

Study for the Month of February, 2011

A Clear View of What Lies Ahead, Part II

By Nathaniel Fajardo

Whole Gospel Ministries, PO Box 1764 Loma Linda, CA 92350

Email:natfajardo777@yahoo.com.

People are asking in fear and in ignorance? Where is all this leading to? Bank bailouts, according to moneycnn.com was over \$ 4 trillion; Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, \$ 154 billion (Washington Post); auto industry, \$ 130 billion, according moneycnn.com, Wall Street (Dangerous Intersection) \$ 202 trillion. These are all taxpayer's money. Poverty is coming upon the world and to the United States, shown to the prophet as the "beast with lamb-like horns" that will soon "speak like a dragon" Revelation 13.

The real reason behind what we are witnessing in the world today--from the historic U.S. crisis in the collapse of Wall Street's credit institutions and the housing market, prompting Congress to pass an unprecedented bailout package, which can run up to trillions when all is told, causing a similar global response from the world's most prosperous nations, the escalation of wars and rumors of wars around the globe, global warming, earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, conflagrations, disasters by land and sea, etc.---were all revealed to God's servants, the prophets. Amos 3: 17.

The "people power" uprising currently shaking up Bahrain, Iran, Egypt, Yemen, and Libya, is threatening to spill over throughout the other parts of the Middle East and also in countries of the world where there are US-propped/supported democratic-dictatorial regimes allegedly to propagate/perpetuate democratic forms of government, or to stave off the alleged rise of neo-Communism or the so-called threat of Fundamentalist Islam. Many well-meaning and brilliant observers believe it is mostly for the access to and control of energy resources, oil, in particular. While they correctly observe that America has plenty to do with this turmoil, they of course do not yet realize the real role that America will play together with the Papacy and Spiritualism in bringing about the enforcement of the "mark of the beast," the final test of mankind before probation closes.

I am here reprinting from the internet important highlights of the Middle East crisis where America looms large in involvement where the wars and conflicts taking place there shows its rapidly-developing dragon-like qualities that will reach its climax in the final religious crisis in the enactment and enforcement of the "mark of the beast." Of particular interest, too, is the use of the mainstream media and skillful propaganda for persuasive mind conditioning and eventual control.

Anup Shah, writing for globalissues.org, updated Dec. 11, 2010 wrote:

"Oil. That is what modern Middle Eastern geopolitics have usually been about. Given the vast energy resources that form the backbone of western economies, influence and involvement in the Middle East has been of paramount importance for the former and current imperial and super powers, including France, Britain, USA, and the former Soviet Union.

“Prior to the discovery of oil, the region had been a hotbed of *religious conflict* and wars over the rich resources and land. The declining Ottoman Empire [collapsed in 1840] paved way for the rising European imperial and colonial powers interested in securing various territories and controlling access to Asia. In more recent times interest in the region has been due to energy resources there.

“As a result, for centuries, western civilizations have been acclimatized to a type of propaganda and vilification of the Arab and the other people of the Middle East, and of Islam in general. This was especially so during the European colonial times, as so vividly examined by Edward Said, in his well-respected book, *Orientalism*. This negative stereotyping has served to provide justification for involvement and to ensure ‘stability’ for the ‘national interests’ of the powers that want to be involved in the region.

“This cultural stereotyping and racism has occurred in the modern times too. Often, especially in the 1980s, war films depicting an Arab or Islamic group as the bad guys were common place, sometimes reflecting prevailing turmoils at the time. Even in the 1990s, those ideas continued, where the bad guys was often a despotic Arab from one of the ‘rogue states’ and as a result of the terrorist attacks against the US in September 11, 2001 and the resulting ‘War on Terror’, such imagery is likely to continue. Over such a long time then, such boundaries of discourse about the Middle East have already been framed. To overstep those boundaries is to be labeled as anti-Semitic, neo-Nazi, anti-West or some other equally negative label. For most journalists in the mainstream then, self-censorship is often the course, sometimes unknowingly,

“To maintain superiority, control and influence over the region, the west has placed corrupt Arab leaders into positions of power and supported the overthrow of those that are not seen as favorable. This has also served to keep their populations at bay, in return for militarization, power and personal wealth of the elite. Sometimes this has been done in the name of fighting Communism. The common theme underlying it has been the struggle to control access to important resources such as oil.

