



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

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"For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times."

August 2008

FEATURE REPORT

Wicked Wealth & the Great, Bogus, Endtime Wealth Transfer

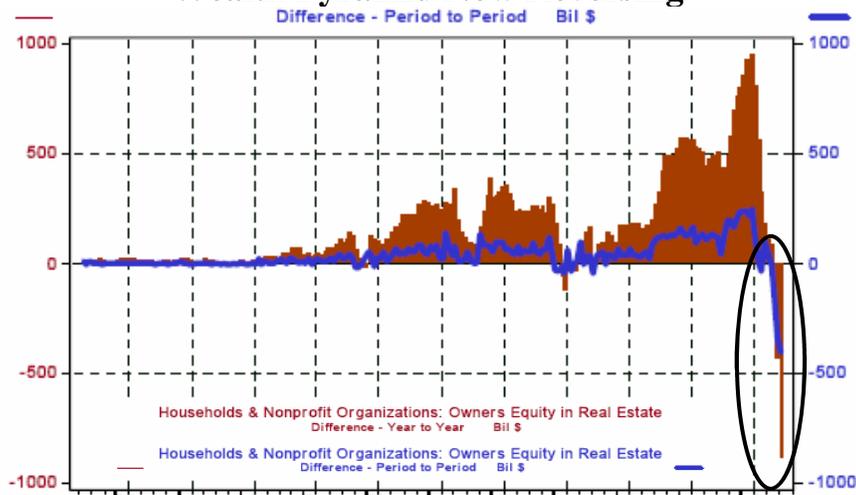
Many researchers today say that America is in the midst of the biggest wealth transfer ever. Some \$40 to \$100 trillion and more will change hands as the older generation passes off its wealth to the next generation in future years. Similar such shifts, of course, apply everywhere. But there is yet one more great wealth transfer predicted to occur in the near future. According to some teachers, the Church will soon inherit the wealth of the wicked.

Reputedly, there is a Bible verse that supports this idea. Found in Proverbs 13:22, it reads, "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous." It is mainly from this one single verse that the "wealth of the wicked" is conjured up for divine distribution to Christians living today. But really, what does this verse mean and to whom does it apply?

There seem to be a number of answers that have gained popular support in recent years. Representing a growing view, says C. Peter Wagner, "[...] *the body of Christ needs to come into alignment with God's declared purpose to release unprecedented amounts of wealth for the extension of His kingdom on earth.*"¹ Wagner is one of the key proponents of the view that the transfer of the "wealth of the wicked" is a premillennial event and is specifically meant for the Church ... more precisely, his own association of churches which is under his senior apostolic authority. Dr. Wagner, who was also a major impetus behind the "Church Growth Movement" and the "Third Wave," has much influence. Supposedly, this wealth transfer is a glorious development of the last days that enervates and honors the Church.

... continued on page 3

Wealth Pyramid Now Reversing



Source: Northern Trust, June 13, 2008

"[...] the time is short. From now on [...] those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of this world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away."

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

In This Issue

Feature Report

Wicked Money & The Great, Bogus Endtime Wealth Transfer —pg. 1

World Money Update:

Why America Disciplined? —pg. 1

Signs of the Times

—pg. 5

Sermony

—pg. 5

Facts n' Stats

—pg. 7

Letters to the Editor

—pg. 8

Personal Perspective

The End of Days & the End of Oil? —pg. 10

WORLD MONEY UPDATE

Why America Disciplined?

If it is not already evident by now, it should be. Some of the worst economic conditions since the Great Depression are facing America and some other countries. The financial pillars of the world continue to shake ... and in some instances, collapse. In our view, recent events again confirm the underlying character of world systems and their ultimate prophesied end. While we cannot pinpoint any time points, we can certainly identify the longer-running process at work. What we can also say is that an acceleration is underway.

Without a doubt, the prime engine behind the world's systems and their evolution is the selfish predilection to the "love of money." *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."* (1 Titus 6:11) It is this affection that is the irrepressible impetus behind Mammonism. No matter the political persuasion, whether socialism, communism or capitalism, a primary task of all of them is to corral or harness this basic human impulse. In the case of capitalism—actually what today is a distant cousin, the

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prevailing Age of Capital where wealth precedes both capital and labor—it is a system that is dependent upon greed. The trouble is that greed is like nuclear fuel. (We use this metaphor often.) The energy release of plutonium must be strictly controlled, its fuel rods always kept cooled. Should the reactor become uncontrolled and too hot, a runaway reaction occurs ultimately ending in a meltdown. These dangerous and fissionable qualities of greed are well known and have been the key focus of financial and securities regulators from the beginning.

So what went wrong, lately? It was massive greed and corruption at the highest levels ... and coordinated globally. The financial and monetary malfeasance that has been foisted upon America and other nations in recent years, will be seen as unprecedented and legendary in retrospect. This is not post-game analysis, but is rather simply stating what was clearly obvious as the time it was occurring.

In secular forums, we have published many reports in recent years stating the simple and unvarnished facts. When greed-inspired bubbles are underway, they tend to encourage everyone's complicity for they are so alluring. That said, there is no connection between what I do for a living in the secular world and this ministry. *EVR* is not a front to generate business from Christians. If anything, it is the other way around. Writing *EVR* is more likely to cost business and discredit any professional reputation these days. But that is only proper and necessary. If it were any other way, much of the testimony of the New Testament would be obviated and billions of people would become Christians out of sheer short-termism and expediency. What sacrifice of praise would that represent? (Hebrews 13:15) Apostle Paul's example of not taking an income from the early churches is a noble course ... if it can be done. Of course, pastors and teachers deserve their wages. But, in Paul's case, he was able to ensure that no one could accuse him of pandering for money.

