



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

“Global Warning”

17:6-14

Introduction

President Barack Obama on Tuesday urged coordinated action to fight the worldwide economic crisis, joining British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's call for a global response.

"One of the things that Prime Minister Brown and I talked about is how can we coordinate so that all the G20 countries, all the major countries around the world, in a coordinated fashion, are stimulating their economies?"

Before traveling to Washington, Brown called for a "global New Deal" in which countries would work together to jump-start growth, revamp financial rules and boost funding to the International Monetary Fund.¹

Meanwhile back on February 19th Gordon Brown met with Pope Benedict.

¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/topNews/idUSTRE5202N820090303>

The Vatican... said the two had also discussed "the duty to pursue initiatives benefiting the less developed countries, and to foster cooperation on projects of human promotion, respect for the environment and sustainable development". The Vatican added that "hope was expressed for a renewed commitment on the part of the international community in settling ongoing conflicts, particularly in the Middle East."²

It's not too far-fetched anymore to envision a one-world government that includes strong participation by the Vatican.

Nearly two thousand years ago the apostle John saw it in its final form and he describes it for us in our text.

Revelation 17:6 I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

John was familiar with persecution:

- The first Christians, of which he was one, were familiar with persecution from the Jews.
- After a time the Jews enlisted the aid of the Roman government to persecute the Christians.
- John was himself exiled on the island of Patmos for his faith in Jesus Christ.

What possibly amazed him was something that had not yet occurred: Christians being persecuted by other professed Christians who were, in fact, apostates.

Revelation 17:7 But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

The "mystery" of the "woman" was revealed in the opening verses. She is the false religious system that will exist during the Great

² <http://www.christiantoday.co.uk/article/brown.in.cordial.meeting.with.pope/22577.htm>

Tribulation. We saw that she had roots in ancient Babylon and reaches to modern Roman Catholicism. We said she would be the umbrella for uniting all the world's religions into one monstrous apostate system.

The new "mystery" now being revealed is that the woman rides "the beast." We've already met him. He is the man we commonly call the antichrist.

Revelation 17:8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

In chapter thirteen you learned "the beast" would be a satanically empowered world leader in the last days who would be assassinated but return to life. That is why the angel says he "was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit," and what he means when he says the beast "is not, and yet is."

Note also that the beast will "go to perdition." One of the titles of the antichrist is the son of perdition:

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

His followers are described as those "whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world." I understand the Book of Life to be the Book of the Living. It is the listing of every human being ever conceived; of every human life. Thus everyone's name is in the book "from the foundation," that is, before the creation, "of the world."

God is seeking to save those who "dwell on the earth." In Acts 17:26 & 27 we read,

Acts 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

Acts 17:27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Modern science is almost as smart as Paul was in the first century. Geneticists have proven all humans descend from a single mother. Paul already knew that from reading the Bible. He also knew the father and both of their names! It was Adam and Eve.

History is not the random rise and fall of various civilizations. It is following a course preset by God. Its purpose is to redeem fallen humanity back to a personal relationship with God.

This is an altogether remarkable statement. Though mankind is lost and therefore groping in the dark, God has shed sufficient light in creation that they might find Him if they seek Him. No matter where a person is born anywhere at anytime, God is not far from him.

Men are capable of seeking God. God will give more light to those who seek Him. Creation is a partial revelation of His nature. To those who seek He will give greater revelation and (ultimately) His name.

What if you do not find the Lord? What if you die rejecting His revelation? Then your name will be blotted out of the Book of the Living. Thus at the end of the Revelation when the unsaved appear before the Lord their names are not found on Heaven's register.

Let me anticipate a question. What about those who cannot believe? What about aborted babies or children who die before the age of reasoning or mentally handicapped individuals? I believe you can support from Scripture that Heaven is the home of any and all those who cannot believe.

For example. Think about babies. When King David's firstborn son from Bathsheeba died he said confidently,

2 Samuel 12:22 And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?'

2 Samuel 12:23 But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

David knew he would see his child again in Heaven.

Job, in his depression, wished he had died at birth so he could have avoided suffering and gone directly to Heaven:

Job 3:11 "Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?

