



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

Issue 5, Volume 19

“For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times.”

OCTOBER 2016

FEATURE REPORT

Rapture Forensics: Proofs That the Martyrs Tell – Part II

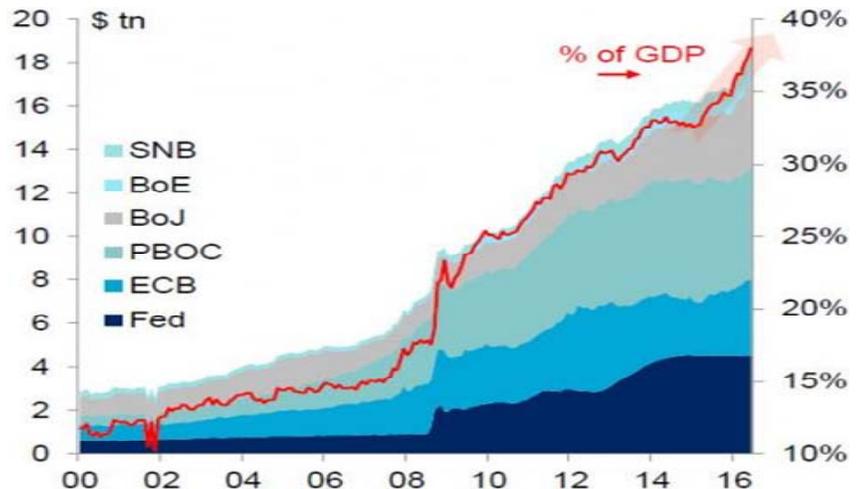
We continue with the proofs that the martyrs of the Tribulation period tell us. In Part I we stated that ALL who become Christians during the Tribulation will die. It is a key view. Why? It critically affects the Rapture debate. As such, for Rapture naysayers, this view is problematic. Understandably, others may be puzzled as it is a complex and potentially confusing topic (especially so for such a short article series as we present here).

Were it proven that ALL who become Christians in the Tribulation become martyrs, it makes a serious dent in the case for a Rapture occurring any other time than before the Tribulation. For example, were there no Christians alive on earth as of the early stages of the second half of the Tribulation, there could be no mid- or end-Tribulation Rapture. It wouldn't be logical. The Great Multitude (see Revelation 7:9, these all martyrs) are shown to be already in front of the heavenly altar at the time of the 5th and 6th seals.

If ALL Christians have been martyred who would be left to be raptured? As the case may be, Tribulation martyrs are expressly promised to participate in the First Resurrection ... in their case, this occurring at the beginning of the Millennium. For a Rapture to occur at any other time than before the Tribulation would not align with Scripture, nor the proofs of the Tribulation martyrs, nor the character of God.

But what of the view of Rapture naysayers who say that there is no Rapture ... continued on page 3

Monetary Perversions Only Begun? Size of balance sheet vs. GDP of 16 largest central banks



Source: Citi Bank Research

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age [...].”

— 1 Timothy 6:18

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WORLD MONEY UPDATE

Unlimited Perversion

The world of global economies and financial markets is lately displaying a wide array of deteriorating factors. We can cite hundreds of such indicators. A new environment had been ushered in, this being first heralded by the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) of 2008-09. What was a long period of prosperity prior to that point, in reality had masked underlying deterioration through rapid debt growth. Now the world faces the limitations — paying the piper, so to speak — of such policies.

We continue to hold the view that the GFC continues, only changing its stripes and forms. Now, we are closing in on the point where policymakers are running out of rope with their current unorthodox policies. The era of Quantitative Easing has come to a close. And, Negative Interest Rate Policies (NIRP) are also nearing their end.

Some of the biggest banks in the world ... continued on next page

— these also considered to be Globally Significant Financial Institutions (GSFI) according to the Financial Stability Forum (FSF) — are starting to wobble. Various European banks are starting to sink due to the low, low interest rates and high financial market volatility, notably one of the biggest banks in the world, Deutsch Bank.

What next? Here we take a somewhat different perspective than most.

We recognize the many dangerous developments. Our training in economic theory and long experience with global financial markets makes the recognition of such trends unavoidable. There are obvious trends for all to see. To no surprise, therefore, there are many gloomy forecasters, analysts and financial advisers. Their newsletters and public statements call for imminent collapse and doom.

Their conclusions are not wrong. It would be difficult to contest that an ultimate financial collapse lies ahead somewhere in the future. However, there is one important factor that many may be overlooking. Alongside the rise in evil and systemic deterioration goes a rise in perversion, rebelliousness and fear.

These forces of human nature are not static. They, too, can increase ... and far beyond what we may imagine. The behavioural biases of mankind come to play here; among these are self-interest, greed, perversion and the irrepensible will to believe what may seem pleasing ... what one may fancifully wish.

In a world of relativism, godlessness, unbiblical morality and a denial that one might reap what one has sown in accordance with the laws that God has set, anything goes. Mankind comes to the point where they choose to believe fable and fantasy. Policymakers in environments such as we now face can take wide license to create a pleasing financial delusion.

All the elites, the policymakers, investors and future retirees trying to build up future income sources are in willing collusion. They are willing to grasp at straws. In doing so, they continue to encounter disappointment. It is a situation similar to what the Israelites encountered.

Not to be forgotten is that God himself says that he will actually give mankind over to their perversions at one point (Romans 1:24). Showing themselves in rebellion and wanting to break their bonds from God (Psalm 2:3), he allows them to pursue extreme delusion. “They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness” (Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Just how perverse can mankind become? This is an impossible question. Suffice it to say that far worse extremes and falsehoods can yet unfold. In the case of today’s policymakers and leaders, they may yet have plenty of tricks and lies that may serve to perpetuate much worse perversions for years to come. Then again, perhaps not. We simply cannot know. There is no solid foundation.