In any case, what has happened in America of late is an uncontrolled reaction of greed "gone critical." Without a

doubt, it is now in the meltdown phase. What has begun to unfold over the past year, beginning in July 2007, is the logical and necessary outcome for a system that has become maddened with greed and self-interest. None of the recent fall-out should be cause for surprise.

The grim reality of this occurrence—if it wasn't obvious already—surely came to the fore with the recent announcement that America's two biggest agency mortgage providers (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) needed a government rescue. Few people really realize what this signifies. Understandably, financial markets chose to interpret this measure as a reason to celebrate. This policy will indeed make a difference, but will also contribute to national debt possibly doubling over the next 3 to 5 years.

We don't intend to muse on the myriad of negative economic developments of late, other than to state that current conditions are very serious. To date, housing prices have fallen at a faster pace than in the 1930s. The number of banks that are like to require bail-outs by the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) are estimated to be as high as 1400 institutions (16% of all banks in the US) before the current melt-down is finally contained and over (Source: Chris Whalen, RGE Monitor).

Already the FDIC has used up 8% of its reserve rescuing only 3 banks to date (see www.fdic.gov/). Readers, please make absolutely sure that you do not have deposits exceeding the national insurance limit of \$100,000 in any one bank. Also, look at the watch lists of independent rating agencies for the identity of financial institutions that are in danger of failing. (For example see [www.bankrate.com.](http://www.bankrate.com/))

Returning our focus to the troubles at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, it is well known that the US housing market is in shambles. And so it should be, given the preceding excesses and foolishness. Most certainly, it is heartbreaking to contemplate the serious stresses and hardships that many households are experiencing at the current time. (*See the graph on the front page, showing the sharp collapse in household net worth.*) Many of them are innocent victims. But, assuredly, there was much corruption that played a part in the America's mortgage, housing and financial bubbles in recent years, not to mention poor stewardship on the part of homebuyers. Yet, be that as it may, America now finds itself at the place where its entire mortgage machinery has fundamentally collapsed.

To understand the scale of the dilemma, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac currently account for over 60% of all mortgages in the US in one way or another. Also significant, is that a large portion of mortgage-backed securities that were sold by these two agencies, have ended up in the foreign currency reserves of such nations as China and other surplus countries. Were these two companies to collapse (*as they surely would without government intervention*) it would cause bedlam on a global scale.

While observers may be worried about the scale of crises of late, the real important focus of current events are the responses of governments and international agencies.



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW
MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT



Wilfred J. Hahn, Editor

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Bible Quotations - All scriptural references are quoted from the *New International Version* unless otherwise stated.

Here, as we have long anticipated, one should expect unprecedented levels of government and globally-manipulated intervention. This is already happening. Only now, the financial and economic troubles are spreading everywhere ... from Spain and Ireland to China. As such, be wary of the deep pessimism on the US dollar currently. Currencies trade on the relative conditions between countries. Even if things look bad, there still can be a positive effect if conditions are worsening elsewhere. Today, the euro is overvalued by 50% or so. The US dollar has already fallen precipitously over past years. Few trends in the world of money are easily predictable.

Frankly, we don't exactly know how events will play out ahead. At some point, we do anticipate a new global boom driven by new inflationary money games. In the meantime, economic troubles can induce populations to make dangerously bad choices. According to historians, it was the grave economic conditions in Germany that greased the acceptance of Adolph Hitler and the Nazis. *"Nothing embittered the German people so much—it is important to remember this—nothing made them so furious with hate and so ripe for Hitler as the inflation."* (World of Yesterday, Stefan Zweig) This election year, what choices will America make?

Finally, a key thing to remember is that the world remains binary when it comes to wealth. There are always two sides to every transaction, a buyer and a seller, a debit for every credit, and creditor for every debtor. Therefore, the heavily pessimistic reports about the current losses and write-offs is entirely overlooking the other side of the binary equation. While the banking system and various investment funds may end up writing off as much as \$2 trillion and more—not to mention the amounts of bail-out money that may yet be forthcoming from taxpayers—somebody originally pocketed much of that money. Who sold the over-priced homes that others bought and now are being foreclosed? Someone received the proceeds for the original sales of the mortgage-backed securities that ended up written of in the tens of billions.

Suffice it to say that by the time that this current global slowdown has bottomed and is again on the mend, international structures will have taken the biggest leaps of change since the late 1940s. Back then, it was fertile ground for founding international institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF. The world then was attempting to set up a system that would forever prevent another world war. This next round of globalism will seek to forever avoid another world-wide calamity as has been aided and abetted by the greed of the Wall Streets around the world as well as complicit politicians and elites. The world's systems will likely become more centralized in response to the current crises. And, all along the world's wealth skew can be expected to widen.

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5-6) **EVR**

The Great, Bogus, Endtime Wealth Transfer- cont'd from pg. 1

There are quite a number of loose interpretations of Proverbs 13:22. Applied to the Church, this concept is also often linked with the teaching that a massive, world-wide, last-day ingathering of souls will yet occur. It is also well known that prosperity gospel preachers like to hang their theology on this same Scripture verse found in Proverbs, though they apply it to the individual Christian.

