



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW

MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

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"For thinking Christians seeking to understand the times."

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FEATURE REPORT

Theology Thicket: A Series of Most Unfortunate Texts

Believers will accept that the Scriptures are infallible. The Psalmist said that "[...] the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver purified in a crucible, like gold refined seven times" (Psalm 12:6). We can indeed confidently rely upon it as truth and prophecy.

Yet, do we not all encounter texts that we think are unfortunate?

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind" (Numbers 23:19). The Scriptures, therefore, have no message that is subject to change in any era, modern or ancient. Whether written in old English or new, its proclamations are current and relevant.

Nevertheless, there are unfortunate verses, don't you think?

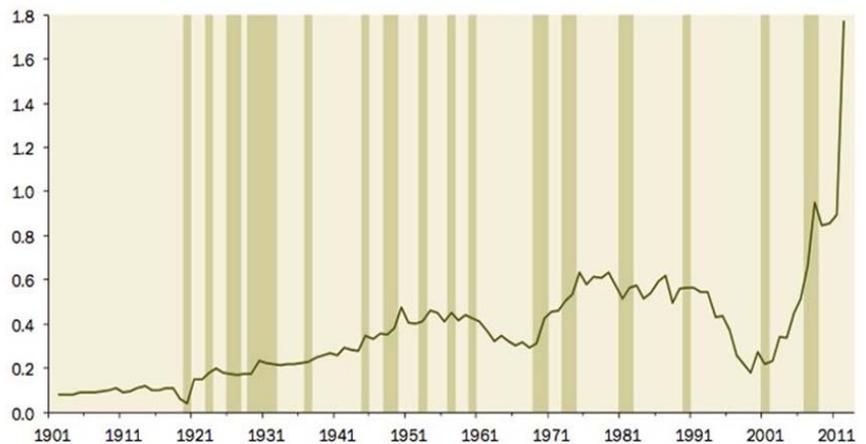
"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness [...]" (2 Timothy 3:16), pronounced Apostle Paul. Christ confirmed its prophetic accuracy, stating that "[...] Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Matthew 5:18). The Scriptures were authored and inspired over the centuries and millennia by the same Spirit. They are Truth.

Knowing all that, can't we still ask and puzzle? Why are some things included in the Bible and why are some things not in the Bible?

With so many prophets having been chosen and Jesus Christ Himself, the Son of God, born in the flesh, walking this earth and communicating with his disciples, why could the Bible not have answered more of our questions? Why were there not more

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The First of the Boomers Are Only Now Turning 65 U.S. Resident Population Aged 65 and Over (annual change, millions)



Shaded regions represent periods of U.S. recession

Source: Haver Analytics, Gluskin Sheff

"I say this to shame you. [...] Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?"

— 1 Corinthians 6:5,7

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WORLD MONEY UPDATE

Policy Pockets With Holes

The great tectonic plates of global commerce are grating and grinding. Huge pressures are again building up; new fissures are opening. New eruptions are possible at any time.

To see this, one needs to take a step back...tune out the noise...and identify the big causative trends and developments.

More than six years from the outbreak of the great Global Financial Crisis of 2007 to 2009, policymakers and world leaders have failed to successfully address the underlying causes of slowing economic growth, heightening wealth distribution extremes, financial imbalances and competitive currency manipulation.

The policy condition of zero interest rates (most certainly so viewed in real terms) has continued for a period of 6 years worldwide. Sluggish economic growth and the low effectiveness of new debt in generating economic growth points to a new reality. Firstly, given the aging of populations, it

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means that lower interest rates will increasingly prove to be a net negative factor. Retirees depend on financial income. The lower the interest rate levels, the lower the financial market returns will be going forward.

Secondly, ultra-low interest rates will have encouraged (induced) a massive amount of speculative financial investment around the world — a distorted asset and liability balance. These investments (many of them dependent upon debt) will prove to be shaky as they serve no economic benefit.

You can be sure that the financial culture such as exists on Wall Street and other similar centers around the world will seize any advantage or speculative opportunity that holds the possibility of a short-term profit. Concerns such as the overall systemic financial risks or the long-term impact upon the economic well-being of societies and nations are generally not considered. In the end, this all leads to instabilities that stand to make the next financial crisis even more dangerous than the previous one.

How did nations arrive at this point? After experiencing the extraordinary and numerous “wealth-growth” factors (rising productivity, strong population growth and employment) of the post-WWII environment, the post-Keynesian era began, continuing to the present time. What that means is that higher debt no longer has the sure impact of generating new demand or more economic growth. Higher and higher indebtedness finally began to sink under its own weight. The underlying economy could no longer support the carrying costs of ever-higher indebtedness.

Since the early 1980s, “financial innovation” factors (meaning manipulative financial engineering, as opposed to classic economic and productivity growth) began to play an over-riding role in creating a false image of prosperity. The attendant by-products were pervasive over-indebtedness, uneven wealth distribution and massive global savings imbalances.



ETERNAL VALUE REVIEW
MONEY MONITOR & GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT



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While this developing imbalanced condition had already been obvious for some time, it was a sudden major and catastrophic fracture that signified that a new era had begun...that the policies of the past were bankrupt. A bell rang loudly though few macro-economists understood its significance. The outbreak of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2007 was the first worldwide alarm. The debt excesses of the past were no longer tenable.

How to fix the problems? The best diagnosis that the mainstream economic fraternity has come up with is the notion that there is not enough demand. What they mean by this is that there is not enough want for the consumption of goods and services. In the economic model that is widely accepted as virtuous in the world today, more wants are good because these can lead to more purchases and therefore profits and financial flows that can in turn support much greater wealth. Ideally, this also facilitates a higher standard of living assuming that overall productivity increases and inflation remains under control. For the most part, modern-day economic theory is silent on the issues of the morality of it all. More is good.

For a number of reasons, the financial world is approaching a potentially-precarious fulcrum. Firstly, world economic growth remains disappointing, although hope and upbeat messages from financial industries continue to prevail. The fact remains that the four major economic blocs all have unconventional growth challenges of one type or another — Europe, the U.S., China and Japan. And, this is the case despite low interest rates.

