

**The Word of Truth Ministry Presents  
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**#MSS 07**

**A WORLD IN CRISIS**

**NEXT: DIVINE  
GOVERNMENT**

*Events which introduce the Kingdom of God*

**By John C. Ribbens**

**Dedication**

**This study is dedicated to Ray W. Baxter, a lifelong supporter of the Word of Truth Ministry, and to the late Otis Q. Sellers, founder of this work.**

**It has been a privilege to have been a personal friend of Ray and his wife Claire for some fifty years. He has been a Bible teacher and devoted student of scripture for the greater part of his life.**

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# **A WORLD IN CRISIS: Next: Divine Government**

## **Preface**

We are presently witnessing the gradual disintegration of society. Problems facing nations and governments unheard of a century ago are now commonplace. No nation or people are immune from these conditions. Although they may appear subtle, they are infiltrating the fabric of society at every human level.

The effect of these corrosive conditions has entered into both the social and physical dimensions of the human race. Thinking people recognize that the increasing occurrences of these problems have accelerated beyond man's ability to find solutions. Many in desperation believe the end of the world is imminent. This attitude is exacerbated by men who sincerely believe that the rapture of the church is the next event on God's prophetic calendar.

Having given the past fifty years of my life to the study of the inerrant word of the Lord, I have come to the conviction that next for mankind is a time of divine government. Included in this booklet are two charts depicting "Eonian Times" and the "Post-Eonian Times." (see separate folder, **MSS07.1**).

Chart One, "Eonian Times," describes events that will prevail upon the earth once God assumes the reins of government. These conditions are contingent upon divine intervention. These spiritual blessings will resolve every physical, material, and social problem facing mankind today.

Chart Two is a divine scenario of events which will occur on the earth during the first seven years of the Day of the Lord. For the most part, these dramatic events are dealt with in the Book of Revelation, often spoken of as the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ. Not one of these events has ever yet been fulfilled, but once these events begin to occur, the result will be a final and definitive confrontation with Satan in which Christ will be victorious.

I dealt with the substance of these events in my book titled Matthew 24 and the Consummation of the Eon (More Special Study # **MSS04**).

## **Introduction**

We have been spectators at crucial world events. The headlines read, as of October 1999: Columbine, 13 murdered, 23 wounded; North Korea: 250,000 people, 10 percent of the population died from famine in three years; Sub-Saharan Africa: each day 5,000 people die because of AIDS-related causes; Zambia: life expectancy reduced to 37 years; Taipei, Taiwan: 1,400 dead, 3,500 injured in earthquake; Kosovo: 20,000 killed in ethnic cleansing. Currently, the world population is over six billion, increasing by 78 million people a year, expected to reach 12 billion people near 2100 AD.

Do these headlines sound familiar? What are we talking about? Is it terrorism? Famine? Natural disasters? Health risks? The collapse of human governments? There can be absolutely no doubt in the mind of any thinking person that this world is gravely ill.

We read in John's gospel of a man named Lazarus who became gravely ill. The illness prompted his sisters Mary and Martha to appeal to the Lord saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard that, He said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby (John 11:1-4).

Consider the significance of this statement in the context of the present world conditions. This promise of God takes on greater importance in recognition of the condition of life in the closing days of the dispensation of grace. Regardless of the enormity of these problems and the gravity of world conditions, God's word holds out the promise of world salvation. John's gospel declares, For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but...that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:16-17).

This is the irrevocable guarantee that this world will not perish and will, by God's power, be preserved. The urgency of this condition is seen in the words of the Apostle Paul: I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior: who will have all men to be saved, and come into a knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:1-4).

## **International Problems**

In this exceedingly important passage the apostle is urging men to adopt a manner of life in the context of a critical situation. If ever men needed to pray on behalf of world leaders, this is the opportune time. The preservation of humanity on a global scale is now at great risk. Problems involving the ability of nations to provide a stable government, adequate health care, sufficient food supplies, and a peaceful environment within the populace defy the solutions of men. In order to place these concerns in proper perspective, we need to examine what I perceive to be five major international problem areas.

### **1) Natural Disasters**

Mankind within the past several decades has fallen victim to a broad array of extremes in weather: hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, droughts and the like. Paul, the apostle, wrote, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Rom. 8:22). No nation on earth today is proven immune to these natural disasters. For example, earthquakes, whether in Greece, Turkey or Taiwan, have been devastating. Many parts of the world, including the United States, have been hit by unusual flooding and drought, making the production of food supplies a major concern. Countries like North Korea and Somalia are facing major food shortages that will only be exacerbated as the world's population continues to increase.