Can any of these ideas be broadly supported in Scripture? We want to investigate.

Undocumented Transfers

Will the Church soon be showered with the wealth of the unrighteous, thus being able to fund the last, great global harvest of souls? Again quoting C. Peter Wagner, "I think the time is ripe for those of us who are apostles to begin to understand the crucial role we have in God's plan to release the wealth of the wicked for the advance of the kingdom of God."²

But what does the Bible say? Pursuing a historical-grammatical interpretation—in other words, interpreting the Bible as it reads—try as one might, one cannot find this view supported in the Bible.

Dealing first with the "wealth transfer" notion, indeed, we do find that there is a great wealth transfer prophesied in Scripture. However, it has nothing to do with the Church, but rather applies to Israel and the Millennial period. There are many more Scripture verses connecting this event to Israel, rather than the Church. Here are six:

1. "You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast" (Isaiah 61:6).
2. "Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come (Isaiah 60:5).
3. "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream" (Isaiah 66:12).
4. "Rise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion, for I will give you horns of iron; I will give you hoofs of bronze and you will break to pieces many nations." You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth (Micah 4.13).
5. "Your gates will always stand open, they will never be shut, day or night, so that men may bring you the wealth of the nations—their kings led in triumphal procession" (Isaiah 60:11).
6. "The wealth of all the surrounding nations will be collected—great quantities of gold and silver and clothing" (Zechariah 14:14).

There are additional indications of a great wealth transfer prophesied in the Old Testament. Their context refers to the same general time—late in the Tribulation

and early Millennial period. For example, a prophecy applying to Tyre—this city being a prefigurement of the godless commercial systems that aligns with the Babylon the Great of Revelation 18—speaks of wealth being set aside for “those who live before the Lord.”

“At the end of seventy years, the LORD will deal with Tyre. She will return to her hire as a prostitute and will ply her trade with all the kingdoms on the face of the earth. Yet her profit and her earnings will be set apart for the LORD; they will not be stored up or hoarded. Her profits will go to those who live before the LORD, for abundant food and fine clothes” (Isaiah 23:17-18).

While this is not an exhaustive list of references, we have at least established broad Scriptural support for Israel being the recipient. Interestingly, there is not one verse we can find in the New Testament that even indirectly refers to a great endtime wealth transfer. Even the book of Revelation is silent on this topic, though it refers to the destruction of the wealth of Babylon the Great, which will “never be recovered” (Revelation 18:14). Assuredly, if such wealth were to be transferred to the Church, support for this concept would have been found in the New Testament. Instead, there we only find admonishments about the deceitfulness of wealth and how the faith of many will grow cold due to the cares of this life.

The Great Wealth Transfer Received

If there is any concept of the “wealth of the sinner” being transferred to the righteous, it clearly applies to the beginning Millennial period and not to any previous time. As such, Proverbs 13:22 is clearly taken out of context by the Third Wave group of movements. This verse is not a prophecy, but rather, like most of the wisdom literature of Proverbs, only points to general principles or ideals. In fact, in the very same chapter are found two additional statements about the wicked: “Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous” (verse 22); and, “The righteous eat to their hearts' content, but the stomach of the wicked goes hungry” (verse 25).

Again, neither of these can be prophecies. For one, there will be no general conditions of hunger in the Millennial period, though there will be disciplining required. Secondly, as general physical principles, the two maxims in these verses are simply not observable upon earth during this present dispensation. Other Scriptures clearly point out that the wicked do enjoy their riches and that God indeed allows the rain to fall upon both the wicked and righteous. (For example, see Job 21:7-9, Psalm 73:12.)

There are many other problems with the last-day wealth transfer notion applying to the Church. For example, it is claimed that there will yet be a last-day global harvest before the Lord returns, and that the Church will need great wealth to fund this objective as

well as eradicating poverty in the world. Says Wagner, “In order to possess the gate of wealth to, among other things, develop plans to eradicate systemic poverty, we need to develop new structures of intercession to do the spiritual warfare necessary to transfer wealth.”³

However, the Bible says directly otherwise. Clearly implying that there would be little faith upon earth when He returns, Christ asked the rhetorical question: “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). Sadly, whatever great harvests there might yet be, only a very small number of believers will remain at the time of Christ’s return. Other Scriptures also underline this general “cold” spiritual condition of the last days.

In addition, with respect to the poor, Christ said that they would be with us always (Matthew 26:11), indicating that the fallen state of mankind was not going to be successfully transformed by the social initiatives of the Church or any other organization.

A final point to consider in our brief review is that if the Church must first wait for one great and final ingathering before being raptured (*as the Third Wave prophets and so-called apostles such as Dr. Wagner prophesy*), then the Biblical principle of imminency is obviated. However, nothing more is required to happen before the Rapture can occur. It is imminent. As such, it would be strange that the Holy Spirit himself would enable modern-day prophets and apostles to foretell that one great ingathering is yet ahead. If that were so, the Rapture would need to wait and the Trinity would have internal contradictions of truth.

As it is, if there is any last-day ingathering prophesied in the Bible, perhaps this could occur within the Tribulation period, though this view is also not without its problems. Here may be involved the 144,000 that are sealed or the final Christian converts that may respond to the angel that “had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people (Revelation 14:6). However, the text gives us no indication as to how many people might respond, if any. Therefore we cannot prove that a great gathering would occur then either, though there surely will be believers during that time (See Revelation 20:4).