Secondly, the world’s largest and most influential central bank (the U.S. Federal Reserve) is reducing its open-market purchases of fixed-income instruments. They call this “tapering.” In this new era of unorthodox monetary actions, this is a negative development. This is all the more so because other major central banks could hardly countenance a similar posture. The Bank of Japan (BOJ) confirms it will continue with Abenomics and the European Central Bank recently confirmed its increasing pessimism.

What we see today is a state of financial imbalance that is just as frail, if not more so, as before the Global Financial Crisis. One financial bubble has been exchanged for another in the public government sector.

Macroeconomists may think that their magic wands of money manipulation can overcome such foundational problems as slow population growth and over-indebtedness. Aspects of these conditions are the consequence of changing human values and preferences. These are beyond the curative reach of interest rates for the most part.

The reality is entirely contrary. The types of actions that they have pursued will morph into even greater problems. Some of these are already being noted. For example, despite the massive interventions of central banks and policymakers over the past half-decade, economic growth

rates have remained disappointing when viewed in the aggregate.

Furthermore, a small demographic group that accounted for the majority ownership of securities markets has prospered remarkably (the wealthiest 10% of all Americans own 81% of all shares of stock owned by U.S. households, as of 2010) while households dependent upon labour and interest income have yet to recover pre-2007 conditions.

A recent U.S. research study concluded that the spending of people over the age of 65 is 40% less than the average of people aged between 54 and 65. It only follows that as populations age (as is the case in most major nations in the world) demand growth must fall. Crucially, it is a trend that has only started. In North America, the leading edge of the “baby boomer” demographic (the all-time kings of consumption) is just now turning 65.

How could that be true? Aren’t some stock markets at new highs? Yes, indeed, the S&P 500 stock market index has been punching through to new highs in recent months. That is not inconsistent at all given the current materialism and increasingly-criminal environment in the bowels of the world’s financial system.

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Theology Thicket: A Series of Most Unfortunate Texts ... from page 1

revelations in the Bible and more of our questions answered? Why could not more proofs have been given, that would have ended some of the unproductive theological debates that have festered for centuries, or settled the modern debates over Creationism, for instance?

These questions collectively comprise our “theology thicket.” Just what texts in the Bible, were they not so unfortunate in this respect, could have led to more answers to our questions or settled the doubts of some unbelievers?

We here attempt to identify a series of just six such “unfortunate texts.”

Unfortunate Text #1: Jesus Christ, the Son of God — under whose feet everything was placed (Ephesians 1:22, Matthew 22:44) and to whom had been given “all authority in heaven and on earth” — walked this earth in the flesh (Matthew 28:18). He had available to Him all knowledge. Had the disciples asked more penetrating questions, we could have benefited from more answers. After all, “The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law” (Mark 1:22). Anyone could have asked him for further clarifications.

And yet, incredulously, we read this unfortunate text: “And no one dared to ask him any more questions” (Luke 20:40). What a lamentable text. Think of this incident: The Sadducees and spies, who had been sent from the teachers of the law and the priests, had asked Jesus some tough and tricky questions. He answered them with great insight and

truth on such matters as the resurrection and what things will be like in heaven. They were awed. In response, they “dared not” ask him more questions.

How tragic! With their familiarity of the Scriptures and various theological debates, they could have all asked some pivotal questions about many things. They did not. Their pride and disinterest is our loss.

Unfortunate Text #2: When the Queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the Lord, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. “[...] she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind” (1 Kings 10:1-2).

The Bible tells us that “God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore” (1 Kings 4:29). Incredible! Imagine how many civil law and governance issues that Solomon could solve for our world today. With his great “breadth of understanding,” he could also offer great insight into the topics of science and creation.

Alas, we encounter another unfortunate text: “Solomon answered all her [Queen of Sheba] questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her” (1 Kings 10:3).

Isn’t it unfortunate that the Queen of Sheba was not able to exhaust Solomon’s wisdom? None of her questions were too hard for him. Her list of questions ran out and she went back home. You the reader will most assuredly think of some questions that the Queen of Sheba did not think of. How tragic that our remaining questions could not have been on her list.

Unfortunate Text #3: A most interesting encounter is described in the book of Matthew. It is also reported by Mark and Luke. “[...] Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah’” (Matthew 17:1-4).

Here we see a classic human error. Peter, seeing Moses, Elijah and the transfiguration of Christ, immediately wanted to build commemorative shrines. The King James renders his motive in this “unfortunate text” more accurately, we think: “Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.”

What did Jesus talk about with Moses and Elijah? Matthew 17:3 expressly says that they were “talking with Jesus.” Luke tells us that one of the topics discussed concerned Jesus’ departure. We would certainly be interested to know more of what was discussed. But we cannot know. Why? Instead of listening, the disciples were more intent upon creating buildings and works that could be

worshiped and institutionalized. As it turned out, the disciples became sleepy (Luke 9:32) and missed much more of the conversation.

Peter and John both wrote epistles that are in the Bible. In none of them do they reveal what Moses, Elijah and Jesus talked about. Another tragedy for us. They were not listening! They were sleeping.

Unfortunate Text #4: The Lord said something amazing to his servant Jeremiah: “[...] he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: ‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know’” (Jeremiah 33:2-3). That is truly a great offer. Surely, there must have been a lot of “unsearchable things” that Jeremiah did not know. This text, too, is another unfortunate one in this series. Why?

If we were to judge solely from what was written in the book of Jeremiah, we must conclude that Jeremiah did not take advantage of this great offer of knowledge from the Lord. The only questions that Jeremiah poses to the Lord concern himself and his own insecurities. For example: “Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable?” (Jeremiah 15:18). Also: “Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?” (Jeremiah 20:18). These questions earned him the nickname “The Weeping Prophet.” However, we have no record of him asking the Lord about any “unsearchable things.” Another tragedy! Another opportunity again wasted.

Unfortunate Text #5: Today, the Bible is spurned as being in opposition to science. This, of course, is not true. Why then did the Holy Spirit not give us more information about the workings of his wonders and creation?

It is one thing to discover that not one word in the Bible shows itself in contravention to the natural order of things that we know today. (We are careful here to differentiate between what are unproven scientific theories and what is fact.) For example, long before it was commonly known that the earth was round, the Scriptures acknowledged this. Said Isaiah, “He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers” (Isaiah 40:22).

However, couldn’t there have been more such statements made through the prophets...perhaps about nuclear atomic structure or the source of matter, for instance? Information such as this might have influenced the “scientific” views of evolution and the “big bang” theory. After all, even secular scientists are looking for the “god particle.”

