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The One World Order: Waiting for Godot?

By Wilfred Hahn



In Christian commentary circles — especially those taken up with such issues as global conspiracies, patriotism or endtime prophecy — one often hears of the One World Order (OWO). Apparently, it is coming and is well on its way. Is it yet future, or is it already here?

According to some commentators, the OWO is a work in progress and apparently the world also will eventually have a one-world currency. Countries around the globe will supposedly see the good sense of employing one common coin. When will this occur?

In association with these views, it is sometimes believed that a one-world currency and an identifiable monolithic OWO are necessary before the Tribulation Period can start. According to such postulations, first comes the One World Order (OWO) with its single currency, then the final stern ruler usurps the position of power atop this OWO and all hell breaks out on earth (literally speaking, of course). A one-world currency is just the tool needed to lure the entire world under the thumb of an OWO. And, as all of these final developments are still in the distant future, there is still time to wait.

Actually, while the above scenarios contain some snippets of fact, some dangerous oversights are reflected in these views. We may be being lured into setting our eyes upon some incorrect "signs of the times," — last-day conditions that can neither be timed nor scripturally substantiated.

Yes, there will be an Antichrist and 10 kings whose prime purpose is to give him their power and authority. This final world leader will indeed impose a treaty upon the entire world. There is no contesting these literal prophecies. However, the Antichrist is not our point of focus. "Pinning the tail" on the future Antichrist is a pointless distraction, as we well know. Similarly, there is a misdirected emphasis upon the OWO theories, not to mention that the Rapture is imminent in any case, no matter what may be the worldly signs of the times.

Here is the crucial issue: The OWO and one-world currency views are dangerous



distractions. Why? If you think that you will be able to see a one-world order that has an obvious structure, or if you are awaiting a one-world currency, you may be waiting for Godot. Godot, to recall, was the person everyone was expecting to arrive in Samuel Beckett's famous 1940s play, *Waiting for Godot*. Godot never arrived.

Recognizing the Signs of the Times

If we were to wait for final OWO developments, we would be at risk of overlooking the reality of the times and of being duped into thinking that the "time is not short." The reality is this: Little more, if anything, relative to an OWO needs to happen for the Tribulation Period to start. Only events with respect to Israel — the prophetic time clock — are key in this respect. As such, it is one more indication that the time is short.

The OWO is already here. So is a one-world currency. Do you see them? As it is, a one-world currency nor an easily identifiable OWO are likely to be obvious. Why? There are at least three reasons.

First, consider that the Bible speaks of only one final world power coalition — the 10-king confederacy mentioned in Daniel 2,7 and Revelation 12,13,17. While Scripture definitely supports the idea that the nations of the world will enter into certain aspects of globalism, it does not specifically outline an OWO ruling structure that willingly envelops the cooperation of the entire world. It only mentions a 10-king coalition working in concert with the final Antichrist. These will later be reduced to seven (Daniel 7:8, 7:24), but all these events rapidly take place inside the Tribulation.

As such, there still will be independent sovereign nations, not one big happy global human family willingly putting itself under total subjugation to a world

rulership centered in Brussels, Geneva or anywhere else. Such a world does not fit with the characteristics described for the last world regime, one that is repressive and fierce — or at least powerful enough to be able to back a successful peace proposal. As such, an OWO in the form that is popularly taught and a one-world currency is not required.

Secondly, Scripture says that a 10-nation power coalition "are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast" (Revelation 17:12). "They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast" (Revelation 17:13). These verses tell us that this final power structure will come together very rapidly; that it will consist of 10 key sovereign countries; and that it will only be around for a very short time — "one hour." These 10 kings will not be clearly identifiable until the Tribulation Period. The sufficient condition then for us to identify is this: Could these 10 kings come to the forefront already today, and are their sources of power already identifiable? In my view, the answers are "yes" and "very probably," respectively. As kings are male heads of sovereign countries, we can look to the various powers and controlling mechanisms of nations.

Where is the OWO?

A third reason why a final world power coalition will not be easily discernable until it actually occurs is deception. While the general "signs of the times" in this respect are observable today, it is still not likely that you will find a nice and neat organizational chart laying out the workings of a developing OWO (even if it were true) or the emergence of the final 10 kings. Why? Nefarious and evil agendas are rarely obvious. If they were, Satan could not as easily lay a deceptive and effective trap for the world.

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The Bible says that evil lurks under the cover of darkness, and that it is the character of evil to work in darkness. “Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed” (John 3:19-20).

During the last days — particularly the Tribulation Period — the whole world will be overtaken by darkness. A number of prophecies alert us to this characteristic of the endtime period. “See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples” (Isaiah 60:2). “Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light-pitch — dark, without a ray of brightness?” (Amos 5:20).