Respect for Scripture

So is there a great, last-day wealth transfer to the Church? Scripture easily and clearly settles this question. Yet, theologians who should have sufficient knowledge of what the Bible says⁴ instead prefer to trust their own intuitions and prophecies. This recent statement from Apostle Peter (*also known as C. Peter Wagner*) provides an example of such vanity, in which he appears to make his own decrees supersede Scripture. Spoken on the great reverential authority of the claimed office of an early New Testament apostle, he literally commands the earth’s

... continued on page 6

Signs of the Times



Ill-gotten Gains Today

“Rise and thresh, O Daughter of Zion, for I will give you horns of iron; I will give you hoofs of bronze and you will break to pieces many nations. You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the LORD, their wealth to the Lord of all the earth” (Micah 4:13).

The Bible says that the nations will have laid up ill-gotten gains by the time that the Millennium begins. The verse in Micah quoted above makes this clear and indicates that these gains (*or wealth*) will come under the direction of Israel in the Millennial period. If so, then we should already be witnessing the accumulative process of “ill-gotten” gains today. After all, these are the very last of the last days. (*Remember that a reborn Israel has already emerged and that the prophesied aliya of the House of Israel back to its homeland has begun*). Gauging from our knowledge of conventional business and financial practices around the world today, we identify plenty of confirming evidence that ill-gotten gains are indeed piling up.

The Hebrew word translated as “ill-gotten” used in the quoted Micah passage is “betsa” meaning (*according to Strong’s*) “plunder; by extension of gain (usually unjust):—covetousness.” It is the same word that Ezekiel used when he described why people don’t follow God’s commandments. *“My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain.”* Ezekiel 31:31)

Judah was given over to “betsa” as well, according to Jeremiah. *“From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.”* (Jeremiah 6:13) The same conditions apply today. Corruption is rife at the highest levels as well as on a global scale. By various measures, it would not be an exaggeration to opine that the recent few decades have been the most corrupt (in relative financial terms) than ever in history. Consider that according to various estimates, half of cross-border trade and investment passes through a tax haven or secret jurisdiction at some point along the way. (Source: Raymond Baker in his book *Capitalism’s Achilles Heel: Dirty Money*) Or, that laundered money today probably accounts for 10% and more of global economic output (GDP, source: Moisés Naim in his recent book entitled, *Illicit*.) We have only scratched the surface of the evidence here.

What is the end of ill-gotten gain? There are both prophetic as well as practical consequences. Micah says that all ill-gotten gains piled up today will yet go before the Lord. Says the Proverbs writer, *“Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it” (Proverbs 1:19) and that “Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death” (Proverbs 10:2).*

EVR

Sermoney



When a Man Sows to Reap

Now men make this mistake—they sow to the flesh, and think they will reap the harvest of the spirit. And on the other hand, they sow to the spirit and are disappointed they do not reap a temporal harvest.

A teacher had been relating to his class the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, and he asked:

“Now which would you rather be, boys, the rich man or Lazarus?”

One boy answered, “I would rather be the rich man while I live and Lazarus when I die.”

That cannot be; it is flesh and corruption, or Spirit and everlasting life. There is no bridge from one to the other.

Seed which is sown for a spiritual harvest has no tendency whatever to procure temporal well-being. Christ declared, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God; blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled” (with righteousness); “blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

You observe the beatific vision of the Almighty—fullness of righteousness—divine comfort. There is nothing earthly here, it is spiritual results for spiritual labor. It is not said that the pure in heart shall be made rich; or that they who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled with bread, or that they who mourn shall rise in life and obtain distinction. Each department has its own appropriate harvest, reserved exclusively to its own method of sowing.

Everything reaps its own harvest; every act has its own reward. And before you covet the enjoyment which another possesses, you must first calculate the cost at which it was procured. For instance, the religious tradesman complains that his honesty is a hindrance to his success, that the tide of custom (revenue) pours into the doors of his less scrupulous neighbor in the same street while he himself sits idle for hours. My brother, do you think that God is going to reward honor, integrity, high-mindedness, with this world’s coin? Do you fancy that he will pay spiritual excellence with plenty of custom?

Now consider the price that man has paid for his success—perhaps mental degradation and inward dishonour. His advertisements are all deceptive, his treatment of his workmen tyrannical, his cheap prices made possible by inferior articles. Sow that man’s seed, and you will reap that man’s harvest. Cheat, lie, be unscrupulous in your assertions, and custom will come to you. But if the price be too high, let him have his harvest, and you take yours—a clear conscience, a pure mind, rectitude within and without. Will you part with that for his harvest?

D. L. Moody (1896). (Excerpted from the book Sowing and Reaping as selected by Searchlight Magazine, Spring 2008, www.searchlight-missions.org.)

EVR

The Great, Bogus, Endtime Wealth Transfer- cont'd from pg. 4

obedience. Not even the first Apostle Peter spoke with such licence. (*One also wonders why the foundations of the New Jerusalem will be named after the original 12 apostles and not more? —See Revelation 21:14.*)

“I hereby take the apostolic authority that I have been given by God. I decree that vast amounts of wealth will be released supernaturally, even from godless and pagan sources. I decree that large numbers of God’s chosen people will be empowered in fresh and creative ways to gain wealth according to Deuteronomy 8:18. New inventions will multiply. Disruptive technologies will change the life patterns of the whole human race. The earth will disgorge vast riches of hidden resources. These will be entrusted to God’s agents. Profits will increase exponentially. It is spoken. So may it come to pass! Amen and amen!”⁵

Today, as all too frequently with other Third Wave Christian movements supposedly marked by “fresh moves of the Spirit,” new or revised theologies have been revealed on the strength of new prophecies uttered by their own prophets. The serious issue here is that these prophecies serve to revise what God originally said through his prophets and Scripture. Indeed, such revisions are not a new phenomenon, having been the mark of many if not all apostate movements or beliefs.

