

Fallen,
Fallen Is
Babylon
the Great! Rev 18:1

Revealing how the love of money rules the world. Proving that Babylon is in the crosshairs of God's wrath, which will be her downfall. How can you escape?

Matthias Klein

Fallen, Fallen Is Babylon the Great!

She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

Book of Revelation, chapter 18, verses 2 and 3

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To all my fellow inhabitants of the Earth.

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Introduction

Dear reader, is there a link between the following verses in the Bible and the global catastrophes in the 21st century: starting with the fall of the Twin Towers in New York in 2001, the Corona pandemic in 2019, the war in Europe in 2022 and the seemingly ever-increasing natural disasters?

Four Biblical texts:

“Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city (Babylon) and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth” (Gen. 11:4 ESV).

“And on every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks running with water, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall” (Isa. 30:25 ESV).

“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure language, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord” (Zeph. 3:9 ESV).

“... her (Babylon’s) plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her” (Rev. 18:8 ESV).

As we will see, these prophecies and events that span the first and last book of the Bible are linked together, and this insight will shed light on troubled minds who look at all the calamities and wonder what will come next.

Current Events

The Coronavirus pandemic was worse than the fall of the World Trade Center. Around 3,000 people died on September 11, 2001, because of the terrorist attacks. During the pandemic,

this number was reached and surpassed daily in the USA for some time. At this time of writing, over 1,000,000 deaths are associated with Corona in the USA. Now that the pandemic seems to have slowed down, the war in Ukraine, which has been going on since 2014, has escalated into a full-blown conflict in 2022. The angst of many people seems to be even greater. Famines are predicted to spread to larger parts of the world, and in addition to these calamities, you can hear people talking about the ever-growing threat of global climate change as well as devastating floods, storms, and droughts.

The world seems to comprehend neither what is going on, nor how to fix it. So let us turn to God and search for answers.

Can the Word and Wisdom of God Explain It?

The Bible says: "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

The Bible does, in fact, give a roadmap to mankind: "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John" (Rev 1:1).

Although it is true that prophecies are sometimes in images and their meanings are not often clear, there is also another promise God gives us: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5). Wisdom has the promise of solving the riddles of the wise. "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight" (Prov 1:1-2).

Why does God inform us about what will happen?

What Good Does It Do to Make Sense of What Is Happening?

“Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught” (Prov 3:23-26).

Wisdom gives us security and peace. Wisdom and prophecies allow us to avoid calamities, as in Proverbs 22:3: “The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it”.

Condition for Getting Insight

Before we search for relevant prophecies, as well as the wisdom to interpret them, an important truth must be pointed out to ensure that all readers will benefit from this.

Jesus Christ says in John 3:20, “For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.”

Therefore, I urge all readers to turn away from evil and to let go of all evil ways and violence by your own hands. When we seek wisdom, we must prepare our hearts and minds by turning from evil. Otherwise, our own hearts will keep us from wanting to understand and believe. There is a deception out there that people hide their ignorance behind the saying: “I do not believe that.” As if it were a matter of uncertainty when they were taught the truth and called to act on that truth. If you act wickedly and intend to keep on doing so, you are not interested in

understanding the whole truth and coming to Jesus and His prophecies.

So, I must ask: Are we willing to be taught by God and change our ways? Whenever we seek truth and knowledge, we will be led to decide either to yield to what we were shown or to refuse to listen. Therefore, it is said that we must buy wisdom with all that we have. Wisdom comes with a price tag. Everything you learn is something new you have not thought of. Learning from Jesus can mean that you learn something you do not want to obey. Therefore, Jesus Christ says that whoever does not deny himself and carrying his cross cannot be his student. The Bible does not really use the term "Christian" but rather "disciple", which simply means pupil or student. Someone willing to learn from God and apply what he has learned.

When joining the army, recruits must go through boot camp. There is a boot camp for all who want to be students of God.

