



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

Issue 2, Volume 15

"For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times."

APRIL 2012

FEATURE REPORT

Age of Celebrity: Eternity Abandoned for Fleeting Immortality

Every year *Forbes* publishes its list of the top 100 celebrities. The magazine's 2011 tally of America's top celebrities provided the most recent snapshot of this ever-changing world of fame and fortune. No doubt, some of these people would be recognizable to readers.

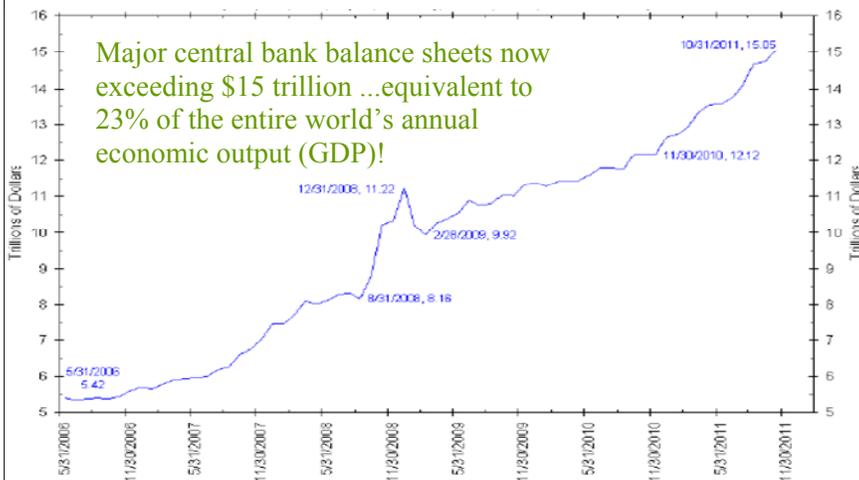
The latest top 100 contenders collectively earned \$4.5 billion in 2010 (an average of \$45 million each). Some of them are newcomers to the list, such as Justin Bieber, the young 17-year-old heartthrob crooner who ranked third. Others are long-time entertainers such as Oprah Winfrey (ranked second, who is estimated to have earned \$290 million in 2010 and has a reputed net worth of over \$3 billion). There can be no doubt: Celebrity is big business.

The recent book entitled *Celebrity, Inc.: How Famous People Make Money* by Jo Piazza (a former gossip columnist with the *New York Times*) examines the competitive and facile nature of the world of celebrity. Quoting the author on what she names the "Hollywood Industrial Complex": "[It is] an internecine web of businesses, all working to create value from everything a celebrity does. It includes agents, managers, and publicists, each in their own way creating new business models and revenue streams for the complex's front line—the celebrities themselves. These individuals are constantly working to monetize everything in a celebrity's life."

But what really is this concept of celebrity that is so revered in our world? Just who qualifies to be a celebrity today? What is its purpose and benefit? We need to examine this phenomenon further. The answers to these questions provide some revealing observations about our times.

... continued on page 3

Confidence Game: 8 Global Central Banks' Balance Sheets US, ECB, China, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Switzerland—\$ Trillions



Source: Jim Bianco

"[...] justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey." — **Isaiah 59:14-15**

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WORLD MONEY UPDATE

Global Money Trickery & Malfeasance

A major secular "worldwide" turning point has been playing out across the world, having begun sometime in the 1980 to 1990 period, then progressing and cumulating to the breaking point in 2008-2009. There were numerous actors and influences that played a role; however, it is important to remain clear-eyed about these developments, to view them as a whole, and to understand their potential impact. They are momentous. You must understand that we are living in truly unprecedented times, with the scale and scope of developments so large, few can grasp their import.

At present, we continue to remain within the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and it is not yet 100% certain how the ultimate scenarios will unfold from here. There are, however, really only two main ultimate scenarios: 1. High indebtedness becoming inflated away versus income levels; or 2. rolling debt defaults, deflation and slumping economies.

... continued on next page

The fact that cannot be denied is that for the advanced nations as a whole, the tipping point of unsustainably high indebtedness arrived in 2008-2009. It signalled the end of the post-WWII period of economic and financial prosperity. A completely new phase has emerged which is far from having run its full course. Analysts will be misled should they continue to process data through the blinkers of post-WWII averages trends and developments. We have pointed out numerous times in our reports that virtually all of the underlying causal factors of the halcyon post-WWII economic boom period have halted or reversed.

Given the general depressants of over-indebtedness, uncompetitiveness, aging populations, and still-sinking residential real estate prices in many countries around the world, the best outcomes one can hope for are periodic rallies of economic growth and flashes of consumer confidence. That indeed qualifies as a mark of this era. The financial and economic outlook, both domestic and global, remains tentative and dependent upon the confidence-boosting measures of governments, monetary authorities and transnational agencies. It is a sad state of affairs when manipulations of “confidence” ... in other words, confidence games ... are the main hope.

Policymakers have been striving to reverse the natural deleveraging pressures that follow such pivotal debt-induced turning points. Effectively, large parts of the global banking system have been quasi-nationalized.

The current monetary policy of expanding central bank balance sheets as a means of rescuing the banking system is virtually without precedent. It is crucial to realize how large, reckless and desperate the actions of the world's central banks have been of late. Consider that about half of the bonds issued by the US, UK and the eurozone since 2008 have been acquired by the Federal Reserve, the Bank of England or the European Central Bank.

The eight largest central banks have inflated their balance sheets to greater than \$15 trillion (as of October

2011), roughly representing a tripling in size since 2006. Just how big is this? It is equivalent to 23% of the world's entire economic output (GDP). It continues to rise rapidly. Do observers not realize that this can never be reversed?

Although central banks may state that they intend to extricate themselves from these policies at their earliest convenience, it will not happen. Ultimately, their actions will serve to undermine monetary integrity. If such supposedly-august institutions are allowed to be so deceptive and dishonest, it should be no surprise that all of society has been heading down this same relativistic slope. As the Bible says, “Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes prey” (Isaiah 59:15).

As a consequence of these and other actions, the time value of money has virtually collapsed. History likely will indict today's policymakers as either corrupt or inept. Real interest rates (adjusted for inflation) are negative, with this burden falling heavily upon the income-dependent elderly. Moreover, various central banks have announced their expectation that interest rates will remain low into 2014.

You can be sure that massive malformation and malinvestment will be and is occurring over this period. In the meantime, the accumulation of sovereign indebtedness continues. In the case of the US, it will likely report its largest budget deficit in history for this past fiscal year.

Yes, societies are in the good hands of policymakers, central bankers and politicians. Piero Carolo Padoan, a former official from the International Monetary Fund and current Chief Economist of the OECD, recently stated that “the global outlook is still largely dependent upon policy action.” These may not offer long-term solutions or repairs, but at least offer the assurance that short-term liquidity crises might be delayed, particularly in Europe's financial sector, much of which is insolvent.

But was it not similar policy actions that led the world to this desperate point to begin with?

