



# ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

## MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

Issue 2, Volume 17

"For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times."

APRIL 2014

## FEATURE REPORT

### Gleanings From Wrong-Headed Debates – Part I & II

Over the past several years we have received a large amount of correspondence on the topic of the last-day 10 kings as well as the seven (that are heads) and eighth kings mentioned in Revelation 17. The group of ten kings are shown as "horns" on heads. To help keep these many kings sorted out, we name the 7 historical kings (that are shown as heads) the Ruler Kings (RK) and the 10 contemporaneous kings, shown as horns, as the 10K. A 4-part series on this very topic was published July through September 2013) as well as other articles over past years.

Readers will likely already know that, inclining to a "literal interpretation" of Scripture, we believe that the rule of the 10 kings — short as it may be — still lies ahead. For a brief time, ten nations will emerge as a confederacy. We have dubbed this group the Endtime Global Power Coalition. They will give their authority to the Antichrist who then takes power as a world-ruling autocrat. Therefore, contrary to popular belief, the next phase of world rulership will take the form of these "10 kings" not the Antichrist. It is a post-globalism era then followed by the autocracy of the Antichrist.

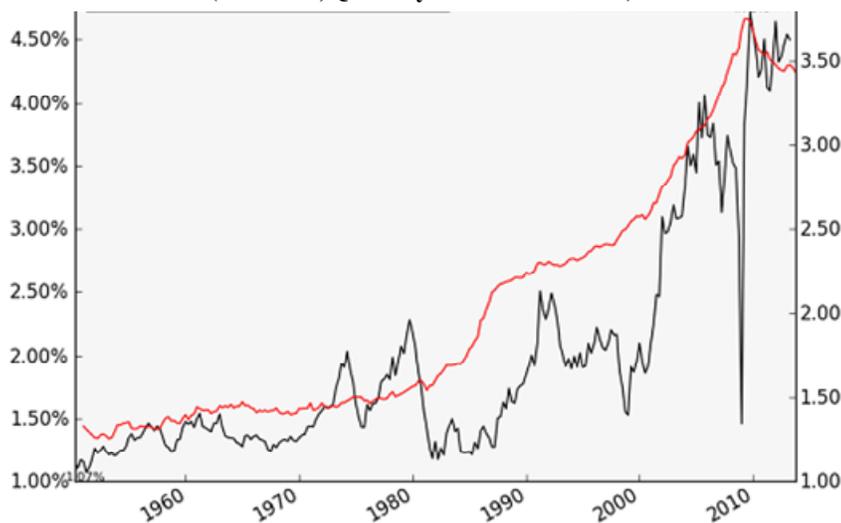
In this two-part series, we reproduce some of the questions and comments we have received on the kings of Revelation 17. As this is a challenging topic requiring much Bible study, quite a few viewpoints exist that frankly are "wrong-headed." It is a topic relevant to our time. Why? Because, very likely, a geopolitical change of regime is at the doorstep.

**READER:** I had watched a video on YouTube that claimed that the 7 kings were the [Roman Catholic] popes from 1929 until

... continued on page 3

### Financial Profits Sapping Its Host

(% of GDP, Quarterly 1950 to March 2013).



Source: www.mdbriefing.com

**"If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus with no more than human hopes, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, 'Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.'"**

— 1 Corinthians 15:32

#### In This Issue

##### Feature Report:

*Gleanings From Wrong-Headed Debates – Part I & II* —pg. 1

##### World Money Update:

*In Bubbles We Trust. For Tomorrow We Die?* —pg. 1

##### Signs of the Times:

*Financial Signs Update—Part X* —pg. 5

**Facts & Stats** —pg. 6

##### Letters to the Editor

—pg. 10

#### WORLD MONEY UPDATE

### In Bubbles We Trust, For Tomorrow We Die

Policymakers and societies at large are desperately waging their fight against the consequences of their past choices. Again, they have turned to the spurious advice of humanist shaman advisers and prophets — namely, macroeconomists and monetary theorists — who didn't recognize nor anticipate the current problems to begin with. Their hope and presumption is that money — its manipulation, fabrication and supply — along with the magic hand signals and opaque hints of the monetary policymakers will surmount the chronic problems of our times.

However, before commenting further, a quick disclaimer for any new readers. As this letter is freely available and accessible to anyone, we do encounter the occasional shocked response. Just from whence comes our seemingly warped reference point ... from a one-time top-ranked secular analyst, no less?

This column derives its perspectives solely from the Bible. Why? Its compilation

... continued on next page

of 66 ancient books (miraculously interconnected) has a lot to say about economics, justice and money, and this long before anyone defined such concepts as capitalism, Marxism, socialism or neo-liberalism ... to name just a few modern belief systems. Crucially, the Bible claims to understand the heart of mankind saying “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind [...]” (Jeremiah 17:9-10). The fact that the human heart is deceitful and its thoughts unpredictable, throws a wrench into any economic model or policymaker’s theory.

No doubt, regulators, having witnessed the massive corruption in the U.S. mortgage industry during the 2002-2007 period and in securities markets from time to time, might be inclined to side with Jeremiah. They were unable to sufficiently “search the hearts” and couldn’t keep up with deceit that was beyond cure. Humans today are prone to the same lures and temptations that they were before the Flood when the Bible says that “[...] every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time” (Genesis 6:5).