God says that He was there at the beginning. Therefore, couldn’t He have provided us with more statements that would have aided us in our debates with the anti-Creationists?

The Bible only gives us seemingly symbolic

perspectives such as these: “Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who has perfect knowledge?” (Job 37:16); “My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts” (Isaiah 45:12); and “[...] He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in” (Isaiah 40:22).

Couldn’t these all be similarly seen as “unfortunate texts” to the modern scientific mind? Looking for scientific explanations of the creation, they read as what seems to be only figurative language.

We must stop here and negate this perspective right away. Why? God says, “Do you not know? Have you not heard? [...] his understanding no one can fathom” (Isaiah 40:28). Therefore, were He to have given us technical, scientific answers in the Scriptures, no one today would be able to fathom it in any case. Science is presumptuous to think that it could understand what and how God has created. “In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands” (Psalm 102:25).

Unfortunate Text #6: We now come to the last in our “series of unfortunate texts.” To this point we have pondered Scriptures that pointed out lost opportunities for more revelation, and truths to have been made available to the saints. What we also discover is that God actually allowed a surfeit of information...in fact, bad misinformation. He “sends them” delusions so that lies will be believed. That’s what Apostle Paul said: “[...] They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness” (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12).

Admittedly, this is difficult to understand. Now we have more information being made available, but it serves as corroboration to what people want to hear. The verse quoted is a statement that is consistent with our review of “unfortunate texts,” all of which deal with the matters of information, truth and knowledge.

We begin to understand that an over-abundance of truths, proofs and revelations are alone not enough to ensure that we do not go astray. The world’s popular beliefs today are not necessarily based on facts. We discover that they are in contradiction to the facts. A rebellious people will not let facts get in the way. As Albert Einstein was to have quipped: “If the facts don’t fit the theory, change the facts.” The same denial of facts is shown in the Bible with respect to miracles. We are told “Jews demand signs” (1 Corinthians 1:22). However, these signs and miracles were repeatedly forgotten and the people went astray.

Thoughts to Ponder

We indeed may lament this “series of unfortunate texts” we have reviewed. Our quest for more knowledge

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Signs of the Times



A Spreading Commercial Web – Part XI

This issue we continue with the eleventh of twelve financial signs of the endtimes. We have been working our way through the 75-page booklet that Mulberry Press published in 2005, entitled *Signs of the Financial Endtimes*. To date, we have examined ten conditions and/or world processes that scripture indicates should be evident in the last days. Again, to help readers keep track, here are the signs already reviewed: 1. A worldwide heaping up of wealth and debt; 2. Hoarding — an increasing gap between the wealthy and the poor around the world; 3. An explosion in greed; 4. Corroding gold and silver — wealth; 5. Increasing stress; 6. Wage injustices in the world; 7. Lovers of themselves (Narcissism); 8. Lovers of pleasure (Indulgence); 9. Swings in world population; and 10. The emergence of a commercial colossus. All of these find expression in a financial or monetary form today.

Let's first continue examining other aspects of the commercial colossus introduced in the previous column. The primary evidence for an ensnaring endtime trading system/religion of some kind is found in Revelation 18 and several indirect references in the Old Testament. Babylon the Great mentioned in Revelation 14:8 and described in great detail in chapters 17 and 18 is the main image of this system. We will not be able to deal with all the aspects of the description found in these chapters as I only plan to focus on the narrow theme of this topic series — financial and economic signs of the endtimes. With this objective, I would like to develop two other features of the commercial colossus before moving on to the next endtime sign in our list.

A System with a Global Realm: Evident from the Revelation 18 account is that Babylon the Great is an endtime regime that will be global in nature. Its reign over the entire earth parallels the global reach of the fourth future kingdom that the prophet Daniel foresaw in his four separate visions. The three previous kingdoms or kings that Daniel saw were indeed the leading powers of the known world in their day, yet they were not global as we consider them today. Only the last one is stated to have a worldwide reach, spanning the "earth." "All the nations" (Revelation 18:3, 23, and also 14:8), "kings of the earth" (verses 3, 9), "merchants of the earth" (verses 3, 11) and "world's great men" (verse 23), involving "all [...] on earth", are part of it.

Represented in this case is the hub of a coordinated international trading system that serves as part of the power structure of the reigning world kingdom that "will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it" (Daniel 7:23). In order for a single regime to overcome and devour the whole earth, global interconnection and worldwide mechanisms of coordination and influence are required. In short, there must be a globalization of the world — a convergence of belief systems and values. A world that

consumes Big Macs and Coca Cola from Nairobi to Taipei and participates in a seamless global financial market and economy is not incompatible with this development.

Something More than Trade in Goods and Services

In my view, the endtime trading system represented by Babylon the Great must involve more than just a system of commerce for goods and commodities of the nature mentioned. Recalling the text quoted in the previous part of this series (Revelation 18:1-16) there were indicated 28 commodities or items of wealth as well as one form of international transportation — marine shipping. Simple manufactured and agricultural items such as those listed in the Revelation 18 account and their method of transportation would not intoxicate the world's merchants and kings with "maddening wine" (Revelation 18:3). There must be something else — something "magic" (verse 23) — involved in this system that leads the world astray. What could it be? Scripture does not specifically identify its source or nature. Yet something clearly is energizing this whole system. Something is giving rise to "adultery" as all of the kings of the earth "are committing adulteries" with Babylon the Great. Wealth and money may be intoxicating but are not magic. The "love of money" is definitely a powerful motivator of human actions but also is not magic. Perhaps the "magic" and "maddening wine" of this endtime system is found in the corrupt means it employs to produce effortless financial wealth? We are speculating here, but do so for the point of further illustration.

Of course, as a global investment economist my interpretation, not surprisingly, will fall close to my reference point. You, the reader, will have to keep that thought in mind as you read further. By the measure of the present times, I would regard the workings of the modern-day monetary systems and the interplay of the "love of money" as the magic referred to in Revelation 18. It is the alchemy and deception that springs out of our modern fractional-reserve monetary system that may bring on the type of madness that is talked about here. Viewing the monetary policies of the major central banks around the world today, we indeed consider them mad. Financial markets and monetary systems are magical in this sense: Financial wealth (though not to be confused with real wealth) can be spun out of thin air — fabricated at no cost. Great riches can be transferred easily even though they may amount to not much more than paper value.