For the first time in 60 years, an advanced nation — a member of the rich-country club of the OECD — has defaulted on its debt. This was Greece and it is a bellwether that there will be more ... perhaps many more country defaults. As the chart shows on the opposite page, past debt turning points usually played out in as many as three successive crises. We may soon be entering the second phase of the current GFC. Of course, policymakers are loathe to admit this and moreover must deny such possibilities.

The “spin” machine is already in frenetic motion in Europe. According to Wolfgang Schäuble, there is “not the tiniest hope that other nations would restructure their debt” (FT, March 9, 2012). Elsewhere, according to statements of the Bank of Japan, one must “clearly recognize and explain to the public that central bank bond purchases are not for the purpose of monetization.” Past history clearly shows that all central banks that have pursued this course, always intended at the outset to return



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the stolen cookies to the jar. Moreover there has been an unnerving inverse correlation between future outcomes and the statements of policymakers.

Yet, globally, credit creation (based on private sector activities) is now turning over. This is occurring from China to America to Europe and is a negative influence upon both economic growth and financial market valuations. It must be noted that despite the huge interventions of the US Fed, the US Shadow Banking System continues to shrink (15 consecutive quarters running from \$20.9 trillion to \$15.1 trillion.) This is a deflationary influence on both economic growth and financial asset valuations.

Fraud and corruption are widespread and complicity extends to the highest levels. Rapacious capitalism is widely admired as “cunningness” and “business acumen.” To top it all off we have this development: After all the monetary sorcery that has been witnessed over recent years (none of it ensuring recovery, but rather an ultimate financial apocalypse of either a massive debt depreciation or deflationary default scenario), central bank leaders are now being lauded as world saviors. Their dubious alchemy (contributing to an ultimate systemic, pandemic financial breakdown) is being celebrated for its temporary buoying effects. The Atlantic Magazine recently profiled a highly-flattering account of Ben Bernanke. Mario Draghi, the head of the European Central Bank, has been similarly feted.

We have reached the point where the largest macro risks ever known in advance by the policymaking and financial community are being complacently ignored. It could be said that we know the known problems as perhaps never before. Any sentient person knows that one cannot print wealth and create money out of thin air to cover past debts and malformations. Yet, we see a collective will to endorse bogus solutions. In this there is an implied collusion; there is an agreed-upon complicity.

Social unrest can only escalate. Short-term gamesmanship rules. We must be wise to the epic scale of the story our times. It is a globally-intertwined saga of humanistic beliefs, religion and desperation as never before. We must see this relative to history ... both past and unfolding. There is no question that the “historicity” of current global developments is indeed epic. We would even say it is of Biblical significance. [We invite readers to order our most recent book which provides the basis for that statement. Please see page 4 for more details.]

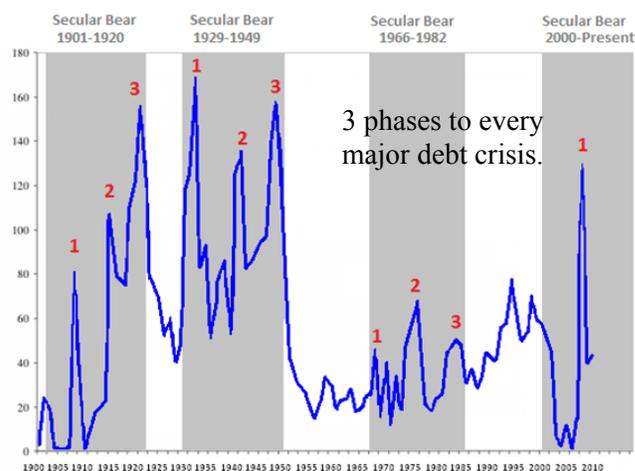
What about the US ? Changes in sentiment and worldwide consensus have been extreme over the past three to four years. It is worth remembering that the US was

considered to be the global pariah — and an apologetic one at that — throughout 2009 and 2010. It was widely accused of financial alchemy and as the “ground zero” of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC). Japan, at the time, despite its massive debts, was considered a safe haven. Less than two years later, the tables have turned. Europe (specifically the eurozone) is the global pariah. Japan is no longer considered a safe haven as it may have hit its “turning point.” Moreover, it is expected that more chaos will ensue in Europe. What next? Anything is possible. It should not be surprising that in due time, the US will again take a turn in the spotlight of crisis.

EVR

Rogoff & Reinhart BCDI Crisis Composite Index

(Banking + Currency + Default + Inflation + Stock Crash)



Source: Rogoff & Reinhart: This Time is Different.

Age of Celebrity:

... cont'd from page 1

Worldwide fame will one day again have a purer focus. The day will come where “No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected” (Isaiah 32:5, NIV).

The Rich and Famous

To be rich, you do not need to be famous. However, if you can become famous, you will certainly have an easier means of becoming rich. A review of the *Forbes* list prompts some observations. For example, why is it that the president of the United States (this person being the head of the most powerful country in the world) did not qualify for the rarefied company of the list? In fact, not one of the selected top 100 celebrities solved world hunger, discovered a serum that would end cancer, or brought world peace. Yet, celebrities are famous, held in awe, and chased by the paparazzi, holding people in thrall to simply gain a glimpse of them.

The entire *Forbes* list, as far as we can tell, is comprised of entertainers, sports stars and authors. The most numerous group on the list was singers. This may explain why so many people are smitten with the idea of attaining stardom by becoming a popular singer. There are currently numerous “reality” TV shows that seek to identify the next

Wilfred’s Itinerary: The Mulberry Ministry

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star singer, the most popular of these being *American Idol*. Hundreds of thousands of people clamor to audition for these shows. The producers of these programs apparently believe that they are doing America a great service by finding the next star.

In reality, the *Forbes* list provides a rather narrow American view of celebrity. The criteria for making this list include earning levels and the number of press clippings, TV and radio appearances, front magazine covers, and, of course, Internet hits. While we may conclude that fame today has very little to do with the greater world good, intelligence or, in fact, any real talent, it also embraces a much wider phenomenon than just entertainment. To be famous is simply to be known by many people, whether for good, bad, virtuous or immoral deeds. In fact, to be infamous is to be famous. Anything is acceptable as long as it achieves the “15 minutes of fame” popularized by Andy Warhol’s statement in the 1960s, “In the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes.”

Today, the vain hope of countless millions is that the god of ephemeral celebrity—though entirely capricious and brutal—will cast his favor upon them. Perhaps an uploaded YouTube video could go “viral” (attracting the attention of millions of people as with Justin Bieber). Popular culture today is indeed taken up with the eternally-worthless distractions of “amusement” and “celebrities.” The topics of truth, eternity, and the knowledge of the Lord have taken a distant backseat.

Quest for Fleeting Immortality

The wide influence of “celebrity” and “fame” today is a mark of our era. While since the dawn of history some people will have been more famous than others, “fame” and “celebrity” was never the prime object of titillation and business that it is today. In times past, people would become famous (and/or feared) by virtue of their noteworthy deeds.

The Bible frequently uses the term “fame” when describing various people mentioned in the Old Testament. For example, “So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land” (Joshua 6:27). We read of Solomon that “his fame spread to all the surrounding nations” (1 Kings 4:31). Also, “[...] David’s fame spread throughout every land, and the LORD made all the nations fear him” (1 Chronicles 14:17).

