



# ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

## MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

Issue 1, Volume 19

“For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times.”

FEBRUARY 2016

## FEATURE REPORT

### Kingdoms of This Age: Who Are They?

What have been the most durable and successful human organizations in history? Was it the Roman Empire, or Britain during its heyday as a world power, or some other entity? Possibly. But what about today? Who would be the candidates?

This makes for an interesting topic. While it is true that nations still account for the largest civil organizations of humans, such organizational arrangements have been fast changing their form.

In our time, of course, the heft and power of a nation is mostly defined through economic size and trade. The statistic of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), unreliable as it may be, has become the all-important metric. Using that gauge, the top human organizations in the world would be the United States, China and arguably also the European Union (not necessarily in that order).

Crucially, the Bible rarely uses “economic might” as the defining criteria of a nation’s or kingdom’s strength (though there are exceptions, such as references to Babylon the Great). In the Bible, a nation’s power is more often related to the size of its population, and by extension, the size of its potential army.

From a soteriological (salvation) point of view, the same perspective applies. God’s Son Jesus Christ died for each of us individually. We are saved individually ... not organizationally ... or as a group.

Today we see a number of powerful systems and organizations that are concentrating worldwide power — religious, economic and political. As mentioned, the forms of human organization have been fast changing. Consider the following four types:

**1. Nationhood & Cities.** There are some 196 nations in the world today, not including

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### What Troubles & Risks in the Future?

Klaus Schwab, founder of the World Economic Forum, looks to future.



Source: www.weforum.org

## WORLD MONEY UPDATE

### To Anxiety Merchants: Why Final Collapse May Not Be Yet

You may be surprised at our warning against the many warnings! What do we mean? We make some observations that will give you some important insights and perspectives into recent financial market tremors. Should you worry ... or not? Please read on. We hope to provide some balanced perspectives.

Firstly, allow us to provide a perspective on the current outbreak of financial doomsterism. All the news media, the many economists and investment strategists, and individual investors themselves are agitated and afraid. Warnings of financial collapse — literally emanating from the four corners of the globe — have been the most rampant in decades.

Financial analysts have pointed out that many conditions being experienced today are similar to those of the 2007 to 2009 period. Most will well recall that these culminated in the Global Financial Crisis (GFC). (To this day, we maintain that the GFC is still

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“[...] recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets [...] you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires”— **2 Peter 3:2-3**

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unfolding, though morphing into different symptoms.)

Even pastors and prophecy pundits are joining in on the current doomsday cacophony, with some marshalling revealed Bible mysteries that supposedly substantiate their doomsday predictions. Frankly, the collapse of 2015 to 2016 may well be the most predicted financial event of all time.

But, it may not happen ... at least, for some time.

A fact to realize is this: Major financial crash periods generally do not occur when the vast majority is expecting them. By the time that everyone is worried, markets have already fully reflected these consensus concerns. No doubt, there are many legitimate reasons why a “down phase” in financial markets and economies can occur at any time.

Even now, one can identify many reasons why this could happen. However, this not necessarily unusual. After all, down phases are a normal feature of financial markets. Why? Because economies and financial markets are driven by “human beings.” One must understand the human behavioural element at play.

Of course, to doomsters who strive to strike fear into investors or simply relish sensationalism, cyclical and normal downturns are known as “crashes” or “busts.” Call them what you will, but they are normal in that human behaviour will have created any financial vulnerabilities in the first place, as well as the catalysts for the volatile market movements that can then take place.

As it was, the outbreak of the GFC was a global phenomenon. It was large, but likely not the biggest financial crisis of all human history. Actually, one of comparable impact took place during Jesus Christ’s time on earth, shattering the credit systems of the Roman empire of that time.

Journalists also like to prey on extremes of human behaviour. They can exacerbate and accentuate the prevailing mood of the times. Back in 2008 to 2009 (and today!), journalists were looking for sensationalist perspectives. Some

saw the unfolding crisis to be of “Biblical proportions” and that of a Financial Armageddon.

At that time, a few rogue Bible prophecy pundits reinforced the view that Armageddon was at the door and that a complete financial meltdown was therefore unfolding. Others of different theological bents were also gleefully sure that a total collapse was in motion. Some were persuaded that at last society and economies could be rebuilt according to Christian principles. As can be imagined, journalists were befuddled not knowing whom to believe.

At the time, I received an invite to be interviewed by National Public Radio. They felt reassured by my Wall Street pedigree as a former research director and as someone who also happened to be somewhat knowledgeable in Biblical prophecy. I accepted.

My message? The Global Financial Crisis was not signifying the start of the Tribulation period nor were specific financial “downturns” a “sign from God.” I’ll yet provide support for that view.

But before that, may we point readers to a book we wrote following the onset of the GFC. Indeed, the first part of its title is overly sensationalist (which we regret in retrospect) and sadly overshadows the important essence of its title: [Preserving True Riches in an Age of Deception and Trouble](#).

This book is still timely and focuses on the likely theoretical progression of financial and economic events into the Tribulation period. This view assumes that mankind continues its God-denying, errant ways. Importantly, the book provides stewardship outlines for these trying times. [Please see page 10 for ordering information].

We next make several crucial statements that readers must not forget.

To begin, here is an important realization: A working global financial system is required for Satan to bring about his ungodly programs and plans for the world. It is only later in the Tribulation period that the False Prophet finds it necessary to bring in a new set of financial controls (Revelation 13:16-18). Until then (and possibly later) financial and banking systems must remain functional.

As such, a full-fledged global financial collapse will not occur until then. But that is not the total picture. Yes, there will be financial crises, volatility in currencies and stock markets, etc. and heart-stopping events. And, while these are more the norm, these tremors may well trend to higher frequency and amplitude. However, no complete collapse can be allowed.

Readers may well ask: If world fundamental conditions are continuing to deteriorate (which is undoubtedly the case), why and how can collapse continue to be deferred? For several reasons.

