

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

Mystery, Babylon — Part Two

Dave Hunt

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And in the days of these [ten] kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed....

—DANIEL 2:44

After this I saw...a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible...and it had ten horns....And the ten horns...are ten kings....

—DANIEL 7:7, 24

And...behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns....

—REVELATION 12:3

And I...saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns....

—REVELATION 13:1

I saw a woman sit[ting] upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.... And the ten horns...are ten kings....

—REVELATION 17:3, 12

OF ALL THE PROPHECIES in the Bible, Revelation 17 is the most astonishing. It culminates a series of visions of four world empires, the fourth to be revived in the “last days” and ruled by Antichrist through ten subordinate “kings”—a series of visions which began 600 years earlier in Daniel 2 with Nebuchadnezzar’s image. The image’s “head of gold” was the first world empire, the Babylonian; the “breast and arms of silver” pictured the succeeding Medo-Persian Empire; next was the Grecian represented by “belly and thighs of brass”; and finally the “legs of iron, and feet [with ten toes signifying ten kings] part of iron and part of clay” depicted the fourth world empire arising out of Rome.

Daniel’s prophecy (continued in chapters 7-12) foretold accurate details of coming world empires which we can’t enumerate. Apropos of our subject, however, the image’s two legs foretold the Roman Empire’s division into East and West. And so it happened, first politically; centuries later, religiously. Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy (which in July again gained control of religion in Russia) remain divided to this day. They will, however, be reunited as the core of Antichrist’s new world religion.

In a second vision, the four world empires were seen as beasts. The fourth had ten horns, representing, like the ten toes on the image, “ten kings” (Daniel 7:24) yet to arise. The ancient Roman Empire was never ruled by a coalition of ten kings; yet so it must be when “the God of heaven sets up [his] kingdom.” Thus the Roman Empire must be revived in that form.

God’s millennial kingdom will not (as many are teaching) result from a gradual takeover of the world by the church but through a sudden catastrophic intervention by Christ from heaven.

He is the stone “cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet...the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold [were] broken to pieces...and the stone...became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (2:34-35). Christ’s sudden intervention at Armageddon is also presented by Paul: “And then shall that Wicked [Antichrist] be revealed, whom the Lord shall...destroy with the brightness of his coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:8-10). The same event is found in Zechariah 12-14, Revelation 19, and elsewhere.

The Bible ignores other empires, some of which have been larger than the four above. Why? They won’t be revived. For centuries the seat of world power was Egypt. There were great dynasties in China, Genghis Khan’s far-ranging Mongolian empire, and vast Mayan and Aztec kingdoms in Central and South America. The Arabs once controlled most of North Africa, the Middle East and much of Europe. These empires will not rise again. The United States has been the dominant industrial and military force for 50 years, but that dominance cannot continue. The prophecies are clear: the *Roman Empire* will be revived, with Antichrist’s seat in Western Europe and the world religion’s headquarters in Rome.

In addition to the revived Roman Empire, the ten-horned beast also depicts Satan (the “great red dragon”) and a satanically empowered *man* (Revelation 13:4-8)—the coming world ruler, or Antichrist. Yet it wasn’t so much the sight of this terrifying beast that took John’s breath away, but the woman who was riding him: “**MYSTERY, BABYLON.**” Babylon is not a *country* but a *city* (certainly not the United States). Nor is it the city Saddam [was] rebuilding in Iraq, for that historic Babylon, in ruins for 2,300 years, obviously does not meet the five criteria. Nor are there two Babylons (a spiritual one and a commercial one) shown in Revelation 17 and 18. They are one and the same.

Babylon was built around the ruins of the Tower of Babel, which, we noted in June [1993], represented the false religion of human effort in opposition to salvation by grace through faith in Christ. It was the satanically inspired attempt to establish man as his own God. Babel’s antichrist paganism remained as the unifying factor linking the four successive world empires. And so it must be revived with the Roman Empire.

Like Nimrod at Babel, the Caesars presided over the pagan priesthood and were worshiped as God. All who refused to bow down before the emperor’s image in recognition of his deity were slain—a practice which will be reestablished under Antichrist (Revelation 13:8, 14-15). Most astonishing of all, “Christianity” must merge with Babel’s antichrist paganism to form the new world religion! That insight was a major reason for John’s amazement.

That a gorgeously clad *woman* was holding the reins astride such a terrifying, world-devouring beast was incredible. The woman’s identity, however, staggered John far more. Beneath the erotic attire, flashy jewelry, and impudent gaze there was a haunting familiarity. It couldn’t be! How had Christ’s chaste bride become this brazen whore? What alchemy had transformed that small, despised flock of humble followers of the Lamb into this notorious prostitute toasting Satan with the blood of the martyrs in a golden cup! How could the church, hated and persecuted by the world, as Christ had said she would be—how could she have become this

Machiavellian despot that reigned over the kings of the earth?

History authenticates John's vision. The blood of the martyrs was the seed of a heavenly minded church without earthly ambition, a church whose members, increased to about 10 percent of the Roman Empire, were oppressed by the world and periodically slaughtered. Then, in AD 313, freedom from persecution came unexpectedly and suddenly under Constantine. Unfortunately, what seemed like a gift from God was a trap laid by Satan. It set the stage for an apostasy that would last more than a millennium—and is now gathering renewed momentum.

When he gave Christianity official status alongside paganism, Constantine, as emperor and "Pontifex Maximus" over the pagan priesthood known as the Pontifical College, became the *de facto* head of the Christian Church. As such he invented and took the title "Vicar of Christ." Coming from the Latin *vicarius*, vicar means "in the place of." Its Greek equivalent is *anti*. Thus the popes' title, "Vicar of Christ," literally means "Antichrist"—the one who pretends to be Christ.

