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Final Combustion: Oil, Islam and the Christian West – Part I

As every reader will know, energy costs have risen of late around the world. Are these energy price gyrations simply the product of random business cycles or is there perhaps an intelligent, stealthy plan unfolding? If so, what are the objectives?

By Wilfred Hahn



These are very urgent questions ... although perhaps much too late. All the same, Christians should be aware of the season and an approaching trap. In addition, over the past few months several major developments have come into view that rank as important “signs of the times.”

Following the post-Katrina spikes in petroleum-related products markets, prices have indeed moderated somewhat. But not much. Prices have again been rising and as such, home heating bills and transportation costs have been soaring. Wall Street analysts and industry experts predict that, in time, oil-based energy costs will continue to rise ... some even

predicting prices in excess of \$250 per barrel of oil in the decades ahead. Of course, specific forecasts are always hazardous at best, since few things are perfectly predictable or stable. The fact remains, however, that the world indeed has long been heading into an energy crisis. North American consumers may bemoan the inconvenience of high gasoline prices, but in time, that will prove to be only one of the smaller concerns.

Who or what is to blame for the energy crisis that the world faces — the big global oil companies, oil-thirsty consumers, dwindling resources, the Chinese ... the Arabs? Or could they all be playing a role in a longer-term, diabolical agenda that is underway? We will answer these



questions in this three-part series. In the process, we will uncover some amazing facts that readers likely will not know. However, we will approach our examination very differently than might a government research agency. In addition to studying available information from around the globe, we will also try to look through “spiritual eyes” — in other words, give full consideration to what the Bible says about the world.

In dealing with these urgent questions, we’ll do exactly what Scripture exhorts us to do: Both watching the skies to discern the weather (Matthew 16:2) — the signs of the season, in other words — as well as understanding Scriptures (Daniel 9:2). Doing so, we discover a masterful and cunning agenda is unfolding — virtually without hindrance — that is rapidly moving to the “final entrapment” phase. The final chapter of a strategic plan that conspires against God’s purposes is coming to its climax. You’ll realize why the real story is very different from what we hear in the popular media or from the pundits on Wall Street.

Basic Principles to Aid Analysis

Before we launch into our “two barrel” review of the world’s emerging energy crises, we first need to set up a proper vantage point. Secular experts and media commentators are spewing out all kinds of perspectives that hardly identify the real grand dynamics at play. To remedy the blindness that befalls them, let’s first step back and quickly review five key precepts that our examination must consider.

The first fact to acknowledge is that a cosmic timeline is unfolding, one that reflects God’s purposes for the world and which involves both forces of good and evil. The Bible says, “the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations” (Psalm 33:11).

A second perspective that our analysis must reflect is that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the



powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 6:12) To ignore this organized hierarchy of spiritual adversaries in the affairs of people and the world would block our view. Simply analyzing what is seen will not produce a correct conclusion. After all, it is this refusal to look past the three-dimensional physical realm that underpins the blindness that we see today in most fields of human activity, especially economics and geopolitics. Therefore, the world’s movers and shakers “do not know the thoughts of the LORD; they do not understand his plan” (Micah 4:12)

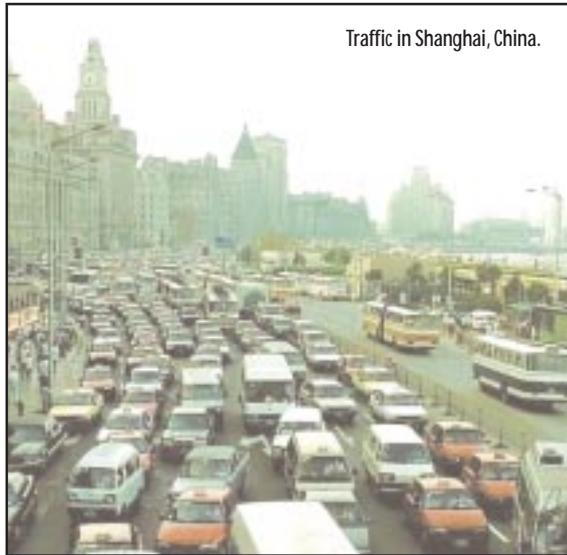
Next, we recognize that an elaborate last-days trap is underway — one that has been unfolding over a long period of time driven forward incrementally by countless thousands of smaller antichrists over the centuries (1 John 2:18; 4:3). While there is a great body of Scripture we could cite as proofs, we refer to just one reference that specifically applies to the endtimes: “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For

