



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

Issue 5, Volume 20

“For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times.”

OCTOBER 2017

FEATURE REPORT

Prophesied Final Financial Manipulations

It is a topic that is heavily contested and often misinterpreted. Will there be a cashless world at some point in the future? Cash still plays an essential role in the U.S., facilitating some 40% of transactions. Many countries have an even higher reliance upon cash transactions.

Yet, the Bible clearly indicates that a new global transactional system will exist by the time of the events of Revelation 13. It will indeed be a cashless system. But why the change?

It is a topic we have touched upon before. In an earlier article (See *Midnight Call Magazine* “No One Buy Nor Sell: How Close Are We? Part I,” January 2014), we laid out a broad outline as to what steps must occur before a worldwide controlled transactional system can be operational, in which all buying and selling can be controlled.

In this article, we explore somewhat of a different focus. Why do financial institutions and governments continue to attempt to suppress cash usage and to introduce “cashless” payment systems in our present day, when there is relatively little incentive to do so for consumers?

We may be observing another puzzling example of mankind’s determination to rebel against God’s order, even though it may not make sense to the user.

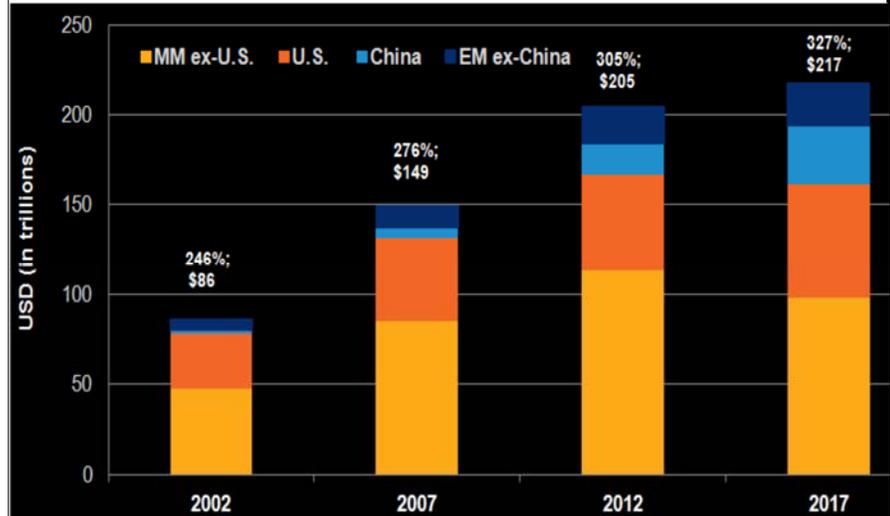
Senseless Monetary Developments

We observe a nonsensical conspiracy of “global mankind” playing out in the world’s monetary developments.

Consider that attempted introductions of cashless payment systems have occurred for some decades. Some attempts with digital cards, for example, have been unsuccessful.

... continued on page 3

Still Climbing: Total Global Debt (All sectors) 2002 to 2017, USD Trillion, Q1 of each year.



Source: IIF, BIS, Haver

WORLD MONEY UPDATE

The Wealth Endgame

Which statement is true: Wealth is booming worldwide today or wealth is corroding?

Gauging by popular indicators, wealth is surging. Stock market indices have been rising, hitting new all-time highs in some countries. And, spectacularly, real estate values have been soaring to previously unimaginable levels around the world from Sweden to Canada to Australia. Surely, wealth must be booming.

Indeed, some people are becoming very rich; the already-wealthy are becoming incredibly wealthy. The share of wealth of the “one percent” (the wealthiest 1% of people) is definitely rising. But, seen from the vantage point of historical wealth theory as well as Biblical values, we take a completely opposite perspective. We conclude that worldwide wealth is corroding.

People like rising wealth. In fact, they like the “appearance” that wealth is rising.

... continued on next page

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

— *Colossians 3:2*

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No distinction is made between these two developments. More is better, whether false or real. As such, in our modern financial world, few understand the true essence of wealth.

At its core, wealth is nothing more than the totality of the physical creation and the collective productive capacity of mankind's labor — both present and future. We can define these types of wealth as either created or of human origin. Both forms of wealth are finite at any given point.

There are three important truths about human wealth. First, it is inextricably tied to human labor. Ultimately the value of all wealth rests on the foundation of income — someone's labors somewhere on earth. Second, wealth can only be accumulated when we consume less than our labor produces. Third, if we exchange our savings for a promise of payment in the future, the underlying support for that liability ultimately depends on the labors of another human sometime in the future.

The inviolable fact of God's creation is this: There can be no human wealth without human labor, whether present, past or future — either accumulated as savings in the past or an exchange for the promise of savings in the future.

With that conclusion, we can emphatically state that human wealth in the world is corroding today. Why? Because the pool of human labor is on the verge of declining. There are a number of causes but we will focus on just two.

Anti-Familialism. Increasingly, people are choosing not to have children and not to form families. It is becoming prevalent not to marry today. The result (due to this and other reasons)? Fewer children. This has now become a worldwide trend, from the Third World to Europe.

The result? The world's population is aging. The most significant impact of this development is that future retirees will be relying on the support and economic

output of a following generation that will be much smaller. The impact of this aging phenomenon cannot be escaped. The retiree to worker ratio, as a result, is expanding rapidly. Unavoidably, what that means is that the foundation of world wealth is on the path to corrosion. Policymakers also realize this. Their response? Pump up (inflate) the value of assets (house, stocks and bonds) in price, so to make it look like wealth is increasing. It is an attempt to cover up problems ... to kick the can down the road for someone else to worry about.

Shocking Decline in Creation of Life

The second "labor" (wealth) corroding development we mention is a shocking one. Men's sperm counts are collapsing ... around the world!