This reality that we have described has frustrated many (including us) who have warned of the perilous trends underway. Yet, the deteriorations continue and the little boy who cried wolf risks no longer being heeded.

We expect continuing crisis, and high financial volatility. At the same time, we must also expect new interventions and schemes to levitate financial asset values.

Given the present world where there are no boundary stones nor reliable values, there still is one place of safe deposit: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19).

EVR



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW
MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT



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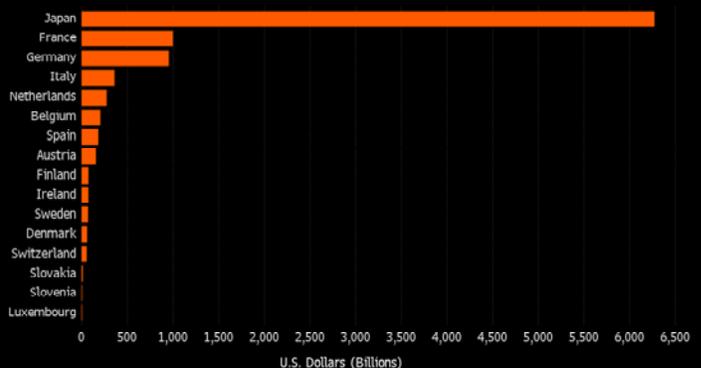
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Almost \$10 Trillion of Negative-Yielding Debt

Japan, France lead the way as amount swells



Source: Bloomberg Global Developed Sovereign Bond Index



to be expected at all? To take this position means that ALL Christians will go into the Tribulation period. More Christians would then be added to their number through conversions during the earlier stages of the Tribulation. The question then arises: Why would God allow ALL Christians in the world to be killed during the Tribulation? As we have shown and will further prove in this article, all Tribulational Christians will be martyred.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 states that “[...] God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Therefore, if ALL Christians (from the time of before and during the Tribulation) will be annihilated on earth, this is a “wrath” of a different gospel. This is not congruous with the character of what God has said.

A naysayer’s view must endorse a very nonsensical sequence of events. ALL Christians must go into the Tribulation so that ALL first be slain so that they ALL can be given a resurrected physical body so ALL can come back to life in the Millennium.

This sequence of events seems unnecessarily cruel ... and inefficient. Could these be the actions of a LORD who says “My reward is with me” (Revelation 22:12)? What about the Saints who have died before the Tribulation period? The Rapture naysayer must take the position that these saints need wait another thousand years for the Second Resurrection as they will not be eligible for the First Resurrection. Scripture doesn’t support these confused perspectives. Rather, it expressly says that “the dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

A pre-Tribulational Rapture is the clearest, most sensible and most scriptural view.

More Arguments From the Dead

Given that our view — that ALL Tribulational Christians will be martyred — is such a critical factor in the Rapture debate, we want to further prove the veracity of this position. There are other additional proofs and deductions from the Bible for this case. We present five of these next. It is these proofs of certain martyrdom that tell the theological tales.

1. The Meaning of “All”. The Second Beast shown in Revelation 13 only offers two options — one or the other. Worship the image of the First Beast or die. No other option is on offer. There is no allowance for exceptions. “[...] all who refused to worship the image [are] to be killed” (Revelation 13:15). (Again, see Revelation 20:4.) All means all ... not some. The Bible also says this about these Tribulation saints: “They

triumphed over him [the Dragon] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death” (Revelation 12:11).

What happens to those who do worship the image? Could they change their minds at some later date? Revelation 14:9-11 is clear. “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” Once having made the election to worship the image of the Beast and to take the mark, there is no recourse nor recanting. To believe otherwise would be inconsistent with the character of God. Once He unleashes His Wrath it is too late to repent. After all, His wrath only comes after repeated entreaties and warnings. Then comes the point of no return ... of no further grace.

At the very minimum, what we can safely conclude is that All who refuse to worship the image will die.

2. No Survival Outside the “Buy-Sell System”. Despite the clear message of Revelation 13, some still imagine that Christians could survive the Tribulation period. If only they would buy the right survival goods and pursue cunning evasive strategies they would stand a chance, they reason. However, they ignore this perspective: Outside the “buy-sell system” in that future Tribulational world put in place by the False Prophet, it will not be possible to live without the “mark.” If one is not able to “buy nor sell” at a time of a pervasive global economic crisis and a closed worldwide financial system, one cannot obtain food nor shelter. With no transactional access to the financial system, a Christian will die of starvation if not first murdered.

An understanding of the limits of a closed financial system should lay to rest any notion that All who refuse to worship the image will be martyred.

3. A Deduced Absence. At the 5th trumpet blow (1st Woe, Revelation 9:1-6), this occurring perhaps mid-way into the second half of the Tribulation, “[...] out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. [...] They were not allowed to kill them but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes.”

Only those who did not have the seal of God were allowed to be tormented. The only group that has a seal placed upon it at this point is the group of 144,000 servants. As such, were Christians still on earth at the time of this judgment, they would be expressly allowed by God to be tortured. Any Christians on earth during this woe would be selected to face God's wrath. Shown here is that God can and does exclude one group to be protected from His wrath (namely the 144,000). Then, why would He choose not to do so with his Children? "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for [...] an egg, will give him a scorpion?" (Luke 11:11-12).

Thus, we can draw one of two conclusions. There are no Christians on earth at the time of the 1st Woe; or if yes, then God expressly chooses to torment them. Only the former perspective aligns with the character of God.

