joined by Daniel's Last Week later in chapter 11. Even then, the first 3½ years of that prophetic week are covered in chapter 11, while the last 3½ years occur in chapters 13 through 19. Chapter 12 is one of those few unique comprehensive chapters in the Bible that momentarily take us back in time in order to give us the complete view of that which is to occur in chapter 13.

If a timeline were to be drawn, we would see the Tribulation Period beginning in chapter 6 with a number of events transpiring over the course of those chapters. These events include the first six seals of the Tribulation Period, along with the 144,000 preachers (the first fruits of Israel turning to Christ) stepping forward to begin preaching the coming of Christ's Kingdom. (They will be martyred in the last half of Daniel's Last Week, chapter 14.) We also read of the seventh seal opening and six of seven trumpets sounding forth their judgments. There must be a span of time for all of this to happen upon the earth and for such judgments to come upon the Gentile world. Only in Revelation 11:2, 3 do we begin reading of designated times (42 months, 1,260 days, which

is the beginning of the Last Week). Therefore, some time passes in the Great Tribulation Period *before* Daniel's Last Week begins.

Chapter 13 reveals the "beast out of the sea" coming forth; providentially, his kingdom will only last for 3½ years. In Daniel 7 we are told of the four winds of the heaven that strove upon the great sea. "And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another" (7:3). These beasts refer to the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Greco-Macedonian Empire, and the Roman Empire. These were beasts coming from the world systems that were under the control of Satan, kingdoms that were given to him by man himself to rule over the vast sea of humanity. (Although many believe this sea is the Mediterranean Sea, Revelation 17:1 and 15 reveal this sea to represent waters of humanity; cf., Luke 21:25b.)

However, there is another beast, a final beast coming from this same sea (Rev. 13:1); this beast will be the Antichrist, the main leader from the feet of Nebuchadnezzar's image in Daniel 2. According to Revelation 13, with him there will be *another* beast (Gr., *allos*, "another of the same kind") that will rise from the earth to rule the religious world for the Antichrist. This first beast of chapter 13 will represent the final kingdom before Christ comes and destroys it along with the world system that over the centuries tied itself in and with all

the kingdoms of man.

The Beast Out of the Sea

But who or what is this beast out of the sea? Some speculate it to be a “system” of religious belief, such as the papacy of the Roman Catholic Church. Though the pope is a man, a human being, yet he is part of a “system” of the papacy that has controlled its church over the centuries. In the Bible an “antichrist” is found in two contexts. First, note 1 John 2:18, 19:

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

This passage indicates that antichrists are already here within the church, or found among those professing to be God’s true people. In God’s providence He takes them out from among God’s people to prove they were not of the true heart of God’s people. They were against the Christ and His people; therefore, they are antichrist in spirit and heart.

Although John is the only one to use the term *antichrist*, there is another context of this person described with a variety of titles by other Bible authors. We have observed that Paul calls him the “man of sin” and the

“son of perdition.” But Paul declares that the “mystery of iniquity doth already work,” or the antichrist spirit is already working in the world, in the system of the world, and even in the institutional Church.

Another context of the Antichrist is portrayed by Daniel and will be brought forth by the apostle John in the Book of Revelation. Daniel presents him as one of the horns (7:8) but distinct from the ten horns or the ten toes. He is called “another little horn.” He will at the appointed time pluck up three of those horns or toes, leaving seven and making him the eighth. He is presented as “the beast” in 7:11. In Daniel 7:24, 25 he rises in addition to the ten (and diverse from them) to subdue three of these kings, or toes, or horns. But there is something specific about this one:

He shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time [or 3½].

Then note Daniel 8:24:

His power shall be mighty, but not by his own power [it will be given to him by Satan; cf., Rev. 13:2]: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people [the Jews]. And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also

stand up against the Prince of princes [Jesus Christ]; but he shall be broken without hand [Christ will defeat him at the Battle of Armageddon].