Researchers led by Dr. Hagai Levine of Hebrew University of Jerusalem examined thousands of studies and conducted reviews of 185 other studies. These included 42,935 male participants who provided semen samples between 1973 and 2011. The chosen studies were well distributed over the nearly 40 years of the study period and among 50 different countries.

What did the researchers determine? They discovered that men's sperm counts in the Western world have fallen by 59% over the past 40 years. Ponder on this incredible statistic. If the count decline were to continue at the same pace in the future, men's sperm counts would be at zero in only 4 decades! It is not just a Western problem. There are indications that declines in sperm counts are occurring globally. (*Please see graph on pg. 5*).

The impact of this development is shattering in many ways. The rate of child conception will be lower, if it is not already. And, should counts continue to deteriorate, world populations would begin to decline and age at a much more rapid rate. As we have pointed out: World wealth is tied to labor. Declining population growth will therefore further undermine the foundations of world wealth.

Financial wealth is booming during our generation. How can this be when real wealth is creeping along at a fraction of that rate? Here again we see that the main driver behind this apparently huge rise in wealth has been nothing more than a boom in the perception of value.

If apparent wealth (perceived financial wealth and otherwise) is rising much faster than underlying income growth and savings, then something potentially very dangerous is occurring. It gives rise to a deceitful environment, one in which claims on true wealth — the ownership of human labor; past, present and future — are being misrepresented. It allows the world to fall for an enormous bondage to fictitious financial wealth even as true wealth is being hoarded by a select few as never before.

(*Please note that a full-length perspective on these wealth phenomena will be published in the December edition of Midnight Call Magazine.*)

EVR



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW
MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT



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Eternal Value Review is produced bi-monthly by *The Mulberry Ministry*, P.O. Box 41159, Lake Country, BC, Canada, V4V 1Z7 Please direct all inquiries concerning distributions in writing or by contacting our administrative offices at admin@eternalvalue.com.

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. 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 staff@eternalvalue.com

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Do readers remember Mondex (called Visa Cash in North America), which was introduced in the early 1990s? This was a stored-value card. It did not catch on. Nevertheless, the low-level war to remove cash from circulation has continued.

Who is pushing demonetization? It is not consumers. Very few see the need for new money technologies ... certainly not the complete abolition of cash. For example, paying with a card at a checkout counter can take 25% to 50% longer than paying with cash. Polls show that consumers are content using physical money for some transactions, and see no reason for its complete eradication.

Also, the claim that a cashless society is safer than one employing physical cash is not verified by facts. Theft and crime involving physical money is actually quite modest when compared to crimes involving other property (i.e. stolen cars, etc.).

Yet, new money technologies continue to advance, and government anti-cash measures increase. This is even more puzzling, given the fact that electronic payment systems are expensive to set up. Servicing these payment systems is often much more expensive than handling cash.

Clearly, given that an immediate profit motive cannot explain the continued advance of demonetization, there must be other motives. Why do financial institutions and governments continue to push “cashless” payment systems though they are expensive, at best marginally profitable, and capital intensive?

Supposedly, if a one-world financial system could be built which ALL transactions are forced to use, an enormous “rent” could be charged. Such a monopolistic system could be enormously profitable, so long as all other means of payment were suppressed or banned. However, to do so requires a “conspiracy” and a worldwide collective agreement, for other peculiar reasons.

Just what might these reasons be? We present several.

1. The occurrence of negative interest rates in many countries creates a major problem for policymakers, who are trying to steer world economies. Negative interest rates on bank deposits will cause people to move some of their assets to “currency in circulation” (this being cash). This makes sense since one would be avoiding charges to one’s bank account. (Money held in a mattress is more productive than in a bank which charges negative interest.) With negative interest rates, money will leave the banking system. Demonetization, on the other hand, would eliminate this “leakiness” of the money systems. (Some banks in Europe have already eliminated cash handling.)

2. The more that all transactions can be confined to a cashless payment system, the better governments are

able to track Gross Domestic Product (economic activity). In turn, this allows for the maximization of tax revenues. Incidentally, a concerted attempt to achieve this result has been unfolding in India. Higher denomination bills (paper money) are being removed from circulation in order to force undocumented transactions into the banking system and into the recorded economy. Greece and Portugal (among other nations) recently lowered the maximum transaction size employing cash.

3. Given the worldwide continuation of financial crisis and the expectation that new and more powerful monetary policy tools will be required, a demonetized system must be in place. This conveniently allows policymaker more options to “control” societies and human actions.

4. As many studies have shown, cash is filthy—literally. Paper bills can be bacteria laden and covered with fungus or worse. It may be surprising to learn that a very large amount of paper currency is contaminated by drugs such as cocaine. In short, some make the case to do away with cash simply because it would be healthier.

The above-mentioned reasons would certainly satisfy the objectives of various “human” policymakers. In doing so, these global elites show their arrogant perspective: that they know what is best for collective humanity and its future. It fits hand-in-glove with the needs of a one-world ruler, who expressly wishes to ensnare humans and to force them to acknowledge him as god. This is the conspiracy well underway today, which started in the time of the apostles.

The Last Failed Financial Economist

We return to our earlier question: How can we know that the Bible foretells a cashless monetary system? We read in Revelation 13:15-17: “The second beast was given power [...]. It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name.”

Here we see that a global transactional system would be put in place. It applies to “all” people on earth, no matter their privileged position, economic or political status. Everyone will be subject to this new system. Only those who received the “mark” and worshiped the First Beast (verse 15) were enabled to “buy and sell.” We do not know what form the “mark” will take. However, it can be validly deduced that this transactional system enabled by the “mark” must be centrally controlled.

Logistically, how else could such a system be put into place worldwide? It will not be possible to “buy and sell” anything outside of this new system. It must be an impregnable payment system which cannot be circumvented by cash—or even gold.