For centuries, Protestant creeds identified the popes as antichrists. That label surely applies to the paganized Christianity over which the popes have presided as Constantine's successors. Succeeding him also as head of Rome's Pontifical College, the popes retain to this day the related pagan title "Pontifex Maximus." Undoubtedly, however, the Antichrist will be the new Constantine—head of the new world order—with the Roman pontiff his right-hand man.

Constantine, the first "Vicar of Christ," did indeed prove to be an antichrist. Not a genuine Christian, he had no concern for doctrine but only for *religious unity* in his empire. The original ecumenist, he convened the first Ecumenical Council, the Council of Nicea, in AD 325, set the agenda and presided over it as Charlemagne would over the Council of Chalons 500 years later during his attempt to revive the Roman Empire. Though all such attempts failed, the popes gave the Empire continuity in religion and wielded supreme secular authority as well. Historian R. W. Southern reminds us,

...there was in Rome a single spiritual and temporal authority [the papacy] exercising powers which in the end exceeded those that had ever lain within the grasp of a Roman Emperor.

To John's utter amazement, he saw that the church Christ had founded would metamorphose into "that city...on seven hills... that rules over the kings of the earth"! Picture, for example, the humbled emperor Henry IV waiting barefoot in the snows at Canossa to make his peace with Pope Gregory VII in 1077! As noted last month, no other *city* in the world except Vatican City "rules over kings" and meets the other four criteria which identify the woman in Revelation 17. In the July 3, 1992 *National Catholic Reporter* (NCR) a Catholic priest confesses, "The church... was subverted by the ambitions of such men as [Popes] Gregory VII, Innocent III and Boniface VIII [and many others] into a politico-ecclesiastical institution wielding totalitarian power in both sacred and secular fields." Historian Walter James elaborates:

The Papacy controlled the gateway to heaven which all the faithful, including their rulers, hoped earnestly to enter...[I]t gave the Popes a moral authority which has never been wielded since. A Pope like Innocent III held all Europe in his net....

If that seven-headed beast with ten horns, the revived Roman Empire, is to appear, then the "woman" *must* hold the reins once again. While the Roman Catholic Church, since the Reformation, saw its supreme power challenged, it has regained much. The Vatican is a sovereign state like any nation. It exchanges ambassadors with the world's nations and participates in international politics. The NCR boasts, "No other church has such privileged

access" to top political gatherings.

John Paul II [previously] emerged as the world's most respected and influential leader. Though papal power is not wielded as overtly as during the Middle Ages, yet the Pope still "rules over the kings of the earth." Presidents Bush and Gorbachev consulted with the Pope at least once a week. President Reagan solicited the Pope's help against communism. Using Poland as a base, agents of the Vatican worked with the CIA to bring down communism and the Berlin Wall. These amazing events, Gorbachev later confessed, could not have occurred without John Paul II.

Ecumenism is essential in creating a "Christianity" which embraces all religions. Psychology plays a major ecumenical role by providing common faith, language and ritual for everyone from atheists, cultists and occultists to Roman Catholics and evangelicals. Today the Reformation is seen as a semantic misunderstanding, its vital issues blurred or ignored. There is a growing cooperation between the National Association of Evangelicals and Roman Catholics, according to Jack White, [former] NAE president. Even leading cult experts whitewash Rome's heresies. Chuck Colson's (like Billy Graham's) embrace of Catholicism and acceptance of the Templeton Prize is one more shocking example of the growing ecumenism among evangelical leaders which is preparing the way for Antichrist. (See "Q&A" for further clarification.) Nor could a more apt pope than John Paul II have arrived upon the scene at this crucial hour. [TBC Note: *The former president of Christianity Today, Timothy Dalrymple, is now the new president of the Templeton Foundation. The Religion News Service reports (5/29/2025) that Timothy "...has long had an interest in the spiritual questions Templeton pursues."*]

The centuries-long involvement of Roman Catholicism in pagan/occultic practices has led naturally to its present marriage to the New Age. Rome has made it clear that the disciplining of New Age priest Matthew Fox is for failure to submit to the hierarchy but not for his horrendous heresies. Fox continues as a priest with a huge following among Catholics. The involvement in Eastern mysticism of tens of thousands of priests, nuns, and laity is condoned by the Vatican.

We have documented the accelerating secular acceptance of New Age "spirituality" such as Nancy Reagan's obsession with astrology and President Reagan's submission to astrological guidance and his own superstitions. Matters have only gotten worse with the new administration. Bill and Hillary Clinton's and Al Gore's commitment to an amoral, humanistic, and New Age agenda is well known. That all three claim to be "Christians" fits the fact that the world religion will be an antichrist "Christianity."

Time magazine recently had a picture of Hillary Clinton with eyes closed, head reverently bowed, as a North American Indian shaman performed a ritual over her. Concluding a recent speech, Hillary declared, "Let us be willing to remold society by redefining what it means to be a human being in the twentieth century, moving into a new millennium." Yes, the Clintons intend to "remold society" and to "redefine what it means to be a human being"!

Part of that remolding involves promoting ungodly lifestyles. The consequences are devastating and worsening. Raw statistics condemn the Clintons' encouragement of homosexuality. The median age of death for married heterosexual men is nearly twice that of homosexuals: 75 compared with 39. Only 1 percent of homosexuals live beyond age 65. The average age of death for married women is 79 compared with 45 for lesbians (*Christian News*, 1/13/92). Secular studies have demonstrated that living together before marriage increases the likelihood of divorce—exactly the opposite of what those who engage in "safe sex" imagine (*The Baptist Challenge*, 10/92).