Another significant support to this financial/monetary interpretation may be found in the fact that Babylon the Great can come to a halt within an hour. "In one hour your doom has come!" (Revelation 18: 10). And again: "In one hour has such great wealth been brought to ruin" (verse 17). This presents a puzzle.

What can possibly span the globe and collapse so quickly yet leave the world standing? Apparently, whatever is being destroyed during that hour holds no bodily danger to most humans. People will witness the destruction of this city or system from afar. These and the many other clues

certainly do not disagree with the view that Babylon the Great could represent the world's commercial/monetary/economic system of the last days. What other possible interpretation does not conflict with all the other descriptions of the endtime kingdoms also found in Daniel? How can international trade come to a sudden halt?

It is no secret that nothing can be ruined as quickly as an inter-linked, debt-leveraged financial system. Though it may amount to trillions of dollars in wealth and touch every living person on earth economically, its speed of destruction can be very quick. As is already the case, the banking and financial market systems of the world actually hang on thin threads of human confidence. It is a fact that without human faith and confidence they would collapse instantaneously. The concepts underpinning our modern monetary/financial and "free market" systems are fundamentally immoral. These systems can only work if people believe in their continued existence. The slightest fears can trigger financial market crashes. In that respect, the market tremors of the past few decades around the world are a clear reminder that this possibility is more than just an idle theory.

It is interesting that Babylon's "doom" (verse 10) and "great wealth brought to ruin" (verse 17) are the result of a much shorter span of time than the plagues pronounced upon her. The plagues take place over a day, a time period that may be open to a number of interpretations. "[...] in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine" (verse 8). The doom and destruction of wealth, however, is pronounced in the matter of an hour. At the very least, this differentiation invites the view that the demise of the great financial/commercial system of the world will be very sudden.

I am persuaded to believe that Babylon the Great comprises not only a commercial/economic, but also a monetary/financial system — a vast, integrated, global colossus driven by the love of money and material, perched upon humanism and confidence — that is validated as a religion. The evidence strongly suggests that it is a wealth-creating system of money and trade. Pictured here is a system that is greater than any single country. We could then safely conclude on this point alone that Babylon the Great does not represent the United States or New York City as others have suggested. It may be participative or emblematic of this "Babylonian" system, but not its full expression.

A System in League with Three False Gods: The apparition of Babylon the Great intertwines tightly with the rise of the three false gods of the endtimes. It represents a human triumph combining monetary finance, globalism and technology. I consider that these false gods may be prefigured in Daniel 11:37-39 — the "unknown god", "foreign god" and the "god of fortresses." I have dubbed them MOFI for monetary/finance, GLOBO for globalism, and SCITE for science and technology. These human idols are in league with or facilitative of this last-day commercial/economic system prefigured by Babylon the

Great. In spirit, they are all connected in a form of self-sufficiency and boastfulness. She says: "I sit as a queen; I am not a widow, and I will never mourn" (Revelation 18:7). This endtime system considers itself secure and unassailable for as far out as the eye can see. The trinity of the three false gods, energized by the fallen choices of mankind and the love of money, really is a form of a religious belief system. It all defines and propels this world-ensnaring system represented by Babylon the Great. Its great riches parallel the endtime wealth of the religious Babylon (Revelation 17:4) and the lukewarm Christian church of the last days, Laodicea (Revelation 3:17).

A Challenge to Endtime Christians: Imagine: 2,500 years ago Daniel (and other prophets in the Bible, especially also Zechariah) forecasted the underlying conditions that would lead to a booming, global idolatrous financial and economic system in the last days that would be as an idol worshipped on a high pedestal. Approximately six centuries later, the Apostle John, incarcerated on the Island of Patmos, provided additional illuminating prophesies about this last-day regime that align with Daniel's accounts.

Babylon the Great does come to ruin. In fact, it comes to a terminal end. It will harbor no more workmen or trade ever again. It "will be thrown down, never to be found again." I am persuaded that this collapse will take place no later than the Great Tribulation (namely, the second half of the 7-year Tribulation period). As with many endtime conditions, the processes that lead to their eventual occurrence (prophetic fulfillment) can be identified well in advance. Could it be that the financial market troubles of the past few decades, already unprecedented as the International Monetary Fund has repeatedly warned, are the early tremors of this ultimate crash?

An endtime, global regime as partly reflected by Babylon the Great is inhospitable to believers. "Rejoice, saints, apostles and prophets! God has judged her for the way she treated you" says verse 20. "In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints and of all who have been killed on earth" (verse 24). It trades on the "bodies and souls of men" (verse 13). Not only are the idolatries, humanism and love of money underlying the advance of this global commercial/financial system — Mammonism, as we sometimes call it — potentially deadly to Christians, they have been at the root of all world genocide and murder.

How well is this world system treating Christians? Are you comfortable living in it? Revelation 18:4 implores us to not have any complicity with her: "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not share in her sins, so that you will not receive any of her plagues."

Some interpret this verse to mean that we must leave the U.S. or move out of New York City. I do not believe that is the case. At the very minimum, this is a warning not to have spiritual complicity with this great last-day idolatrous system.

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Facts & Stats ... Ends & Trends



TOPICAL QUOTES

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has sounded a warning that many types of disease-causing bacteria can no longer be treated with the usual antibiotics and the benefits of modern medicine are increasingly being eroded.—

www.triplecrisis.com, May 6, 2014

Across the rich world, well-educated people increasingly work longer than the less-skilled. Some 65% of American men aged 62-74 with a professional degree are in the workforce, compared with 32% of men with only a high-school certificate. In the European Union the pattern is similar.—

—The Economist, April 26, 2014

People everywhere are living longer, according to the “World Health Statistics 2014” published May 15, 2014 by WHO. Based on global averages, a girl who was born in 2012 can expect to live to around 73 years, and a boy to the age of 68. This is six years longer than the average global life expectancy for a child born in 1990.—

WHO, World Health Statistics 2014, May 15, 2014

Roughly 1 in 5 Americans (about 21%) will be 65 years old and up by 2050, compared with just 13% in 2010 and less than 10% in 1970, according to a new US Census Bureau report released May 6, 2014.—

http://blogs.wsj.com, May 6, 2014

Billions of dollars are flowing into online advertising. But marketers also are confronting an uncomfortable reality: rampant fraud. About 36% of all Web traffic is considered fake, the product of computers hijacked by viruses and programmed to visit sites, according to estimates cited recently by the Interactive Advertising Bureau trade group.—