These prophecies reveal a lack of reverence and respect for what God has said. Consider that Christ himself never once claimed to correct or revise any “jot or tittle” of the Scripture and the Prophets. Jesus, though he was God, could not and did not have the temerity to revise and improve upon the testimony of the prophets. Yet, such conceit and disrespect of Scripture is legion amongst all revisionists. Doing so, they “reject authority and slander celestial beings” (Jude 1:8). This was true of Mohammed (*who claimed his mission was to revise and correct the previous prophets, including Christ*) and today of many claimed Christian denominations from Roman Catholicism (*namely, its Magisterium*) to a growing number of Protestant sects.

Thoughts to Ponder

The Bible does prophesy a major endtime wealth transfer. It is not to the Church, but rather to Israel and the righteous of the Millennial Kingdom. Yet, some churches today do hanker after worldly power and have set their eyes upon monetary wealth. As America itself is in the midst of the largest wealth transfer in history, says the website of PhilanthroCorp, a fundraising consultancy, “Churches can capitalize on the opportunity presented by this huge wealth transfer by pursuing a strategic planned giving program.”⁶

In fact, the apostate church and its many daughters, shown as Mystery Babylon the Whore in Revelation 17, are well on their way to a full union with commercial

Babylon of Revelation 17. The grand last-day ecumenical lie of serving both God and Mammon is far advanced. Since this is impossibility—“You cannot serve both God and Money.” (Matthew 6:24)—it is really a movement in which Mammon has robed itself in the garb of religion and apparent “Christian godliness.”

The true Church of the last days, if anything, is more of a remnant than it is resplendent with wealth. Revelation 3:8 says that the church of the “open door” is weak and feeble; far from being imbued with worldly power and wealth. It is this little Philadelphian band of believers, to which is promised, “Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth” (Revelation 3:10). If the Third Wave movements are correct, one wonders why it is the rich Laodicean church that is being reprimanded by Christ.

The Bible says, “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Revelation 19:10). We therefore must ask: Is the spirit behind these prophecies of great wealth and power coming to the Church the testimony of the Spirit of Jesus? (Acts 16:7, Philippians 1:19). Such riches would surely corrupt for wealth is deceitful (Matthew 13:22). Christ pointed to the importance of true riches for His followers and the Church, saying: “So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?” (Luke 16:11-12)

Where should we look for wealth and power? “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)

NOTES:

1. C. Peter Wagner, Personal invitation to this author to participate in an ad hoc “invitation-only” Apostolic Roundtable on Kingdom Wealth, in Colorado, October 2004. On file with The Mulberry Ministry.
2. C. Peter Wagner, Releasing Wealth in Apostolic Times. <<http://www.globalharvest.org/index.asp?action=wealth>> Accessed April 17, 2008.
3. C. Peter Wagner, Cindy Jacobs et al. January 10, 2008. <http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word/6056> Accessed April 18, 2008
4. Dr. Wagner was a long-time professor at Fuller Theological Seminary (28 years).
5. C. Peter Wagner, *Global Link* Volume 3, Issue 23, June 9, 2006. <http://www.globalharvest.org/global_link_95.htm> Accessed April 17, 2008.
6. PhilanthroCorp website: <<http://www.aboutplannedgiving.com/page.php>> Accessed April 25, 2008.

EVR

Facts & Stats ... Ends & Trends



TOPICAL QUOTES

Widespread gentile support for Israel is one of the most potent political forces in U.S. foreign policy, and in the last 60 years, there has never been a Gallup poll showing more Americans sympathizing with the Arabs or the Palestinians than with the Israelis. The most dramatic religious expression of the importance of the Old Testament in American culture today is the rise of premillennial dispensationalism, an interpretation of biblical prophecies that gives particular weight to Old Testament religious concepts such as covenant theology and assigns a decisive role to a restored Jewish state (With Jerusalem as its capital) in future history. An estimated 7% of Americans seem to hold this theological position (making this group almost four times as large as the American Jewish community), and a considerably larger group is influenced by it to a greater or lesser degree.

Walter Russell Mead, writing in Foreign Affairs, July/August 2008

In 2002, Moscow had five billionaires. Today, 74 people with billions in the bank call the Russian capital home, edging out perennial No. 1 New York City for the first time. New York's 71 billionaires are also worth far less—\$3.3 billion on average—than thus in Moscow, who boast an average net worth of \$5.9 billion. London comes in third with 36 billionaires, half of them foreigners.

Forbes Magazine

According to the World Gold council, at the end of 2006 the central banks of the 38 countries within 25 major economic areas (including 38 countries, and representing 60.2% of the world population and 89.1% of its gross domestic product) held 24,170 tones of gold. This represents 91.3% of the gold held by all countries of the world. As of July 25, 2007, the closing price of gold was US \$964.10. There are 32,150.75

troy ounces in a metric tonne. Thus, the value of the gold held by the 38 countries is US \$749.2 billion. The total value of the currency issued by these countries—US \$3.82 trillion—is nearly five times that figure.