Firstly, there is technically no limit to mankind’s capacity for delusion and perversion. Irrationality, by definition, cannot be measured. As such, unsustainable economic conditions and immoral monetary policies can continue to worsen for far longer than most may think imaginable.



**ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW**  
MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT



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Secondly, mankind wants to believe in its false idols and will insistently keep propping them up so long as is necessary. Also, ponder on the fact that “deception” is a key condition of the last days. It will be (and is) pervasive and institutionalized.

Thirdly, policymakers around the world today face asymmetric risks. What does that mean? The consequences of a policy error are enormous, while the consequences of erring on the side of largesse are only modest. Policymakers are well aware of the instabilities and fragility of financial systems. They know they are dealing with an unstable stack of open explosives.

None of them want to go down in recorded history as having triggered financial disaster. And, on top of everything, the globe is being buffeted with unpredictable geopolitical developments.

Lastly, there are no easy solutions and there is no way of escaping the consequences ... ultimately. However, temptingly, there are ways of deceptively deferring them. These deceptions can be very convincing. (“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter” (Isaiah 5:20).)

Therefore, do not be surprised if policymakers do engineer and grossly manipulate a global economic recovery with their policy sorceries, even if only for a short period of time. Remember what God said of the people of Babel who were attempting to build a tower into the heavens. “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them” (Genesis 11:6).

Made in the image of God, humans and collective humanity are capable of incredible things. “[...] nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.” As to what could yet unfold in the future with respect to unorthodox monetary policies or anything else, it is advisable to not be complacent, keep one’s eyes open, and refrain from falling prey to the incessant doomsters. Remember that policymakers are subject to fears as well.

As mentioned, there is no question that mankind’s credit systems and commerce conditions are on a path of deterioration. Global indebtedness continues to increase and is not declining as is normally the case in post-crisis periods.

Ultimately, the associated godlessness and humanism of the world will be judged. God’s wrath will be unleashed. This is clearly prophesied in the Bible as God foreknows the free-will choices that mankind will make.

However, prophetic knowledge has no predictive application to the short-term vagaries and volatilities of human monetary systems. The point to realize is that a humankind that is determined to go their own ungodly ways, and wanting to believe fables and deceptions, can indeed engineer even greater financial bubbles in false wealth. If so, many will be vulnerable to falling for these deceptions and they may well swallow up the faith of many more Christians.

But what of the signs? There are some flaws with the messages of the various doomsters who invoke the claim that “heavenly signs” are taking place in financial markets, or that say, a Shemitah (a Hebrew cycle) is marking God’s judgments upon financial markets and economies.

Firstly, God has already given his sign to this generation. Jesus Christ explicitly said to the “sign seekers”: “This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation” (Luke 11:29-39). This same generation still exists today.

Secondly, the various events (a crashing stock market or slumping bond market, etc.) that are cherry-picked to serve as the “proof” signs are entirely subjective and speculative. All these supposedly divinely-induced signs all have one and the same commonality and nothing else: they are all negative.

Any indicator will do as long as it is heading in the “downward” direction ... or something that is anxiety-generating.

As the facts may be, in any given year there will be available a smorgasbord of “negative” proofs to choose from if you are looking for one. There is likely to be an asset class (stocks, bonds, currencies, etc.) or a specific country or an economic development of some type (soaring or plunging oil prices, inflationary spirals, etc.) that can be chosen as the “proof” negative sign.

This subjective approach does not stand the test of statistical validity. I can tell you that I would never let an analyst publish any theory or opinion based upon such flimsy and subjective evidence.

Here is the clincher: With all the emphasis being on negative “signs,” why then have major bond markets, and most stock markets and economies all continued to reach successive new highs over past years?

There may be 10 claimed proofs of a Shemitah in a row (one every 7 years) marking a subjectively chosen indicator of a “divine decline,” but each time the chosen indicator will subsequently continue on to new highs.

No respectable economist would make a career out of only predicting short-term downturns and always ignoring the recovery phases. According to natural laws and the created nature of human beings, economies and financial markets fluctuate. They go up; they go down.

Of what use then are the predictions of the Shemitah, the Blood Moons, and the various divine signs (of many claimed types) that only claim fulfillment with downturns? Why are there no divine signs for an upturn? Is this the case because the Lord does not want Christians to save for their retirement?

Only listening to the purveyors of supposed “divine signs of doom” can be catastrophic. It will ensure that you do not participate in the “upside periods” of financial market. Market go up; they go down. You would have sold all your investments several times over, perhaps bought gold, etc.



Does this make any sense? No. It is nonsense ... and crucially, it is also unbiblical.

Jesus Christ expressly highlights that peoples and societies will be generally unaware of any impending crisis and of the “day of the Son of Man.

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man” (Matthew 24:37-39).

The same applied in the days of Lot. “People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building” (Luke 17:28).

The great and final financial collapses of pre-millennial history will come as a surprise; all are likely to occur within the Tribulation period.

In the present dispensation, it only stands to reason that Satan, who seeks to lead the world astray (Revelation 12:9), would have much more success luring mankind to a “heaven on earth” humanism adorned with perpetually-rising financial markets and economies. He will not win the world over with economic depressions and a terminal financial system. Until the final trap is sprung, the world will continue to be deceived.

There is another perspective to be kept in mind, as well. As David Hunt would say, Satan needs to discipline his human devotees upon earth from time to time. When they get too greedy and independent, they need to be admonished. Ergo, financial crises are needed from time to time. In fact, downturns and crises are necessary factors in the advance of worldwide humanism.

In conclusion, are we to expect financial ups and downs, and worsening economic conditions in the world? Yes, definitely. Nevertheless, we hope we have provided some balancing perspectives that will help calm anxieties.

