

FOREWORD BY AMIR TSARFATI

# WHEN JESUS RETURNS

Living in Expectation  
of the End Times



JAN MARKELL

GENERAL EDITOR

W H E N  
J E S U S  
R E T U R N S

JAN MARKELL

GENERAL EDITOR



**HARVEST PROPHECY**  
AN IMPRINT OF HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture verses are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

Verses marked NASB 1995 are taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used with permission. All rights reserved. [www.lockman.org](http://www.lockman.org).

Verses marked NASB are taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used with permission. All rights reserved. [www.lockman.org](http://www.lockman.org).


Cover design by Studio Gearbox

Cover images © Aleksandra Vinogradova, tomertu / Shutterstock

Interior design by KUHN Design Group

For bulk, special sales, or ministry purchases, please call 1-800-547-8979.

Email: [CustomerService@hhpbooks.com](mailto:CustomerService@hhpbooks.com)

 This logo is a federally registered trademark of the Hawkins Children's LLC. Harvest House Publishers, Inc., is the exclusive licensee of this trademark.

## **When Jesus Returns**

Copyright © 2024 by Jan Markell

Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97408

[www.harvesthousepublishers.com](http://www.harvesthousepublishers.com)

ISBN 978-0-7369-8960-2 (pbk)

ISBN 978-0-7369-8961-9 (eBook)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2024931181

**All rights reserved.** No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

**Printed in the United States of America**

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 / BP / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



This book is dedicated to all sincere saints who have faithfully searched for a solid, Bible-believing church. Some of you are blessed to have found one, and others are still looking, traveling many miles weekly and getting discouraged. Don't give up!

As Hebrews 10:25 says, we must gather together to encourage one another—and all the more as we see the day approaching.

*That day is indeed drawing near!*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Olive Tree Ministries' 22 international conferences could not have transpired without our dedicated staff and volunteers. I am deeply thankful for them. Many turned up before dawn to finalize so many wonderful, life-changing events. And they showed up year after year, never daunted by the backbreaking work nor the thousands of people with so many needs. More will be in eternity thanks to this selfless enthusiasm!

# CONTENTS

Foreword—Amir Tsarfati . . . . .	7
Our Assignment Today . . . . .	9
1. Hidden in Plain View: The New World Order in Bible Prophecy . . . <i>Jan Markell</i>	11
2. The Primacy of Jesus Christ in Revelation . . . . . <i>Jeff Kinley</i>	27
3. Perilous Times: When America Abandons the Role of Global Leadership . . . . . <i>Michele Bachmann</i>	41
4. Our Blessed Hope: The Rapture of the Church . . . . . <i>Mark Hitchcock</i>	55
5. What You Believe About the Rapture and Why It Matters . . . . . <i>Jack Hibbs</i>	79
6. Why We Can Still Believe in a Rapture . . . . . <i>Ed Hindson</i>	95
7. One Minute After You Die . . . . . <i>Erwin W. Lutzer</i>	111
8. A Warning to America from the Book of Joel . . . . . <i>Anne Graham Lotz</i>	125
9. Apostasy: The Sabotage of Christianity from Within . . . . . <i>Mark Hitchcock</i>	141
10. Prophecy Q&A Roundtable . . . . . <i>Jan Markell, Amir Tsarfati, Jack Hibbs, Barry Stagner</i>	159

11. Satan's Subtle Scheme to Silence Bible Prophecy . . . . .	175
<i>Jan Markell</i>	
12. God's Prophetic Pulpit in the Last Days . . . . .	191
<i>Jack Hibbs</i>	
13. The Triumphant Return: When Jesus Comes as King . . . . .	205
<i>Ed Hindson</i>	
About the Contributors . . . . .	225
Notes . . . . .	227



# FOREWORD

---

AMIR TSARFATI

---

In the final chapter of the Bible, Jesus said, “I am coming quickly.” He said it not once, not twice, but three times (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20). There is no way to miss this promise. One time establishes a point, a second time drives it home, but the third time ensures that everyone sits up and takes notice. “Yes, what you’ve heard is true. I will be returning, and you better get ready because it won’t be too long.” If Jesus felt it was important for Him to give this promise a three-peat, then it should be important to us as well.