Mike Hewitt, DollarDaze.org, July 15, 2008

Of 196 countries around the world, 131 rely on food imports to feed their citizens, according to the World Bank's latest figures from 2005. In 1980, just 107 countries had to look beyond their borders to put food on the table.

Foreign Policy Magazine, March/April 2008

London and New York remain the top two centers for global commerce, according to an index of 75 cities compiled by MasterCard.

The Economist, June 14, 2008

The share of farmland used for organic production has grown quickly in many rich countries. Swiss farmers are among the keenest on organic food production: more than 10% of their agricultural land is devoted to organic farming, up from less than 2% in the mid-1990s. Outside Europe, organic farming is less popular. In America, it accounts for just 0.25% of the land under cultivation. Japan's organic farms account for less than 1% of agricultural land.

OECD, reported by The Economist

Coca-Cola says it is the largest private-sector employer in Africa. Its system of distribution, which moves the sugary drink from bottling plants deep into slums and the bush a few crates at a time, may employ around 1 million Africans. A study at the University of South Carolina suggested that 1% of South Africa's economy was tied up, one way or another, in the distribution and sale of Coke.

The Economist, July 5, 2008

Large institutions and grass roots organizations that focus on the benign and irrelevant exercise of "interfaith dialogue" ...

merely embracing Muslims who are already converted to a Western school of thought while shunning and alienating those who have influence over the very extremists who challenge the West's vision of the world is not only misguided; it is dangerous. By avoiding the fact that there are profound differences between Muslims in the East and non-Muslims in the West, we are hindering solutions that could prevent the next terror attack.

Geneive Abdo, False Prophets, Foreign Policy July/August 2008

The [...] impetus to rejig the way the world organized itself is a dawning realization on the part of governments, rich and poor, that the biggest challenges shaping their future—climate change, the flaws and the forces of globalization, the scramble for resources, state failure, mass terrorism, the spread of weapons of mass destruction—often need global, not just national or regional, solutions.

The Economist, July 5, 2008



Letters to the Editor

(Editor's Note: In this section we provide answers to a few of the letters we receive. We appreciate them. Here we focus on the practical issues of stewardship in this age, interesting questions as well as general feedback and insights. Please note that questions may be edited.)

READER: Thank you for your very insightful article — *Financial Armageddon Approaching*—which I read in [Midnight Call Magazine](#). As I have watched the markets this last year, I have thought the same thing: There must be "eating/drinking/marrying/buying/selling/planting"... etc., as occurred right up to the day that Noah entered the ark, and Lot was taken from the city of Sodom. And so, as the markets take frightful dives into what many people say "this is it, this is the crash", they then recover and go right back up. I have a propensity to think that these are large bear-market rallies ... but then maybe not. Our Lord did say, *"at that time do not be indulging in excesses and cares of this life, surfeiting, or that day will come on you as a snare."* The trap shuts while people—as Paul says, those of the night—are sleeping or drunken (*from excesses*), while the children of the day, see that Day coming. And the rich man erecting more and more barns for his retirement, who is told *"your soul will be taken from you tonight"* sounds so much like most of my friends who can think of nothing but piling up their retirement money and not giving one thought to the times we are in or the Lord and His coming Kingdom. As Paul says, *"That while they are saying peace and safety, sudden destruction comes."* Many believe this verse has to do with the peace agreement to be signed, but he also talks about those sleeping and drunken—children of the night—that therefore are saying, complacently, "peace and safety," for their day-to-day concerns. The Laodicean church, the last church addressed by our Lord just before the *"come up hither"* is given to John in Revelation 4:1, is bragging and boasting about its wealth. It is complacent, so much so, that they are about to be spewed out and not taken in the rapture. This, too, shows the complacency of wealth just before destruction, for pride goeth before destruction all through the Bible. See also the pride and complacency of Nebuchadnezzar just prior to his being sent to the field in insanity to eat grass for seven years (*a type of the tribulation and a type for gentile world leaders who will be insane for seven years in the tribulation*) Later, his grandson, Belshazzar, is throwing a riotous party when the handwriting appears on the wall decreeing his soon-coming destruction the very next day. This complacency is again seen in the celebration and festivities of the Philistines, mocking Samson, when he brings the temple down upon them. The warning by our Lord that He would come *"when ye think not"* for, when things are wonderful, who would expect the Lord to return? For: *"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters,*

neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy" (Ezekiel 16:49). Altogether, the pride / complacency /surfeiting /wealth, is given in many types in the Scriptures, both in the Old and New Testaments. That that Day that is said to be a *"snare that will come upon all those who dwell upon earth"*, the earth-dwellers, then people of the flesh with no thought about the Lord. It even includes the evil "servant" (Christian) who says *"my Lord delayeth His coming, and begins to eat and drink with the drunken and abuse his fellow servants"*, who will be *"cut off"* because of this party mentality. And so, Mr. Hahn, I guess we shall continue to recover from these swoons in the markets and even the doomsters regarding the national and world economies. However, I do sense something deeper is going on ... things that are unsustainable ... the monumental growth of trillions of dollars of derivatives ... etc., the printing of confetti money ... etc. I believe that when the Lord said in Luke 21 that *"when you begin to see these things, look up, for your redemption draws nigh"*, is that period of time Paul referred to as when the children of the day will *"see that day coming"*, for the precursors of tribulation events will be seen just below the surface, waiting in the wings for their part in the great drama to come. We sure do see many of these things today, all lined up like ducks in a row. Wow! How thrilling! For He is at the door! Respectfully, in Christ.—**A—Michigan, USA**

