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

In the previous part of this series, we answered the question: Why should oil and Islam be so closely related? We concluded that it could not be random chance that aligned the control of most of the world's oil today as a tactical device against Israel. Seen from the perspective of God's cosmic time plan for the world, the evidence suggested only one possibility: The Great Deceiver did have something to do with the proliferation of Islam.



By Wilfred Hahn

Yet, we recognized that Islam is not the only culprit behind the world's energy dilemma today that ultimately militates against Israel. The Christian West shares complicity, too. After all, Satan is also the author of other bogus belief systems — for example, humanism, consumerism and materialism — and is the ruler of the domain of mammon. Crucially, we must also not overlook the results of the wickedness of mankind and “the corruption in the world caused by evil desires” (2 Peter 1:4).

Last month we left off with this question: If indeed the Deceiver is behind the world's emerging energy crisis, just how has this disembodied, spiritual entity been able to carry out such a masterfully brilliant plan in the physical world?

The Wiles of the Enemy

One may indeed wonder how Satan, a spiritual being, can implement his grand plans upon a physical world. Actually, as a cunning non-mortal, he does so quite easily. After all, the avenues to the physical world are through humans — through the manipu-



lation of beliefs and the inflaming of mankind's affections. In other words, the enemy wouldn't have any interest in the world if it weren't for the created residents there whom God "so loved ... that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The Bible clearly exposes the capabilities and schemes of the devil and his demon hordes. As the devil is the "liar" from the beginning (John 8:44), and a "schemer" (Ephesians 6:10), he uses lies, diversions, misdirections, deceptions, traps and temptations as his lethal arsenal of persuasion and motivation. As such, he is capable of influencing and mobilizing religions, not to mention appealing to human lusts. For good reason, Paul said, "We are not unaware of his schemes" (2 Corinthians 2:11).

With respect to the world's oil supply, Lucifer simply took strategic advantage of the resources of the earth as he found them, implementing his end-game plan through the desires and affections of people and nations. Anyone who has played the popular board game called Risk or is familiar with the computer videogame Civilization can envision how a super-intelligent adversary might strategize and implement his global plans. Yet, here we combat a formidable foe that is without human limitations. He has the benefit of thousand-year timelines, a long memory, superhuman intelligence and much knowledge. He is the prince of the air who works through the dimension of spiritual hierarchies.

More Unlikely Probabilities in the West

To this point in our series, we have considered the sheer improbability of the current situations we find in the Middle East, the alignment of world religions, natural resources and the nation of Israel. Yet, as incredible as it may seem, it is only part of an unlikely tale. To fully grasp the grandness



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and precision of the global, endtime orchestration that we here outline, two additional sets of dynamics must also be considered: first, the roles of certain other countries or groups of countries play; and second, the phenomenal rapidity and stealth of developments giving rise to a world energy scheme (one part of a grand endtime scheme) over the past half-century or so. These have hurled the world into the maws of a trap ... one that may already be snapping shut.

In addition to the Muslim block already discussed earlier, there are three other countries or groups that we next want to address — Russia, Asian countries, and the Christian nations as a group. (Please note: We only use the term "Christian countries" to define nations that at one time or another in their history were predominantly influenced by the Christian faith. It can be argued that there in fact are no Christian countries today.) Let us examine the role of the Christian group first.

Christian Countries: Blinded or Blessed?

There is little doubt that Christian countries have played a vital and necessary part in bringing the world to the dan-



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gerous brink we now see in the Middle East.

Consider these unlikely facts:

- Christian nations (roughly representing some 30 percent of the world population, loosely including Catholics, Orthodox and various Protestant sects) possess roughly only one-eighth the oil than Muslim countries on a per-person basis. Looked at more narrowly, the Top-10 Christian nations (Top-10-X) in the world today account for only 4.7 percent of world oil reserves and 6.7 percent of natural gas reserves, though they account for almost 60 percent of the world's economic output. These are the world's key rich countries.

- Christian nations are the world's largest users of energy. For every person living in a Christian country in 2004, total energy consumed was equivalent to 3,439 kilograms of oil per person. Again narrowing our perspective to the Top-10 Christian nations — the ones that pretty much rule world affairs today — their energy consumption was an equivalent of 5,919 kilograms of oil. That rate is six times that of Muslim nations overall (the very same nations that possess 75 percent of world oil reserves). For interest sake, Top-10-X countries consume almost 12 times the energy of nations that are predominantly Hindu. Conclusion? It is the Christian West—not Buddhist, Hindu or Islamic countries—that is the major consumer of oil.