Our world is fast ripening for God's judgment. Consider a simple comparison between the seven leading problems in "Christian" America's schools in the 1940s and the 1990s.

Fifty years ago the worst problems faced by teachers and administrators were 1) talking in class, 2) chewing gum, 3) making noise, 4) running in halls, 5) cutting in line, 6) dress code violations, 7) littering. Today they are 1) drug abuse, 2) alcohol abuse, 3) pregnancy, 4) suicide, 5) rape, 6) robbery, 7) assault. How revealing!

Everywhere youth is bombarded not only with evil but with persuasively presented antichrist philosophies. A recent TV series began with Indiana Jones as a boy in India going to the Theosophical Society to meet founder Annie Besant. There he was introduced to Jidhu Krishnamurti, the “chosen world leader”; he then was taken to various Hindu and Buddhist temples. Christianity was degraded and Jesus was put on the level of all other

“religious leaders.” Behold an even more insidious effort by George Lucas to indoctrinate the West into shamanism than even the *Star Wars* series of films!

Christians face two dangers: 1) becoming so immunized to apostasy that it seems normal and no longer alarming; 2) becoming discouraged and deciding that there is no use in standing up to such overwhelming evil. Yes, the stage is set for Antichrist. He will take over the world. False “Christianity” will deceive billions. The Bible says so. We will not save the world or even America. But we *can* rescue countless individuals through prayer, godly example and the proclamation of the gospel. Let us do so!

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708 • Or e-mail: editorial@thebereanall.org

QUESTION (AUGUST 1993): I wrote to Chuck Colson concerning his acceptance of the Templeton Prize. The reply from his ministry contradicts what you reported. They state that the public presentation in Chicago, though it will be attended by many from the Parliament of the World’s Religions, is not part of the Parliament, but actually precedes it. Being awarded the prize, according to Prison Fellowship, has enabled Chuck to “present the Gospel at the United Nations, the National Press club...[etc.].”

RESPONSE: Unfortunately (for whatever reason), you are not receiving the facts from Prison Fellowship. The truth is that the public award ceremony is a major event (perhaps even *the* major event) of the Parliament. The “Twenty-First Presentation of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion” is listed in the preview of major events of the Parliament titled “Glimpses of the 1993 Parliament” contained in the official packet sent to all registrants. It does not *precede* the Parliament, but, according to the official schedule of events, takes place on the *sixth evening* of the eight-day Parliament—Thursday, September 2, 1993. The CPWR [Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions] *Journal* of June, 1993, indicates that Sir John Marks Templeton, founder of the prize, is a “CPWR Board Member” actively involved in planning and promoting the Parliament. He is also a major donor for the underwriting of expenses of the Parliament.

Let us consider a few other facts. The panel which chooses the recipients of the prize includes leading Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and Jews. The very purpose of the prize (stated by Templeton when he awarded it to Colson) is to “encourage understanding of the benefits of each of the great religions.” (Imagine Elijah on Mount Carmel “encouraging understanding of the benefits of paganism”!) Sir Templeton, the founder of the prize, declares that God is the only reality (pantheism) and that Jesus Christ is in everyone whether he realizes it or not (universalism/human divinity). Should a genuine Christian be associated in any way with such a prize or such a man? In receiving the prize, Chuck Colson has identified himself with its goals and the man behind it—and not only implicitly but overtly. For example, at the February 17, 1993 press conference called by the Templeton Foundation (Sir John and Chuck were both present and spoke) Chuck praised Templeton himself and the Templeton Prize: “And so I salute Sir John for establishing this award and doing it in such a generous way...[etc.].”

Moreover, contrary to what his ministry reports, Chuck has not “presented the gospel” of Christ in conjunction with his acceptance of the Templeton Prize. The above acceptance speech contained repeated references to “moral breakdown,” “moral

values,” a “rising spiritual movement in America,” etc.—ideas acceptable to all religions and even to humanists. While Chuck did refer to “the love of Christ,” the “reconciling power of Christ,” to a friend’s “conversion to Christ,” these were vague terms without any explanation of who Christ is, why He came, what He accomplished, and how we are saved. Chuck described his own conversion as calling out to God to “Take me as I am,” with the added comment that “From that moment to this, my life has never been the same....” Followers of many religions with varying concepts of “God” give similar testimonies. The gospel was *not* presented. Nothing was said that would contradict the false beliefs of Templeton or offend any of the press corps or would lead any of them to saving faith in Christ.

The same was true of Colson’s “Speech to the National Press Club,” March 11, 1993 concerning the reception of the Templeton Prize. Again the gospel was not only missing but some of the “spiritual” terminology he used undermined it. The talk was an appeal for reconciliation between the secular press and the “religious right.” It contained interesting insights into crime, the prison system, and the breakdown of morality in our society. There were once again repeated references to “morality and character,” “spiritual awakening,” “deeper morality,” “moral reformation,” “religious value and religious hope”—vague terms acceptable to almost anyone and adaptable to whatever meaning one cared to put upon them. There were also references to “redemption” and “Christian principles,” but what was meant was not explained. In fact, some of his statements, such as that of placing nonviolent inmates in “work camps or community-based treatment centers” would be “redemptive for the individual by teaching responsibility for his actions” and that “religion provides a moral impulse to do good” undermined the true gospel meaning of “redemption” or “Christian principles.” Chuck mentioned “the love of Christ,” a “beautifully carved crucifix of Jesus hanging on the cross,” but again did not present the gospel. He hinted at it—“only the gospel of Christ can bring about moral reformation...it is Jesus Christ who made a lasting difference in my life”—but never explained how or why.