EVR: I have very little to add to your thoughts. No doubt, we today feel and hear the tremors that presage the final apocalypse. Indeed, deep recessions and financial troubles are possible in various countries and regions. And, it would only be fitting if these were to occur in those countries that claim to be Christians. Yet, viewed globally, the fiat money system cannot collapse entirely until its time ... somewhere in the Tribulation period. The world cannot continue its materialistic convergence and complete its destiny with the Antichrist without it. Even though "sustainability" has become the latest vogue policy initiative for major corporations, governments and development agencies, the world is not on a sustainable path. It is fated for a collapse. Sadly, most Christians are entirely taken up with the anxieties of life. They have bought in to the values of the world. We, however, look for His coming, longing to be with Him, while things of the world to us "look strangely dim." To most, however, Christianity is nothing more than a handy "utilitarian religion." It is mostly seen as the road to prosperity and sure blessings. And if not, and grave times should fall upon both households and countries, why the "rapture" would be just the ticket to escape such "unchristian times" of economic hardships and troubles. At least, so seems the popular expectation amongst many Christians. We look not to escape, but to be with Him.

READER: I am an avid reader of your EVR, because it contains most valuable insights into world wide financial developments from a biblical point of view. This is rarely a sermon theme nowadays. Of course, the first question the "old Adam" in me is concerned with is: how do I keep my savings safe through these financial turmoils? I'm beginning to realize, it is not only futile from the Christian point of

view, but also the wrong question. The right one would be: how do I keep my heart safe? Anyway many thanks for EVR. The article *Food Crisis and the Coming Anti-joseph* in the last EVR was particularly inspiring. **CS—Germany**

READER: (*The following is a composite of several with the same general question.*) I've read your book, *Endtime Money Snare*. It was an interesting perspective on the world financial system, lined up with Bible prophecy. But I don't recall that you specifically mention where to put our finances that the Lord has entrusted to us. I want to be a good steward and use the resources he has given me for His work, and I don't want to lose it. Do you have other instruction on safe investments? With banks failing, hopefully a lot of years of retirement yet ahead, what are your recommendations? **Various—USA**

EVR: This is the most frequent question EVR gets ... and for understandable reasons. I believe many Christians are truly bewildered by the economic and financial challenges facing investors. How can one best preserve one's savings for retirement and do so in a God-honoring way? It is a legitimate question, particularly as the world is plunging into rampant deception and economic captivity. As EVR is not an investment letter, we don't venture to make specific recommendations, rather focusing on general stewardship principles. But readers do ask: Why don't you provide specific examples of what to buy, what to sell? There are several significant reasons why not. For one, it isn't possible to provide specific recommendations without becoming a frequently-issued investment advisory letter. Any set of recommendations must be kept up-to-date as trends and conditions can change quickly. That means that an investment that made sense only last month, may no longer appear sensible this month. Generally, it is not an advisable practice to invest with a short-term investment horizon. However, investments contemplated with long-term horizons can indeed become short-term given unforeseen changes. Therefore, by the time people would read recommendations in EVR (*which is a bi-monthly newsletter*) prospects may have changed dramatically. Next, it is not possible to provide specific investment advice that applies to everyone. Personal situations are different. Risk tolerances, income requirements, overall financial conditions ... all must figure into such recommendations. Therefore, only the most generic advice is possible. Next, anyone acting on any specific investment advice must, of course, presume that it will be reliable and accurate. What if a specific recommendation turned sour? Who to blame? Well, in the first place, I am not aware of any person who has a perfect investment record ... not even close. I would surely try to bring sound judgment to the endtime economic themes that EVR discusses. However, the fact of the matter is that my views will be wrong at times. The world is simply too complex, corrupt and deceptive to presume any reliable insights into what trends will next erupt upon the world stage. As such, all opinions expressed by EVR should be taken as nothing certain, and you should vet them before accepting them. There is far too much speculative and misguided commentary in relation to Bible prophecy as it

is, not to even consider an endtime money newsletter that would purport to represent that it can profit people's portfolios when the time is so short. I truly believe that the signs of the endtimes are there for all to see, prompting people instead to get their eternal portfolios ready. With that long preface (apologies), here is our standard advice: 1. Research and scrutinize every investment, thoroughly understanding the costs and fees associated with it and the underlying content (*for example, many people buy mutual funds and often have no idea what investments are held inside of these funds*); 2. Understand the risk involved and make sure that you can afford it; 3. Diversify, diversify, and diversify. If you do have savings capital to invest, spread it across different types of investments that are not susceptible to the same risks. For example, you may want to mix some fixed-income investments with real estate, equities, foreign investments ... etc; 4. Try not to take the popular path, for "*wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it*" (Matthew 7:13). While that verse refers to salvation, it also holds a general principle that is active in the world. Finally, I would point readers to the article entitled *Practical Stewardship Guidelines*. It can be found on our website on the Topical Articles page.

