

P06-a_What To Expect 2017.

By Irvan Baxter.

US Embassy Moved to Jerusalem?

President-elect Donald Trump boldly promised to move the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Congress passed a law in 1995 mandating this move. However, they left a loop-hole. They said the president could ask for a waiver from this law if he felt it would endanger national security. It is required that this waiver be renewed every 6 months. Since the law was passed in 1995 every president has enacted the waiver in order to avoid moving the embassy to Jerusalem. If President Trump does what he has said he will do, this will produce a major shift in the Middle East equation.

Trump has stated that he will attempt to negotiate a peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians. He says this would be the deal of all deals, and, of course, he's the person that wrote the book "The Art of the Deal." He may well attempt to move quickly to achieve a Middle East peace agreement so that he can move our embassy to Jerusalem as part of that agreement.

America will Turn Away from Globalism.

The world has been moving rapidly away from the nation-state structure to a system of global governance ever since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The process has been called globalization or globalism. World leaders have encouraged open borders and free immigration policies. The number one issue in the recent presidential campaign was globalism vs. national sovereignty. Hillary Clinton unequivocally endorsed open borders while Donald Trump championed building a wall so that we could enforce our borders.

The Bible prophesies a system of world government for the times just ahead. Revelation 13:1-2 describes the world government of the end time. It prophesies that the end time kingdom of the Antichrist will be made up of Germany (the leopard), Russia (the bear), Great Britain (the lion) and a ten-nation alliance out of Europe symbolized by the ten horns. The one major world power absent from this end time world government prophecy is the United States (the eagle). However, the eagle is depicted in Revelation 12:14 as protecting Israel from the Antichrist and Satan in the end times. From these two passages, we can conclude that America is going to turn away from globalism, as Donald Trump has promised, and will remain Israel's best friend. It appears that Trump's victory in the recent election will move America toward the fulfillment of these prophecies.

Protestants and Catholics Move Toward Global Religion.

The clearest prophecy describing the world government of the end time is given in Revelation chapter 17. It shows the seven-headed, ten-horned world government beast of Revelation thirteen with a woman riding on its back. Who is this woman?

We are given six specific clues as to the identity of the woman of Revelation 17. There's only one city on earth that fulfills all six of these clues.

1. The woman is a city. REVELATION 17:18.
2. The city sits on seven hills. REVELATION 17:9.
3. The city presides over a vast international system. REVELATION 17:15.
4. The woman is dressed in purple and red. REVELATION 17:4.
5. The woman was drunken with the blood of the saints. REVELATION 17:6.
6. The woman has daughters. REVELATION 17:5.

Revelation 17 Foretells an alliance between the political powers of Europe and the religious power of Roman Catholicism and her protestant daughters.

1. Rome is a city.
- 2 . Rome is known as the "City of Seven Hills."
3. The church believes the pope should be ruler of the world. When the pope is crowned, he is declared to be the father of princes and kings of the earth, the ruler of the world, the vicar of our Savior Jesus Christ on earth.
4. There are two ruling bodies of the Roman Catholic Church: the College of Cardinals and the College of Bishops and Archbishops. It is the official policy of the church that Cardinals wear red while Bishops and non-Cardinal Archbishops wear purple.
5. The dam broke on the Reformation in the 16th century. Attempting to stem the hemorrhage from the church, Catholicism moved against its enemies by force. Millions were killed by burning at the stake and by many other forms of torture. During that time, the woman was indeed "drunken with the blood of the saints."
6. When the Protestants broke away from the Catholic Church, the Council of Trent was held condemning many practices of the Protestants. The feud between Catholicism and Protestantism continued unabated for the next 400 years. However, in the 20th century the Roman Church switched its tactics. In 1962-1965, Vatican Council II was held. Out of that ecumenical council, the church issued the following statement: "We the Mother Church our opening our arms for all of our daughters to return home." Since that time, the Roman Church has referred to Protestants as her daughters.