Prophecy by Choice

As mentioned, Bible prophecy confirms that a “cashless” system will be put in force someday. Though prophesied, it is also true that God does not force mankind to conform to and carry out the fulfillment of His prophecies. In other words, mankind will not develop a cashless society out of obedience to the Bible.

Rather, mankind does so volitionally for its own reasons. Prophecy (often times) reveals in advance what mankind will freely “choose” to do in the future. Though human free agency (choice) is involved, it is also true that all that is prophesied in the Bible will be fulfilled. Admittedly, the logic here may appear convoluted.

It is puzzling to observe that mankind will choose to make unwise choices—inexplicable ones—which show no logic or sense. It is as if humankind would rather spite its nose to its own detriment rather than to be obedient to God. The Psalmist asks a parallel question: “Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?” (Psalm 2:1). “The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them” (verse 4).

Next Steps to a Cashless Society

For Revelation 13:17 to be fulfilled (grossly simplified), at least four things have to happen:

1. A globally-integrated and closed financial system must exist. Necessary and common technologies must be in place. That means that not even a little bank in Tupelo, Mississippi or the Island of Tuvalu will be able to facilitate any type of transaction (whether buying food or selling a house) outside of this closed system.
2. A system of central banking must be endorsed everywhere and centrally coordinated. This must result in a commonly-shared monetary philosophy around the world, which, most importantly, achieves a strong influence over market and human behavior. In other words, the entire world must agree to play by the same rules and values, thereby obeying and following the actions of monetary officials (the modern money equivalent to suzerains).
3. The legal statutes and regulatory institutions that oversee the financial activities of individual countries must be superseded by a centralized, worldwide authority in order for unified actions to be enforced.
4. Finally, a powerful, unified global “political economy” must exist (either taking the form of a very small group of powerful countries or a single autocrat).

Phases #1 and #2 are largely completed. Phase #3 is underway. However, further development in this direction is difficult. Why? Because individual countries must first give up a measure of sovereignty for this to occur. They will do so only very reluctantly. However, as technocrats and political strategists well know, there is nothing as effective as a crisis to unify political consensus or to

compel change. Quoting Milton Friedman (well-known monetarist economist): “Only a crisis, real or perceived, produces real change.”

In desperate times, thinking they have no choice, people will strike bad deals, ceding freedoms and potentially allowing themselves to be held hostage. An example of this tendency is shown in the Old Testament Genesis account of the 7-year famine during the time of Joseph. In its later stages, people became so desperate they said: “[...] buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh” (Genesis 47:19).

We should not think that Tribulational developments will be delayed by the elements of Phase #3 not being completed. As was observed during the depths of the recent Global Financial Crisis (GFC), policymakers repeatedly ignored laws and broke the rules. They felt justified doing so, given the gravity of the crisis.

Once the Antichrist is on the scene, having received the authority of 10 kings and the power of the Dragon, he can overrule all laws and conventions, bringing about his world-dominating regime very quickly.

As such, the events of Revelation 13 may be much nearer than commonly thought. The final events of the Church Age and the preparatory ones enabling the events of the Tribulation happen “suddenly” (Luke 21:34; 1 Thessalonians 5:3) and over “one hour” (Rev 17:12).

Thoughts to Ponder

There is no more powerful, worldwide, earthly control mechanism possible of humans than an integrated “cashless” financial system. We see that the Beast readily takes advantage of mankind’s proclivity to worship Mammon.

Christ admonished that “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?” (Matthew 6:24-25).

The monetary controls put in by the Second Beast “force” compliance and worship of the First Beast (this the Antichrist, who receives his power from the Dragon). The threat of losing access to food, drink and clothes drives Mammon worshipers to receive the “mark.”

On the other hand, those who reject the Beast’s entreaties will be those who do “not worry about” their lives, nor about what they will eat. They know that life is “more than food.”

The Bible says that all those who refused to worship the First Beast (“those who persevere to the end”: Matthew 24:13) will be killed. This is the policy of a discriminatory Great Tribulational regime (lasting 42 months) which seeks to consolidate obedience to the First Beast, rejecting God

and the Lamb and all those whose names are in the Book of Life.

However, the Lord has the last say. John the Revelator shows us the final outcome:

“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Revelation 20:4).

Those who had short-sightedly given their worship to the Antichrist also will encounter a discriminatory regime ... though a very different one.

We read how the third angel “[...] said in a loud voice: 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” (Revelation 14:9-11).

EVR

Signs of the Times: The Rise of Three False Gods of the Endtimes—Part IV



Who Are They — Part II

We have been attempting to find the identity of the three false gods that would mark the last days ... the time of the last king as the Prophet Daniel terms it. In Daniel 11:38-39 we discover that this endtime king which represents the diabolical endtime regime commandeered by Satan, the Antichrist and the beast would be aided by three false gods.

Let’s revisit the Bible passage that we are examining:

“He will show no regard to the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price” (Daniel 11:37-39).

It’s a very small section of scripture, but when examined in the context of other prophetic passages and the knowledge of our modern age, we discover that it is loaded with enormous prophetic significance for our times. Of course, any interpretation of prophetic scriptures requires thorough scrutiny. Therefore, I will endeavor to lay out the facts so that readers can judge the validity of my conclusions (and any speculative content!) for themselves.

Daniel names three false gods — an “unknown” god, a “foreign” one, and the “god of fortresses.” I presented the evidence supporting my opinions about the likely identities of these gods in Parts I through III. I named them MOFI (the modern-day phenomenon of a global reliance upon monetary finance), SCITE (the ascendancy of a faith in science and technology), and GLOBO (globalism).