*[Readers may be interested in a 5-part series that we have recently completed called Anxiety Merchants and False Prophets. It elaborates further on the themes addressed in this article. The first part will be published in the February 2016 issue of Midnight Call magazine. To subscribe, please visit [www.midnightcall.com](http://www.midnightcall.com). In due course, we expect to republish at least a part of this series here in EVR.*

*For additional perspectives on the last-day financial trends of relevance to Christians, see Why the Global Financial System Must Survive For Some Time Longer. This article is an excerpt from a chapter contributed to the book How to Overcome the Most Frightening Issues You Will Face This Century (Defender 2009). While the title of the book was sensationalist, insinuating that the collapse of financial institutions was frightening, the real risks for Christians and humanity that we laid out were very different.]*

**EVR**

**Kingdoms if This Age: Who Are They?**

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protectorates and territories. Despite the world’s advanced state of globalism and globalization, the numbers of nations are increasing, not decreasing. While not all nations represent homogeneous societies, by and large they do represent an organization of human activities, trade and international relations. This can also be the case for individual cities and city-states. A greater portion of the world’s population is living in ever larger agglomerations of cities. More than half of the world’s population today lives in urban areas.

**2. Corporations.** The multinational organization is certainly a very strong and relatively new form of human organization. These have strict hierarchies and highly defined “pecking” orders. Obedience is highly and lavishly rewarded, especially among the higher executive echelons. The largest corporations can have power even on the scale of what the Bible calls “kingdoms.”

Indeed, some large multinational firms have more employees than many nations have citizens. Of the top 100 economic entities in the world today, corporations make up 37 of these, the rest being nations according to a report by the Transnational Institute.<sup>1</sup> Lately, just one of these, Apple Corporation, had \$178 billion (USD) of cash on its balance sheet (a hoard greater than the annual economic output of more than 150 countries). It may very well prove to be the first company valued in excess of \$1 trillion. Time will tell. “Tomorrow’s state will have as much in common with the 21st-century multinational company as with the 20th century state.”<sup>2</sup>

The corporate structure was and is a useful legal invention. Nevertheless, seen collectively, the multinational phenomenon has done much to commercialize the world and establish common materialistic values and powerful behavioral systems.

**3. Global Non-Governmental Organizations and Globalism.** For the first time in human history, organizations of nations and unions have formed spanning the entire globe. The first of these emerged in the late 1800s. Today we have many transnational organizations, as they are called. The United Nations would be the most noteworthy of the many that now exist—i.e. the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Criminal Court and a host of others. All of these seek to organize human responses, activities and policies.

**4. Religion.** Religions can also represent large obedience structures that verge on being veritable kingdoms ... particularly the large organized institutions. Other faiths may only be small, independent, unstructured cells. The organized institutional types of religions and denominations may enforce fealty, ecclesiastical hierarchies, membership, beliefs ... and also political actions.

We could add to this list of four. All of these large organizational “kingdoms” are of this world. These are the “kingdoms” that are referred to by the Psalmist: “The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, ‘Let us break their

chains and throw off their shackles.’ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them” (Psalm 2:2-4).

An interesting question is this: Is there any earthly organizational entity that spans all forms of the above-mentioned power-types?

### **Transcending Them All**

Actually, yes. It is the Roman Catholic Church (RCC). Surprised? This “human organization” is the longest-standing global organization and most storied of any that have ever existed in mankind’s history. That fact itself draws many.

There are other organizations that have existed much longer; however, they are not human. Here we think of Satan and his hierarchy of fallen angels. It is definitely a hierarchical organization. As well, the Church could be considered. It would be defined as all those who are saved (and whose names will be found in the Book of Life), who are organized as the body of Christ through the Holy Spirit. As of the present time, the true spiritual Church (which would undoubtedly include some saved people who identify themselves as Roman Catholic) is quite small as far as world organizations go. It would be impossible to estimate how many members the Church has in the world today. Suffice it to say that it would be small ... fitting the description found in Revelation 3:8, which says it is of “little strength.”

### **The Earthly Reign of the Roman Catholic Church**

Let’s next recount each of the four organizational types we have listed, paralleling them to the Roman Catholic Church. In doing so, we are here examining “human organizations” and will deal only with facts. This is not an exercise to bash individual Catholics. You, dear reader, can be the final judge and form your own opinion.

Firstly, the RCC qualifies as a sovereign. It today carries sovereignty in world affairs. Even though Vatican City itself qualifies as a country, it is actually the Holy See itself that is the sovereign. This may be somewhat difficult to grasp. Though the Holy See and the Curia find their physical headquarters in the Vatican (this being a city state), it is the See itself that carries this distinction irrespective of having a country. Even if there were no Vatican City, the RCC would still be considered a sovereign by the nations of this world.

Also to note is that the Pope is the absolute king of the Vatican city state. This is interesting as there are very few absolute monarchies left in the world today. The only others are 5 Islamic countries (Brunei, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates) and Swaziland. Moreover, the RCC (by virtue of the nation of the Vatican) has its own official currency, the euro. Its coins are imprinted with “Citta Del Vaticano.”

### **Largest and Longest Global Multinational Ever**

Though the multinational corporation has really only sprung to world prominence and power over the last 75 years or so, its history does go back several hundred years.

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## **Terrible Times: 10 Challenges Facing Christians in the Last Days—Part III**



### **The Evolved Modern Pagan Man**

**P**aleontologists speak of Neanderthal Man, Australopithecus and many other pre-human forms that were surmised to be forbearers to we modern-day homo sapiens. All of this supposedly happened over many millions of years ago. Of course, removed from literal Biblical interpretation, we know that this whole field of study remains highly imaginative and speculative.

There is now already a long legacy of the Bible having trumped scientific skepticism on many issues. All of the Bible has proven true, except that which remains unfulfilled ... or remains to be scientifically discovered or proven. As all that has already been fulfilled or discovered has proven to be 100% accurate, it takes only a small leap of faith to acknowledge that the rest of the Bible that science still argues with will also prove to be accurate. That also applies to the theory of evolution.

With respect to physical evolution, the Bible doesn’t mention any different species of humans, sub-humans nor any developmental biological stages of mankind. As it happens, there simply isn’t any hard proof for the theory of evolution. It remains a religion and relies upon millions upon millions of metaphysical miracles. Nor is there any difference between ancient humanity and that of today. Man’s basic characteristics, both physical and temperamental, have not changed one iota (other than perhaps being bigger and heavier, on average).

