

*God's  
Intervention  
in World  
Affairs*

Global Church of God

# *God's Intervention in World Affairs*

by Roderick C. Meredith

*Staggering crises face a  
bewildered humanity over  
the next decade or two.  
The world's supply of good food  
and clean water is dwindling.  
Millions are destined for starvation.  
Pollution is now a massive global  
problem. And the United States is  
saddled with swiftly growing national  
debt of truly gargantuan proportion!  
Where will it all lead? And what does  
the Creator God have in mind?*

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Millions of Pentecostal and Evangelical Christians believe that Jesus Christ may come at any time. They see world events shaping up according to Bible prophecy. And they want to be “ready.”

The *Los Angeles Times* quoted Franklin Graham, son of Evangelist Billy Graham, as saying, “The churches believe that everything is coming to a head and that God is moving. Many people in the evangelical community believe that the return of Jesus Christ could be at any moment—and I’m one of those” (Dec. 31, 1995).

For decades, many iron-lunged evangelicals have thundered in revival tent meetings, “Jesus Christ may come TONIGHT. You need to be ready to meet your Maker NOW!”

Although any of us could die prematurely, is it *likely* that the Jesus Christ of the Bible will come tonight? For most people in this world, the *reality* of divine intervention does not seem very real. Even among “believers,” there is great disagreement as to *when* and *how* Christ will return or *if* He will literally return at all.

Will God intervene suddenly and mysteriously—totally unexpectedly? Or has the Almighty revealed a specific *chain of events* that will inform and warn those who take the Scriptures seriously?

What does the BIBLE really say? You need to know!

Due to the general lack of faith in the Word of God today, it is necessary to state that God is NOT capricious. The Creator of the universe does NOT plan things for fanciful, impulsive or temperamental reasons. God the Father will send Jesus Christ back to this earth at a time when His Second Coming will make the difference between life and death for the human race. Preachers who fatuously intone “tonight is the night” are doing a grave disservice to those who listen to them. The return of Jesus Christ is deadly serious business. It is a question, possibly, of YOUR survival!

Only from one place, the Holy Bible, can you find the

*revealed knowledge* about this crucial question. Most of the ideas and speculation of men about Christ's return are sheer nonsense—based on nothing but guesses and vanity!

## Endtime World Conditions

The Bible reveals that man's technological knowledge will be vastly increased just before Christ returns. It will also be a time of mass travel and large movements of immigrants: "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" (Dan. 12:4).

Despite this boom in technological ability, man's know-how in *spiritual* things is stagnating! Our ability to get along with each other just has not improved over the last 4,000 years. Jesus said, "But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt. 24:37).

The Bible clearly reveals that Noah's day was characterized by rampant *sin* and *violence*: "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.... And God said to Noah, 'The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth'" (Gen. 6:5, 13).

The Apostle Paul was also inspired by God to look into the future to describe the last days as "perilous times"—times of crass materialism, moral degradation and a false spirituality that denies the POWER of the true God of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Does this description fit our present Western civilization?

Another characteristic of the general time leading up to Jesus' return will be the abundance of horrifying wars and destruction (Matt. 24:3-20). Jesus warned that there would be a definite threat of human EXTINCTION—if He did not intervene to save man from his deadly ways: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened" (vv. 21-22).

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## A Vision for the Future

Consider this vision of the future: An alarming series of crises face a bewildered humanity. The world's supply of good food and clean water dwindles due to pollution that degrades the environment and global warming that alters weather patterns. Millions face hunger and, eventually, starvation. Some areas struggle with horrendous winter storms and massive flooding while other areas wither in drought under a blazing sun! These weather upsets exact staggering financial tolls, bankrupting many insurance companies.

Massive earthquakes, occasional volcanoes and insect plagues further drain international and local disaster relief resources. Ethnic tensions, unemployment and pervasive urban crime cast a pall of insecurity over your community. Life becomes increasingly cheap. After all, what is the cost of a couple of bullets or a knife?

Devastating disease epidemics afflict tens of millions! As the climate warms, exotic diseases once confined to Third World tropical countries move north with certain species of disease-carrying mosquitoes and other insects. Drug-resistant infectious bacterial strains breed rapidly in hospitals, wiping out the effectiveness of antibiotics and other "miracle" drugs. Bioengineering practices to provide humans with transplant organs from baboons, pigs and other animals facilitate the dangerous mutation of deadly bacteria and viruses that consequently leap the previous barrier between animal and human susceptibility to one another's diseases. The young, the poor, the elderly and the unfortunate sometimes die in staggering numbers. Mass burials of the dead become commonplace.