Most would agree that the viewpoints found here will be mostly in contradiction to those that dominate the secular mainstream. That is not to say that a moral perspective or a Biblical world view would disqualify one from participating in investment decisions or economic diagnosis. On the contrary, in our opinion. If anything, it adds understanding to the nature of human actions. Nonetheless, many Biblically-based viewpoints would be in contradiction with the secular consensus and economic theories promoted on Wall Street. Why? Because, for all intents and purposes, modern-day economics does not deal with the issue of morality and instead focuses only upon its amoral theories.

Let’s return to our discussion of the trials of policymakers and leaders of nations. Of course, no one expects monetary policies to solve things like endemic poverty or malnutrition. Yet, similarly, the amoral monetary policies being perpetrated by the major central banks of the world today will not correct conditions of extreme wealth distribution,

aging populations, post-Familialism, and various other global and ethical imbalances either. That is why policymakers are indeed becoming ever more desperate. Their potions aren’t working as of late.

Japan, its economy having stagnated for some two decades, piling up immense government debts during this period, finally threw all caution to the wind, recklessly depreciating its currency (yen). Lately, Chinese leaders are worrying that the economic slowdown that has recently gripped their nation might spin out of control and trigger a massive deluge of debt defaults. What to do? Plunge further into debt and try to reinstate the unsustainable policies that led to the current problems in the first place? To date, Japan’s actions have not spurred any recovery (nor is this likely to happen).

The same frustrations are being experienced by most countries, including the U.S. Unstable economic conditions extend from Brazil to Russia. Were conditions to deteriorate further, the world would find itself in a most dangerous condition, with a return to recessionary conditions at a time when interest rates are already low (in fact, at negative levels after adjustment for inflation).

We have a world-wide condition of desperation and fear of the future. Who or what can provide any hope? At present, it is seen to be central bankers and monetary policymakers. They are venerated as never before ... the new, secular priesthood.

Watching the news coverage of policymakers, what we see is an idolization of these people. Their every pronouncement and gesture is magnified for world-wide consumption. One would think that these human bureaucrats must have “god-like” powers. A single syllable uttered by them is sufficient to trigger the actions of hundreds of thousands of investors, causing financial markets to instantly tumble or surge. It is the new dogma of the ripening religion of humanistic materialism. It wasn’t always this way. We would say that the fixation with the powers of central banks and its leaders is less than two decades old. It started in North America during the tenure of Alan Greenspan as head of the Federal Reserve (1987 to 2006). The German Bundesbank also attained a certain mystique during that time.

This idolatry is a reflection of a cultic faith. Why? Its adherents appeal to metaphysical interventions and suspensions of natural and physical laws by mere mortals. And, mere mortals they are. Anyone holding their job (including us) would likely free faint under the stresses of the expectations that are put upon them.

Nevertheless, the reality is that they are humans that have no special insight as to what will happen in the future. William White (a Canadian with lots of central banking experience and one-time economist with the Bank of International Settlements) recently was quoted as saying: “The analytical underpinnings of what we [mainstream economists] do are actually pretty shaky. People are making it up as they go along. They can’t even agree amongst themselves about what’s the best way to do things.”

Another central banking luminary, Stanley Fisher (a new



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Fed committee member, no less, and recent Governor of the Bank of Israel), says: “We don’t know what we’ll be doing a year from now. It’s a mistake to try and get too precise [...] you can’t expect the Fed to spell out what it’s going to do ... because it doesn’t know.”

Therefore, what do we see? Blind policymakers that cannot find any agreement on the nature of the problems, who nevertheless are the one and only hope to rescue humanity’s dear wealth hoard. What will desperation drive them to do? Like a dog, they may go back to their past folly (Proverb 26:11). In fact, this is likely.

Would it follow that another period of debt expansion (an additional \$30-plus trillion in liabilities globally) and a further doubling of central bank balance sheets (relative to global GDP), as has occurred over the past 5 years, could yield a global stock market 200% higher by 2018 (5 years from now)? Would this be the ultimate test of success ... stock markets that have tripled in price? It indeed could happen. However, it would not be a solution, but simply a greater delusion ... a more monstrous miscarriage of justice.

Nevertheless, this course is seen to be attractive. A rising stock market is widely accepted as the barometer of policy success, though its gains may be illusory and distributed between a very small number of people. With this in mind, we note that financial bubbles are in fact seen as a solution and not a danger. What is ignored is that all financial bubbles in prior history have ended destructively. No exceptions.

Is this likely miscalculation due to innocent ignorance, conceit or a willful desperate response? It would be all of the above, we think. Quoting John Kenneth Galbraith: “There can be few fields of human endeavor in which history counts for so little as in the world of finance. Past experience, to the extent that it is part of memory at all, is dismissed as the primitive refuge of those who do not have the insight to appreciate the incredible wonders of the present.”

At this late date, here in the early 21st century, fomenting bigger financial bubbles would be attributable to much greater hubris. Crucially, it would require a further collusion of policymakers, Wall Street, and the elites of the corporate world to fan up a greater “wealth effect.” As Keynes noted in reference to the financial bubble of the 1930s, it required a collective (and silent) agreement of the major players to “play the game.” Such a conspiracy would have little to do with fundamentals but rather is driven by a collective larcenous sentiment. Evil times will breed evil actions and delusions.

