



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

ISSUE 5, VOLUME 11

"For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times."

October 2008

FEATURE REPORT

The Omri Dynasty: A Picture of Endtime Globalism

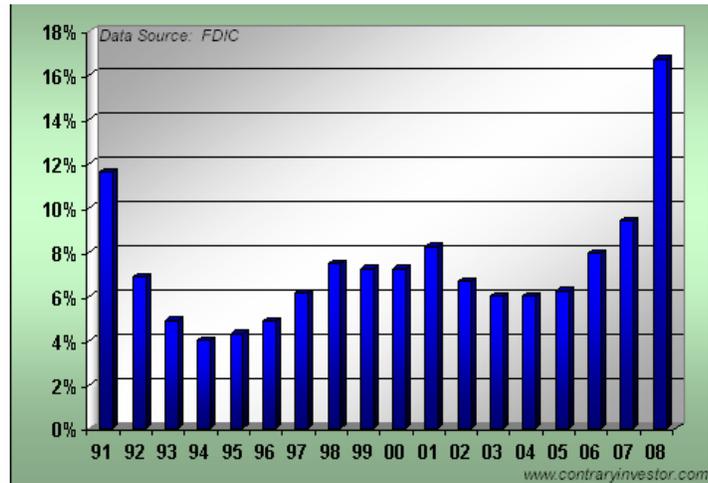
We live in an age of mega-mergers—a fraternization frenzy at every level. Across the globe, large corporations have been swallowing each other up like fish, becoming ever larger and far-reaching. In geo-political circles, the forces of globalism and globalization are driving world-wide union. We see countries entering into various alliances as they join and expand organizations such as NATO, the World Trade Organization and many other associations too numerous to mention. They are all mergers of convenience and opportunity, driven by motives of power, peace and prosperity. Not a single appeal is made to the statutes of the God of the Bible.

Even more worrisome, mergers are underway—namely, the increased combining and mixing of church and state, Christianity and paganism (ecumenicism), and the bringing together of Mammon and the Kingdom of God by various church groups. All of the merger activity mentioned—all driven by a quest for influence and prosperity—has geared up to hyper-speed in our time. The price? Compromise, rampant deceit, increasing economic danger, and the abandonment of the Truth.

What will be the outcome for the world? Will a remnant of a faithful Church be preserved? The Bible tells of a similar era—that of Omri, King of Israel and his dynasty. Of all the kings of Israel, he was the exemplar of tolerance and geo-political fraternizing. It is illuminating to study the practices of this man and his descendant kings, Ahab, Ahaziah and Joram. Omri's dynasty provides key lessons that speak to our endtime world. It points to an endtime globalism ... as well as the fate of the

... continued on page 4

Coming to a Bank Near You? Percentage of Unprofitable US Banking Institutions



"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:33-34

WORLD MONEY UPDATE

The Golden Calf Revealed

The week ending September 19th was the week that was to be remembered. It was also a week that confirmed the future. How so? The true bias of the world's systems and rulers—the key makers and shakers—were revealed in full color.

For those who may not know, world financial markets were flapping in the wind ... investors and traders horrified and mortified at the prospect of systemic financial meltdown. (Please note that we issued a Special Comment on September 17th in advance of this regular EVR issue. As such, topics covered in this issue will not be in the usual configuration. If you missed this special report, it can be found on the home page of our website.)

During a manic week, some stock markets fell as much as 17.5% in one day (Russia's) only to surge upwards again by the end of the week. Reporting systems malfunctioned, traders were overwhelmed and money was desperately dashing for cover. The catch-22, of course, is that when everybody is trying to escape through a narrow exit, it becomes impossible for most. The trampled bodies soon obstruct the doorway. At some point

... continued on next page

In This Issue

Feature Report

The Omri Dynasty: A Picture of Endtime Globalism —pg. 1

World Money Update:

The Golden Calf Revealed —pg. 1

Signs of the Times

—pg. 5

Alternate Review —pg. 5

Facts n' Stats —pg. 7

Letters to the Editor

—pg. 9

Personal Perspective

America and Global Crisis —pg. 10

during the week, fear ran so high that people were willing to accept negative interest rates on US Treasury bills. They, in effect, paid interest for the assurance that they would be able to have a safe store for their money. The last time we recall this occurring was in Japan in the 1990s. At that time it was for different reasons. Then, rather than fear being the cause, Japanese banks did not want to accept any overnight deposits as there was a lack of borrowers.

But back to the present specter. We saw an abnormally high buzz of activity in the halls of power and money. Lots of big black limousines were ferrying around big “bulge bracket” elites to urgent meetings. On Wall Street, it was as if the famous scenes of John Piermont Morgan’s coordinated rescue of Wall Street (Panic of 1907) was being re-enacted. Key financial executives were being closeted together over entire weekends in order to construct coordinated schemes to plug the leaks in the dyke (*whether faltering companies such as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, Lehman Brothers, AIG, and others*) before markets opened on Monday morning. All semblance and decorum of rules and conventional practices went out the window for the high cause of stopping mass financial panic.

In Canada, all the heads of the big banks rushed to meet with the governor of the central bank in Toronto. In Russia, President Putin sent out the directive that all the key oligarchs (*especially those that also held government positions*) show up to help formulate a rescue plan (*as well as put their money behind the cause*). Even some of the oligarchs that had long decamped from Russia, such as Roman Abramovich, flew in for the meeting.