"Nonsense," you say? "Never will happen where I live," you argue. "Unwarranted doom and gloom," you assume. "Besides, my government and modern technology will save me from such problems," you hope.

Oh really? Will your armies, police, social security and health care systems indefinitely insulate you from such looming foreign and domestic terrors? Don't bet on it!

Most Western governments, including the United States, are saddled with swiftly rising public debts that have grown to truly

gargantuan proportions! Painful budget cuts are the fodder of many nations' political debate. In many Third World countries, the priority is to spend money these days on guns—not health care or pensions—due to social insecurity.

If you are an American, a Canadian, a Briton, an Aussie or a resident of one of the comfortably wealthy Western powers, take note. Fiscal irresponsibility on a national scale presages a clear decline in future prestige and power. And if your country is going to have to cut back due to lack of income, what will be the effect on you as an individual? Is it really all blue sky up ahead? Or are there storm clouds on the horizon?

## A Somber Portrait

Consider some of these news reports:

“Dr. Abdul Wahab Achakzai is medical officer at the Civil Hospital in Chaman, a poor and dusty Pakistani bazaar town. Each day, 700 to 800 children and adults stream into his flyblown establishment near the Afghan border for treatment of diseases ranging from malaria to tuberculosis.

“The government gives us 120 rupees’—less than \$4, Achakzai told a visitor one afternoon as he examined a shivering 5-year-old girl who he suspected had been bitten by a mosquito carrying vivax malaria. Less than \$4. That’s not per patient. That’s the hospital’s daily subsidy, Achakzai said” (*Los Angeles Times*, “Theirs Are the Silent Deaths,” Dec. 3, 1995). Could such a decline in the public health care system take place in your country? In many places, cuts in health care for the poor, the young and the aged have been a fact of life for years already.

“Climatic disasters are causing such expensive damage worldwide that the insurance industry and, increasingly, bankers have plunged into studies of global warming.... Since 1990, the insurance industry worldwide has paid out \$48 billion for weather-related losses, compared with losses of \$14 billion for the entire decade of the 80s” (*Los Angeles Times*, “Rising Cost of Climatic Disasters Giving Insurers Pause, Report Says,” Jan. 14,

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1996). Insurance companies and bankers worried?

This same *Los Angeles Times* article also quoted from a Worldwatch report about the world's dwindling food supply: "Barring any new technologies that can lead to quantum jumps in food production... the world is facing unprecedented difficulty on the food front.... The lack of growth in the world grain harvest since 1990 coupled with the continuing growth in the world population and the increased likelihood of crop-damaging heat waves in the years ahead at least carries the potential of severe food shortages.... **Food prices spiraling out of control could trigger not only economic instability but wide-spread political upheavals.**"

"Unless more attention—and money—are focused on agricultural research and conservation, the tragic famine in Somalia will seem 'infinitesimal' compared with the massive food shortage the world will face by the end of the decade, leading agricultural researchers warned Friday at a symposium in Washington on food, poverty and the environment" (*Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 30, 1993).

Consider this report on a recently published study by the Journal of the American Medical Association: "Counting virtually every American who died from 1980 to 1992, federal researchers have found that deaths from infectious diseases, formerly on the decline, rose 58 percent over that period.... Infectious diseases are now the nation's third leading cause of death, behind heart disease and cancer.... In a somewhat gloomy editorial in the AMA Journal, Dr. Joshua Lederberg, a Nobel laureate at Rockefeller University, said that 'we have unprecedented mixing of people: A million passengers a day cross national boundaries by air, not to mention the movements of armies, refugees and road transport as well-documented vehicles for the rapid spread of disease.... **We have never been more vulnerable**'" (*Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 17, 1996).

Sexually transmissible diseases are also exploding. The AIDS crisis *is* getting worse. "The number of AIDS cases diagnosed in the United States since 1981 has passed the half-million mark, with Americans accounting for one out of every nine cases worldwide, federal health officials said Friday. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that as of the end of October, a total of



501,310 people had been found to have AIDS. Of those, 62 percent have died” (*Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 25, 1995). And HIV/AIDS is the third-leading cause of death among adults aged 25-44.

Now the AIDS epidemic is spreading rapidly among women. A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Bulletin states: “Women account for more and more AIDS cases—they were only 7 percent of all AIDS cases in 1985, but jumped to 18 percent in 1994. AIDS is now the fourth leading cause of death among women 25-44. And AIDS is actually increasing faster in women than it is in men.”

Jesus Christ prophesied that just before His return there would be “famines”—lack of food—and “pestilences”—disease epidemics. Presently we are seeing just the beginning of these curses, which will increase until they have a *massive effect* on our entire way of life!