Also to be seen is a spirit of abandon and opportunism amongst the many financial players. “Let’s have another financial bubble.” “‘Come,’ each one cries, ‘let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better’” (Isaiah 56:12). “‘Let us eat and drink,’ you say, ‘for tomorrow we die!’” (Isaiah 22:13).

Consider this quote from Job. His observation will surely come to pass some day and applies to collective humanism. “Though the pride of the godless person reaches to the heavens and his head touches the clouds, [...] He will spit out the riches he swallowed; God will make his stomach vomit them up” (Job 20:6,15).

**EVR**

today. The reason that the inception point of 1929 is chosen is because that was when the pope was first called a king. The 8th king is interpreted as a resurrected pope, John Paul, who would be possessed by Satan. There are so many theories around today. — B.P.

**EVR:** There are [indeed] countless speculations about the identity of the 7 ruler kings (RKs) as well as the 10 kings (10K) shown as 10 horns. The vast majority of these interpretations appear to willfully ignore Scripture. The terms and times of the reigns of the 7 RKs and the 10K are commonly misinterpreted. The 7 Ruler Kings (also representing kingdoms) have their dominant hegemonic reign sequentially (one after the other). On the other hand, the 10 Kings are in power all at the same time. How do we know this? 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 are specifically stated to appear in order. Greece is specifically stated to follow Persia, and then comes the 4th beast. Also in Daniel 2, the RK kingdoms are said to follow sequentially. None of the RKs are world hegemonies at the same time. On the other hand, the 10 kings shown as 10 horns [...] do reign at the same time. They are a group that collectively will have much power, though not necessarily on an individual level. If that were not the case, they likely 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: 1. 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. 2. 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. 3. 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. 4. 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). 5. 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. In conclusion, 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 is sometimes claimed. 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 not qualify to be the Antichrist or have no need to be part of a power coalition of 10 nations?

**READER:** [Only a small portion of this letter has been excerpted.] Thank you for your series on prophecy in Midnight Call Magazine, laying down your formulation proofs for your understanding of Revelation 17. Thank you for your love of the Lord, for your love of His word and His truth, for your diligence and care with reference to the literalness and detail of His Work, and for all the time and energy you've invested in your study. I was very blessed by an uncle, a graduate mechanical engineer with the same love. He's now with the Lord. I love him for teaching me how to study God's Word myself as I would not accept his views as binding, but as that I would continue to grow in God's word and truth myself. All that to say that we agree completely on the first six historic kings and kingdoms, with the 6th being Rome in Johns' day. Circa 1700, Sir Isaac Newton listed the “10 kingdoms” of the 10 kings: 1. Vandals and Alans; 2. Suevians in Spain; 3. Visigoths; 4. Alans in Gallia; 5. Burgundians; 6. Franks; 7. Britons; 8. Huns; 9. Lombards; 10. Ravenna. — A.Z.

**EVR:** Thank you for your very dear letter. As you yourself suggest, we should not simply accept anyone else's view without the validation of our own study. Of course, we all must be open to change our views if we are wrong. All Christians today are indebted to Isaac Newton for the example that he set. He was one of the greatest scientists of all time and a devout Christian. He is said to have written over one million words on Bible prophecy. Even though we may all strive to diligently study the Word, different opinions on certain matters do prevail. With respect to the interpretations of the identities of the 10 kings (those shown as horns in both Revelation and Daniel) that you quote, we must state that there are innumerable versions listing different peoples and nations and in different orders. These theories have continued to change down through the centuries. All have two basic flaws. Firstly, they are speculative interpretations that the Bible does not validate. Not one of these 10-horn kings is identified (either deductively or by name) in the Bible. Were we to list 10 candidates today (which we cannot) it would be sheer

speculation. On the other hand, it is possible to deduce from the Bible alone the identities of the 7 heads (RKs). These kings (kingdoms) are indeed sequential. Secondly, many of the 10-king theories have the fatal error that they assume that the 10 horns represent sequential kings or nations. This is a clear error. We have shown that the 10 kings exist contemporaneously, not successively. Moreover, it can be conclusively shown that these 10 horns must be on the 7th head shown in the image of Revelation 12, 13 and 17. It may very well be possible that some of the nations that will be part of the last 10-member global power coalition are already on the scene today. Their joint era, in which they give their authorities to the Antichrist, still lies ahead.

**READER:** [Re: Daniel, Revelation, and endtime theory.] Hi, I would like to say the harlot of Revelation 17:18 is America. The five kings in Daniel (4th vision) would start with Ronald Reagan as the goat with one horn. Oman has taken out two kings and needs to take down one more before November 20th. He is the liar and will fade away. Bush 1 and Bush 2 would count as the same. Romney is the divider and will bring in tribulation, six and seven kings. So I have no idea. It is just to give you guys something to think about. I have no proof of any of this. The white horse will ride out from middle America because both coast lines will be gone when the Church is taken. There will be massive chaos in this event. Anyway, [I'm] still trying to put the pieces together myself and just wanted you to consider these thoughts and look at it from this angle. You're right about the 10 kings not being formed yet. God needs to judge America first which will form Rome back together. Anyway, I hope this points you in a direction you are not considering. This is just a brief outline and there are other things to consider. Shoot me an email if you are interested after your research. — B.