Of course, were there no humans, there could be no celebrity nor fame. It is partly the phenomenon of being known by many people that creates celebrity, and to that end, modern technology has enabled its increase. Today, following the invention of photography and through the means of many new media and communications platforms, people can become famous overnight. Some theorize that this all started with the spread of newspapers ... for example, the first mass-audience newspaper launched in 1833, the *New York Sun*. Its innovation was to sell advertising, thereby reducing the cost of the newspaper and

making it affordable for a wider audience. Now, the “ears and eyes” of a greater audience could feed the rise of great “fame.”

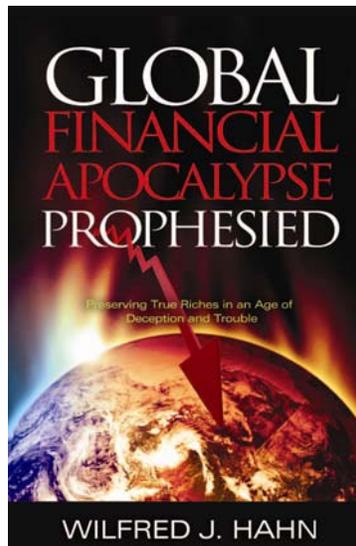
According to a study published by the University of Warwick, the modern “cult of celebrity” can be traced back further to 18th century Britain. Then, a massive increase in the number of newspapers gave rise to the public persona, whether in life or death. Actually, this began with the popularization of the obituary. Quoting Dr. Elizabeth Barry, the author of the study, “The big change was the founding of *The Gentleman’s Magazine*, which was a secular publication, and from the 1730s onward it starts publishing obituaries of a really wide section of society.” For instance, the magazine would print obituaries of actresses and eccentrics who were then famous as much for their questionable private lives as for their public lives. As such, people from all walks of life could now become famous. This also began an era in which criminals started to become famous.

Global Power of Fame and Celebrity

Just as money systems are being centralized worldwide today as never before and wealth is falling into the clutches of an ever-smaller circle, so is celebrity. It also has become a global phenomenon. An ever-smaller number of people attract the mass attention of the world; celebrity itself is becoming more concentrated.

But a world without Biblical values is likely to give its affections and adoration to “celebrities” of an undeserving variety. The Bible is much more selective as to who is deserving of “glory.” After all, there is no direct correlation between celebrity and the merits of righteous fame and glory. Never does the Bible extol “fame” as an objective; fame is only a state and not an assessment of character or righteousness. The world, on the other hand, tends to

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Signs of the Times

presume that if someone is famous, that this alone is sufficient affirmation of their worthiness.

If anything, the Bible teaches us to be motivated by something other than fame. Rather than being oriented to the approval of humanity, we are to look to God. Paul illustrated this perspective, saying, “Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ” (Galatians 1:10). No, in whatever we do, we do it not for the approval of the masses. We are admonished that “[...] whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him” (Colossians 3:17).

Thoughts to Ponder

Fame is treacherous for more than one reason. In the Old Testament, we learn how Israel misused its fame. “But you trusted in your beauty and used your fame to become a prostitute. You lavished your favors on anyone who passed by and your beauty became his” (Ezekiel 16:15).

The Bible speaks of a world in the last days that is smitten with self-love and fame. Says Paul, “[...] in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful [...], conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (2 Timothy 3:1-2, 4).

That the world would come to such a point of delusion that it would refuse to recognize the one and only true God—the Creator of all—and instead worship the Antichrist (the vessel of the Devil himself) is an indication of its perversions with respect to fame and worship. Says the Bible, “And all the inhabitants of the earth will fall down in adoration and pay him homage, everyone whose name has not been recorded in the Book of Life of the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8, AMP).

Aldous Huxley foresaw just how such lunacy could come about, saying, “Assemble a mob of men and women previously conditioned by a daily reading of newspapers; treat them to amplified band music, bright lights ... and in next to no time you can reduce them to a state of almost mindless sub-humanity. Never before have so few been in a position to make fools, maniacs, or criminals of so many” (*The Devils of Loudun*, 1952).

It is God alone that is deserving of fame. In fact, God seeks to make a name for Himself. “And who is like your people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your people, whom you redeemed from Egypt?” (2 Samuel 7:23; see also 1 Chronicles 17:21, Ezekiel 39:7).

“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done” (Psalm 105:1). The day will yet come when the entire world will acknowledge that: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12). **EVR**

End Times and Plutocracy

“An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics.”—
Plutarch 46 – 120 AD.

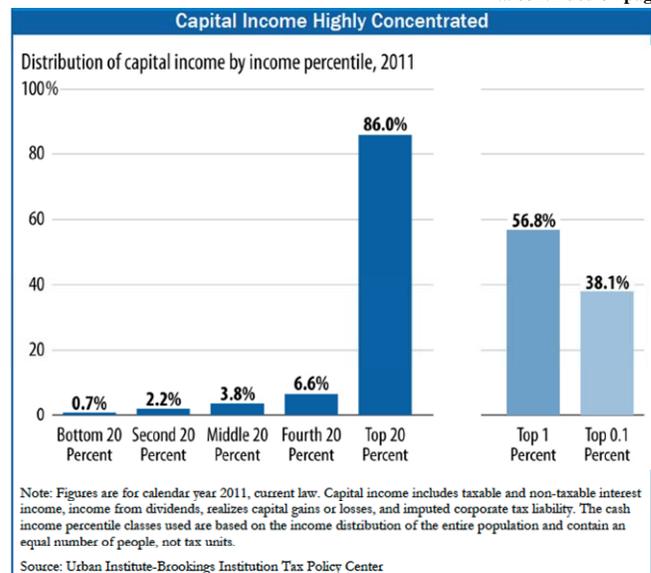
This observation by Plutarch, the Greek historian and philosopher, likely now applies world-wide rather than to within one particular country. Imbalances of wealth in the world are possibly more extreme than at any point in history. While this would be difficult to prove conclusively, it is true that global wealth imbalances are now worse than at any other time in recorded modern history. This condition has played a contributing role in the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), the effects of which continue to ripple throughout the world.

As we always point out, the necessary counterpart to high indebtedness is an imbalanced wealth distribution. It is impossible to have one without the other. It facilitates the process of the wealthy becoming wealthier, meaning that a greater portion of overall wealth is being accumulated by an ever-smaller number of holders.

Wealth accumulation has been greater than is popularly perceived (this must be the case, after all, given the huge rise in indebtedness). Why? Most surveys focus on income disparities rather than wealth, assuming that the two are correlated. This is true; however, it is the concentration of capital income (i.e. capital gains, interest and dividends and not employment income) that is the biggest contributor to the growing wealth skew. (*See the graph below.*)

Among a number of statements in the Bible that suggest growing elitism in the last days, we see the prophecy of rising wealth imbalances in James 5:1-6 as the most irrefutable. “Now listen, you rich people [...]. You have hoarded wealth in the last days” (James 5:1,3).