## **But Aren't Many Things Getting Better?**

Is life, in general, getting calmer around the world? “The Cairo embassy reflects how visibly America abroad is in retreat and how diplomacy, once a glamorous job that involved mostly political schmoozing, cajoling and convincing, is increasingly about the skills of *survival*....

“Over the past 16 years, U.S. embassies and consulates have been attacked, bombed, mobbed or seized more than 360 times. And 409 American diplomatic personnel have been killed, taken hostage or injured—more than during the previous two centuries combined” (*Los Angeles Times*, Nov. 11, 1995).

Is the crime wave licked? “For all the heartening news offered by recent crime statistics, there is an ominous flip side. While the crime rate is dropping for adults, it is soaring for teens.... The rate jumped 16 percent for youths between 14 and 17, the age group that in the early 90s supplanted 18- to 24-year-olds as the most crime-prone. And that is precisely the age group that will be booming in the next decade.... ‘This is the calm before the storm. So long as we fool ourselves in thinking that we’re winning the war against crime, we may be blindsided by this bloodbath of teenage violence that is

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lurking in the future'.... Nearly all the factors that contribute to youth crime—single-parent households, child abuse, deteriorating inner-city schools—are getting worse. At the same time, government is becoming less, not more, interested in spending money to help break the cycle of poverty and crime” (*Time*, “Now for the Bad News: A Teenage Time Bomb,” Jan. 15, 1996, p. 52). Criminologists are warning that the coming generation may become “superpredators” without a consciousness of right and wrong—having never been loved, nourished and positively disciplined.

At the same time, to the disgust of many in conservative, traditional communities in other parts of the world, Hollywood and its imitators grow fantastically wealthy by merchandising moral degeneration through violent, sex-filled videos and CDs. Such a corrupt influence is increasingly seen as a social evil that ought to be kept out!

But all of these previously mentioned problems are just the beginning of the story. The world continues to face nuclear proliferation on a truly massive scale. While you might rejoice at the breakup of the Soviet Union, the immense amount of weaponry that nation possessed—including nuclear weapons—is now in danger of being sold to the highest bidder! Will a resilient Saddam Hussein buy the bomb? How about the militant ayatollahs of Iran who still hold mass rallies and scream that Britain and America “must be destroyed”! They also are suspected of being close to making nuclear bombs on their own! And these aren't the only countries who want nuclear “respect.”

How long will the weakened and downsized American military keep the U.S. as the world's only superpower? How long will the much faded U.S. dollar remain as the world's “reserve currency” in which most commodity prices from oil to coffee are quoted? How long will the U.S. government be able to borrow and repay in its own currency to cover its debts? In 1999 a potential “reserve currency” rival—the European Union's *euro*—will be created. By 2002 this new currency will possibly be in the pockets and banks of over 300 million Europeans. What a shock it would be for America to have to buy its oil and pay its debts in somebody else's currency!

The American standard of living would fall dramatically, while the world's balance of power would be rearranged almost overnight.

When all these trends are combined, they describe a vision for the future that sounds very scary! What's going on? To those who have studied, traveled widely and who understand the complexity of these issues, it is evident that we live in "perilous times." World events are shaping up as described in Bible prophecy! Change is in the wind, but perhaps not in the way many have thought.

## **What Does God Have in Mind?**

Religious people ask themselves, "What does the Creator God have in mind?" *Los Angeles Times* religion writer Larry Stammer surveyed the attitudes of a variety of leaders in the religious community. Some of these leaders foresee a literal wave of religious fervor sweeping across America in response to these destabilizing trends. Stammer noted, "For growing numbers of Christians, especially Evangelicals and Pentecostals, there is a palpable sense that the kingdom of God is near, that God is up to something big—and that it is going to happen soon.

"Sociologists and historians of religion say there is little doubt that religious fervor is on the rise. But they say the heartfelt longings of believers to see the face of an 'unchangeable' God is a predictable reaction to an accelerating tide of secular change throughout society, as well as economic uncertainty and a sense that traditional values and human decency are on the wane" (Dec. 31, 1995).

Despite secular skepticism, the ultimate understanding and resolution of these future "perilous times" are contained in a book many people may feel sentimental toward, but really don't know much about. This book is the Holy Bible. It speaks with authority about the future of our nations. It reveals prophecies about awesome events to overtake all humanity.

Although little realized by people in the modern world, the Jesus Christ of the Bible was the greatest Forecaster of future events who ever lived. The Apocalypse or book of Revelation describes what Jesus Christ directly revealed.

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Notice the first verse of this exciting and meaningful book: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John” (Rev. 1:1).