Given such endtime conditions, it is doubtful that we would be able to clearly see a 10-nation coalition forming, certainly not anything as obvious as a monolithic single OWO structure or a one-world currency. Even though Europe has unified itself in a remarkable fashion over the past 50 years, the 10-nation coalition is still not obvious ... certainly not identifiable in exact detail. As such, it is reason to guard against being lured into waiting for Godot or having a wrong expectation.

As far as the final world power coalition is concerned, nothing more needs to happen other than 10 key nations coming together with sufficient power to give to the Antichrist in order for him to subjugate world affairs and to put into effect peace proposals. In that sense, much about the coming OWO that is written today is contrived and sensational and lures us into waiting for Godot.

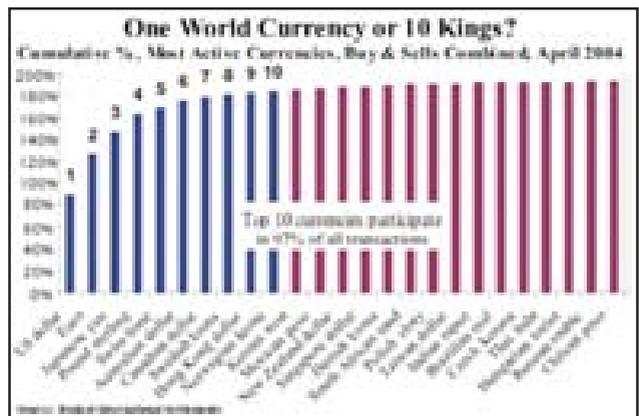
The One-World Currency Actually Has Debuted

You may be surprised to read this: Practically, there already exists sufficient

world powers and a one-world common currency. And the 10 countries that give rise to the final 10 kings may also already exist. Can you see them? Likely not ... at least not without some effort and wisdom. The questions of “when” and “who” still remain the domain of speculation. Yet, we can still reasonably probe the possibilities. We will come back to these questions later.

For now, let’s turn our attention to currency markets. You may not be able to easily identify that the world already operates on a single currency standard, but it exists. How so?

Virtually all large financial institutions — money center banks, large pensions



funds, secretive hedge funds — and corporations today conduct 99.9% of all cross-border money flows in the world. To these “big players,” money is already seamless “global money.” To you and me on the outside, it may all look confusing and complicated. But, in reality, a tightly interconnected worldwide system is working in unison. A one-world money system is at work, virtually frictionless, acting seamlessly across all the world’s major currencies. There surely still are separate currencies in name, but there is one global money system. It is worthwhile to briefly explain its workings.



According to the most recent survey taken by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), approximately 97% of all currency transactions involve only 10 currencies. All of these currencies can be hedged, swapped or fixed far into the future using various sophisticated financial instruments. (Please see the chart for another perspective.)

For instance, these facilities allow multi-national corporations (which, in my view, comprise the most powerful economic group in the world today) to move their monetary chess pieces around the world as if there is only one currency.

Where is the evidence? There are some excellent sources available in the public domain that we can access. The Bank of International Settlements (BIS) provides several reports I follow closely. For example, once every three years, it publishes a report on world currency trading.¹ The last one was published in two parts — September 2004 and April 2005. What do these reports reveal?

Foreign exchange today is the most enormous financial activity of any type in the entire world. In 2004, more than \$1.9 trillion in currencies were exchanged each work day.¹ It has surely increased hugely since then.

Yet, in the early 1970s, these transactions only amounted to \$18 billion per year. Imagine! Today, only 35 years later, this much currency is exchanged every 13 minutes² ... a volume that has risen 27,500 times in little more than three decades. (This is an amount equivalent to more than 12 times the entire annual world economic output!)

More timely is a BIS quarterly report, which features statistics on the derivatives markets. What are derivatives? These are esoteric financial instruments that even most financial professionals do not understand. They are the hotbed of financial in-



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novation ... the leading edge of the advancing global money system. Not only that; for the most part, these deals are made largely out of the public eye.

The rapidity of their emergence simply cannot be described adequately. According to the latest statistics, over \$284 trillion of these instruments now exists (in terms of notional value, as of December 2005). This amount is sure to have expanded more since ... probably to a level equivalent to nearly 10 times the size of the world's annual economy. Simply incredible! At least 11% of these instruments is specifically related to currencies.

What we see operative in international exchange markets today took form very rapidly, accelerating markedly after 1970. As a young director of research for a major Wall Street firm, I was alerted to these trends very early by simply reading the reports made available by the BIS and other transnational organizations.

Already in the mid-1980s, the grand architecture taking form could be discerned.



But is there a system that works as a de facto one-world currency? Very definitely. Effectively, the one-world currency that many are waiting for exists right now.

Observing these rapid trends, I remember how amazed I was. What has happened since that time is simply spectacular, making the trends of those early days little more than drops in the sea.