Objection Answered

Maybe a reader is willing to let go of his evil ways, yet he wonders whether God would ever forgive him because he committed capital crimes or has led an extraordinarily wicked life. Is it possible for him to join boot camp? Yes. We know that God has raised Jesus from the dead because over 500 people have witnessed Him being resurrected. Jesus did not die because of any crime He committed. He voluntarily died for the crimes we committed. God accepted this sacrifice given for us by raising Him from the dead. Now He offers forgiveness of all sins, no matter how grave they were, for all who repent and are willing to become students of Christ. In case you wonder whether there is forgiveness for you, yes there is.

What Are Key Errors in Interpreting Prophecy?

Maybe you know the three-cup trick. A ball is placed under one cup lined up with two other cups. Then the positions of the cups are quickly changed, and the viewer must pay attention to where the cup with the ball has been moved, the cup with the ball under it must be picked. Usually, the wrong cup is picked because, at one point, the cup with the ball is lifted slightly and the ball is quickly pushed to another cup, which is also lifted slightly on one side. The deception usually goes unnoticed because of the speed and skill of the man performing it.

Wrong interpretations can have many logical and biblical aspects, but at a specific point, a false step is taken that leads the interpretation of large parts of the prophecy into a false direction.

Once Jesus told His disciples that He would go to Jerusalem, suffer many things, and die. Peter replied that this should not happen to Him. Jesus rebuked him sharply adding: "...you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man" (Matt 16:23).

We humans tend to not like to suffer or have any difficulty. Therefore, we are open to setting our mind on the things of man and not the things of God. This plays into interpreting prophecies as well. Coming back to the three-cup trick, we err when at one point, we allow a human thought to be introduced that is not mindful of the things of God. A thought that is widely accepted, considered good and true among humans, and goes down a path that bypasses suffering can lead us astray. Therefore, it is easy to interpret prophecies from the last book of the Bible, called Revelation, falsely and get by with it.

We were looking at an interpretation scheme comparable to the three-cup trick. All moves but one follow truth and logic, in the end you are deceived. How much more will you be off if most moves deceive? How can this be?

In respect to prophecy, the following statement of the wisdom of God must be considered very carefully.

“Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered” (Prov 28:26).

Wisdom is not gained by relying on your own understanding. Wisdom must be given by God and builds on the instructions of wisdom taught by God. Therefore, we will first discover insights that wisdom teaches about fundamental things in the life of each person, each nation, and the world. This wisdom will direct us to the right interpretation of the prophecies mentioned at the beginning.

Since wisdom only comes from God, I will begin by praying that God gives us wisdom, insight, and understanding because it is written in James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him”. Heavenly Father, please give us insight and wisdom to be able to interpret Your prophecies and to understand what is going on, what will happen soon, and how we will get through it safely. Please also open our eyes for the marvelous things ahead and how to attain them.

Lastly, I will point out another error in interpreting prophecies. Allow me to remind you that moral instructions are woven into wisdom. Wisdom is the key to interpretation. Moral instructions are the keys to wisdom. Therefore, the understanding of prophecy is protected by learning and doing what is right. God secures this knowledge of prophecy by a heart

which has repented of pursuing evil and a treacherous path. Therefore, do not be surprised as we will now look at good and evil and the root of evil.

Let us compare God's encoding of prophecies with secure communication. Secure communication uses keys with which messages are encoded. Only if you know the key are you able to decode the message. On the internet, a sequence of characters is used to form a key. God uses a sequence of commandments that lead to a pure life to secure His information. Only if people apply these instructions to their lives will they be able to decode His message.

"A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but knowledge is easy for a man of understanding" (Prov 14:6).

Fundamentals of Wisdom

The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom

What is the fear of the Lord? God's advice to youth in Ecclesiastes 11:9 gives us an idea of what the fear of the Lord is: "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment". Wickedness opposes this view, saying, "There is no God, and there is no judgment". God is very clear that we will be judged. Considering this judgment and our wicked hearts, we start to fear, and rightly so. Another core statement of wisdom is this. "If the righteous is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!" (Prov 11:31).

If a person starts to realize this truth, he starts to become wise. He will start to notice his indwelling sin and he will look for

salvation because he will dread the just judgment. He will seek the mercy of God. He will seek the truth about God and how to obtain mercy. He will seek and find God because God has promised that those who seek will find.