- Christian nations comprise most of the world's wealthy countries. While economic statistics are always suspect, employing data from World Bank figures, we calculate the average income of a person living in a Top-10 Christian nation was 5.5 times the world average, 24.3 times that of the average Muslim, and 55.8 times that of the average Hindu. For a unique set of reasons — largely connected to religious doctrines — in the present age of global capital it is the Christian nations that are the financial powers of the world. This also has great endtime relevance as it aligns with prophetic Scriptures. We will not have the space to delve into these connections here. However, these statistics make it certainly clear that the Christian West is the world's great consumers of everything and anything.

- The automobile has swept the world in the last century. Today there are over 600 million passenger vehicles in the world. Transportation is the largest user of petroleum, in the US accounting for over 60 percent of total oil consumption. Would it be logical to expect that the highest concentrations of automobiles in the world will be found in the oil-rich nations? Yes. But by some quirk of fate, the highest concentrations of automobiles are found in countries with little oil. According to latest surveys, the Top-10-X nations of the world have 482 cars per 1,000 people — almost one for every two people — accounting for more than 55 percent of the world's passenger vehicles. Remember, that these 10 nations only have 4.7 percent of the world oil reserves and represent only 10.7 percent of the world population.

- How many cars are found in the oil-rich Islamic nations? Not many. In the 43 Islamic nations for which statistics are available, there are an average of only 22 automobiles for every 1,000 people. Consider that the Top-10-X have a 21.9 times higher ownership rates of gas-hungry cars. Yet, Arabs or Muslims did not invent automobiles.

- As can be concluded reading the above statistics, there is not only a very large imbalance between the supply and demand of hydrocar-



bon energy but also its location. By and large, the major user countries of energy do not possess the large supplies. We see that the high-income nations today are ravenous users of energy, and in the case of oil and natural gas, and therefore have become heavily dependent upon imports. The average Top-10-X nation imports a significant portion of their total non-renewable energy requirements. If current trends continue, the US will soon be importing over 70 percent of its oil requirements.

We could survey many more statistics. The general pattern is clear. On the one hand, much of the world hydrocarbons lie underneath Islamic countries (a religion that is adversarial to Israel and true Christianity), and the financially powerful countries of the world — especially the Top-10-X — that should be friendly and supportive of a newly emergent Israel have become hopelessly addicted to hydrocarbon imports. Increasingly, they must buy their oil from nations that are committed to the eradication of Israel or are non-aligned with their interests.

It would seem impossible to think of a more perfect and diabolical strategy to orchestrate upon earth. However, to this point we have not yet fully examined how the Grand Schemer has been able to spur the Christian world — specifically the Top-10-X countries — to do his bidding as part of the orchestration of an encroaching endtime trap.

No doubt, at this point, some readers may be jumping ahead, wondering what conclusions we might yet reach. For instance, might we argue that it is anti-Christian to drive a car or to heat one's home with natural gas? No. But there remains some complicity, as we discover next.

Legendary Christian Consumers

It is a fact that modernism comes with a cost. Technological advancements — from electricity, to computer networks, to jet setting around the globe — all come with a

trade-off. Every new convenience or indulgence that modernism offers comes with the price of an increased vulnerability of some type. We may be entitled to make choices and to consider them sinless and good as individuals, yet seen in the whole, there are still consequences. In God's created order, all choices and actions bear consequences that ultimately cannot be escaped.

Would it be sinless to drive a gas-engined automobile to church? What if the church is only two blocks from home; is it then a sin to take the car? We want to avoid straining for gnats on such questions — these are personal decisions. Wherever you rest on such matters, the bottom line remains that every drop of oil that we use that must be imported from countries or sources that are ultimately opposed to Israel and/or God's plan will not come to a good end.

Of course, the situation the world faces today concerns more than just drops. The Christian West consumes enormous amounts of hydrocarbons per person, as already reviewed. How did this happen? What were some of the influences that the Master Deceiver himself may have promoted? Is it possible that some former blessings have been turned into snares? What affections and lusts of the flesh might have played a role in leading to a religiously fired energy schism that we see in the world today?

