

THE U.S. IN ESCHATOLOGY

By Frank P. Mancuso, Ph.D.



Prophecy reading can be very confusing, even to those who are well versed in Bible interpretation. Yet, most Christians are highly interested in what the Bible says about the commonly called End Times (eschatology). In particular, they want to know the position of the United States in the last days.

What nations does the Bible recognize as existing in the end times? Daniel chapters 7 and 8 tell us about two end-time visions, which reveal four of the nations existing at that time. The four nations, Greece, Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor-Turkey, arise from the Grecian Empire. Syria was part of the Roman Empire, and either of these may give birth to the prophetic “abomination of desolation” (Daniel 8:23-25 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3). This person aligns himself with Satan and forces the whole world to worship the beast or suffer the consequences, and establishes one-world monetary and religious systems (Revelation 13:11-17).

Other nations mentioned in scripture during the latter times are: Israel (Revelation 12), “the kings of the earth” (Revelation 17:2—undefined kings or kingdoms), Babylon (a city—Revelation 17:18; 18:18), which may be Rome (Revelation 17:9—sits on seven mountains). A seventh kingdom (Revelation 17:10,11) either has been or will be destroyed and returns to life), which persecutes God’s people (Jews and saints). This latter kingdom is very difficult to determine, but might be a second Roman Empire or Nazi Germany. They persecuted God’s people (Jews and/or Christians), were destroyed and could come back to life. In the last days this kingdom will have greater power than all other kingdoms and will rule over all the earth (Revelation 13:4,7).

And America?

What does this mean for the United States of America in the end times? What position of power, if any, does the U. S. have in the seventieth week of Daniel, also known as the seven-year tribulation

America will not continue to be the world's leading power.

period? No one can say if America will exist as a nation in the latter days. According to Bible prophecy, America will not continue to be the world's leading power. It doesn't appear to even possess a substantial world influence at the end of this age. What we know as the "good ol' U.S. of A." will cease to exist sometime in the future, according to prophecy.

This lack of biblical reference to America was not an oversight on God's part or a simple choice not to mention an end-time Western power. It seems the U.S., as all other world powers before it, loses its global standing somewhere along the timeline. Another nation or collective governments will surpass America. In the news today we hear rumblings about China becoming the leading global economic power and the rise of the European Union (EU) since

World War II.

It can be surmised that American influence—military, economic, political, and spiritual— will fade. With respect to spiritual influence, the church in America is at a crisis point and needs to emerge (not to be confused with the Emerging Church movement) or recreate itself to be relevant for all ages, nationalities, etc. About 28 million self-proclaimed born-again Christians have left traditional American churches, according to Barna research.

It is likely our citizens will not enjoy the same high standard of living we have known, or will not keep up with new, future standards. In one of the worst scenarios, our country may be divided into smaller countries (as happened in the U.S.S.R. in 1991.) The specifics of how and when America will be dethroned, and what the consequences will be, are purely speculative, but it will happen. We can use an informed imagination to create possible end-time events.

The Enemy Within The Gates

As things stand today, America is not likely to fall or diminish as a result of external factors like war, but rather because of internal forces. The country does face international threats, such as Iran's jihad (holy war) ideology and its growing nuclear capability, and it or other nations could become an even more serious threat to America's national security. However, America is more likely to fall from power through internal factors, such as the current threats of fiscal irresponsibility and moral corruption. The former looms on the horizon as a quiet, greedy enemy waiting for the right moment to serve us a bankruptcy notice and seize our country. According to U.S. Debt Clock (www.usdebtclock.org), our federal debt consists of almost 108 *trillion* dollars in unfunded liabilities (monies not covered by assets, which includes Social Security and Medicare). This amount is equal to a \$350,000 debt for every single American citizen, aside from his or her own personal debt.

China holds 889 billion dollars of our debt, which gives them increasing control over our country. Recently, they have threatened to discontinue buying our debt and to sell off their



holdings, if we sell arms to Thailand. If they cash in our debt, it would have the effect of devaluing U.S. Treasuries/Notes and the dollar, and increasing our interest rates.¹ This is but one example of how an outside country could significantly impact our economy, power and prestige with a single decision.

A second internal threat to America's influence or existence is growing moral corruption. When people are not led by the Spirit and ignore the Scriptures, or are not properly educated in understanding the truth of them, they are left to their own devices to establish values and determine right from wrong. People without God will follow their own sin nature, which puts self first and takes advantage of situations and people. Even those who know the truth must be cautious about their associates. Scripture says, "Bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33). In the original Greek the admonition means *worthless or evil communication ruins or destroys good or useful habits, customs or manners*.

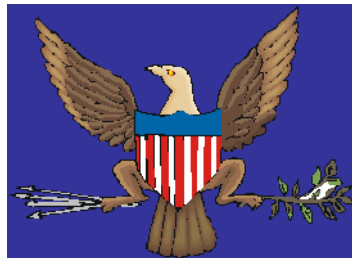
Corruption demoralizes people trying to live rightly, and tempts all to rationalize behavior.