Mercy has thus far kept him from being struck dead, even though he sinned and did not seek God. But mankind is so indisposed to seeking God that he only starts to learn righteousness because of judgments. This truth is written in Isaiah 26: 9-10: "My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. If favor is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness, he deals corruptly and does not see the majesty of the LORD". There are well meaning people who do not believe this and despise the fear of God. Instead they start out telling the world that God loves them, hoping for the world to repent. But mankind is too evil to repent without judgment. It was undeserved kindness that God created men and women and placed them into his beautiful creation. It was God's mercy that has put up with them ever since they sinned. Every person has already experienced the mercy of God and therefore it has already been influencing their hearts. Mankind has sinned, even after experiencing the mercies of God. How can you expect people to repent when they have already resisted mercy? Because of the wickedness of mankind, the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Dear reader, I hope you are not offended because I talk about the evil in us humans so directly. I am German and it is said about Germans that we are very direct. I talk about us humans in such a direct way because in truth, flattery will not solve any of our problems. We must face

our moral fabric and come to grips with the fact that we are wicked, when all flattery and formalities are laid aside. What good does it do to make us proud by lies, when lies will be exposed and all wickedness judged? Let us be direct and honest and admit the wickedness and deceitfulness of our hearts. Then we can go from there in truth looking for true solutions by seeking God and his salvation.

The fear of God pays attention to sin, the law and judgment of God, and possible salvation. Usually, people are preoccupied with vain thoughts about useless things or thoughts about having fun or about worries of this life, what shall we eat and drink and how can we meet our needs. Maybe some of my dear readers have not thought much about good and evil. Now is the time to change that, because there is also a great reward for doing this and pursuing wisdom.

The Root of All Evil

Wouldn't it be nice to know the root of evil, so we can address it effectively? How many pray for peace once a war breaks out? How many people want this world to be free from strife and corruption? It is crucial to understand the root of evil. If a doctor only treats the symptoms of a disease the patient gets temporary relief but eventually his misery comes back and is sometimes even worse. If you have a vicious cycle, that you can't seem to break, you need to get to the root of the problem. If we seek solutions for unrighteousness and injustice, we need to differentiate between primary and secondary causes.

Bible Points to the Root Cause

Biblical wisdom does not leave us in the dark about the root of evil. The word of God exposes this root: "For the love of money is the root of all evil.." (1 Tim 6:10 KJV). It can also be translated as the love of money being 'a' root of all evil. How can it be reconciled that the Greek can be translated "the root of all evil" or "a root of all evil"? It means that the love of money is not the one and only "root of all evil". There are instances where there is another root. However, these instances are so much outweighed by the prevalence of the love of money that you can also say that the love of money is "the" root of all evil. Who among us is unaware of the countless evils committed due to the love of money?

What Is Evil?

Allow me to point out a common misunderstanding when it comes to the concept of evil. Evil is often reduced to only one side of the coin: only when evil is actively committed. The other side of the coin is often forgotten: the omission of doing good. When there is an accident, and someone is about to die from his injury, it is evil to turn a blind eye to their suffering and not help if it is in one's power to do so. Let us say someone has recently visited a class about first aid and knows very well what to do but does not do it: he has done evil. Because of the widespread lack of love, we humans forget that the norm of good is to love your neighbor as yourself. Only when we act according to this love, do we not do evil. When we love ourselves more and do not do the good that is within our power to do, we already do evil.

Luxurious Living

In order to see the devastating effect of the love of money, we must consider the full extent of what the love of money causes. It is written: "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction." (1 Tim 6:9). The desire for wealth often leads individuals to pursue extravagant lifestyles at the expense of others.

When there are millions of children dying because of malnutrition and it is within the power of a person to give money to them, and he does not do it, he has done evil. This pursuit of luxury and excess has devastating consequences, as help is withheld from those who die without it.

What Is a Righteous Standard of Living and What Is Luxurious Living?