4. Can Christians Curse God? At the call of the 6th trumpet, one-third of the world's population is wiped out; two-thirds remain who then ALL curse God. Says Revelation 9:20-21: "The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshiping demons and idols [...] Nor did they repent of their murders, their magic arts, their sexual immorality or their thefts." Could Christians be counted in this number of survivors? Not if all of the survivors are said to "curse God", "refuse to repent" and kept "worshipping demons and idols." Clearly, then, there can be no Christians survivors at this point upon earth. (We maintain that they have been martyred already some time before.) After all, salvation is impossible without repentance. Conclusion? Either no Christians are upon earth at the time of this woe; or, God expressly made sure that while one-third of the earth's population dies, that this would mean that ALL Christians would die at this time. But, again, it would be absurd to believe that God in His wrath would wipe out ALL remaining Christians at this juncture, favouring instead other godless earth dwellers.

We can reasonably deduce that no Christians exist upon earth at the time of the 5th and 6th trumpet judgments.

5. Appearances of Christians Throughout the Tribulation. Following the sixth seal (that being the time point that we are shown the great multitude of martyred Christians in front of the heavenly altar) the topics of "saints" or "servants", "Christians", "God's people" or "multitudes" are never mentioned again in Revelation's time line. Crucially, no mention or picture is made of any more Christians having arrived in front of the heavenly altar during the Tribulation period for any other reason than of being slain by anti-Christian forces. Any

reference to "souls" who did not "worship the image" refers back to its occurrence which, in our view, is at a time near to the 6th seal. As such, this would be consistent with the view that All Christians will be martyred in the Tribulation period.

The above arguments (as well as others made elsewhere in this 2-part article series), we believe, conclusively prove that no Christians will survive the Tribulation period ... all become martyrs (most likely by its mid-point). Daniel 7:25 says that "The holy people will be delivered into his [Antichrist's] hands for a time, times and half a time." (See also Daniel 12:7.) We see this three and one-half period coinciding with the first-half of the Tribulation period.

These perspectives may indeed raise additional questions as well as reconciliations with other popular or conventional interpretations of Scripture. However, we will leave these questions for another study.

Who Left to Populate the Millennium?

A number of readers have argued that not all Christians could be killed in the Tribulation as there would be no people left on earth to populate the Millennium. This is incorrect. Why? The Bible states that a major stage of the First Resurrection occurs at the start of the Millennium. At this time, it specifically applies only to Tribulation martyrs and no one else. All those who become Christians during the Tribulation are resurrected at the beginning of Millennium. "They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4) upon earth. Tribulational Christians therefore are destined to live and reign with Christ through the whole millennium until the time of the Second Resurrection (Revelation 20:4).

There will also be a surviving number of people on earth — both Jews (as there must be in order to fulfill prophecy) and Gentiles — though a greatly decimated number. In conclusion, resurrected Tribulational saints and surviving Jews and Gentiles will populate the Millennium.

We briefly again review the significant positional differences between those Christians who are raptured and those who later become Christians during the Tribulation. Firstly, those who are raptured are a unique and small group. They face neither the First nor the Second Death (physical death nor spiritual damnation) but a translation to a new body. What a wonderful reward to the Christians of the apostate, hostile world that exists at the time of the Rapture.

The only other "first fruit" group that is given a similar special dispensation (in part) are the 144,000 prophets. They are sealed, being ... continued on page 10

Terrible Times: 10 Challenges Facing Christians in the Last Days—Part VIII



The Rise of Good Greed & Idolatry

“Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.

Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. Look!” (James 5:1-3).

The entire prophecy found in James 5:1-6 lists at least six financial or economic signs of the last days. This writer has come to count nearly 50 such general signs in the Bible. That said, this passage in James is the most concentrated assembly of such indicators. These include hoarding, accumulation of wealth, wage inequities, different classes of workers, luxuries and indulgence (consumerism), conditions of economic brutality, and perhaps even widespread obesity. Most significantly, wealth is turned into a curse, becomes corroded and is proven illusory.

James’ pronouncement indeed is a prophecy. He clearly refers to “the last days” (verse 3). Though it is true that the last days were already in force during his time in the first century, it remains apt. The last days — the very last days of the last days — are surely unfolding today. The “day of slaughter” that he mentions (verse 5) has yet to occur and is yet future, referring to the Great Tribulation.

We want to examine here the prophetic implications of the rich people that will “have hoarded wealth in the last days.” It is timely to do so. For the first time in history, global wealth surveys are being published. Their results are sobering even if not surprising.

The First Worldwide Survey of Wealth

In December 2006 a ground-breaking report entitled *The Worldwide Distribution of Household Wealth* was released. The results were much worse than had been previously indicated by other studies that surveyed income. Wealth and income, though surely related, are quite different. Income is generally defined as the annual flow of earnings and incomes, while wealth is the accumulation of income and hoarded assets.

However, before tackling this topic further, allow us to state a few disclaimers. Firstly, this article is not a riposte against rich people. We often get correspondence suggesting that we have it in for rich people, that we are Marxist, socialist, and so forth. (One wonders how this author survived his time as a research

director for a prominent global Wall Street company.) Simply put, we do not ascribe to any doctrines of mankind other than those that align with the Bible.

That also applies to the greatly venerated theories of capitalism. Many will be surprised to learn that capitalism is not a Christian system, though many people may believe this to be the case. It is not. The Bible never makes any statements that endorse or support the systems or theories of man. Capitalism is a human system ... a theory of wealth creation, and also a religion in some circles. Yes, capitalism happens to be a very useful invention just as are automobiles and telecommunications systems.

