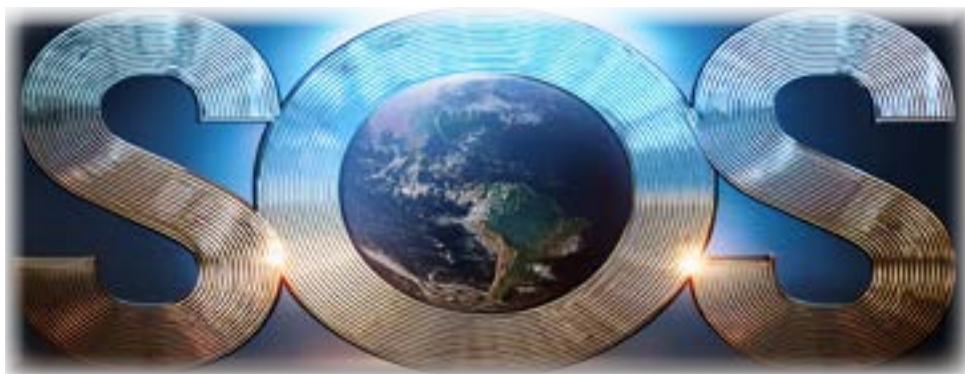


BE READY

What is the world heading for?



- War and conflict increasing with a threat of mass destruction. People living in insecure and dangerous situations, with violence and wickedness increasing everywhere.
- Around 700 million people go hungry every day. Even in developed countries poverty increases as people struggle with rising prices, homelessness and shortages. Increase in natural and man-made disasters threaten the only environment we can live in.
- Instability in the world economic system with countries like the USA, UK and EU, Russia and China in trouble. Unpayable debts affecting nations and individuals with warnings of system collapse at some stage in the future.
- Mobile phones, computers, Internet, AI, Digital ID – technology taking over our lives. Potential threat to humanity from technocrat control.
- Loss of moral values and faith in God leading to many people being trapped in a hopeless and meaningless existence.

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All of this can lead people to be fearful about the future, asking the question, 'What is the world heading for?'

The answer is to be found in the pages of the Bible which tells about the events that will happen immediately before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth. Jesus told us to be ready for His return, especially when you see the things happening on earth which are happening now. He said, '[Be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.](#)' Matthew 24.44.

Jesus was asked by His disciples, '[What will be the sign of your \(second\) coming and of the end of the age?](#)' Matthew 24.3. He gave a series of signs, firstly speaking of general signs of disorder in the world – deception and false prophets leading people astray, wars and conflicts increasing along with famines, plagues and earthquakes (natural disasters). There would be an increase in persecution and lawlessness, creating conditions like the days of Noah before the Great Flood (violence and wickedness). At the same time the message of the Gospel would spread to the ends of the earth. This period is described as the 'beginning of sorrows' or the labour pains of the last days in the Gospel of Matthew 24.4-14.

This period is happening now

The 'beginning of sorrows' period will change into the more intense period of trouble known as the Great Tribulation: 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. Matthew 24.21-22. This will be a unique time of trouble unlike any that has been before or will be again, which would bring about the end of life on earth if God did not cut it short. It is also described in some detail in various passages in the Hebrew prophets, for example Isaiah 24, Jeremiah 30, Ezekiel 38-9, Daniel 12, Joel 2-3, Zechariah 12-14. We can work out from prophecies in Daniel and Revelation that this time of trouble will last for seven years, divided into two halves of three and a half years each. The last half of this period will be the most severe time of trouble.

This time is not yet happening, but world events are shaping up for it

The time of trouble will end with an event that is totally unique in human history, the Day of the Lord according to the Old Testament and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ according to the New Testament. When Jesus returns, He will not come in the form He came the first time, as the Suffering Servant prophesied in Isaiah 53. When Jesus came the first time, He fulfilled this prophecy, laying down His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world and rising from the dead to give forgiveness of sin and eternal life to all who turn to Him in repentance and faith. At the Second Coming Jesus will come again

with all the power of God at His disposal to judge the world in righteousness and set up the Messianic Kingdom age in which there will be peace and justice on earth, fulfilling prophecies in the Hebrew Bible like Isaiah 2 and 11.

Jesus described what will happen at the moment of His second coming to earth with these words: '[Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.](#)' Matthew 24.29-31.

This event will bring judgement on the world in rebellion against God: 'And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, '[Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?](#)' Revelation 6.12-17.

The world under the power of the evil one

The Second Coming will also bring an end to the rule of evil in the world. According to the Bible the current world

system is under the power of the devil. The place of protection from this power is in a relationship with the Lord:

['We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.'](#) 1 John 5.19-21.

Just before He went to the cross Jesus said:

['Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.'](#) John 12.31-32.

The devil or Satan is the ruler of this world system. Whatever political form it takes, democracy, dictatorship, left wing, right wing, religious, atheistic, capitalist, communist, there will be a Satanic agenda working. This is leading up to the coming of the last super bad man known as the Beast or the Antichrist, who will take power in the world before the second coming of Jesus Christ.

At the same time there is a restraining influence on evil through God's grace and the influence of the Holy Spirit and the Bible. Some political systems are better than others, but the devil will remain the ruler of this world's darkness until the 2nd coming of Christ. The Bible tells us that in the last days before Jesus' return God's restraining influence on

evil will be removed, causing a unique form of evil to arise in the person of the Antichrist:

‘For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’ 2 Thessalonians 2.7-12.

This passage describes the coming of the ‘lawless one’ who is the Beast, or the Antichrist described in Revelation 13. In his days the world will go into the Great Tribulation period, the final seven years before the return of Jesus Christ to the earth.

At some stage in this process an event will take place which is unparalleled in human history, when the Lord Jesus comes to take those people who believe in Him out of this world into His presence. This event, known as the rapture of the church, is described in 1 Thessalonians 5.15-18: ‘The Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead

in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.’

This means that there is a day coming when all true believers in Jesus will be supernaturally taken out of the world. At this point they will be taken outside of this realm ‘to meet the Lord in the air’. In order to live in this new realm, they will need new resurrection bodies as we read about in 1 Corinthians 15.42-55: ‘Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory”.’

Those who experience this change will receive a new resurrection body no longer subject to corruption (sickness, aging, injury) or mortality (death), which is able to live in the eternal realm forever with Jesus. This will be the most amazing experience which will take true believers out of the desperate situation which is coming on the earth. Those left behind will then face the horrors of the great tribulation, so it is important that you make your decision to accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord now.

Jesus told us in Matthew 24.36-44 that this event will come at an unknown date, unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect”.

A thief does not ring you up to tell you when he is coming. Therefore, the sensible person takes necessary precautions to prepare for the possibility of the thief coming at any time. In the normal use of the word, a thief is a bad person coming to steal what does not belong to him from the person who is the rightful owner. However, in this case, the thief represents the Lord Jesus coming to take what does belong to Him, His redeemed people. This will be the prelude to Him taking away power from the devil who has become the ‘ruler of this world’ by treachery and deception.

At His Second Coming to the earth Jesus will take back the rulership of the world from the devil and establish the rule of the kingdom of God, firstly for the 1000 years of the Millennium (Messianic kingdom) on earth, then in the eternal state in the new heavens and new earth (see Revelation 20-21, Isaiah 2.1-4, Isaiah 11-12, Zechariah 14 and many other passages in the Bible).