“The Middle East is the most militarized region in the world and most arms sales head there. A suppressed people that see US influence as a major root cause of the current problems in the Middle East has led to a rise in Islamic militancy, acts of terrorism and anti-West sentiment, anti-US in particular. When looking at some of the actions of the US, it can often be seen why this is unfortunately so.

“Middle East: A 1300 Year Struggle for Control of Resources

(Posted Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2001, www.globalissues.org)

“With kind permission from J.W. Smith and the Institute for Economic Democracy, part of chapter 14 from the book, *The World’s Wasted Wealth II*, (Institute for Economic Democracy, 1994) has been reproduced here. It looks back at the 1300 years of struggle over control of resources in the Middle East to give some context to various events in recent history. (Read “Middle East; a 1300 Year of Struggle for Resources” to learn more).

“Control of Resources; Supporting Dictators, Rise of Terrorism (Last updated Dec, 30, 2002). After the Second World War, with former Imperial Europe weakened, countries around the world had a chance to break for their freedom away from colonial rule. This struggle for freedom and the Cold War has a geopolitical impact

on the Middle East. Control of resources and access to oil became paramount, to the extent that dictators and human rights abuses were supported. Within this backdrop, we see another complex reason for the rise of terrorism and extremism. (Read “Control of Resources; Supporting Dictators, Rise of Terrorism” to learn more).

“Energy Security. (Last updated Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010). Energy security is a growing concern for rich and emerging nations as well. The past drive for fossil fuel energy has led to wars, overthrow of democratically leaders, and puppet governments and dictatorships.

Leading nations admit that we are addicted to oil, but investment to alternatives has been lacking, or little in comparison to fossil fuel investments.

As the global financial crisis takes hold and awareness of climate change increases, more nations and companies are trying to invest in alternatives. But will the geopolitics remain the same? (Read “Energy Security” to learn more).

“Iran. (Last updated Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2009). Iran [Persian] has had a turbulent history in just its recent past. From a democracy in the 1950s, Iran seems to have moved backwards, from an authoritarian regime (backed by Britain and the US) that overthrew the democratic one, to a religious fundamentalist regime toppling the authoritarian one and taking an anti-US stance.

“The US ended its support for Iran and instead supported **Iraq** in a brutal war through the 1980s against Iran where over 1 million people died. More recently, Iran was described as being part of an ‘axis of evil’ by US president George Bush, as part on the ‘War on Terror.’

“The US also has accused Iran of pursuing the development of nuclear weapons, while Iran says it is only pursuing peaceful development. Internally, movements towards moderate policies and democratic values are gaining traction, but not with hardliners in power trying to hold on. The section looks into these and related issues. (Read “Iran” to learn more).

“Iraq Crisis. (Last updated Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007). In 2003 the US and UK invaded Iraq under false pretenses (that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction ready for deployment within minutes and posed a great threat to the world, etc.), without the backing of the international community and even with large domestic opposition to war in both those countries.

Since the bombing campaign ended and Saddam Hussein was overthrown, the expected quick democracy, peace, and gratitude to the US quickly became a nightmare and disaster as major religious and ethnic factions started fighting each other and the US/UK occupation forces. The *civilian death toll* has been immense, with 2006 seeing almost 100 deaths a day.

This section looks into issues during the sanctions following the first Gulf War when the US forced Saddam Hussein to get out of Kuwait, which he invaded, as well as the propaganda build-up to the 2003 invasion and issues since. (Read “Iraq Crisis” to learn more).

“Iraq---2003 onwards; War, Aftermath and Post Saddam. (Last updated Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010). Regardless of international opinion and the failure to secure a second UN resolution authorizing war, the US and UK decided to invade Iraq anyway. The Iraqi regime was hardly able to resist and the war ended quickly. However, numerous issues turned up, including:

- Media reporting once again proving controversial as did the intelligence used by US/UK governments;
- That even though democratic transition has been attempted, it has not worked out;
- *That religious and ethnic factions have turned on the occupation forces, and on each other* as the power vacuum was not fully filled by the coalition-backed new democratic government. In 2006, for example, some 100 people per day have been dying from suicide bombings, roadside attacks, and other aspects of sectarian violence, and what looks increasingly like civil war;
- The geopolitical aftermath of the attacks, which will have a long lasting effect, especially as Iran and Syria start to gain more influence. (Read “Iraq---2003 onwards; War, Aftermath and Post-Saddam” to learn more).