... continued on page 6



Endtimes and Plutocracy

... cont'd from page 5

The concentrated accumulation of wealth finally clashed with its handmaiden, high indebtedness. The point finally arrived — as was always inevitable — at which such high and increasing levels of debt could no longer be supported by the ever-poorer segments of populations. It is therefore not surprising that it is increasingly alleged that a plutocracy is emerging in the world, including within the United States. What is plutocracy? Quoting Wikipedia, it is a word that derives “from Ancient Greek *ploutos*, meaning ‘wealth’, and *kratos*, meaning ‘power rule’.” Plutocracy therefore means rule by the wealthy. The combination of both plutocracy and oligarchy is called plutarchy.

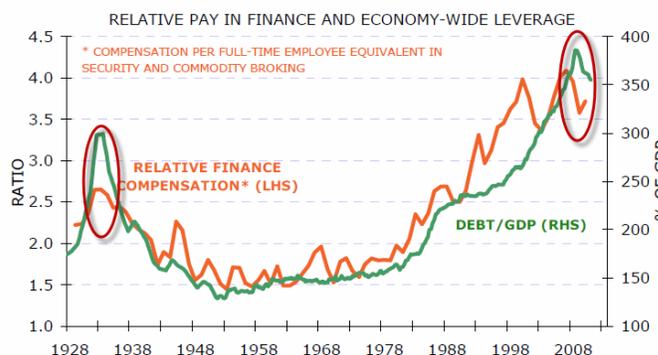
We are not so much interested in the economic or political viewpoints on plutarchy (or plutocracy) but rather the Bible’s perspectives. There, we are more likely to find a balanced treatment of this otherwise sensitive topic. Not only does the Bible lay out preventive measures against plutocracies (*Please see our 3-part Jubileum series from the past year for an in-depth examination of this topic. Part I can be found [here](#).*), but it also reveals end time prophecies. And, as always, anything to do with prophecy involves the Jews and/or Israel in some way.

We must also warn that the association between the word plutocracy and Jews has a sordid history. For example, to the Nazis of the early 20th century in Europe, “plutocracy” was a code word for Jews. Britain and America were considered plutocracies because Jews were prospering in those countries. An Internet search of the word plutocracy leaves no doubt, bringing up numerous anti-Semitic articles. These hateful perspectives are not just limited to uneducated people, but span all of society.

Why? For his purposes, God continues to carry out his plans for his people the Jews. It remains the era of the Gentiles and therefore the age-old cycle born of a “separate people,” the “love of money” and persecution continues. In times past, outbreaks of persecution were a phenomenon that played out repeatedly at the country level, for example in Spain, Poland, Russia and Germany. The Bible says that a period of persecution of the Jews will break out at least one more time. That time it will be global, also involving the land of Israel. Unfortunately, many churches that claim to be Christian in name, aid and abet this development due to their denial of Scripture. They choose to ignore the hundreds of Bible prophecy verses that declare the yet-glorious future of the Jews.

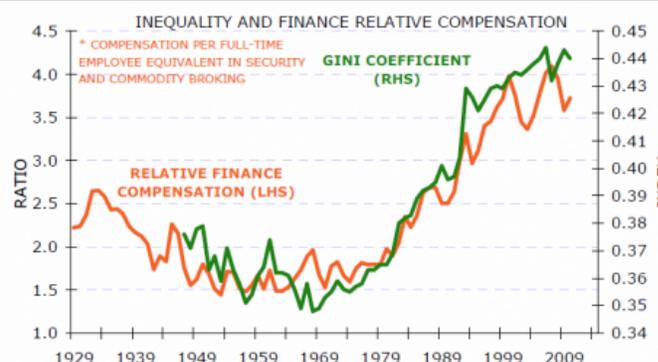
Focusing upon America (which harbors the world’s largest population of the diaspora Jews), it must be noted that Wall Street is now in increasingly unpopular and hated. The Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement is just one example of this growing sentiment. Firms such as Goldman Sachs are despised. Recently, a former executive of this firm publicly exposed this company’s culture as being destructive and predatory. The rise of the complex of “money manager capitalism” and the “financial alchemy” of the entire financial industry is being associated with America’s ills of

Banker Boom



Source: BEA, Federal Reserve, Morgan Stanley Research

Correlated Lop-sidedness



Source: BEA, Morgan Stanley Research

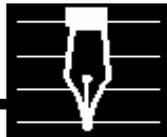
concentrated wealth and the stagnating incomes of the middle and lower classes. Counter movements are voicing their protests — rightly or wrongly.

The two graphs shown above display the correlation between the rising incomes in the financial sector and the rising wealth skew in America. The implication is that the financial sector is responsible for an emerging plutocracy in the U.S. as well as in other countries. According to one analyst, “the rising relative pay of finance has been correlated with the growing income inequality, at least in the U.S.” While there definitely is a connection, the reality is that this phenomenon is much more complex and involves the complicity of the greater part of society.

But facts rarely get in the way of an expedient story or anti-Semitism. On Wall Street, Goldman Sachs is particularly reviled. Why? Quoting the Atlantic Wire, “Messrs. Goldman and Sachs, who founded the firm in the nineteenth century, were Jewish, as have been most of its partners since then, almost all of its leaders, and its current CEO (Lloyd Blankfein). It was founded because Jews were excluded from other firms. At this point Goldman is a publicly traded stock that anybody may own, and probably most of its employees are not Jewish. (Just as Jews are more than welcome at “gentile” firms like Morgan Stanley).”¹

The above quote reveals a more balanced perspective. However, when times get tough, society and its politicians have usually seized upon hatred and convenient scapegoats.

1. <http://www.theatlanticwire.com/national/2010/01/how-to-think-about-jewish-bankers/25689/> **EVR**



Letters to the Editor

READER: Dear Sir, [Re: “Demonization: Bankers & Jews?”, EVR February 2012] It is a relief to see someone standing up for the Jewish people. So many say they aren’t anti-Semitic, but then keep their mouths shut when others disparage them. If we Christians think we can stand aside while the Jewish people are once again attacked, we are fools. We sink or swim together ... we are adopted into their family ... not vice-versa. If we wish to be part of Abraham’s family ... we need to start behaving like family members! End of story. The Jewish people understand money better than most not because they were forced into banking ... though they were. They understand it because the concept of money in the Torah is: Money is a symbol of “our service to others.” The roots of the words explain the conceptual link in Jewish thought. It’s when we drift from that concept and begin to love the symbol over the service to others that we lose our way. (“Love of the symbol, Money, is the root of Evil.”) The Puritan/ Mennonite/ Moldovan/ Huguenot communities of our founding populations here in America understood that fact and the simple linguistic meaning of the statement you quoted. People who are taught Hebrew as children find it easy to understand. Too bad Hebrew wasn’t made the national Language as well as English. It started out that way in New England. We might have had a more intelligent general population if all people had been moved by necessity to be bilingual in those 2 languages. Maybe ... you never know. It would be a less gullible one at least. We in America need to get back to our foundational biblical-Torah knowledge, or we’ll continue to be made fools by Evil. The Old Testament is just one leg of God’s Wisdom ... the New, the other. God’s People need both legs to stand on. Too many Christians overlook the Old ... and thus only vaguely understand the New. Too many Jews overlook the Torah-Tanakh, and focus only on the Talmud. And thus ... the evil-one wins. — **L.B.**

READER: I just finished reading your article, “Demonization: Bankers and Jews”. I certainly agree that all Jews must not be demonized but we must beware of “those which say they are Jews, but are not” (Revelations 2:9, 3:9). Satan is very busy here on earth and he has plenty of henchmen to help him. While we cannot demonize all Jews, we also cannot put on blinders just because someone claims to be a Jew. Just as Christ has followers from all different ethnic groups, so does the Evil One. — **A.R.**

EVR: We do not have a definitive opinion as to who exactly is being identified in the reference to Jews found in the Book of Revelation. In any case, we agree that “there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23-24).