Daniel 11:31 prophesied of the rise of Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of the antichrist. Then in verse 36 a new personage comes in, described as “the king.” Note what is said of this king:

The king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

He will be a very self-centered, willful king; he will be a proud king magnifying himself; he will take upon himself the prerogative of deity, magnifying himself above every god, even speaking marvelous things against the one true God; he will be remarkably successful and prosperous for a season until his course is run. This description agrees with that of the Wicked one described in 2 Thessalonians 2:3–10:

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Though there may be a “system” of antichrist, and there may be “many antichrists,” there is yet one final person of Antichrist to come. He will be identified more specifically with the political world, not the

religious world. Because Roman Catholicism presents the pope as the vicar of Christ, it still believes in a concept of Jesus Christ (though presented in a perverted way). In contrast, the Antichrist will be a man who will not speak of Christ; he will not use Jesus Christ as a cloak of deception or for his promotion; he will openly and absolutely defy the name of Christ; he will have no association with Christ, even in a religious perversion. He will exalt “himself” and magnify himself above every god, speaking great things against God.

The Perversion of the Antichrist

Daniel 11:37 gives further description of this Antichrist and his perversions:

Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things.

One of the Devil’s great controlling characteristics is his deceptive ways and words. He is the father or originator of all lies. As Christ is “the Truth,” the Devil is “the Lie”—the very embodiment of a lie. The man who will come representing Satan will be a man given to the Lie; his very life, existence, and words will be of deep and dark deception. He will know how to present a lie as

the very truth. An antichrist of the twentieth century, Adolf Hitler stated that if you tell a lie loud enough and long enough, people will believe it to be the truth. The coming Antichrist, receiving his power from the Devil, will be a man who will have all the money, all the power that will be needed to keep his lies afloat. These will be lies about himself, his administration, and his intentional end of global oppressive possession of humanity.

The above verse in Daniel 11:37 also indicates that he will be a sodomite, or in the contemporary language, a homosexual. At the same time, he may present himself publicly cloaked as a “heterosexual” man, while his administration is filled with sodomites. In order to cover the “strange flesh” of his perversion, he may present himself, in the lie, as married to a woman. However, the perversion may be so great as to be married to a man who through surgery appears to be a woman. This public lie may further be promoted through the adoption of children, completing the façade of a genuine family “man.” Although his inner circle (and compliant media) may know the truth, they may be afraid to say anything against the lie.

By using the lie concerning himself, he can promote the changing of the laws to legalize his perversion. He will promote, yea, force upon humanity every perversion and inversion of fornication. It will

be to the changing of the laws of the land that were passed by moral men of former days, reversing the appointment of creation with the legality of bestiality, same-sex marriages, polygamy, and even legalization of the pedophile and incestuous lifestyle. The world will come to the greatest manifestation of the powers of sin and to the proclamation of the morality of evil in all of its ways. Such governmental leaders will be energized with overwhelming demonic pride, fullness of bread (Ezek. 16:49) or all the money and tangible benefits they need to bring about the change of the moral system of the universe. Everything about the man presented to the public will be “the Lie”: his birth, his nativity, his parents, his family life, his education, his professed accomplishments, his words, his promises, his purposes, his ambitions, his plans, his countenance, his rhetoric, and even his religious affiliation. He will be a man in which there will be found no “truth” at all.

For a season, the Jews will believe him to be the Messiah. How will he with such a “lie” convince them of this? What lying “signs” will he give? What fabricated genealogy will he present to the leaders of the nation concerning his background? Though some will be angered by his ways, his manner, and his changing of laws, yet no one will be able to do anything about it. The world will wonder after the beast! Note Revelation 13:5–8:

And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months [or 3½ years]. And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If any man have an ear, let him hear.

The Antichrist will deify the forces of the physical world. He will try to harness the forces of weather and climate conditions throughout the earth's land, sea, and sky; he will exploit technological forces to such an extent that micro-computers could be used to manipulate the human body and brain; he will attempt to control conception, birth, life, death, and DNA sequencing all to achieve his own evolutionary vision. Ultimately, he will have at his bidding the forces of the spirit world where Satan rules and empowers such men committed to him. The advance of civilization, instead of being measured by architecture, sculpture, oratory, and the like, will now be measured by the improvement in the above areas and the powers they contain to control all of life.