What we clearly witnessed is that the world’s most important people are its merchants. It parallels that future time when, “*Your merchants were the world’s great men.*” (Revelation 18:23) They run the world and represent the ultimate levers of global power ... at least at the present time.

Those who have studied societies of old know that it was not always so. In fact, this was rarely the case. More

usually priests and philosophers were considered to represent the most elite rungs of society. If not, it was more likely the warriors. But merchants and money men? These were considered the most base functions in many ancient societies. The Bible also never provides an endorsement of societies that were intensely commercialized, associating such attitudes with idolatry. The maritime city-state of Tyre, the nexus of the then-known world trading system, is given high profile in the Old Testament. It is never commended.

In admonishment of anyone who thinks that economic growth is infinite, we read: “*Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land. The Lord Almighty has declared in my hearing: ‘Surely the great houses will become desolate, the fine mansions left without occupants. A ten-acre vineyard will produce only a bath of wine, a homer of seed only an ephah of grain.’*” (Isaiah 5:8-10) That is a prophecy still to be fulfilled in the future.

Speaking of Assyria’s economic rapaciousness, “*Multiply like grasshoppers, multiply like locusts! You have increased the number of your merchants till they are more than the stars of the sky, but like locusts they strip the land and then fly away. Your guards are like locusts, your officials like swarms of locusts that settle in the walls on a cold day—but when the sun appears they fly away, and no one knows where.*” (Nahum 3:15-17)

And, as mentioned, there are many indictments of ancient Tyre’s excesses in this area. For example: “*By your great skill in trading you have increased your wealth, and because of your wealth your heart has grown proud.*” (Ezekiel 28:5) “*Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.*” (Ezekiel 28:16) “*By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries.*” (Ezekiel 28:18) There are other similar such allusions in the Bible. We clearly see that all excessively commercialized, greed-infused systems or activities of mankind are either condemned or denigrated.

Returning to the current theatre of “hari kari” financial markets, by the end of the famous week that was, the hounds of high finance had sniffed out the real criminals: Short-sellers. (*Briefly explained, this a term for investors who sell a stock they do not own, having borrowed it with the obligation of returning this holding.*) There is little love lost for any class of speculative investor, however, there is an aspect to this edict that should not be missed by Christians and anyone who believes in the concepts of fairness and truth. George Orwell couldn’t have described this week any better. From henceforth, pronounced Christopher Cox, Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), “*thou shalt not short.*” (*Actually, those are our words.*) Quoting him directly, “*The Commission is committed to using every weapon in its arsenal to combat market manipulation.*” The SEC, effective Sept. 19th, banned all short-selling in 799 financial stocks for an interim period.

One wonders why market manipulation was not considered to be such a bad thing while an enormous,



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW
MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT



Wilfred J. Hahn, Editor

Eternal Value Review is produced bi-monthly by *The Mulberry Ministry*, P.O. Box 2609, Station R, Kelowna, BC, Canada, V1X 6A7. Please direct all inquiries concerning distributions in writing or by contacting our administrative offices at mulberryministry@telus.net.

Annual Subscription Rates - *Eternal Value Review* is available free of charge in PDF format to on-line subscribers six times a year. Please sign up for free distribution at www.eternalvalue.com. Mailing of a print version is \$19 for one year. Back issues are posted on our website.

Questions, comments correspondence and relevant news items are welcomed in writing to the Editor at the above-named address or e-mail to mulberryministry@telus.net.

Financial Health Warning - The use of *Eternal Value Review* for the promotion of any other commercial activity or pursuit is expressly prohibited. *The Mulberry Ministry* does not endorse any third-party financial product, service or any promotion of an investment scheme.

Copyright - ©2008. Mulberry Press Inc. One-time reproductions and excerpts are encouraged for the purpose of introduction of the viewpoints of *The Mulberry Ministry* without permission.

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

corrupt financial bubble was being inflated to bursting in the first place. It is only admitted to be a bad thing in the eyes of the public when it causes prices to drop to less inflated levels. By that time, of course, the smart money has long exited and the taxpayer's money is being marshalled to fill in the black holes. The real culprits of the financial fiasco and systemic subterfuge have long ago run off with the huge profits, safely stashed in offshore accounts or liquid investments.

What some call the “pigmen” of Wall Street—this epithet really referring to the buddy network of corrupt power elites everywhere—have of course played an instrumental role. To be sure, a select few have suffered enormous losses. For example, Maurice Greenberg, former head of AIG and substantial shareholder, at one point will have suffered unrealized losses of as much as \$20 billion (*yes, billion*). But, we do not propose to lay the blame on “pigmen” alone, although the disasters that have come upon America surely has required their complicity. Really, everyone is to blame, from homebody to priest. (*See the excerpt from an article by David Brooks on page 5.*)

If anybody, we would place the uppermost burden for responsibility on the wreckage of our idolatrous, value-distorted societies upon religious leaders and theologians. Of course, everyone carries personal accountability for their own actions. But, these are the people in the positions that the Bible invests with high accountability. (Hebrews 13:17) Progressively, starting long ago, many have sold out or denied truths. They have gone the way of Balaam, selling their sophistries to the highest bidder in the here and now and busily teaching that “Did God really say?” not. (Genesis 3:10) In this regard, it would be hard not to yield to a special derision for the latest breed of “prosperity gospel” teachers. They have made a mockery of the eternal worth of the gospel. When the “golden calf” placed on the altar is material prosperity, riches and success, then philosophy and theology becomes malleable and subservient to this glittering god.