Returning to the mentioned wealth report, according to its authors’ research, the top 10% of adults in the world own 85% cent of global household wealth (2005). The average member of this wealthy group therefore has 8.5 times the holdings of the global average. Furthermore, the top 2% and 1% of the world’s population is estimated to own 51% and 40% of world household wealth, respectively. This is a more extreme distribution than had been estimated by surveying global incomes in previous studies.

Very likely, the world today (2016) has a much more imbalanced wealth skew — the rich being richer, and the non-rich relatively poorer — than ever before in history. How extreme might this condition yet become in the future? It is hard to say.

However, there comes a point where a further skewing becomes highly toxic for the world’s economic healthfulness. That point may already have arrived. In fact, if trends continue at the pace of recent years, severe economic problems are sure to emerge in America as well as around the world. As it is, America itself is experiencing a rapid skewing of wealth. If trends continue as they have over the past 10 years, it would not be surprising to see the US have wealth imbalances more extreme than Mexico and much of Latin America.

God indeed blesses people and allows some to become very wealthy. The problem is that for the majority of them, vast riches are no blessing but rather prove to be a trap and a diversion. Many of them become consumed with the task of warding off the proverbial canker worm and thieves that seek to usurp wealth. The poor have their problems as do the rich. Thankfully, there are some rich people who have not been tainted with the deceptions and temptations of wealth.

On one hand, to be wealthy was considered to be a blessing of the godly— after all, Abraham was. On the other hand, it carried great danger as “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God,” according to Christ (Matthew 19:24).

The Lord made this statement to his disciples right after telling the rich young ruler to “sell his possessions and give to the poor” (verse 21). The disciples themselves seemed daunted by these statements concerning wealth and the requirements of the Kingdom of God. “Who can then be saved?” they asked (Matthew 19:25). Christ replied, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (verse 26). We are therefore warned. We are clearly dealing with an “impossible” subject to fully understand.

Mad-made Prosperity as the Solution

How did this modern perspective of “greed is good” come into such wide acceptance? It is a relatively recent phenomenon in world history. We can attempt only a brief summary.

Down through the centuries Christians tried hard to find themselves on the right side of the divide between God and Mammon. Generally, the pursuit of material gain had been frowned upon since it was seen to be incompatible with a virtuous life.

In fact, for a long time the Church—at the time, the Roman Catholic Church—saw it as its duty to regulate economics and commerce. These fields were not necessarily under the rule of kings and sovereigns. The Church sought to enforce moral conduct upon society overall. Greed, usury and materialism were the emblems of Mammon. These were to be stamped out.

Responses ranged from Monasticism—retreating to monasteries and taking vows of poverty—to the rigid enforcement of feudal life in the belief that as not all men are made equal or the same, they should remain in their station, whether peasant, priest or lords of estates.

Perspectives began to change as of the 1700s with Christianity at the very center of this shift. A transition was influenced by new philosophies, technologies, and most importantly, religious shifts. The most significant of these was the Reformation. Protestantism produced a strong emphasis upon work, stewardship and vocation. All of these many forces working together—sometimes in opposition, other times in parallel—gave rise to a cauldron of change which in turn produced industrialism.

Much wealth was produced. Eventually, societies turned their focus away from the source of prosperity (work, stewardship, and vocation) to the “spirit of capitalism” and more recently, to the full-fledged, society-wide endorsed “love of money.” Wealth and industry was worshipped apart from its sources and blessing. Today, this devolution has continued to the point where the “love of money” itself is invoked as both the solution to the world’s troubles as well as the hope for future progress.

What at first was a gradual development of conscientious vocation and productive work eventually

gave way to a flood of materialism and the celebration of wealth that we witness today. Modern money has become the most powerful tyrannical force on earth. In fact, so-called Christian organizations exist to validate the ideas of “free markets” and the “spirit of capitalism” as scripturally-endorsed forces for good. Indeed, Scripture endorses good works. But these come from inspired individual hearts, not systems or machines. True capitalism, like democracy, can only be good if the majority of people have the One that is Good living in their hearts.

Max Weber, in his book, *The Protestant Ethic and the “Spirit” of Capitalism*¹ and R. H. Tawney in *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*² provide documentaries of how this progression to accepted mass materialism came about. Both of them were spurred to write about these issues already at the turn of the 20th century. Were they to have lived to see our day, they would likely have been shocked. Today, we live in the “Age of Money” ... “The Age of Global Capital.”

Points to Ponder

During our times, societies implicitly endorse greed as good. Too much, of course, is not condoned. However, the measure of what is too much or not enough is a relative concept and in constant flux. All the same, the very pillar of modern day economic theory is indeed the “spirit of greed.” Says one writer, “The essence of this philosophy of avarice is the idea or the duty of the individual to work towards the increase of his wealth, which is assumed to be an end in itself.” Most of us living in the Western world are influenced by this notion.