It has been very sad to hear of evangelical leaders falling into immorality. It is perhaps even more tragic to see a man such as Chuck Colson fall into the trap of ecumenism, compromise, and even praising those who promote it, while at the same time imagining, apparently sincerely, that he is thereby presenting the gospel of Christ!

NOTE: This Q&A section is primarily pulled from the Dave Hunt archives. Although some references may be dated, we believe that there is timeless value within the messages.

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

Dear TBC,

Timely reminder of how long this ecumenism and confusion has been going on and how so many supposed Christian leaders were wolves in sheep's clothing much like the popes and priests of the RCC. I am a former Catholic saved out of that paganism by Jesus Christ, being born again through His all sufficient sacrifice and eternal love and salvation. All Praise, Glory and Honor belong to God only. "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). DM (email)

Dear TBC,

First, the Rapture, then the Great Tribulation, next Armageddon and, then, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to set up His Millennium Kingdom on this Earth and after that, the Eternal State in the New Jerusalem, no more sin, sorrow, death, crying and pain with only Bible Believing Christians. And I am looking forward to being part of it. But first, I'm still looking forward to the Rapture. Thank you. Anon. (email)

Dear TBC,

I hope you guys had a nice Spring. I'm 66 years old. I appreciate your latest article about being a Berean. It's needed today. So, I was just calling to encourage you to "keep on trucking" against the false teachings. So, like the word faith movement, Pentecostalism itself. I'm glad you guys believe in eternal security. I believe in eternal, not the false. Like Jack Vernon McGee said, it's eternal in security for the made believer and eternal security for the true believer. I like what he said years ago. I read and memorized that. Anyway, you guys take care and keep on trucking and keep me on your mailing list as well. Goodbye and take care and have a nice week and everything. Stay encouraged. LW (telecon)

Dear TBC,

On another note, TBC, [in the May article, see—www.bit.ly/LivingAsBereans] you have showed the correlation between ecumenism (which Bob Jones University WAS delving in, with that Sacred Art mess) and racism. When Candace Owens went Catholic, she also went Anti-Semitic. The first modern ecumenist was not Rick Warren, but Adolf Hitler: who actually gathered all replacement theology people, from Catholics to Mennonites, against the Jews. BG (email)

Dear TBC,

Where can you find community and fellowship in the church? Still looking for that. What I have observed in general is that churches that teach the word lack real community and churches that are compromised tend to have stronger community and care for one another more. IMO [the church] needs to really focus on defining community and modeling it so that people have a viable option. Unfortunately, most of my experience has proven that the church is an unsafe environment for relationships. No trust any more. CM (email)

Dear TBC,

[Concerning "Is Psychological Counseling Biblical?", see—www.bit.ly/43tttcf] Besides this, there just are mental and emotional hurts that another human being cannot possibly understand no matter how much you try to explain what's bothering you. It comes down to GOD and GOD alone, Who can not

only understand but heal those hurts. Some things just run so deep that there are no words. A mere human being obviously cannot heal or cure what they cannot understand. No wonder the BIBLE cautions against leaning on the arm of the flesh. And, too, thinking we can solve these problems like God can is pride & arrogance. We need each other, though, but only by God's good Design. DW (email)

Dear TBC,

I've read the Bobgans work... They are truthful and on the right side of the Bible in their research. I just experienced a Jay Adams type counseling and it was not fruitful and did more harm. Fortunately I knew this going into the appointment. Long story on why I was there. I have time and again agreed with the Bobgans...get in the Word. The scripture is your counsel...obey it. This would solve many problems...how easy it is to rely on man and turn God aside. May people's ears and eyes be opened to the truth...The Word is sufficient. CB (email)

Dear Rob and all at TBC,

A great newsletter from start to finish. We are truly blessed by the Lord for giving us godly men obedient in their laboring of His Word to feed the flock. After 38 years TBC is still nourishing me with sound hermeneutics and exegesis, e.g., examining Luke 5:4-5 and John 21:4-11. I can see I need to study the scriptures even more carefully and ponder in the Spirit the deeper meanings.

My daily prayers are with all at TBC, Tom TBC Emeritus, and his family. HG (email)

NOTE: Our purpose in this section is to simply show what kind of feedback we receive. We may respond to some of them in private whether or not we agree with their views.

QUOTABLE.....

For the believer in Jesus, every trial of suffering is an opportunity to grow in the faith, to grow in our relationship with the Lord, and to see Him work in our lives in a uniquely personal way that demonstrates His compassion, His comfort, His tender mercies, His lovingkindnesses, His grace, and His endless love. Only God knows what each of us needs to experience and learn in order to be "conformed to the image of his Son" (2 Corinthians 1:4-5; Romans 8:29).

Whether we or those the Lord has put on our hearts are suffering, let Paul's unceasing intercession for the Colossians be our prayer for ourselves and for our loved ones. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness" (Colossians 1:9-11). Note that it concludes with "longsuffering with joyfulness." No trial of suffering can rob us of our joy in Christ as we are strengthened by Him.