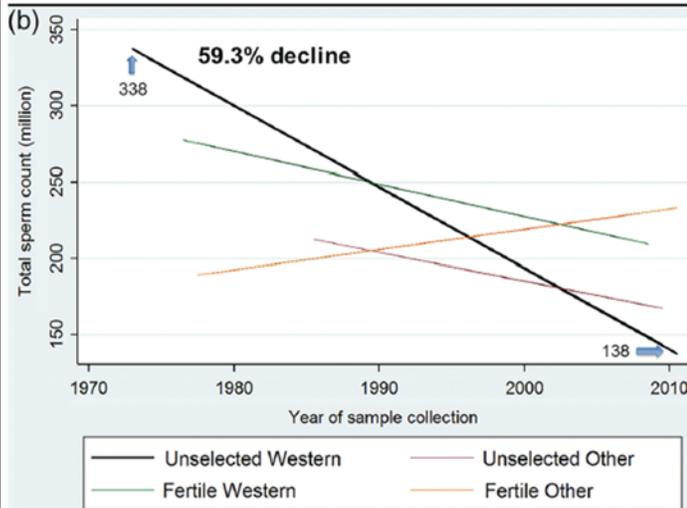
Now we begin pulling these false gods out into the light. Let’s take a closer look at the “unknown god” — MOFI.

The Rise of a Money Tower

Just how did our deep reliance upon a modern-day financial system develop? How did it come to be a god ... our master rather than our servant ... something that is venerated as a giver of prosperity and wealth? It wasn’t always this way.

At one time, both wealth and prosperity had different definitions. Only in recent centuries has money taken on a form that is captivating and motivating all human action, even transforming our very thought lives into values that

Global Sperm Count Collapse



Source: Human Reproductive Update

Wilfred’s Itinerary 2017: *The Mulberry Ministry*

- October 1-2, 2017: Atlantic Prophecy Congress: Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Midnight Call Ministries 1-800-845-2420 www.midnightcall.com

Presentation Topics

1. Prophecy Unfulfilled: Anxiety Merchants and Profiting False Prophets
2. Amazing Unfilled Prophetic Trends

can be expressed monetarily. It intersects human life at almost every turn. Who can escape this man-made creation today?

Given the usefulness of this human invention called money and the conveniences it allows in our lives as consumers today, could it have ever been different? Consider a family living on an Oklahoma homestead in the year 1850. Let's call them the Bilfries. Money was mostly a transactional tool, playing a relatively small role in their lives. Home economic studies suggest that less than 20% of the Bilfries' physical needs were met from outside of their immediate family — their homestead of a few acres, or their household unit, as economists would say.

Looked at another way, we can say that over 80% of their living requirements did not involve an external transaction of some kind with someone outside of their extended family or homestead. Very few trading activities were required to obtain what was needed for the daily living requirements of the Bilfrie family.

Of course, it is quite different today. Economists estimate that well over 80% of the value-added services and products that the average household now uses are purchased from outside their home. The other fifth of these services and products are sourced from within the household. After all, most of us still shave our own beards and wash our own floors.

What has happened is that more than three-fifths of the physical needs and activities of our lives have moved into the path of money over the past two hundred years. Put another way, the role of money and economics has increased its market share of our physical activities by over three times in this period.

A thousand years ago the average annual income of every person in the world was only \$160 dollars. Today, the average income per person in the world is approximately US\$10,880 (2014). (By comparison, income per person in the United States is much higher at an average of US\$57,436 (Source: International Monetary Fund 2016).) Here we see that in the space of one millennium, the role of money has multiplied its influence in terms of the world's daily human activities by a factor of 68 times or more.

Actually, the role of money has become even greater than is implied by the above income statistics. Income results from the act of labor and output which primarily receives its remuneration in the form of money. However, money has many other roles. It can serve as a storehouse for wealth — a jar full of pennies or a bank deposit. In this sense, money combined in all its various forms is today some ten times larger than the world's flow of annual income.

Importantly, money is also used for the trading of existing assets — houses, stocks, mutual funds — and anything else that's tradable or buyable. Here, the role of money has boomed even more. To take the United States as

an example, the annual volume of financial transactions supporting such activities now amounts to eighty times (yes, eighty times) the annual income of America.

Without a doubt, the god of MOFI already has a very large influence. Today, 2 out of every 13 people in the North American workforce labor in a financial service industry of some kind. Despite the great advances of technology — automatic banking machines (ABMs), internet banking, e-trading, etc. — a 10% greater share of workers are occupied in some type of financial services job today than just several decades ago.

Imagine! For every 6.5 people, one person makes a living shuffling around or reconfiguring the financial wealth of the others. This may include insurance, stockbroking, banking, real estate commissions, investment management, leasing, and many other financial industry specialties. Money has assumed an enormous place of domination to keep so many people busy. The same trend is evident in virtually every country.

Doesn't it seem unimaginable that an inanimate thing like money, which at one time served only as a medium of exchange, should become something so large and complex, requiring legions of people to manage the myriad arrangements of who owes it and who owns it? This whole phenomenon is evidence of just how invasive the monetary system has become. What it signifies is that there are many, many layers of financial relationships — obligations and enslavements in other words — that hang as millstones around the necks of humanity. (*Please see the graph on the front page.*)

Therefore, we now live in a cage where everything is defined by costs, prices, gains and losses, all expressed in monetary form. Yet the world knows less about truth and values — human or spiritual — than ever before. Rather, real truth is the price at which things can be bought and sold. As one financial service ad says, "The moment of truth is when the best price is yours."

A good way of understanding how money has come to play a crucial endtime role is to use an illustration. Let's construct the world's money tower using building blocks. There are six that are necessary in the build-up of a world belief system that centers upon financial wealth. Each successive block rests upon the preceding one. Not only are these blocks stackable, each of them is expandable, representing a trend or factor that can grow and increase its influence.