Human life today is interpreted only through the perspectives of

biology, psychology, and technology all in attempts to control mankind. We have come to believe we have found the supposed hidden power of evolution that is driving the human race upward. Under the Antichrist this collective power will be elevated to the position of a god. People worship as gods those things or people that do things for them that they cannot do for themselves. Our society is becoming totally dependent on world government to provide for all of its needs. Therefore, the motto "In God We Trust" does not have to be changed, but simply the concept of who God is. Our government is fast becoming the god of the people.

Conclusion

The image of Daniel 2 reveals that it is the system of man connecting all of the parts of this image. We read in Revelation 13 that the beast coming up out of the sea has seven heads. The apostle John in Christ's prophecy takes us back two empires/kingdoms prior to Daniel's view (that begins with Babylon). John's revelation adds Egypt and Assyria to Daniel's four empires, leaving the final beast Antichrist to make up the seventh head. Though his empire/kingdom is different, yet he will be linked with the "spirit" of the previous empires, because they were all controlled by Satan. His empire will be the final summation of powers, both of the Devil's and of man's endeavor to take control over all of God's creation.

Amidst all this raging power of the Antichrist, not all will go according to his desires. Tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him. The geographies of present-day China and Russia, along with European regions, are seen to arise against him seeking his overthrow. Truly the kingdom of Satan will continue to be divided. He shall go forth against these enemies with great fury attempting to utterly destroy all who oppose him. This great king, the Antichrist (of whom Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, Hitler, and so many others have only been but forerunners in their attempts to conquer the world) will doubtless outstrip all of them in his extent of dominion. But his will be the climax of such attempts, and the anti-type of all types, closing up the age of rebellion against God. He will come to his end, not by being overcome by his enemies, but, as told in Daniel 8:25, "he shall be broken without hand." It is evident the Lord Himself will visit wrath upon him, being the one thus described in 2 Thessalonians 2:8: "then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." This will be at Christ's coming with the saints to set up the millennial kingdom.

Daniel's last expression, as he copied in his book the words of the heavenly messenger, shows him

(like all the Old Testament worthies) with his face to the front earnestly expecting the unfolding of the future. He is included in that number mentioned in Hebrews 11:13 who "died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them." The last words to Daniel were, "But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days." This "rest" and "thy lot" will be found when the Gentile kingdoms cease and the Messiah begins His Kingdom on earth.

If a vision of these things so thrilled Daniel from his far-off vantage point in the Old Testament, how much more ought we (with the New Testament in our hands and the foretold events drawing nigh) to be interested and thrilled with such hope. We should make full preparation to meet the Lord either in the valley of death or in the air of the rapture. For either appointment for the culmination of our lives, we still pray with great hope, "Thy Kingdom Come!" [S]

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“Thy Kingdom Come”—Part Three

Dr. H. T. Spence

We must make clear at the outset of this article that God is in control of all human history. Note the importance of Daniel 2:21, 22:

And he [God] changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

The words of Nebuchadnezzar, after God restored his sanity and kingdom, also need to be read (Dan. 4:34–37). God’s plan is being fulfilled; even the wrath of man will ultimately praise Him. The prayer recorded by Luke in Acts 4:27–29 makes reference to God’s appointments in human government:

For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, for to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.

It seems we are now realizing the words of Christ to Judas late Thursday night of Passion Week, “That thou doest, do quickly.” Changes are happening so quickly; no conservative voice can stop these changes because God is permitting

them for His own purpose.

In this purpose of God, there will be a final kingdom of man to complete man’s attempt at controlling God’s creation. It will be the greatest collaboration of man and Satan in history, yet it will be the worst of the kingdoms. It will be an end-time kingdom that will bring great distress on the earth. The final kingdom of man can only come by a collective dismantling of all distinctions between nations. The great changes in America’s recent history are a major part of this needed destruction. America’s unique identity in present world history is soon to come to a lamentable end. Some may say that what we are witnessing is simply the product of passive, or ignorant, or even imbecilic leadership. But such radical, aggressive, intelligently-designed changes taking place so quickly are clearly the evidence of an orchestrated plan by Satan—yet of God’s permission to bring man to the end of his day. Just as the Heavenly Father sent John the Baptist to be a forerunner, a messenger, a voice to prepare the way for His Son Jesus Christ to come, Satan has his forerunners who are messengers and voices preparing the way for the coming of his symbolic son Antichrist. We believe that world leaders today are all now part of the preparatory drama that is soon to

be witnessed of the final kingdom of man before the Stone out of the mountain comes to destroy it.