Wall Street Journal, March 23, 2014

The pace of life is quickening in wealthier countries; one study shows that it takes people an average 10.5 seconds to cover 60 feet (18.3 meters) of pavement in Singapore, 18 seconds in Bahrain and 31 seconds in Malawi, indicating marked differences between developed and developing nations. Overall, people walk

fastest in the world’s biggest cities.—

The Economist, April 5, 2014

Average life expectancy at birth for those in industrialized countries has risen to 80, according to the OECD—a gain of more than 10 years since 1960. Surely this is a sign of progress in terms of both healthcare and welfare systems. I can think of no other symbol of success that has been met with such misery. The latest data from the Office for National Statistics predict that about 1 in 3 babies born in the UK last year will live to celebrate their 100th birthday. The total number of centenarians is projected to rise from 14,000 in 2013 to 111,000 in 2037.—

Financial Times, April 9, 2014

China’s exports and imports of goods amounted to \$4.16 trillion in 2013, topping the US for the first time.—

http://www.businessinsider.com, April 29, 2014

The Census Bureau reported last week that the financial crisis, aside from wrecking the economy, also helped drive down US fertility rates to levels not seen since the late 1990s. The number of births for every 1,000 women ages 15 to 44 years old has dropped, to 62.7 in 2013 from 69.3 in 2007.—

http://www.bloombergvew.com, April 1, 2014

In the mid-’90s, white-collar prosecutions represented an average of 17.6% of all federal cases. In the 3 years ending in 2012, the share was 9.4%.—

http://www.propublica.org, April 30, 2014

The number of countries with independent central banks [...] has increased from about 20 in 1980 to more than 160 today. Voter turnout [...]: a study of 49 democracies found that it had declined by 10 percentage points between 1980-84 and 2007-13. A survey of seven European countries in 2012 found that more than half of voters “had no trust in government” whatsoever. A YouGov opinion poll of British voters in the same year found that 62% of those polled agreed that “politicians tell lies all the time”.—

The Economist, March 1, 2014

“No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar.”—

Abraham Lincoln

“We can stand affliction better than we can prosperity, for in prosperity we forget God.”—

Dwight L. Moody

“Who controls the food supply controls the people; who controls the energy can control whole continents; who controls money can control the world.”—

Henry Kissinger

“If words have more than one meaning, then kingdoms become ungovernable.”—

Confucius

“One of the peculiar sins of the twentieth century which we’ve developed to a very high level is the sin of credulity. It has been said that when human beings stop believing in God they believe in nothing. The truth is much worse: they believe in anything.”—

Malcolm Muggeridge

“What behaviors does our Status Quo reward? Misrepresentation, obfuscation, legalized looting, embezzlement, fraud, a variety of cons, gaming the system, deviousness, lying and cleverly designed deceptions.”—

Kevin Dutton, The Wisdom of Psychopaths: What Saints, Spies and Serial Killers Can Teach Us about How to Succeed



Letters to the Editor

READER: You gave a good refutation of why the U.S is not the Babylon [the Great] of Revelation (“in her was found the blood of the prophets and of the saints and of ALL who have been killed on the earth”, emphasis mine (Revelation 18:24)). But there is an even “easier” refutation (if such be possible): Babylon is defined by the angel as, “that great CITY that rules over the kings of the earth” (again, emphasis mine) (Revelation 17:8). USA is a country, a nation—NOT A CITY. When God says (through his angel), a “city”, He means a city, not figuratively a nation. I have yet to hear the USA-as-Babylon-ers come up with a refutation for that fact. — **S.K.E.**

EVR: Indeed, Revelation 17:8 excludes the U.S. as a candidate for Babylon the Great. However, there are quite a few that claim that New York City must therefore be the Babylon the Great. Another verse that excludes both possibilities — U.S.A. or New York City — is Revelation 18:20. It reads as follows: “Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has judged her with the judgment she imposed on you.” The “apostles and prophets” all lived prior to the time in which the United States existed. The same applies to New York City. One possibility that cannot be discounted in considering the meaning of the word “city” or the 2-word combination “great city” is that it might refer to a “system.” Ancient Greek had no word for “system” such as we understand it today. A city was the closest thing to a commercially-organized entity or system. Taking this perspective, it is possible that “great city” actually refers to a globalized commercial or financial system. We mention this as a possibility only. We plan to provide a broader examination of this view in an upcoming article. To be noted is that the “prostitute” (Babylon the Great) is shown to be a mystery, being referred to as prostitute, mother of harlots, a city, a haunt, etc. She clearly has a spiritual form, but also has economic elements and motivations. A mystery indeed.

EVR. We are frequently asked certain questions. For example, where can you find back issues of *Eternal Value Review* (EVR) and monthly articles appearing in *Midnight Call* magazine? EVR issues back to 2006 are found on this page of our website: http://www.eternalvalue.com/downloads.php?category=newsletter_archive. Alternatively, if you are looking for back copies of columns/essays published in the *Midnight Call* magazine, they can be found at this address: http://www.eternalvalue.com/downloads.php?category=ends_and_trends_series. Digital back issues of

the entire *Midnight Call* magazine can be found at this address: <http://www.midnightcall.com/midnight-call-online-magazine-archive>.