“US/UK Buildup for War on Iraq. (Last updated Sunday, Feb. 5, 2006). The build-up on the war on Iraq led to immense media coverage and propaganda. This section looks at the way the US/UK tried to make the case for war based on controversial, often misleading or incorrect messages that the mainstream media often failed to cover adequately, even amidst the immense opposition to the war. (Read “US/UK Buildup for War on Iraq” to learn more).

“Iraq—Post 1991 Persian Gulf War/Sanctions. (Last updated Sunday, Oct. 2, 2005). This section provides a series of articles looking at issues during the period of US-sanctions that were mostly enforced by the US and UK. Issues during this period included the immense civilian toll due to sanctions. Other issues looked at include various bombing campaigns by coalition forces during sanctions, and the impact on the environment. (Read “Iraq—Post 1991 Persian Gulf War/Sanctions” to learn more).

“Palestine and Israel. (Last updated Feb. 1, 2009). (Read “Palestine and Israel” to learn more).

“Palestine and Israel Introduction. (Last updated Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2000). The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, or Arab-Israeli conflict, or whatever name it goes by, is perhaps one of the more sensitive issues that is discussed. The introduction section talks about the western involvement in the Middle East in general, that forms a backdrop to the situation between Palestine and Israel. (Read to learn more on this topic)

“The Middle East Conflict---a brief background. (Last updated Sunday, July 30, 2006). The history of the Middle East region in the past 100 or so years has been violent. Due to the importance of the region primarily due to the natural resources, geopolitical interests have seen immense power-play at work affecting local populations. This section gives a brief time line of the events that have affected the Jewish and Palestinian people from the creation of the modern state of Israel to the conflicts of today. Maps are also provided. (Read to learn more on this topic).

“The Gaza Crisis. (Posted Feb. 1, 2009). The Israeli offensive on Hamas in the Gaza strip on 27th December, 2008 ended Jan. 17, 2009 when both Hamas and Israel

announced separate ceasefires, which have turned out to be quite fragile. The 3 week offensive claimed some 1,300 Palestinian lives, 400 of which were children. Another 5,000 were injured including some 1,800 children and 800 women. Thirteen (13) Israelis were also killed. How did this crisis come about and what were some of the issues raised? (Read to learn more of this topic).

“Crisis in Lebanon, 2006. (Last updated Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2006). According to most mainstream media outlets, the kidnapping of an Israel soldier by Hezbollah in mid 2006 sparked off the crisis in Lebanon. While Hezbollah has been firing many, many rockets at civilian targets in northern Israel, Israel has retaliated with air strikes at Beirut and elsewhere, bombing civilian infrastructure. The UN has described both sides as committing war crimes. Thousands have become refugees in Lebanon and Israel, as innocent civilians attempt to flee bombardment. Bush and Blair’s stance give the appearance of a green light to Israel to continue its wave of attacks in order to route [root] out Hezbollah, but they too have received criticism from around the world for this. But there were a number of incidents *before* the kidnapping that contributed to this latest crisis.

“Oslo dead? Violence and Palestinian Uprising in 2000. (Last updated Thursday, Jan. 16, 2003). The end of September and October, 2000, has seen a series of violent events unfold that probably unofficially mark the end of the Oslo accords. The 1993 Oslo Accord, whereby Israel recognized the PLO and gave them limited autonomy in return for peace and an end to Palestinian claims on Israel territory, has been largely criticized as a one-sided accord, that benefits only Israel, not the Palestinian people.

A former Israeli general, Ariel Sharon (accompanied by 1000 soldiers) visited a holy Muslim site, called the Temple Mount by the Israelis, and Haram al Sharif (Noble Sanctuary) by the Muslims and proclaimed it as eternal Israeli territory. Sharon had been accused of massacres in his military days and well known to all. He is very right wing and against the peace process. This infuriated Palestinians, and led to a series of protests and violence.

Around the world, countries have condemned Israel’s excessive violence. Human Rights groups have likewise criticized the Israeli forces.

This article looks at the rising violence, and also introduces other articles looking at media reporting, how Palestinian, Israeli, US, and UN leadership reacted, and the quality of media reporting. (Read to learn more of this topic).