**EVR:** As you yourself say, you have no idea and you have no Biblical proof for any of your views whatsoever. Never should we go beyond what Scripture actually says. The intended meaning of Scripture must be observed; this is a courtesy we would extend to words of anyone that we have discourse with. “Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, ‘Do not go beyond what is written’” (1 Corinthians 4:6). To do so, and to represent the Bible in such a dishonest way, only serves to discredit the Word and makes a mockery of the entire reason that God moved upon prophets and apostles through his Spirit to write down “words.” In that sense, your speculations are unfortunate, as they are harmful.

**READER:** [Re: Prophecy: Right or Wrong Headed]. [...] can having preconceived ideas hinder us from seeing clearly that which stands before us? Being the world's greatest super power, to what nation will America buckle under to? When the Church is gone, will America be awakened or be bloodthirsty in light of the fact that we as a

... continued on page 8

## Signs of the Times



### The Emergence of a Commercial Colossus - Part X

**W**e continue with the 10<sup>th</sup> part of this topical series in which we are examining twelve financial and economic signs of the endtimes. To date, we have examined nine conditions and/or world processes that scripture indicates would be evident in the last days. To review, here are the signs already reviewed: 1. A worldwide heaping up of wealth and debt; 2. Hoarding — an increasing gap between the wealthy and the poor around the world; 3. An explosion in greed; 4. Corroding gold and silver — wealth; 5. Increasing stress; 6. Wage injustices in the world; 7. Lovers of themselves (narcissism); 8. Lovers of pleasure (indulgence); and 9. Swings in world population.

### A Huge System of Trade and Wealth Appears

In Revelation 18 we find an account of Babylon the Great. What is it? There are more than a few interpretations. Let's look at the large number of identifying clues found in verses 2 through 16.

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great! She has become a home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird. <sup>3</sup>For all the nations have drunk the maddening wine of her adulteries. The kings of the earth committed adultery with her, and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries. <sup>4</sup>Then I heard another voice from heaven say: ‘Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues; <sup>5</sup>for her sins are piled up to heaven, and God has remembered her crimes. <sup>6</sup>Give back to her as she has given; pay her back double for what she has done. Mix her a double portion from her own cup. <sup>7</sup>Give her as much torture and grief as the glory and luxury she gave herself.’ In her heart she boasts, ‘I sit as queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn.’ <sup>8</sup>Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who judges her. <sup>9</sup>When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. <sup>10</sup>Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry: ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, O Babylon, city of power! In one hour your doom has come!’ <sup>11</sup>The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes any more-- <sup>12</sup>cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; <sup>13</sup>cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour

and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men. <sup>14</sup>They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your riches and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ <sup>15</sup>The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn <sup>16</sup>and cry out: ‘Woe! Woe, O great city, dressed in fine linen, purple and scarlet, and glittering with gold, precious stones and pearls!’”

To begin, there are many obvious connections to wealth and commerce presented in the above passage. Observe the heavy use of economic terminology. No less than 45 terms of commercial relevance are used in this passage, some of them more than once. Many references are made to luxuries and precious items. By our count, 28 commodities and products are mentioned.

“There is much more to learn about this commercial/economic entity called Babylon the Great. Firstly, it is both a source and distributor of great wealth. The merchants of the earth “grew rich from her excessive luxuries” (verse 3) and “gained their wealth from her” (verse 15) yet they are also identified as being part of this system. In verse 23 they are referred to as “your merchants.”

Furthermore, this Babylon is the very embodiment of riches. Though it is called a “great city” (verse 16) it is dressed like a person in the most expensive clothes and glitters with gold and jewelry. Her luxuries and “maddening wine” (verse 3) and “magic” (verse 23) prove to be intoxicants for the world's kings and merchants. Every nation and king has relations with it, committing “adulteries.” One might wonder why it is called a city if it is dressed like a person. Perhaps it is called a city because it is the nucleus of this system or simply to indicate that it is an organized entity, not necessarily implying that it has a single address.<sup>1</sup>

Clearly, what is being described in Revelation 18 is both commercial and global in reach. At the very minimum, Babylon the Great appears to represent an economic colossus that envelops the nations and power structures of the world.

It is a system that will totally collapse at some point. Intriguing is the fact that the “merchants were the world's great men” (verse 23) at the time of this network's fall. This confirms an interesting phenomenon of these last times. Apparently the world's greatest men are no longer kings, priests nor political leaders. Here they are now shown to be merchants ... business people, in other words. When has this ever been true in human history, at least on a global scale? The accounts of Tyre given by Ezekiel and Isaiah bear some similarity, describing a major seaport city “whose merchants are princes, whose traders are renowned in the earth” (Isaiah

... continued on page 7

## Facts & Stats ... Ends & Trends



## TOPICAL QUOTES

According to a new report by Wealth-X and UBS, “the average billionaire is incredibly well connected, with a social circle worth US \$15 billion – five times the net worth of the average billionaire. This figure is based on a calculation of the net worth of only the three top connections of billionaires, and so it is likely to be even higher when considering the number of Ultra High Net Worth individuals the average billionaire interacts with while attending various meetings, dinners and events.” It is during these “meetings, dinners and events” that the real policy defining the future of the world is set. — **www.zerohedge.com, November 23, 2013**