But these prophecies were not only given in the Apocalypse. They were also spoken by Jesus Christ while He was on the earth. The entire chapters of Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 are devoted to Jesus’ famous Olivet Prophecy—a vital prophecy describing the sequence of events leading directly to the end of civilization as we know it today, and leading to the beginning of a very different age.

The discussion began as Jesus’ disciples asked, “Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and the *end of the age?*”—this age of man’s rule (Matt. 24:3). After listing a series of conditions, including the appearance of false prophets, local wars and world wars, famines, disease epidemics and earthquakes, Jesus described a “GREAT TRIBULATION” on the earth—**“such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be”** (v. 21).

The worst time of trouble ever to hit this earth? Tragically, yes. The Jesus Christ of your Bible prophesied this in unmistakable terms. The gospel of Mark renders Jesus’ statement this way: “For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be” (13:19).

Grinding poverty, drought and starvation, raging disease epidemics and finally worldwide violence will threaten the extinction of biological life—all these are clearly predicted in the Bible to occur near the end of this human civilization.

But is that really the end of it all?

Jesus stated unequivocally, **“And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [or left alive]; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened”** (Matt. 24:22).

Those days are to be cut short for the “elect’s sake”—the sake of true Christians who truly serve and obey God.

However, *before* God’s merciful intervention, He is going to

allow the Western world to experience a time of unparalleled national anguish—called in Bible terminology the Great Tribulation. It will be a time of national punishment affecting the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and most of the nations of northwestern Europe.

## Why the Great Tribulation?

God Almighty is the One who makes and *un*makes nations. He is the One who—hundreds of years ago—foretold the soon-coming formation of a final European Empire or “United States of Europe,” which He will use to punish America, Britain, Canada and the other nations just mentioned!

Together, we are God’s people—the physical descendants of the biblical Patriarch Israel. The Almighty is going to rebuke and chasten us for our mounting *sins* just as He does every son He loves (Heb. 12:6). If you want to know *who you are*, if you want to know the origin and *prophetic identity* of the British-descended peoples of the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and northwestern Europe, then write for your *free* copy of our brochure, *America and Britain in Prophecy*. (Please see the address box on page 26.)

In Isaiah 47:1, God speaks of a *virgin daughter* of ancient Babylon. He describes her future punishment: “Sit in silence, and go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans; for you shall no more be called the Lady of Kingdoms. I was angry with My people; I have profaned My inheritance, and given them into your hand. You showed them no mercy; on the elderly you laid your yoke very heavily” (vv. 5-6).

Notice that God speaks of *My people* and *My inheritance*. Remember that the house of Israel is called *My inheritance* and God calls them *My people* (My house or My heritage) repeatedly in the Old Testament (Is. 19:25; Jer. 12:7-9).

Remember also that it was the ancient Assyrians who invaded and conquered the Ten Tribes of northern Israel. But this prophecy pictures a *daughter*, a religious-economic-politi-

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## Does the Bible Mention the USA and UK?

Abraham was promised that his descendants would be as the sand on the seashore (Gen. 22:16-17). This promise was passed to his grandson, Jacob. God told him his descendants would include a “nation and a company of nations” (Gen. 35:10-12). In his old age, Jacob passed these great promises on to his grandsons, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen. 48:15-20). These promises were not just to be “top dog” in the Middle East. The descendants of Israel were to be “high above ALL nations” (Deut. 26:19).

Where and when did God fulfill these promises? The kingdoms of David and Solomon were great, but did they fit this description? No! Although Solomon’s kingdom was probably the wealthiest of its day, it was a single nation, not a “nation and a company of nations.” Furthermore, its size and population were very small compared to the Chinese empire at the time. Since Solomon, no nation headquartered at Jerusalem could claim to be “high above all nations.” Has God forgotten these many promises over the long years?

Certainly not! The answer is found in 1 Kings 12 and 2 Kings 17, 24 and 25: **After the death of King Solomon, Israel and Judah became separate nations and are still separate today!** Israel was conquered by Assyria and Judah by Babylon over 100 years later. Both were deported, but only the nation of Judah returned!

It is a fascinating story, too long to tell in this booklet, but the facts are there. Modern-day Israel is really the ancient kingdom of Judah—the Jews. The ancient kingdom of Israel lost its identity and **is now “as the sand which is on the seashore”:** **the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada and much of northwestern Europe.** The biblical and historical evidence is there, though many prefer to ignore it. If you would like to know more about this subject, please write for our free brochure entitled, *America and Britain in Prophecy*.

cal system in the spirit of ancient Babylon that will rise up in modern times and impose a “yoke” upon the physical descendants of God’s people Israel.