The rapture event will happen unexpectedly, as the flood came on the unbelieving world in the days of Noah, when life is going on as normal. People will be doing normal activities like eating and drinking, marrying, buying and selling, building and planting. See Luke 17.26-30. It will come at an hour when people do not expect it.

There is a debate amongst those who take these scriptures literally as to whether the rapture will happen before, (pretribulation view) in the middle of, or at the end of the final period of the Great Tribulation (mid or post tribulation view). If the rapture comes before the Great Tribulation, we should be ready for it to happen at any moment and so prepare for that by accepting Jesus the Messiah as Saviour and Lord and telling other people to do the same. If it happens in the middle or at the end of the Great Tribulation, we should prepare for a time of trouble coming, unlike any that has been before or ever will be again (Matthew 24.21).

Personally, I believe there are good reasons to take the pretribulation view – in other words the rapture event could

happen any time now. Therefore, we need to be ready for it. At the same time, we acknowledge that the event has not happened yet so we cannot be dogmatic as to exactly when this prophecy will be fulfilled. According to the pretribulation view, the order of events is as follows:

1. The present state of the world corresponds to the 'time of sorrows' leading to the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24.4-14).

2. The rapture of the church takes place during this period and may happen at any time, so we should be ready for it now. Relevant scriptures are 1 Thessalonians 4.13-5.11, 2 Thessalonians 2.1-12, 1 Corinthians 15.51-58, Matthew 24.36-44, Luke 17.20-37.

3. The Great Tribulation follows the 'time of sorrows'. This is the seven-year period during which the Antichrist has power on earth under the controlling influence of the devil. 2 Thessalonians 2.1-12, Revelation 13, 17. It will have a particular focus on Israel and the Jewish people in the 'time of Jacob's trouble' (Jeremiah 30), which God will save them out of.

4. Jesus returns in power and glory, destroys the powers of evil, rescues Israel in the final battle. The Beast / Antichrist and the False Prophet are thrown into hell. The devil is bound in the abyss. (Revelation 19-20).

5. Jesus reigns as Lord on earth for 1000 years (the Millennium or Messianic Kingdom) bringing peace and justice to the earth. During this time Satan is no longer able to deceive the nations. Jerusalem, the Temple and Israel are

restored at the centre of the earth and become the seat of power of the reigning Messiah. Revelation 20, Isaiah 2, Isaiah 11, Zechariah 14.

6. Satan is released for his final rebellion at the end of the 1000 years before being finally defeated and thrown into hell. Revelation 20.7-10. The Great White Throne judgement takes place, at which all whose names are not written in the 'Lamb's book of life' (redeemed believers in the Messiah) are thrown into hell. Revelation 20.11-15.

7. God creates the new heavens and the new earth in which true believers will be with the Lord forever. 2 Peter 3, Revelation 21-22.

If the rapture happens at the end of the tribulation period, then the order of events in this table is changed with number 3 (the Great Tribulation) preceding number 2 (the Rapture of the Church).

Either way we must be ready for His return by accepting salvation through Jesus the Messiah. Those who do this have the Light of the World to guide them through the present world darkness. Jesus is the Light for the Last Days:

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 8.12.

Now is the time to get right with God and so be ready for the coming event when Jesus returns. He told

the parable of the ten virgins to illustrate this:

'Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!" Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your



oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves." And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us!" But he answered and said, "Assuredly, I

say to you, I do not know you." "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming". Matthew 25.1-13.

In this parable the Bridegroom is the Lord Jesus at His second coming. The virgins who have oil in their lamps represent the saved believers who have the Holy Spirit in their lives and are therefore ready to meet the Lord (oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit in the Bible).

Those who have no oil are not saved believers, though they may be nominal Christians. When the Lord comes, they find themselves outside knocking on the door that is shut and unable to enter into the joy of the coming kingdom. You don't want to be banging on a door that is shut. So go through the open door into the presence of the Lord now:

Then Jesus said to them again, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly".*

John 10.7-10

USA: Golden Age or Fall of Babylon?



At his inauguration as 47th President of the USA on January 20th, Donald Trump said, "The golden age of America begins right now. From this day forward, our country will flourish and be respected again all over the world. We will be the envy of every nation. America will soon be greater, stronger, and far more exceptional than ever before. I return to the presidency confident and optimistic that we are at the start of a thrilling new era of national success. A tide of change is sweeping the country. Sunlight is pouring over the entire world, and America has the chance to seize this opportunity like never before."

So, will it be a Golden Dawn for America? Or will Babylon fall?

Before Trump came to power the nation was in a state of deep trouble with rampant crime, violence and an assault on its values, particularly those based on the Bible. Biblical teaching on marriage and family life has been replaced with

sexual immorality and LGBT rights, Christianity replaced with multi faith religion, humanism and New Age occultism, and patriotism replaced with 'white guilt' and a constant denigration of America's history and values by the liberal elite. The diversity agenda created conditions in which people are given jobs on the basis of racial or sexual identity rather than their ability to do the job. Mass uncontrolled immigration has threatened social stability, while drug addiction, homelessness and a failure to enforce the law have resulted in dangerous conditions of unrest and violence in major cities.

The same applies to a greater or lesser extent in the UK and Europe, but only in America has a political force arisen to power, able to take on this trend and try to reverse it. President Trump's MAGA ('Make America Great Again') had widespread support from people who were fed up with having ridiculous things being imposed on them, like biological men playing in women's sports and children being subjected to homosexual and transgender propaganda in their schools.

Those who support Trump hope he will save America. Those who oppose him say he will bring ruin to America. This is a rapidly changing situation and what I write here may be out of date by the time this magazine is being distributed, but

here is my view from across the Atlantic in the middle of March 2025.

On one level we see a spiritual war between the 'god of this world' (the devil) and the true God revealed in the Bible. On another level it is a classic example of the German philosopher Hegel's 'dialectic' principle and his theory of thesis, anti-thesis, synthesis, illustrated in this diagram.



In this way of thinking you have thesis (idea, force A) challenged by anti-thesis (idea, force B). Out of the conflict between the two comes synthesis (idea, force C).

The Marxists took this idea and developed the theory called 'dialectical materialism.' In this way of thinking the thesis (idea, force A) is Capitalism / factory and landowners in conflict with the antithesis (force B) – Socialism / the workers and peasants. Out of this conflict comes the synthesis, force C, which is the Communist society. The 'workers and peasants' make the revolution, overthrow Capitalism and

create a Communist society, in which there is common ownership of the means of production, social equality and freedom from oppression. In this society people live by the principle 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his need.'

It does not work because of the sin principle in human nature. Instead of the 'dictatorship of the proletariat' the Communists produced the dictatorship of the Party over the 'workers and the peasants.' Milovan Djilas, who was at one point second in command in the Communist government of Yugoslavia, wrote a book called 'The New Class' in 1957. He showed that the Communists in power changed from being a force for social equality and justice and became the new ruling class, giving themselves power, wealth and control, and even passing this on to their children. He said this shows that there is something wrong with human nature which causes people to act in a selfish way and exploit others for their own personal gain. As a result, Djilas fell from favour and became a political dissident under communism.