When the apostle Paul wrote about Christians as citizens of heaven, he put it this way: “Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also *eagerly wait for the Savior*, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20). According to Paul, to be a believer is also to eagerly anticipate the Lord’s coming. The two go together.

During His last moments before the crucifixion, Jesus said to His disciples—and to us—“I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3). As you read those words, can you sense His great affection for you, and how eager He is for you to be with Him?

In these ways and so many more, Jesus tells us that His return is a really big deal. Is it a big deal to us as well? It should be!



That's why I am grateful for the many Understanding the Times prophecy conferences Jan Markell has hosted over the years. I've had the privilege of teaching at several of these conferences. Every time I have done so, I've been incredibly blessed by the teachings and the opportunity to fellowship with dear brothers and sisters in Christ who are eager for His return.

Jan's love for Bible prophecy and her excited anticipation for our Lord's appearing is truly contagious. Because of her ministry, countless thousands of people around the world now have a great enthusiasm for Bible prophecy and live in eager expectancy of Christ's return.

*When Jesus Returns* brings together a wonderful collection of powerful messages spoken at Jan's prophecy conferences—messages that I know will instruct and encourage you deeply. You will come away more informed about God's plans for the future, and more excited about your place in those plans.

After Jesus repeated the promise of His return three times in Revelation 22, the apostle John was so excited he couldn't help but cry out, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (verse 20).

My prayer is that by the time you finish reading *When Jesus Returns*, you'll find yourself eagerly echoing those very same words—all the way to the day of His glorious appearing!

—Amir Tsarfati



## OUR ASSIGNMENT TODAY

I began my radio career in 2001 in the Twin Cities with a program called *Understanding the Times*. It began as a live interview and call-in program. As a result of the program and format, I could easily get the pulse of those in my audience. And I concluded that they wanted to learn and to make sense of our times.

I also realized—again based on feedback—that most of our churches were silent on key issues. And the topic that underwhelmed them was Bible prophecy. *The pulpits were silent*. That is, they were silent about the fact that the stage-setting signs of Christ's return were on the increase and that planet Earth was running out of time. Jesus was going to return for His bride so very soon. Churches seemed to be embarrassed about this message!

So I decided I would start a conference ministry that would feature the best when it came to informing my audience about our times, and about the nearness of Christ's return in the clouds called the rapture. There are stage-setting signs exploding around us today, and someone has to sound the alarm: *We are running out of time*.

But at my first event in the spring of 2002, I never expected 1,500 people! And from there, enthusiasm and attendance only grew and grew as the Twin Cities became a destination for tens of thousands of people from around the world. Attendees would come from every state in America, every province in Canada, and a dozen foreign nations.

Imagine, people traveling—in some cases, thousands and thousands of miles—to learn, to fellowship, and to eagerly await His return together! Here, they found the like-minded. At such events they learned they could talk about their longing to hear the trumpet and a shout and not be mocked.

I am so thankful to Harvest House for allowing you and me to travel down memory lane and revisit some of the best messages given at a total of 22 conferences at various venues in Minneapolis-St. Paul. I do hope they help you be like the sons of Issachar, who understood the times (1 Chronicles 12:32).

I am convinced that is our assignment today!



## CHAPTER 1

# HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW: THE NEW WORLD ORDER IN BIBLE PROPHECY

---

JAN MARKELL

---

**W**e hear a lot about the new world order. For those who aren't familiar with Bible prophecy, that term might not have much meaning. But biblically speaking, the new world order refers to the coming one-world government, over which the antichrist will rule. When we talk about the new world order, we're speaking of the antichrist's future kingdom. While that kingdom is not here yet, in a variety of ways, it has long been in the process of being built. Through the ages, Satan has made use of many tools to build this future kingdom, and eventually, the parts will come together as a global system.

