

## ZEW'S NEWS REVIEW

March 29, 2009

Issue # 233

### HE'S COMING ! – Part I

*In case you didn't know this: **JESUS IS COMING BACK!** This is one of the central, most essential, sometimes disbelieved and certainly misunderstood tenets of the Faith. Sometime, probably in the not too distant future, Jesus is coming back for His Church, - all the true believers, - to gather them to Himself. This is what is referred to as the 'Rapture'. Following that He is coming in judgment. Many Christians, - sometimes whole denominations, - have missed the essential nature of this doctrine. Others have glossed over it. In this series we'll look at that promise of Christ's return; - its certainty, its timing and its relation to the day in which we live.*

#### "I Go To Prepare A Place For You"!

**"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."** (John 14:2-3) These are the words of Jesus himself, speaking to the apostles on the occasion of the Last Supper. Christ had just told them that **"Where I am going, you cannot come"**. Now He was explaining why. It is here that Jesus gave his disciples that promise of His future return to **"...receive you to Myself"**. It is a promise to come and take believers out of the world to a heavenly dwelling place where they will live in the age to come. This is clearly not His return in judgment, but as we will see, a coming for His bride.

In fact, the event that Jesus is alluding to is something the Church has come to call, The Rapture, after the Latin word raptus found in 1Thessalonians 4:17. Raptus is translated 'caught up' coming from the Latin verb rapere, 'to transport from one place to another'. Of course, the New Testament was not written in Latin but Greek; - and the Greek word used in the original manuscripts was harpazo, which means 'to seize', or 'a violent snatching away'.<sup>1</sup> Let's look at Paul's description of the event found in 1Thessalonians 4:15-17. **"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."**

Here is the event, given in so much more detail. And there is that word caught up, from the Greek *harpazo*, which echoes and expands upon the promise of Jesus' words of John 14:3 recorded above. He's coming, and He will bring us to Himself! Paul wrote these words to the Church in Thessalonica, which had begun to question what they had been taught and believed about Christ's coming. Read the two verses that precede the description of the rapture above. **"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."** (1Thessalonians 4:13-14) The persecuted Christians in Thessalonica believed that they would be delivered from the trial by Jesus return. They believed that this 'rapture' could happen imminently, at any time. Yet many of their brothers were dying and they began to question just what happens to those Christians who had "fallen asleep". Would they miss the Lord's return?<sup>2</sup> So Paul gave them a detailed view of the rapture. Let's examine some of its elements.

First of all, let's remember that Paul is speaking to believers, Christ's Church, comforting them about their already dead loved ones. Here is what he tells them, (and all believers, by extension).

- 1) The dead will rise first. 1 Thessalonians 4:15 puts it thus, **"...we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep"**.
- 2) The Lord Jesus Himself, is coming for us. It will be an unmistakable event. Verse 16, tells us **"...the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of**

**God**". According to preacher and Bible scholar, Dr. David Jeremiah, the Greek there is not suggesting that there will be three separate auditory events. Rather it is describing a sound that will be so unmistakably memorable as to be perceived as a shout from heaven, like the voice of an archangel or the very trump of God.

- 3) First the dead are raptured and then the living. **"Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."** The original Greek *harpazo* has several senses: To be carried off by force, to eagerly claim for oneself, to snatch away speedily, and to reserve from destruction. When Christ comes for His Church, it will be an occasion that reflects all of those meanings.
- 4) There will be a great reunion with all those in Christ, living and dead. The believers in Jesus from every age will come together with the Lord.
- 5) We will be instantly transformed. 1Corinthians 15:51-52 describes it like this: **"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."** The whole transaction will be over in a moment as we receive our eternal, glorified bodies. 1Corinthians 15:42-44 reads, **"The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."** It will all happen in the **"twinkling of an eye"**.<sup>3</sup>

### The Look of the Thing

We have seen what the Rapture will look like to God's people. But what will it be like here on earth? We have to remember that the rapture will indeed be a sudden event. There are signs of the Tribulation and signs of Christ's coming. We'll see later that if you are here at the time the Antichrist brings the "abomination of desolation" to a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, you will be able to calculate the exact time of Jesus' return in judgment. BUT there are no signs that indicate when the Rapture will take place. Christ could come back for the believers at any moment. Mark 13:32-33 says, **"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is"**. In Matthew we are told that mankind will not be expecting a heavenly visit. Life will be going on as usual. **"But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be."** (Matthew 24:37-39) One often stressed aspect of the "days of Noah", is their moral bankruptcy, - and that is true. However, another sometimes-missed characteristic is their utter normalcy. In the days before the rapture it will be; Life as usual! Then bang! That is what is referred to as 'imminence'.