The seeds of future demise, often start with divine blessings. Can this really be true? This is not blame the blessings, but rather mankind's eventual response. There comes a point, where the divine origin of prosperity is forgotten. Instead, it is attributed to the achievements and prowess of man alone. In time, the focus next moves to confidence which is based on the perceptions of mankind's record of past achievement. Then, the object of fixation turns to prosperity itself. It then becomes the objective of prime focus. From this point and beyond, everything—truth, religion, justice—becomes a pliable utility to pursue wealth, whether real or fictitious.

While we hardly wish to argue the case for short-sellers, nevertheless, there are some aspects to their recent banning that should not be missed. The golden calf is clearly evident here. Truth, fair value and opinions are tolerable only so long as the growth of wealth is unobstructed. In this sense, the god of fecundity and increase is visible in recent policies. As Nebuchadnezzar insisted, you must bow down to the image of gold, sixty cubits high and six wide. (Daniel 3:5) The Babylonian numerical system of man —

hexagesimal or based on 60 — plainly symbolizing mankind's works and idolatries. If you will not bow, into the fire with you. There will not be allowed any contrary opinion to the elevation of Mammon.

There is evident a similar bias with respect to religious beliefs. All are tolerable and true (*despite the mutual contradictions*) except that which claims to be absolute Truth. In fact, if any beliefs are intolerant, it is those that limit choice, claiming that there is only one destination for all. No. That would be narrow minded. There are at least two—ultimately heaven or darkness (hell).

Meanwhile, while the Western world was staunching the gaping wounds in its so-thought “Bible-mandated” fractional-reserve banking system, in another corner of the world, the Gulf Cooperative Group (GCC) was furthering its plan for a common currency. The GCC, a group of rich Arabian Middle-eastern countries comprised of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, and Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, is aspiring to launch a common currency by the end of 2010—the khaleeji. These nations are still economically modest in size relative to the rest of the high-income nations of the world—for example, the 30 member nations of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). But, they nevertheless are a group to be watched. They have become wealthy and influential, still accumulating some \$300 billion a year with oil prices in the \$90 per barrel range. And, they will yet have some prominent roles to play in the future.

Again, back on our home continent, change is surely afoot. Change? ... but what kind change? Says, one intrepid writer who writes anonymously as London Banker on RGE Monitor: “*Once again in the name of crisis and expediency the laws are ignored, decisions are taken in secret, extra-judicial reapportionment of property and contract is mandated by executive fiat, and legislative review and judicial intervention are impossible. Over the past year every financial crisis has been met with lawless and Enron-esque innovation by the Federal Reserve and Treasury, and this week was arguably more extreme. In the name of exigency, they have all been sprung as fait accompli on a shocked financial community, and since been treated as unquestionable and unreviewable. Every initiative introduced as a temporary measure has become a permanent fixture. Not all catastrophic events were willful or anticipated, but all were used to force through an agenda that was pre-agreed by a powerful elite that stood to profit from a preferred course of policies that could only be pursued in the undemocratic atmosphere of crisis. Crisis prevents objective determination of the public interest. Crisis undermines both markets and democracy.*”

And, that will also be true globally. Shriill voices again are calling for global laws and structures that will protect mankind from the financial lawlessness that has led to recent financial tremors. Said a columnist in the Financial Times, “*That means more global governance: credible international rules.*”

Take note: The advance of globalism has again received a shot in the arm.

EVR

remnant.

The Omri Dynasty

King Omri was the most influential king of the northern kingdom of Israel. It would be difficult to discern this from the Bible alone without careful study. As only 13 verses (1 Kings 16:16-28) recount the history of this man, it would be easy to overlook his significance. Unusually, no direct mention is even made of his reign in the books of Chronicles, apart from referring to his son, Ahab, and grandsons Ahaziah and Joram. The only Biblical indication we get of the repute of his legacy is found in Micah 6:16. Though Omri was only king over Israel for approximately 12 years, his reputation and systems endured for generations. In fact, so much so, that Israel for many years after his reign was known as “mat bit-Humri” (The House of Omri) by the Assyrians and the Edomites. His son Ahab carried on his practices and “did evil” in the sight of the Lord as did his sons Ahaziah and then Joram. (1 Kings 16:25, 33, 1 Kings 22:25, 52, 2 Kings 3:2)

The Prophet Micah prophesied against the worship centers of Israel and Judah —Samaria and Jerusalem, respectively. Specifically, he accused them saying, “*You have observed the statutes of Omri and all the practices of Ahab's house, and you have followed their traditions.*” (Micah 6:16) Micah disapproved of three things: Omri’s statutes, Ahab’s practices, and their traditions. Other Bible translations refer to 1. statutes (KJV, NIV and most others); 2. works (KJV, NASB), and; 3. devices (NASB) or counsels (AMP). Just what were these statutes, practices and traditions?

Scripture provides some indication of the policies of the Omri Dynasty, especially as we study the reign of Ahab. But first a brief history about Omri. He became King of Israel following the murder of King Elah by Zimri, a fellow army captain who had usurped the throne. Omri, backed by popular public opinion, overthrew Zimri, ending his reign after only seven days. After he consolidated his position as undisputed king, he reigned 12 years.