In conclusion, we see that what began from good motives has long ago given way to the

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

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Facts & Stats ... Ends & Trends



TOPICAL QUOTES

Sidney Homer and Richard Sylla, the authors of *A History of Interest Rates*, found no instance of negative rates in 5,000 years. Now there are \$11.7 trillion invested in negative-yield sovereign debt, including \$7.9 trillion in Japanese government bonds and over \$1 trillion in both French and German sovereign debt. — **James Grant: Negative Interest Rates Will End — Badly, August 8, 2016**

The World Health Organization estimates that schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression and alcohol-use disorders affect around 450 million people, and account for 12% to 14% of the global burden of disease, measured in disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), or “a year of health life lost to illness.” In addition to an individual’s loss of healthy life, families suffer both emotionally and economically, and in turn, societies are less productive and stable. — **Stanford Social Innovation Review, March 30, 2016**

Consider two Americans: (1) a baby boomer turning 65 this year and (2) an infant just riding home from the maternity ward at the hospital. The boomer will rake in \$327,000 more in lifetime Social Security and Medicare benefits than he paid in federal taxes. The newborn better brace herself. She will pay \$421,000 more in federal taxes than she will ever receive in future benefits. To fund government programs, her lifetime tax will need to be nudged up to about 60 cents on every dollar earned. And those earned dollars will be harder to come by. — **Todd G. Buchholz, The Price of Prosperity, July 13, 2016**

Globally, about 1/3 of food is wasted: 1.6bn tonnes of produce a year, with a value of about \$1tn. If this wasted food were stacked in 20-cubic meter skips, it would fill 80m of them, enough to reach all the way to the moon, and encircle it once. Taking action to tackle this is not impossible as countries like Denmark have shown. — **Suzanne Goldenberg, US Environment Correspondent, July 13, 2016**

The number of US marriage ceremonies peaked in the early 1980s, when almost

2.5 million marriages were recorded each year. Since then, however, the total number of people getting married has fallen steadily. Now only about 2 million marriages happen a year, a drop of almost half a million from their peak. As a result, barely more than half of adults in the US say they’re living with a spouse. It is the lowest share on record, and down from 70% in 1967. The drop in marriages is even more dramatic when the rapid growth in the US population is taken into account. In fact, the marriage rate is the lowest in at least 150 years. — **www.alternet.org, June 8, 2016**

If Americans are so happy, then why do we consume 80% of the entire global supply of prescription painkillers? Less than 5% of the world’s population lives in this country, and yet we buy 4/5 of these highly addictive drugs. In the United States today, approximately 4.7 million Americans are addicted to prescription pain relievers, and that represents about a 300% increase since 1999. — **www.zerohedge.com, March 15, 2016**

The life-expectancy gap between rich and poor in the United States is actually accelerating. Since 2001, American men among the nations’ most affluent 5% have seen their lifespans increase by more than 2 years. American women in that bracket have registered an almost 3-year extension to their life expectancy. Meanwhile, the poorest 5% of Americans have seen essentially no gains at all. — **www.counterpunch.org, April 21, 2016**

Government debt in 20 industrialized countries stands at \$44 trillion. But it’s actually a lot more than that, according to a new report. After factoring in public pension and other retirement liabilities, the debt levels nearly triple to a staggering \$122 trillion. That’s the math according to a new report from Citigroup Inc. report called, ‘The Coming Pensions Crisis,’ which analyzed government pension liabilities from 20 countries that are members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. — **Timothy W. Martin, Wall Street Journal, March 17, 2016**

“Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.” — **Unknown**

“More and more people care about religious tolerance as fewer and fewer care about religion.” — **Alexander Chase**

“In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” — **Unknown**

“Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so people are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.” — **Ecclesiastes 9:12**

“There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil.” — **Amos 5:12-13**

“History is unequivocal: Credit is inherently unstable.” — **Doug Noland (July 30, 2016)**

“There are limits to monetary policy.” — **Ben Bernanke**

“good” of greed. It has become a system that worships self-interest and greed as the common givers of good and prosperity for mankind. Freely-trading financial markets are seen to be all-wise and all-knowing. False and deceiving forms of wealth are just as acceptable as real wealth. Economic growth, for its own sake, is good. Consumption must be maximized in the name of progress. The most patriotic thing one can do today is to “buy” something.

It used to be the other way around. The most beneficial activity for society overall was the act of frugality and self-denial. Now that these values (frugality and honest hard work) have produced great wealth, it is the economic system itself that is being worshipped apart from the Giver.

Capitalism — a human system—and wealth for its own sake is not evil. Nor is a person evil because they may be rich. God has created material things for our blessing. The issue concerns the heart and that which is possessed. If wealth and riches own our heart, we are vulnerable to becoming possessed by them. God must possess our heart, not our possessions. Money is an instrument that should be of service to us, not the other way around. That’s clear in theory. But what the Bible teaches is that riches are deceitful.

Even though many nations have become rich, survey after survey shows that people in America, Europe and Japan are less pleased with their circumstances than 50 years ago. Why? According to the Bible, and evidenced by surveys, the problems are envy and idolatry. More will never be enough due to the tendency of people to judge their circumstance by that of their neighbor. If a neighbor has more, human beings are inclined to feel poor by comparison.

What is the right course? We can pray: “Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: ⁸Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God” (Proverbs 30:7-9).

Living our lives in the current “Age of Global Capital” we can strive to stay mindful of David’s exhortation: “Though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them” (Psalms 62:10).

NOTES

1. *The Protestant Ethic and the “Spirit” of Capitalism*, Max Weber, 1905
2. *Religion and the Rise of Capitalism*, R. H. Tawney, 1926

**Based on the article: World Trend Watch—Part VIII:
The Rise of Good Idolatry, November 2003,
Midnight Call Magazine**

EVR



Letters to the Editor

READER: Mr. Hahn, I read with interest your article mentioned above. I was recently reading the Book of Revelation, and it appears to me that Revelation 1:1-8 specifically states that it was a revelation given to Jesus Christ to tell his disciples what was coming, and the remainder was given to John for the Hebrew people to fulfill the unresolved prophecies of the Old Testament to them as a group. The Bible is very exacting and it is always important to understand “to whom” something is written. To the Christians living from the day of Pentecost to the Day of the Lord, when the trumpets sound 8 times (as with Jericho), everyone on the planet will know the Lord has returned. Everything that follows v. 8 does not apparently involve today’s born-again believers. “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him” (Revelation 1:7). Even so, Amen. — **T.L.**

EVR: Thank you for your email. You are right. What happens after the Rapture — the last day of the Church — has no direct impact upon pre-trib Christians. However, there are many today who deny the Rapture or place it sometime after the start of the Tribulation, arguing that Christians must prepare in order to survive the Tribulation. That is what prompted me to write on this topic series.

