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11. WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

We human beings are naturally curious to know what the future holds. Trying to predict the future, however, can be tricky. As time marches on and future reality begins to unfold, we often observe that those confident predictions made in the past have missed their target altogether.

Regardless, based on what we have learned so far, following are some suggestions as to the direction world events may be heading in the near future. These suggestions may wind up wide of the mark, or they may come fairly close. Whatever the case, perhaps they will satisfy our curiosity somewhat, or if not that, at least give us something to think about.

On the Political-Economic Level

Russia has always had a culture susceptible to authoritarian rule. This was true during the Czarist era, then communism, and even today she has a fairly authoritarian government. Probably too, there exists a strong undercurrent of repressed nationalism, a desire to return to superpower status as it was in the glory days of the Soviet Union. And Russia is indeed

experiencing a resurgence of strength, both economically and militarily.

It would not be hard to imagine then that, during a time of turmoil, Russia and China and perhaps the European Union might agree to join forces as a way of strengthening their collective hands against whatever forces (from America) are threatening to de-stabilize them.

Russia needs Chinese and European money and administrative prowess. China and Europe need Russia's resources and strong-arm policing. Russia can flex its "iron" muscle to China and Europe's advantage on the international scene.

Besides giving protection from the *Great Harlot* (America), this will help to spur the implementation everywhere of the "*mark-number*" system of controlled economy. For their part, China and maybe Europe can use their financial and media influence to pave the way for the Antichrist to rise in Russia and exalt him into demagogue status in the eyes of the world.

In the meantime, nations will decide which way to turn: remain loyal to the declining power or switch allegiance and team up with the rising power? This partnership of the Antichrist and False Prophet "*heads*", accompanied by the Russian and China-EU "*beasts*", has great potential to capture much of the world's allegiance and dominion. And that is a major development we can expect to see coming along in the future. (See [Footnote: News Article Excerpt.](#))

Even though many nations will escape the Antichrist's military-political conquest, they can still wind up surrendering to the economic-spiritual conquest of the False Prophet. Thus, a large portion of the world could end up being paralyzed into submission without any physical conquest.

However, even in spite of all this great power, it seems some nations will try to rebel - at least so it seems from passages in Daniel 11:44 and maybe Revelation 16:12. Could this be what sets the stage for a new war, the Battle of Armageddon, when Christ Himself will join in the war to rid the world of evil, once and for all? Anyway, that's a bit far in the future, and beyond the scope of this study.

Another major development: the fall of Western commercial capitalism.

The “great harlot” of Revelation 17-18 symbolizes accurately a modern empire that is about to collapse - one that has spread her cultural decadence everywhere, amassed great wealth for herself at the expense of the rest of the world, and maintained her dominance through belligerence and oppression over weaker nations.

Sad to say, these chapters seem to describe the downward spiral of the American empire - the decadent, even oppressive, nature of her influence in the world. Not in days gone by when she bore the yoke of colonial tyranny. But in the world of modern times, America has come full circle and resembles all too closely the ominous picture painted in those chapters of the Revelation Book. (See [Fall of the Great Harlot](#) series of posts.)

As outlined in Revelation 17-18, the “great harlot” will fall in a sudden and catastrophic way (probably at a time when the Antichrist “beast from the sea” and his “ten horns” get fed up with her greed and dominance on the world stage). In fact, it is already starting to happen. At present (2022), Russia is on the warpath, re-claiming territory that was once hers (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine). (See “[Ten Horns Coming into View?](#)” post) The *Harlot* too has been on the warpath for decades, but she is destined to fall before the rising superpower. Thus, we understand that the coming years will see a great deal of turmoil before the Return of Christ.

And so, because of the impending collapse of the capitalist world system and accompanying disorder, the economic pendulum will swing more to the middle away from *laissez-faire* principles to a more controlled and regulated economic system, with a more equal distribution of the world’s wealth.

Citizens depend on their state to provide security. So when days of turmoil come, they are not likely to protest against restrictions on freedom. At such a time a strong leader can arrive on the scene to guarantee protection - whether against terrorist threats, an economic crash, pandemic infection, or whatever emergency might arise - and be welcomed with open arms.

An interesting example in modern history: The Weimar government, which took over from the Kaiser after World War 1, was trying to operate

by democratic principles in Germany. But because of too much indecision, internal squabbling, and lack of charismatic leadership, the German people got fed up with it and turned instead to the Hitler strongman who, decisively in the beginning of his rule, solved many of the problems that had gone unresolved during the reign of the Weimar government.