Scripture has more to say about Ahab and his sons. We can learn the ways of the House of Omri by observing what they did. Actually, we will learn that Ahab’s practices and devices would nominate him today has one of the most masterful of global statesmen.

The Techniques of the House of Omri

The Bible reveals much of Ahab’s’ reign, the most powerful of Omri’s descendants. He was a master politician and crafty in foreign affairs. He knew how to swing the consensus of public opinion in his favor. He influenced, cajoled and manipulated the elders of his

inner council, false prophets and other foreign rulers to his ends. He knew how to play his opponents. The account of how he dealt with Ben-Haddad, the Syrian king, is a masterpiece of cunning foreign affairs.

He entered a strategic alliance with Ethbaal, King of Tyre, by marrying his daughter, Jezebel. By the standards of today’s global politicians, this was a brilliant maneuver. In effect, he joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in order to secure a favorable trade status with this rich, world trading empire of the Phoenicians. The spiritual and religious implications were not regarded, however. Materialism was of primary importance; economic security his aim.

Here we see that material prosperity was linked with issues of human rights and morality. These issues played second fiddle to the uppermost goals of prosperity and indulgence. After finally defeating Ben-Haddad, this Syrian king won clemency from Ahab by allowing Israel to set-up shop in the marketplaces of Damascus. Again, we see a materialistic mind-set ruling his policies. Through an unnamed prophet, God rebuked Ahab for allowing Ben-Haddad to live.

Apparently, indulgence was another practice of Ahab. He built a beautiful palace inlaid with ivory (1 Kings 22:39) and loved the good life, so much so that he even allowed Naboth’s vineyard to be expropriated just so that he could have a private garden.

As a result of his union with Jezebel, massive paganism engulfed Israel. Jezebel introduced the worship of Baal to Israel. As part of the alliance, King Ahab even built a temple to Baal in Samaria for his wife. In time, her lobbying for “freedom of worship” ended up as a massive campaign against God and the persecution of his prophets. She killed off any prophet that she could find.

Apparently, Jezebel’s policies were acceptable to Ahab. No mention is made otherwise. Had he protested, he may have offended his foreign counterparts and perhaps jeopardized the status of his foreign emissaries abroad. His was a policy of tolerance. Any belief or value system was allowed ... in fact, was even sanctioned by his regime. Scripture records that Baal worship, Ashtoreth and the gods of the Amorites (1 Kings 22:25) were given rightful footing in the land.

Ahab was intolerant in only one respect: He opposed anyone that confronted him with correction or anyone that burst his bubble of humanistic optimism. Therefore, he hated Elijah and Micaiah, prophets of God. He accused them of pessimism, declaring that they never had anything good to say about him. It didn’t matter that they spoke truth and eternal consequences.

There are many more characteristics of the House of Omri that we could examine. Suffice it to conclude that

... continued on page 6

Signs of the Times



Published during the tumultuous financial markets of recent times, the following article provided a most interesting counter story. While the “bull”—the pagan symbol of fecundity, and today of prospering financial markets—was being slaughtered in monetary terms, a “golden calf” fetched a record price in the art market. Moses would not have been impressed.



Golden calf helps Hirst auction hit £70 million

By Peter Aspden, Arts Correspondent, *Financial Times*—September 16, 2008

An experimental sale of new works by Damien Hirst at Sotheby's auction house on Monday night surpassed expectations when it raised more than £70 million (\$125 million), above its high estimate of £62 million. Buyers appeared unfazed by fears over the global banking system as they spent freely. The top lot was “The Golden Calf”, a 600kg bullock whose hooves and horns are cast in solid 18-carat gold, which sold for £10.3 million, a record for the artist at auction. Mr. Hirst, [the artist] who did not attend the auction because he found it “too stressful”, said afterwards: “I think the market is bigger than anyone knows ... The future looks great for everyone.”

EVR

Alternate Value Reviews

Over a hundred years ago a Polish physician by the name Ludovik Lazarus Zamenhof (1859-1917) created a synthetic language in the hope of removing the curse of Babel from mankind. According to the Bible, man had become so conceited as to challenge God by proposing to build a tower that was to reach to High Heaven. God's punishment for the temerity was to confuse the tongues of nations. The tower could never be completed for failure of communication due to the confusion of different languages. Zamenhof called his artificial language “Esperanto”, meaning “the hopeful”. The hope was in vain, as the experiment attracted imitators, and other synthetic languages, e.g., “Ido”, sprang up. The confusion of tongues, and the curse of Babel, has remained.

Calling irredeemable currency “Esperanto money” is apt. The Biblical story may be interpreted allegorically as an admonition not to challenge God by attempting to build a tower of irredeemable debt that is to reach to High Heaven. The admonition fell upon deaf ears and, now, God's wrath is upon us. Currencies of nations have been confused. The tower can never be completed for lack of compatibility among various means of payment. The hope of Esperanto money to remove the curse is in vain. Other synthetic currencies spring up such as the SDR (special drawing right), the Euro, and so on. The confusion of currencies, and the curse of Babel, remains.