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While rising Asian demand — as well as elsewhere — could certainly heighten energy cost concerns, a much more urgent question beckons: Why is it that Asian oil consumption should begin growing so rapidly just now at such an important point on the human timeline?



Traffic in Shanghai, China.

it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth” (Luke 21: 34-35). Here Jesus is speaking about the last-days events that involve a trap for all the unsuspecting people on the face of the earth. Not only does our Lord reveal this; He also commands us to “be careful.”

Fourth, if a trap is being set, there must then both be a trapper and a “trappee.” “Does a bird fall into a trap on the ground where no snare has been set? Does a trap spring up from the earth when there is nothing to catch?” (Amos 3:5) Amos makes a simple point here that if a trap is laid, then there must be an intended quarry. We’ve already established that there is a trap. Who is the prey? The Bible clearly informs us there are two separate (but interrelated) recipients of God’s promises — the Church and Israel. These two, both corporately and its members as individuals, are the target.

Finally, a point that has been implicit in the prior four principles: We acknowledge that there is a grand intelligence, a diabolical schemer, an accuser of the brethren, a persecutor of the faithful, a foe of Jesus Christ at work — the master adversary who is the devil himself.

With these five perspectives in mind, we are now ready to become global oil analysts.

The World of Oil Today

We know that the price of oil and other hydrocarbons have been rising. Why? Much of any explanation we could detail here would be old news. Most everyone understands the main reasons. Far-seeing analysts, 20 and 30 years ago, foresaw that world demand for hydrocarbons would begin to outrun supply — especially so, cheap energy. If there is a fixed amount of any resource available,

over time it will run out and its prices will rise. Moreover, if demand itself is also rising, then prices will rise even faster. These are basic economic concepts that we all understand. In this sense, the fact that Asian economies have become large incremental consumers of oil-based products in recent years has certainly been a significant factor in recent oil price surges.

The fact that Asian economies use much less energy per person than Canada or the US prompts one to imagine what might yet happen as they catch up with the usage rates of the high-income countries. This alone would more than double world demand for hydrocarbons. And it is sure to have a large impact upon world hydrocarbon markets as Asian countries have relatively little oil of their own. In fact, countries that are considered predominantly Buddhist or Confucian in disposition — perhaps representing the group of countries that the Bible calls the “Kings of the East” (Revelation 16:12) — have only 6 percent of the supply of oil per person of the world average. This group of countries, which would include China and Japan, also possesses only 7.2 percent of world gas reserves per person.



While rising Asian demand — as well as elsewhere — could certainly heighten energy cost concerns, a much more urgent question beckons: Why is it that Asian oil consumption should begin growing so rapidly just now at such an important point on the human timeline? While we may have offered a very basic answer as to why oil prices are surging of late, we see that such analytic perspectives leave us wanting as to why such developments should happen in the first place. For instance, simply studying demand and supply statistics would completely miss an eternal perspective. We may be identifying what is happening in the sphere of random human affairs, but not its original underlying cause.

As we will shortly discover, the world's situation today with respect to hydrocarbon energy supplies could not be the result of random chance. The statistical probability that planet Earth and its dwellers would find themselves at this juncture today with respect to oil and gas supplies is beyond calculation. It could not have happened accidentally even if our five precepts (discussed as our foundation at the outset) were not true. Too many improbable events and developments have occurred in the world, all of which precisely interweave into a whole, culminating in today's final phases of a cosmic agenda that has been unfolding since the beginning.