Beyond all doubt, the woman on the back of the beast is apostate Roman Catholicism! The prophecy of the woman riding the 7-headed, 10-horned beast in Revelation 17 foretells an alliance between the political powers of Europe and the religious power of Roman Catholicism and her Protestant daughters. It will be nothing short of the alliance between the Antichrist and his religious partner, the False Prophet.

It is hoped by many that the planned return of Protestants to the Catholic fold will be completed in the year 2017. Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church at Wittenberg, Germany in 1517. Consequently, the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation will be commemorated in the coming year. It is the goal of many Catholic and Protestant leaders to declare the end of the "protest" and the healing of the divisions in Christianity. Many prominent Christian leaders plan to travel to Rome during the coming year for the purpose of signing a statement of unity, of faith and purpose with the Vatican.

This unification of Catholicism and Protestantism through compromise is clearly prophesied in Revelation 17:5.

Fortunately, another thing is prophesied as well. In the very next chapter, Revelation 18:4, Jesus issued the warning: "...Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." While apostate Christianity is moving toward an alliance with the world government of the Antichrist, true Christians will be separating from this unholy alliance and will be moving back to Biblical Christianity.

WWIII?

Revelation 9:13-16 prophesies a war that will kill one-third of mankind. The prophecy states that this war will begin from the Euphrates River. The Euphrates begins in Turkey, flows down through Syria, then all the way through Iraq, and finally empties into the Persian Gulf along the Iraq-Iran border. This is the area from which an unprecedented war will begin, wiping out one-third of the world's population. Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran are all Islamic nations. It is obvious that Islam will be heavily involved in the greatest war the world has ever known. ISIS captured approximately 40% of the Euphrates in 2014. Battles have raged up and down the Euphrates River since that time. In December 2015 Russia and the United States entered into a secret agreement. They agreed that Russian forces would fight ISIS on the west side of the Euphrates while U.S. forces would fight ISIS on the east side of the Euphrates. This has resulted in Russia and America, the world's two greatest nuclear powers, fighting up and down the Euphrates River at this present time.

In order for the present conflict to expand into WWIII something will have to spark the broadening of the conflict. None of us want this to happen, but it is going to happen. The only question is: "When?" Will it be in the coming year of 2017?

World Continues Toward Cashless Society.

Revelation 13:16-18 prophesies that, in the end time, a system will be set up requiring a person to have a mark or number without which they will be unable to buy or sell. This prophecy could only come to pass since the invention of the computer and the Internet.

Our world is moving rapidly toward conducting purchases electronically instead of using cash. For example, Sweden has 1,600 banks. Nine hundred of them will not receive cash deposits nor can you get any cash from them. As a result, the number of bank robberies in Sweden plunged from 110 in 2008 to 16 in 2011. Furthermore, many of Sweden's businesses now are refusing to deal in cash at all. Cash transactions are down to just three percent of the national economy.

In Canada, as of January 1, 2013 no more new Canadian currency is being printed. Why? 56% of Canadians would prefer to use a digital wallet than cash. Also, Canada is a world leader in plastic payment, where payment by credit, debit and bankcards is almost 70 percent.

Starting out as a very cash dependent society, the South Korean government has successfully put into place policies to encourage cashless behavior. For example, South Korea introduced a preferential VAT treatment for consumers who pay with cards, moving the share of cash from 40 percent to 25 percent within four years from 2002 to 2006. The Bank of Korea is now planning for a "cashless society" in South Korea by 2020.

This trend is sweeping through most other countries as well. A huge percentage of people in our world now receive their paychecks by direct deposit and many more pay their bills electronically.

However, the cashless society is not without side effects. If cash disappears from our hands, all of the monetary transactions will be done on the Internet. Just as freedom is accompanied by responsibility, convenience is followed by a cost called surveillance. The end of cash means the start of the 'Big Brother' era.

There's no doubt about it. The world is preparing for the prophesied Mark of the Beast and will continue to do so during 2017!