When all blocks expand at the same time, the advance of MOFI's reign can be lightning quick, rising like a tower seeking to challenge the very heavens. That's exactly what happened over the past five decades or so — an enormous acceleration. All of a sudden in recent generations, each of these six blocks has been stimulated to rapid growth as if some Mammon pituitary gland has triggered them all to a state of hyperactivity. Let's briefly examine these blocks

... continued on page 9

Facts & Stats ... Ends & Trends



TOPICAL QUOTES

Since the narrative is a religious one, it is only natural that the United States, a largely non-Muslim, secular republic, cannot offer a counter-narrative. This issue is even more problematic because adherents of this religion are themselves having a hard time countering the jihadist narrative. Radicals and extremists have a better command over religious texts and are more persuasive and effective in communicating their religious messages than those we call (for lack of a better term) moderates. – **Geopolitical Futures, March 31, 2017**

A growing horde of rich foreigners see New Zealand as a safe haven. In 2016 overseas investors bought just 3% of all properties. But their purchases were concentrated at the expensive end of the market, which is growing fast: sales involving homes worth more than NZ\$1m (\$690,000) increased by 21%. That helped push prices in the country up by 13% over the past year, to lead *The Economist's* latest tally of global house-price inflation. – **The Economist, March 11, 2017**

Carlyle and KKR, [...], are each estimated to employ about 700,000 people in their portfolio companies, which probably ranks them just below Walmart. Blackstone has “around 600,000” employees, as Steve Schwarzman, its founder, told the Milken event. Apollo, another private equity group, has 300,000 workers in its portfolio companies, and Warburg Pincus, General Atlantic and TPG are only slightly smaller. Lobby groups estimate that private equity firms now employ 11m people inside America (the data are not very transparent). – **Financial Times, May 5, 2017**

The polling company Harris Poll surveyed more than 2,000 US adults in February 2017 on behalf of Northwestern Mutual. The survey found that nearly half of Americans are carrying at least \$25,000 in debt, with an average debt of \$37,000,

excluding mortgage payments. About 1 in 10 surveyed said their debt was more than \$100,000. “It becomes an ongoing cycle and really hard to get out of, given that people are not prioritizing debt and saving for their future as the first part of their budget,” Rebekah Barsch, the vice-president of planning at Northwestern Mutual, said. – **MarketWatch, April 30, 2017**

Absolute income mobility has fallen across the entire income distribution, with the largest declines for families in the middle class. These findings are unaffected by using alternative price indices to adjust for inflation, accounting for taxes and transfers, measuring income at later ages, and adjusting for changes in household size. They are in line with similar previous studies documenting declining absolute mobility in occupational status (Hauser et al, 2000) and educational attainment (Hout and Janus 2011). – **VOX, CEPR's Policy Portal, May 5, 2017**

A new meta-analysis of sperm counts focuses on 185 of the most scientifically rigorous studies, involving more than 40,000 men. The scientists concluded that sperm counts have fallen by more than half since the 1970s. If this trend continues in a linear manner, the world would reach complete male infertility in 32 years. The study showed that men with lower sperm counts have higher rates of disease and lower life expectancies. This may be due to the fact that falling sperm counts are linked to metabolic syndrome caused by higher body fat. Obesity rates took off in the 1970s, when lower sperm counts were first noticed. – **Source: Human Reproductive Update**

There are only 12 counties in the country (United States) where a low-wage worker can afford a modest one-bedroom apartment without spending more than 30% of their income on housing. – **www.theguardian.com**

“The problem with bubbles is that they force one to decide whether to look like an idiot before the peak, or an idiot after the peak.” — John Hussman, American fund owner

“If something cannot go on forever, it will stop.” — Herbert Stein (1916-1999), American economist

“Political correctness is tyranny with manners.” — Charlton Heston (1923-2008), American actor and political activist

“Communism is the longest path from capitalism to capitalism.” — Russian joke

“Where large sums of money are concerned, it is advisable to trust nobody.” — Agatha Christie (1890-1976), English crime novelist

“Knowledge will give you power, but character respect.” — Bruce Lee (1940-73), Hong Kong and American martial artist

“In evaluating people, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence, and energy. And if you don't have the first, the other two will kill you.” — Warren Buffett (b. 1930), American investor



Letters to the Editor

READER: We spoke some 7-8 years ago when I called you on the phone after finishing your book *The Endtime Money Snare*. I appreciate your insight as I have been in the “money” business for the past 30 years. I can’t help but wonder if this bubble of “money printed from thin air” is going to continue inflating until an event pops it? And when it pops it could be much worse than the explosion that happened in 2007-2009? I just don’t see how the magic men are going to deflate this bubble in an orderly fashion. Do you? I know there has been much discussion and disagreement as to Jesus’ words when he describes the condition on earth and says: “As it was in the days of Noah...”. I can’t help but fit it into the condition of the pre-rapture...where people will be marrying, planting, building, eating and drinking and basically have no clue that the Great Tribulation is going to fall on them like The Flood fell on everyone who wasn’t on the Ark. I know some people say that passage is 2nd Advent passage vs. a Rapture passage, but I just can’t square that in my brain. In the days before 2nd advent, people will be hiding in caves, running from Antichrist and Jesus said it will be so bad that no flesh would survive if he didn’t interrupt the days early. This hardly seems like a time of marrying, planting, building, eating and drinking. Any new insights into this? So, I wonder if this bubble could keep inflating as the central bankers pull their magic levers and flip their mystical switches? Maybe we have another 2007-2008 Global Financial Crisis (GFC). Or maybe the millions of people disappearing when the trumpet sounds is the final straw that sinks the current global financial system with America losing reserve currency status and then the world calling for a new global system to avoid one country, like USA, from ever getting that much control again? Shifting gears, I saw one paragraph in your recent article and can’t help but think of how much this sounds like President Trump. “A major sign-post of these new times is populism which is the domain of charismatic and unpredictable demagogues and politicians. They are characterised by playing upon people’s emotions, making grandiose promises (saying the things that itching ears like to hear) and leaning to a more authoritarian style. There are quite a number of Populist-type leaders that have emerged over the last few years. Whoever they may be, the trend is clear. The Developed World Populism Index recently developed by Bridgewater Associates LP shows a worrisome trend. The “populism wave” today is back to levels last experienced in the 1930s.” Of course I voted for him as the “least worst” of two choices, but it makes me wonder how much longer America can stick together as families and friendships get torn apart as they realize how diverse they are in their world views? I know many people who can’t talk to their parents, siblings, etc. because one voted Trump and one

voted Clinton. I know God wasn’t surprised by the election of Donald Trump, but most of us humans were sure surprised. I’m still trying to figure out if Trump is a blessing from God to America or what exactly he is? Anyway, just wanted to tell you to keep up the good work. Maranatha. —
DL