Notice that she is called *lady of kingdoms*, and that she says, “I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children” (Is. 47:8). To understand who this *daughter of Babylon* is, we should not use faulty human reason, but **let the Bible interpret the Bible**. In Revelation 17, we find this same false system described perfectly. Study this chapter.

The Bible uses symbols to illustrate spiritual concepts. The Scriptures symbolically tell of a great *whore* clothed in purple and scarlet in Revelation 17 who politically lobbies and “gets in bed” with the leaders of this prophesied economic- political-military power (v. 18). This scarlet woman represents a false religious system which is labeled as: “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (v. 5). The “waters” where she holds dominion are “peoples, and multitudes, nations, and tongues” (v. 15). This evidently describes a type of polyglot federation or empire. Truly, as Isaiah prophesied, she is a “lady of kingdoms.”

Also, compare Isaiah 47:7-8 with Revelation 18:7, “For she says in her heart, I sit a *queen* [have power], and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.”

Coming now to the time when this prophecy was to be understood in the latter days, we find that in this ungodly system “there are seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short space” (Rev. 17:10).

Many prophecy students realize that this system is the Holy Roman Empire, which dominated Central Europe and the Mediterranean region for more than 1,000 years from late antiquity to the early 19th century. By transforming, moving and reinventing itself repeatedly, this political system proved as hardy as any tenacious weed. The five most famous heads of this system were, in chronological order: Justinian, Charlemagne, Otto the Great, Charles the Great and Napoleon.

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## The Final Humanly Devised Empire

The most recent revival of the Babylonian-Roman system was pictured as existing when this prophecy was first understood by Herbert W. Armstrong in the late 1930s. It was the Mussolini-Hitler Axis power bloc. Mussolini acknowledged that he was attempting to revive the Roman Empire system.

In Revelation 17:11-12, we see that one more head is to rise up—one more revival of this system is to take place! Notice that the *ten horns* pictured on the original beast are ten kings—or dictators! **They have received no kingdom (power) as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast.** Here we see that ten kings or dictators are to rise up simultaneously and unite in pledging their support to a charismatic leader whom the Bible calls “the beast.” Where will this last revival of the Holy Roman Empire be? Who will these kings and nations be?

The answers are clear! This empire, which united church and state, has resurrected itself repeatedly in Central Europe and/or Mediterranean-bordering lands. And it is this same church-state power that God condemns throughout Revelation 17 and 18.

It is in continental Europe where the system *will* rise again! It will have the form of a “United States of Europe,” a European Empire, which will undoubtedly be dominated—not by democracy-loving Britain—but by a governmental system that consolidates power in the hands of a few key players in Europe AND has an official connection with a powerful religious influence!

Notice also in Revelation 17:14 that this system finally comes to its end waging war against the *Lamb*—Jesus Christ at His Second Coming as King of kings. And the time for these things is soon, as the prophecies in Matthew 24 indicate.

Prophecy is *dual*. God used ancient Assyria to punish the Ten Tribes of northern Israel more than one hundred years before the house of Judah was taken captive by Babylon (2 Kings 17:6).

In this *time of the end*, however, God is going to use the modern descendants of ancient Assyria together with the prophesied modern revival of the Babylonian/Holy Roman Empire sys-



tem to punish His wayward, sinning people—primarily Canada, Britain and America. These modern descendants of the Patriarch Israel are going to be punished for their sins **just as surely as our ancestors were**. And the Jews, plus the other remaining tribes of Israel and the Gentiles who live among them, will also receive their share of punishment at the same time.

Let's be very plain and clear. In the years just ahead of us, my friends, you are going to read and hear news reports about the *decline* of the English-speaking peoples of the world! It won't usually be phrased that way, but you will notice, increasingly, that the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia and New Zealand will all have more and more *problems*. We will have financial difficulties. We will gradually be pushed aside in the arena of world leadership. When we do try to lead and intervene militarily or otherwise in world affairs, we will make more and more mistakes than ever and be *more resented* than ever. And the Iranians and others who now call America the "*Great Satan*" will be joined—at least in spirit—by a large number of important nations.

At first, many nations will profess to feel *sorry* for our present ineptitude and difficulties. But, gradually, they will turn increasingly hostile and bitter—especially against the United States. Due to envy, they will feel we have been the big man on the block for too long. We have been rich and powerful. And we have been the exporter of decadent entertainment and a selfish lifestyle that causes genuine disgust and revulsion in other societies.