READER: I really like your articles and agree with most of them. I would like to see you write an article detailing what will befall the money institutions and the economic results of what will happen after the Rapture. What will happen

economically and monetarily to the U.S. and the world after millions upon millions disappear? — **R.N.**

EVR: Thank you for the suggestion. That said, in the past we have written on this topic at least in part. Here are the links: What Chance a Global Financial Apocalypse Now - [Part I](#) and [Part II](#). Also, a presentation on this topic can be found here: [Global Collapse](#). These articles deal with the Bible prophecies that describe the end time collapse of the global “political economy” and different types of end time wealth transfers. In the future, we will plan to write specifically on the topic you suggested.

READER: I love your articles that I read on [www.RaptureReady.com](#). Thanks for getting the “love of money is a root of ‘all kinds of evil’” right instead of ‘of all evil’ like so many who quote it erroneously. I would only fault you for saying that the “force of gravity” pulls things down. Einstein has proven there is no such “force” (remember his happy thoughts — gedanken experiments — one of which is that a person falling in an elevator feels no force) ... space is curved (general theory of relativity). — **S.K.E.**

EVR: We still are inclined to side with the physicists who would assert that there are attractive forces generated by bodies of mass. To us flat-footed humans living on the surface of the earth, it’s gravity that keeps us there. Whatever the case, we agree that the world is falling down the proverbial “elevator shaft.”

READER: I am a coin collector and have been for years. I have invested a lot in gold and silver coins and bars. Do you think this is a poor investment and should I move out to some other investment for my retirement five years from now? Thank you. — **T.R.**

EVR: We are very sorry to disappoint on this question. We do not give specific investment advice in this letter. Rather, our focus is exclusively upon “straight news and views on stewardship, financial trends and end time economics.” We try to keep it to the “Biblical” and the “world macro view”; we have observed this limitation since the outset. Why? Given our specific ministry objectives, we need to retain our independence. Money and ministry about “global end time money trends” don’t mix in our view. The only religions we have observed to succeed as a profit model have been false ones. Or, if business or investment advice is given in the name of Christianity that involves the pursuit of money, you can be sure that someone’s expectations will not be met ... at least eventually. We realize that there is a great need for stewardship advice but what we also know without a doubt is that the intersection of money and mankind is the most treacherous of any on earth. Either one serves Mammon or God (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). There is nothing in between, nor can one worship both. Keeping this straight and being vigilant about the constant entreaties and temptations of Mammon is a lifelong task. It never ends. In this regard, we ourselves have failed many times. Therefore, we also do not accept donations, as our goal is to provide our online publications freely, following the example of Christ who gave freely. “To the thirsty I will give water

without cost from the spring of the water of life” (Revelation 21:6). This was foretold by Isaiah: “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.” Money had nothing to do with it. We will continue to strive to focus *EVR* upon Biblical worldviews, without the added difficulties stemming from the “divining” of investment trends.

READER #1: What are your thoughts on Zionism? Some Torah Jews believe that Israel in its present state was not in God’s plan to restore His people but a conspiracy of atheistic Zionists to steal land from the Arabs in order to pave the way for the Antichrist. It is part of a global conspiracy involving the CIA, Illuminati, etc. Thanks. — **J.C. READER #2:** I have found a map on the internet. It is reputed to be an Illuminati/New World Order depiction of how the world would ultimately be separated into 10 “nations.” I do not know if you have seen it, but if not, I wanted to bring it to your attention and ask your opinion of its possible accuracy. God Bless your work. — **D.B.**

EVR: We are replying to the two previous questions together as they both refer to conspiracy theories. Frankly, we don’t spend much time on these types of allegations, considering most of them speculative distractions. Every time we say this, however, we get heated responses. Allow us a little license here, as our reply is somewhat off topic. There certainly are all kinds of conspiracies in the world, lesser and greater. But there are also untold other sins too. It is puzzling why so many people are fixated on the sin of conspiracy. Why not chase down prostitutes and publicly expose them? Why not hunt down witches and name them in the local newspaper? None of these would be missions endorsed in the Bible. We are to live our lives as a testimony to Christ and witness the Good News; it is not our job to condemn anyone. Rather than pointing fingers at misguided and lost people who are engaging in conspiracies and oppression, we should pray for their salvation. In many cases, a study of the Bible alone will refute specific conspiracy theories. For example, there is no doubt that there will be a coalition of 10 kings some day that will give their authority to the Antichrist. The Bible teaches this plainly. Just what nations will they represent? As of this point, any answer would be sheer speculation. Also, the Bible teaches that Israel will again be restored in its historical homeland — Eretz Israel — and once this process begins, it will not prove a false start. God prophesied it in advance, claiming “Who has ever heard of such things? Who has ever seen things like this? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? Yet no sooner is Zion in labor than she gives birth to her children” (Isaiah 66:8). [Please also see the article in this issue: “Prophecy: Right- or Wrong-Headed?” which makes additional comments about the 10 kings.]

READER: I read your article, “Europe & Germany in Prophecy: Are the Armstrongites Right?”. Where are Assyria and Egypt mentioned in Rev. 17:10? One should always examine the Scriptures for oneself to test all views, whether from the Philadelphia Church of God Trumpet or

EVR or any other publication. This is true. Anyone can guess at what some verses mean. Their theory, your theory, or my theory may all be wrong, but they cannot all be right. I have been taught all my life that the Bible is talking about Rome. But about 20 years ago, I finally read the Book from start to finish. I did not find one verse that says Rome is the bad guy of the end time. It seems to me that you are doing just the same thing as the Armstrong group has done. If one takes Daniel 2 and reads it carefully, you may come to see that Rome is not mentioned and that the fourth empire is not named. — **R.R.**