READER COMMENT: Thank you again for a great article *Locust Ranks Led by a Prince*. It helps to see the landscape around us much more clearly. I'm a believer who has pretty much ruined himself financially, credit card debt, car debt, consolidation loans. I'm still making payments, but later and later ones. I pray about this often. **JE—Iowa, USA**

READER COMMENT: I read your book, "*The Endtime Money Snare: How to Live Free*". Thank you very much for this very important information. The book helped me to understand better what is going on and to protect myself from the great danger which goes out from our monetary system. **DR—Germany**

READER COMMENT: I have been in the "money" business for 20 years and heartily agree with the points you made in your book. I believe that God is pulling away all the idols that we have built for ourselves in one big last warning to those who have ears to hear. **DL—Montana, USA**

EVR

Wilfred's 2008 Itinerary: *The Mulberry Ministry*

- **September 27-29—Midnight Call Ministries, Atlantic Prophecy Conference—Charleston, South Carolina**
www.midnightcall.com or call 1-800-845-2420
- **October 17-19 —3rd Annual Saskatoon Prophecy Conference —Berean Watchmen Ministries, Saskatoon, SK, Canada**
<http://www.bereanwatchmen.com/conferences/index.php>
- **December 8-10—Pre-Trib Research Conference, Dallas, Texas—www.pre-trib.org/conference.php**

Contact us at mulberryministry@telus.net



Personal Perspectives

The End of Days and the End of Oil?

It goes without saying that high oil prices have been the talk of the world this past year. Prices have continued to rise to successive new highs in recent months, hitting a peak of \$147 per barrel (*on July 11 before again tumbling 17% at the time of this writing*). All the same, the recent price surge has caused havoc around the world, prompting riots and anxiety ... even in North America.

Oil prices have soared a number of times before. It seems that every time they do, sensationalist books flood the bookstores (some of them written by Christian authors). A common theme is to malign Middle Eastern oil producers or blame the Muslims. Often, it is alluded that anti-Semitic impulses may be behind these price surges.

I suppose we would be guilty of somewhat the same bias, having published a booklet 2-years ago, titled *Final Combustion: Oil, Islam and the Christian West*. (It is available free from our website, www.eternalvalue.com.) Popular conceptions are surely simplistic. In truth, the blame goes all around. Muslims countries only shoulder part of the blame ... maybe even the lesser portion. Complacent consumers, corrupt leaders and Wall Street-style schemes (profit maximization) have all played a complicit role. With the apparent boom in the knowledge economy over the past few decades, why could it not be anticipated that the depletion of accessible oil resources would eventually occur?

A key point to remember is that “*we fight not against flesh and blood but against rulers and authorities in high places*” (Ephesians 6:12). What our booklet clearly points out is that the world’s oil situation today is not a product of random chance. It has a design impressed upon its development, as it is statistically improbable that present-day circumstances with respect to world hydrocarbons could have come about accidentally. In that booklet, we list over 20 improbable factors. Taking them all together and considering their impact upon endtime developments, it is impossibility to rule the world’s plight today as circumstantial. It would be incorrect to alone blame oil exporters (which are predominantly Muslim countries these days) for today’s crisis. We argue there is a master strategist behind current events and conditions, influencing people and religions. However, the implementation of this plan is near its conclusion—very near the last-stage trap phase (if not already complete) that contributes to the “shaking and tremors” of the Tribulation and also the time shortly before. Please take time to read the booklet to gain a macro and spiritual perspective on this entire scene.

We definitely do believe that oil economics plays a contributing role to endtime world affairs, though not specifically prophesied. Any monumental development impacting the world and its geopolitics since Israel’s

rebirth, by definition, plays an endtime role. But how will oil’s role exactly play out?

We have always theorized that oil is the ideal weapon to distance Western nations (many of these with a former Christian heritage) from Israel. Time will tell. It is true, that almost all of the major oil price surges since the early 1970s have been linked with Israel in some way (though not entirely explaining this causality). Consider that oil prices first peaked in 1973-75 following the Yom Kippur war. An oil embargo ensued at that time. In 1979-1980, following the Iranian Revolution, an even bigger increase in real oil prices occurred. In 1990-91, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait led to a temporary increase in oil prices. And, latterly in 2001, a doubling of oil prices followed the beginning of the second Palestinian intifada against Israel. All of these occurrences are related in some way to anti-Israel strife in the Mideast. Looking ahead, time will tell how the next events will play out. What happens in North America henceforth will be a critical factor.

And here, some positive changes might be underway ... though perhaps not permanent. Believe it or not, North Americans are actually driving their automobiles less these days. One economist is already forecasting that there will be 10 million fewer vehicles on American roadways by 2012 than today. But if anything, the price crisis (and that’s all it is to this point, as there are no shortages ... no line-ups at gas stations as during the 1970s crisis) has caused people to think of the long-term implications of world oil supply running down.

For no other continent in the world would the end of the “Oil Age” signify more profound changes than North America. The US and Canada alike are populated with over-consumers (*relative to world averages*) and consist of networks of commuter communities that are absolutely reliant upon the automobile. Just what would really happen if the average household could either not afford or secure the gasoline necessary to drive their car? While to propose such a situation may seem sensationalist, it is not fear-mongering if it promotes sensible long-term planning.

To date, of course, oil remains a cheap liquid relative to a bottle of Coca-Cola or Evian bottled water, and is in sufficient supply. However, were we to extrapolate recent trends, the average household will be spending more on gasoline per month than on groceries by 2009. After all, Americans drive twice as much per capita as people in Sweden, UK, Germany and France.

For now, as the world economy slumps, oil prices can be expected to continue falling. But, it won’t be many years before the next surge gets underway.

And that, as best as I can tell, is the truth.

Wilfred J. Hahn

EVR



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