Here are just a few possibilities:

- Geopolitics. The major powers learned that oil supply was critical to maintaining world dominance in the First World War. This was the first large-scale mechanized conflict. Tanks, airplanes, motorcycles and personnel vehicles were now in use. Military machinery like these needed lots of petroleum. At that time, as the old Muslim Ottoman Empire was in the latter stages of falling apart, the British, America, the French and others, pretty much had free reign in the Middle East. Oil was first discovered in that region in Iran in 1908. Soon after, the world's

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major powers jostled for control of Middle East oil and Western-owned production companies' siphoned huge profits. There was plenty cause for grievances on the part of the local population. Gradually, these conditions led to the nationalization of much of the oil production industry in the Middle East. Who is to blame, then, that the Islamic nations began to control their own resources as of the late 1940s?

- **Going for the Gusto.** In the meantime, following the end of World War II consumer culture took off, first in the US then spreading to the rest of the world.

- Various global organizations were founded during these times that were committed to the idea that rapid economic growth and material prosperity was an ideal for humanity. The International Monetary Fund was conceived at the July 1944, Bretton Woods conference. Another influential organization in this respect, the World Bank, was also born at the same conference.² As such, the idea took hold the progress must be defined in terms of how much people consume — the more the better.

- Consumer economics was born, representing a major shift from earlier economic theories. The consumer became king. Advertising spending took off as of this period. Whereas advertising averaged about \$200 per person, suddenly this figure began to rise following the 1940s. Today, advertising spending is roughly four times this amount (adjusted for inflation). Since then, the elevation of “want” has been promoted as a national good. Making people want “stuff” is to-

day high science. We may all enjoy our material prosperity, but most of us would also agree that owning more things has not brought more happiness or human fulfillment. Certainly, all of these ideologies have contributed to imbalances in the supply and demand of world energy supplies.

- Travel, both domestic and internationally, began to boom. Today the average US household travels over 21,000 miles in their cars each year (the most of all the high-income nations). There are today more cars in the United States than there are drivers.³ In Canada, the per capita distance traveled by road vehicles increased by 33 percent between 1980 and 1997.⁴ A host of statistics could be cited showing that the reliance on the personal automobile is increasing. For example, work commutes continue to lengthen and public transit is not gaining usage. This has a significant impact on oil consumption as transportation today accounts for roughly 50 percent of world oil consumption (and 60 percent in the US.)

- The consumption of another oil-dependent product began to soar in the modern consumer era — plastic. Most plastic is made from oil-based feedstocks. In 2001, the average North American consumer used 223 pounds of plastic. According to one industry forecast, demand for this product is predicted to grow to 326 pounds by 2010.⁵ It is the only major material besides paper that continues to grow in usage on a per-person basis.

Having surveyed a few trends and statistics, we find the huge reliance upon oil to be understandable. Of course, it is only expected that the Christian West would use much more oil than Islamic countries because they are more economically advanced. But that is exactly the point: Christian countries define what is “economically advanced.” Originally, Christians will surely have prospered as a direct result of God’s blessings. However, today the focus has long turned from God to the prosperity itself. We can see, as these nations have turned from God, that



the pursuit and maintenance of these blessings has quickly been turned into the devil's noose. Parallels to this transition are revealed in the Old Testament in the cases of Israel and Judah.

All of the factors that we have reviewed are theoretically under the domain that Satan can influence. Though far from a complete listing of contributing influences, the net result is that our culture is heavily dependent upon oil and energy consumption. Between 1948 and 1972, world oil consumption grew fivefold, ushering in the golden age of oil. That represents an average compound growth rate of 11 percent per year, or a doubling of oil consumption every six and a half years.

Whom should we blame for this surge in oil consumption in the Christian West? Who bears accountability for allowing many nations to fall into a trap? Is it Madison Avenue for its creative advertising? Is it multinational companies trying to maximize its profits? What about the foreign policies of governments? What about the penchant for convenience and indulgence on the part of consumers?

In the end, whatever the intervening answers, we can still also see that all the vulnerabilities of human nature have been masterfully exploited both at an individual level as well as corporate.

Other Unlikely Probabilities - Israel

To this point, we have seen how masterfully major groups of countries and peoples have been positioned with respect to religions, basic consumer ideologies, and the distribution of world energy reserves. No reasonable person would argue that such conditions as are evident today are the result of randomness. Yet, we still have not examined the central wheel around which much of these conditions revolve — Israel. Here, the probabilities of happenstance become even more unbe-

lievable. We clearly see the hand of the God of the impossible at work.

