

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#03-09117

New World Order – Globalization #4

April 29, 2009

As a reminder, this series began with a quote from Gordon Brown, the prime minister of Great Britain.

“I think **the new world order is emerging** and with it the foundation of a new and **progressive era of international cooperation**. We have resolved that, from today, we will together manage the process of **globalization** to secure **responsibility from all** and **fairness to all**, and we have agreed in doing so we will build a more sustainable and more open and **a fairer global society**.”

Although Mr. Brown and other world leaders are looking for a new world order to emerge, the question arises as to whether this progressive era of international cooperation is the start of a truly new world order or, simply, an extension of a new world order that began some years ago and is now coming into its full manifestation. I contend that it is the latter, but I see it on two levels. This issue is devoted to the first level; the second will be taken up in a subsequent issue.

To begin, the world order of our day is not really new, for it extends back 2,600 years to the Babylonian kingdom under Nebuchadnezzar and in the days of Daniel. Ancient Israel was called out of Egypt to be a kingdom of priests, a theocratic nation under the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. A covenant was made between the Lord and the sons of Israel, but there were ifs attached to the covenant. Simply, they had to obey the Lord. Unfortunately, they broke the covenant and subsequently the Lord divorced them; the covenant was made obsolete and replaced with a new covenant that came forth through the death and resurrection of the Son of God (Jeremiah 31:27-34; Hebrews 8:7-13).

From 754 to 721 BC, the house of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrians and dispersed among the nations; they lost their national identity. In 604 BC, the house of Judah was overtaken by the Babylonians, with many being deported to Babylon and some remaining in Jerusalem. Daniel was included in the ones that were deported for the 70-year captivity (Jeremiah 25:12; Daniel 9:2). With these events, the kingdom of God ceased being manifested on a national level (i.e., a theocratic, kingdom nation) and has not been manifested since. The good news is that it will once again be manifested when the stone kingdom of Daniel 2, which is **the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ** (Revelation 11:15), fully crushes the kingdom of the world. With the kingdom of God no longer manifested through a nation, God placed all the nations of the earth under the Babylonian system.

The statue revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream and explained by Daniel was in the image of a body with its body parts made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay. It represented all the kingdoms from Nebuchadnezzar down to the last kingdom on earth before the stone kingdom comes and crushes all the kingdoms. John was told that the last kingdom will be a mystery personified as a harlot, a woman who sits on many waters, which are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues (Revelation 17:15). This mystery is called **the great city, Babylon, the strong city** (Revelation 18:10). Even though there have been at least four major kingdoms (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome), according to Daniel, they are actually one kingdom, for the entire statue will be crushed by the stone **all at the same time** (Daniel 2:35). Further, by comparing Daniel 2 with Revelation 18, it becomes apparent that the kingdom is none other than Babylon. From Nebuchadnezzar to the end of our present wicked eon is one kingdom that is none other than ancient Babylon in character. The big difference between the ancient one and the modern-day one is that the modern-day Babylon is not identified by a specific geographical location or name but instead is a worldwide system of commerce, which is why it is called a great city. The world has become one, joined together like a city.

This Babylonian system is a mystery or a secret because the world does not know it is under its control. Further, most Christians do not know it either, for they have been taught to look for a revived Roman empire called the European Union. They are waiting for something to happen to the world as they are

raptured out of here, not knowing that God has yoked all of us, believer and unbeliever alike, to a diabolical system that is antichrist at its core; it is a counterfeit.

Just like the head directs the human body, so does the very character of Babylon direct the entire body of the statue revealed to Nebuchadnezzar. The golden head of the statue represented the Babylonian kingdom; consequently, the entire statue or all the kingdoms that follow are Babylonian in character. Down through the centuries, they have had different names, different leaders, and even different approaches to governing; nevertheless, they are all characteristically Babylonian. Many types of systems or **isms** have tried to overtake the world with their particular worldview, whether capitalism, socialism, communism, fascism, totalitarianism, or a myriad of other isms. In fact, it could be said that the Babylonian system is an amalgamation of elements from all the isms, some of which are strong and some of which are brittle. This is the final state of Babylon as pictured by feet made of iron and clay.

(42) As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. (43) And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery. (44) In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. (45) Inasmuch as you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy. (Daniel 2:42-45 NASB)

According to the text, some sort of mixture is what makes the system brittle. But, what is the mixture? There are two possibilities.

First, most translations state the frailty comes from the combining of the two elements in the seed of men, which implies mating across all racial, ethnic, and cultural lines. Some translations imply that it is the rulers that intermarry. It seems to me that the seed signifies far more than intermarriage. It goes back to the tower of Babel (confusion) when mankind had one language and a common purpose contrary to the will of God, which led God to divide them by language and scatter them abroad over the face of the earth (Genesis 11:1-9). We have come full circle through the seed of men as mankind has sought a name for itself, apart from God. We may still have many different languages and cultures, but, in our intermixing, we have embraced a common language of a different sort; it is the language of commerce and wealth as personified in the great city. Simply, man has been trying to reverse the effects of God's action at the tower of Babel. It will only lead to further confusion!

Second, the Concordant Version offers a translation that pushes the envelope, so to speak. It translates **combining with one another in the seed of men as mixing with wealth is the armed forces of the mortal**. Obviously, this is a rather strange rendering and the editor admits it, but he claims, based on variations of the original languages from which the text was translated and the subject of Revelation 18, that wealth is the issue, not intermarriage. Contextually, it makes sense.

Regardless, the point is that the kingdom of men at the end of our present wicked eon is both strong and fragile, and wealth or riches is paramount, two facts that have been made apparent by the current global financial crisis. Although there is much talk about unity, cooperation, and common purpose, couched in the word **globalization**, the fact of the matter is that the nations are far from united. All we need to do is look to Iran, North Korea, China, and Russia, to name a few. Mystery Babylon is a divided kingdom (Daniel 2:41), even as it seeks to unite. It is a 2,600-year kingdom of confusion.

On a positive note, it appears that mankind has built within its gene pool the desire or need to be one with one another. I believe this comes from God. However, the heart of the matter is that mankind can never have true oneness apart from the One through whom **all things were created** and who **upholds all things by the word of His power** (Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:3). His name is Jesus, the Son of God! Until all mankind discover the Lord Jesus, there will be no true unity, cooperation, or fairness. **The new world order is in the Son of God.**