## Deadbeat Nations

America, Canada and Britain are far along the road to becoming *deadbeat* debtor nations! U.S. interest-only payments on the federal debt currently eats up 14 cents of every tax dollar collected. The United States owes trillions of dollars that we will **never be able to repay! Who will be left holding the bag—and holding it angrily!**

Perhaps other nations may convince themselves that they are *justified* in attacking [repossessing?] a nation whose renowned exports included a lifestyle promoting drugs, sex, rock 'n' roll

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and bad debt. Will we be accused by other nations in the future of *borrowing their money* and continuing to live *high on the hog* with no real intention of *ever repaying them!*

Notice God's instruction to His true ministers just before this horrifying Great Tribulation begins: "Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: 'Thus you say, "If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?"'"

"Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. TURN, TURN from your evil ways! For WHY WOULD YOU DIE, O house of Israel?'" (Ezek. 33:10-11).

Yes, indeed.

If we would as a people truly REPENT and turn to God and begin to keep His commandments, He would relent. He would postpone this national punishment for another generation or two. For God says, "Turn, turn from your evil ways!"

But how many of you really believe that Britain and America will experience a genuine revival of true religion! Do you really think we will start studying the Scriptures and begin living by them! Or will we stop being known as nations filled with the criminally inclined? Can we stop indulging in the illicit sex that produces fatherless children by the millions? Do we have the guts to rid our entertainment media of rotten sexual perversions and violence? Could we return to exercising self-control to stop abusing liquor and drugs? Or stop divorcing our spouses or abusing our children and turn to honor God by keeping His commandments and doing those things that are pleasing to Him (1 John 3:22)?

Unfortunately, most of us know better than that. **But unless a real, genuine repentance occurs, the Great Tribulation is just ahead!**

Only the Second Coming of Christ as King of kings is going to spark a real change of heart on a nationwide scale and that only after tremendous suffering! What a paradox! What a sad situation it is that before this world can experience the best of times we must go through the very worst of "perilous times." Fortunately, Jesus

Christ *is* coming again and He will set up a real, literal government here on this earth to save us from the mess we have gotten ourselves into. Jesus' government will teach mankind the laws and ways of God in that future time. People who fervently desire to be genuinely Christian can and should be preparing—*right now*—to have an active part in Christ's soon-coming Kingdom.

## **What Did Jesus Really Say!**

Throughout His Gospel, Jesus constantly spoke about a coming Kingdom of God on earth. In the parable of the pounds, Jesus showed the reward for those who used their talents and time to zealously serve God. To the one whose pound had increased ten times, Jesus said: “Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities” (Luke 19:17).

Jesus did not say that His faithful servants would “roll around heaven all day”—with nothing to do! Rather, He said that the saints would participate in the coming Kingdom of God. They would rule over five cities or ten cities—depending on how much they grew spiritually and multiplied their “pounds” or “talents.”

The real Jesus Christ predicted that He would return to this earth as King of kings and set up a world government (Matt. 25:31-34; Rev. 19:11-16).

So Jesus' message—the Gospel of the Kingdom—involves a world government. There is a great need for purity, decency and peace to be restored to this earth. That is why the Apostle Peter proclaimed that God would again “send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:20-21).

Peter said a new beginning for the world was foretold by God's appointed spokesmen throughout time! What did these spokesmen predict about the direct government of God being established on earth?

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## The World Ahead

The Prophet Micah described these coming days of peace: “Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it. Many nations shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’

“For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken” (Micah 4:1-4).

Note that men will not learn war any more. This is the language of peace and prosperity, with people enjoying rest and the fruit of personal endeavor. None shall be afraid, for not only nationally but individually, mankind will be learning to obey God’s laws.

The law that will go forth from Jerusalem to nations (v. 2) is, of course, the Ten Commandments. The basic spiritual law of God has been the foundation of God’s instruction to mankind from the beginning.

During His ministry on earth, Jesus was asked by a young man about the way to eternal life. Jesus answered, “If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” “Which ones?” the young man persisted. Jesus responded, “‘You shall not murder,’ ‘you shall not commit adultery,’ ‘you shall not steal,’ ‘you shall not bear false witness’” (Matt. 19:17-18).

A global society based on the Ten Commandments, with the promised help of the Holy Spirit to empower people to keep them, would have no wars and virtually no crime, adultery, broken marriages, juvenile delinquency or lying. National budgets

could eliminate all expenditures for the military and most of what is now spent for the local and national police systems. Many other “necessary” government services could also be eliminated as “no longer necessary.” Such services contribute quite heavily to high taxes. With no lying or stealing, you can imagine the massive amounts of money saved simply because there would be no need to worry about burglary, shoplifting, business rip-offs and cheating on taxes.

What a blessed society!

Yet it is coming—as sure as the rising and the setting of tomorrow’s sun! And this society will be peopled by men and women who—through Christ’s mercy, help and guidance—will be keeping the Ten Commandments as a way of life.