Djilas' book had an impact on me when I read it back in the 1960s when I was getting into far-left politics, before I became a Christian. I made the connection with the Bible's view that the root of our problem is actually the sin principle in human nature. Because of this, the Communist's promise of freedom and equality ends up with the opposite, the kind of tyranny and oppression that people experienced under Communism. George Orwell's

book 'Animal Farm' is an accurate insight into how the Communist revolution creates the opposite of what it promises and gives power and privilege to the few and a new form of serfdom to the many.

Obviously, Trump is the exact opposite of the Communists, but will his revolution also produce the opposite of what it promised? I think it will and for the same reason the Communist Revolution failed, the problem of sin in fallen human beings like Donald Trump himself and the Satanic influence on the world system which will get stronger as we move into the last days scenario prophesied in the Bible.

LEFT / GLOBALIST. IN FAVOUR OF:	RIGHT / NATIONALIST. IN FAVOUR OF:
INTERNATIONALISM / UN / WEF/ EU +	NATIONALISM/ MAGA / BREXIT
MULTICURALISM / MULTI FAITH	ONE WAY TO GOD
LIBERAL CHRISTIAN / HUMANIST/ NEW AGE	FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN
PRO IMMIGRATION / ANTI RACIST	AGAINST MASS IMMIGRATION
WOKE / LGBT / ABORTION	TRADITIONAL FAMILY / ANTI WOKE
SUPPORT NET ZERO / CLIMATE CHANGE	CLIMATE SCEPTIC
ANTI ZIONIST / PRO PALESTINIAN	PRO ISRAEL / ZIONIST
DIVERSITY AGENDA / WORLD GOVERNMENT	NATIONAL IDENTITY / SECURE BORDERS
USE TECHNOLOGY TO CONTROL PEOPLE	ALSO USE TECHNOLOGY TO CONTROL?

Trump's takeover of power in the US can be seen as a reaction to the growing influence of the left-wing globalist agenda, linked with what has been termed the Deep State. I wrote about this in an article 'World Government on the horizon' in 2023 (available on request). On an international level it lines up with the UN's Agenda 30 and the World Economic Forum's Great

Reset, which aim at control of nations through international agreements like the Climate Change treaties, the UN's Migration pact and the World Health Organisation's Pandemic Treaty. They also want to use technology to bring in a control over humans with measures that line up with the biblical prophecy of the Mark of the Beast. This will control people's ability to buy and sell and therefore function within society (see Revelation 13.15-18).

The MAGA Republicans want to dismantle this in a new version of the dialectic process of thesis versus antithesis leading to a new synthesis.

The thesis (Force A) is on the left side of the chart below and the anti-thesis (Force B) on the right side.

Trump is the antithesis to the left leaning agenda supported by the views on the left-hand side of this column (apart from the last issue about technology). Many evangelical Christians in USA support the views on the right-hand side of this

table, so they support Trump policies. But will the synthesis (what comes out of the left – right conflict) be a better or a worse society? One more aligned with Christianity, or on the side of the Antichrist?

Before the election there were Christian leaders prophesying that Trump would bring a new 'New World Order' with Christianity in control. An article in NBC News quoted leading figures in the movement to remake America as an explicitly Christian nation. They celebrated Trump's victory as a fulfilment of prophecy and a key step in God's plan to usher in a new era of 'Christian dominion around the world.' Dutch Sheets, a self-described apostle, called Trump's victory a "Third Great Awakening" — what he and other believers say will be a global revival of fervent Christian faith around the world.

Trump has appointed Paula White to be the spiritual advisor to the White House. The twice-divorced televangelist is a controversial figure who preaches the prosperity gospel – the belief that God will bless believers with material wealth in proportion to what they give to the preachers like Paula White (who do become very rich in the process). Paula White previously said: "To say no to President Trump would be saying no to God."

This kind of preaching pleases Donald Trump. However, the prosperity Gospel that Paula White preaches is a heresy and the idea of a Christian revival imposing

Christianity on the world before the return of Jesus Christ is a delusion, contrary to the Bible's prophecies about what will happen before the Second Coming of Jesus. Prophecies like Revelation 13 show that in the time immediately before the return of Jesus to the earth the Antichrist will take world power. Only when Jesus returns will 'the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ / Messiah.' Revelation 11.15. In the last days of this age, we can expect the coming of the 'lawless one' empowered by Satan, deceiving people who will be under the 'strong delusion' of 2 Thessalonians 2.

Donald Trump has made a major push to stop the war in Ukraine, saying he wants a quick deal to stop the killing. This in itself is a good intention, but almost everything he has done so far appears to be for the benefit of Russia. Trump has said he is Putin's friend, that he trusts him and that he wants peace. He repeated Putin's propaganda about Ukraine starting the war, condemned Zelensky as a dictator, publicly humiliating him in the disastrous White House meeting on February 28th. He voted with Russia, Iran and North Korea against a UN motion condemning Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. He then suspended arms deliveries to Ukraine and cut off access to American intelligence, leaving Ukraine unprotected against the missiles and drones that Putin fires at them every day. He then appeared in an interview on March 7th saying, "We're doing rather well with Russia.

They're bombing the hell out of Ukraine right now, but I'm having difficulty dealing with Ukraine." He has said he may withdraw US support for NATO, as his 'America First' policy breaks with former alliances (to the delight of Vladimir Putin).

At the time of writing (March 14) Trump has restored US military help to Ukraine, after Zelensky accepted Trump's proposed deal with its demands for access to Ukraine's rare earth riches. Putin has backed the ceasefire, but only on his terms. He may not be that keen on making peace now as he is making progress on the battle front. He says a ceasefire must be the first step towards a 'long-term peace' and "eliminate the original causes of this crisis". The original cause of the crisis is Ukraine's desire to be free from Russian control and to become part of the western alliance through membership of the EU and NATO. The bottom line is that Putin still wants to take over the whole of Ukraine and threatens those countries that were part of the former Soviet empire.

Trump sees himself as the great deal maker, but playing with Putin, the former KGB agent, he is likely to come unstuck. Putin actually thinks Trump is easily manipulated. According to some opponents of Trump, Russia has compromising material over Trump from the time when he went to Russia to make business deals in the 1980s. If Trump's Ukraine – Russia deal goes wrong it will lead to the weakening of America and its influence in the world and the strengthening of aggressive dictatorships (Russia, China, Iran and

North Korea). Prophetically this could lead to Bible's prophecy of the 'Gog and Magog' war as 'Gog, the prince of Rosh' comes from the north, leading an alliance of nations (including Persia / Iran) against Israel, while the western alliance sits on the side lines and does nothing (Ezekiel 38.1-14). God will then intervene to save Israel and destroy this army.

It also leads to further integration of European countries, including the UK, into the European project in order to defend against Russia. President Macron of France gave a powerful speech on 5th March calling for unity in the face of Russian aggression and major European rearmament. He said he will confer with European allies on the idea of using France's nuclear deterrent to protect the continent against Russia. This raises another prophetic fulfilment with the rise of a united Europe as the revived Roman Empire of prophecy (Revelation 17).