With respect to humans, the Bible only makes one major racial distinction — that between Jew and Gentile. Even more importantly, the Bible makes one other distinction between humans — between the pagan and the righteous. It’s here that we see the real evidence for a different type of evolution, although a spiritual version — paganism.

That’s our launch point for this study. Virtually all anthropologists agree that today the earth’s sphere is populated by the so-called modern man. In contrast, Bible prophecy speaks of the Modern Pagan Man of the endtimes. Today, he is the fittest creature found inhabiting and dominating the earth’s new economic sphere.

### **Finding Ancient Pagan Man**

To discover the Modern Pagan Man, let’s first examine the character and behaviors of the ancient pagan. The Bible offers a detailed description. However, to get a balanced and accurate picture, we need to do a brief word study. There is no specific word in the Bible for pagan. In fact, you will not even be able to find the word “pagan” in some Bible translations (for example, the KJV, ISV, ASV and

others). Why? Because it is a word meaning that we understand today that originated only later in New Testament times.

Today, we commonly take the word “pagan” to mean a heathen person who worships other gods or idols and is outside the Christian or Jewish faith. In Biblical times, a heathen was also a Gentile (though there were believers in God who were not Hebrew). Before Christ died for the sins of all and extended salvation to the Gentile, the word heathen was essentially synonymous with Gentile.

At the beginning of the New Testament era, most Jews still considered their new-found salvation through the Messiah as a progressive fulfillment of the existing Jewish faith (the religious world had not yet definably split into Jews and so-called Christians). It took a little while before it was broadly recognized that there were Christian Gentiles who were neither heathen nor Jewish.

Therefore, at the start of the Church Age, only one Greek word was still used to describe both Gentile and heathen — “ethnos”. This Greek word “ethnos” appears 167 times in the New Testament. The point of this is that in our study of the “evolutionary” pagan, we will only look to those verses of the New Testament where the word “ethnos” is clearly in the context of the newer sense of the word — a pagan.

A study of the Bible outlines the many common characteristics of the “pagan”. We will review five of these. And, we will directly link them to the evolution of our materialistic Modern Pagan Man.

### 1. Self-Interest

“If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?” (Matthew 5:44-47).

In these verses, Jesus makes the point that the “pagan” person operates purely out of self-interest. Their actions are motivated by their own wants and pleasures, the personal pursuit of happiness and comforts. They only love those who love them and revile those who repudiate them.

Today, some 2000 years later, this pagan characteristic

of self-interest has greatly evolved and is now held up as the very force that is leading the world to betterment, continued progress and prosperity. In fact, advanced economic theories of today hold this impulse of “self-interest” in very high esteem (representing a rapid transition taking place in less than a few hundred years).

It is a foundational tenet of market-based capitalism, the term used for today’s type of commerce (which, by the way, actually has little to do with capitalism in its original sense). The main result is that the entire world has become deeply commercialized. Increasingly today, commerce is the prime reason for existence and the very definition of life.

What does the Bible say about the “self-interests” of Modern Pagan Man? It provides a clear message for societies who choose to define their existence in purely pagan terms ... in other words, societies that have given themselves over to the rule of economics and Mammon. The examples of Tyre and Babylon are apropos examples.

Neo-Babylon (the era of Nebuchadnezzar) was all about business. According to studies, the earlier Babylonia was essentially a commercial civilization. Virtually all of the documents that have survived from this culture are business documents. Another prime example is the history of Tyre, the extreme commercialization of which the Bible itself provides clear documentation.

The city of Jericho may be another and even earlier example. Probably the most ancient habitation in the world and one of the most prosperous, it was the city selected by God to be the first to be conquered by the Hebrews as they entered Canaan. In fact, this city was the only one that was miraculously destroyed and the only Canaan conquest that was completely annihilated — women, children, livestock and all. God wanted it completely expunged. Why?

Could it have reeked of generations of idolatrous commercialism? God didn’t want any of Jericho’s culture to rub off on Israel. Joshua even prophesied that whoever would ever resurrect this city of Jericho would suffer the loss of his first and second born (Joshua 7:26). Exactly as prophesied, this occurred six hundred years later during the reign of Omri, when Hiel of Bethel did so (1 Kings 16:34).

### 2. Worry About Material Things

Pagans are totally consumed with material things according to scripture. “So do not worry, saying ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them” (Matthew 6:31-32 also Luke 12:29-30).

By this definition, then, it would be pagan to only preoccupy oneself in the pursuit of possessions and lifestyle. Scripture refers here to only two items — food and clothing. In the society of that day, both things defined lifestyle and social status. This verse is therefore not

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### Wilfred’s Itinerary 2016: *The Mulberry Ministry*

- October 2016: Atlantic Prophecy Congress: Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Midnight Call Ministries 1-800-845-2420  
[www.midnightcall.com](http://www.midnightcall.com)
- December 5-7, 2016: 25th Annual Pre-Trib Study Group Conference. Irving, TX.  
[www.pre-trib.org/conference](http://www.pre-trib.org/conference)

## Facts & Stats ... Ends & Trends



## TOPICAL QUOTES

Most victims of war and terrorism in the Middle East are Muslims, since they are by far the majority of the population. But the tiny Christian minority often feels singled out. Their numbers are declining where the fighting is worst. Overall, the proportional of Middle Easterners who are Christian has dropped from 14% in 1910 to 4% today.