On the surface, many of these tools don't necessarily appear to be part of Satan's agenda. But if we consider how these tools have steered the direction of humanity, we're able to see how they can contribute to the end result he desires to achieve. Just to name a few, Satan has used communism, socialism, and a wide variety of organizations, including the United Nations. International banking systems

will eventually take us to a one-world economy. Issues like open borders and climate change are used to further globalism. The media and educational institutions help to advance ideas and concepts that emphasize man-centered global unity. And even supposedly Christian organizations can unwittingly contribute as vehicles that move us closer to a one-world system.

As of now, there are two huge obstacles that are making it difficult for Satan to bring his plans to fruition. One is the United States, which still has many who advocate national sovereignty and autonomy rather than globalism, and the other is Christianity, which affirms the biblical truth that it is impossible for sinful man to achieve the one-world utopia he so badly wants—only God can do that. That is why we are seeing both under attack as never before.

### **THE PURSUIT OF A ONE-WORLD SYSTEM**

Humanly speaking, man has always tried to achieve true and lasting peace and prosperity. Those are the goals that have long been touted by leaders, politicians, and governments. Mankind has also searched for relief from pain. But these pursuits have always been in vain and will continue to be. Yet they explain why there are people who are always looking for ways to make peace and prosperity happen. They set up programs and organizations in the hopes of reaching those goals. They want war and poverty and inequality to go away, but no matter what mankind tries to do, it fails. Satan has convinced people that if they only try harder, they will succeed. If only they can get everyone on board with the agenda, they can make things happen.

This is the kind of thinking that is behind all efforts made toward globalism, or a one-world system. But what many don't realize is they will never be successful because, at heart, mankind is evil. Only God can bring about the success man so desperately wants, because only He has the answer to mankind's problem of sin.

In recent decades in American politics, we have seen a growing number of clashes between nationalists and globalists. There are those who believe a country should function autonomously and make a priority of caring for the needs and concerns of its own people. And there are others who want America to submit to the globalist agenda.

We saw this happen during the 2016 presidential election, when Donald Trump ran against Hillary Clinton. In a campaign speech given in April 2016, Trump said, “We will no longer surrender this country or its people to the false song of globalism.”<sup>1</sup> In contrast, Hillary’s husband Bill, a former US president, founded the Clinton Global Initiative, which aims to create “a community of doers who are taking action on the world’s most pressing challenges, together.”<sup>2</sup>

This battle of agendas continues through today on many different fronts. And it’s one of the reasons the globalist community is so critical of those who don’t agree with them. In Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu has held to a nationalist position for the Jewish state, which has put him at odds with globalists. More recently, we’ve seen that with President Javier Milei of Argentina, whose policies run contrary to the globalist agenda.

At first glance, globalism seems innocent enough. We’re told that it’s all about cultures learning how to live together, appreciate one another, and make sacrifices for the common good. Globalist causes plead for people to give money and support that will make it possible to solve problems that will make the world a better place. What could possibly be wrong with that?

But in reality, globalism is about powerful leaders and organizations making decisions about how they believe the world should be run. They use their authority and resources to implement ideas and programs that supposedly are for the good of all, but ultimately, call for forced compliance or undermine human autonomy and freedom. And whether these power brokers know it or not, ultimately, they are paving the way for the future antichrist.

## THE HISTORY OF GLOBALISM

To give us some perspective on what's happening, I'd like to go back to where globalism first began—in ancient Babylon. The people who lived in the land of Shinar had become prideful and said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves” (Genesis 11:4). This was an act of rebellion against God. And what did God do? He shut it down. He said, “This isn't a good idea.” He then confused the people's languages, and they ended up being scattered around the world.

These same seeds of pride and destruction have been a part of every effort for a world order ever since. Ultimately, human pride rebels against God, and that leads to judgment.

## EUROPE'S PLACE IN THE PURSUIT OF GLOBALISM

You may be aware that in the middle of the sixteenth century, artist Pieter Bruegel painted what has since become one of his famous works, featuring the Tower of Babel. What's interesting is that this image—created nearly 500 years ago—was featured on a poster created by the European Community in the 1990s, which bore the slogan, “Europe: Many Tongues, One Voice.” The poster announced the coming of the European Parliament building that now stands in Strasbourg, France—and the building bears an amazing resemblance to the Tower of Babel as depicted in Bruegel's painting.