In his Left Behind series of books and movies, Tim La Haye has crafted perhaps the most graphic images of what will follow the Rapture event here on earth. Others too have applied their minds to paint a picture of the impending chaos. As Paul puts it, **"in the twinkling of an eye"**; millions of believers will be gone. Planes without pilots and cars without drivers will crash. Children will disappear in front of their parent's eyes. It is likely that in some places, much of the infrastructure will at least temporarily crash, - leaving millions without power or water. There will be empty houses and riots perhaps. We have seen the aftermath of Katrina. For weeks, headlines and news shows will be dedicated to the disappearance of those millions. Some churches will lose a great part of their membership, - others hardly any at all. A religious hierarchy will remain to try to explain away the event. And those empty churches may be filled in the following weeks with, in the words of John Hagee, "...weeping people who have realized, too late, that God's prophetic doomsday clock has advanced, shearing away another event on the prophetic time line".<sup>4</sup>

How will the Bible-denying world explain such an event? Some of the explanations are already in place. Space aliens, a New Age 'leap of consciousness', are some that are already being put out there as possible explanations. Then there is this detailed explanation from the 1991 New England Conference of the American Theosophical Society. David Bay of Cutting Edge infiltrated the event and reported on its content. At the meeting, conference speaker Bill Lambert, described three groups of people on earth when the new [false] messiah comes: Those who will immediately accept him, those that may accept him after some time and, in the third group, those that could never possibly accept him. This third group he compared to people who had spent their whole lives living in a darkened room. When the light is shined into this room, these people will not be able to handle the light and will want to get out as fast as they can. Lambert said

these people will, (his phrase now), “elect to leave for another room.” When questioned he elaborated. These people will not be able to just will their spirit to leave this world, nor will they commit suicide. But quoting again, “I do not know how it will happen, but these people will leave this dimension.” Further, he said that this departure for ‘another dimension’, will occur right after the appearance of the New Age Christ. This is what their Guiding Spirits, (demons), are telling them. – It can refer to none other than the rapture of the Church. And of course the group he refers to is ‘born-again Christians’ that could never accept the New Age Christ. New Age writer, Ruth Montgomery confirms this, in her book, “Herald of the New Age”, writing that “millions that will pass into the spirit”.<sup>5</sup> The world has its explanation already in place!

## **HEADING TOWARD ONE WORLD CURRENCY**

The Bible tells us that under the rule of Antichrist there will be a form of global government, a universal religion presided over by the ‘False Prophet’ and a centrally controlled worldwide economy where everyone will **“receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name”**. (Revelation 13:16-17) It is plain to see that a one world currency is one of the keys to the fulfillment of this prophecy. Another is the establishment of a cashless system of payment. A third condition would be the increasing integration and globalization of the world’s economies. The current financial crisis, - morphing into a real economic crisis, - may just be the catalyst that drives us to the fulfillment of those necessary steps.

While President Obama and the rest of the world may disagree about the precise steps to be taken, the coming G-20 economic summit being held at the beginning of next month will provide a forum for both sides as they seek greater financial cooperation and globalization of the economy. The first thing that we’re seeing in this country is an increasing government control of the domestic US economy that borders on outright fascism. The banks that took the bailout money are finding that Uncle Sam is exercising increasing control as government operatives seek to micro-manage the banking industry. Policies and even salaries are on the table and “the program enables Congress and the administration to add new conditions at any time”.<sup>6</sup> Driven by the outrage at the AIG bonuses, - the President is calling for even more regulation, including the oversight of executive pay.<sup>7</sup> Fed Chairman Bernanke calls for even more control; - an “overarching financial authority” with the power to “seize” American businesses ; - all as a step toward a globalized economy.<sup>8</sup> And all the players are calling for that increased planetary cooperation; - President Obama, Treasury Secretary Geithner, the Europeans, the Russians, etc.<sup>9 10</sup>