We will tackle the incredible evidence supporting this view in the next three parts containing these following sections: Connected: Oil and Islam; The Complicity of the Christian West; The Russian Trapper; and The Final Trap: Woe to Israel and the Church. As we will see, everything converges and focuses upon Israel and the coming return of Jesus Christ.



Connected: Oil and Islam

An inter-stellar traveler visiting earth would discover some remarkable characteristics about this green and blue-colored orb. Though this alien might believe in such theories as evolution and random planetary birth, he would be struck by some seemingly improbable circumstances. For example, this alien may be amazed to find that such a large focus of world geopolitics is directed toward a rather inhospitable, dry region in the Middle East. In this general region is found the source the world's three monotheistic religions, the beginning of civilization and now perhaps its end. Today, the goings-on in this area are a virtual stumbling stone to the world's nations. Besides numerous other curiosities, our alien friend would be most perplexed by the fact that one of these religions, Islam, should have possession of the vast majority of the world's non-renewable energy supplies. Could this be a freak occurrence ... a product of chance?

Before attempting any conclusion, let's first consider these facts:

At last count, 74.9 percent of world oil reserves are found in countries that are either predominantly Islamic or members

of the 57-country member Organization of the Islamic Conference.



While much oil is concentrated in the Middle East and since Islam was founded in Arabia, would it then not only be logical that Islamic nations would control the preponderance of world hydrocarbon supplies?

of the 57-country member Organization of the Islamic Conference. As such, Muslim nations have 3.4 times as much oil per person than the world average and almost 7.7 times as much as major Christian nations — what we call the Top-10-X. What is the statistical probability that approximately 22-23 percent of the world's population would today sit atop three-quarters of oil reserves and more than half of world proven gas reserves?

Of the 10 countries with the largest amount of oil (accounting for 65 percent of total world reserves), eight are Islamic. Of the 15 countries with the largest natural gas reserves (accounting for 50 percent of total world reserves) 11 are predominantly Islamic. However, it is interesting to note that with so much energy resources, that these very same nations should use so little of it themselves. The average Muslim in the world uses only 15 percent as much energy as do citizens of the Top-10-X nations.

While much oil is concentrated in the Middle East and since Islam was founded in Arabia, would it then not only be logical that Islamic nations would control the preponderance of world hydrocarbon supplies? Yes, in part it explains this coincidence. But it still does not explain why Islam found its roots precisely there. Nor does it explain the unlikely probability that some other oil-rich nations not found in the Middle East are also Islamic. Why is Nigeria, a country possessing the 10th most oil in the world, also now dominated by Islam? This country is in Africa. Or why is Indonesia, (a significant oil producer that is the largest Muslim country in the world with a population of 217 million) a country far-removed from Saudi Arabia, today Islamic? Algeria and Azerbaijan are additional such examples, all in the top-25 of the world oil leagues. With respect to natural gas reserves, why

are four of the top-15 gas-rich countries Islamic though they are not located in the Middle East? These countries are Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and again, Nigeria, and Indonesia.

Strangely, Turkey, one of the larger Islamic nations with the 5th biggest population, has virtually no oil supplies of its own. This fact seems to argue against the presupposition that there might be a conspiratorial connection between oil and Islam. Actually, Turkey is no exception as it might initially appear. In fact, it is probably one of the most strategically located countries in the world with respect to world energy trade. The Turkey of today is located in the area historically known as Anatolia, meaning “sunrise to the east.” It lies right between two major bodies of water and is the land bridge between Asia and Europe. On the north lies the Black Sea, on the south the Mediterranean. Formerly all East-West, land-based trade routes had to wind their way through this region. Not much has changed with respect to oil.