So it seems as if there is a sense in which there are some who want to keep the idea of Babylon alive, even though it was an experiment that failed terribly.

A lot of what we are seeing happening today with Europe and the European Union will contribute to making it possible for the anti-christ to rise to power. I agree with the Bible prophecy teachers who say that the antichrist will come out of Europe. In Daniel 9:26, we

read that “the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” “The prince who is to come” is a reference to the future antichrist. And it is his predecessors—“the people” in the ancient Roman Empire—who came to Jerusalem to “destroy the city and the sanctuary” in AD 70.

Today, we see Europe facing many challenges. Europe is reeling from a variety of problems. A significant one is largely unchecked immigration, which has not worked out as planned. Huge numbers of Muslims from North Africa and the Middle East have moved to Europe but refused to integrate with European society. Other issues include political and economic disparities that have generated serious disagreements between the member nations of the European Union. The cover of the April 22, 2019 issue of *Time* magazine featured an article titled “The Unraveling of Europe.” And a July 30, 2016 *Breitbart* article was headlined, “Polish Experts: ‘Europe Is At the End of Its Existence. Western Europe Is Practically Dead.’”

I believe one of the biggest reasons for Europe’s demise is its long-time rejection of God. When people throw God out of their lives, there are terrible consequences. And as long as Europe continues to decline, it’s not hard to imagine there will come a day when everyone will be desperate enough to want a powerful leader who says he can set things right.

Among the current leaders of Europe are many globalists. They are active in the World Economic Forum and the European Union, and they have significant sway over what happens in European politics. They have significant influence over policies that affect all the member nations of the EU, and even the world. That’s because other world governments who want to do business in Europe are expected to abide by policies established by the EU and are expected to abide by its rules. More and more, I believe we are seeing Europe move in a direction that will facilitate the rise of antichrist’s global empire.



## **THE BIBLICAL WARNINGS ABOUT THE FUTURE WORLD SYSTEM**

In Revelation chapter 13, God reveals to us some important details about this coming one-world system. In connection with the beast, or the antichrist, we read this:

He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him (verses 6-8).

People all over the planet will worship the beast. He will have complete power over the entire globe. And he will persecute the saints—those who become Christians during the tribulation. All of this reveals to us the enormous extent of his power. He will oversee a truly global government and will war against those who aren't in agreement with him.

Daniel 11:36 gives us another glimpse of the antichrist's power: "The king shall do according to his own will; he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods." In Revelation 17, we read that those who initially rule alongside the beast will become "of one mind, and...give their kingdom to the beast" (verse 17).

That is where the world will end up. That is the direction we are headed as Satan uses the many means at his disposal for advancing his globalist agenda.

## **THE MANY FRONTS OF GLOBALISM**

### ***Organizations with Globalist Agendas***

As we go through history, we find globalist-minded groups like the Knights Templar, the Freemasons, the Rosicrucians, and others. There have been powerful banking titans and their families, like the Rothschilds and the Rockefellers, who have helped to finance organizations and programs that have globalist intents.

In 1921, a group of globalist-minded leaders founded the Council of Foreign Relations, which, for decades has had a pervasive influence. Out of slightly more than 500 government officials from 1945 to 1972, more than half were members of this council.<sup>3</sup> We can probably say that other than the United Nations, the Council on Foreign Relations has been among the biggest contributors to encouraging a global government. Professor Carroll Quigley of Georgetown University wrote, “The Council on Foreign Relations is the American branch of a society which originated in England [and] believes national boundaries should be obliterated and one-world rule established.”<sup>4</sup>

Here in the United States, another contributor is the Federal Reserve, which is not federal at all. It operates independently of the US government and is the most powerful economic institution in the country. It is responsible for managing US monetary policy, and those who serve on its board of directors are selected by the president and approved by Congress. Americans have no say in the Federal Reserve’s decisions. When the United States implements a central bank digital currency, it will be the Federal Reserve that determines how it is put into place.