So things are moving swiftly toward nationalization of economies and global cooperation. Now a company called USA Technologies has patented a new “Unattended Cashless Transactions” system that moves us all closer to the realization of what John wrote about in Revelation 17, quoted above.<sup>11</sup> And then there is the surprisingly swift drive toward ditching the dollar in favor of regional or even a world currency. In recent issues we pointed out how Africa is considering a continent wide currency, as are parts of the Arab world. The euro of course, already exists and the amero, has been designed for use in a ‘soon-to-be-integrated’ North American Union. But now the calls are coming for the ultimate goal of all of these; - A One World Currency that would be regulated by a Global Bank and feed a One World Economy. Back in the Spring of 2007 an article in the Council of Foreign Relations magazine argued for the “end of national currency”; - “countries should abandon monetary nationalism”.<sup>12</sup> Of course any such move would require, an international central banking system that would trump the national systems like the Fed and the Bank of England.<sup>13</sup> From there the idea has gained momentum. Russia is now proposing just such a move at the coming G-20 meetings. They want the International Monetary Fund, (an international central bank, - possibly), - to investigate the feasibility.<sup>14</sup> Reports suggest that China is supporting the Russian position.<sup>15</sup> And while it might be a little early to expect immediate action, the genie has been let out of the bottle. Worried by the exploding number of dollars in circulation that are driving down its value, a chorus is building for an alternative. One such possibility is digital gold. The mechanism already exists and such a move could cushion the pain of the move of the world’s major economies all dumping their American Treasury Bonds at the same time.<sup>16</sup> Now a UN panel has recommended “ditching the dollar” in favor of a “basket of currencies”.<sup>17</sup> And now we must add to the list of supporters of some sort of world currency both Kazakh President Nazarbayev and Nobel Prize winning economist, Robert Mundell, who pioneered the euro.<sup>18</sup> *The Antichrist System is gaining momentum!*

## On The Israeli Front

Russian defense officials confirmed that they did indeed sell the state-of-the-art S-300 antimissile system to Iran back in 2007, but that delivery has not yet occurred. Once that system is put in operation it would make a strike on Iran's nuclear facilities 'significantly more difficult'.<sup>19</sup> The day after that story ran Israeli Chief of Staff Ashkenazi briefed his American counterparts about with 'fresh intelligence' on an Iranian nuclear facility and informed them that was taking the steps necessary to launch a military attack on key elements in the Iranian nuclear chain.<sup>20</sup> A new report out suggests that such an attack against Iran could be launched in such a way as to minimize the dangers to Israeli planes and pilots-even with the new Iranian air defense system in place. Israel is capable of striking those targets using ballistic missiles. The danger would come however in the form of an Iranian response that could unleash WMDs with attacks on Tel Aviv and collateral damage to neighboring Jordan. Attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah as well as a cut off of oil supplies to the West could ensue.<sup>21</sup>

In case you're keeping track, the Obama administration is quite taken with the notion of establishing a Palestinian State on its watch. That is putting it increasingly at odds with an incoming Netanyahu led Likud government that refuses to concede Jerusalem and is likely to continue expansion of the Jewish settlements. Right now, Israel has plans to remove some Arab residents in order to build 200 new housing units. This is bringing warnings of a blood bath of resistance.<sup>22</sup> Meanwhile the Israeli port of Haifa was the scene of a failed attempt by Hamas operatives to launch a massive terror attack against a shopping mall that would have resulted in a chain reaction of exploding cars and scores of casualties. A car loaded with 1,000 kilos of explosives and ball bearings inexplicably failed to detonate. God was indeed merciful. Investigations revealed a sophisticated, "serious terror infrastructure" is in place.<sup>23 24</sup> Through it all the Palestinians are insisting on their own state, with Jerusalem the capital, no less. Palestinian President Abbas reiterated that a peace was not possible without "an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital".<sup>25</sup> [*Yeah, that'll bring peace!*]

## Two Volcanoes & An Earthquake

Here's a little action for you: Two volcanoes going active in one week. One in Tonga left a "wasteland of black ash" destroying birdlife and vegetation. And Alaska's Mount Redoubt erupted 5 times in a two-day period. Earlier there was a massive 7.6 magnitude earthquake in the Tonga region.<sup>26 27 28</sup> Would that could qualify as "**earthquakes in divers places**"? (Mark 13:8) (KJV)

## On The Calendar

Attention Buffalo Area Folks! Saturday, April 18th at 10 AM to Noon – ATP Ministries will present: The Bible & Today's News: An End Times Update with Rob Palaszewski. There will be a presentation followed by an open forum with a Q & A period.