According to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, just 33% of Americans think their children will have a better life than they did. On the other hand, 62% believe their children will be worse off. They’re likely to be right. The typical American family has seen its real income (adjusted for inflation) fall for 5 consecutive years now, and it earns less in real terms than it did in 1989. According to the Census Bureau, median household income fell in 2012, and it languishes 8.3% below the pre-crisis peak in 2007. The Brookings Institution, meanwhile, calculates that real incomes for working-age men in the US have fallen by 19% since 1970. In Europe, things look even more dire. Just 28% of Germans think their children will be better off than they were. In the UK it’s 17%, in Italy 14%, and in France just 9%. — **Sovereign Man Blog, December 17, 2013**

Crime, corruption, and tax evasion drained US \$946.7 billion from the developing world in 2011, up more than 13.7% from 2010—when illicit financial outflows totaled US \$832.4 billion. The findings—which peg cumulative illicit financial outflows from developing countries at US \$5.9 trillion between 2002 and 2011—are part of a new study published today by Global Financial Integrity (GFI), a Washington, DC-based research and advocacy organization. — **Global Financial Integrity, December 11, 2013**

According to the Department of Agriculture, the average middle-class couple will spend \$241,080 to raise a child to age 18. Factor in

4 years of college and maybe graduate school, or a parentally subsidized internship with the local theater company, and say hello to your million-dollar bundle of joy. — **www.nytimes.com, November 25, 2013**

According to the World Health Organization, global suicide rates have increased by 60% over the past 45 years. The increase in [the U.S.] is nothing like that, but between 1999 and 2010, the suicide rate among Americans between 35 and 64 rose by 28%. More people die by suicide than by auto accidents. — **www.nytimes.com, December 5, 2013**

Recent figures released from Bible Societies around the world indicate that more Christian Scriptures were distributed than ever before in 2012. Global Scripture distribution rose from just over 381 million in 2011 to more than 405 million in 2012; an increase of 6%. Of the 405 million distributed, 32.1 million were whole Bibles, which matched 2011’s record-breaking year of Bible distribution. — **Christianity Today, November 25, 2013**

If you keep boosting the role of finance and investment, something surprising happens. Inequality doesn’t just keep growing in a gradual and continuous way. Rather, the economy crosses an abrupt tipping point. Suddenly, a few individuals end up owning everything. [...] Data from Bloomberg and the bank Credit Suisse suggest that the planet’s 138 richest people currently command more wealth than the roughly 3.5 billion who make up the poorest half of the population. Of course, nobody can say whether that means we’ve reached a tipping point or are nearing one. — **www.bloomberg.com, February 4, 2014**

According to the Land Report published by Fay Ranches, the top 100 owners of US land collectively have 33 million acres in their private holdings. This equates to about 1.5% of all USA land – that may seem like a small percentage, but it’s actually a massive area. [...] John Malone, who is the largest land owner in the country with 2.2 million acres, owns private property the size of Puerto Rico. — **www.zerohedge.com, January 15, 2014**

*“Only a crisis, real or perceived, produces real change.” — Milton Friedman*

*“Sovereign is he who decides the state of emergency.” — Carl Schmitt, Nazi political theologian*

*“Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all.” — Autocrat of the Breakfast Table, Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.*

*“When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men in a society, over the course of time they create for themselves a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it.” — Frédéric Bastiat*

*“Panics do not destroy capital; they merely reveal the extent to which it has been destroyed by its betrayal into hopelessly unproductive works.” — On Credit Cycles and the Origin of Commercial Panics, John Mills (1867)*

*“Speculators may do no harm as bubbles on a steady stream of enterprise. But the position is serious when enterprise becomes the bubble on a whirlpool of speculation.” — John Maynard Keynes (1964)*

**EVR**

23:8). Actually, Tyre's reign and fall makes for an interesting parallel to the account of Babylon the Great. Historically, however, many cultures actually despised the merchant classes. Businesspersons were often considered among the lower castes since they were concerned with material gains and earthly matters. The pursuit of truth and virtue was held as the highest calling in these religious cultures. If anything, the heads of sovereign states or religions were considered among the greatest of people. Yet, in this endtime system it is merchants who are the heroes and great men of the world.

Why would being a successful businessperson offer a candidacy for the status of world-class greatness? It seems fitting that a globalized economic and financial system must have emerged during the last days. If this were not so, merchants could not be world "greats." These leaders of this commercial economic system accumulate enormous luxuries, are given high visibility, and are honored and idolized. The adulation that the world and its news media pour out on the world's business titans today surely fits this image.

Corroborating evidence for this perspective in Revelation is found in the book of Daniel as there is much symmetry between these two books. One parallel emerges in the list of the twenty-eight commodities or "costly gifts" mentioned in Revelation 18. The first three — gold, silver, and precious stones — are the very same (and also in the same order) as are found in Daniel 11:38. Daniel tells us that the last world regime and its leaders will honor a god unknown to his fathers — the "unknown god" — with "gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts." Nowhere else in the Bible are these same precious metals and jewels mentioned together, let alone in the same order. Is this a coincidence? It would be rare to find anything coincidental in the Bible if at all. What we see is that wealth and luxury are the rewards of conspiring with this endtime system symbolized by Babylon the Great.