“Palestine/Israel Links to more information. (Last updated Monday, Nov. 12, 2001). This part provides links to many other websites and resources for more in-depth information. Sources include web sites and commentators that are critical of the mainstream, of the US, Israeli and Palestinian leaderships. Many include Jewish commentators, that provide an interesting perspective on the issues as they strongly object to the actions of the Israeli leaders. Palestinian perspective are also provided. (Read to learn more of this topic).

“The ‘Threat’ of Islam.” (Last updated Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2003). Often when Islam is mentioned negative impressions of fundamentalists, intolerance and terrorism are conjured up; Islamist movements and organizations are automatically linked with terrorism and are blamed for lack of progress in the Middle East process. Islam is

stereotyped as a threat to democracy without distinguishing it from terrorism or corrupt leaders who use the ideals of Islam to their own ends. (Read to learn more of this topic).

“The Strikes against Afghanistan and Sudan. (Last updated Thursday, July 15, 1999). When US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam were bombed, the US retaliated by bombing two sites *suspected* of being involved in the appalling bombing which cost the lives of many innocent people. Eight months after the bombing, the US quietly admitted it made a mistake.”

The Prophesied End-time Role of America

First, it is absolutely vital for all Christians to search the Scriptures as to what God has revealed will be the role of America in earth's closing events, particularly given in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

As the type, we read in Daniel chapter 3 that Nebuchadnezzar, the king of ancient Babylon, endeavored to force the three Hebrew youth to *false worship* by insisting that they bow down to the golden image he had erected. He was unsuccessful in coercing them by a death threat. In this fiery-furnace episode they *could* still have worshipped the true God, but in Daniel chapter 6 there is an attempt to *prohibit* even true worship—which is the worship of God according to the dictates of conscience---which can only be practiced and enjoyed while church power and state powers remain separate.

In the antitype, Revelation reveals that God's people in the last days will first be enticed to false worship, and finally be prohibited from worshipping God—according to dictate of conscience—the essence of true liberty. God's faithful people, fully distinguished beyond doubt by then, will not yield on either point. They will be as faithful as the three Hebrew youth who were cast into a fiery furnace that had been heated up seven times. Later, under Darius the Mede, Daniel, the world's greatest statesman, was thrown into the lion's den for faithfully practicing *his religion*---without having it enforced on the nation, though he could have influenced its enforcement as prime minister with practically unlimited powers. The reason for the steadfast faithfulness in the time of crisis will be the same as it was for Daniel and his friends---they will have developed a strong, intimate, intellectually and spiritually-sound, loving individual relationship with Jesus, their Lord and Savior. Such a relationship is the most important thing we must have as we enter the final scenes of earth's history. Are we in that growing relationship?

The Main Issue of the Final Controversy

“From the very beginning of the great controversy in heaven it has been Satan's purpose to overthrow the *law of God*. It was to accomplish this that he entered upon the rebellion against the Creator, and though he was cast out of heaven he has continued the same warfare upon the earth. To deceive men, and thus lead them to transgress God's law, is the object which he has steadfastly pursued. Whether this be accomplished by casting the law aside altogether, or by rejecting *one* of its precepts, the result will be ultimately the same. He that ‘offends in one point,’ manifests contempt for the whole law; his influence and example are on the side of transgression; he becomes ‘guilty of all.’ James 2:10.

“In seeking to cast contempt upon the divine statutes, Satan has perverted the doctrines of the Bible, and errors have thus been incorporated into the faith of thousands

who profess to believe the Scriptures. The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning *the law of God. Upon this battle we are now entering*---a battle between the laws of men and the precepts of Jehovah, between the religion of the Bible and the religion of fable and tradition.” *Great Controversy*, p. 582, 1911 ed.

“In the movements now in progress in the United States [begun in the 1880s] *to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state*, Protestants are following in steps of the Papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. And that which gives greater significance to this movement is *the fact that the principal object contemplated is the enforcement of Sunday observance*---a custom which originated with Rome, and which she claims is the sign [or mark, seal] of her authority. It is *the spirit of the papacy*---*the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration for human traditions above the commandments of God*---that is permeating the Protestant churches and leading them on to do the same work of Sunday exaltation which the papacy has done before them.”- *Ibid*, p. 573.