(Excerpted from article, Cut Off Your Tail To Save My Face! by Dr. Antal E. Fekete, August 30, 2008. <http://www.safehaven.com/article-11110.htm>)

America once had a culture of thrift. But over the past decades, that unspoken code has been silently eroded.

Some of the toxins were economic. Rising house prices gave people the impression that they could take on more risk. Some were cultural. We entered a period of mass luxury, in which people down the income scale expect to own designer goods. Some were moral. Schools and other institutions used to talk the language of sin and temptation to alert people to the seductions that could ruin their lives. They no longer do.

Norms changed and people began making jokes to make illicit things seem normal. Instead of condemning hyper-consumerism, they made quips about “retail therapy,” or repeated the line [...]: When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping.

[Borrowers] and lenders were not only shaped by deteriorating norms, they helped degrade them. Despite all the subterranean social influences, there still is that final stage of decision-making when individual choice matters. Each time an avid lender struck a deal with an avid borrower, it reinforced a new definition of acceptable behavior for neighbors, family and friends. In a community, behavior sets off ripples. Every decision is a public contribution or a destructive act.

And now the reckoning has come. The turn in the market punishes many of those seduced by financial temptations. (Sometimes capitalism undermines the Puritan virtues, but sometimes it reinforces them.)

But the important shifts will be private, as people and communities learn and adopt different social standards. After the Depression, a savings mentality set in. After the dot-com bubble, a bit of sobriety hit Silicon Valley. Now it's the borrowers' and lenders' turn. As the saying goes: People don't change when they see the light. They change when they feel the heat.

(Excerpted from op-ed column “The Culture of Debt, by David Brooks, New York Times, July 22, 2008)

EVR

Omri and his descendants were worldly rulers. Their policies were motivated by peace and prosperity. They pursued these goals in any way they thought best. Spiritual matters, purity of faith, the truth and imperatives of God's word did not figure in the formation of their policies and statutes.

Reviewing the character of all of his actions (*48 of which are recorded in scripture*) the list is long. Interpreting Ahab's practices, we can include: tolerance, indulgence, craftiness, politicization, self-centeredness, expropriation, optimism about the works of man, laissez faire policies, opportunism, ruling by consensus and worldly consultation ... and the list could go on. As mentioned, he would be a successful global statesman today in the halls of the United Nations or around the conference tables of NATO or any other number of global policy and transnational organizations.

The House of Omri practiced the exact reverse of all of the godly kings of Judah (*though not all proved to be such in this sister nation*). The latter group feared God first, generally walking without compromise in the ways of David. Everything else—peace and prosperity, for example—were added unto them as a consequence. These were not the initial motivations of their obedience to God. As scripture counsels, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33) Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, said virtually the same thing to Ahab, "First seek the counsel of Lord." (1 Kings 22:15)

The Statutes of Man

Just what was the nature of the statutes of Omri? Consider these facts about him and his descendants:

Omri was the 6th king of Israel. He ruled from Tirzah 6 years and another 6 years from the city of Samaria. He is recorded of doing or performing exactly 6 things. His name is mentioned exactly 12 times (*which is a multiple of 6*) in the historical accounts of the kings of Israel and Judah (1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles—2 times 6). He reigned for 12 years (2 times 6). His dynasty lasted 48 years (6 times 8).

Six is the number of man as God created him on the sixth day. However, the prevalence of this number with Omri doesn't stop here. Ahab, his son, whose name means "his father's brother" did more evil in the sight of the Lord than all the kings of Israel before him—more than 6 kings combined. (1 Kings 16:33) He represents the very epitome of the works of man, as we have reviewed.

Ahab is recorded taking 48 actions (6 times 8), eight times more than his father. Moreover, after Omri's dynasty ended, the House of Israel continued to walk in his statutes for another 120 years (6 times 20) until

Samaria fell to the Assyrians. It just was prior to that time that Micah gave his prophecy that was quoted earlier. (Micah 6:16) Amazingly, the prophecy indicting Omri's statutes was the 6th of the 7 he spoke.

Could all these sixes and multiples of 6 be a coincidence? Perhaps. However, I take this pattern to be significant as every "jot and tittle" of scripture (Matthew 5:18) is important and to be studied. While I certainly ascribe to the Historical-Grammatical method of the interpretation of Scripture ("*p'shat*" as the Hebrew scholars call this form), we should not overlook other forms of meaning. So long as the literal plain-sense form of any meaning in the Bible is not overturned, we can also avail ourselves of other communications that the Holy Spirit intended, namely "remez" (*hints*), "drash" (*a form of allegory*) and, very carefully, even "sod" (*such things as patterns, numbers ... etc.*)

Returning to Omri's dynasty, clearly, his statutes, the practices of Ahab, and their traditions are those of man. The measures and tests of their policies were "materialism" and "humanism." Any religion was something to barter with ... to tolerate, to accommodate. On the other hand, the God of Jacob was only consulted when there was no other human option available or His pronouncements through his prophets were in alignment with their wants. National prestige, strategic foreign policy, dialogue and arrangements of convenience were the rule of the day. The statutes of God were either bent or discarded.

We shouldn't be surprised to learn that all of the statutes, practices and traditions of the House of Omri are playing out across the globe today in high form. They are today endorsed as sophisticated doctrines of foreign affairs and the conferences of men. Everything is merging—countries, economies and religions—within and all together. The efficacy of their policies is measured in terms of prosperity, wealth and economic power.