READER: I just read your 2-part series on RaptureReady.com. I guess I am a little late getting my entries to you for inclusion. I actually find little, if anything, to disagree with in what you say. However, I want to give you two things to consider. Before I tell you what they are, I need to say that while I think these ideas might be correct, I am not saying I think they are definitely correct. I guess what I am doing is getting a second opinion from someone I think is knowledgeable and whose opinion I respect. Now, here goes. The first thought deals with the 10 kings – what you name the 10K. Why do these men, and yes I agree that they are real flesh and blood men and are contemporaneous to each other, have to have a “physical” kingdom? What if they were “king” of food or money/finance for example? Think of it like this: What if some large transnational corporation held the internationally-recognized ownership on the patents for multiple GMO foods and had an iron grip on the distribution and use of them? The CEO would be “king-like” in his power and people would bow and scrape before him in order to keep him from cutting off their food supply. What about finance? We both know that there is a strong push for a global economy and that requires a global currency. What if one of the “kings” was their version of the head of the Federal Reserve? Talk about a lot of power, but in a narrow field and no physical kingdom. These are two examples that immediately come to my mind as possibilities. There may be other areas that I have not thought of to include. These are just the two most obvious areas for which this could be true. I am not saying that all, or even any, of the 10 will be a non-physical kingdom, just that this is a possibility. The second thought is about Rev 17:9. “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” The thing that keeps going around in my mind is the first sentence. Sometimes I think we are being told in that sentence to not just immediately accept the first and obvious answer to where he is talking about. It just so happens that Istanbul/Constantinople is also known as a city of seven hills, just like Rome. Take into consideration its past as the eastern capitol of the Roman Empire and it also being the former capitol of the Ottoman Empire, coupled with the Turks wanting to have / revive the Caliphate and have its capitol in Istanbul. These points I think cannot be simply discarded out of hand. Many people, and I am one of them, believe that the merger of Islam and the Roman Catholic Church will be the one world religion of the end times. If the religious capital was Rome and the governmental capital was Istanbul that would make some sense. Istanbul as the co-capital would also go a long way

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towards drawing in the various Eastern Orthodox branches of Catholicism. Once again I am NOT saying this is what I believe will be the case just that it is one scenario that could take place. I am keeping an open mind on these points of consideration and welcome any thoughts you care to share. Keep up the good work you do for the Lord and I look forward to hearing your take on these things, even if you shoot them down completely. If you do shoot these down, I know that you will back up your position scripturally, and I welcome that to show me where I err. — **P.T.T.**

EVR: Thank you for your thoughts. They certainly have me cogitating. I will surely try to back up my viewpoints and opinions scripturally. However, I would certainly not consider my answers the inviolable truth. Rather, like you, they are personal considerations. Firstly to the question of what the Bible may mean by the word “king.” Fortunately for us, we can rely on the Bible’s answer here. If we study the use of the word king in the Bible we discover that the Bible is very consistent (whether in Hebrew/Aramaic (melek) or Greek (basileau)). This word (and its plural) is used 2,874 times in the Bible (NIV). In each case (with very, very few exceptions) it refers to a human sovereign leader (otherwise Christ, King of Kings, etc.). It is a male that rules over people and some real estate, the latter sometimes being as small as a city. Another aspect of the concept and station of “king” is that its power will be diluted down through history, seen from the prophetic perspective of the Bible. Daniel 2 shows us that the first king, Nebuchadnezzar, was the head of gold. He had absolute power. Later, the Persian kings were shown to have less power. For example, they were not even able to rescind their own decrees. And so, the dilution continued to the point that today we have sovereign rulers who are almost fully beholden to the wishes of the majority citizens. Any ruler without a nation state or a people cannot therefore be a sovereign ruler as is meant by the word “king” in the Bible. Now, I would not dispute your opinion that there may be other individuals or stations of power that play a role in the last days. In fact, in my opinion, I believe that the Bible actually refers to these. For example Daniel 11:39 speaks of certain elites that will be enriched by the Antichrist. “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.” In Revelation 18:23, we also learn of mighty merchants, who became rich being in cahoots with Babylon. There it is said that “Your merchants were the world’s important people.” Clearly these are influential people who have gained their power through some type of economic or financial means. Who might they be? We cannot know for sure. Could they be mega-rich individuals, leaders of large multi-national

companies, heads of large sovereign wealth funds or influential heads of NGOs (non-governmental organizations), politicians...or others? We simply cannot yet know with any certainty though this topic may make for interesting speculation. In any case, my view would be that a coalition of 10 nations (having sovereign leaders) will form a union. That said, there will be other players in the mix and some of these may well be as you have considered. Next to the matter of the eastern leg of the revived Rome: I believe that the Bible definitely allows for this outcome. It would certainly be in line with the image described in Daniel 2. The Roman phase is shown to be comprised of two legs, two feet, and ten toes. The two legs stand to symbolize the eastern and western areas of Rome’s original reign. The question therefore arises, should we expect 5 “toes” (kings) to arise from each of these regions, east and west? This could well happen. If so, we would have to also agree that the appearance of the 10 kings is still some time in the future. (This would in no way set any timing or limitation on the Rapture, which as always remains imminent.) There are likely not yet 5 nations from the eastern sphere of the old Roman Empire that could contribute sufficient power for the collective of 10 kings to enable the Antichrist to rule the world with such force that would suffice to “devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it” (Revelation 17:23). Another question that remains open is just how would the European Union fit in with the view that half of the final group of ten kings would come from the east? It is clearly plausible that all ten kings could come from within the modern-day EU. However, this view has its challenges and remains a theory...though a good one. Also, the one notion that the Bible does not definitely preclude is that one or more of the 10 kings could be represented by New World countries (i.e. the U.S., Brazil, Canada, etc.). Daniel 9:26 expressly leaves this open as a possibility.

READER: I was reading some Q&A’s on the Rapture Ready website and thought you might be interested in this article by the late Jack Kinsella re: 10 Kings. Thank you. [Editor’s Note: Special Report: “In The Days of These Kings” Prophecy – Signs, Friday, December 10, 2004 from Jack Kinsella’s Omega Letter was enclosed.] — **M.V.**

EVR: Thank you for passing on this article. Mr. Kinsella’s articles were always well written. I have read the article and humbly agree that there are quite a few possibilities and matters to think about as far as the EU-related theories are concerned. That the 10 kings could come from within the current-day EU is clearly possible. The only differentiating opinion that I hold is that theories may be better or worse, yet they remain theories especially if the Bible leaves the door open to other outcomes, probable or not. For instance, were 5 of the 10 kings to come from the eastern leg of the ancient Roman

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Empire such as would be suggested by the image shown in Daniel 2, what would be the implications? They are wide-ranging. Yes, this outcome could unfold...in time. Without a doubt, tumultuous geopolitical shifts would first need to occur. Also, Daniel 9:26 leaves the door open to some New World countries possibly playing a role in the final 10 kings. Most certain of all is that this topic calls for a lot of continuing study...and humility. I say humility because even the best of scholars and prophecy watchers have been caught off guard, or endorsed some viewpoints as a certainty, only to be later proven wrong. The theory that a reconstituted Europe (the EU) would form a revived Roman Empire (while it may certainly prove correct in time) has gored many so-called prophetic interpreters simply because opinions about its developments have proven much too early or outright wrong. For example, at one time the whole prophecy community was all atwitter when Greece joined the European Common Market. That made the membership a group of ten. Who could be faulted for thinking that prophecy was unfolding in front of our eyes? However, as we know today, there are now 28 members in the European Union...many more than 10. The Western European Union theory (WEU), as Mr. Kinsella's article argued would be a forerunner of the 10-king coalition, was certainly a workable theory back in 2004. Today, it is not. The WEU was officially declared defunct in 2011. All of its functions have been absorbed by the European Union.