“The prophecy of Revelation 13 declares that the power represented by the beast with lamb-like horns shall cause ‘the earth and them that dwell therein’ to *worship* the papacy---there symbolized by the beast ‘like unto a leopard.’ The beast with two horns is also to say ‘to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast;’ and, furthermore, it [“the beast with the lamb-like horns”] is *to command all, ‘both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,’* to receive the mark of the beast.’ Rev. 13: 11-16.

“It has been shown that the *United States* is the power represented by the beast with the lamblike horns, and that *this prophecy will be fulfilled when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance*, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgement of her supremacy.

“But in this homage [worship] to the papacy, *the United States will not be alone*. The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion [in Europe and the Philippines, etc.] is still far from being destroyed. A prophecy foretells a restoration of her power. ‘I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast.’ Verse 3. The infliction of the deadly wound points to the downfall of the papacy in 1798. After this, says the prophet, ‘his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast.’

“Paul states plainly that ‘*the man of sin*’ will continue until the second advent. 2 Thess 2: 3-8. *To the very close of time he will carry forward the work of deception*. And the revelator declares, also referring to the papacy: “All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, *whose names are not written in the book of life.*’ Rev. 13:8. In both the Old and New World, the *papacy* will receive homage [worship] in the honor paid to the *Sunday institution*, that rests solely upon the authority of the Roman Church.” – *Ibid*, pp. 578-9.

NOTE: This prophecy of Revelation 13 has been steadily been progressing, but few realize because they are caught up with the numberless schemes of the enemy of all truth.

“When the *leading churches* of the United States of America, *uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common*, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, then *Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy*, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.”- Ibid, p. 445.

NOTE: There are only two main doctrines, two trunks as it were from which all other doctrines branch out from, which, through the centuries had been held in common among the Christian churches since after the first and early second century of the Christian dispensation. In fact, in one of the two, until this very minute, is also shared in common with all non-Christian religions and even what Christians call heathen and pagan religions. They are (1) the immortality of the “soul” (2) Sunday sacredness.

“A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in our land [the United States, *in the original*]. The rulers of our nation will, by *legislative enactments*, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God’s people will be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall *enact laws to bind the conscience of men in regard to their religious privileges* [and rights guaranteed by the Constitution], enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land. (Review & Herald, Dec. 18, 1888).

“When the land which the Lord provided as an *asylum* for His people, that they might *worship Him according to the dictates of their own conscience*, the land over which for long years the shield of Omnipotence has been spread, the land which God has favored by making it the depository of the pure religion of Christ---when that land shall, *through its legislators*, abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance to Romish apostasy in tampering with God’s law---it is then that the final work of the man of sin will be revealed. Protestants will throw their whole influence and strength on the side of the Papacy; *by a national act enforcing the false sabbath, they will give life and vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, reviving her tyranny and oppression of conscience*. Then it will be time for God to work in mighty power for the vindication of His truth. [Ps. 119:126].

“The prophet [John] says: ‘I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power, and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen and has become the hold of devils. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.’ Rev. 18: 1-5. **When do her sins reach unto heaven? When the law of God is finally made void by legislation.** Then the extremity of God’s people will be His opportunity to show who is the governor of heaven and earth. As a satanic power is stirring up the elements from beneath, God will send light and power to His people, that the message of truth may be proclaimed to all the world.”- *Maranatha*, p. 179.

NOTE: The “light and power” that God will send at that time evidently is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the promised latter rain! The Revelation 18 “other angel,” elsewhere referred in the Spirit of Prophecy as the “fourth angel,” is descriptive of the worldwide movement and proclamation of the final loud cry under the power of the latter rain. Earth’s probation closes soon after for “the final movements will be rapid ones.” The

statement that “the extremity of God’s people,” when the law of God is finally made void by legislation, “will be His opportunity to show who is the Governor of heaven and earth”. . . shows that the Sunday law will be passed first, followed by the outpouring of the latter rain.

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the Papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation [the United States] will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestants shall stretch their hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp the hands with spiritualism, when, under the influence of this three-fold union our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near. (5T 451).

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hands of spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this three-fold union, this country [America] will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling upon the rights of conscience. . . .

“Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept will accept the form of godliness without the power, and *they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long expected millennium.*

“When our nation [America] shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact as Sunday law, Protestantism in this act join hands with popery; it will be nothing else than giving life to the tyranny which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into active despotism.” – *Ibid*, p. 190. See Maranatha, p. 191:

NOTE: All diligent students of history and prophecy should now catch on to the steady tread of events. We are progressively approaching the stupendous crisis that will confront all mankind (Rev. 3:10) and bring on the final, closing events of earth’s history. The real issue is not really over oil, gold, rare metals, socialism, the rise of neo-Nazism and white supremacy neither sharia law of Islamic fundamentalist nor the supposed take over of the world by super phantom-like secret organizations of the so-called “New World Order.” These are all but smokescreens designed to deceive and mislead the credulous from the real issue and focus of the great controversy between Christ and Satan started in heaven---it is over the law of God. The prophecies of **Daniel 11** are soon to be fulfilled alongside Revelation 13.

Study Daniel and the Revelation: They Were Written More For Our Time!

“At this time---the last days of earth’s history—we are to make the book of Revelation a special study. Why? because it depicts the scenes we are to meet. We need to understand what we are to meet and how to meet it. We must know what efforts we are to make so that in this perilous time we shall not be taken in by the enemy’s devices. We know that the last great conflict will be Satan’s most determined effort to accomplish his purposes. He will come, not only as a roaring lion [1 Pet. 5: 8], but as a seducer, clothing sin with beautiful garments of light that he may take human beings in his snare.” *Upward Look*, p. 368.

“No one needs to be deceived *if* they will take the Word of God their study. How little is the book of Revelation studied! It is a hidden mystery to the Christian world: And why? *Because the events not pleasant for their consideration, are so faithfully traced by the prophetic pen*; and the people who are in any way troubled about the matter are soothed with the statement from their shepherds that the Revelation cannot be understood. *But it especially concerns us who are living in these last days* [Rev. 1: 3 quoted]. Read the last chapter of Revelation carefully and prayerfully [Rev. 22: 13, 14, 16 quoted].” *Letter 56*, Jan. 19, 1896; *Last Day Events*, p. 160.

The Real Agenda Behind all Wars and Conflicts

See Rev. 12:7; Matt. 24: 6; Mark 13:7; Luke 21; 9; Eph. 6:10-18. “Satan delights in *war*; for it excites the worst passions of the soul, and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. It is his object to *incite nations to war against one another*; for he can thus *divert* minds of the people from *the work of preparation to stand in the day of God*. “*Prepare to meet thy God*” Amos. 4:12.

Calamities and Disasters Will But Increase

Review the book of Job. “Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was allowed to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, uses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world has shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord does just what He has declared that He would do; He withdraws His blessings from the earth, and removes His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law, and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others, and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.”

The Precipitating Events

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he (Satan) will bring disease and disaster until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. *In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrible hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves [tsunamis], and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, is Satan exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine [drought] and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.* Destruction shall be upon the inhabitants of the world. The beasts of the field will groan, and the earth will languish. [See Rom. 8:22; Isa. 24: 1-23].

Ultimate Goal: the Enforcement of the Mark of [the authority] of the Beast

Rev. 13: 15-18; cf. Exo. 20: 8-11; Eze. 20:12, 20. “And then the great deceiver [Satan, working through his special agencies] will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of heaven will charge all their troubles upon the faithful few whom the Lord has sent to them with messages of

warning and reproof. It will be declared that the nation is offending God by the violation of the Sunday-Sabbath, that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until the Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced, and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the nation, preventing its restoration to the divine favor and temporal prosperity.” – E. G. White, *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, pp. 407-8, 1884.

Great Bank Failures Predicted; Warnings Against Real Estate Speculation

On earthly riches see: Matt. 13:22; James 5: 1-6; Ps. 49: 6, 7; 73: 1-28; Prov. 23:5; Eccl. 4: 8; 5: 13, 14; Luke 8:14; Heb. 11: 24-26 ; 1 Tim. 6:10, 17-19. –

“The message from the lips of Christ is, ‘Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in heaven that faileth not.’ (Luke 12:32, KJV). *There will be many great failures in earthly banks and speculations, including mining and real estate.* How pleased Satan would be if, in the very time when men should be selling their possessions to sustain the cause of God he can so deceive them that all their available means shall be *invested in land speculation and other worldly enterprises*, thus taking away from the cause of God means which should flow into the treasury to advance His work on the earth.” – *Letter 41*, 1887, p. 4; *Adventist Apocalypse*, p. 20.