Current Day Picture of Merged Christianity

To illustrate how the merging of religions and foreign policy is occurring in our time, we can take a brief glimpse at what originally occurred in Iraq several years ago. While in the beginning the operations in Iraq were more about retaliating against Islamist terrorists, somewhere along the way it turned into a "religious" campaign, perhaps even an economic one. The mission became one of spreading doctrines of the "spirit of capitalism", democracy, and Mammonism. Many of these policies and statutes are being widely endorsed by church leaders. Most Muslims recognize these measures for what they are—the "values" of the supposed Christian West.

Actually, if anything, in Iraq's case such "values" were being more imposed rather than proposed, reflecting

... continued on page 8

Facts & Stats ... Ends & Trends



TOPICAL QUOTES

Almost everywhere in the world, people are feeling the pinch because of higher food and fuel prices. But levels of optimism and pessimism, and the ways in which people act on their mood, seem to vary in a peculiar way according to Nielsen, a marketing-information firm. For many, spending of pleasure is impossible; around one-fifth of respondents in Britain, Germany and France say they have no spare cash after covering the basics. A quarter of Americans say the same. But some habits are immune to gloom. Eight out of ten American adults say they still go to the cinema.

The Economist, August 23, 2008

In the “for what it’s worth” department, Iraq’s bonds are now considered safer than those of many US banks. The country’s \$2.7 billion of 5.8% bonds due 2028 have gained 45% since August 2007, now yielding only 4.84 percentage points more in yield than US Treasuries. As a sample comparison, the notes of Ohio banks National City Corp and KeyCorp, have greater yields than Treasuries of 9.59% and 7.55%, respectively.

Thoughts From the Frontline, Aug. 2008

Close political-corporate ties exist in nearly every country. In Russia, fully 87% of the Moscow stock exchange’s value is in companies with close Kremlin connections. More surprisingly, nearly 40% of the London Stock Exchange is politically connected.

Foreign Policy, August 2008

America is facing a demographic crisis caused by a declining and aging population, and it will be impossible to prevent some rural areas from becoming deserted, German population experts say. Researchers from the Berlin Institute for Population and Development said that without immigration, the European Union’s

population will shrink by 52 million people to 447 million by 2050. There will certainly be areas which people will abandon altogether in coming years—in northern Spain, southern Italy, Bulgaria and eastern Germany, according to Reiner Klingholz, director of the institute.

Source: Reuters

The old fashioned attitudes and hierarchies of the Church of England are causing a steep decline in the number of female worshippers, according to research by Kristin Aune, a sociologist at the University of Derby. Her study found that more than 50,000 women a year—twice the rate of men over the past 10 years—have deserted their congregations over the past two decades because they felt the church is not relevant to their lives. Among teenagers, boys now outnumber girls in the pews for the first time.

Source: The Daily Telegraph

In the late 19th century, Europeans already thought Americans ate three or four times more than was necessary. The most damaging consequence is that by 2000, 31% of American adults were obese. American airlines spend \$275 million a year more on fuel simply to lift the heavier passengers.

The Economist, July 12, 2008

Finally, after 1967, the United States came to support Israel. That relationship has declined in importance for the Israelis. Over the years the amount of US aid—roughly \$2.5 billion annually—has remained relatively constant. It was never adjusted upward for inflation, and so shrunk as a percentage of Israeli gross domestic product from roughly 20% in 1974 to under 2 percent today. Israel’s dependence on the United States has plummeted.

Stratfor, August 18, 2008

Secular Seers of Globalism: Past and Present

“For I dipt into the future,
far as human eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the
world, and all the wonder
that would be:
Saw the heavens fill with
commerce, argosies of
magic sails,
Pilots of the purple
twilight, dropping down
with costly bales ...
Till the war-drum throb’d
no longer, and the battle
flags were furl’d
In the parliament of man,
the Federation of the
World.
There the common sense
of most shall hold a fretful
realm in awe,
And the kindly earth shall
slumber, lapt in universal
law.”

*Locksley Hall, a poem by
Alfred Tennyson, 1846*

“A hundred generations
have search for this elusive
path to peace, while a
thousand wars raged across
the span of human
endeavor, and today that
world is struggling to be
born. A world quite
different from the one
we’ve known. A world
where the rule of law
supplants the rule of the
jungle. A world in which
nations recognize the
shared responsibility for
freedom and justice. A
world where the strong
respect the rights of the
weak.”

*U.S. President, George H.
W. Bush, Sept. 11, 1990.*

Omri: A Picture of Endtime Globalism

- cont'd from pg. 6

an attitude not much different than that of the Crusaders of the Middle Ages or the Caliphate of Saladin, who's armies converted nations to Islam at the end of a sword. Specifically, even secular intelligence agencies have recognized the idealism that had been driving the campaigns in Iraq (also Afghanistan). Says Stratfor, an influential, non-partisan commentator upon political and global affairs,

*"The essential point is that the invasion of Iraq ... should have had no interest—in the internal governance of Iraq. This is the critical point on which the mission became complex [...] Over time, this evolved to a new mission: the creation of democracy in Iraq.[...] The idea that the United States would be able to effectively preside over this society, shepherding it to democracy, was difficult to conceive even in the best of circumstances."*¹

The example we pose of Iraq is illustrative of what is playing out at the global level in many respects ... whether with respect to individuals or nations. Yes, democracy and capitalism can be benevolent systems if the majority of people are moral and God-fearing. Apart from those conditions, they provide no sinecure. Many organizations working with governments are intent upon also introducing "free-market" capitalism and Westernized financial markets to Iraq. While these systems can have their good uses, what is troubling is that their imposition is being widely supported by leading Christians as righteous, scripturally-endorsed solutions for the good of these countries.