Turkey is a country criss-crossed with pipelines that transport oil and gas to the rest of the world from other oil-rich countries. This Islamic nation also happens to straddle the Dardanelles, the only oil tanker shipment route (which courses right through the middle of Istanbul) for oil supplies traveling from the Bosphorus. Caspian and much of Russia, oil must be shipped via this route. The near-entirety of Turkey's population happens to be Muslim, though it has been positioning itself as a secular nation to Europe and the world.

According to experts on world religions, there are perhaps as many as 20 major separate or sets of religions in the world today. Only Islam specifically mandates in its scriptures that Jews should be killed. Today, it is even believed that the



“last day” of the world cannot come before Israel is first annihilated. As such, it is therefore also no surprise that Islam (which essentially still remains a 6th century Arabic religion) has a deep hatred for Jews (and therefore Israel today) as one of its fundamental tenets. Therefore, are we to believe that a random twist of fate has positioned the world supply of oil against Israel’s future national interests?

We note that all Arab countries, which are mostly peopled by offshoots of Abraham’s ejected son Ishmael, also happen to be dogmatically Islamic. There is not one exception. What’s more, Arabic countries surround the nation of Israel. With respect to world energy supplies, what is the probability that the 22-member League of Arab Nations today alone accounts for fully 75 percent of oil found underneath predominantly Islamic countries?

Israel, though it is located in the Middle East, has very little oil reserves of its own. It must rely upon imported oil for almost all of its needs. However, it is also true that Jordan and Lebanon, two of Israel’s neighbors, possess no hydrocarbon deposits. The regions of Syria, and Egypt closest to Israel, also do not have much in the way of hydrocarbon resources. Were Israel today to possess the same territory as during its height under King David and Solomon, it still would likely not possess much oil (only if it actually extends to the Euphrates as the Bible indicates will happen in the future). One wonders why God would have chosen Canaan for the Hebrews — a promised land overflowing with milk and honey, but with no oil or natural gas.

Might this fact have implications for the Millennium? If the new Israel will not

possess control of world oil reserves during that time yet maintain its supreme status during that time, could it be correct to assume that oil will have lost its strategic power? After all, the control of major oil producing areas has been a main geopolitical strategy of the superpowers since at least World War I. Much of the Middle East history during the past century is marked by the major powers jockeying for position among the oil fields. On that basis, should Christ return soon, could it be that the industrial age of oil will only have been a 100-year flicker in the human



time-line? If so, this flicker will have flamed at the most crucial time — the final last days — just before the onset of Jacob’s trouble. We can only speculate. For now, it remains true that the geopolitics of oil are proving to be a major danger to Israel.

Would it also be surprising to discover that there is one other top-10 oil-rich country in the world that is not predominantly Islamic, yet has a history of oppressing Jews nor is a friend of Israel? Russia is currently the world’s second largest exporter of oil and possesses the largest natural gas reserves of any country. We will yet discuss the crucial role that Russia will likely play in an endtime oil saga. The only other top-10 oil nation that

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Indeed some nations are rich in certain resources — such as Chile, with one-third of world copper reserves, or Russia and South Africa in palladium. But none of these commodities uniquely fit an endtime role as only oil can.



Copper mine, La Escondida, Chile.

is not Islamic is Venezuela — a nation that the US and other countries considered non-aligned in world affairs.

Considering the unlikely confluence of facts we have just reviewed, we pose the questions again: What would be the probability that the world's supply of energy would be so connected to Islam?

The world's other major resources seem to be distributed among nations and religious groups with much less potential for spiritually inspired agendas against Israel. Indeed some nations are rich in certain resources — such as Chile, with one-third of world copper reserves, or Russia and South Africa in palladium. But none of these commodities uniquely fit an endtime role as only oil can.

Crucially, what is the likelihood that the factors surrounding oil today would end up aligning so tightly with a biblical prophetic perspective? There are even many more improbable facts to consider that we will yet review in the next sections that also happen to align with the Bible and its prophecies. However, from what we have discovered so far, we already can reasonably conclude that it is absolutely implausible that today's cir-

cumstances have come about by chance. Rather, it could only be the outcome of a very specific and deliberate strategy.