### **2) Moral Pollution**

A recent national newspaper ad campaign stated, "Television is leading children down a moral sewer. Are you as disgusted as I am at the filth, vulgarity, sex and violence TV is sending into our homes? Are you fed up with the steamy unmarried sex situations, filthy jokes, perversion, foul language, killings, etc.?" The correlation between school killings and video arcade games, indulging in methods of violence, cannot be disputed. Young people and adults are now being victimized by purveyors of filth on the Internet, under the guise of "freedom of expression." As the result of

these devious means to influence the life and thinking of men, lives are being destroyed and the family structure is disintegrating. The Psalmist David spoke, The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and do good. He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil (Psa. 36:3-4).

### 3) Social Melt-down

We are today witnessing the fragmentation of society in the anarchistic forms of terrorism, crime, drug trafficking, the lack of civility with unchecked rage, the insane desire for financial success. These all are gradually eroding the quality of life for everyone. Men worship other gods and call it "multiculturalism." We engage in perversion and call it "alternative lifestyle." We exploit the poor and call it "the lottery." We kill our unborn in abortions and call it "choice." Some businesses and government abuse power and call it "political savvy." These practices constitute the destruction of the fabric of civilized society. Immorality and decadence are but symbols of a degrading lifestyle which is consuming men's lives. Men think our goal is freedom and happiness but men have become slaves of their own lusts.

In recent weeks, New York City's Central Park has become the scene of sexual assaults on the lives of some fifty women. Amateur videotapes examined by prosecutors showed women being groped, stripped and molested by a group of vicious young men. In Brathnagar, Nepal, thousands of Nepalese girls are being kidnapped to work in brothels across Asia where they are sold into prostitution. Traffic in girls represents a national humiliation for Nepal.

A further erosion of family life has now become a national concern. Experts call it "Scheduled Hyperactivity." Some parents demand that their children engage in a wide variety of sports programs. Psychologists say that having too many outside commitments destroys something kids need even more: time to connect with their parents and siblings. The next big status symbol just might be the number of times the family gets together for dinner and actually talks to each other, and even more importantly, the Bible is read and discussed. Sadly, Christ is not in their lives.

### 4) Fragmentation of Society.

Today we are faced with a proliferation of single-parent homes, depriving children of having a Christian mother and father to instruct and guide their innocent lives. Likewise, children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and thy mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long upon the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:1-4).

How are parents and children to respond to this injunction when satanic influences are being directed to destroy the family structure? Instability within homes, as well as schools lacking properly trained and committed teachers, has led to anger, hate and frustration. Under divine government, there will be a reconstitution of the family structure with God at the head, joining the parents together and sanctifying their union. David declared, God setteth the solitary in families (Psa. 68:6). No child, privileged to live in the Kingdom of God, will fail to enjoy living in a family environment influenced by the Spirit of God. This will in part be due to the work of Elijah the prophet, of whom it says, And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse (Malachi 4:6). The gracious work of God will create an entirely new, and more solid, family structure.

## 5) Spiritual Deprivation.

A man's face is the mirror of his soul and spirit. Life, for many living today, has lost real meaning. This is equally true of rich and poor alike. There is little understanding of the plan or purpose of God and almost complete ignorance of the greatest fact in the universe, which is that God has spoken. The record we possess, the living word of God, the Bible, is vilified as poor literature and bad history by academicians, and hence is ignored and not read by the vast majority, even among Christians. The greatest need of mankind today is to acquire a genuine knowledge of God through His written word by regular reading and study. This has led to a paucity of understanding for the spiritual things and, in particular, the message of the Kingdom of God.

Instead of men seeking to know their God personally, they have become intractably involved with this human institution called "the church." Rather than being taught in the Word, they are involved in a thousand and one social programs. Instead of growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 3:18), they fall victim to every wind of doctrine, by the sleight, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lay in wait to deceive (Eph. 4:14). One college professor writes, "Christians should be involved in a church where the leaders are accountable to a denomination or other organization." Such is the human admonition which ignores this Biblical precept: Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, not after Christ. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col. 2:8-9).

## **The Hope Of Mankind**

In view of the enormity of these universal problems, what hope remains for mankind? It is becoming apparent that the vast majority of men living today are of the opinion that this world is heading toward a global catastrophe, marked by a mythical battle between Christ and the antichrist, called Armageddon. It is claimed by a large number of misguided evangelists that hundreds of millions of men, women and children will die in this conflagration.