### More Evidence of an Endtime Colossus

This interpretation of Babylon the Great as a commercial colossus does not disagree with the Lord's word spoken through Isaiah. He speaks of the various conditions of the world at the time of the "day of the Lord," the term he uses for the last days (most likely the Tribulation period). In Isaiah 24:1-3, we again discover a heavy emphasis upon commercial activities.

"See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants — it will be the same for priest as for people, for master as for servant, for mistress as for maid, for seller as for buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor. The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The LORD has spoken this word."

One-half of the twelve-named "inhabitants" that represent the people living at the time of the "day of the Lord" are directly involved in an economic or financial activity. Specifically identified in this way are sellers, buyers, borrowers, lenders, debtors and creditors. It is likely no coincidence that the subject of debt is mentioned four times in one form or another. A creditor is the same as a lender; a borrower the same as a debtor. It would therefore be hardly surprising to discover that a debt-based financial and economic system might play a prominent role during the last days. While this passage does not provide conclusive evidence of this last statement, it certainly offers an interesting alignment.

### The Spiritual Challenges to the Faithful

Reviewing the evidence so far, one may already conclude that Babylon the Great — a world-spanning commercial system — is in her prime today. However, before we can conclude with a robust affirmative to this question, there is much more evidence to consider. So far we have not yet reviewed all the aspects of this system.

For now, a pause for reflection. Revelation 18:23 says that Babylon the Great will lead "all the nations... astray" with her magic spell. It is an observation that should immediately put Christians on guard. Could the luring spell of this endtime financial manifesto be leading Christians off the narrow path as well? Are we steering our lives to the siren call of the luxuries and false wealth of this idolatrous endtime commercial system?

These are serious questions because a very dire warning is given. People are admonished to come out of her so that "we will not share in her sins [...] for her sins are piled up to the heavens" (verse 4). Even though the Church may already have been raptured away before the great catastrophic collapse of this endtime commercial system, we will still be held accountable for our complicity and the participation of our hearts while this system took form and world dominance. Whether or not our identification of Babylon the Great is proven correct, the warning it presents to Christians today surely remains relevant.

### Endnotes

1. There are no geographic indications given in the entire chapter of Revelation 18 as to where this "great city" of Babylon the Great may be located. This is unlike the Mystery Babylon described in Revelation 17 "who sits on the many waters" and "on seven hills." A study of these two chapters suggests that the Mystery Babylon of chapter 17 and Babylon the Great of Revelation 14:8 and chapter 18 could not possibly be the same entity nor represent the same part of an endtime system.

**EVR**

### Wilfred's Itinerary: *The Mulberry Ministry*

- **April 18-21, 2014: Mitternachtstruf Osterkonferenz, Dübendorf, Switzerland.**
- **December 1-3, 2014: 23rd Annual Pre-Trib Study Group Conference. Irving, TX.**

**Gleanings From Wrong-Headed Debates – Part I .....from Page 4**

nation have two unbelieving Presidential contenders? Couldn't the apostle John have said Babylon if he had meant Iraq? Why the need for "Mystery"? If I say this will happen in Mystery Damascus, wouldn't you be inclined to search for another Damascus? These are some of my arguments toward America being that "Mystery". The following are additional components [For the sake of limited space, we do not here reproduce the supplied list of claimed parallels and proofs]. — J. K.

**EVR:** Your views are not rare. There are many who do and have claimed that America is Mystery Babylon the Great. However, the arguments in each case are speculative and dependent upon ignoring some scriptures while twisting others. There have been countless books written on this and related topics over the centuries. As Dave Hunt used to say, "America may be the new Sodom; but Mystery Babylon it is not." Yes, it is clearly possible to draw parallels to America and for that matter, to other countries. It would not be surprising if there were close parallels. Why? Because the whole world has gone astray. In this sense, there are bound to be similarities between many nations down through the centuries and therefore, there will be similar parallels to conditions mentioned in Bible prophecy. As such, every age has been able to produce its candidates for the Antichrist and Mystery Babylon. But a few parallels alone do not produce an air-tight case for prophetic fulfillment that is backed by Scripture word for word... namely, the whole of Scripture down to the iota. All the points you make are either not conclusive or contradict both the balance and specifics of Scripture. One single verse alone is sufficient to invalidate all claims that America is Mystery Babylon (that also applying to the Roman Catholic Church, for that matter). "In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people, of ALL [our emphasis] who have been slaughtered on the earth" (Revelation 18:24). America is a relatively young nation. It could not have been responsible for "ALL who have been slaughtered on earth." Every translation of this verse that we have reviewed uses the word "ALL."