EVR Thanks for your thoughts. Yes, indeed, I remember well our previous contact. I agree with your take on “as it was in the time of Noah.” This must be the time of complacency just prior to crisis and calamity. Christ would not mention this terrible, terrible period unless it was extraordinarily notable ... though unprecedentedly similar to the original times of Noah. Mankind has always faced periods of crisis — prosperous and heady times, followed by depression or crisis. As such, Christ’s statement that difficult times would occur provides no prophetic value if it is not a time like ever before preceded by complacent times as in the days of Noah. Mayhem and collapse start very shortly (or immediately) following the Rapture. In my view, studying the events of the Tribulation period, there is no way (at least to my mind) that economies and financial markets will remain stable or avoid collapse upon the start of the Tribulation period. In fact, the crisis of that time can be seen to start immediately (assuming that the Rapture indeed occurs just prior to the Tribulation). One can reconcile Christ’s statements if both the start of the Tribulation and the advent of the Rapture are at the same time. The statements of Christ can therefore be reconciled. If the extraordinarily terrible times start right on the heels of the time of complacency (no space of time in between) then it is not necessary to see this passage as exclusively pivoting on the timing of a Rapture. If the Tribulation is triggered by the Rapture, then both are unpredictable (i.e. no one knows the time nor the hour). Another principal that I believe applies to the time before the Tribulation, is that Satan’s tactic will be to ensnare and lure humanity by means of the perception of prosperity and false images of wealth. It was much more effective to co-opt people through nice comfy developments than crisis (though none will escape the final crisis). For example, wealth management clients love “asset inflation” though it rarely represents a real increase in wealth. As long as that keeps going, it will be as in the days of Noah. However, Satan does need to keep control of his agenda and therefore will need to discipline his greedy cohorts from time to time. Another thought: God destroyed the tower of Babel. Why? Because man showed himself able to do great things without worshiping God. In a sense, this is happening again. If everyone would agree to trust or believe upon policymaker’s actions, a deceptive boom in asset values could go on a long time. I note that there are many doomsters right now predicting imminent crash. Yes, there will be a complete crash of the type that they expect (not to mention the likelihood of many other minor downturns) but it will not be triggered by any man-made event. It will be triggered by the Wrath of God who will choose to again interfere in the affairs of mankind and to knock down their pride and punish them for disobedience.

EVR

one by one.

Money Block 1: Human Activity and Consumption.

Simplicity and utility were more the rule in earlier days. Centuries ago, who would have believed that the volume of consumption promoted today in the Western World would have been necessary or possible? In fact, our own grandparents' generation can hardly acclimatize to the consumer culture of today.

More is always better. Eight pair of shoes are better than two. A 4,000-square-foot house is more desirable than 1,000 whether needed or not. Conspicuous consumption is idolized in all media — TV, cinema, books and glossy magazines. The push for more consumption extends into every human activity ranging from entertainment to leisure to possessions and to our stomachs.

More consumption means faster economic growth. In the popular view, that's good as it means more wealth can be supported. That's the general philosophy that broader society endorses though it is riddled with false assumptions and questionable values.

Yet, it's a philosophy that's being adopted by more and more countries and cultures around the world. The roads to freedom and higher development and progress all lead through the holy ground of higher consumption, production and trade, and a "free market" financial system ... and, of course, more debt.

The globalists of the world and those that aspire to be rich have a dream. Just imagine if every human being on the earth would become a full-fledged, full-spending, credit-card-carrying member of the "free market" consumer philosophy of the Anglo-Saxon world. What if the whole world attained the same standard of living enjoyed by the high-income countries? What would happen?

World economic output would be approximately five times the level it is today.ⁱⁱ The financial wealth that this global economy could support would therefore be at least 5 times greater as well. "Wow! If that is the case, how can we seize this wealth opportunity?" say the materialists. How much taller would be the money tower.

Money Block 2: Trade With Others. The Bilfrie family introduced earlier sourced very little of their requirements from outside of their household. As long as they only consumed goods and services produced on their own homestead, this family had little interaction or influence with the commercial world outside. They could consume as much as they might and it would have little consequence for their neighbors ... provided they weren't living upstream and polluting the creek. It's only when they begin trading goods and services with other households that a commercial economy begins to take form. Once they start doing so, the ownership of goods and obligations are being exchanged and transactions take place.

However, key to realize is that transactions require that the two people exchanging goods place a value on what they are receiving and offering.

The more that the Bilfrie family begins to rely on the outside world for its items of consumption and for the sale of the goods and services that its own household members produce, the greater becomes the world of transactions. Of course, there are numerous advantages to exchanging goods with other households.

Yet, what has happened to the Bilfrie family is this: A greater part of their private livelihood and activity has become defined as transactions — things that now require valuation and exchange. By and large, this in itself is not bad. It brings many advantages ...but also increasing vulnerability.

Money Block 3: The Role of Money. To this point in our tower-building exercise, there has been no mention of money. Technically, physical money is not absolutely essential to human existence. A world could exist without it. The barter of physical goods would be sufficient to sustain human life. The obligations of an extended family or clan could provide for the needs of the retirements years.

In this case, no monetary store of value would be necessary. Admittedly while it's all possible, it would be an austere world, hardly recognizable to us living in the modern world at the dawn of a new millennium. Yet, there still exist native tribes living this way today.