READER: [Re: Rapture Forensics] I really enjoyed this series of articles and appreciate the depth and logic of discussion based on scripture. Here is my question: If some surviving gentiles (though greatly decimated) enter into the millennium, then that means they will have accepted the mark to survive. Also, do you think the sheep/goat judgement of Matthew 25 must allow that unbelievers will enter the millennial reign? — **E.T.**

EVR: Thank you for your email. You strike on a critical question. Frankly, I have not sufficiently studied this question to state an opinion that I could wholly support at this time. Since the survivors did take the mark, are they condemned, even though they will bow their knee in recognition of “He who was pierced”? There are a number of OT references (particularly in Isaiah) that speak about the early Millennial period and what all happens. Plus, many more questions would need to be addressed. The “sheep and goat” is also a difficult one. Many different opinions exist even amongst dispensationalist scholars.

READER: Dear Mr. Hahn, thank you for your article series on Rapture Forensics. However, I am confused regarding your statement about not needing survival

supplies. Since we will be going through "birth pains" before the official beginning of the Tribulation period, I have been trying to stock up on supplies. Living in California, there is always the threat of earthquakes, especially during this time leading up to the Tribulation. I feel God would want me to be prepared to feed my family for an extended period of time. We live in a small town northeast of San Francisco where the mountain roads could easily be blocked. I would appreciate your opinion on this matter. Thank you. Sincerely in Christ. — **K.H.**

EVR: My comment was directed to preparations for the Tribulation. There are indeed some who believe that they need to have a bomb shelter, etc. in order to attempt to survive through the Tribulation. Of course, one should plan one's livelihood. As the Bible says, "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?" (Luke 14:28). The same principle would apply in planning our daily lives. However, one point I would add is that those who have the foresight to plan should also look out for our neighbors who are not so farsighted. The increase of earthquakes does not occur until the first half of the Tribulation period. [Please see our article series on earthquakes. Part I of these articles can be found at this [link](#).]

READER: I am a little confused and would like more information as to who goes into the Millennium. You said that everyone in the Tribulation will either be killed saints (except for the 144,000 I guess) or unbelievers who are tortured, killed, and destined for Hell. So, no live person escapes the Tribulation, as I understand it. But, then you said "There will also be a surviving number of people on earth — both Jews (as there must be in order to fulfill prophecy) and Gentiles — though a greatly decimated number." I thought you said no one survives. So, I am confused. I would like a clear explanation of who goes into the Millennium. Jesus (Mark 12:25) said that in the Resurrection, people are like angels and don't marry. This really puzzles me. I really appreciate your study. In Christ. — **R.R.**

EVR: A difficult topic indeed! The only group of which all would be killed is the Tribulational Christians. They will all be martyrs by the middle of the Tribulation ... or sometime thereabouts. However, not to be overlooked is that these martyrs are promised the First Resurrection at the beginning of the Millennium. They are brought back to life with a body. The question to answer is what type of body will these Millennium dwellers then have? Could they have children? Scripture doesn't say specifically. Also, the

Bible provides no information as to the destiny of the 144,000. They may be going into the Millennium (though we cannot be sure). It would seem unlikely that given their avoidance of female relationships, that they would be siring children.

READER: Dear Mulberry Ministry, could you comment on this Economist's viewpoint [identity withheld], who states that Quantitative Easing has already effectively cancelled trillions of dollars of government debt without causing inflation. I am so confused as to why we have seen nations defy God's wisdom (the borrower slave to the lender). Are Governments too big to fail? Thank you for any insight. — **D.M**

EVR: Thank you for the query. Current monetary initiatives globally are definitely confusing and misunderstood. It is timely to again write an article on this theme. I will do so in the near future.

READER: Dear brother, I have a habit of finding Christian websites and if they have a newsletter I sign up for it. I just got it and it is very good. Actually one of the best I have ever received. So thanks for putting out some solid biblical information without all the fear mongering. It's been difficult for me to find anybody who teaches meat. Anyway that's it. From Florida. — **D.B.**

READER: I disagree that at the end of tribulation there will be no believers. There may not be any Christians, but Jesus says he cannot return at the end of the Tribulation until all Jews look upon him in belief. Thus upon Jesus 's return there will be believers or there will be no Jews alive; Jesus further says he could not await the full time of the Tribulation as there would be no one alive."— **F.S.**

EVR: Thank you for your letter. I do not really contest anything that you say in your letter except the major assertion. At the same time, I do not see anything I said in my 2-part series that would cause one to believe that I have taken the position that you state in the conclusion you have expressed. The point that I tightly prove is that Tribulational Christians – these being those that during the Tribulation recognize Christ (become Christians) and do not take the "mark" during the Tribulation (this being the first-half of this period for the most part) – will not survive the Tribulation. They will all die ... all persecuted. Yes, there will be people that enter the Millennium ... as many as four to five groups. Among these are most-certainly the earth-dwelling Jews. These Jews that survive the Tribulation will indeed bow and worship the "the one that they had slain." There will then be other believers joining the earthdwellers in the early Millennium period. One must not forget that all the Tribulational Saints are resurrected in this period

(this being a part of the First Resurrection.)