Satan Causes Floods which will Increase in Frequency

“The enemy has worked, and he is working still. He is coming down in great power and *the Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the earth*. God has withdrawn His hand. We have only to look at Johnston [Pennsylvania] flood. *He did not prevent the devil from wiping that whole city out of existence. And these very things will increase until the very close of earth’s history*, because he [Satan] has come down in great power, and he works with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish [2 Thess. 2:10]. What is he doing? –Going about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour [1 Pet. 5:8]. *And when he sees those who are resisting the light, and God does not shelter them, he will exercise his cruel power upon them.* This is what we may expect.” – *Adventist Apocalypse*, p. 22.

Where Lies the Hope of God’s People?

See Rev. 22: 6: “In the darkest days of her long conflict with evil, the church of God has been given revelations of the eternal purpose of Jehovah. His people have been permitted to look beyond the trials of the present to the triumphs of the future, when, the warfare having been accomplished, the redeemed will enter into possession of the promised land. These visions of future glory, scenes pictured by the hand of God, should be dear to His church today, when the controversy of the ages is rapidly closing, and the promised blessings are soon to be realized in all their fullness. . . Fellow pilgrim, we are still amid the shadows and turmoil of earthly activities; but soon our Savior is to appear to bring deliverance and rest. . . Soon we shall see Him in whom our hopes of eternal life are centered. And in His presence the trials and sufferings of this life will seem as nothingness. The former things shall not be remembered, nor come to mind.”-Prophets & Kings, pp. 722-5, 731, 732.

What is the Necessary Preparation for the Coming Final Events?

“The servants of Christ are to prepare no set speech to present when brought to trial for their faith. *Their preparation is to be made day by day, in treasuring up in their hearts the precious truths of God’s Word, in feeding upon the teaching of Christ, and through prayer strengthening their faith*; then, when brought into trial, the Holy Spirit will bring to their remembrance the very truths that will reach the hearts of those who shall come to hear. God will flash the knowledge obtained by diligent searching of the Scriptures into their memory at the very time when it is needed.”

“You are *now* to get ready for the time of trial. *Now* you are to know whether your feet are planted in the Eternal Rock. You must have an *individual experience* and not depend on others for your light. When you are brought to the test, how do you know that you will not be *alone*, with no earthly friend at your side? Will you then be able to realize that Christ is your support? Will you be able to recall the promise, ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world? There will be invisible ones all about you bent upon your destruction. Satan and his agents will seek in every way to make you waver from your steadfastness to God and His truth. But if you had an eye single to His glory, you need not take thought as to how you shall witness for His truth.’ RH April 26, 1892

“Many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary through the time of trouble. Those who receive the *seal* of the living God and are protected in the time of trouble must reflect the image of Jesus fully. . . . I saw that none could share the refreshing [of the latter rain] *unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word or action*. We should, therefore, be drawing nearer and nearer to the Lord and be earnestly seeking that *preparation* necessary to enable us to stand in the battle of the day of the Lord.” – E.G. White, *Early Writings*, p. 71.

NOTE: This “battle of the day of the Lord” refers to the sixth plague particularly. **See L.H. Were’s materials: ____.**

“Their robes must be spotless, their characters must be purified from sin by the blood of sprinkling. Through the grace of God and their own diligent effort, they must be conquerors in the battle with evil. While the investigative judgment is going forward in heaven, while the sins of penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon the earth.” – Great Controversy, p. 425.

See 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 John 3:3. “Not one of us will ever receive the **seal of God** while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the *latter rain* will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost.” – Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 214. “They [those who have known these truth for years] had *neglected* the needful preparation, therefore they could not receive the refreshing (latter rain) that all must have to fit them to live in the sight of a holy God.” – Early Writings, p. 71

“Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, *and overcome, be the price what it may*, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness [to the Laodiceans], and they will receive the latter rain, and thus fitted for translation.” – Testimonies, vol. 1, pp. 187-8.

“The sins of [spiritual] Israel must go to judgment beforehand. Every sin must be confessed at the sanctuary, then the work will move; it must be done now. *The latter rain is coming on those that are pure*—all then will receive it as formerly. None receive the latter rain but those who do all they can. Christ will help us. All could be *overcomers* by the grace of God through the blood of Jesus . . . *Get ready. Set thine house in order.*” – E. G. White, *GC Bulletin*, p. 179, 1893. (See “Facing Life’s Record,” GC, pp. 479-491).