Commenting on his economic policies



Richard Murphy, a professor at Sheffield University, said Trump's government should be called MADA – Make America Dysfunctional Again. He said 'Trump's actions are economically incoherent, raising tariffs and lowering them again,

playing games with the taxation system and undermining the functionality of his government. There is no sign that there is a plan in what he is doing, unless it is to create chaos. But out of that chaos what does he want? Is it that he sees that this is the opportunity for the vulture capitalists to claim assets and therefore take advantage of that chaos and become oligarchs with supreme wealth, the sort of situation which has happened in Putin's Russia? Or is it that he simply wants to destroy democracy? These are the only two logical conclusions that you can draw from his behaviour. But maybe we shouldn't even be logical, maybe it's just that Trump is dysfunctional - a dysfunctional president creating a dysfunctional economy that will lead to a dysfunctional state.

It's already beginning to happen. Banks in the US are closing at a record rate. Stocks and shares are crashing on Wall Street and many are predicting a coming financial crisis. A comment on my Internet site said, 'This is a coup. A revolution. A hostile takeover of America. Donald Trump and his group are moving so rapidly because they are smashing laws all over the place, and especially the Constitution, in an effort to completely remake the way the country is run before SCOTUS (the Supreme Court) can step in.

The other possibility is that there is a plan, which will result in an alternative kind of control system. On 6th March Trump signed an 'Executive Order to establish a Strategic Bitcoin Reserve and a U.S. Digital Asset Stockpile,

positioning the United States as a leader among nations in government digital asset strategy. He promised to make the United States the "crypto capital of the world," emphasising the need to embrace digital assets to drive economic growth and technological leadership.' Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) then announced the first ever 'fully digital retirement' process, starting the biggest economic transformation in American history. This technology will rewire all aspects of life in America, changing how people claim Social Security, pay taxes and access healthcare.

At the same time Trump has released \$500 billion for AI infrastructure into the economy, and revoked an executive order signed by Joe Biden that sought to reduce the risks that artificial intelligence (AI) poses to consumers, workers and national security. The danger which Biden's order sought to address was basically a fear of AI / robots taking over the tasks done by humans and eventually being able to self replicate themselves in what is known as AGI 'Artificial General Intelligence.' Leading the way in this development is OpenAI, a company whose CEO, Sam Altman has said, "We are now confident we know how to build AGI as we have traditionally understood it." He added, "We believe that, in 2025, we may see the first AI agents 'join the workforce' and materially change the output of companies."

Putting large amounts of money into cryptocurrencies could damage the

banking system and the status of the dollar as the world's reserve currency, causing an economic crisis in the USA. At the same time it may bring in a technocratic control system, using AI to control the money system and vital aspects of life. This can then be used by the government to let you in to the system or keep you out. Shades of the 666 system in which you can't buy or sell unless you have the Mark of the Beast, and you need to bow down to the Beast to get the Mark that lets you into the system. Revelation 13.11-18.

So where is it leading?

There are two possibilities.

1. Despite his role as a disrupter of the globalisation process, Donald Trump may well be another step on the way to initiating it, moving towards a new 'New World Order' which will bring the world one step nearer to the 666 system of Revelation 13.

2. Alternatively, Trump's actions will lead to the collapse of America, removing it from playing a major role in world affairs. Some have deduced that this will be the case from the absence of anything like America being mentioned in end time prophecy. Bible prophecy speaks of kings of the north and the south and the east, but not the west. The revived Roman Empire (Europe) is there and the countries of the Middle East centring on Israel. But there is no mention of anything that sounds like America. So, will the US experience something like the 'Fall of Babylon' prophecy in Revelation 18?

In 1998 David Wilkerson wrote a book, 'America's last call. On the brink of financial holocaust.' In this book he predicts a coming catastrophe which will shake America as a judgement on a nation that has paid lip service to God while promoting some of the most abominable wickedness on earth. This coming catastrophe will shake the world system and lead to realignment of existing alliances, as we see already happening in Europe.

On the back page of the book David Wilkerson writes, 'America is receiving her last call to repent,' followed by these words: 'A cartoon appeared in a New York City newspaper picturing the Titanic leaving port. The ship was renamed 'The US Economy.' The caption above it read, 'Not even God can sink this ship!' The American dream is going to turn into an American nightmare. It will occur suddenly without warning – and no one will be able to explain how or why it happened. There will be sellers only – no buyers. A majority of Americans have concluded, 'Morals do not count. Let our leaders do as they please: just give us a booming economy. Let the good times roll. All that matters is prosperity!' God is about to crush the abominable American mindset. And like the Prophet Jeremiah, those who believe in the holy righteous judgement of God will say, '**the Lord has done that which he advised he has fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old.**' Lamentations 2.17.'

David Wilkerson writes, 'The Bible warns that when God pours out his judgments on nations, he begins by crippling the

economy.' He quotes Ezekiel 16-49-50: "Behold the iniquity of your sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness. Neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me. Therefore I took them away as I saw good."

He says, 'I wonder how Ezekiel would react today if he were to walk the streets of our cities and observe the wealth and prosperity we're experiencing. He'd be shocked by all the arrogance, the hatred towards God, the materialism, the flaunting of our sins, the militant homosexuality, the crime and drugs. He would probably cry, "America, you're more abominable than Sodom! ... God is going to strike your prosperity. He'll humble you as he has all the other nations that forsook Him."

Some would say this did not happen when David Wilkerson wrote the book in 1998, but he did not give a time frame for it happening, just said that a period of prosperity would be followed by a sudden crash bringing ruin to America. Europe, Russia and China are no better than America and also storing up judgement in the day when God moves in judgment on this world system. In the end it will lead to the fall of Babylon on a worldwide scale as prophesied in the Book of Revelation.

'After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried

mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."

And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.' Therefore her plagues will come in one day—death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her.'

"The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come'." Revelation 18.1-10.



The call of the Lord is for us to come out of Babylon. We have to live within the present world system, so we have to do the normal things like going to work, buying and selling, putting our money in the bank and taking it out again. But while we do so, we should live righteously, asking God to protect us from Babylon's contaminating influences, and looking to Jesus, the only one who can save us and save the world by His Second Coming. We also need to ask God for discernment to know what is the good and what is the evil in current world events. We also need to be ready for the possibility that doing those normal things like buying and selling may become increasingly difficult as we approach the fulfilment of the last days' prophecies. Finally, when these things begin to happen, we should look up and lift up our heads, because Jesus is coming back soon to put right all these abuses and set up His kingdom of righteousness.

Paul wrote in his epistle to Titus: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

Titus 2.11-14.



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The Offence

The United Nations' Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonisation) announced on 6 November that it had adopted a resolution to 'establish and strengthen partnerships with media to address hate speech narratives through the Department of Global Communications'.

They plan to use technology to bring in a new level of surveillance of opinions being promoted in the public space to ensure that they are in line with the aim of global governance and the policy of 'Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.' This has become something of a modern secular religion with its high priests, its dogmas and its punishments and exclusions for those who offend it. Commonly known as woke, we now have a variety of ideas which would once have been considered taboo but are now being pushed by the people in power, in government, in education, the media, the judiciary and even the police.