—T. A. McMAHON (EXCERPT FROM "THE VALUE OF SUFFERING"
[THE BEREAN CALL, MAY 1, 2010])

NEWSWATCH

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise
in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

THE LIBERAL BETRAYAL OF THE JEWS

FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 4/30/25, "THE LIBERAL BETRAYAL OF THE JEWS" [EXCERPTS]: The Holocaust inversion that had become so commonplace in anti-Israel arguments was now taking center stage at the D.C. Holocaust museum at an event commemorating the Holocaust. And the man responsible had spent decades running the organization that was supposed to fight antisemitism, only to equate Trump's actions against Hamas supporters with the Holocaust.

In the first 100 days after President Trump took office, the liberal Jewish groups that had at best offered toothless condemnations of over a year of riots by Hamas supporters, including several assaults on synagogues, one on a Holocaust museum screening an Oct 7 documentary, and the harassment of Jews on college campuses nationwide, showed that they were not inept after all.

Instead the same groups that had stood by before quickly organized themselves into a movement to aggressively rally for the Hamas supporters attacking American Jews.

The Jewish Council on Public Affairs run by Amy Spitalnick, a former employee for the anti-Israel lobby J Street, took the lead in standing up for Mahmoud Khalil and other campus terror supporters who had led campaigns to intimidate Jews on campus.

(www.bit.ly/NewsWatch0701)

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ETHICS?

BIBLESTUDYTOOLS.COM, 4/21/23, "WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ETHICS?" [EXCERPTS]: What exactly is Christian ethics? It can seem like a puzzling question. One would think, "Well, the Bible makes it clear how we should live. If ethics is the study of how to be morally upright, shouldn't we just follow the Bible? End of discussion?"

Well, there may be a little bit more to that. For instance, what do we do in gray areas? Such as what the early Christians had to deal with when it came to eating meat sacrificed to idols (1 Corinthians 8).

According to Merriam-Webster, ethics are "a set of moral principles: a theory or system of moral values a person follows and allows to orchestrate their lives."

Regarding Christian ethics, we have made the Bible our set of moral values.

We follow the Ten Commandments and the greatest two commandments set out by Jesus: love God and love others (Matthew 22:34-40).

What distinguishes Christian ethics is the solid foundation it is built on. We do not murder because we believe humans are created in the image of God. We do unto others because when we help the least of these, we help God (Matthew 25).

(www.bit.ly/NewsWatch0704)

MARINE MAMMALS: DESIGNED FOR DEEP DIVING

ICR.ORG, 4/24/25, "MARINE MAMMALS: DESIGNED FOR DEEP DIVING" [EXCERPTS]: There are many fascinating aspects to these amazing aquatic creatures. One of the more astounding facets is the seal's ability to dive deep and stay submerged for upwards of 30 minutes.

The world's deepest-diving mammal is Cuvier's beaked whale, which can go down over nine thousand feet and stay there for well-over three hours.

Creationists recognize the design of diving mammals (including sea otters, pinnipeds, cetaceans, and manatees) put in place by Jesus the Creator. It's not so simple for them to just hold their breath while they dive until coming back up for air. Zoologists realized decades ago there is a significant amount of physiological and anatomical features within the creatures that are critical during a typical dive. Such designs could never come about by chance, time, and natural processes.

Take, for example, oxygen storage during the seal's dive. In addition to oxygen being briefly kept in hemoglobin molecules in the blood, a small amount of oxygen is also in the residual air kept in the lungs. (On prolonged dives, some mammals rely on anaerobic respiration that results in a buildup of lactic acid.) But this is not why they can stay down so long. God placed a molecule in the muscle called myoglobin. This differs from hemoglobin in that it has a single polypeptide chain (hemoglobin has four peptide chains). The concentration of myoglobin in Cetaceans, pinnipeds, and other marine mammals is about 30 times more than in land animals. The muscle in cattle is bright red (think fresh ground beef), but the oxygen-rich myoglobin concentration in whale and seal muscle is so high it's almost black, allowing them to stay submerged for so long.

(www.bit.ly/NewsWatch0703)

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THE *ULTIMATE* FALSEHOOD

EXCERPTED FROM *COUNTDOWN TO THE SECOND COMING* • PP 5-24 • BY DAVE HUNT

SOMEWHERE AT THIS VERY MOMENT on Planet Earth, the Antichrist is almost certainly alive—biding his time, awaiting his cue. Banal sensationalism? Far from it! That likelihood is based upon a sober evaluation of current events in relation to Bible prophecy. Already a mature man, the Antichrist is perhaps active in politics and might even be an admired world leader. Or he could be the head of a multinational corporation, a little-known international banker of great wealth and behind-the-scenes influence, a sports hero—or he might arise suddenly from total anonymity. Somewhere he is being meticulously groomed, though as yet he probably has no more inkling than do those who encounter him daily of the ultimate role for which Satan is preparing him and will, one momentous day, utterly possess him.

Whoever and wherever he is, one passion rules this remarkable man—a lust for power. Even so, benevolence, prudence, integrity, and principle mark his circumspect public behavior. It may be that at this point in his life he is still convinced that his motives are altogether pure and unselfish.

Antichrist! The media has so conditioned our minds that the very word instantly conjures up the image of a sinister man who exudes evil from every pore. But Hollywood caricatures play into the hands of the real Antichrist, since no suspicion will rest upon this one whose admirable qualities so well conceal his dark designs. When the time has come for his surprising world takeover, precipitated by an unprecedented global crisis, he will be hailed as the world's savior, and so he will appear to be.

The apostle Paul dispels popular misconceptions and gives us the awesome facts: “Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...” (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). We may be certain that Antichrist will appear as the purest “angel of light” that Satan can produce.