Systems, like machines, can be used for both good and bad purposes. But, they need no scriptural imperatives. The Church need only preach and spread the gospel of He who alone is the author of all that is good. On this basis, we see that the various supposed representatives of the Church have erred in their increasing fraternity with state, other religions, and materialism. We see that even the evangelical church is in cahoots with the "gospel of Mammon" openly endorsing the imposition of this materialistic religion by force upon other nations.

What they are doing is promoting the "Statutes of Omri."

Thoughts to Ponder

What was the final result of the statutes of the House of Omri? All 70 of his offspring were put to death. Seventy is the number of a "king's life" (Isaiah 23:15) and also represents the completeness of a dynasty or legacy. Jacob had 70 members of his household that went to Egypt (Genesis 46:2, Exodus 1:5) and Gideon had 70 sons that were eradicated by Abimelech (Judges 9:56) More examples could be cited. The conclusion is that our present world order of "seventy kings" today will also

come to a similar end throughout the last half of the Tribulation and finally at Armageddon by the sword of the mouth of the Lord.

Another result of Omri's dynasty was that the House of Judah, who at least produced more than a few kings that walked with God, was also infected with its treacheries. Omri's granddaughter, Athaliah, married Jehoram, king of Judah. He and his son with Athaliah, Ahaziah, were among the few kings of Judah that "*did evil in the eyes of the Lord.*" (2 Kings 8:18, 27) She nearly succeeded in cutting off the very line of David that was prophesied to produce the Messiah. She had proceeded to kill the entire royal family of Judah. Had Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram, not hid Joash for six years (*another "six", meaning until the threat of the works of man had sufficiently diminished*) this Satanic purging of this royal line by the House of Omri would have succeeded. At the time, Joash was the last living member of the direct lineage of David ... the line of the royal sceptre. (Psalm 60:7, Numbers 24:17)

Ecumenicism only threatens what is absolute. And, it is spreading fast. Church and state, Mammon and the Kingdom of God are all merging ... being blurred into one negotiable mass. We can see that all these streams are morphing into a single power structure of the Last Days. Revelation 17 and 18 provides a colorful description of its outcome, describing it as the Great Prostitute, mother of all harlotries and abominations. These chapters show a picture of a reinforcing alliance of religion, political globalism and economy.

We return to our question at the outset. Can a remnant of the true Church be preserved throughout such a time of humanism and repression of Truth? God preserved the royal line of David by causing Jehosheba to hide away Joash. As such, he can be seen as a symbol of the last-day Church. It is persecuted by humanism and materialism—the works of man. Notice that this group is not preserved 7 years, but 6 years. If it were the former, we would be more inclined to see this remnant as being Jewish and going through the Tribulation period. In any case, only a small number survives as the truly observant and obedient Church ... the one symbolized by Philadelphia in Revelation 3. Are you part of that number?

The prophet Micah, who alerted us to the wiles and deceptions of the Statutes of Omri has the last word. "*But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.*" (Micah 7:2) Practicing these statutes instead, may we be found faithful and among the last-day believing remnant.

NOTES

1. George Friedman, Strafor, Iraq: New Strategies, May 17, 2004.

EVR



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. Apologies ... space constraints in this issue limited the number of published responses.)

READER: I had some comments about a statement you made in one of your articles entitled "Wicked Money and the Great Bogus Endtime Wealth Transfer" that I saw on Rapture Ready: Here's your statement: "For one, there will be neither misfortune nor hunger in the Millennial period, nor will there be any wicked during that time to have such experiences. The Millennial period actually will have misfortune and (probable) hunger, according to Jeremiah 14:16-19." If I'm not mistaken, that's a reference to the Millennium. It reads: "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles." Also, there will still be plenty of wicked people in the Millennial period, or else why would Jesus need to rule with an iron rod? "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." (Revelation 12:5) Presumably, these wicked people will be born after the Millennium starts. Obviously, a rod of iron will not be necessary to rule when eternity "starts" (i.e.: after all prophecy has been fulfilled), so I would assume that the iron rod was for the Millennium.

BW—USA

EVR. Thank you for the correction ... and catching the oversight. There indeed will be disobedience and problems at various points during the Millennium. The natural born children of the remnant—the second generation and later—will most certainly go astray, most spectacularly at the time of the Gog uprising near the end of the Millennium.

READER: I have just finished reading your article entitled "Financial Bedlam: How The Mighty Fall" and found it very good. My wife Natalie is one of the publishers of a magazine here in Australia. She wrote an article on world economics a little while back which really correlates with some of the points you made. In regard to your comments on Indonesia, I was impressed with the parallels that you portrayed, and I often think about how God must care for

every individual in every nation during these times of crisis. In fact, if you dig a little deeper into the Indonesian situation, you'll find that Suharto was set in place, to a degree, by the British and Australians in the late sixties, -and that there were some very shady resource deals that went on as a result. Part of the fall out of those shady deals was that many innocent Indonesians lost their lives under the Suharto rule at that time.