As I have written in the previous article there is a reaction against this in the USA, but not here in the UK. Those who oppose the diversity agenda may face discrimination and being sacked from their jobs, like Christian school worker, Kristie Higgs. She lost her job after sharing a Facebook post criticising plans to teach pupils about LGBT relationships in primary schools. Heart newspaper (February 2025) featured

the case of Gozen Soydag, who was fired from a Catholic school for expressing her Christian beliefs about marriage on Instagram. The paper commented 'Christian beliefs about marriage have effectively been banned in schools after an employment tribunal upheld the sacking of a Christian school worker who had expressed support for traditional marriage.'

The paper also featured an article on the scandal of grooming gangs, comprised mainly of Asian Muslim men, in northern English cities. They exploited and raped young white girls, while the authorities failed to take effective action against them. It put the blame for the failure to tackle the grooming gangs on liberal attitudes towards underage sex and multiculturalism:

'Because multiculturalism regards all cultures as equal, criticism of any minority non white culture is seen as racism. Fear of addressing the perpetrators' ethnicity hindered action as whistle-blowers were accused of pandering to far-right narratives and effectively silenced from speaking out, leaving the girls to suffer in silence. Four councils endorsed a definition that regards the phrase 'Asian grooming gangs' as racist. It is not difficult to conclude that these girls were sacrificed on the altar of multiculturalism. The whistle-blowers were blasphemers against the orthodoxy.'

In the name of political correctness, we find that there are some groups of people who must not be offended, in particular those from the LGBT community and members of minority religions, especially Muslims. There are also those who can be offended and whose interests and opinions don't matter. Examples are:

- Bible believing Christians who say Jesus meant it when He said, ["I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father but by Me"](#) John 14.6.
- People who uphold traditional values, in particular that marriage is only a relationship between a man and a woman. Those who believe that life begins at conception and therefore abortion is wrong.

GB News highlighted an alarming proposal in this news item: 'Pubs could be forced to ban customers from discussing controversial topics like religion and transgender rights due to Labour's proposed workers' rights reforms, experts have warned. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has cautioned that new rules protecting workers from harassment by customers could "disproportionately curtail" freedom of expression. The watchdog raised concerns about how the regulations might apply to "overheard conversations" in venues like pubs, where business owners would be responsible for policing discussions of contentious beliefs. Under the proposed reforms, employers could

face legal action if they fail to protect staff from harassment by "third parties" such as customers.

This means that if you are having a discussion with someone else in a public space, including the workplace, a pub or a restaurant, or on social media and you say something that causes offence to someone overhearing the conversation, you could be penalised. The EHRC warned that 'this lack of understanding could lead to excessive restrictions on free speech, as businesses attempt to avoid potential legal issues.'

The Christian message can be termed 'offensive'

Since churches are also public spaces this could lead to preachers being penalised for saying things which may offend people. The basic message of the Gospel is that we are all sinners and need to repent of our sins and believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose again from the dead. Failure to do this means we will face the wrath of God on the Day of Judgement.

This teaching is considered to be offensive by many people. LGBT supporters are offended by biblical teaching that homosexual practice is sinful in the eyes of God, or that it is impossible to change your biological sex and all attempts to do this are contrary to the will of God. People of other faiths are offended by Christians who say that there is only one way to God through Jesus Christ, therefore

all other religious systems will fail to bring you to salvation and a hope in the world to come.

When we look at the Bible, we find that Jesus was not bothered about offending people. In Matthew 15 we have a dispute between Jesus and the Pharisees about the interpretation of the Torah, the Law of God:

'Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.'" Matthew 15.12-14. Quite an offensive statement from Jesus here, but the question is 'Is it true?'

When we look through the Bible, we discover there are three categories of 'offence'.

- Ways in which we may offend other people by our behaviour.
- Ways in which we / human race offend God by our sin and unbelief.
- The offence of the cross. Ways Jesus and message of Gospel causes offence to those who reject it.

Let us now look at these three issues.

Offending other people

["Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offence, either to the](#)

[Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."](#) 1 Corinthians 10.31-33.

In this passage and in a similar passage in Romans 14 Paul encourages the believer not to give unnecessary offence in our dealings with others. We should show respect and consideration to those whose beliefs are different from ours. I once knew a man, an evangelical Christian, who stood outside a Roman Catholic Church and shouted to the people coming out 'Mary was a sinner.' Someone came and punched him in the face for saying this. Technically what he said was true. Mary acknowledged herself that she needed salvation from God (Luke 1.47). She found this through faith in her Son, Yeshua / Jesus the Messiah. But for the Roman Catholic this was an insulting statement that would have driven them further away from believing the Gospel.

Down through the ages much of the professing Christian church has done all that it can to offend and discriminate against the people from whom it is founded – the Jewish people who gave us the Bible, the Saviour and the knowledge of our Creator God. As a result, it is very hard for Jewish people to see in Jesus the Messiah who loves them and came to bring Jews and Gentiles the message of salvation.

Offending God

The fundamental problem of humanity is our sin which is an offence to a holy God.

'God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day.' Psalm 7.

'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' Romans 3.23.

'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Romans 6.23.

The sinful nature of humanity separates us from our Holy God. Genesis 3 describes how human disobedience to God's commandment brought sin and death into the world. Paul wrote in Romans 5.14-16:

'Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offence. For if by the one man's offence many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offence resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offences resulted in justification.' Romans 5.14-16

By one man's offence many died. Adam's sin brought death into the world, affecting succeeding generations and placing the human race under the judgement

of God. God put temporary remedies to this problem into place in the Old Testament, but His final answer is to be found in the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Those who repent and believe in Him receive forgiveness of sin and His righteousness which is credited to us by faith:

'(Righteousness) shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offences, and was raised because of our justification.' Romans 4.24-25.

The cross and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus stands at the centre of God's plan for redemption of humanity. Anything that diverts people away from the cross of Jesus Christ is an offence to God. Jesus said:

"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offences! For offences must come, but woe to that man by whom the offence comes!" Matthew 18.6-7.

Jesus even rebuked His disciple, Peter, when he tried to divert Him from this purpose of going to the cross as we see in this incident from Matthew 16.

'From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to

rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offence to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16.

The offence of the cross

The way to avoid being an offence to God is through the cross. Paul wrote:

"And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offence of the cross has ceased." Galatians 5.11

The Greek word used for offence here is skandalon from which we have the English word 'scandal'. Why is the cross an offence? On a physical level the cross is a terrible place to go, an excruciating form of death in a public place.

John MacArthur wrote: 'Crucifixion was a repugnant, demeaning form of execution for the rabble of society. The Roman Empire's policies on crucifixion led Romans to view any crucified person as absolutely contemptible. The Romans used it only for the scum—the lowest of the low.



Soldiers first flogged the victims, then forced them to carry their crossbeams, the instruments of their own deaths, to the crucifixion site. Signs around their necks indicated the crimes they had committed, and they were stark naked. Then the soldiers tied or nailed them to the crossbars, hoisted them into an upright post, and suspended them there. The executioners could hurry death by shattering their legs, because that left victims unable to push themselves up in order to fill their lungs with air. If no one broke the legs, the slow death could last for days. The final indignity was to leave the corpse hanging there until the scavengers ate it. People viewed anyone crucified with the utmost contempt. It was a virtual obscenity. Polite society simply didn't discuss crucifixion. The Roman writer, Cicero wrote, "This very word 'cross' should be removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes, his ears."