The Changes for the Final Kingdom of Man

The changes now are coming at such velocity in our own country that there will be no way for any reversal to take place; God's people must get ready for the inevitable. We are fast becoming the leading country to bring about the death of global democracy, and our independence will be thrown upon the absolute necessity of interdependence upon other nations. We will be known no more by what we were. Our country is the last bastion of Western civilization as it has been known. We must witness in the coming months the change of our national name, flag, motto, and anthem. We must witness the change of capitalism, of our entire concept of economy, of our role in global leadership, and of our distinctiveness in history. The quality of our citizenship has so extensively eroded that a slob culture and a subculture now identify the populace. There is no public place where the Christian can go without being accosted by the godless way people dress and act. We are fast becoming an animalistic country where even the churches are falling prey to the desolation of gutter humanity.

Another change that must come is in the area of education. The

academic poison of Common Core is already running through the veins of the public school system and *will* eventually be forced upon all private schools. It is fast doing away with all absolutes in the social sciences and mathematics; its purpose is to ultimately destroy the ability of independent thinking, to destroy even the ability to rise in thought against the political correctness of the time. It will cause our youth to be oppressively brought to low mentality, promoting the already-festered degradation of immorality. The lower the mentality of the people, the easier it will be to control them.

With this consciousness we also realize that we stand in the prelude of the final kingdom of history, a product of the globalization of government and the coming of Antichrist. The United States must be overthrown in its entirety. The absolutism which made our country great in every aspect is an enemy of this final kingdom of man. Global leadership's call for the "New World Order" has accelerated in the drastic transition from the "Old World Order" to the "New." Every aspect of the "Old" must cease to exist. The evolutionary belief is that "out of chaos will come order." The Assyrians were notorious for this principle; this principle was adopted by the ideological powers of communism and the Third Reich. Through disinformation and

deceptive propaganda within a nation, chaos can be carefully orchestrated; when lawlessness pervades a country, destroying its principles and laws, then all is prepared for a new order to step in. We are now witnessing such a pattern and principle of chaos in the United States.

Another change must come in the concept of the American workforce; it must be recklessly dismantled in order for a New World Order of labor. The mega companies are already anticipating this new workforce by retiring the old. Companies are laying off current employees by the thousands, resulting collectively in hundreds of thousands, and maybe millions of unemployed before it is all over. These changes are not due to loss of business but are more of a preparation within companies for a new workforce to take control. This is especially true in the tech industry. Just recently Microsoft declared it would lay off eighteen thousand workers. Overall, the massive layoffs in the technological industry are up sixty-eight percent from the previous year. These overwhelming layoffs are being sacrificed on the altar of amnesty that will literally transform the workforce across the country. Mega corporations desire to rid America of its own thinkers and technological minds as they look elsewhere for such individuals who are not of patriotic allegiance to a nation.

For this transformation to be

accomplished, a certain kind of president was needed to take the brunt of the changes. They found such a man who takes orders well. It is now the philosophical belief that because the old-world-order way of thinking is not working, there needs to be a radical changeover of concept in Western thinking and Western ways. To accomplish this, society must be brought down to nothing (through social and economic chaos) in order to rebuild a new order. Such chaos will end the old ways, the old thinking, and the old principles of our nation.

America: The Fallen Strong Man

The United States is that strong man to be bound (Matt. 12:29) in order to bring about the final destruction of the old. Nations who once looked to us for help and guidance have become afraid at what they see happening to us. The country that they viewed as standing “for truth, justice, and the American way” is now bowing out and simply becoming a pawn of the next rising world power.