The November 1, 1999, issue of Newsweek Magazine reports, "Whether fundamentalists and other prophetic Christians will suffer in the endtimes remains for them a matter of some dispute. They have built an escape clause into the endtime scenario; it is called the rapture." This popular and widely held myth is proclaimed in a number of books written by men like Hal Lindsey and Dr. John Walvoord. What these popular authors have failed to address is the Biblical doctrine of divine intervention. It seems that there are the rapturists who hold that at the moment of the rapture of the church cars will be driverless, airplanes will be pilotless and children may lose their parents if they are among the secret elect. This hideous doctrine stands in bold contrast to the future dispensationalists who proclaim, as I do, that God's next move is a five-hundred-year-long period of divine government, preceding the second coming of Christ. This event will result in "Eonian Times," in which God will flow out to mankind and the nations in a tidal wave of physical, material and spiritual blessings before the millennium. Hence, it is also called the premillennial Kingdom of God.

Whereas the rapturist's scenario spells out doom for mankind; the futurists proclaim a message of hope and deliverance from the present bondage of sin and death. In this scenario every conceivable need of mankind will be provided by God. Consider Psalm 46:8-10 which says, Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations (astonishing things) He hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaketh the bow, and cutteth spear in sunder; He burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen (nations), I will be exalted in the earth. This is God's unconditional promise, which will bring an immediate end to all production and implementation of all weapons, including those of mass destruction. Such a complete annihilation of all weapons

will result in the nations living in peace. Men are urged to behold the most astonishing things in the earth which men have ever experienced. The psalmist David adds, in a later Psalm, Say unto God, How terrible (awe-inspiring) art Thou in Thy works! Through the greatness of Thy power shall Thine enemies submit themselves unto Thee. All the earth shall worship Thee, and shall sing unto Thee; they shall sing to Thy name. Selah. Come and see the works of God: He is terrible (awesome) in His doing toward the children of men (Psa. 66:3-5). Consider the impact this will have on the future of mankind.

Also, one should ponder upon Psalm 72:4-8 which says, He shall judge the poor of the people, He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear Thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea and from the river unto the ends of the earth. The writer goes on in verse 17 to say, His name shall endure for ever: His name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in Him: all nations shall call Him blessed.

These incredibly marvelous conditions will prevail on the earth, once God assumes sovereignty. The impact of the literal fulfillment of these promises will completely alter life upon the planet Earth for the good of mankind. Another prophetic Psalm declares, Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase (Psa. 85:10-12). The realization of this majestic truth will bring an end to centuries of lies and perversion that have deceived men since Satan first seduced the woman in the garden of Eden.

The doom of all the workers of iniquity is spelled out in another Psalm, which says, When the wicked spring as the grass, and when the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever: but Thou, Lord, art most high for evermore. For, lo, Thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity are scattered (Psa. 92:7-9). The word "ever" in verse seven is the Hebrew word *ad* meaning "continuity," or "in perpetuity." Also note that the word "destroyed" is the Hebrew word *shamad*, which occurs in Psalm 37:38, where we are told that "the transgressors shall be destroyed together."

In this critical judgment every man determined by God to be a transgressor or unrighteous will immediately be destroyed. God will not tolerate the continuity or perpetuation of these kinds of men in the Kingdom. This truth conflicts with the doctrine of "universal reconciliation," which some men fiercely pursue. In the process of the destruction of some rebellious men, God loses nothing. Those men simply return to the soil out of which they were made.

The effect of God destroying some men, who are opposed to His righteous order, will produce an order upon the earth in which the flow of unrighteousness will cease. In contrast to this the psalmist says, The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon (Psa. 92:12). No longer will God permit the conditions of these present last days of the Day of Man, saying, But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived (2 Tim. 3:13). Solomon, in his day, depicted a grim scene characteristic of the Day of Man, saying, So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter (no paraclete); and on the side of the oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter (Eccl. 4:1). What we read here is a striking example of the intense suffering of the Jews in the Nazi

holocaust or, in more recent situations, the tragic plight of the people of Kosovo, subjected to ethnic cleansing by the Serbians, or the horror of hundreds of civilians, including nuns and priests, massacred in East Timor for seeking independence from Indonesia.

How will God respond to these frightful conditions? Scripture provides the divine solution, saying, For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever (Psa. 9:18). Here again the Hebrew word *ad* appears, signifying that these conditions will not be perpetuated under divine government. The passage goes on to say, Arise, O Lord; let not man prevail: let the nations be judged in Thy sight. Put them in fear, O Lord: that the nations may know themselves to be but men (Psa. 9:19-20). The impact of God at work will positively overwhelm the nations, and this is what mankind can look forward to, not the wanton destruction of Armageddon.