And yet it was the very thing Paul wanted to talk about most when he went out to the Roman Empire. Because at the cross of Calvary, God did something wonderful as the Son of God bore the sins of the world upon Himself, taking the punishment that we deserve in order that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Isaiah wrote prophetically: 'All we like sheep have gone astray we have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.' Isaiah 53.6

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5: 'For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin (or the sin offering) for us that we might be the righteousness of God in Him.'

At the cross the divine exchange took place as the Lord Jesus who was without sin died in our place, taking the sin of the world upon Himself. Those who turn to Him in repentance and faith receive forgiveness of sin and receive God's righteousness into our lives.

'But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.' 1 John 1.6-9.

It does not matter how great or small our sins are, 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from unrighteousness.' So, on the spiritual level the cross of Jesus Christ convicts people of sin, righteousness and judgement. It shows us that we are sinners in the sight of God that all our righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight (Isaiah 64.6) and that we are by nature under the judgement of God. The only way to be redeemed from this condition is through the cross.

Coming back to Galatians 5 the question remains, why does Paul say that if he

preaches circumcision, he will no longer suffer persecution, and the offence of the cross has ceased? In the context this is a reference to the Jewish religion which requires men to be circumcised in order to keep the Law of Moses. Now the Law was given uniquely by God through Moses to Israel as they came out of Egypt. Its commands are good and given by God to keep people from evil and guide them into the right paths. However, the problem is the people's ability to keep these laws. That is the message we find in the book of Jeremiah 31.31-34, which is repeated in the New Testament in Hebrews chapter 8.

"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Through the coming of the Lord Jesus, God is making a new covenant, firstly

with Israel and the Jewish people but extending it out to the Gentiles. Through this covenant God promises to write His law on our hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit as we come to know the Lord and have our sins forgiven.

Jesus spoke of this new covenant when He instituted the Lord's Supper as something for all true believers to participate in: And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26.26-28.

With the coming of the Messiah Jesus, God was extending His covenant to all peoples through the new covenant sealed with the blood of Jesus. We enter into it through repentance and faith in Jesus and His sacrifice for our sins at the cross.

This idea is actually offensive to religious people who hope to be accepted by God on account of doing good deeds in order to gain credit with God. Do good works, say prayers, give to charity and attend religious services. By that way you will earn salvation. From the Christian point of view, it is good to do all those things, but they do not bring you salvation. They are the fruit of our faith, but not the thing that gives us salvation and a right relationship with God.

If you preach the message of good works and religion, you will generally be accepted in the world. If you say those things are not

good enough to give you salvation, many people will say this is a scandalous view. They respond, 'Are you saying you are better than me just because you believe in Jesus? What gives you the right to say my religious devotions are no good and that God won't hear me?' That is very offensive thing to say.

However, in the Hebrew scriptures we read: 'The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread. He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken, be snared and taken.' Isaiah 8.13-15.

There are two possibilities. The Lord will be a sanctuary, a place of safety to the one who accepts God at His word, or a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence to the one who does not. Which one applies to us depends on our response to God.

This verse is repeated in the New Testament: 'Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were



Signs of the Times

appointed. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." 1 Peter 2.6-9.

The stone which the builders rejected and becomes the chief cornerstone is a quote from Psalm 118, a Messianic prophecy pointing to Jesus as the one rejected by men but exalted by God.

Those who receive Him become God's own special people proclaiming the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into the light. They are not offended by the cross but embrace it as the way to life in the kingdom of God. Those who reject this message are offended by the cross, but then they have to carry the weight of their sins themselves and answer to God for their sins on the day of judgement. Jesus said "blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." Matthew 11.6.

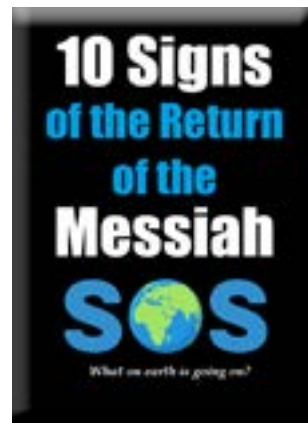
It is better to be not offended by the message of the cross and turn to the Lord in repentance and faith, than to end up in hell having offended God and failed to repent and believe the Gospel.

Jesus concluded the Parable of the wheat and the tares (weeds) with these words: "Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice

lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13.40-42.

The message of the Gospel is the only hope for the human race, especially as we see the signs of the end of days taking place before us. We need to make our peace with God now because Jesus is coming again soon to judge the world in righteousness and bring an end to this wicked world system. Therefore, we say with the Apostle Paul:

"I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO SALVATION FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE GREEK. FOR IN IT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM FAITH TO FAITH; AS IT IS WRITTEN 'THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.' ROMANS 1.16-17.



What to do with Gaza?

On February 6th President Trump proposed that the U.S. take control of Gaza, resettle its Palestinian population elsewhere and transform the enclave, which he described as a "demolition site right now," into a developed hub, which he hoped would become a 'Middle East Riviera'.

Israeli PM Netanyahu welcomed Trump's Gaza proposal as "the first fresh idea in years," calling it "a novel and correct approach" that should not be dismissed outright. He said the plan could finish off Hamas permanently and ensure Israeli security, temporarily relocating Gaza's civilian population to allow for reconstruction, and de-radicalising its population.

Arab countries, the Palestinians, and other countries around the world, including the UK and EU rejected the president's proposal. Egypt proposed a plan for the reconstruction of Gaza that would cost \$53 billion (£41 billion) and avoid displacing Palestinians from the territory. The plan calls for Gaza to be governed temporarily by a committee of independent experts and for international peacekeepers to be deployed to the territory. The committee would be responsible for overseeing humanitarian aid and temporarily managing Gaza's affairs under the supervision of the Palestinian Authority.

The problem is that these plans have things in them that are objected to by either Israel

or by Hamas. Hamas demands a complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and a commitment not to go to war against Gaza again. Israel does not want the Palestinian Authority to manage Gaza, seeing this as a first step towards the creation of a Palestinian State.

Israel fears that the Palestinian Authority has the same basic aim as Hamas, to remove the Jewish state from the map and replace it with a Palestinian State – 'from the river (Jordan) to the (Mediterranean) Sea'. The goal of the PLO, the military wing of the Palestinian Authority, has long been to set up a state under their control in any part of the land that Israel withdraws from and then use this as a springboard from which to destroy Israel. This was first drawn up in the so called '10 Points Phased Policy' of the PLO back in 1974.

At the release of Israeli hostages on 22nd February, Hamas gave a show of force with masked men brandishing machine guns in front of a slogan which read 'WE'RE THE FLOOD - THE WAR'S NEXT DAY' 'We're the flood' relates to the code name 'The Al Aqsa Flood,' which Hamas gave to the October 7th massacre which started the war. The flood is a code name for an invasion. Al Aqsa is the Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem which the Muslims claim absolute sovereignty over. The means it was an invasion with the ultimate goal of bringing about the removal of Israel from Jerusalem and the whole land of Israel. 'The war's next day' means that Hamas is proud

of the massacre that took place that day and intends to continue the war until Israel is defeated.