As God promised for that time: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you.... I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them” (Ezek. 36:26-27).

Their land will become fabulously fruitful and prosperous as it has not been for thousands of years. Men and women will be given a new spirit—of obedience to God—and so the world will finally be at peace.

What many fail to realize is that this coming time of peace under Christ’s rule on earth is also a major element of the Gospel or “Good News” which Christ Himself preached. It is a vital message about the coming world government!

From the beginning to the end of His ministry on earth, Jesus Christ constantly talked about the coming Kingdom of God. The word “Kingdom” is about government—a way of running a country or group of nations.

After teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum, Jesus said, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent” (Luke 4:43). In what is called the Lord’s prayer, Jesus tells us to pray: “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). He instructs us to pray that God’s government will be *restored* to this earth!

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## The Millennial Rule of Christ

When Jesus appeared to the apostles after His resurrection, they asked Him, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6). If the Kingdom of God was merely spiritual fluff and not a real government as told by dozens of Old Testament prophecies and by Christ’s own statements, then here Jesus had a marvelous opportunity to dispel that notion.

But did He?

On the contrary, Christ said, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority” (v. 7). So the apostles kept right on preaching the Good News of the coming government of God. To the end of the Apostolic Age, Christ’s apostles continually preached about the coming Kingdom or government of God to be set up on earth, with Christ Himself as “King of kings” (Rev. 19:16).

Even after the death of the original apostles, many of the early church leaders continued to teach and preach the message of the coming one-thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth. The eminent historian, Edward Gibbon, wrote about how widespread this teaching was in early Christianity: “The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millennium was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. As the works of the creation had been finished in six days, their duration in their present state, according to a tradition which was attributed to the prophet Elijah, was fixed to six thousand years. By the same analogy it was inferred that this long period of labor and contention, which was now almost elapsed, would be succeeded by a joyful Sabbath of a thousand years; and that Christ, with the triumphant band of the saints and the elect who had escaped death, or who had been miraculously revived, would reign upon earth till the time appointed for the last and general resurrection” (*The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. 1, p. 403).

We are now near the *end* of six thousand years of recorded human history! It will soon be time for Christ’s Kingdom to be set

up on this earth. It will be the end of six thousand years of human society under the sway of Satan the devil (Rev. 12:9; 20:3). It will be the end of six millennial “days” during which mankind has written the lesson of human suffering—suffering to show the great lesson that man’s ways are *wrong*—that humanity apart from God does not know how to live in peace and happiness.

The Living Jesus Christ must return to save us from ourselves—from literally annihilating all life from off this planet through nuclear war and other means of mass destruction (Matt. 24:22)! Those who truly heed Jesus’ message will have the awesome opportunity to join the returning Christ in **RULING** over the nations of this earth during the soon-coming seventh millennial day—the millennial Sabbath of one thousand years during which Christ and the true saints restore **PEACE** to this troubled planet. The Apostle John was inspired to describe the coming millennium: “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

## **True Christians Will Have a JOB to Accomplish**

The true saints will *not* go wafting off to heaven at Jesus Christ’s return. Rather, we will have a challenging and exciting responsibility *under* Christ who will be King of kings. For Revelation 2:26-27 states: “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the potter’s vessels shall be broken to pieces’—as I also have received from My Father.”

Notice that our future role is to *rule* the nations with a rod of iron. Obviously, there are *not* rebellious nations up in heaven! So we will be stationed here on earth, where the problems are and where we can work with Christ to provide the solutions.

In the “prayer of the saints” given in Revelation 5:8-10, it indicates that God has “made us kings and priests to our God; and

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we shall *reign on the earth.*” And Jesus promised the twelve apostles: “And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:29-30).

Individual Christian “overcomers” will rule over cities. And each of the twelve apostles will rule over an entire tribe of Israel here on earth. To whom will the twelve apostles report?

In describing the regathering of the people of Israel from their captivity in the coming Great Tribulation, God inspired Hosea to write, “Afterward the children of Israel shall return, seek the LORD their God and David their king, and fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days” (Hosea 3:5). So in the “latter days,” all Israel will be regathered and King David will be *resurrected* from the dead—along with all of God’s true saints—and he will rule again over all Israel.

In Jeremiah 30, God describes how He will restore Israel from its coming captivity and, “Foreigners shall *no more* enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them” (vv. 8-9). Note that nearly all scholars agree that Jeremiah was written about 600 B.C.—nearly 400 years after King David’s death. So these scriptures are describing what happens at the time of the resurrection from the dead (John 5:28-29). Jesus Christ will return as King OF kings. The literal King David of the Bible will be resurrected to become one of these spirit-born kings reporting to Christ. Serving under David will be the twelve apostles. And serving under them will be thousands of the *true* saints of God—ruling over individual cities as we have already seen in Luke 19:11-19.