**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. In fact, we are told by Daniel that when the Jews finally come into the "knowledge" of Jehovah's plan and their Messiah at the end, it would require a lot of "running to and fro" searching the Scriptures anxiously. The fact is that the Bible, though it is a compilation of 66 separate books, is one cohesive, interconnected document. It does not give up all of its deeper-hidden pearls capriciously, choosing instead to reward those that diligently seek. Some things in the Bible are deductive. Though things may not be specifically identified by name, this does not mean that they do not exist, whether named or not. For example, the Trinity is never mentioned as a term. Does that invalidate this concept? Some 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 other than being called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). 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 identified in name. 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 shown in Revelation 17. Additional sleuthing would also show that the kingdoms of Medo-Persia and Greece are directly named and can be conclusively identified as the 4th and 5th heads on this same image. 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 and connected 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 (basileau) and Hebrew/Aramaic (melek), is used more than 2800 times in the Bible. In virtually 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 17 kings [18 kingdoms] are mentioned — real, literal, in-the-flesh men — that play a prophetic and geopolitical role according to the Bible. Who could they be? For the seven kings [kingdoms] shown as heads, the Bible provides a conclusive identification if you read it consistently and follow all of its clues. No speculation is required, just some deduction and humility.

*The final Part II of this contemporary and most-interesting topic can be downloaded from our website. [Click this link to open.](#)*

**EVR**

How could it be that Christians would excel in this type of environment? It is not clear to me that this is possible. Could there be portfolio managers and/or business people that are expressly anointed to make extraordinary returns and profits to fund such initiatives? Indeed, some claim that they are. However, here we have encountered many abuses. My skepticism in institutionalizing such initiatives is born of the fact that we have no example of such an anointing being given in the Bible. Yes, apparently some are more talented at business or investing than others. However, it is exceedingly rare (if not impossible) to prove that success is any more common than is demonstrated by simple random distribution. Warren Buffet is held up as an example of a successful investor and his techniques are assiduously studied. But in the end, one must not overlook that a certain percentage will become hugely wealthy or successful. It makes sense to ally with like-minded people who share a conviction to live righteously, to bring purity to their financial activities and so on. There would be no harm starting co-operatives, etc. that have objectives to fund missions work. That said, there are very few examples of Christian organizations (no matter their Biblical perspectives) who have had demonstrated long-term success in consorting with either business or investing activities. I have come to be persuaded that God isn't reliant on the profits of Mammon. Apologies if my response seems somewhat discouraging. I definitely do think you have honorable objectives and that there is a not-insignificant part of Christianity that has compromised its values when comes to money and participating in today's commerce.

**READER:** I just saw a chart showing the stock market activity leading up to the 1929 crash and the aftermath. This chart also showed what the stock market has been doing the past few months. The only way you could tell the two lines apart was because they were labeled since they were virtually identical. I saw this on Joel Rosenberg's blog update which I get emailed to me. I highly recommend you look into this since it tends to support much of what you write about concerning some type of major event happening soon. — **P.T.**

**EVR:** I have seen this comparison made recently ... and countless other times over the past 30 plus years. I am not convinced that such a simple comparison is alone very meaningful or reliable. It indeed may be an alert. However, there are so many other factors and diagnoses to consider than just chart patterns. One thing is clear and that is that a great number of people (professionals on proverbial Wall Street, government, central banks, regulators, corporate executives, etc., in other words, a group of elites) have agreed to collude and play together cooperatively in order to build a deceiving narrative and to create a major financial bubble (hoping to trigger some type of wealth effect large or small). The great difficulty is in measuring deception and predicting the level of greed and delusion. That would be a contradiction in terms. Things could indeed become much worse and extreme. These are unprecedented times. All the

same, caution would be in order. Thanks for the heads up.

**READER:** I have enjoyed Brother Hahn's articles [...] concerning economics, but the recent series on End-Times Fuses was even better. I would love to see more Bible teaching like this posted on Rapture Ready...thank you! — **A.M.**

**READER:** Thank you for all the work you put into the EVR newsletter. I both enjoy and benefit from it greatly, as it supports-and-confirms much of the conclusions/research I do for my own clients. I have no doubt that Christ Jesus has called you, enabled you and convicted you to do this. In the latest edition you mention the "Idol Money Review." I'm wondering how I might avail myself of this. In Christ's Love. — **M.W.**

**READER:** Just an observation and a suggestion on the article: *No One Buy Nor Sell: How Close Are We? Part I* by Wilfred Hahn. One observation is this. This buying and selling rule is only a commandment by Satan at the mid-point of Tribulation per my understanding of Revelation. The Church should not be here according to the pre-Trib theology as the rapture would occur before the Tribulation period begins. This point was never discussed in the article. Would it be a good idea to include this point in that discussion in your opinion? Most do not know these scriptures as they do not study Revelation. I just thought it might be important to include the point. — **A.M.**

**EVR:** This is a good point. This article series was originally written for *Midnight Call Magazine*, which is a decidedly pre-Trib organization. I suppose I presumed that everybody would assume that the Rapture comes first. Thanks for pointing this out.