This statement tells us why Israel wants the complete disarmament and removal of Hamas as a military force. It is also a pointer to the fact that no matter what aspect of the conflict you are dealing with 'Jerusalem is the burdensome stone' of prophecy (Zechariah 12.1-3). This Bible prophecy tells us that Jerusalem will be the centre of world attention in the last days of this age and trigger the final war in history. This will bring about the return of the Messiah to set up His Messianic Kingdom from restored Jerusalem and a restored Temple. See Zechariah 12-14.

Islamophobia

Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner is set to create a council that would draw up an official definition of 'Islamophobia', aiming at bringing in a new law on this subject. Dominic Grieve, who has been recommended to lead the council, commended the All-Party Parliamentary Group definition of Islamophobia. Despite Islam being a religion, it claims that Islamophobia is "rooted in racism and a type of racism which targets Muslimness or perceived Muslimness". The inclusion of the word 'perceived' Muslimness makes this definition vague and open ended. It means a Muslim may complain about any perceived criticism of Muslim behaviour or beliefs.

CitizenGo.org has organised a petition on this subject on the grounds of protecting free speech (see <https://citizengo.org>). It claims 'The Deputy Prime Minister's plan to establish an official definition of

Islamophobia threatens to create a de facto blasphemy law which could criminalise evangelists for sharing their faith, censor journalists and ban fair criticism of Islam. This definition hands extremists exactly what they want—an excuse to silence opposition and suppress the truth. It will create a culture of fear where authorities hesitate to act against radical ideologies, and anyone raising fair questions about extreme Islam's influence in society may be branded a criminal.'

In the Ottoman Empire non-Muslims (Jews and Christians) had to live under the 'Covenant of the Dhimma'. This gave them a second-class status as so called 'protected people' or Dhimmis, who had to be submissive to the Muslims. Amongst the laws found in Damascus in the 19th century was this statement: 'A Dhimmi could not criticize the Qur'an, or claim that it had been altered; he could not say anything derogatory about the Prophet, or Islam; he could not attempt to change a Muslim's religion.'

This means there can be no debate or discussion challenging the Muslim narrative of how the Quran and the Hadith came into being. 'Dhimmis' may not question what Muslims believe about Muhammad's status as a prophet. Recently there has been a great deal of research into the origins of Islam, raising questions about how and when the Quran was written and questioning the account of the life of Muhammad in the Sira. For a thorough historical critique of the claims of Islam go to Pfander Films, <https://www.pfander.uk>. A brief summary of the arguments on this subject can be found in our pamphlet 'Bible or Quran - Which is the word of God?'

We also note that in the laws from Damascus, a dhimmi is not allowed to 'attempt to change a Muslim's religion.' Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world to preach the Gospel. Will that now be forbidden under the Islamophobia laws?

In fact, Christian ministry leaders believe a revival is taking place in the Islamic Middle East, with more than one million leaving Islam for Christianity in Iran alone. In a statement to CBN News, Todd Nettleton of The Voice of the Martyrs said Iranians oppressed by the Ayatollah's Islamic extremist regime for over 40 years are disillusioned with Islam.

"You have a country with one of the highest drug addiction rates in the world. You have a country where corruption runs rampant. You have a country where more than half the people live below the poverty line. And the people of Iran are looking at this and they are saying, 'Wait a minute. If this is what Islam has brought us in the last 45 years, we're not interested. We want to know what the other options are,'" Nettleton said.

The Iranian church has been forced underground, with the government cracking down hard on expressions of Christian worship – but Nettleton added that at least one million Muslim Iranians have reportedly turned to Christ. Referencing what is taking place in Iran, Don Shenk, executive director of The Tide Ministry told CBN News: "I think what's happening there is actually representative of what's happening in the Islamic world. We get responses from listeners who say, you know, now I understand that God loves me. I always thought that God wanted to punish me. And I think there's an

awakening that is taking place across the Muslim world, not just in Iran."

However here in the UK our establishment gives more honour to Islam than Christianity. This year Ramadan is being celebrated as a major part of the religious life of the United Kingdom, with posters saying, 'Happy Ramadan' and 'Trust in Allah' in public places in our cities. Iftars, the celebration meal to break the Ramadan fast, have been held in prominent places in the land, including St George's Chapel, Windsor, at the invitation of King Charles, and Westminster Hall, at the invitation of Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister. These are two of the most significant places of the British establishment, with long links to our Christian heritage. The Iftars being held there are seen as a way to create religious harmony and bring people of different faiths together to celebrate our multicultural society, with the approval of the Established Church, the Monarchy and Parliament.

For Muslims it can be seen as an affirmation of Islam over Christianity in the places of power in the UK. When Muslims say 'Allah hu Akhbar' they are not saying God is great, they are saying Allah is greater or the greatest. In other words, Allah is greater than your God, the Koran is greater than the Bible and Muhammad is greater than Jesus. Islamic scholar Robert Spencer said "By participating in iftars (the meal which Muslims hold after observing the fast of Ramadan), Christians are helping celebrate an imperative to conquer and subjugate them. Iftar is not just a meal. It is the breaking of the Ramadan fast every evening. Ramadan is a month devoted to intensifying one's observance of Islam and

growing more righteous. In Islam, the most righteous deed of all is jihad, which most prominently involves warfare against and the subjugation of non-Muslims. A hadith has a Muslim asking Muhammad: 'Instruct me as to such a deed as equals Jihad (in reward).' Muhammad replied, 'I do not find such a deed' (Bukhari 4.52.44)."

From the Islamic radical point of view, it is one more sign of the subjection of western society to their demands and the hope that one day they will be able to turn all non-Muslims including Jews and Christians into dhimmi citizens who are not allowed to criticise them or bring them to faith in Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile I have just received this report of a massacre of more than 1,200 Christians in Syria where the Islamist government has recently taken power. 'Churches have been burned, families torn apart, entire communities scattered or lost. And yet, in the face of this devastation, we hold fast to the hope that is in Christ. We have seen footage too shocking to air—Christians executed in the streets, forced to crawl on their hands and knees like animals. Churches have been desecrated, crosses destroyed, priests murdered, and families driven from their homes in terror. This is nothing short of genocide.'

The Great Drying: How A Thirsty Planet Is Marching Toward Famine

Did you know that more than three-quarters of the land on the surface of our planet has been steadily getting drier? All over the world, forests are being ripped out, greenery is disappearing, and once

vibrant soil is being degraded. Meanwhile, governments are messing around with the weather and conducting all sorts of secretive geoengineering experiments.

As a result, we now have an unprecedented crisis on our hands. Approximately half of the population of Africa now lives on drylands, and that continent is being plagued by endless famines right now. Unfortunately, much of the rest of the world is headed in the exact same direction. In particular, Europe, Brazil and the western half of the United States are drying out at a very alarming rate. If current trends continue, global famine is literally inevitable.

According to a report that was released by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), 77.6 percent of the land on the surface of our planet is drier now than it was 30 years ago, with drylands expanding by an area larger than India to cover 40.6% of the land on Earth. The report warns that if the trend continues, up to five billion people could live in drylands by the century's end -- causing soils to deplete, water resources to dwindle, and vital ecosystems to collapse. When land dries out it can have a whole host of absolutely disastrous consequences, loss of GDP, forced migration, increased mortality due to dust storms, worsening of wildfires, land erosion, vegetation degradation, salinization of water and soil, and more.