“David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them” (Ezek. 37:24). So all Israel shall once again learn God’s laws and His statutes. And the people will have rulers who are fully instructed and skilled in the laws of God—something God always intended (Deut. 17:18-20).

King David stated glowingly: “Oh, how I love Your law! It is my



meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me” (Ps. 119:97-98).

## **Our Challenge and Opportunity**

All of us who want to be part of that Kingdom must think like King David! We need to love and to meditate on God’s spiritual law, the Ten Commandments. We need to study the statutes of God and especially how they are all magnified in the New Testament. This is how we learn God’s righteous and merciful ways of abundant living. Then, we will be far more qualified to teach and administer those laws in the World Ahead—the coming Kingdom of God!

Many, many other scriptures make it clear that the Kingdom of God is a literal government to be set up on this earth. God inspired the Apostle Paul to explain this same thing: “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” (1 Cor. 6:2-3).

The true saints of God have before them an AWESOME challenge and opportunity! For we will rule not only humans on this earth but even the angelic hosts of God who are now used to “minister” to us and help us prepare for our coming responsibilities in the World Ahead (Heb. 1:14). For some who have not really studied the Bible, this may seem startling and quite a departure from the traditional idea that most Christians have of going off to heaven with *nothing* to do! Yet, the inspired Word of God continually sets before you and me this calling, this hope and this work.

This is the reward of—and the awesome challenge for—the true saints of God. We need to use our talents and abilities now in God’s service. We need to overcome sin and Satan and so be truly prepared to serve under the Living Jesus Christ.

Can all this be spiritualized away? Are true Christians really called to just drift off to heaven and do NOTHING for all eternity?

After describing how the final “evil empire” is taken away

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and destroyed, notice what Daniel prophesied: “Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” (Dan. 7:27).

Coming right after the destruction of the final revival of the Roman Empire—the final attempt at humanly devised one-world government—this is obviously speaking of a literal, divine government being set up on this earth. And this government is given to the “saints of the Most High.”

How clear!

In Psalm 149, we read a plain statement about the opportunities of the true saints of God to deal with the dictators who will exalt themselves just before Christ’s return to earth. Notice: “Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute on them the written judgment—this honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!” (vv. 5-9).

If you and I will genuinely surrender ourselves to the Living Jesus Christ, if we will OBEY Him and serve Him, then the Father will give us the magnificent opportunity to help bring real PEACE and JOY to this earth at last. For we will have learned the way of peace which the nations of this earth do not now know (Is. 59:8).

Remember God’s own description of faithful Christians: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12).

## **Christ’s Message a Coming Reality**

The powerful Good News God sent to mankind by Jesus Christ has not only to do with the wonderful offer of total forgiveness from our past sins and mistakes, it has to do also with a world government soon to be set up and ruling all the earth! It will not be a warlike, competitive *human* government. Rather, the

Creator of all humanity will intervene to save, to teach and bring us to spiritual maturity.

His rule will change everything around you—the entire human society, the educational systems, the religions, the cultures and class structures—and eliminate the politics, the wars and the sufferings. These are *massive* changes we are talking about! Our daily diet of television, the kind of radio programs and music we listen to, the threat of mugging, rape, and murder in our streets, our parks and even in our schools—all this will be *changed*.

*Don't kid yourself!* This is not religious “fluff.” This is the *real* GOD who made us in His image intervening to *shake* this world to its senses and, finally, to save the world and bring it true peace, prosperity and happiness.

Even the physical earth itself—suffering these many centuries because of human sin and neglect—will be restored to beauty. “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose” (Is. 35:1).

These are God's plans for the future. And He has the total wisdom and supreme power to bring them about! You need to come to *know* and *understand* the will of the great GOD who will *soon intervene* in our world and change everything!

If you would like to learn more, and be able to really prove these things from the Bible, then keep viewing the *World Ahead* television program and reading the *World Ahead* magazine. Write for free literature on this subject. And *study* your own Bible as never before.

The God of creation *will intervene* in human affairs—and soon! Ultimately, it will be a positive and wonderful thing—beyond the ability of most of us to grasp now. But we all need to understand and *be prepared* for what God has definitely planned for our future.

Get ready! Humbly *seek* God and His revealed will in the Holy Bible. Be willing to DO what God says. Then, God's intervention will be an awesome BLESSING to you and your family. As Jesus told His faithful followers, “Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near” (Luke 21:28).

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