After World War I, the League of Nations was established with the goal of preventing a world war from happening again. Their goal was to create global unity. Yet it didn’t take long for World War II to break out. After the war ended in 1945, once again, an organization was created to prevent global warfare: the United Nations. Both the

League of Nations and the United Nations were created to resolve the world's problems, but those problems have not gone away.

The United Nations currently has many different agencies tasked to solve issues faced by the world. All of its efforts are globalist in nature. And the most ambitious program it has ever created is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One of the main goals of this program is to end global poverty, and the UN has urged every one of its member nations to commit to the goals of the agenda. This, of course, calls for global cooperation, and is being mandated by a globalist organization.

Back in 1968, the Club of Rome was founded. According to its website, its goal is to “identify holistic solutions to complex global issues and promote policy initiatives and action to enable humanity to emerge from multiple planetary emergencies.”<sup>5</sup> This organization has what it calls Earth4All, an “international initiative to accelerate the system-change we need for an equitable future on a finite planet.” They warn that “the next ten years must see the fastest economic transformation in history if we want to steer humanity away from social and ecological catastrophe.”<sup>6</sup>

The Club of Rome views the world as comprised of ten different regions based on the features and problems of those regions. When this was first announced, the prophecy world got excited, thinking perhaps this was connected in some way to the ten kingdoms mentioned in Daniel 7:24. But there are some who don't believe that to be an accurate assessment, and I agree.

### ***Individuals Who Advocate a World Order***

In recent decades, there have been individual visionaries who have called for steps to be taken toward what would ultimately bring about a global government. Henry Kissinger was one of them. In 1994, he said, “The New World Order cannot happen without U.S. participation, as we are the most significant single component. Yes,

there will be a New World Order, and it will force the United States to change its perceptions.”<sup>7</sup>

David Rockefeller, in a private meeting in June 1991 held by the Trilateral Commission, said, “The world is now more sophisticated and prepared to march towards World Government. The supra-national sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers is surely preferable to the national auto-determination practiced in past centuries.”<sup>8</sup>

In 2003, David Rockefeller stated in his book *Memoirs*, “Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as internationalists and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure, One World if you will. If that’s the charge, I stand guilty and I am proud of it.”<sup>9</sup> He boldly admits that he and his family agree with the goal of establishing a global system.

Former president George Herbert Walker Bush was a proponent of a new world order as well. This was a common theme when he talked about foreign policy. In his State of the Union address in 1991, he said, “It’s a big idea: a new world order, where diverse nations are drawn together in common cause to achieve the universal aspirations of mankind: peace and security, freedom and the rule of law.” He then added, “Among the nations of the world, only the United States has both the moral standing and the means to back it up.”<sup>10</sup>

No less than Pope Francis at the Vatican has been vocal about this. In an encyclical letter, he lamented the fact nations are becoming weaker, and said that “it is essential to devise stronger and more efficiently organized international institutions, with functionaries who are appointed fairly by agreement among national governments, and empowered to impose sanctions.”<sup>11</sup> That is essentially a call for a one-world governing body. In the same letter, he said that “the limits and borders of individual states” stand in the way of human rights and dignity. In saying this, he criticizes national sovereignty.

Back in 2003, Pope John Paul II gave an address to the new ambassador of Israel to the Vatican, saying, “My pilgrimage is a pilgrimage of hope; the hope of the 21st century will lead to a new solidarity among the peoples of the world...it is precisely this hope and this concept of solidarity that must ever inspire all men and all women... in working for a new world order based on harmonious relations and effective cooperation between peoples.”<sup>12</sup>

Billionaire George Soros has stated, “The main obstacle to a stable and just world order is the United States.”<sup>13</sup> And in his book *Open Society: Reforming Global Capitalism*, Soros says, “It may be shocking to say, but I believe that the current unilateralist posture of the United States constitutes a serious threat to the peace and prosperity of the world.”<sup>14</sup>

Soros is just one of many prominent billionaires who are able to exert enormous influence over what happens in our world. Their deep pockets and close connections with various governments and organizations enable them to fund and support globalist agendas.