— **The Economist, January 2, 2016**

Analyzing five risk factors for societal collapse (population, climate, water, agriculture and energy), the report [written by applied mathematician Sefa Motesharrei of the national Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center] says that the sudden downfall of complicated societal structures can follow when these factors converge to form two important criteria. Motesharrei's report says that all societal collapses over the past 5,000 years have involved both "the stretching of resources due to the strain placed on the ecological carrying capacity" and "the economic stratification of society into Elites [rich] and Masses (or "Commoners") [poor]." This "Elite" population restricts the flow of resources accessible to the "Masses", accumulating a surplus for themselves that is high enough to strain natural resources. Eventually this situation will inevitably result in the destruction of society. — **NASA Study, January 13, 2016**

Research output – as measured by publications and citations in international journals, as well as patents – is disproportionately low relative to population and financial capabilities. Muslim countries spend, on average, only about 0.5% of their GDP on research and development, compared to the global average of 1.78% of GDP and the OECD average of about 2%. The number of people working in science fields in the Muslim world is also well below the global average. — **Project Syndicate, January 13, 2016**

The wealth divide between the world's richest and poorest is turning into a Grand Canyon. Last year, just 62 individuals held wealth equivalent to the amount owned by 3.6 billion people, about half the world's population. That's according to a new

report by Oxfam [...], ahead of the World Economic Forum in Davos, which aims to show just how deep the gulf of inequality has become.

"Oxfam's prediction – made ahead of last year's Davos – that the 1% would soon own more than the rest of us by 2016, actually came true in 2015, a year early," the nonprofit said in a statement. —

**Market Watch, January 18, 2016**

Americans, as P.T. Barnum once noted, are not at all that difficult to fool, and our nation's somewhat weak math skills don't help. A Pew Research Center report issued last year, which studied test results of 15-year-olds, ranked the United States 35<sup>th</sup> in the world in math. Not only has this weakness in understanding numbers created opportunities for mass exploitation by Big Pharma and other industries, it has led to needless and mostly unwarranted fear. — **nakedcapitalism.com, January 17, 2016**

An estimated 2.5 billion adults do not have access to banks. Unsurprisingly, they are among the world's most destitute: According to a report released by the World Bank and other development groups, about 3 out of 4 adults living on less than \$2 a day, from farmers in Tanzania to slum-dwellers in India to seamstresses in Bolivia, lack an account with a formal financial institution. But many of these people do have cell phones. Globally, there are some 7 billion mobile-phone subscriptions, up from about 2 billion in 2005. [...] The technology is also reinventing a key tool for economic growth: banking. In countries across the world, mobile operators – think the equivalents of Sprint and Verizon – now offer services that enable individuals to transfer cash via text message. In 2014, according to the international mobile-carrier trade group GSMA, there were 255 mobile-enabled electronic money services working in 89 countries, and nearly 300 million mobile-money accounts. The trend is particularly significant in Africa, where in at least 15 countries mobile-money accounts now outnumber formal bank accounts. — **Foreignpolicy.com, May/June 2015**

"There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do little things." — **Dwight L. Moody**

"The expected rarely occurs and never in the expected manner." — **Vernon A. Walters**

"The Bible is worth all the other books which have ever been printed." — **Patrick Henry**

"The Bible shows the way to go to heaven, not the way the heavens go." — **Galileo Galilei** [Editor's Note: However, the Bible does not refute "the way the heavens go" either.]

"A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education." — **Theodore Roosevelt**

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use." — **Galileo Galilei**

"No single raindrop ever feels like it is responsible for the flood." — **Anonymous**

**The Kingdoms of This Age: Who Are They?**

... from page 5

Even before the invention of the legal entity of a corporation as a “person,” there were global organizations. The Roman Catholic Church qualifies as the longest surviving of these. We draw some parallels here to the modern corporation for the purpose of illustration only.

Modern-day “for-profit” corporations organize their structure and behavioral rules in order to achieve success. Largely, these organizations use monetary incentives to drive desired behavior, as well as achieve a differentiated or exclusive business franchise that will bring success (i.e. profits, expansion, growth and power).

The Roman Catholic Church is also a multinational corporation in this sense (not here at all referring to the many thousands of corporate entities that the RCC owns and controls around the world). To be clear, unlike the commercial corporations of the world, many of the RCC’s branches and entities are not interconnected by legal corporate structures. All the same, it remains that the Roman Catholic Church is a multinational corporate obedience structure that orchestrates and controls these many and varied entities around the world.

Consider the powerful franchise that the RCC has established for itself. The RCC has a potent “business model.” Firstly, it claims a corner on salvation. It “markets” that only through its franchise (exclusive access and sacraments) can people attain salvation. It denies that any other church or religion has this power.

It also markets other product lines globally — dispensations, the ability to remove souls out of Purgatory, the “mystery” of transubstantiation (its great and exclusive sacrament), which only its executives (ecclesia) can perform. This latter franchise distinctive is a so-called “miracle,” though there is no visible manifestation of any miracle.

Down through the centuries, these exclusive franchises of the RCC (among others) have generated much revenue as well as donations. A donation demands nothing in return. Revenue, by contrast, derives from a service or a sale. It would be correct to differentiate.

There is one more facet to the success of the Roman Catholic kingdom on earth. It faces no inheritance issues or (theoretically) the dangers of nepotism, or unruly extractive shareholders (though there were some popes and priests that misused the church’s wealth). Its amassing of wealth and property over the centuries has continued almost unfettered (though certainly impacted in America of late due to large settlements in its sex scandals).

Just how wealthy is the Roman Catholic Church overall? No one knows. To this point, in most countries (certainly so in North America), religious organizations do not have the same disclosure requirements as do business corporations. Though this is gradually changing somewhat, it remains that some religions are able to maneuver their funds in secret (i.e. the Mormon Church, the Church of Scientology, etc.). Of one thing we can be sure: The Roman Catholic Church is the wealthiest, non-sovereign organization in the world. Its wealth is simply incalculable.

In conclusion, the Roman Catholic Church is the most successful and durable global organization of all time. And, it has the most powerful Chief Executive Officer of them all—the Pope. By way of the brand-enhancement of “infallibility” and the claim of being Vicar of Christ (which means the very replacement of Christ on earth), this CEO of the RCC is indeed powerful and can demand obedience like no other.

**Supernational Influence**

The Vatican also has diplomats that participate or act as observers in virtually every global non-governmental organization that exists. These would be too many to list in this article. For example, the Holy See has had permanent observer status at the United Nations since 1964. According to Wikipedia, “In that capacity, it has the right to attend all sessions of the United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Security Council, and the United Nations Economic and Social Council to observe their work.