"For the first time, the aridity crisis has been documented with scientific clarity, revealing an existential threat affecting billions around the globe," Ibrahim Thiaw, the UNCCD executive secretary, said in a statement. "When an area's climate becomes drier, however, the

ability to return to previous conditions is lost. The drier climates now affecting vast lands across the globe will not return to how they were and this change is redefining life on Earth."

They are telling us that 5 billion people will be living on drylands by the end of this century. But there is no way that we will ever get to that point.

Bad farming methods are adding to the problem. In cocoa-producing regions like north eastern Brazil, deforestation to make room for agriculture disrupts local water cycles and exposes soils to degradation. Without vegetation to anchor it, topsoil - critical for plant growth - washes away during rainfall or is blown away by winds, taking with it vital nutrients. These changes create a vicious cycle: Degraded soils also hold less water and lead to more runoff, reducing the land's ability to recover.

Chopping down millions of trees is an incredibly foolish thing to do. When you chop down millions of trees, the land dries out and you lose valuable topsoil. According to one expert, "billions face a future marked by hunger, displacement, and economic decline". Of course, even if we could completely solve the aridity crisis, we would still be facing global famine because of the loss of nutrients in our soil, the killing off of our pollinators, and the trillions of microplastic particles that are saturating the ground that we grow our food in.

Meanwhile, the Earth continues to become more unstable. Scientists have discovered that the inner core of our planet has actually been changing

shape. Scientists, who just months ago confirmed that Earth's inner core recently reversed its spin, have a new revelation about our planet's deepest secrets -- they identified changes to the inner core's shape. Earth's innermost layer is a hot, solid ball of metal surrounded by a liquid metal outer core. For decades, planetary scientists suspected that the solid inner core deformed over time as it spun. Now, researchers have found the first evidence of changes taking place over the past 20 years in the shape of the inner core. Signs of the core's deformation appeared in waves from earthquakes that were strong enough to reach Earth's centre.

The research team used that same earthquake data for a 2024 study to resolve a longstanding debate over the inner core's rotation. They found that the inner core once spun faster than Earth itself. But beginning around 2010, the solid inner core's spin slowed. It's now revolving backward, relative to the rest of the planet.

Should we be concerned that the Earth's core has slowed down dramatically and is now spinning backwards? No one really knows. However, we have been witnessing lots of very unusual seismic activity.

California and Nevada have been hit by more than 900 earthquakes over a period of seven days in January. These quakes are "raising fears of a serious seismic incident on the San Andreas fault". If the San Andreas Fault does "rupture all at once", scientists have warned us that it could produce an earthquake that would be powerful enough to cause the ground on the western side of the San Andreas fault to suddenly drop several feet. Since most

of southern California is just barely above sea level, that would allow water from the Pacific Ocean to come rushing in.

We really are living in apocalyptic times, and that won't change no matter how hard some people try to ignore the facts.

'For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.' Matthew 24.7-8.

Michael Snyder - Prophecy News Watch.

AI helping with Bible Translation

While we have featured many negative aspects of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in this magazine, Wycliffe Bible Translators reports that AI is accelerating Bible translation, ensuring that more people than ever before can access the Word of God in their native language.

What once took decades to accomplish is now happening in a matter of years, even months, thanks to AI-driven tools that streamline the translation process. This rapid progress is not just a technological feat but a profound fulfilment of biblical prophecy that speaks of the gospel reaching all nations before Christ's return.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, a pioneering organisation in this field, has reported significant strides toward making the Bible accessible in every language. Only about 888 languages remain without Scripture—a monumental decrease from the 3,000 languages identified in 1999. This progress is largely attributed to partnerships with local churches and the innovative application of AI.

One of the most transformative AI tools can draft an Old Testament translation in just a few days when a New Testament is already available in the target language. Another AI-driven program is helping to create written forms for previously unwritten languages, paving the way for Bible translation efforts in places where no scripture has ever existed.

John Chesnut, president of Wycliffe Bible Translators, emphasises that "God is using AI for His glory," and that this technology could help fulfil the Great Commission sooner than anyone had imagined.

The rapid dissemination of the Bible aligns closely with biblical prophecies about the end times. Jesus stated in the Olivet Discourse, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." The word "nations" in this context refers to every ethnic group, meaning that all people must have access to the gospel before Christ's return.

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24.14

This message is the only hope for our world. Time to believe it by turning to Jesus now in repentance and faith.



Last Word



In our article about the USA in this magazine I quoted from David Wilkerson's book 'America's Last Call': 'A cartoon appeared in a New York City newspaper picturing the Titanic leaving port. The ship was renamed 'The US Economy.' The caption above it read, 'Not even God can sink this ship!'

The irony is that the Titanic sank on its maiden voyage and approximately 1,500 passengers and crew members died in one of the deadliest maritime disasters in history.

The Titanic film has a scene where the crew see the iceberg ahead and realise that they are heading for it. They try to reverse the engines, change course, but it's too late. The momentum of the ship means they can't avoid hitting the iceberg. When they hit it, the water floods in and the captain announces, 'This ship is going to sink.' All the passengers could do was try to get off the sinking ship onto the lifeboats. They said that even God could not sink this ship, but it sank less than three hours after hitting the iceberg.

Today the whole world system is like that doomed ship, trusting in its pride and riches, but heading for disaster, no longer able to change direction. Sooner or later it will hit the iceberg of God's judgement and there will be no escape for those who remain on

that ship. It will sink and they will drown.

God in His mercy is giving us a warning of the coming judgement and also a way of escape. There is a lifeboat which will take us to safety in God's eternal kingdom if we will listen to His voice now and repent of our sins and believe the Gospel, that Jesus the Messiah, died for our sins, was buried and rose again from the dead.

Despite the 'gloom and doom' there is a great hope for the future for those who turn to God. Jesus is coming back to save all those who put their trust in Him now. To be ready for this event (or the moment of your death) you must repent and believe the Gospel, that Jesus Christ died for our sins, and rose again from the dead.

'God now commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.' Acts 17.30-31.

To do this you must

- Ask God to save you as you turn from sin (repent) and believe that Jesus is the Messiah who died for you, was buried and rose again from the dead.
- Through prayer invite Jesus to come into your life by the Holy Spirit and become your Lord and Saviour.

Turn over for a prayer to invite Jesus into your life. Contact us if you want help to do this. We can send you a Bible if you do not have one.

Conclusion



All the things that we write of in this magazine are pointers to the fulfilment of Bible prophecies of the last days in our day and the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The most important thing we can do, in the light of this, is to call on the name of the Lord for salvation, so we are ready to meet Him at His coming.

Dear Heavenly Father, I admit that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that Jesus the Messiah died in my place, shedding His blood to pay for my sins, and that He rose again from the dead to give me eternal life. I am willing right now to turn from my sin and accept Jesus the Messiah as my personal Saviour and Lord. I commit my life to you and ask you to send the Holy Spirit into my life, to fill me and to take control and to help me become the kind of person you want me to be.

Thank you Father for loving me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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