EVR: We accept your challenge for the proofs behind our opinions. That said, kudos to you if you are able to “finally read the Book from front to finish” and so easily draw such emphatic conclusions as you state on such complicated matters. The Book of Revelation was never meant to open up so effortlessly, nor for that matter Daniel 2 and a substantial amount of other prophecy in the Bible. The fact is that the Bible, though it is a compilation of 66 separate books, is one cohesive, inter-connected document. It does not give up all of its deeper-hidden pearls very easily, choosing instead to reward those that diligently seek. Some things in the Bible are deductive. Though things may not be identified by name, this does not mean that they do not exist. For example, the Trinity is never named. Does that invalidate this concept? Much Bible prophecy certainly falls into this same category. Of the hundred and more prophecies about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, not one mentions his civil name in advance. Yet, he did come and fulfilled many of these prophecies (others yet in the future). You claim that no names of the kings are mentioned in Revelation. Neither are four of the five “kings/kingdoms” depicted in Daniel 2. Only if you connect OT and NT prophecy could you conclude that Nebuchadnezzar is specifically named as being the founder of the 3rd kingdom (of the seven heads). Additional sleuthing would also show that the kingdoms of Medo-Persia and Greece are directly named and can be identified as the 4th and 5th heads. With a little more deduction, it can be proven that the Roman Empire is the 6th. As for the 10 kings (10 horns), they are mentioned or depicted 10 times in the Bible. Is this coincidental? We definitely do see them corroborated in Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 12, 13, and 17. As for all the 7 heads shown together on the beast in the Book of Revelation (nowhere else in the Bible are they shown in this manner), the Bible calls them all “kings.” This word “king”, both in Greek (basileus) and Hebrew/Arabic (melek), is used more than 2800 times in the Bible. Virtually in each and every case it refers to a human being ... a male sovereign ... a person who has a role in the flesh. According to Revelation 17, a total of 18 kings are mentioned — real, literal, in-the-flesh men — that play a prophetic role according to the Bible. So who could they be? For at least seven of these kings, the Bible provides a conclusive answer if you read it consistently and follow all of its clues. Have you sought out the literal connections? No speculation is required, just some deduction and humility. We would recommend our presentation on the topic of the “7 heads” and “10 horns” on the beast shown in Revelation 17. It can

be found [here](#). [Please also see the article in this issue: “Prophecy: Right- or Wrong-Headed?” which presents our summarized case for the identity of the 7 heads.]

READER: In response to your recent *EVR* Feature Report “[Great Greek Tragedy of the Revived Roman Empire](#)” (Feb. 2012), I would like to suggest one of the “other possible outcomes” that you leave room for in your discussion of an end time coalition of ten nations led by the “Antichrist”. First of all, there is really never any mention of ten nations in the Bible, only ten horns and ten kings. Revelation 17:12 and Daniel 7:24 both say that the ten horns are the ten kings—they are people, i.e. leaders, not nations. Both verses also clearly identify the ten kings as being linked to a single kingdom, not ten individual kingdoms. Also note that Revelation 13 and 17 and Daniel 7 speak of a single beast which is the fourth kingdom (Daniel 7:23). There is no talk of ten beasts or ten mini-beast nations that make up a big beast. The allusion is consistently singular—one unified superpower nation from which there will emerge ten kings (Daniel 7:24). To say that the ten horns and the ten kings are ten nations is not a Biblical matter of fact, it is a leap into thin air. Secondly, the end time leader that will rise from the beast, the fourth kingdom, will come to power after the ten kings have first received the kingdom (Daniel 7:24, Revelation 17:12,17). That is to say that the ten kings are successive predecessors as Daniel 7:24 indicates. (Kings of the same kingdom would not rule concurrently). One after another, these consecutive kings will have prepared and built up the superpower nation to become the beast. Their cumulative effort will then be handed down to the end time leader who at this point is also referred to as the beast (Revelation 13 and 17:12). In Biblical parlance, the distinction between beast and leader becomes somewhat blurred. One represents and is enabled by the other and vice versa. The language, especially in Revelation, has more to do with imagery than clean-cut definition. Beast/leader is leader/beast—and by the way, it is scripturally incorrect to call this leader the “Antichrist”, for as you know, the term “Antichrist” does not appear anywhere in Daniel or Revelation. Antichrist is a general term John uses to describe a spiritual mindset—a belief that Christ has not come in the flesh (1Jn 4:3). Antichrist is not a single person or individual; there are many who are “Antichrist” in spirit (1Jn 2:18, 2Jn 1:7). The careless use of this term causes rational thinking people to roll their eyes, as well as they should. With these clarifications in mind, it seems to me that there is only one current example that fits the prophetic picture of the fourth kingdom - and that is the United States. — **M.M.A.**

EVR: From your letter [*only a portion of which we have reproduced*] we can tell that you have an avid interest in these topics and have spent considerable effort in formulating your viewpoints and interpretations. We appreciate these types of communications; they test our views. That said, we must disagree with many of your points and can support our corrections from Scripture. We deal with some of these corrections in this issue’s article, “Prophecy: Right- or Wrong-Headed”. As such, we here

only make minor comments for each of the 7 major corrections we have identified: 1) What is a king? Respectfully, it would not be a “leap into thin air” to check a dictionary as to the meaning of this word. Any dictionary will do. It is a male sovereign leader. Taking an historical grammatical interpretation, a “king” in today’s terms equates to a sovereign leader. There is no such thing as a king without a kingdom. A deposed king could only be an ex-king. Similarly, if there is no nation, there can be no leader. As well, kings and leaders do not act independently of their country in matters of state, sovereignty, nor geopolitics. They have no authority independent of their state. Because of this dependency, you will discover that the Bible treats “king” and “kingdom” interchangeably. For example, please read Daniel Chapter 2 verses 39, 40, 41, and 44. The successive kingdoms mentioned are then named “kings” in verse 44.2) The 10 kings come on the scene contemporaneously and not sequentially. They all exist at the same time. As such, there is no serial authority given to the Antichrist by the 10 kings as you claim. Besides being refuted by Scripture, this interpretation would not make common sense in any case. If only one king had enough power to give to the Antichrist that would be sufficient to stamp upon and subdue the entire earth, wouldn’t they then qualify to be the Antichrist? John the Revelator tells us that the 7th head (this the head with the 10 horns) comes for only a “little while” and also that the 10 kings have a role only for “one hour.” It wouldn’t make sense then that there would be 10 kings ruling sequentially in a short space of time. 3) Yes, Daniel 7 does show a separate role for “10 kings.” Daniel 7:7 clearly says that the 4th beast has 10 horns. Daniel 7:24 clearly says that the “ten horns are ten kings.” 4) One must be careful not to confuse the identity of the beast. The word “beast” has two meanings and always only applies to an entity that is possessed by Satan (also called the “dragon”). Firstly, the satanically-driven “political economy” of 7 hegemon kingdoms of human history that opposes God is called a beast (jointly or separately); secondly, the personified Satan in the human body called the Antichrist is called “the beast.” 5) We disagree that symbols used in the Bible do not have specific, literal meanings. Indeed, people’s interpretations may not be “clean-cut” but all meanings and fulfillments of prophecy are meant to be “clean-cut” though perhaps depicted through images and symbols. 6) No, the Antichrist is not “a spiritual mind-set.” There certainly is a “spirit” of the Antichrist that has been working down through history, using many people (these being types of Antichrists) as the Bible specifically states will be the case (1 John 4:3). The Bible clearly and literally indicates that there will be a literal person that fulfills the role of Antichrist (also having other names). We must take literal statements at face value. What is scandalous for Christianity is the many speculative attempts to identify and name the Antichrist. 7) The U.S. is not the fourth beast. We are sorry if we are harsh, but this is a preposterous interpretation. Please do not disseminate this view anywhere as it is starkly out of tune with Scripture and only can bring ridicule to the precious gift of Bible Prophecy.