Frankly, money is a great invention ... probably the greatest for the advance of mankind since the mastery of fire. Though it offered many conveniences, at the same time it laid the foundation for its misuse. The advent of money introduced two new developments. For one, it opened the door to the practice of valuing everything in terms of currency units. The value of goods and services could now be appraised in a common coin.

In turn, the activities of all this buying and selling could also better be counted. Without this possibility, there could not be anything such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the capturing of all this human activity — both imagined and real — in the form of a taxable quantity.

A second consequence of the invention of money was that it could now be used as a storehouse. A pile of seashells hoarded today could be stored for expenditure in the far future. Seashells could surely be stored much longer than eggs, milk and honey. It wasn't like manna — only for consumption today, but putrefying and stinking the next day.

A big hoard of seashells, therefore, could be a source of security. It also opened up the possibility of more easily accumulating riches, serving as an instrument that is conducive to controlling the obligations and resources of other people.

Suffice it to say that the properties of money make it a very important and strategic object. Whoever or whatever controls the creation of money or facilitates its flows — financial institutions, for example — becomes extremely powerful.

To conclude, the more that all transactions — human activity in other words — is expressed in monetary equivalents and terms, the greater the growth of this building block in the creation of financial wealth.

Money Block 4: Capitalization. What does the word capitalization mean? It's one of those big words that gets bandied about by financial professionals. The idea behind it is this: Money is valuable. But, it is even more valuable if it is in motion. Capitalization is all about establishing a value for the ownership of a flow of money. For example, the annual revenue of a business is worth more than an equivalent amount of money that is idle. Financial transactions valued in money terms have now been catapulted into expressions of value that are many times the underlying flows of money.

Money Block 5: Securitization. We examine another professional expression that hides a very straightforward concept — securitization. The act of securitization serves to turn the ownership of something (the value of a flow of money, such as the revenue of a business) into discrete bits of stocks and bonds. These are also known as securities. They can be valued and traded continuously, virtually around the clock and around the world. The more that securitization happens, the more centrally-controllable all wealth becomes. This provides obvious advantage and power to MOFI.

Money Block 6: Increasing Lusts. What is something worth? What is its value? If the object's value rises for whatever reason — lust of possession, unrestrained emotions, fictitious facts or deserved — by the standards of today's financial world that means wealth has increased. Real wealth may not have actually increased, just the vanities and idolatries of its prospective owners expressed in a higher price. Here we see that mankind's lust can aid the rise of MOFI and his influence upon our lives.

We have lightly reviewed all six of the money blocks. In essence, they capture the mechanisms behind the rise of a monetary colossus and a false apparition of wealth that we witness in the world today. It's a clever scheme. Wealth, once deceptively defined and accepted in this way, can be expanded without limit.

However, the construction of a money tower requires willing laborers and users. What energizes them to do so? The love of money serves as the main energizing fuel.

But fuel alone will not propel the endtime role of MOFI. For this to happen, it needs a lubricant ... a salve for the human conscience, in other words. With no lubricant, the money machine will soon seize up.

In my view, there are two mainstream doctrines that grease this inflating money tower. These are the theories of debt and the famous notion of the "invisible hand." Both of them are fundamentally corrupt ideas. God must be repulsed

with both ideas. More than anything else, as we will explain, it is these two doctrines that have served as the smoothing principles behind the whole architecture of the endtime role of MOFI.

The first is the false notion that free markets are a benevolent force for mankind. Adam Smith, the venerated economist of the 1700s, set the famous cornerstone for modern day economics in his book, *The Wealth of Nations*ⁱⁱⁱ. He wrote:

"... [the market participant] intends only his own gain, and he is in this, as in many other cases, led by an invisible hand to promote an end which was no part of his intention. [...] By pursuing his own interest he frequently promotes that of the society more effectually than when he really intends to promote it."

Though he may not exactly have meant it as it is popularly interpreted today, this view launched the notion that markets — the Market — left to its own, will promote the best interest of society and humanity. People acting narrowly in their own interest — selfishly fulfilling their own wants, needs, greed and fears — together as a group supposedly work as an "invisible hand." In this sense, the market mechanism of many people pursuing their own interest is the benevolent "invisible hand."

It raises the "free market" concept to the level of a metaphysical force (as it supposedly miraculously produced common good out of brutish self-interest and potentially greed or craving). The Market, whether dealing with the sale and manufacture of consumer goods or stock and bond prices, has become regarded as an all-seeing creature, capable of looking forward into the future and fairly tending to the needs of society.

Indeed, the Market left to its own devices can then be counted on to more efficiently deliver prosperity and wealth. But it certainly cannot see the future (only God has that power) nor can it be "Good." While it is good to have competitive markets, the concept of the benevolent "invisible hand" is fundamentally an occult one.

The market is not a god; it is not inherently good. It simply represents the collective action of human buyers and sellers. A single human is not a god, therefore massed humanity cannot be a god. And if the world is not godly, then how can this "invisible hand" be considered to be benevolent? It is worldly. It's controlled by the god of this age — Satan.

Jesus Christ was clear about this, saying, "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world."^{iv}

We now come to the second doctrine supporting the rise of MOFI. It concerns the underpinning roles of debt in the world's financial system ... namely its banking system. Virtually all of the world's banking systems (at least 99% of them) are based upon the idea of fractional-reserve banking.

What does this term mean? It is a technical term that serves as an elegant cover for a simple idea. Fractional-reserve banking is nothing more than the practice of lending out something that isn't yours.

The only reason that the words "fractional reserve" are used is because central banks have a role to control the practice of lending. By setting certain limits — fractions and reserves — they can regulate the process of money creation to suit a given outcome. After all, money today can be manufactured in unlimited quantities at virtually zero cost.