Society has been undergoing a step-by-step preparation for the advent of Satan's messiah, and in our moment of history has at last produced a generation so perverted that it will actually mistake the Antichrist for Christ. In the name of freedom and right of choice, our most blessed of nations has condemned its unborn to the cruelest of deaths, has made a mockery of the sanctity of marriage, entertains itself with films and music centered on themes of violence, Satanism, and sexual perversions, has all but destroyed millions of its youth with drugs, and has created an urban war zone and a poisoned planet. Evil will soon be ripe for harvest.

Jesus warned that *many* would come claiming to be the Christ. These numerous lesser antichrists who were already in the world, as the apostle John explained in 1 John 2:18, would prepare the way for the real Antichrist who would appear in the last of the “last days.” Behold the ultimate deception: Satan posing as God, Antichrist masquerading as the true Christ, and not just the world, but an apostate church as well, totally taken in by the bold fraud. Instead of

a frontal assault on Christianity, the evil one will pervert the church *from within* by posing as its founder. He will cunningly misrepresent Christ while pretending to *be* Christ. And by that process of substitution, he will undermine and pervert all that Christ truly is. Anything less than such a diabolically malevolent strategy would be unworthy of Satan's foul genius.

This is an altogether different scenario from that envisioned by most people. If they believe in a literal Antichrist at all, they presume he will be an obviously evil ogre whom any child would immediately recognize. In fact, however, he will be the closest counterfeit of Christ that Satan can produce. Completely deceived by this brazen masquerade, the world will hail him as its deliverer.

And right there is where the plot thickens. If the Antichrist will indeed pretend to be the Christ, then his followers must be “Christians”! The church of that day will, with scarcely a dissenting voice, hail him as its leader.

Such perversion and deception are beyond the ability of the imagination to conceive. It is certainly not what the average person has been led to believe. Yet this is the picture which the Bible presents and to which current events ever more clearly seem to point.

How Could This Be?

It becomes immediately apparent that such an unthinkable scenario requires certain preconditions to make it credible. First of all, the apostate church in the last days must become so corrupted that it actually opposes what Christ taught, while at the same time insisting that it is faithful to Him. Satan's lie will be honored as God's truth without the church leaders who deceive, and those who are deceived, even knowing that such a metamorphosis has taken place. Moreover, the preparation for the great delusion must have been well in process from within the “last days” church itself even before the Antichrist appears.

Could Paul have meant anything less when he warned, “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away [apostasy, turning from the faith] first, and [then] that man of sin [the Antichrist] be revealed, the son of perdition” (2 Thessalonians 2:3)? In that day, sound doctrine will be despised (2 Timothy 4:1-4). For many people, objective truth will have been replaced by feelings and experience. For others, intellectualism and skepticism will have justified what will seem to be a very reasonable improvement upon “Christianity.”

Jesus himself, who raised the question whether there would be any faith whatsoever on the earth when He returned (Luke 18:8), used language similar to Paul's. When His disciples asked Him what would characterize the last days just prior to His return, Jesus explained that it would be a time of the greatest religious deception the world had seen to that point, or would ever see again. He prefaced His remarks with this

solemn warning: “Take heed that no man *deceive you*” (Matthew 24:4; cf. 5,11,24).

Those who truly know the Lord and heed such warnings will not succumb to the spirit of the last days. Like God, who weeps over a rebellious world and delays His judgment to give men time to repent, they will have a passion to bring His truth to the world. Everyone who loves God more than this world, and to whom His evaluation of one’s life means more than the fickle opinions of men, will be kept from the delusion that will sweep the world. Those who fear God and keep His Word have no fear of what others may think or say or do to them, because they fear God with deep reverence.

Preparation for Delusion

The world must be prepared both religiously and politically to embrace the Antichrist when he suddenly rises to power. If “Christianity” is to be the official world religion (which must be the case if the Antichrist claims to be Christ returned), then it must become broad enough to accommodate all of the world’s faiths. As for the political climate, the world must be united in the twin causes of global peace and ecological rescue when this man appears.

Through the many astonishing events of recent years, political leaders have found themselves suddenly and almost miraculously transported into a new world where worldwide peace and unity seem within reach. For decades, Westerners lived in fear lest communist totalitarianism move west to swallow the free world. But suddenly, before our very eyes we see a surprising new picture emerging, taking even the most brilliant strategists completely by surprise: Democracy is moving east! The united response to terrorism is forging a new world. At the same time, the competition for a share of the exploding world market is forcing change upon even communist nations.

China has suppressed those seeking democratic reforms, yet even she must eventually succumb to world opinion or suffer increasingly costly isolation from an emerging and growing international community, which has become remarkably united commercially. The Islamic world, too, remains tied to its own agenda and is still susceptible to the sudden call for a “Holy War” against the rest of mankind. But in Arab countries as well as the rest of the world there is a fermenting opposition to autocratic rulers, both religious and secular, and a great longing for democracy that cannot be denied much longer. The native dictatorships in Africa have proven to be worse than the overthrown colonialism, and it may be only a matter of time until these and fundamental Islamic movements are pushed out by popular uprisings. The recent expulsion of Charles Taylor from Liberia; the death by cancer of the former murderous dictator of Uganda, Idi Amin; the ousting and death of murderer and embezzler of billions, Nigeria’s former military dictator General Sani Abacha; and the ouster of Indonesia’s ruthless and corrupt General Suharto (and others suffering similar fates) may be encouraging indicators of how autocratic third-world rulers (Zimbabwe’s Mugabe, et al.) and regimes will fare in the near future.

Within a surprisingly short time it may actually seem that mankind has at last, in the name of freedom, united to eliminate the threat of major war from this planet. Global peace

will have been achieved at last. Strangely enough, that may be the worst thing that could happen, as we shall see.