EVR

Facts & Stats ... Ends & Trends



TOPICAL QUOTES

Over [the past] two years, total annual compensation increased by 37% for all companies and by 54% for companies in the S&P 500. Basically, while bonuses and severance packages have fallen or grown slowly, that effect has been swamped by much bigger stock and option packages. — *www.economonitor.com, February 29, 2012*

The fastest-growing population groups in Israel are those least plugged in to the high-tech economy: Israeli Arabs, who lag educationally, and *haredim* (ultra-orthodox Jews), whom the government pays to study the Torah. — *The Economist, January 21, 2012*

China accounts for about 50% of all global credit creation, 26% of the world's nominal growth and 31% of its real growth, so how Chinese credit growth plays out will be a large determinant in how the global economy plays out. — *Bridgewater Daily Observations, November 22, 2011*

The Wesleyan Media Project recently reported a 1600% increase in interest-group-sponsored TV ads in this cycle as compared to the 2008 primaries. Florida has proven the battle royal of the super PACs thus far. There, the pro-Romney super PAC, Restore Our Future, outspent the pro-Gingrich super PAC, Winning Our Future, five to one. — *www.tomdispatch.com, February 16, 2012*

In the 25 to 29 age range a shocking 34% have moved back home with mom and pop (hardly likely to help with the huge shadow housing inventory overhang). Finding a job, saving for the future, paying for college, and buying a home are seen as dramatically harder for today's young adults compared to their parent's generation while Facebook saves the day as staying in touch with friends/family is the only stand out aspect of life that is 'easier' for today's youth. — *www.zerohedge.com, February 10, 2012*

Based on 2009 U.S. State Department estimates, Mexican poppy growers had a capacity for producing 125 tons of black tar heroin in 2009. Using the same \$15 per 1/10th of a gram estimate above, this would mean Mexico's total crop had a potential street value of around \$17 billion. However, the actual profit margin is likely much lower due to differentiation in sale price,

eradication and interdiction efforts by the Mexican government, as well as trafficking expenses. — *Stratfor Global Intelligence, March 12, 2012*

The speed of the change is breathtaking. A woman in Oman today has 5.6 fewer babies than a woman in Oman 30 years ago. Morocco, Syria and Saudi Arabia have seen fertility-rate declines of nearly 60 percent, and in Iran it's more than 70 percent. These are among the fastest declines in recorded history. — *The New York Times, March 12, 2012*

Sturm, Ruger, the 4th largest gun-maker in the U.S., who after receiving orders for over one million units in Q1 [2012] has temporarily suspended the acceptance of new orders. The company expects to resume the normal acceptance of orders by the end of May 2012. — *Zerohedge.com, March 23, 2012*

Comments from a Crazy Financial World

The G20 leaders themselves said in the Statement they adopted in Pittsburgh in 2009: "The economic crisis demonstrates the importance of ushering in a new era of sustainable global economic activity grounded in responsibility." — *http://democraciaparticipativa.net, Nov. 3, 2011*

The BIS [Bank of International Settlements], often referred to as the central bankers' bank, said the requirement, announced last October, for the region's largest banks to buttress their capital buffers and raise their tier one capital ratios to 9 percent by June of this year had destabilized the system by bringing fears of a drop-off in lending and a rise in asset sales "to the forefront of financial market concerns". — *Financial Times, March 11, 2012*

The financial industry (as a whole) was feeding "phony baloney" statistics and information to business journalists and the general media touting an unstoppable real estate boon. And all of this was intentionally done to facilitate "great impact for the buck" and to "Feed their Greed." — *www.economonitor.com, March 9, 2012*

"Only the small secrets need to be protected. The big ones are kept secret by public incredulity."

— Marshall McLuhan

"There is no sanctity of contracts in the United States. Only fools meet their financial commitments. The non-payers are the truly enlightened."

— Dick Bove, Rochdale Securities

"Money has no motherland; financiers are without patriotism and without decency; their sole object is gain."

— Napoleon Bonaparte

"Paper money eventually returns to its intrinsic value - zero."

— Voltaire, 1729

"Panics do not destroy capital; they merely reveal the extent to which it has been previously destroyed by its betrayal into hopelessly unproductive works."

— John Stuart Mill

"The power of accurate observation is frequently called cynicism by those who don't have it."

— George Bernard Shaw

"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good."

— Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)

EVR

Prophecy: Right- or Wrong-Headed? ? ... cont'd from back page

collectively may have much power, but likely not so much individually. If that were not the case, they would not be shown as a horn on one of the heads, but rather as a head. We can easily deduce the conclusion that they exist contemporaneously from the literal statements of Scripture. Here are just five of the passages that support this conclusion:

- Daniel 7:8 states: “While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them.” This “little one” can only emerge “among them” if they are all in existence at the same time.
- Also, Daniel says that 3 kings fell to the “little horn” (Daniel 7:20). If 3 of the “10 horn” kings are to fall by the hands of the Antichrist, then it is reasonable to presume that they must be reigning in the same era.
- Revelation 17:12 says that the 10 kings “[...] for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast.” Does it make sense that these 10 kings would take their turns doing so over such a short period of time? A literal, common-sense reading would indicate that the 10 kings (collectively) will receive authority.
- Moreover, verse 13 states that “they have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast.” What point would there be for these minor 10Ks to individually and sequentially give their power to the beast? If this was the case, it would not be possible that the 7th stage of the world-ruling beast could be powerful enough to reign over the world. Daniel clearly states that the final beast and its following 10 kings and little horn “[...] crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left” (Daniel 7:19). It “[...] will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it” (verse 23).
- Revelation 17:16 says that “The beast and the ten horns you saw will hate the prostitute. They will bring her to ruin and leave her naked; they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.” The beast mentioned here is the Antichrist. (Every reference to “beast” from Revelation 17:8 onward refers to the Antichrist.) In any case, it does not make any sense for the Beast and the 10 kings “to burn” the whore sequentially rather than together.

The Identity of Heads #1 and #2: Counting Backwards

Now that we have all the above foundations in place, we can turn our attention to the 7 kings. Who are they? If you do not agree on any of the above, we will be parting ways at this point (although, of course, we would welcome any counter theories on the above.)

In all the prophecies about the members of the Ruler Kings found in Daniel 2, 7, 8 and Revelation, we are given the same end point. In every case, these visions end with the same kingdom. It is the Messianic Kingdom. It follows the beast (Gentile) kingdoms, and is shown to be eternal. Daniel says the time of the Messianic Kingdom comes after the feet and the toes (Daniel 2). Furthermore, we know that the 4th

beast of Daniel 7 (the 6th by Revelation’s count) is vanquished by God. The same is revealed in the visions of Daniel 8 and Revelation 17. Therefore, a simple way of corroborating the identity and chronological order of all the OT and NT Ruler Kings is to simply count back from the Messianic Kingdom.