Discerning the Money Forest from the Trees

Are you likely to ever see a one-world currency ... meaning, an obvious one that you can name and deposit in ATM machines around the world? In my view, that is hardly likely. It would be much too obvious and wouldn't be needed in any case. Yet, one can certainly travel around the world as if there were a single currency. Simply go to an ATM (or ABM) machine in Tokyo or Tel Aviv (or almost any other major city in the world) and it will conveniently issue to you yen or shekel notes, respectively. Effectively, your debit or credit card acts as a common currency.

For the most part, the "big" financial participants like the system the way it is now. Exchange transactions between the existing currencies generate rich revenues for the financial institutions. More importantly, a system of many currencies allows much greater leeway for manipulation and intrigue — and, yes, also nefarious games to be played around the globe.

Will we see convergence in the number of currencies in the world? That is very possible. Yet, today there are actually more currencies and central banks in the world than there were 50 years ago (about 200 or so of the former). That has happened despite 12 European nations coming together, discarding their own currencies and sharing the new euro.

But is there a system that works as a de facto one-world currency? Very definitely. Effectively, the one-world currency that many are waiting for exists right now. Talk of a common Asian currency or a common one-world coin is a distraction.

Yes, events could very well move in that direction. However, such expectations shouldn't detract from what currently already exists as an operating one-world currency system that is more than adequate as a tool for a 10-nation coalition to bludgeon the world with.

Everything in this respect that might be feared, evil or required for last-day events, is already operative right now. If you are expecting a monolithic OWO or a single currency, your eyes will be off the real action. You need not be like Didi and Gogo in the Beckett play, hopelessly waiting for Godot to arrive. Not only are these things not likely to arrive (as they are not necessary, prophetically speaking), but the real thing will likely be in an entirely different form than most people are expecting. Besides, we are waiting for something very different ... the return of Jesus Christ, which remains imminent.

The same conditions apply to the OWO theories and the expectation that a crystal-clear 10-king coalition will emerge from a Revived Roman Empire and that it will nicely emerge from Europe. It's not necessarily going to be that obvious. And if anything is obvious, it is likely to be deliberately and intentionally misleading.

Checking the Information Twice

It is sometimes tragic to see how a flimsy article published by an obscure newspaper without any substantiated sources will set off a flurry of misguided interpretations among "endtime" watchers. I imagine some editor having a lot of fun tantalizing this community, watching these Christians taking the bait hook, line and sinker. They know exactly how to wave a "red flag." We need to be careful. Satan is very familiar with Scripture.

Also, not everything said by important elites or people of position should be taken as an inside tip on an emerging OWO. There are a lot of bright people around with many



vain, imaginative and silly ideas. Nor is it always easy to understand the agenda behind the statements that such people might make.

For example, when George Soros (the famous billionaire hedge fund manager) makes a public statement, I always ask myself, is he buying or selling? What is his real agenda? It is not always as it may seem. The comments of other influential people should similarly be tested before taking their comments as clear evidence of OWO ruminations.

The good news is that God will never allow us the excuse of not having known the truth. He reveals himself to those that seek Him and search for Truth. It is God's good pleasure that these nuggets of Truth are partially hidden. They are precious pearls reserved for seekers and Bereans, and they are not to be thrown before careless skimmers and thinkers.

The exciting fact is that all the information needed to uncover these possible deceptions is more available today than ever before. All that is required is a bit of sleuthing and common-sense thinking. And we have the biblical imperative to do so: "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5:11).

Conclusion

We have shown that the one-world currency view may be a false "red flag." Yes, it could happen technically, but prophetically it is not required.

But who will likely be the ten nations that give rise to those future kings? Is it already possible today to project which countries might give rise to the future 10 kings? If so, might you be living in one of these countries and will it matter?

Attempting to probe these questions (though we must be quick to state that any detailed answers clearly remain speculative at this time), we will be publishing a provocative report in the near future enti-

led, "Top Ten Kings: Searching for the Last-Day Power Coalition." This is a sizable project — a first of its kind — as it also includes an interactive program that can be downloaded: "The 10-King Power Coalition Survey."

Our conclusions in this upcoming report will be sure to challenge you and will be carried in this space in three parts. If you so wish, you will be able to probe for possible answers yourself as the assumptions and criteria in "The 10-King Power Coalition Survey" can be easily customized.

This survey is derived from a mammoth global database covering approximately 200 countries that we have put together from numerous sources around the world. It will allow you to scan the entire globe for over 60 factors that can contribute to the power and influence of nations, as well as scan and sort for the 10 identifying criteria of the 10 kings. Just who are these 10 nations? Can they all come from Europe and/or the Revived Roman Empire?

I can assure you that the conclusions that fall out of this study are very interesting ... and thought provoking.

One thing we can know with certainty: "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever" (Daniel 2:44). (MC)



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Endnotes

1. Bank of International Settlements, Economic Department. Triennial Central Bank Survey of Foreign Exchange and Derivatives Market, Activity, April 2004
2. This statistic assumes the pace of actual foreign exchange trading in the world for the year 2003, a 250-day work-year and a 24-hour day.