If so, then who is or are the strategists? Are they certain groups of people — perhaps rich global elites? Or has a grand plan been hatched in the spiritual realm? An answer seems to invite certain ridicule. After all, how could it be possible that a group of people or even a super intelligence such as Satan could position oil in certain strategic areas of the world in advance of the emergence of Islam. Of course, this could not have happened. Only the Creator who formed the world could have determined the locations of the earth's energy reserves.

Scripture tells us that God Himself placed this vast wealth in the cradle of civilization. In Revelation we read, “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being” (Revelation 4:11). More specifically, it is He “who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it” (Revelation 10:6). Clearly, God put the oil there.

The question still remains: Why should oil and Islam be so closely related?

Could it have something to do with the “cosmic” agenda we alluded to earlier? Only by adopting an eternal and spiritual perspective — the five principles we reviewed at the outset of this article — can we begin to make sense out of such unlikely, earth-bound machinations. We conclude that a master planner, Satan himself, is behind this outcome. Of course, Satan did not put the world's cheap hydrocarbons where we find them today. Nor might he have even attracted Arabs into the Middle East, although that is more plausible. The evidence suggests



only one possibility: The Great Deceiver did have something to do with the proliferation of Islam. After all, this religion is one of the younger of the world's major faiths, having only emerged in the 6th century. We will yet explain how this was possible.

Of course, Islam is not the only culprit behind the world's energy dilemma today that ultimately militates against Israel. To suggest such a narrow conclusion would be unjust and one-sided. The Christian West shares complicity, as we will briefly review. Satan is also the author of other bogus belief systems — for example, consumerism, materialism and the domain of mammon. And, importantly, we must not overlook the wickedness of mankind and the “evil desires of our hearts.” Such non-scriptural perspectives such as “Replacement Theology” or “prosperity teaching” also undoubtedly play a role. But just how can Satan, a disembodied, spiritual entity, project such influence upon the physical world that such masterfully brilliant plans are successfully carried out?

We will resume with this question in Part II of this series.

The group of the 10 richest Christian nations, accounting for 10.7 percent of the world population and 60 percent of world annual income, are comprised of Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States. The criteria used by the author to define this group are three: 1. The majority of the country's population declaring an affiliation with a Christian faith; 2. Total population greater than 10 million; and 3. Average annual gross national income (GNI, Atlas Method, World Development Indicators) of greater than US \$20,000 per annum. There are exactly 10 countries that qualify under this definition. 🖨️

ENDNOTES

- 1 Sources for these calculations are various including the US Energy Information Agency (EIA), *The BP Statistical Review* (Year-end 2004) and the *Oil & Gas Journal Review*.
- 2 Country religious determinations have only been made for countries where one religion reports affiliations of greater than 50 percent of the population. The populations of countries with either mixed religious affiliations or other than Muslim, Christian, Hindu or Buddhist only amount to 4 percent of the world's population according to the author's calculations.

Already, massive conversions have taken place claiming upwards of four billion converts... among them many Christians.

What form will this trap take and how can its grip be avoided? Can Christians prosper in the Lord's grace and live free of any complicity in this endtime agenda?

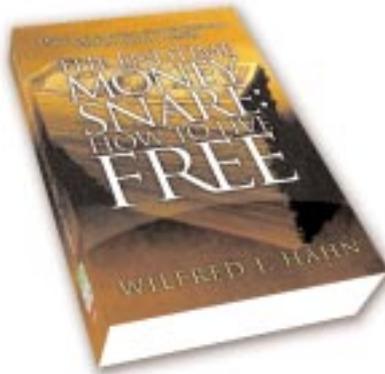
This book answers these tough questions, dealing with the hooks and dangers of living during a time when the enemy is setting a deadly snare for the last-days world.

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