## The History Of The Future



If you want to make sense of the chaos that is today's world, this is the book for you. If you want to understand where we've come from and get a glimpse of where we're going, this is the place to start. *The History of The Future* ties it all together; From the old order of Babylon and Egypt to the New World Order and the New Age, from the Romans to the Vatican, the EU and the UN, the Federal Reserve and Islamic terror, from Babel to 9/11. Author Robert B Palaszewski weaves a narrative that lifts the veil on the mystery of history, in the process revealing God's plan and the unerring accuracy of Biblical prophecy. Through it all we watch that prophetic plan unfold in today's headlines. To grasp the world we live in you must understand *The History of The Future*. Available Soon from [ATPministry.com](http://ATPministry.com)

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Material taken from an article entitled: - A Pretribulation Rapture of the Church..., Rapture Ready
  - <sup>2</sup> From the notes on 1Thessalonians 4:13-18, John MacArthur Study Bible
  - <sup>3</sup> Much of the material from this section adapted from,
  - <sup>4</sup> John Hagee, From Daniel to Doomsday, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, 1999
  - <sup>5</sup> Notes taken from transcripts of Cutting Edge Radio Show 1093-1094, found on Cutting Edge, author David Bay
  - <sup>6</sup> Banks pay dearly for government aid, International Herald Tribune, March 11, 2009
  - <sup>7</sup> Obama seeks oversight of executive pay, International Herald Tribune, March 21, 2009
  - <sup>8</sup> Steve Watson, Bernanke Tells CFR: New Financial Authority Is Needed, Prison Planet, March 10, 2009
  - <sup>9</sup> World cooperation on economy 'unprecedented': Treasury Secretary Geithner, AFP, March 15, 2009
  - <sup>10</sup> Kint Klein, Obama Urges Global Economic Coordination, VOA, March 11, 2009
  - <sup>11</sup> USA Technologies Extends Leadership..., Virtualization UK Sys-Con, March 2009
  - <sup>12</sup> Ben Steil, The End of National Currency, Foreign Affairs, May/June 2007
  - <sup>13</sup> Jerome Corsi, One world currency emerges...again, World Net Daily, March 16, 2009
  - <sup>14</sup> At G20, Kremlin to Pitch New Currency, Moscow Times, March 17, 2009
  - <sup>15</sup> China backs talks on dollar as reserve, Reuters, March 19, 2009
  - <sup>16</sup> Jerome Corsi, US dollar replaced by ...digital gold?, World Net Daily, March 9, 2009
  - <sup>17</sup> UN panel says world should ditch dollar, Reuters, March 18, 2009
  - <sup>18</sup> Nobel-prize winner backs world currency, The Australian, Agence France- Presse, March 11, 2009
  - <sup>19</sup> Russian media: Defense official confirms S-300 sale to Iran, Jerusalem Post, AP, March 18, 2009
  - <sup>20</sup> IDF to US: Israel Closing In..., Arutz Sheva, March 19, 2009
  - <sup>21</sup> Israel could attack Iran with missiles, Jerusalem Post, March 17, 2009
  - <sup>22</sup> Trouble brewing in Jerusalem, Guardian, March 20, 2009
  - <sup>23</sup> Haifa vehicle contained 100kg of explosives, March 22, 2009
  - <sup>24</sup> Israeli-Arab terrorist branch of Hizballah behind failed Haifa massacre, DEBKAFfile, March 23, 2009
  - <sup>25</sup> Abbas: No Mideast peace without Jerusalem as Palestinian capital, Haaretz, March 21, 2009
  - <sup>26</sup> No living thing left..., AFP, March 20, 2009
  - <sup>27</sup> Alaska's Mount Redoubt..., FOX News, AP, AVO, USGS, March 23, 2009
  - <sup>28</sup> Magnitude 7.6 – Tonga Region, USGS, March 19, 2009