We know that the kingdom “that is” (Revelation 17:10) must be Roman. That was the world hegemon at the time of John’s prophecies. He then tells us it is the 6th in the lineage of 7. Five have fallen, one more is to come and that one but for a little while. We also know that Daniel’s 4th beast (Daniel 7) was Roman. This can be proven in a number of ways.

Firstly, we are told specifically that the 1st of the 5 kingdoms represented by the image with the golden head (Daniel 2) was Nebuchadnezzar. If we count the number of world kingdoms that follow him (Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome), Rome is the 4th that he sees. We conclude that Daniel’s 4th kingdom is the same as John’s 6th. There are other means of proving their interconnections and parallels; however, we will need to leave these to our more complete treatise.

If Babylon is the 3rd kingdom in the 7-king lineage shown by the Apostle John, then who are the first and prior 2 that would fit into the complete world lineage of the oppressors of the Hebrews?

Frankly, the Bible only offers three possible candidates that were in power before Babylon in the Bible: Egypt, Assyria and the Philistines. All three oppressed Israel and much Scripture is preoccupied with these three nations. For example, the word Philistine (and its derivatives) is mentioned 276 times in the Bible; Egypt (and its derivatives) 793 times; and Assyria, 144 times.

Which two of these three qualify as the 1st and 2nd heads of the beast? Just what indications does Scripture provide? Consider the following statements:

“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them’” (Isaiah 52:4).

“O my people who live in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrians, who beat you with a rod and lift up a club against you, as Egypt did” (Isaiah 10: 24-27).

“Israel is a scattered flock that lions have chased away. The first to devour them was the king of Assyria; the last to crush their bones was Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon” (Jeremiah 50:17).

“We submitted to Egypt and Assyria to get enough bread” (Lamentations 5:6).

We see Assyria and Egypt being jointly referenced as oppressors and persecutors of the Hebrews. The Philistines are not in this same company. Why? The Philistines, who are considered “sea peoples”, were never world rulers, though they had been a frequent foe of Israel.

Studying Scriptures, we conclude that Egypt and Assyria, respectively, are the 1st and 2nd heads of the 7-headed beast. There are no other viable candidates in our view. The remaining 5 are Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Roman, and the Roman 10-king coalition.



Personal Perspective

Prophecy: Right– or Wrong-Headed?

We hope readers will not think that we are fixated with the “beast” of Revelation 17. Once again we feel urged to comment on the “7 heads” (which are 7 kings, Revelation 17:10) and “10 horns” (which are 10 kings, Revelation 17:12). Why? In the last two issues of *EVR*, we replied to a number of inquiries and emails on this topic. As well, we refuted the views held by the Philadelphia Church of God (publishers of the *Trumpet*) in regard to the 7 heads and 10 horns. These have proven to be contentious topics, striking both discord and agreement with readers.

As might be guessed, our comments unleashed another round of responses. What concerned us most was the wide and woolly range of interpretations we received. For example, America is proposed as either the beast of Revelation 17, the 4th beast of Daniel’s visions (Daniel 7) or Babylon of the end times. In fact, it can be none of these and we fear that the promotion of such unfounded views only serves to discredit prophecy and Biblical Christianity.

We were specifically challenged to prove our views in regard to the identity of the first of the 7 heads (kings). Our conclusion was, respectively, Egypt and Assyria. As such, we here want to lay out the Biblical support and deductions supporting our interpretation. What we are providing in this article is a partial (small) excerpt from a more detailed defence on the “18-plus kings” of Revelation 17 that will be published in the July and August issues of the *Midnight Call* magazine. We expect that these articles will be posted to our website in July. [We also respond directly to some of the emails we have received on this general topic in the Letters to the Editor section of this newsletter. You may wish to read these first before proceeding here.]

For the sake of expediency, before proceeding with this short examination of the topic of the 7 heads and 10 horns of Bible prophecy, let’s agree to name the historical 7 kings (depicted by the heads) as the Ruler Kings (RK) and the last-day 10 kings (shown as horns) as the 10K. Next, it is essential that we agree on a few foundational principles. There are at least eight of these, only two of which we cover in detail here.

1. What is a king?
2. In Bible prophecy the words “king” and kingdom are used interchangeably.
3. On what head(s) are the 10 kings located as horns?
4. Are the three “7-headed beasts” of Revelation 12, 13 and 17 the same or different beasts?
5. Are today’s Western leaders the equivalent to an Old Testament King?
6. Is the number 7 (and 10) meant literally or symbolically?

7. The Book of Daniel and Revelation: Can they be connected? Before proceeding further, we must agree that Daniel and Revelation provide parallel visions ... one from the Old Testament, the other from the New. We are sure that Daniel’s visions and interpretations found in chapters 2, 7, 8 and 11 can in deed be connected to those of Revelation 12, 13, 17. As there is an established body of scholarship that connects all the same kingdoms and kings of Daniel’s statements in these chapters, we will dispense with these proofs here in view of the summary nature of this article. [However, we do support this view in the full article.]

We must also keep in mind there is a significant difference between the prophecies found in Daniel and Revelation despite the many commonalities. Daniel is only commissioned to prophecy the future. Specifically, we are told that Daniel sees “what will take place in the future” (Daniel 2:45); “[...] what is going to happen” (verse 29); “[...] four kings that will arise from the earth” (Daniel 7:17); “[...] the time of the end” (Daniel 8:17); “[...] what will happen later in the time of wrath” (verse 19); “[...] the distant future” (verse 26); and “[...] what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come” (Daniel 10:14). Every one of these statements concerns the future.

John the Revelator, on the other hand, had a wider mandate. Rather than prophesying only about what will occur over the remaining time span of the Jews and the future, he is told to “write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later” (Revelation 1:19). In other words, he is reporting on things of the past, the present and the future.

This is an important distinction. Rather than just looking forward, John is presenting a more complete view of history and God’s plan for the waywardness of mankind’s kingdoms. This is certainly the case in respect to statements he makes about the beasts that have 7 heads. While John sees a total of 7 heads, Daniel gives us information on only the last five and nothing about the first two as these kingdoms were in the past. Just who are these kingdoms? We will turn to this question shortly.

8. Do the 7 RK heads reign sequentially or at the same time? A very common misinterpretation of the 7 RKs and the 10K are the terms of their reigns. The 7 Ruler Kings (kingdoms) have their dominant hegemonic reign sequentially (one after the other) and the 10 Kings are in power at the same time. Accepting that the prophecies of Revelation and Daniel are aligned, both referring to 10K and RKs, we see in Daniel that the RKs follow one after the other. The beasts in Daniel 7 follow one after the other. Greece is specifically stated to follow Persia, then comes the 4th beast. Also in Daniel 2, the RK kingdoms are shown to follow sequentially.

None of the RK are world hegemons at the same time. The 10 kings shown as 10 horns, on the other hand, do reign at the same time. They are a group that

... cont’d on page 11