We might foresee a similar scenario among European nations. Will they get fed up with American control and the turmoil and confusion she causes them and the world? Will they want to loosen their ties to the American empire and link up with the authoritarian regimes of Russia and China, who seem to be operating more effectively on the world stage? And if they cannot manage to do it now, certainly when the *Harlot* collapses, they will have no other choice but to join the new regime.

Thus, we will see a major shift in the balance of power: the corporate capitalism of the *Harlot* nations (under America's influence) will steadily lose ground to the state capitalism and socialism of the *Beast* empires (Russia and China). What we see now, the present political-economic arrangement, is not how it will appear in the future. With the collapse of the "great *harlot*" (described in Revelation 17-18), a new "new world order" of the dual empire of Antichrist and False Prophet is destined to rise and gain control throughout most of the world.

It will be left to the "*beast from the earth*" to seize control of a world left in economic shambles, to hold nations hostage and enslave the masses to his "*mark*" credit system, to regulate them under the watchful eye of computer surveillance and control. Already the infrastructure for this system has been set into place in much of the world.

So a new world order, presided over by the Antichrist and False Prophet, will arise, starting to appear perhaps even before the fall of the "great *harlot*". And it may seem benign for a time. As new regimes often do during their rise to power, the new order will rectify many of the problems that had been festering in the world - particularly, its financial chaos.

Hitler Germany was a good example of a regime that started off well, bringing prosperity and employment, correcting the injustices of the World War 1 Versailles Treaty. But without the love and wisdom of God,

that nation soon began to unravel, spiral downwards into a tyranny of hatred, war, and persecution.

Likewise, the new order of the final two Beasts, as a regime that glorifies man and denies God's presence, will be drawn by the Dark Forces into a final, horrific tailspin.

Like its predecessor the Soviet Union, the new totalitarian regime will be hailed in idealistic terms as the “brave new world” of the future, the progressive utopia long dreamed of by humanistic thinkers of the past and promoted by the False Prophet of the near future.

But such a system cannot survive if it tries to leave God out of the picture. Like the previous communist utopias or Hitler's Third Reich, it will only collapse - another utopian dream turned into a nightmare - just before the Second Coming of Christ to rescue human society from what will have become the lowest state and worst mess the world has ever been dragged into by the forces of Darkness.

Jesus Himself predicted, “*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.*” (Matthew 24:21)

But after those few final years comes the glorious Return of Christ. God's Kingdom will then be established throughout the Earth in that wonderful Age of Peace known as the Millennium.

On the Religious Level

Earlier in this series ([Post 3](#)), it was proposed that the materials of the Daniel 2 “image” were meant to symbolize the “spiritual geography” of empires. If that is the case, then it should be easy to link the new iron-clay regime with some kind of new religion. And this was covered in previous posts.

But just to review: In Revelation 13 we learn how the Dragon, through his two agents (Antichrist and False Prophet), will serve up to the world its new religion - a combination of militaristic Demagoguery and Materialism. This is not a religion as we usually think of it, but in the

modern secular world, since this is what people believe in and devote themselves to, then it would qualify as a “religion”.

The clues about this modern religion are given in the Revelation Book, especially in phrases like “*worship the beast/dragon*”, “*image of the Beast*” and “*mark of the beast*”. Besides being “religious” terms, these also point to certain aspects of modern technology, which are relevant, not to those in olden time, but to us who are familiar with modern inventions - in this case, media communications, computerization, cashless buying and selling. These inventions provide the infrastructure needed to institute the world’s new secular religion; they are the mechanisms that facilitate its operation.

Now it so happens that neither the “*mark*” nor the “*image*” is the Antichrist Beast’s creation. They are both engineered by the False Prophet Beast; but he does promote them in the name of the Antichrist. So there is quite a mixing here of the two Beasts’ activities on the religious level (in Revelation 13), which seems to match what Daniel’s prophecy says about the mixing of “*iron and clay*”.

Because of this combination, the resulting spiritual effect has much greater power to capture the loyalties of human society than if only one Beast were to dominate. And for this reason it looks as though the forces of Darkness are working hard to “*mix*” these two as much as possible.

“*And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they (iron and clay) shall mingle* (or “*mix*”, same word in Hebrew) *themselves with the seed of men.*” (Daniel 2:43 - KJV) ◇ The iron and clay mixture happens for an expedient purpose - so that the final world government can more effectively “*mix*” in with human society and rule over the world more completely. It’s like a play on words.