**READER:** [Re: *No Man Buy Nor Sell: Are We There Yet?*] Thanks for the informative document. [...] Shalom. — **P.M.**

**READER:** Dear Wilfred and Staff : I receive and benefit much from your *Eternal Value Review* e-newsletter. After just reading Wilfred's article *No One Buy Nor Sell: How Close Are We? Part I* on the Rapture Ready website, I was wondering if Wilfred could address the relatively new "Bitcoin" electronic currency and its implications toward a one-world currency. Many companies have begun to accept it as payment for purchases. I just read a news article earlier this week that some of the hotels in Las Vegas, NV are beginning to accept it for payment of lodging, food etc. I would be interested in learning more of Wilfred's thoughts on this innovative currency. Thank you for all you do! — **L.P.**

**READER:** Thanks for the article [Re: *No Man Buy Nor Sell: Are We There Yet?*]. It's a very good read. I daily consider the absorption of private markets in to (and, ultimately under the control of) the Federal Reserve, the World Bank and the [International] Monetary Fund as the Fed continues to print money, growing their size and power in the process. — **B.S.**



## Letters to the Editor

**READER:** I was reading Wilfred Hahn's article and an issue rose in my mind. To quote his article in the RaptureReady.com website on January 22, 2014: "We note a number of new developments over recent years that hasten the facilitation of just such an event as described. However, before pointing to these, it is worthwhile to firstly reflect on the implications of just such a prophecy. What does it imply, 'that no man might buy or sell'? It clearly means that **NOBODY ... ANYWHERE ...** will be able buy or sell ... **ANYTHING ...** unless they subordinate themselves to the 'Beast and its image.' The question to which we want to direct our attention then is this: What systemic controls and/or developments are yet required to be in place so that **NO ONE** on earth can either buy or sell without permission?" How then will anyone enter the "Millennial Kingdom"? No one will qualify. Also the 144,000 Jewish witnesses will not have taken the "mark." There will be a "sorting" of the "sheep from the goats" and the sheep will not have taken the mark. The Jews who escape the wrath of "GOD" will not have taken the mark! Am I misunderstanding something somewhere? Regards from an old Saint waiting for the call from above [singularly or corporately] — **J.V.**

**EVR:** Hello Saint. My understanding of just what groups go into the Millennium is as follows. The 144,000 that you mention are specially sealed. They will all go into the Millennium but only because they will be with Christ. They follow the Lamb wherever He is (Revelation 14:3-5). They are said to be "redeemed from the earth" (verse 3). The Bible does not mention that they would be resurrected (First Resurrection). As such, we can only speculate as to how they are preserved or transformed so that they can be with the Lamb wherever he is ... on earth or in heaven. They obviously do not take the "mark." Another group is those who become Christians during the Tribulation period. They face the decision that is described in Revelation 13. Those who do not take the "mark of the beast" will face certain martyrdom. They have no way of surviving independently without the ability to buy or sell. These people are persecuted, some being beheaded. They are shown under the altar in heaven and were then given white robes. ("When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained" (Revelation 6:9).) These are promised the First Resurrection and are spared a second death. They go into the Millennium period resurrected and with new bodies (Revelation 20:4-6). They are also shown in Revelation 7:14. They seem to be the converts of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists. However, people (whether Gentiles or Jews) can choose to take the "mark of the beast" and survive for at least part if not all of the Tribulation period. If they survive this period, they may enter the Millennium. The Gentiles may choose to recognize Christ the Mes-

siah at that time. In the end, as Isaiah 45:23 tells us: "Before Me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear." Revelation 1:7 says that the entire world will mourn for Him at this point ("And every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.") Also, it is at that point that the "goats" and the "sheep" are sorted out. At this time the nations are judged (Matthew 25:32). Finally, the unrepentant Jews who will still be alive at the end of the Tribulation period (who very likely could have taken the "mark" and/or been preserved in the wilderness (Revelation 12:6)) will also enter the Millennium. However, all Israel will be saved at this point. As Paul says, "[...] and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: 'The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins'" (Romans 1:26-27). "[...] and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son" (Zechariah 12:10). All in all, a large number of people do enter the Millennium.

**READER:** Dear Mr. Hahn, [...] I am an avid reader of all your posts on the Rapture Ready website. Lately the Lord I believe is impressing upon me the importance of preparing financially for the upcoming economic challenges that will face the world and also Christians as well. I have a few ideas I would like to share with you and get your wisdom in regards to those ideas. Specifically this deals with the issue of wealth preservation, accumulation, and distribution in the end times in order to effectively finance the last effort to evangelize the world prior to Jesus' second coming. I am interested in starting a pure Christian community bank that will be guided and directed to and for Christians under Christian principles and whose only objective is to provide assistance and support for the Christian community in need. Does that sound too crazy??? Perhaps, but again I would really appreciate if I could get in touch with you personally. I look forward to hearing from you. In Christ, — **G.G.**

**EVR:** Thank you for your correspondence. You have some courageous ideas, demonstrating honorable objectives. I am not sure what scale of organization you are thinking about; and I may not have correctly captured the concepts of what you are considering. From what I perceive, there are some organizations who have attempted similar initiatives. Unfortunately, thinking of some more prominent ones (I'll not mention names, even though one of these had been in direct contact with me), their theology is questionable. This is not a blanket statement, of course. Getting to practicalities, whether rightly motivated or not, the big challenge is to successfully achieve "wealth preservation" and "accumulation." Frankly, I don't know that anyone could do this reliably or without great risk of error ... eventually. We live in incredibly deceptive times. Financial markets and economies are manipulated and run by "experts in greed."

... continued on page 9