### ***Movements That Urge Globalist Solutions***

#### **Open Borders**

One example of how global elitists have affected government policies is through their advocacy of open borders. As I mentioned earlier, Europe has had to deal with an overwhelming flow of immigrants at great social, political, and economic cost. The same has been happening in the US.

The Heritage Foundation reports that in the US, “what we’re seeing at the border is close collaboration and collusion between open-borders advocates within and outside of government.” According to their research, there is “a large network of non-profits, non-governmental organizations, NGOs for short, down at the border [that] are acting as a massive way point and resettlement program.” They say this is an international issue, with “the Open Society Foundation and George

Soros and his billions of dollars...[and] a lot more players involved... They don't believe in territorial sovereignty or the nation state."<sup>15</sup>

All of this is having a destabilizing effect on Europe and the US. And it is playing into the schemes of globalists who want to eliminate borders.

### Climate Change

Another front on which globalists are moving their agenda forward is the environmental movement. I say this cautiously because we *should* be taking care of our environment. God gave mankind that responsibility when He told Adam to maintain the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15). But today's environmental alarmists are warning that unless we make drastic energy policy and lifestyle changes, the world will be destroyed in a few years. They say the solution is global cooperation and government-imposed restrictions on the kinds of energy people can and cannot use.

The idea that planet Earth has only a few years left is nonsense—who can possibly control the climate? Only God can do that. There's a website article titled "Doomsday Addiction: Celebrating 50 Years of Failed Climate Predictions,"<sup>16</sup> which shows the many times alarmists have been wrong.

Though alarmists have repeatedly been proven incorrect, their efforts are having a significant impact. One survey of people in the UK revealed that "seven in 10 Brits support 'world government' to protect humanity from global catastrophes." They are saying that only a one-world government can fix the problem. The survey further reported that "88 per cent of respondents said they would be prepared to make changes that would affect their living standards to prevent catastrophic climate change in the future."<sup>17</sup>

A few years ago, the United Nations released a report that led to the news headline "UN: Humans Could Cause Extinction of 1 Million Species, Globalism Will Fix." The article cited the claim that mankind can "stop the destruction through 'transformative change'

that could translate into globalism replacing national sovereignty and nations' self-determination."<sup>18</sup> In other words, only globalism can save the planet. That has been the message of climate alarmists for years.

In 1996, former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev spoke about the strategic use of climate alarmism for globalist purposes. He said, "The threat of environmental crisis will be the international disaster key to unlock the New World Order."<sup>19</sup> Earlier, in 1993, Gorbachev founded Green Cross International, which now has a global network with member organizations in 30 countries. His intent was for it to serve "as an international body to respond to ecological issues and environmental problems."<sup>20</sup>

### **THE STEPPING STONES TO THE ANTICHRIST'S ONE-WORLD EMPIRE**

All these historic examples and quotes that I have shared here demonstrate that for thousands of years, in so many ways, mankind has schemed to bring about a global utopia, but has never been successful. One world apart from God is not God's will. The Tower of Babel was a failure, and every effort since then has failed. Mankind has a dark and sinful heart and is incapable of producing good results. Only Jesus Christ can give the world what it longs for, yet people have shut Him out of their lives. Only He can bring a global kingdom that offers true peace and is free of problems and pain.

But there is coming a day when it will appear that mankind has finally succeeded. As we already learned from Daniel 11 and Revelation 13, during the end times, the antichrist will rule the entire world. And we've looked at some of the ways governments and leaders are moving us in that direction. Some of the stepping stones that will lead to a powerful global government are with us today—socialized medicine, centralized economic systems, organizations pushing agendas

that call for governing bodies vested with worldwide authority, open borders, and more. There are forces at work that are undermining the family and giving governments greater control over how future generations of children are raised. We are in danger of crises that could force nations to centralize their decision-making processes, such as a global economic collapse.