Accordingly, the Holy See has established permanent observer missions in New York and in Geneva and has been able to influence the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations.” Again, interestingly, the RCC even sends participants to the Organization of Islamic Nations.

What to make of this? A religion that qualifies as a nation and a world sovereign, that also has its own currency and boasts of the extent of its real estate holdings?

**Organizational Obedience**

The success of the kingdoms (human organizational structures) of this age is dependent on obedience. However, these are all under the subjection of Satan, who Apostle Paul calls the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4). He is also similarly called the “prince of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30). His kingdom or power base is depicted as the highest of earthly mountains.

Whereas Christ has been “exalted to the highest place” in the Kingdom of God (Philippians 2:9), the world of this age is in obedience to and exalts the “god of this age.” “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

**Points to Ponder**

When Satan tried to barter for Christ’s obedience with the promise of an earthly kingdom, Jesus replied, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only’” (Matthew 4:10).

The Kingdom of God is not of this world (or age). Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place” (John 18:36).

Therefore, we are obedient to the Lord God, whose kingdom at this time is found in the hearts of men and women upon earth. “We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing” (1 Corinthians 2:6). As Daniel tells us: “Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be



handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him” (Daniel 7:27).

At a practical level, as Jesus said to the scribes, “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s” (Matthew 22:21). We are subjects of civil powers. However, as for the Christian faith, Jesus Christ said that His kingdom was not of this world. He that had not even a place to lay his head or a property to call his home (Matthew 8:20) most certainly did not lay the foundation of a world kingdom ... one that would even have its own currency.

At the same time, disobedience to God is a hallmark of the last days. Second Timothy 3:1-5 mentions that the perilous times of the last days are characterized by, among other things, “disobedience to parents” and “lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.” Not loving God is disobedience since “This is love for God: to obey his commands” (1 John 5:3).

Though living on earth, how then must we be obedient? Paul gives us a ready answer: “For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete” (2 Corinthians 10: 3-6).

#### Notes

1. <http://www.tni.org/briefing/state-power-2014>
2. Bobbitt, Philip. “How market-states can meet global challenges.” Financial Times. September 7, 2004

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To view Wilfred Hahn’s presentation at the December 2015 Pre-Trib Study Group Conference in Dallas TX, you can order the DVD here: [ORDER](https://www.timlahaye.com/products/ptsg-conference-2015-dvd-current-events-only)

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## Letters to the Editor

**READER:** [...] please take to heart what I've said here ... and simply pray about it! I too was an any moment ('Rapture' believer) and teacher, who held this belief close to heart along with my family and church going friends ... until, I started an investigation and began to examine the scriptures (in-depth) on my own, while keeping an open mind. It is one thing to believe an error, yet an entirely different thing to teach error to someone else. [...] However, in these end times I'm sure you are aware, Satan is providing all the food being fed to the world system (but sadly) also much of what millions of Christians are being taught as well? This rapture doctrine in the most dangerous teaching ever introduced into the Church: 1. Do you know when it got started? 2. Do you know where it got started? 3. Do you know how it got started? 4. Do you know who started it? 5. Do you know who carried this idea (i.e. dream) forward into making it a doctrine within the Church? 6. Do you know who was behind starting this ... and every other false teaching in the Church ... the same inanity that starts every religion in this world [...]. Brother, I love you in Christ and I don't want any blood on your hands or mine because of this false rapture notion. Please forgive me if I have offended you, that is not my intent! However it doesn't bother me (in the least) when someone challenges what I believe, because thanks be to God, I was delivered from this false rapture notion and got rid of one more of the traditions of men. — **J.R.**

**EVR: [Editor's Comment:** *We get responses to our pre-tribulation perspectives. The above is a representative response. Therefore, in this issue we deal with the “Rapture” doctrine head on. Unfortunately, we observe that a growing number of Christians are being swamped by a false perspective that the Rapture is a “new” teaching and that it was promulgated by a young woman in the 1800s by the name of Margaret MacDonald. To believe this is to deny the clear teaching of the Scriptures and to ignore the history of Christianity. This view has no pedigree of truthful scholarship ... and, frankly, is a hatchet job of the wonderful hope of the Rapture. We retort in the article entitled Why Rapture is No New Delirium which begins on the back page.]*

**READER:** What a beautiful article [Dare to Believe! The Impossibility of the Bible]. I had the pleasure of reading it on the Rapture Ready website. It always astounds me just how Almighty God works. You are driven to prove the veracity of the Bible. Years of hard work of research and study. Hats off to you, Sir. Thank the LORD for people like you. God blessed me with an instinctive belief. Then the Bible unfolded for me—like a beautiful flower. Bits and pieces, here and there. It has taken years to absorb knowledge but it has been gifted to me by the LORD using people like yourself. You do the slog. People like me are the beneficiaries. Please know that you are appreciated. I thank our LORD for researchers like yourself. The LORD has placed great trust in you. You are very blessed. As are we for having researchers like yourself. Your sister in Christ.

— **G.S.**

**EVR**

referring to mere contentedness. After all, clothing and food are both necessary. To attribute any other value to food and clothing is “pagan.”

In the modern age, lifestyle is defined by many more things than just food and clothes. To be sure, there are premium brands in clothing, top designer names, and the latest accoutrements. The same is also true for some foods. The finest wines are sought; the food brands with the highest quality and reputation are the ones that people may strive to buy.

Lifestyles today are defined by other baubles such as expensive Swiss watches, luxury cars, the latest gadgets and spacious, palatial homes and much else. To have them all is the epitome of the successful life and the trappings of elite existence.

That’s the implicit goal and value of a society of pagans. “Running after these things” is today part of a highly-sophisticated culture of branding, consumer surveys, advertising and neuro-psychological research. In this sense, though basic impulses and lusts remain much the same, there has been great change over the centuries and millennia. Here again we see evolution at work producing the Modern Pagan Man.

Viewing the massively endemic commercialization of America and other nations, it is hard to imagine that much more evolution could yet lie ahead.