In the following pages, we will trace events and processes which appear to be putting the props and players in place for Antichrist’s grand entry onto center stage. The curtain is soon to rise upon the final act of human history as we have known it. While God has deliberately hidden much from our eyes, He has told us what He wants us to know about the incredible face-to-face confrontation between Christ and Antichrist toward which events now hasten—and concerning the part that each of us must play.

Prophecy is a difficult subject, and many people have been disillusioned by conflicting and often sensational interpretations. Others feel that the subject is necessarily morbid and depressing and therefore to be avoided. But the true picture is not all gloom and doom, since prophecy also offers an unprecedented opportunity for those who, understanding the “signs of the times,” are willing to believe and act upon what the Bible declares for our day.

Peaceful Words, Provocative Deeds

In spite of terrorism and looming war clouds in the Middle East, the prospect of a peace such as the world has never known seems to be a realistic hope. That the nations of the world will indeed establish an unprecedented international peace, and perhaps fairly soon, is certain, because the Bible has for thousands of years foretold a false peace in the last days.

That time of peace is prophesied, however, not with joy but with sorrow, for the prophets declared that it would precede a holocaust that would threaten the survival of all life on this planet. Why? The answer to this question comprises the entire subject matter of the Bible, which in fact prophesies the coming of *two* periods of global peace. The first will be realized for a time under the Antichrist, and the second will be established by the return of Jesus Christ in power and glory to rule this planet where He was so cruelly rejected and crucified.

Earth’s war-weary inhabitants will greet the first period of peace ecstatically, convinced that the Millennium has dawned. And, for a time, it will appear that the world’s economic, social, and ecological problems have been solved. That will, however, be a great delusion. Biblical prophets have warned that this false peace will usher in the Great Tribulation (after Christ takes His church to heaven in the “Rapture”) and will culminate seven years later in the most destructive war in earth’s history—Armageddon! In somber revelation, the apostle Paul declared:

When they [the world, not true Christians] shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (1 Thessalonians 5:3)

On the one hand, it seems incomprehensible that international peace at last attained should be the prelude to disaster. Yet what else could result from a “peace” established by Antichrist? As always, so today, the world’s leaders pursue their negotiations among themselves in utter disregard for the

essential role that must be played by the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. If mankind could by its own efforts establish a just and lasting peace, it would disprove the Bible—which declares that true peace can come only through Jesus Christ reigning upon earth. In fact, all such humanistic attempts are doomed by man's inherent sinfulness.

Where Are the Voices of True Peace?

Are we suggesting that the world's leaders shouldn't even attempt to achieve global peace? Of course, they must try. But those who are not Christians, driven by necessity to pursue every possible means to establish peace, don't realize the futility of their efforts. Christian political leaders, of course, are also compelled to join their secular colleagues in pursuing world peace. At the same time, they must declare solemnly and clearly to the rest of the world that the only true hope for global peace is to repent for having violated God's laws, to receive Jesus Christ as the Savior who has died for the sins of the world, and then to ask Him to come back to this earth to reign.

Where are the Christian political leaders with the courage to do so? And if they did, who would listen? To stand fully for Christ without any compromise would end any political leader's career.

Peter explained to the first Gentile converts after Christ's resurrection that *peace* was to be *preached* through Jesus Christ (Acts 10:36). To most of today's Christians, that is a radical thought. What pastor or evangelist on radio or television today is preaching *global peace* through Jesus Christ? Paul declared that this peace was both "to you which were afar off [Gentiles] and to them that were near [Jews]" (Ephesians 2:17)—and that this peace was only possible through Christ having died for the sins of the world (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

Those who set out to establish international peace through a world government over which the Lord Jesus Christ is not invited to reign are necessarily on the side of Antichrist. They are preparing the world for his rule, whether or not they recognize or acknowledge that fact. Such is the danger that attends all earthly efforts to establish international peace and unity.

The Delusion of Ecumenism

There are only two persons who will hold absolute rule over this world. The first is the Antichrist and the second is the Lord Jesus Christ. Every person must choose between these two antagonists and their opposing kingdoms. There is no neutral ground.

Those who suggest that we can retain the idea of Christ's return to reign over Planet Earth as the *symbol* of some "spiritual truth" suitable for all religions deny the very foundation of the Christian faith. Christianity is based upon the claims that Christ made about *Himself* and the eyewitness accounts of His life, death, and resurrection as recorded in the New Testament in undeniable fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. The distinctions that make Christianity unique are irreconcilable with any other religious belief, and any attempt at ecumenical unity is a denial of biblical Christianity. Consistent with the distinctiveness of Christianity, the Bible also

teaches that peace will not come to this world through the triumph of Christ's *teachings*, but only through His *personal return to reign from Jerusalem*. In fact, His teachings cannot be separated from Himself. That was the very challenge with which Jesus confronted the Jewish religious leaders in His day:

Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. (John 5:39-40)

How dare anyone think that a world ripening for judgment can be rescued by Christians working together in political/social activism with the followers of all religions, and with humanists and atheists! Scripture says repeatedly that nothing but the personal and physical return of Christ to this earth can put an end to its wickedness and suffering. Paul declared that "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together" as it longs for a release that can come only through "the manifestation of the sons of God" (Romans 8:19-22). Paul makes very clear what this means: That only when Christians have received their immortal bodies and are glorified with Christ (verses 23-25), ruling and reigning upon this earth with Him, will earth be delivered from its turmoil and pain.