Consider these unlikely conditions and trends that concern Israel and the Jews:

- A small race dispersed into little fragments to virtually every nation around the globe and relentlessly persecuted, has survived for almost 2,000 years with its identity intact? This has occurred with no other people that once lost their country.

- How unlikely is it that in a world, where languages are disappearing by the tens each and every year, that Hebrew — a language that fell from common usage — is again broadly spoken and taught today? Never has anything similar ever occurred in the history of the world.

- How improbable is it that a nation again reestablishes itself in a war-torn region of its original location after almost 1,900 years? Yet, Israel today is reborn — though still in its unbelief stage — just as Scripture has said would occur.

- Jews in the world today number around 14 to 15 million. They account for less than one-fifth of 1 percent of the world's population. Approximately half of this total lives in Israel. Yet, this nation preoccupies much of the world's consciousness, not to mention a disproportionate amount of the focus of the United Nations. The Arab population is 20 times that of the Jews, and 40 times that of the nation of Israel. Yet, the Arabs have yet to win a war with Israel. Incredible?

- As far as is known, Israel has no proven oil reserves of material size. Yet, its archenemies do. And, the world's largest nations — its potential protectors — are enslaved to a continuing supply of cheap oil especially as they ascribe to doctrines of globalization, materialism and humanism.

- And, most interestingly, in 1948 — the same year Israel was founded — America for the first time became a net importer of oil. Almost 60 years later, this superpower, the last major defender of Israel, is hopelessly addicted to oil and will soon import 70 percent of its requirements.⁶

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Closer to home, comforts that we enjoy — the American way of life, in other words — is under threat. While homes will surely remain heated, it is the open highway, the two-car garage, and the commuter lifestyle that most families depend upon that is facing disruption.



Given all of these seemingly improbable circumstances, would it be surprising to discover that the Age of Oil — a development hardly older than 100 years — would come to a combustion point at this time?

Will Woes Lead to Repentance?

In conclusion, we can see that developments following the trauma of World War II were extremely significant in the world's prophetic time-line in many ways. All of these threads lead to the situation that the world finds itself in today. We now come to a pivotal time in world history — the decline of the Age of Oil. Of course, many other forces are also at work, especially in the spiritual realms.

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Unless some major technological advancement burst on the scene quickly, the Master Trapper is poised to spring the final oil trap. Actually, we would argue that

the trap has already sprung and that it is much too late to slow the road to Armageddon. It will take many years to develop alternate energy sources and to wean Western nations from their dependence upon Middle East oil supplies and gas-engined automobiles.

Yet, we must leave open the possibility that nations can choose to change their ways. It is never too late to repent. If so, this verse carries hope: “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14). If this should happen, who can know the ways and means that God will choose to again bless these nations with abundance.

While it is difficult to imagine that energy prices will ever be very cheap again, consider that Canada could some day be a huge world supplier of oil. According to the estimates of some geologists, Canada may have over 1.6 trillion barrels in shale oil reserves, of which 330 billion barrels could be recoverable. How much is that? That would be 25 percent more than what Saudi Arabia currently possesses in proven reserves — the largest source of hydrocarbons in the world. Of course, the major difference would be price. The extraction cost of oil in the Arabian peninsula is about 60 cents a barrel; in Canada it would be closer to \$100 to access shale oil — about the same price as the barrel-equivalent of bottled water these days. There could be other possibilities. Many people hope that Israel will someday strike oil. While it is doubtful that Israel will ever find any oil of a quantity sufficient to defuse the world's geopolitical problems, stranger things have happened.

For the present time, Western nations — countries that have had a heritage of



Christian teaching — are far from God. In Part III, the final segment of this series, we will examine why the trap is already closing, the roles of Russia and the kings of the East, and the resulting woes that yet face the Christian West and Israel.

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 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.
- 2 The July 22, 1944 Bretton Woods Agreements, among other aspects was founded on these following goals. Quoting the original organizational document: "To promote the long-range balanced growth of international trade and the maintenance of equilibrium in balances of payments by encouraging international investment for the development of the productive resources of members, thereby assisting in raising pro-

ductivity, the standard of living and conditions of labor in their territories."

- 3 US Bureau of Transportation Statistics.
- 4 OECD Environmental Data, 1999.
- 5 PlasticsNews: BASF estimates. <http://www.plasticsnews.com/subscriber/fyi.html?id=1065015902> Accessed Feb. 4, 2006.
- 6 US Energy Information Agency estimates 2005.

For the present time, Western nations — countries that have had a heritage of Christian teaching — are far from God.

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?

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