**3. Concern About Tomorrow**

Societies that do not put their faith in God, by definition, must worry about the uncertainties of tomorrow. The Bible says that it should be otherwise: “But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:33-34).

This verse is connected to the two verses before (Matthew 6:31-32) which speak of pagan practices. In that context we understand that worrying about tomorrow is a “pagan” preoccupation of the “ethnos”.

These worries about the uncertainties of tomorrow have driven a monumental amount of economic and financial evolution over past decades and centuries and have clearly added to the intensity of the commercialization of human life.

The introduction of insurance services is just one such example. No doubt, the vast array of insurance products available do provide useful services. In recent decades there has also been a boom in sophisticated financial instruments that in turn have underpinned an unprecedented rise in global financial wealth. Many of these instruments are based on mathematical concepts that seek to overcome the uncertainties of tomorrow. Few people are either experts or aware of these trends in the competitive jungles of advanced economic and financial innovation. Meanwhile, back on main street, life is clearly different as a result of these many services that cater to the “uncertainties of tomorrow.”

Today, no one would think of not having life, home or auto insurance. Most would agree that it is unwise to not have an IRA or a pension to protect against the uncertainties of retirement. Just taking the few services mentioned could lead to at least 5 different purchases on a monthly installment plan. To the extent that a chronic worry about the future has led to increasing commercialization and idolatry is clearly pagan. This intensification of “worries over tomorrow” is therefore an identifier of Modern Pagan Man.

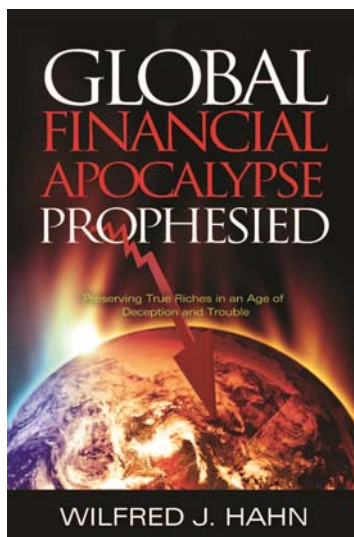
**4. Self-Indulgence and Debauchery**

The Bible clearly refers to those people who live a life of dissipation and indulgence as being pagan in character. Paul identified the Hebrews as having acted like pagans when they had parties and revelries while Moses was up on the mountain (Exodus 32). “Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: ‘The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry’” (1 Corinthians 10:7).

*[To be continued in the April issue of EVR. Based on the article: The Evolved Modern Pagan Man, January 2005, Midnight Call Magazine].*

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(the Dark Ages) no contrary opinion upon any matter was allowed other than that of the ostensibly infallible Popes (no matter how despicable and ungodly some of them may have been.) Those believers and preachers who stood up for Biblical truth were jailed, tortured and murdered. The Roman Church's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was feared. Those with Biblical views that were contrary to the "revelations" and pronouncements of the Roman Catholic Magisterium had to flee for their lives, living in obscurity or hiding. To be branded a heretic was a dangerous thing, punishable by incarceration or torture even in Protestant circles.

Is it any wonder that so little of the biblical doctrines and views of the New Testament Church survived through the Middle Ages? Instead, many biblical doctrines were obliterated and suppressed. Those who attempted to revive or restore them (often viewing the "Holy Roman Church" as the whore of Revelation 17) were persecuted. Relatively few writings or records survive of the Church outside of the Holy Roman church anywhere from the period of the 6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

History records that millions of Ana-Baptists and other groups (Protestants of various sects — Waldensians, Huguenots, claimed heretics such as the Albigenses, etc.) were slaughtered under the edict of the Popes (and countless Jews were annihilated as well). These are documentable facts.

Only later, as the Middle Ages ended, England repudiated the rule of the Popes, the Reformation occurred, and Luther, Wycliffe and Tyndale opened the Bible to the public did Biblical teachings again see the light of day and could be recorded and published.

However, crucially, these were not "new" teachings. Rather they were largely restored teachings that were based on Scripture. Amongst these was the doctrine of the Rapture.

**#3. Solid Scholarship and Proofs:** Today, we have the benefit of much scholarship on the origins of Christian doctrines. Amongst this record are the teachings of various preachers and theologians of the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (outside of the Roman Catholic church) which have been found and uncovered. Plain to see in these records is the dominance of pre-millennial interpretations of the Bible.

Moreover, there is much proof of the Rapture being taught once the systematic oppression of Christians (or those with merely opposing scriptural views) starting being gradually lifted. The Rapture view was held by some clergy centuries before the alleged "trance revelations" of Margaret MacDonald. The promotion of this "trance" allegation is a "hatchet job" as far as scholarly evidence is concerned.

Today, we can say with confidence that the trance allegations of the "anti-Rapture" crowd have been thoroughly debunked and invalidated based on scholarship. We can recommend sound scholarly works proving the views expressed here. A recent "light bearer" work is the book entitled Dispensationalism Before Darby by Dr. William C. Watson (published by Lampion Press). This book is full of quotes of the dispensationalist perspectives of many pastors,

theologians and churchmen from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Also, a very readable and compelling response to the Rapture "expungers" is published in the January/February 2016 issue of the Lamplighter magazine (published by Lamb & Lions Ministry). This ministry, founded by Dr. David Reagan, is amongst the most respected and princely of sound Bible apologists and proclaimers of the Lord's soon-coming return. You can access this excellent magazine at this [link](#).

**#4. Logic and Apologetics:** There are many excellent books available on the doctrine of the Rapture. As such, as already mentioned, we can hardly do credit to this body of work ... especially so in such a short article. Students of the entire Bible (Old and New Testaments) can sense in their spirit God's divine plan behind the Rapture. It is in alignment with the entirety of the Bible. God always called out and preserved the believing remnant before he unleashed His wrath (the family of Noah, Lot). Why then, would the Church (what He calls His Bride) be allowed to be utterly slaughtered under the justice of his Wrath.

Indeed, God disciplines and reproves those whom He loves. As Peter says, "For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household" (1 Peter 4:17). But, he also says in this same passage: "[...] if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?". The treatment of the Church and those who "do not obey" are not one and the same.