The last days before Christ's return are indeed prophesied as a period of growing evil, error, and spiritual delusion, manifested in both the world and the professing church. There are also, however, indications in Scripture that in the last days, millions of people around the world will receive Christ as Savior and Lord, thus hastening His return. Many of them will be the most unlikely candidates for salvation—New Agers, drug addicts, prison inmates, communists, Muslims, Catholics, the poor and the outcasts of society—as Christ seemed to indicate in the parable of the great supper:

Then the master of the house being angry [at those who accepted his invitation, but failed to come to the feast and tried to cover up their unwillingness with pitiful excuses] said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. (Luke 14:21-23)

Evangelicals tend to present the gospel exclusively as a remedy for personal sin and the procurement of an eternal home in heaven. They generally neglect to proclaim it as God's means of bringing peace to this troubled planet, as did the angels at the birth of Christ and as did the early church. It is the duty of every Christian political leader, whether president, ambassador, or other official, to make very clear to the entire world that all human efforts to achieve peace are in vain unless Jesus Christ is invited back to this earth to reign in individual hearts and over all nations.

Viewing Current Events Through Scripture

From the perspective of biblical prophecy, extreme caution is in order, rather than the popular euphoria, in appraising the recent introduction of new freedoms in communist

nations and improved relations with the West. We dare not neglect the guidance of Scripture in evaluating current events. And if we will heed God's Word, we will see that what we have been witnessing increasingly around the world could well be leading not to the solution of mankind's problems but to history's greatest disaster.

How can we make such a definite declaration? Isn't it dangerous to attempt to correlate current events with biblical prophecy? Indeed it is. Nevertheless, if Bible prophecy concerning the "last days" is truly inspired of God, the time must come when what the prophets have written describes current developments. The euphoria of millions freed from communist rule in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union was quickly followed by the misery of even worse poverty. Government oppression was replaced by increasing lawlessness, the influx of cults, the explosion of incipient immorality, corruption, and occultism. The Eastern republics witnessed an Islamic takeover with accompanying terrorism. Is history repeating its endless cycle? Humanistic hopes for a new and better world seemingly find justification in technology's amazing promises. Yet biblical prophecy offers sober insights to those who will heed. William Manchester's gripping biography of Sir Winston Churchill confronts us with unpleasant and haunting reminders of Hitler—a man who came extremely close to being the Antichrist, and who deceived the entire world for a time with his promises of peace:

Thomas Jones, who had been in and out of Whitehall for a quarter century, wrote in his diary: "...all sorts of people who have met Hitler are convinced that he is a factor for peace...."

Meeting the press after he had been closeted with Hitler for an hour, Lloyd George said he regarded him as "the greatest living German...."

Arnold Toynbee...equally spellbound by the Reich chancellor, declared that he was "convinced of his sincerity in desiring peace in Europe and close friendship with England."¹

Winston Churchill was not deceived by Hitler, but he stood almost alone in warning the world that the Fuhrer's real intentions would envelop Europe in war. Looking back with the clear view we now have, it seems incredible that the leading figures of the day were almost unanimous in their praise of the irrational demigod who had become Germany's

leader, and in their confidence that peace was assured. The deception was well-nigh universal. Yet the rising political star whom everyone praised was a dangerous megalomaniac who would one day take his place with the most inhumane monsters in history. Moreover, he had frankly revealed his evil designs from the very beginning, in *Mein Kampf* and other writings, and in his speeches. Yet so hopeful was the world for peace at any price that almost no one was willing to face the painful truth.

So it is today. Like Churchill in England, Netanyahu is one of the few Israeli leaders who was not deceived by Arafat's promises at Oslo. He wrote: "...my party and I were virtually isolated in our warning that Arafat would not keep his word.... We were widely castigated as enemies of peace.... Our argument was that handing Gaza over to Arafat would immediately create a lush terrorist haven...." Of course, he was right.²

History has proven again and again that international leaders can be both mistaken and misunderstood. Key events can be badly misconstrued. Assurances of peace and security can seem never more certain than when the world, in fact, is teetering on the very brink of disaster. On the other hand, the worldwide terrorism still unchecked despite another Gulf War (this time with Iraq conquered) and continuing hopelessness in Israel, could very well be the necessary catalyst to bring about the prophesied false peace. The unforgettable statement by Tajikistan's ambassador to the UN at the UN's emergency session in the wake of the devastation on September 11, 2001, may well be prophetic: "Nothing else in history or even conceivable could possibly unite the world as this event."

Unfortunately, truth in politics is almost impossible to uncover—which makes it all the more important that we discern what the Bible says. If ever there were a time when we needed to ask God for wisdom and seek to understand what His Word has prophesied for our own day, it is now.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

END NOTES

1. William Manchester, *The Last Lion: Biography of Winston Churchill, 1932-40* (Little, Brown and Company, 1988), 82- 83.
2. Benjamin Netanyahu, *Fighting Terrorism* (Noonday Press, 1997), 114.



Countdown to the Second Coming

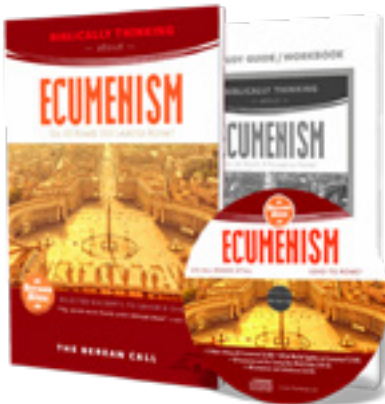
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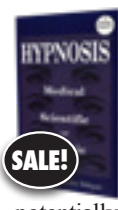


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