READER: Dear Wilfred J. Hahn, God bless you on your articles & insight into God's Word. I just read your articles on Gleanings from Wrong-Headed Debates and wanted to give you my "wrong-headed debate" on the matter. I used to fervently watch the ENPI (European Neighborhood Policy Instrument) agreement with Israel and her enemies years ago. The "peace" agreement was for 01/01/2007-12/31/2013 and I pretty much believed it to be the Covenant of Death or Jacob's Trouble the Bible talked about. Anyways, it occurred to me that 10 kings would come into existence before the Antichrist (AC) and eventually the AC would subdue 3, leaving 7 kings and giving their remaining power over to the AC to rule. I also knew the AC would rule for exactly 3½ years or 42 months or 1260 days (based upon a Biblical lunar calendar of 30 days per month). So, it was my "guess" that the kings would each have 6 months to rule individually (42 months/7 kings=6 months each). Then, I found out that the WEU (Western European Union) is the military arm of the EU and the amazing thing is that it has a revolving presidency between 10 Permanent Voting Members! Each president gets 6 months to rule!! Also, it has been said that previous presidents have complained that 6 months is not enough time to rule or get anything done. There you have it. 10 "kings" now but 3 will be subdued leaving 7, each with a revolving

presidency of 6 months. I believe Greece & Spain are two of the 10 Permanent Voting Members currently but are facing severe economic problems. Could these two be forced out of the 10 Permanent Voting Members because of their financial problems? Would this be in compliance with Biblical prophecies of "subduing" 3? Could subdue actually mean for financial reasons vs. armed attack? Anyways, I thought this was interesting. If the WEU is the 10 horns/kings the Bible was talking about, then it's already here on the world stage. The only thing left is for the AC to come in, subdue 3 of them and begin his 3½ years (42 months, 1260 days) of Great Tribulation. Since I already believe AC to be here on the world stage, it's only just a matter of time. Thanks again for your articles and I hope you like my musings. Please let me know what you think as I value your insight. God bless you. — **J.C.**

EVR: Thank you for your serious "musings"...and the occasional play on words! You raise quite a few issues. To start, we must note that Daniel clearly tells us that the 10 kings must appear before the Antichrist (see Daniel 7:28). There are two Roman-derived heads (the 6th and 7th shown in the 10-horned/7-headed images in Revelation). Then, an eighth king who belongs to the seven-head kings appears. He is shown as the third in the Roman-heritage sequence outlined in Daniel 7:28. Notable in all of this is that, inasmuch as the Revelation accounts are aligned with Daniel's prophecies and visions, there are at least two points that are not corroborated by both books. Firstly, the wounding of one of the heads and its subsequent recovery is not mentioned by Daniel. Only John mentions this (although three times.) Second, there is the matter of the Antichrist eventually conquering 3 of these final 10 kings. Though Revelation shows the image of this beast (yes, in different aspects) three times, no mention nor hints are found with respect to three of them being overcome by the Antichrist. We may conclude from this that the felling of 3 kings is not all that important in terms of the endtime play of events and sequences. That said, they are clearly mentioned by Daniel. All in all, while you pose an interesting theory, I have difficulty proving it from the Bible. Yes, it could occur. The 10 kings first appear; they give their power over to the Antichrist and the chronology of Bible prophecy then moves to the 8th king (as Revelation 17 clearly says will happen). Do the 10 kings (10 then to be reduced to 7 kings) remain on the scene while the Antichrist reigns and enforces his will upon the earth? Maybe...but seemingly unlikely...and not possible to prove from Scripture. In fact, I would argue that Scripture disproves this possibility. If 7 kings will each rule sequentially during the Tribulations period, how is it that the Antichrist has sufficient power to rule over the entire earth? It would suggest that each of the 7 kings would individually have enough power to rule the

Letters to the Editor ... from page 8

entire earth themselves. Then why should 10 kings be shown to form as a coalition in the first place, as the Bible shows? Also to note is the fact that the image shown in Daniel 2 had ten toes. The ten toes therefore show a rule of 10 kings simultaneously. Who has 10 toes sequentially? In conclusion, it seems more plausible to theorize that some of the 10 kings are disenfranchised at a later point and the ones remaining are in abeyance to the Antichrist. This nevertheless would be speculation. I cannot make a firm case. Thank you for your musings.

COMMENT: [Translated from German] Dear Brother Hahn, a very warm thank you for the presentations. I greet you from the Zurich Oberland. It is always a special experience to personally meet known authors. In conjunction with the recordings of the Easter Conference, we can again reinforce what was heard. For the subject, the time was certainly a bit tight, but we have every reason to be very grateful. Warm blessings for you personally and your valuable work particularly as a witness. — **D. W.**

EVR

Final Ecumenicism: When Two Babylons Become One ... from back page

While we greatly respect good scholarship, it is also academics that have come to the aid of human lust through the introduction of new theories that “revise” Biblical teaching on idolatry and materialism. For example, such organizations as the influential Acton Institute seem to exist solely to validate capitalism and free-market economics as a Biblically-endorsed system. To the contrary. God has never endorsed any human system.

Any religious movement that claims to build a “kingdom” on earth is sure to be fostering ideologies that promote earthly citizenship rather than heavenly citizenship. Jesus Christ could not have been clearer on this point, saying that His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36). Furthermore, He pointedly asked: “When I return, will I find faith upon the earth?” (Luke 18:8). It is a prophecy enfolded in a rhetorical statement. In fact, it is probably the most indicative of the very few prophecies that specifically apply to the Church.

Sadly, Christians (denominations, movements and individuals) and Christian look-alikes — namely, religious developments deliberately conspired by the Enemy to be an imitation — today risk either falling for or trafficking in the lures of both Babylons.