◇ In recent times there has been some speculation about this “mingling” phrase in Daniel 2:43, and many have interpreted this verse as a reference to the mingling of demonic angels with the “seed of men”. To learn more about this subject, refer to [Appendix 1](#) in the study *Alien Gospel: Fact or Fiction?*

If “iron” only were ruling the world, the masses might feel too much the oppressive weight of a totalitarian society. Myanmar is an example in modern times of a regime that has been all government and military – an “iron” rule. But it is stifling and has caused the nation’s economic growth to stagnate.

On the other extreme, if only “clay” were ruling the world, the masses might become too self-satisfied and decadent, immersed in their materialism (busy worshiping Mammon). Much of Western society tends in this direction, and in most of its regimes the “clay” forces have the upper hand.

In this modern world, the “clay” component in the Daniel 2 “image” has counteracted the “iron” features inherited from ancient Rome to a large degree. And the future Antichrist regime, in spite of causing the collapse of the “great harlot” of commercial capitalism, will continue to allow the secular religion of Materialism to flourish.

If people aren’t interested in worshiping the Antichrist demagogue, they will give him their allegiance anyway just to be able to continue their pursuit of material wealth. So, having in place this balanced “iron and clay” religious framework will provide an effective means of capturing the world’s spiritual loyalties for a time.

In preparation for this last short-lived kingdom of the forces of Darkness, the infrastructure has already been set into place in our modern world. But to hasten its formation, these Dark forces may try to engineer a worldwide emergency of some kind. This will focus attention on a demagogue figure who can restore the world’s economy, as the Scripture in Revelation 13:16 seems to indicate: “He (False Prophet) causes all... to receive a mark... that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark of the beast (the Antichrist).”

However it happens, to engineer such a great re-organization of the world’s commercial system would likely require the trigger of some dire need or emergency situation that has arisen in the world. Through this upheaval in the world’s economy, brought on by the *Harlot’s* collapse, the False Prophet could install his new secular religion – Materialism combined with Demagoguery.

And the framework for this has been prepared. Over the last few centuries, nations have built within themselves the needed *iron-clay* infrastructure: Rome's military-political-legal administration combined with a solid industrial base, media communication networks, and fluid financial system. With a fair degree of inter-connectedness across borders, this will allow both the Beast and False Prophet regimes to operate in and rule over the nations in a one-world government. “*They (the “iron and clay” kings and their kingdoms) shall mingle themselves with the seed of men.*”

Now that the system, or infrastructure, is in place and has been in operation for some time, this sets the stage for the demagogue leaders - Antichrist and False Prophet - to make their debut. As we learned earlier in [Chapter 4](#), the “*beast*” and “*head*” symbolisms are interchangeable. And now that the “*beast*” (the system) is fully developed, or almost so, then the “*head*” has the needed platform to make itself known.

Right now we seem to be in that crucial in-between stage. The infrastructure for the “*iron and clay*” religion is already here. But its objects of worship, the leadership, have not yet arrived.

Nevertheless, during the last century these two “*cultures of darkness*” - the secular versions of Materialism and Militarism - have manifested themselves and seem to have headquartered themselves in different regions of the world. If and when these two “*cultures of Darkness*” join forces against their rival, the American superpower, it won’t be long before the religion also arrives in its full manifestation.

The two “*heads*” (False Prophet and Antichrist) will then come to the fore as demagogue figures before the world and leaders of their respective empires: presumably, Russia representing the Antichrist “*beast from the sea*”, and China and perhaps the EU, out of which arises the “*beast from the earth*” who, like a false prophet, lends its support to the new “emperor”. And the result is the “*iron and clay*” religious mix of Demagoguery and Materialism.

(By the way, it helps to remember that the Daniel 2 *image*” - especially its materials - symbolizes the worship-of-man religions that have come and gone through history. And in the historical period of the “feet”, the

End of the Age, this new feature of “clay”, the religion of Materialism, gets mixed in with the “iron”, adding a whole new dimension to the age-old practice of Emperor-worship.)

In conclusion, the scenarios mentioned above can give some idea of what will come to pass. Of course, it is somewhat speculative, and based on the assumption that the meaning of the symbolisms in Daniel 2 and Revelation 13 have been interpreted correctly.

As time goes on, the picture will become clearer, and adjustments to the above forecasts will, almost certainly, have to be made. But for now, hopefully, this will give a rough and accurate-for-the-time-being picture of what the future holds.

FOOTNOTE: News Article Excerpt

Think of a possible, auspicious future: spelling out cheap telecom, delivering financial services and world market access, in a non-dollar environment, to all those who have been so far cut off from a truly globalized economy.

(from “[Putin and Xi plot their SWIFT escape](#)” 17 December 2021)

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