We saw the profound impact the COVID lockdowns had on our world. Governments imposed draconian restrictions on their citizens. What will happen when the next global crisis hits? Imagine what another pandemic could do. Or a worldwide financial implosion caused by the unsustainable levels of debt everywhere. Or imagine terrorists carrying out 9/11-type attacks in two dozen cities around the world simultaneously. Another world war would be catastrophic. Whatever the case, it's possible we could be one major event away from seeing people become so frightened that they say, "We need a one-world government to control this."

## **THE RAPTURE AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER**

One event that is certain to cause global chaos is the rapture of the church. When that happens, millions of believers will suddenly disappear, and those who are left behind will be terrified. With so many people suddenly gone, the havoc and turmoil will be devastating. It will take an enormous amount of effort and time to restore stability.

The rapture could very well be the catalyst that brings on the new world order so many have been striving for. After the rapture will come the tribulation, which the Bible calls "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7). During this seven-year period, without the church on earth, globalists will finally get their one-world government, ruled by the antichrist. They will get their paradise, but it will be hell. Because God is pouring out judgment upon the world, conditions will become so bad that people will cry out 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!” (Revelation 6:16).

After thousands of years of attempts, the antichrist’s empire will be the best mankind can do. Evil will be rampant and at its worst. It will be a horrific time, which is why God will spare the church from this ordeal (1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10). In the antichrist’s world order, every kind of wickedness will flourish. Everyone and everything will be utterly immoral and vile and corrupt because Christ has been left out of the picture.

### **THE FUTILITY OF ALL SCHEMES AGAINST GOD**

Scripture provides us with some perspective on the whole matter of human governments versus God. In Psalm 2:1-6, we read this:

Why do the nations rage,  
and the people plot a vain thing?  
The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,  
“Let us break Their bonds in pieces  
and cast away Their cords from us.”  
He who sits in the heavens shall laugh,  
the Lord shall hold them in derision.  
Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,  
and distress them in His deep displeasure:  
“Yet I have set My King  
on My holy hill of Zion.”

God is in the heavens laughing at the fools who plot vainly to take counsel against Him. Every earthly kingdom will fail. When Christ returns, He will establish His global empire in Zion, in Israel.

Ephesians 6:12 tells us who we are really battling against: “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” So while people are the face of the push for a global kingdom, it is the powers and rulers of darkness that are motivating them to think they can create paradise without God. But that’s impossible. Every past effort has ended in ignominious defeat, and every future attempt will end the same way—including the antichrist’s empire.

Psalm 37:1-2 says,

Do not fret because of evildoers,  
nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.  
For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,  
and wither as the green herb.

The evildoers who have been plotting and scheming for thousands of years to create a one-world government apart from God have been and will be cut down. A few verses later, the psalmist says, “For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more” (verse 10). Their efforts are in vain, and God will destroy them.

### **THE GLORIOUS ONE-WORLD GOVERNMENT OF CHRIST**

Now, there *is* a good one-world government coming. After the tribulation, Christ will return and set up His kingdom here on earth. He will reign for 1,000 years over what is known as the millennial kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6). He will establish His perfect global government in Jerusalem, from which He will rule all the nations. At last, the utopia only the Lord Himself can bring will be here, and wars will finally cease. The prophet Isaiah says of this time,

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore (2:4).

Even the animal kingdom will know true peace:

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
and a little child shall lead them (11:6).

What a glorious time this will be!

None of mankind's attempts to bring peace and prosperity has ever worked, from the Tower of Babel to the world empires of history to the League of Nations, Council on Foreign Relations, and United Nations. That's because all of them have been and continue to be godless. You cannot succeed when God is left out. Only Christ's earthly kingdom will bring what people have longed for.

Revelation 11:15 tells us that during the tribulation, when the seventh trumpet sounds, loud voices in heaven will proclaim, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ will reign forever and ever. His millennial kingdom on earth will last for 1,000 years, after which He will usher in the new heavens and the new earth and rule for all eternity.

God has incredible plans for the future, and we who are His children are part of those plans. We have much to look forward to—hallelujah!