Our country’s growing impotence has made life more dangerous for nearly everyone on the planet. In Western Europe the nations have become more susceptible to the evils of Islam. These countries are also afraid due to the many failures of America’s intelligence community and the liberties the NSA has taken with innocent civilians’ privacy, not

only in our own country but around the world. In Eastern Europe the former Soviet satellites all thought we were their friend to help them against the powers of Russia; but we have backed off now making it possible for their takeover. Countries such as Poland, Estonia, Georgia, and others had come to respect and love the USA; they are now at the mercy of Putin and Russia. In non-Muslim portions of Africa, tensions over Islamic terrorism in North Africa have increased. Each day, countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, and other non-Muslim ones are under the blows and threats of Islam. Yet nothing is done for them.

In Latin America drug cartels are more powerful; their lawless nations are sending more and more of their own citizens to our borders to try to overwhelm our national system. In Asia, China has grown more aggressive against our friends of democracy there because America has grown silent against Russia and China. Taiwan, whom we used to protect and favor, is now on its own; we fear the same coming to South Korea. Our refusal to help has brought all of these smaller nations into great perplexity. We also must remember that the White House supported militants who brought the Islamic terrorist group ISIS into existence. And ISIS may be an even bigger enemy of ours than Al Qaeda ever was.

As I return from travels in other

countries, I see the greater damage taking place here. We are in the worst economic recovery in American history; our borders basically do not exist; our government is more corrupt than those of Africa; and the citizens face constant attack from their own. Truly the hidden agenda of all governments and perhaps all religions is to eliminate all ideological competition. All alternative news sources must be done away with, and the media must support the agenda of the New World Order without criticism. In a speech on November 6, 1933, Adolf Hitler made the following statement:

When an opponent declares "I will not come over to your side," I calmly say, "Your child belongs to us already. . . . What are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time they will know nothing else but this new community."

Later on May 1, 1937, Hitler declared:

This new Reich will give its youth to no one, but will itself take youth and give to youth its own education and its own upbringing.

We must get ready for the loss of our private schools as the state takes absolute control of education so that there will be no ideological competition. It will be sooner than we think, dear reader.

Islam, Sodomy, and Government

Islam, sodomy in its various

forms, and governmental forces make up the End-time trilogy of terrorists against Western civilization. As we read more and more about Muslim atrocities (beheadings, eating hearts out of captives on battlefields, school and church bombings, women stoned for being raped, Christian persecutions, jailings of Muslim defectors), we recognize this as part of the chaos working toward the final global kingdom of man. Today Islamic violence is mostly confined to the Islamic majority world. While Islam conquered these regions of the world through violence and deceptive evangelism, its religion has moved on Europe and North America in a very different manner. In Europe the decline of the population (which demographers have been noting since the end of World War II) has given Islam a foothold on the continent. The indigenous cultures of Europe are all shrinking, their natural populations quickly withering away as more and more Europeans choose to have fewer children. Demographers note that the only reason the European population has stayed stable is the large influx of immigrants from Asia and North Africa—a population that is largely Muslim. These new immigrants to Europe continue to have large families, and so we see a massive growth in ratio of Muslims to non-Muslims throughout Europe.

Today, well over ten million Muslims live in the United States;

these numbers are daily increasing. We now face the same issue that Europe has had over the last fifty years, for our natural rate of growth is shrinking. We are increasing our population mainly by immigration, not by births, since American families are having fewer children. Recently, *Time* magazine ran a story about American couples who chose not to have children so that “they could have it all.” Our selfish desire to buy more things while not having to care for others (namely children) will contribute to the death of Western culture. Japan, the first nation to legalize abortion after World War II, is a nation with a decreasing population crisis. With their older population vastly outnumbering their younger, they are a dying culture. The Japanese culture that has existed for thousands of years will soon be gone because of the demographic shift. Our own country stands at the same kind of crossroads but with the added pressure of an incoming wave of Islamic growth.

We reiterate once again, the United States is the last hope for Western civilization. With hundreds of thousands coming across our southern borders (including gangs and Islamic radicals), there is an intelligent climate being created to bring about the death of the concept of America. The future, at least for our country, may very well belong to the Islamic religion, the great enemy of Christianity. We must get

ready for Christianity (whether true or false) to become the minority religion, yea, the New World Order's hope to even bring about its demise. Truly the professing Christian church in the Islamic world has become an example of what will be ahead for us.