In our day, almost all money is backed by government debt, paper bills and metal coins. The intrinsic value of these things are far less than what their denomination may indicate. Therefore, the franchise of manufacturing money carries an enormous amount of power over people, whole countries, and the world.

We see that this endtime system of monetary economics has been founded on a few godless and uncanny doctrines that slipped their way into the mainstream of public acceptance and confidence a long time ago. They no longer receive any critical reappraisal in a world that is increasingly smitten with the love of money and its new forms. These doctrines are lodged in our textbooks. Courses that specialize in training students in the creation of monetary wealth are swamped with applicants.

We can conclude that, together, the six blocks of the monetary/financial system bring a greater part of our individual activities and affairs into the realm of money and wealth. Once in that domain, we are subject to its control.

Today, MOFI sits resplendent atop our society. Most people worship at MOFI's altars — the mutual fund sales counters, the stock brokerages, and the e-trade terminal. They hanker after his high priests — the money managers who arrogantly say they have the power to create wealth, the financiers, the investment dealers and the like.

The 12 members of the Federal Open Market Committee^v inquire of him in the inner sanctum of their temple every six weeks. The 17-member policy committee of the European Central Bank does the same.

Just try and escape MOFI. You cannot. MOFI, the "unknown god" of the endtimes that Daniel saw is already very powerful. It is tightly networked.

In the next part, we turn our spotlight upon SCITE.

Endnotes

- i. Advertisement for INSTINET, Forbes Magazine, September 2000.
- ii. World Bank estimates for world gross national product (GNP) for 2000 are used for this estimate. iii. Adam Smith, An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, 1776.
- iv. John 2:15-16.
- v. Federal Open Market Committee or FOMC is headed by the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. This group is responsible for setting monetary policy and administered interest rate levels for the U.S. economy. Its current chair is Janet Yellen.

EVR

A Portfolio of Securities

... From Back page

saw I had, and now hear that I still have" (Philippians 1:28-39).

Here we are told that Christian persecution is to be expected ... in fact, it is a sign that we are on the right way and that we are indeed living out our faith. If you are walking down the wide road of ease or surfing on the leading edge of society's values or world trends, you will not experience any persecution. Chances are that your understanding of true stewardship is worldly as well. If so, you will find yourself caught deep in the net of Satan's endtime money agenda.

Let's take a moment to do a little securities analysis. To do so we don't need any financial degree, just common sense and spiritual eyes.

Let's contrast the two portfolios of securities we have available to us — both the earthly and the eternal. The latter offers incredible returns and rewards. All of our investments placed there are safe from corruption, bankruptcy, inflation, devaluation, robbers and fiat decree. We don't need to pay money managers, advisors and bankers to shield it against these dangers ... even if they could.

Moreover, these eternal investments offer a guaranteed pay-off over eternity. We can know this for certain because we have the predictions of the most reliable forecaster and strategist of true riches ever known — Jesus Christ. His words are true, never wrong or wide of the mark. This heavenly investment portfolio that we are promised offers the most incredible investment return.

Jesus Christ said, "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life" (Matthew 19:29).

Imagine! We will get a hundred-fold return — tax-free at that — for everything we give up to the total lordship of Jesus Christ. There isn't an investment anywhere that offers a risk-free rate of return like this. Contrast this investment proposition to that of an earthly investment. One lasts changeless and forever; the other is temporal and uncertain. Is there any comparison?

Dear brothers and sisters, let's begin investing for eternity. Let's strive to avoid the Endtime Money Snare, not giving any assistance or ground to Satan's diabolical plan to ensnare the world into worshipping him.

We can do even better. Though we will face persecution, by applying the recommendations that I have laid out, we can come out far ahead. We can build immense eternal value out of this endtime financial world that we live in today. Living bravely as witnesses for Christ we aspire to a great heavenly reward.

EVR



Personal Perspective

A Portfolio of Securities

We can only speculate as to the exact turn of events from this point forward ... the timing, the extent and full depth of the delusion and deception.

Though we may use our minds and work out the best ways to husband our savings and resources as good stewards here on earth, our ultimate hope is much greater. Provided we live as obedient stewards, we have a portfolio full of promises that we can rely upon. Just look at these valuable securities that we find in the Bible:

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

Relying upon our money and seeking our security in the infinity of financial gains is fruitless. When God’s judgment finally comes, our worldly investments will provide neither refuge nor eternal reward.

Do not worry about those things that are beyond our control. “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34).

We are not to preoccupy ourselves with the future ... the unknown. Spending our time and energies to overcome the boundaries of risk will prove to be unsuccessful. God alone knows that which is unknowable to us. He alone knows the future perfectly. If we live in total service to him, we have absolutely nothing to worry about.

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:4-7). Also, a similar security is found here: “The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever” (Psalm 28:8-9).

Ignore the wicked who may become super wealthy. Their labors will all go to waste with no eternal reward. Their pay-off is only for a very short season and even for

this short season, riches provide no peace. Seeking earthly wealth, they suffer much anguish and deceit. According to the prophecies of Isaiah, there is little doubt what is in store for the wicked and their wealth.

“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 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).

Are we just getting by in this world, with little in our bank accounts? If we are serving the Lord faithfully it doesn’t have any impact upon our eternal prospects for “Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked; for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous” (Psalm 37:16).

Be gentle with others, seeking to save them from the consequences of complicity with the Endtime Money Snare. “Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear — hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh” (1 Jude 20-23).

Occupy and look up, for the Lord’s return draws near. “But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life” (Jude 1:20-21).

Do not bow down to the “image of gold.” God will save us. We can glean hope from the experience of Daniel’s companions, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They refused to give in to the idolatry forced upon them by King Nebuchadnezzar, no matter the price. If they had to die in the fire or live on the fringes of society as outcasts in order to stay faithful to their God so be it. “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up” (Daniel 3:17-18).

Expect Persecution. “... without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved, and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you

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