1. The title of this article has no connection to Alexander Hislop’s work of 1858, *The Two Babylons*.

EVR

Wilfred’s Itinerary: *The Mulberry Ministry*

- **December 1-3, 2014: 23rd Annual Pre-Trib Study Group Conference. Irving, TX.**

Theology Thicket: A Series of Most Unfortunate Texts ... from page 4

and Biblical and scientific insight may therefore be unquenched. But did the Holy Spirit make a mistake? Were there more revelations and knowledge that we should have known? Would more revelation and knowledge have made it easier to become a Christian? Would mankind be more obedient to Christ today were that the case?

Likely not.

The fact is that more knowledge is available to everyone today than ever before. Scriptures can be studied more easily today than was previously possible, with so many free and powerful study aids being available online. Yet, what do we see? A rapidly shrinking population that holds a true Biblical worldview...and massive shifts in beliefs toward untruths, fables and the doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1). Surveys reveal that Christians themselves are becoming less familiar with Scripture.

We must conclude that more knowledge than the Bible already imparts to us is not necessary. All has been imparted that we need. Moreover, the Bible expressly acknowledges that information has been deliberately held back from us.

Apostle Paul knew a man (speaking of himself in the third person) who “was caught up to the third heaven” (2 Corinthians 12:2) and who “was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things” (verse 4) and “surpassingly great revelations” (verse 7). But, these were “things that no one is permitted to tell” (verse 4).

The prophet Daniel asked the “man clothed in linen” how long it would be before these astonishing things would be fulfilled (Daniel 12:6). Daniel heard his answer but still did not understand. So he asked again: “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” (verse 8). Then the man clothed in linen replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are rolled up and sealed until the time of the end” (verse 9).

Here we are shown two instances where more information was expressly denied. Despite our curiosities, we can conclude that the Holy Spirit made sure that we would be informed of all the essentials to our faith and have knowledge of the Lord’s plans. On faith, therefore, we will lay our “theology thicket” to rest.

And that brings us to our final texts in this series.

These, however, speak to very fortunate events...not unfortunate ones. “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2 Peter 1:3). All will be revealed to us some day, though it may well take an eternity for us to absorb it. Says Paul, “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known” (1 Corinthians 13:12, KJV).

Maranatha!

EVR



Personal Perspective

Final Ecumenicism: When Two Babylons Become One

One of the prominent phenomena of the Last Days is the emergence of Babylon the Great, the great commercial colossus that is depicted in Revelation 18 (please also see comments on this topic in this issue's Signs of the Times column). Its emergence is also foreshadowed and prophesied in the Old Testament. The prophecies applying to Tyre, Jericho and Egypt, for example, all provide an anodyne for the final golden cup filled with the vile toxins of commercialism and materialistic idolatry.

Yes, there assuredly is much debate on the general topic of endtime Babylon, aspects of which we have often commented upon. However, for the purpose of the topic at hand, we need not stop to consider these many views. Here, we only want to focus on one additional aspect of endtime Babylon(s)...namely, the "inseparability" of the two Babylons.

What is meant by the inseparability of two Babylons? How can there be two, and yet they are inseparable? Actually, this was the very question put to me the first time I ever spoke on the topic of Babylon mentioned in Revelation 17 and 18. At the time, I was unprepared. The question was this: Where do you see the break between the Babylon mentioned in Revelation 17 and the one mentioned in chapter 18? I was caught rather flatfooted, as I had simply assumed that they were different Babylons since they were treated in separate chapters and had slightly different names in some Bible translations.

While I still hold to the view that they are different Babylons — in other words, alternate dimensions or at least different perspectives of the last-day Babylon emergence — I also hold to the view that they are inseparable. While this might seem contradictory, it is not. Basically, it is two Babylons¹ clandestinely in bed together, in effect becoming one. I say clandestinely because most people — surely including many who claim to be Christians — are blind to this emerging union. For the most part, it is a relationship that has been conducted under the covers and in secret, although less so recently. The harlotry is becoming ever more open. From the religious side, it is a union that has been blessed by an increasing number of Christian denominations and religious movements.

Jesus Christ clearly said that there are two separate masters — God and Mammon (Matthew 6:24). You can serve only one. Either you love the one or the other. While God promises to be near and never to forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), Mammon has masterfully honed its attractions to

accurately and lethally target the fleshly affections of mankind. These temptations are also near and with us. Who does not agree that the lures of Mammon are lustrous and inveigling? Its apparent entreaties and promises of security are so tempting, immediate and incessant.

But, here is the danger: This apparently unbridgeable gap between God and Mammon offers one of the biggest, exploitable marketing opportunities even known to mankind. How can one have the assurance of being righteous and spiritual and not pass up the chance for rich comfort and lucre from the horn of Mammon?

If you can figure out a way to convince people that they can both worship God and sup with Mammon at the same time, you will meet certain success. This is not a new discovery. It is a gimmick that has worked in past history every time, right from New Testament times, only now it is institutionalized and unfolds on a global scale.

The merging of God and Mammon — figured as religion and materialism, faith and globalization in bed together — is the final capstone of mankind's deception that is reflected in the religious and commercial Babylons shown to rise in illicit cahoots in Revelation 17 and 18. It is the final, global religion. As such, that may be why the two Babylons in these chapters are presented as one, unbreakable continuum.

Where is the evidence, people might ask. Is this happening today? It assuredly is...and in many ways.

There are numerous channels and multiple feedback loops in this present-day progression. For example, we see an enormous convergence in the world under the rubric of "ethical investing." It has found a huge alliance within religious circles. Such new organizations as the International Interfaith Investment Group (3IG), which claims to wield some \$10 trillion in wealth and 7% of the inhabitable real estate on the planet, are pushing for a purer and better world with the power of money. Also, the "green" movement has bridged alliances with religious groups through such organizations as the Association for Religion and Conservation (ARC). Again, money is the blunt truncheon being used to bring about change and religious reform.

Also, within so-called Christianity there are many movements in this direction. Various prosperity gospels (*material comforts in the here and now*), Reconstructionism, Kingdom Now and many other ideologies risk consorting with the deadly and deceitful embrace of Mammon. We do not doubt that there are sincere and godly people who may be swept up in these ideologies and who come by their ignorance innocently. However, there are certainly also wolves and entities masquerading as "angels of light."

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