READER: Great article [Rapture Forensics Part 2] ... compelling case that I want to agree with (I am already pre-trib), but there is a serious problem here: How do you differentiate between “trib saints” and “surviving Gentiles”? I agree there will be surviving Jews at the end of the Tribulation, but you also include surviving Gentiles? This is where there is a breakdown for me. You cannot have ALL trib saints killed, and also have surviving Gentiles who do not take the mark. That is a contradiction. If they do not take the mark, that means they are believers and would be killed. If they do take the mark, then they are damned. I do not see how there is an in-between here. Now, your point on resurrected Tribulation saints repopulating the millennium is interesting and debatable. That would make them a very special group — a class of resurrected believers with perfected bodies that are able to procreate. This would cause another issue however, for if they have perfected bodies without a sin nature, then you would have to also believe their descendants somehow acquire a sin nature in order to be part of the rebellion at the end of the millennium when Satan is released. Aside from these two issues, the other points are excellent and build a strong case. Thanks for the work on this, appreciate you sharing. — **N.E.**

EVR: You make many good points and pose some important questions. I am puzzled about some of these also. However, if we cannot establish a biblically-supported view, we must leave the matter open and decline to express an opinion. For example, what of the fate of the 144,000? What role, if any, do they play in the Millennium? We might speculate. However, I have not found an air-tight case (deduced or literal) to support an official answer. Hopefully, others will share such answers with us. Another debate involves the nature of the resurrected bodies. Just how different is the body of one who has experienced the First Resurrection versus that of those who have been made incorruptible in the “blink of an eye” through the Rapture? How different again are the bodies of the 144,000 who have been sealed? In regard to the fate of the Gentiles who survive the Tribulation, I must assume that God allows different dispensations. On the one hand, the Bible indicates that those who take the “mark” will face eternal unrest. We see that none convert to becoming Christians during the Great Tribulation (the second half). After all, wrath is only unleashed after all efforts, chances and warnings to acknowledge God and his Son are ignored and refused. Only then is the wrath of the “long-suffering” LORD be released.

READER: God bless you and thank you! I always look forward to your perspectives, with the deception so widespread. Thank you for your ministry! — **D.**

EVR

already redeemed first-fruits (what we take to mean resurrected with eternal bodies) and therefore will not perish during the Tribulation. They possibly may also enter into the Millennial period and also not taste the Second Death [though we must disclose that the Bible is actually silent on these points.]

Thoughts to Ponder: Great Rewards to All Saints

Glorious is the fact that raptured Christians are spared the First Death and Second Death; and are also spared “the hour of trial” (Revelation 3:10) and will be in heaven with the Lord while the Tribulation takes place upon the earth.

Raptured Saints “[...] will be with the Lord forever” (1 Thessalonians 4:17) in their translated resurrected incorruptible bodies. Whether on earth or in heaven, wherever Jesus will be, that is where the raptured Christians will be. They “[...] will be with the Lord forever.”

Surely the Tribulation is a terrible period ... as none ever before in mankind’s history. Nevertheless, there is good news to celebrate: For ALL Christians, there will be no Second Death. We will all be given eternal life.

Wonderfully, after the Tribulation, the Lord, “[...] will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture view, as we have shown, is the most consistent with Scripture. There is no incentive to survive the Tribulation for Christians since all will be killed and all are then resurrected at the start of the Millennium. Why prolong physical suffering if one can look forward to a resurrection after the Tribulation?

Therefore, whether amongst the raptured or those saved during the Tribulation, there are no physical preparations to be made ... nothing to buy ... or escape. There is no need to pay for survival supplies, nor to build an underground bunker.

For now, given that the Rapture still lies ahead, we remain part of the generation that “[...] continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming” (1 John 2:28).

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done” (Revelation 22:12).

Maranatha.

(A recent 3-part series, Anxiety Merchants and False Prophets specifically deals with the promotion of survivalist goods to Christians.) **EVR**

occurred as a result of WWI. The “Gilded Age” of globalization anchored by the British currency then experienced a harsh reversal.

The decline of globalization at that earlier time (or presently) did and does not negate the long-term trend of globalization. One would be wrong to make the pronouncement that the advance of globalization has ended and therefore is no longer “prophetically significant.” As mentioned, short-term trends can be notoriously misleading. In any case, today’s state of globalization and globalism is already so advanced that any reversal would hardly delay the fulfillment of prophecy.

Ship-Shape for the Endtimes

An interesting side-light to the discussion of globalization is the role of ocean-going ships. Even today over 90% of world trade still travels by ship. Ships therefore are the symbol of global trade. Therefore, the recent bankruptcy of Hanjin Shipping, the 7th largest ship company in the world, has caused quite a shock. Just why did this South Korea-based shipper run aground? World trade volumes have been flat to slightly negative; however, one would think that a small cyclical downturn should be easily survived.

Virtually every major industry can face steep cyclical downturns. This is rarely fatal. Why not so shippers? The modern container-ship shipping industry has never before experienced a prolonged downturn in growth. The great globalization boom resulted in massive trade volume expansion at an average of 7% per annum for over 50 years.

As such, the industry over-expanded its capacity, assuming global trade growth would resume. Since 2000, the total fleet capacity has risen four-fold. The “turning of globalization” has contributed to massive over-capacity, and as such, shipping costs have come under pressure.