We have recently completed a 5-part series called Anxiety Merchants and False Prophets [*the first part of which will be published in the February issue of the Midnight Call. You can read it at this [link](#) when it is published.*] In these articles, we present the point that ALL Christians will be killed in the Tribulation Period.

None who refuse to take the mark and worship the beast (Revelation 20:4) will survive. Contrary to the Bible, if one presumes that Christians will not be "[...] caught up together [...] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air [...]" (1 Thessalonians 4:17) then what "blessed hope" is there (Titus 2:13)?

To the contrary, says Jesus Christ to the Philadelphian church, "I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth" (Revelation 3:10).

This writer sometimes struggles with the concept of grace. As such, the Partial Rapture Theory can appear logical. Why? It naturally just doesn't seem just that Jesus Christ would rapture all Christians though hardly any of them could be as worthy as perhaps Elijah and Enoch of the Old Testament who were also raptured. But, if the Lord saves us "while we are yet in sin" (Romans 5:8) through grace, then the Rapture is equally likely and equally undeserved for last-day Christians.

In conclusion, today, the attacks against the Rapture (excepting on the basis of scriptural evidence) can be ignored. Most arguments are fallacious ... and sometimes mendacious. ALL last-day Christians are both saved and raptured by grace!





## Personal Perspective

### Why Rapture is No New Delirium

Whenever we mention that we are pre-millennial, pre-tribulational, and — absurdities of all absurdities — believe in the doctrine of the Rapture, we receive responses. For several reasons, to date we generally have not entangled ourselves in this issue. But, apparently, according to the responses we receive, to believe that a Rapture will occur brands one as “low brow”, “gullible”, and “escapist.”

If anything, it seems that a spirit of derisiveness as well as smugness is becoming more prevalent. Nevertheless, over the years we have observed that the “no Rapture” proponents apparently feel unsettled with Rapture-believers. We receive letters from supposedly well-meaning people who would like to convert us — some even want to “deliver” us! — to a post- or mid-tribulation perspective.

Interestingly, most of these respondents will agree that any differences in our perspectives are nothing over which to lose fellowship, as long as both parties are pre-millennial. Yet, for some reason, they still want to disprove the Rapture view, though it is not a “salvation issue.”

Conversely, those who hold the Rapture view do not feel it an imperative to expunge the world of Rapture naysayers. As mentioned, it is not a salvation issue. The Rapture believer knows that the non-Rapture-believing Christian is given salvation through grace as anyone else, and moreover, will be taken up in the Rapture even while they remain doubters. So why “proselytize” them to the Rapture view, other than to gain the blessing of a full Biblical alignment of one’s views?

While not every variant of doctrine threatens one’s salvation, every deviation from Biblical truth does have its price.

We wonder why there is such an opposition to the Rapture view. Just what spirit — or irritation — is behind these attacks? The range of counter arguments and viewpoints range from the thoughtful to pure vitriol.

It would be fine to debate the Rapture doctrine based upon Biblical exegesis. However, increasingly it seems that Rapture-deniers resort to mostly unfounded and unbalanced allegations. They have not come to their opinion by way of “scholarly” study, but rather shallow anti-Rapture propaganda.

Recently, a friend (with an evangelical background and who was raised with the Rapture expectation) rather suddenly changed his mind, announcing to me that he no longer believes in the Rapture. I was curious what was behind this “conversion.” Apparently, he had swallowed the argument that it was a “new” doctrine, supposedly popularized by a delusional young woman named Margaret MacDonald in the 1800s. This couldn’t be further from the truth in many

respects. To fall for such a shallow falsehood is to ignore Scripture and the full history of the Christian church.

This writer may be amongst the least credible apologists to present a case for the Rapture; however, we have certainly consulted and read many solid “dispensationalist” books and arguments supporting this view. As such, we supplement our brief response here by borrowing from pedigreed scholars. Anyone expounding on the Rapture, pro or con, should decide for themselves on the following four points.

**#1. Back to the Source:** Firstly, we must begin with the document that is claimed to be all sufficient for teaching, rebuking and admonishing (2 Timothy 3:16). Its truth towers far above that of all other documents in the world. The Rapture doctrine finds its source in Scripture. Nowhere else. Not only is it spoken of specifically, it is also foreshadowed and deductive, based on the character of God himself. The doctrine of the Rapture must stand on the Bible “full stop.” The view of any church father, Pope, or entranced young girl cannot add any credence nor pedigree to what Scripture has said. As it is, a so-called church father can be found and quoted to support almost any theological view. We may have our favourites, but quoting them adds nothing proof-worthy to this main point — the Rapture is a scriptural doctrine.

**#2. Context: The History of the Church:** Rapture doubters often claim that a teaching cannot be true because it is alleged to be “new” ... i.e. perhaps something popularized over the last several centuries. This argument is not valid for a number of reasons. For one, it ignores church history; and secondly, it ignores the very warnings of the Bible. Early on — more than 2,000 years ago — Christians were already warned about false doctrines and that deceivers would creep in unawares. This was clearly an issue already during the time of the apostles themselves (See 2 Timothy 3:8, 4:3; 2 Peter 2:1-3).

Once the apostles had passed on, the dilution of the gospel happened rapidly. Over the course of a few centuries, many false doctrines (driven by an “anti-christ spirit”) became embedded in various teachings. The pagan-infused empire of the Holy Roman Church eventually became a full-fledged apostate religious system. As the 1,000 pound religious and state-sponsored gorilla, it oppressed any and all that would differ with its doctrines or disrespect its authority.

Once Constantine (the 4th century Roman emperor) adopted Christianity as the state religion, the Roman Catholic Church eventually became a regal earthly power, abrogating to itself even sovereignty and the role of the vicarious presence of Christ upon earth. Fallaciously claiming that Apostle Peter was its founder, it nevertheless chose to not heed even one statement of Peter’s found in the Bible.

Throughout the centuries of Roman Catholic dominance

... continued on page 11