The reader should contemplate upon Psalm 10:15-16, which says, Break Thou the arm of the wicked and the evil man: seek out his wickedness till Thou find none. The Lord is King for ever and ever: the nations are perished out of His land. Think of the impact that this work of God will have on earth's civilization. Clearly, this marks the end of the Day of Man. The fact that "the Lord is King forever and ever" tells us that He will reign with respect to Eonian Times and beyond. The phrase that "nations are perished out of His land" tells us that all the nations, presently occupying the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, will be removed.

## **Divine Intervention**

Divine intervention will come in an hour of critical need. I freely admit that I am incapable of assessing all the critical needs of mankind. But to insist, as so many so-called dispensationalists believe, that the solution to this world-wide dilemma is the rapture of the church, followed by the battle of Armageddon, is a false and misleading doctrine. Tragically, we are seeing a proliferation of books being written by prophets of doom about this end-time scenario. Do not heed these merchants, the great men of the earth, for by sorceries were all nations deceived (Revelation 18:23).

God's response to the overwhelming needs of mankind today is stated in Isaiah 59:19: So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. At a time when the floodgates of terrorism, violence, sickness and death are about to prevail, God will act and speak peace, health and righteousness to all mankind. The psalmist David declares, The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea (Psa. 93:3-4). Here is a figurative picture of the flood of evil men in the world today. Nations are in rebellion and mankind is incapable of finding lasting solutions to this maze of vast unrest.

In a song of great deliverance, the psalmist David declares, O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvelous things: His right hand (a symbol of His great skill), and His holy arm (a symbol of His enormous strength), hath gotten Him the victory. The Lord hath made known His salvation: His righteousness hath He openly showed in the sight of the nations. He hath remembered His mercy and His truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God (Psa. 98:1-3). Yes, even the peoples in the most remote places on earth will see our Lord Jesus Christ's salvation, and they shall all know who He is, and what He is in the sight of God. No sincere and God-fearing man reading Psalms 96-98 can fail to perceive a glorious future for mankind

and this majestic planet Earth. So we state this fact that earth, not heaven, is clearly mankind's future home and destiny.

Once God openly assumes sovereignty, men shall speak of the glory of Thy kingdom, and talk of Thy power; to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. The eyes of all wait upon Thee; and Thou givest them their meat in due season (Psa. 145:11-15). May God in His grace hasten this day, overwhelming the most complex problems of this world.

**Looking for that blessed hope, even the glorious appearing (epiphaneia)  
of the great God even our Savior Jesus Christ. Titus 2:13**

**Events Which Introduce the Kingdom of God  
Divine Intervention as Set Forth by the Scriptures**

1. The Son asks for the nations, His inheritance. Ps. 2:8, 82:8.
2. God arises (goes into action), Ps. 9:19-20, Isa. 3:13.
3. God pours out His Spirit upon all flesh. Joel 2:28.
4. The Holy Spirit enlightens the living, John 16:7-10.
5. God assumes sovereignty over the earth, Ps. 22:27-28.
6. All living are changed, I Cor. 15:51 -52, Ps. 67:2.
7. Changes in nature, Isa. 41:19, Ps. 67:6, Isa. 55:13.
8. The glory of the Lord is revealed, Isa. 40:5, Hab. 2:14.
9. God's arm (His power) made bare, Isa. 52:10, Ps. 98:1.
10. A standard raised against the enemy, Isa. 59:19.
11. Christ is unveiled, I Cor. 1:7, Isa. 25:7-8.
12. Christ is led forth, He is manifested, I Thess. 4:14, Col. 3:4.
13. God in Christ judges the living and the dead, 2 Tim. 4:1.
14. He sends forth judgment to victory, Mt. 12:18-21.
15. God speaks, the earth conforms, wars cease Ps. 46:6, 9.
16. The strength of evil and wicked men is broken, Ps. 10:15.
17. God stops the mouth of all iniquity, Ps. 107:42.
18. God's arrow of truth wounds the workers of iniquity, Ps. 64:7.
19. Evil doers are cut off, Ps. 37:9-10.
20. His judgments (order) are in all the earth. Ps. 105:7, Isa. 26:9.
21. The world is established unmovable, Ps. 96:10.
22. Resurrections begin, John 6:39-40
23. God turns His hand to Israel, Isa. 11:11, 1:25, Eze. 20:33-38.
24. All of Israel (living and dead) are set in order, Eze. 37:12-14.
25. He sets His glory among the nations. Eze. 39:21-22, 27-29.
26. He is King over all the earth, Zech. 14:9, Ps. 97:1, 103:19.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth...

***The End - - MSS07***