It is interesting to recount how the revolutionary changes in the shipping industry contributed to the world boom in international trade. It was only in 1956 that the twenty foot container was invented by the Seal-Land company, which was founded by the shipping pioneer, Malcolm McLean. The container greatly increased the speed of shipments. They could be easily unloaded directly to railroad cars or transport trucks. Prior to that time, cargo would be loaded manually piece by piece.

We here insert an excerpt from the February 2005 article Ship-Shape for the Endtimes:

What’s Shaping Up for the Future?

The Bible says that the spirit of Tyre, that ancient city whose name was synonymous with Tarshish, shipping, trade and idolatry, will again re-appear on the world’s stage. “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” (Isaiah 23:16-17). Tyre has never re-emerged upon the world scene in any literal sense.

Likely, the Bible is referring to the spirit behind Tyre — a greed-infused emphasis upon materialism and commerce as the *raison d’être* for mankind’s existence. In fact, Ezekiel identifies this very spirit as being Satan himself. (See Ezekiel 28:12-19.) Assuming that this interpretation is correct, we can anticipate that the “spirit of Tyre” will be a mark of the endtime world. The very same spirit is in clear evidence in Revelation 18 which describes a world-wide colossus dependent upon trading ships.

Is that time in the near future? Based on the evidence of trends of just this past half century — even just the past few decades — we would be unwise to not recognize the signs of the times. Even shipping trends and developments cry out their message.

It would not be sensationalist to conclude that the time described in Revelation 18 is already in clear view. World trading activity has literally boomed unlike any other period ever before in history. And, moreover, the world trading system is dependent upon ships as ever, despite the emergence of other advanced forms of transport.

A large part — a third — of the world’s trade network is destroyed at the time of the second trumpet (Revelations 8:9). The entire trading system — at least its systemic hub, Babylon the Great — is destroyed in one hour. That same time may be depicted in this Old Testament prophecy:

“The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled), for all the cedars of Lebanon, tall and lofty, and all the oaks of Bashan, for all the towering mountains and all the high hills, for every lofty tower and every fortified wall, for every trading ship (ship of Tarshish) and every stately vessel. The arrogance of man will be brought low and the pride of men humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day, and the idols will totally disappear” (Isaiah 2:12-18).

But before all this can happen, a world-wide trading and shipping colossus must emerge. We see that happening before our very eyes today ... despite the ups and downs of business cycles and periodic financial crises.



Personal Perspective

Globalization: Prophecy in Reverse?

“The tide of globalization is turning,” says Martin Wolf, the respected economics editor of London-based Financial Times. He cites proof. For example, trade trends have been flat relative to overall economic output in the world this past 8 years (following the Global Financial Crisis). Also, the stock of cross-border financial investment assets have peaked relative to global economic output, falling substantially. Many other statistics could be quoted.

Wolf’s statement is arresting. It is crucial to understand the significance of “globalization turning.” Globalization is and was the FOUNDATION of soaring global wealth this past half-century. It was the culmination of the great visions of many philosophers and visionaries who foresaw increasing cross-border commerce as the road to a common “one-world.” The common interest and global intertwining of prosperity would draw all nations together in world peace.

It is crucial to understand that globalization was the Holy Grail of all the significant global policy organizations from the International Monetary Fund, to the World Trade Organization, the World Economic Forum and many others. “Peace and safety” and “prosperity and the end of poverty” were the catch-slogans of our times.

And, for well over half of a century, cross border trade increased at many times the rate of overall world economic growth.

Globalization, of course, began much earlier ... hundreds of years earlier. However, it has been the time span since 1970 or so over which globalization accelerated at double speed.

How has it all worked out? Indeed the world has become much more economically intertwined than ever before. Financial flows are interlinked as never before in world history. Some claim that extreme poverty in the world has diminished. Yet, it must also be noted that wealth distribution has become more uneven than perhaps ever before in world history. All the while, population migration between countries has not been any more significant than in other eras.

One goal has not been achieved: World peace. There remain many rumors of war, inter-tribal skirmishes and

wars. And now, the “tide of globalization is turning.”

Observers lament recent declines in global trade volume growth, a broad shift to trade protectionism and a general unwinding of established financial capital flows. Through the current financial morass can be seen the glints of “natural” deflationary pressures that lie underneath. Global trade volumes are still flat to down.

We can also point to shrinking bank balance sheets, declining currency reserves, declining foreign reserves deposited with the Fed, etc. Critically, global currency trading volumes for the first time on record have declined according to a recent report issued by the Bank of International Settlements. This last development is a hugely symbolic development as currency trading volume was the poster child of globalization, with trading volumes up by 10,000 per cent and more since 1970.

Prophetic Implications to Consider

Consider the developments of globalism and globalization. Fulfillment of Bible prophecy requires that these global developments must occur. Were this not so, it would not be possible for future prophecy to be fulfilled.

For example, were there no globalism, how would it be possible that Israel “[...] shall not be reckoned among the nations” (Numbers 23:9); that world rulers “will band together against the Lord” (Psalms 2:2-3); or that God’s last-day judgments could be shown to be a “global” punishment?

The rapid trend of globalization can be considered to be “prophetically significant” as it is a process that eventually enables the specific fulfillment of prophecy.

Then, what to make of the apparent “turning of globalization.” Will the fulfillment of some prophecies therefore be delayed?

We can point to events and processes of perhaps hundreds of years ago that have served to set the foundations of today’s globalism and globalization. Over such longer periods of time, trends can experience “ebbs and flows” — two steps forward, one back. Significant reversals can occur that may cause short-sighted observers to abandon the “prophetic significance” of longer-running developments such as globalization or globalism.

This apparent reversal is only modest to date ... certainly not yet of the scale of the reversal that

... continued on page 11