Job 3:12 Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

Job 3:13 For now I would have lain still and been quiet, I would have been asleep; Then I would have been at rest

Rather than launch into it, however, I will simply recommend you find a copy of Robert Lightner's book appropriately titled, Heaven for Those Who Can't Believe. Or the updated version titled, *Safe in the Arms of Jesus: God's Provision for the Death of Those Who Cannot Believe*. (Search for them by author or title on alibris.com).

You can also download J. Vernon McGee's pamphlet, *The Death of a Little Child*.³

Revelation 17:9 "Here is the mind which has wisdom: The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.

Only one city has for more than two thousand years been known as the city on seven hills. The Catholic Encyclopedia states, "It is within

³ <http://www.thruthe bible.org/atf/cf/{91E2424C-636C-40C2-9C55-890588E90ECE}/Death%20of%20a%20Little%20Child.pdf>

the city of Rome, called the city of seven hills, that the entire area of Vatican State proper is now confined.”

The harlot’s headquarters will be Rome. It is interesting to note that Vatican City is considered a separate nation, and that the Vatican has ambassadors in every major country of the world.

Revelation 17:10 "There are also seven kings. Five have fallen, one is, and the other has not yet come. And when he comes, he must continue a short time.

It is not unusual in the Bible for a sign or symbol to represent more than one thing. The “seven kings” are a summary of biblical history. “Kings” can be translated *kingdoms*. What are the seven kingdoms?

The key is that the angel tells John “one [kingdom] is.” One of the kingdoms existed in John’s day. That would be Rome.

“Five” kingdoms had “fallen” prior to Rome. They were: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece. Along with Rome, these are the kingdoms that the Bible is most interested in.

These are not all of the kingdoms or empires that have ever been established by men; but these are the ones which are important from God’s perspective and in the flow of biblical history. They are the ones the angel shows Daniel in his prophecies. We’re looking at history from God’s point of view, not ours.

Rome is thus the sixth kingdom, and a seventh kingdom “... has not yet come.” There is a future kingdom. It is described in verses eleven and twelve:

Revelation 17:11 "And the beast that was, and is not, is himself also the eighth, and is of the seven, and is going to perdition.

The beast, the antichrist, was part of the seventh kingdom, and is also the eighth kingdom... Huh?

It's really not that confusing! In the future, during the Great Tribulation, there will be a revived Roman Empire. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, and Greece are kingdoms one, two, three, four and five. Rome at the time of John is six. Revived Rome in the Great Tribulation would be seven. We'll see in a moment that the Revived Roman Empire of the Great Tribulation will take a further, sinister form. That would be the eighth kingdom.

Revelation 17:12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

Revelation 17:13 "These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

At some point the antichrist will consolidate the Revived Roman Empire into an eighth world empire. It will consist of a coalition of ten kingdoms or regions of the world. These rule not in succession but as the eighth kingdom at once subordinate to the beast.

The harlot rides this beast. Religion will play an important role in the Great Tribulation. Most Bible scholars see a coalition of the world's religions - a cooperation among various groups - led by the Roman Catholic Church.

You see that today as the Roman church seeks to enlarge its influence in the world.

Indications about Roman Catholicism's ultimate partnership with a one-world religion were evident in Pope John Paul II's involvement with and approval of other anti-Christian religions. In addressing a prayer gathering of Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and others, Pope John Paul II told participants that their efforts were "unleashing profound spiritual energies in the world and bringing about a new climate of peace." The Pope pledged that "the Catholic Church intends to 'share in and promote' such ecumenical and inter-religious cooperation."

The *Catholic Review* commented on this and said,

The unity of religion promoted by the Holy Father Pope John Paul II and approved by His Holiness the Dalai Lama is not a goal to be achieved immediately, but a day may come when the love and compassion which both Buddha and Christ preached so eloquently will unite the world in a common effort to save humanity from senseless destruction, and leading to toward the light in which we all believe.

Revelation 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

I'm thankful for this reminder that Jesus Christ is coming to establish the true kingdom, the kingdom of God on the earth. No kingdoms or kingdom of men, even one ruled by a satanically possessed antichrist, can prevail against our Lord.