Corruption demoralizes people trying to live rightly, and tempts all to rationalize behavior and act in similar, corrupt fashion. As corruption spreads, a person will likely think most others are out for themselves. When individuals seek to protect themselves and their loved ones, money becomes a natural source of influence and power. The use of money without personal integrity leads to many financial crimes, like personal tax violations, misappropriations of corporate funds or political favors. These practices devastate economies in the long run.

Corruption is all around us. As a small sampling, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports non-health related insurance fraud costs the country \$40 billion each year.² Fraud in the health insurance industry costs \$60 billion annually.³ And according to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), total U.S. fraud is equal to about seven percent of gross domestic product (GDP)—for 2008 alone that translated to \$994 billion. This is equivalent to \$13,667 per family per year, and manifests itself in increases in the prices of all goods and services. This is one critical reason everything costs so much, and why many cannot afford as much as they expect, given their level of income.

The U.S. is now approaching a 55 trillion dollar debt (equivalent to \$680,000 in debt for every American family). Economic collapse is a current, real and serious threat to the future of America.

It's Worse Than You Think.



Senator Kent Conrad (D – North Dakota) presented a report to congress on January 21, 2010. He said the Congressional Budget Office projected our gross Federal debt to be 114% of GDP by 2019, and projected to climb to a whopping and unsustainable 400% in the near future. He also cited an article by John Maggs of the *National Journal* called, "The Debt Problem Is Worse Than You Think."

¹ Retrieved on 3/3/2010 at http://www.gold-eagle.com/editorials_05/conrad052105.html.

² Retrieved on 3/5/2010 at http://www.fbi.gov/publications/fraud/insurance_fraud.htm.

³ Retrieved on 3/5/2010 at http://www.bcbs.com/blueresources/mcrg/chapter5/ch5_slide_8.html.

“Simply put, even alarmists may be underestimating the signs of the [debt] problem, how quickly it will become unbearable, and how poorly prepared our political system is to deal with it.”⁴

America is deep, deep in the red and may not be able to recover...

America is deep, deep in the red and may not be able to recover unless we take immediate, drastic and corrective political, corporate and personal action. The most important change of all would be to commit ourselves to remain under the influence of God, who can change the hearts of our countrymen.

Despite the monumental evidence, there are some who don't worry about the gargantuan debt or escalating corruption because they believe America is a nation too great and powerful to fold. Is America too big to fail? Babylon, Medio-Persian, Rome and other empires no doubt asked the same question of themselves, and surely responded with a confident, “Yes!” Pride sometimes does go before a fall. But no military might, political body or constitution (including ours), or man-made religious power is sufficient to guarantee immunity from decay or collapse. America, as special as she is, thanks to her spiritual heritage and Constitution, can fall into bankruptcy and lose her superiority as a global power.



Even prior to such a catastrophe, suffering will be severe-physically, emotionally and relationally. In such a scenario, the American Dream vanishes and personal security evaporates. People live in survival mode trying to cope with unprecedented hyperinflation. The unemployment rate hits 50 to 60 percent, panic and rage prevail and the necessities of life are extremely hard to come by. These result in people's love growing cold, increased lawlessness and such a rise in the distrust of others that family life and all social networks breakdown. The global community, out of fear, desperation and considerable loss, are driven to establish a one-world government in an attempt to avert a global economic collapse. According to biblical prophecy, the new government eventually recognizes and supports only one world religion. The control necessary to ensure its success and survival requires a system whereby people are allowed to buy and sell under strict socialist governmental guidelines. Implanted chips or tattooed numbers on each person pledging their allegiance help ensure control and compliance.

The Bible also predicts a split in many religions, especially Christianity. Those who are ill prepared abandon the Christian faith (2 Thessalonians 2:3, Revelation 2 and 3) when forced to serve either Christ or the new god of man, also known as the first “beast” (Revelation 13:1, 11). Those courageous and committed Christians who refuse to worship any other god are called ignorant, unloving and narrow-minded because they don't cooperate in helping the world survive the economic tsunami. This causes Christians to be hated and severely persecuted around the world (Matthew 24:9; Revelation 6:9; 13:7).

⁴ Retrieved on 3/5/2010 from http://www.nationaljournal.com/njmagazine/cs_20091107_8125.php

Is There No Hope?



Regardless of what is happening in the world or our nation, we Christians prepare our spiritual hearts and minds by never allowing ourselves to hold onto anything in this world. As the apostle Paul did, we practice dying daily to our fleshly desires and inclinations to keep us free of the world's entanglements and enticements. True Christians live morally, according to biblically informed integrity. Committed Christians avoid participation in *any* form of corruption, which would contribute to our country's or the world's social and economic problems. Because they take the Bible seriously, they live fiscally responsible lives—even if the government lives beyond its means. They seek to elect into office only men and women of high moral character. They strive to own nothing to anyone, but to love. A chief goal of those who have surrendered their lives to Christ is to face and overcome their own personal fears, so that when confronted with persecution (and it will come), they have the needed confidence and experience in God to help them “overcome” and keep the faith that leads to salvation (Revelation 21:8).

For Christians, trust isn't to be placed in the material world, whether goods or physical safety. Instead, a Christian's faith, security and protection in life is based on things above, the spiritual world, where we *fix our hope completely* on Christ and the world to come (1 Peter 1:13). This is Christians' stabilizing belief that will sustain them in dark and trying times.