The legalization of same-sex marriages is now leading to a national immoral climate of the legalization of polygamy. The redefining of marriage has now opened the courts to include polygamous marriages. Ultimately, there is no principal basis for recognizing the legality of same-sex marriage without simultaneously providing a basis for the legality of even incestuous relationships. Every argument that won in the courts for legalization of same-sex marriages is now being used for the worst of godless and abominable relationships. The Netherlands is a microcosm of how the sodomite community captured a once-professing Christian nation into accepting a perversion. They now are providing for polygamous marriages; it truly is happening all over the world. Technically, serial polygamy is already accepted in America. People get married and divorced numerous times with little regard for marriage as a covenant bond. Hollywood types change wives like some people change shoes. Others don't get married but live together, have children out of wedlock, and no one cares. Every channel of the television media promotes it; the

Home and Garden channel (HGTV) promotes non-married couples living together, and a great number of homosexual couples become the feature. In many respects, America has already become a third-world nation.

The cultural ethics that made America great are rapidly disappearing. Abortion kills off future generations. Homosexuality is a sterile worldview. The only way homosexuality can flourish is by recruitment. This perverted lifestyle is the result of failed families, and mainly failed fathers. The state has become the father figure to many young people. This is especially true in the Black community. The welfare state made it financially easy for fathers to abandon their children and for the state to become a substitute parent. Our national leaders have been tempted to play the role of father to their people. When the provision of paternal security replaces the provision of justice as the function of the state, the state stops providing justice. Those who are concerned about the chaos into which the criminal justice system has fallen should consider what the state's function has become. Because the state can only be a bad imitation of a father, it will destroy the youth's hope of any quality of life. The church that our president came from in Chicago promoted the underground subculture known as "Down Low," composed largely

of men who secretly engage in homosexual activity while living so-called “straight” lives in public.

Conclusion

We have mentioned in a previous article that the young prophet Zechariah calls the coming Antichrist “a foolish shepherd” and “the idol shepherd” (11:15–17):

And the Lord said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces. Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! The sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened.

So much could be said, sadly, of how leaders take control of governments. We could blame deception, rigged voting precincts, tampering of voting machines, bribing leaders and citizens, etc. But behind it all God has permitted it to happen. And God’s people must get in harmony with it. We certainly are grieved, vexed, and even disturbed over the deception, lying, cheating, stealing, scheming, and even the open flaunting of criminal acts. Yet still, God is bringing the “day of man” to his end as the final kingdom of man is on the eve of rising in the whole earth.

Perhaps ninety-eight percent of all the government spends is because of the side effects of its citizens’ sins. All men have been men of sin, and certainly some more than others in open display of it. But when Antichrist comes he will be “the man” of sin, or “Sin’s man.” His heart and life will be the deepest and darkest of sin ever known by a man. He will be the man that Satan has been looking for throughout the centuries. We certainly do not believe that the Antichrist has taken over the world yet, though he may be alive and being prepared somewhere on the planet to make his entrance. But there are “foolish shepherds” in leadership today who are preparing the way for him to come. It is clearly evident, because of the shocking speed at which the radical changes are coming to our country as well as others around the world, that there is but a short time before this world could rise in its final angry attack against its Creator. The small countries will be sucked into the vortex of the key players in the End Time. America will not be one of those key players; it will be the key domino to cause many smaller countries to fall. When America sneezes, the world catches the cold; it truly has been the major influence in the world for good and right. But it will be no more. Once our country falls into the quicksand prepared for it, we will be dismantled and given to the world powers that are rising for the final act before the curtain falls at

the Battle of Armageddon.

In our next issue of *Straightway*, we want to probe into the final economic collapse of Western civilization and how the Lord will set up His Kingdom, and the characteristics that will mark that glorious hour when the Stone covers the whole earth.

Let us be ready for Christ to rapture us off this planet to join

the saints of heaven, as we then will prepare to return for the greatest battle of all times, and *finally* Christ will usher in His Kingdom of Righteousness with His saints. The Blessed Hope is Christ's own promise, "Surely I come quickly." We respond to such a hope: "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." But the finality of that hope is, "Thy Kingdom Come!" S

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