DB—Australia

READER: I am a poor North American. I have lived in the same rented house for almost 19 years, drive a 1988 Plymouth Reliant and work at a low paying but very rewarding job. Needless to say, I am not involved in the stock market. I don't have a 401K, only modest savings. How is it looking for a person like me? I consider the lilies of the field. Another passage that gives me comfort is in the Old Testament, words to the effect of "God, don't make me so rich that I forget You, don't make me so poor that I steal bread and defame your name." That is where He has kept me all my life.

TP—USA

EVR. "See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:28-34)

READER: I want to compliment you on your article, "Wicked Money and the Great Bogus Endtime Wealth Transfer." It was outstanding from beginning to end.

DR—Texas, USA

READER: Thank you so much for all the information you are sending. God bless you.

HC—Philippines

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

America and Global Crisis: What Connection?

Without a doubt, the topic of the day is the financial crunch in the US—the rolling credit crisis. Where will it end? We provide our thoughts in other issues of this newsletter as well as the *Special Comment* issued September 17th. (Please see our website). There surely will be many more faltering banks that will need to be closed down by the FDIC (Federal Deposit and Insurance Corporation). This specter is giving the jitters to everyone from the financier in Zürich, Switzerland to the average householder in mid-town US.

There are more than a few doomsayers predicting a quantum step back for civilization due to the horrendous economic repercussions that are expected to fall out of the current crises ... even back to the Dark Ages as one “super-bear” (*super pessimist*) puts it.

These pundits are both right ... and wrong. As we have pointed out in past articles, such apocalyptic views are indeed that—apocalyptic. The world’s economic systems will indeed collapse as prophesied during the Tribulation period. Respectfully, where these pundits are wrong is in the timing. Simple deduction suggests the conclusion that the world’s financial systems must remain operational until at least that time. They represent an essential power structure, necessary to bring about the rule of the 10 kings and the zenith of the Antichrist.

As such, the world will surely find a solution to current financial ills as in the past. But while this may appear a reasonable certainty, it provides us no reason for either complacency or false hope. The world will continue to face banking and currency crises as it has since banking was invented. In fact, in the last 2 decades alone, there are recorded 60 separate crises of this type around the world. Admittedly, some of these have been greater than others, and the most recent financial debacle impacting the US is assuredly the most grave since the 1930s. Massive transfers of wealth take place during these crisis periods. Inevitably, these processes bring the world ever forward into heightened states of commercial connectedness and an ever more centric wealth distribution. This is clearly apparent, though no trend is transparent nor predictable over shorter-term periods. There can be reversals and countertrends...the proverbial “one step back, two forward.”

But what of the US? Has its role in the world begun an inexorable slide? Will its financial chastening and humbling give permanent advantage to China ... or Russia? Or, will the financial troubles of America and its Anglo-Saxon siblings bring down the world’s entire systems?

These questions are answered in an upcoming 2-part series entitled *What Chance a Global Financial Apocalypse Now?* These will first appear in *Midnight Call* magazine (November and December 2008 issues). Please consider

subscribing to this excellent magazine. You can subscribe at www.midnightcall.com. The articles likely will not be reproduced in *EVR*, as they overlap with the general nature of coverage of this publication in any case.

Some readers may wonder why some of our essays do not appear here first in our *Features Report* section. Well, for one, we’re most grateful for such organizations as *Midnight Call* who encouraged us early on. Actually, the first advice Arno Froese of *Midnight Call* gave me about dedicating time to the Mulberry Ministry was this: “Don’t do it.” This was good advice? Yes. Because so few ministries survive, requiring considerable perseverance. And sure enough, that is true. Even after publishing for more than 10 years, we are still a fledging and the distribution of *EVR* modest. So be it. Ministries are more about obedience than contrived measures and benchmarks.

We do have some consolation for *EVR* readers who may wish to see these articles earlier. Firstly, we will be posting two presentations to our website in early October, *Globalism Prophesied: Beginning and End* and also *A Premillennial Perspective on Global Collapse*. Please visit our website and download them. Also, the mentioned articles will likely appear earlier on other websites.

Here, we express much appreciation for the several web-based ministries who graciously disseminate our materials. Notable among these are www.prophezine.com (Ray and Tracey Gano) and www.raptureready.com. (Todd Strandenbergh and Terry James). These ministries have many times the impact and distribution than we could ever hope to produce.

That said, let’s turn back to our topic. Interestingly, with respect to the Tribulational judgment of mankind’s commercialism, there is not just one but several outlined against the pride, faith and deceit involved with mankind’s commercial systems. Have you ever wondered why there are three different groups of people mourning the demise of Babylon the Great? There are given three sets of woes, each mentioning an outcome that will happen in “one hour.” Yet, the overall judgment and ailments afflicting Babylon the Great are clearly mentioned to take place over a day. (Revelation 18:14) Why? It may be related to this next question: Just why is it that there is so much prophecy in the Old Testament about Tyre? I count over 20 separate prophecies that involve Tyre and/or its sister city of Sidon. Also, did you know that there may yet be as many as 7 different wealth overturns in the future? Finally, you will be surprised to learn the extent to which theology and religion are interwoven into the current opinions about America’s future.

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

Wilfred J. Hahn

EVR



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

WWW.ETERNALVALUE.COM