The Bible sets the baseline for a righteous standard of living. It says in 1 Timothy 6:8, "But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." A jet-ski or skiing vacation is not essential. How many billions of dollars are spent on these and other diversions while millions of children die of malnutrition?

When God sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus Christ, he called the people to repentance. When asked what a righteous life would look like he said in Luke 3:10-14 "Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the

fire.” And the crowds asked him, ‘What then shall we do?’ And he answered them, ‘Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.’ Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, ‘Teacher, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Collect no more than you are authorized to do.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what shall we do?’ And he said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation and be content with your wages” (Luke 3:8-14).

We can only wear one shirt at a time. Some people do not even have enough to buy one shirt. Because of the industrial revolution so many more things can be produced and used. However, this mega increase in goods has not been divided evenly throughout the world. As said before, profit however, does look for opportunities all over the world and those that are left behind can then be exploited.

God’s will for using profit is this principle: “I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack” (2 Cor 8:13-15). So, as long as one person has abundance and another has lack, extra money cannot go to a better standard of living but to those in need.

Luxurious Life Must Be Viewed Globally

When it comes to determining who lives in luxury, we humans are tempted to just look at those who are better off. Let us look at income. How can a pair of jeans be bought for 10 Euros?

Workers in Bangladesh earn so little. Elsewhere in the world someone is traveling several times a year, drives a small Mercedes and goes out to eat regularly. When asked whether he lives in luxury he can either look at the whole world or look at those who are better off. If he would like to have a Porsche and a yacht, he would probably notice those who have these things. And if his heart is hard towards the poor in the world, he would not consider the billions who live on a couple of dollars a day. But is it fair and the right thing to do to take all the people of the world into account when defining a luxurious lifestyle? When we take the time to consider the products we consume, we will realize that they come from all over the world, including some very poor countries. Wealthy countries take advantage of third world countries when it comes to economic, financial, and communication ties. Because we are also economically connected to very poor countries it is fair to take them into account when determining what is a luxurious lifestyle. The main reason however, to take them into account is that we know about their misery, and we have ways to help them. Because of computer technology news and information from all over the world is gathered and can be very easily accessed worldwide within seconds. A couple of decades ago, you had to go to a library and then look for relevant information. Nowadays, you ask your smartphone, and the relevant information is presented to you right away. Next to the knowledge of what is going on, transferring money to rated institutions is very easy. In fact, it is easier to send money to a needy person in Africa than to help your elderly neighbor by putting out their garbage can. The world has taken advantage of the more globalized structure of this world to increase the

wealth of some. However, this very structure has also increased their moral responsibility to share because of the knowledge about the need, as well as much better ways, including being able to help instantly.

Example of a Society with Shared Guilt

What were the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah? The Bible says: “Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy” (Eze 16:49). Sodom and Gomorrah are known nowadays for sexual immorality and not so much for what we have just read, if at all. The poor were not helped. The Bible charges the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, with the sin of living in luxury and not helping the poor.

What Is an Evil Luxurious Lifestyle

An evil luxurious lifestyle is when these circumstances come together: you have extra money after you have taken care of basic things like buying food, clothing, providing for housing and some little extras. There are people who have not got the basics. You know about them, and you have ways to help them. Instead of helping them you spend your money for services and goods beyond this basic lifestyle. If all are provided for you are welcome to spend more for yourself but not before that point. Some preachers abuse Bible verses to prove that God wants some of us to live in prosperity before all children of God have at least got the basics. Oftentimes these preachers live in mansions and have extravagant wardrobes, but basic

understanding of the commandment of brotherly love will expose their scheme as demonic and devilish.

Trusting Men Instead of God

When it comes to managing extra money, there is another wicked path that is not considered evil at all by a wide portion of society and is even accepted among Christians.

Where do you lay up money for a coming season of trouble or for retirement? Jesus explains the alternatives this way: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt 6:19-21). You can either bring your money to the bank or to God. God promises to repay as much as the bank does. God says: "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed" (Prov 19:17). Please allow me to remind you that in the beginning I pointed out that we humans are open to being mindful of the things of man instead of God. When it comes to prophecies, human thoughts are introduced that blur the understanding of prophecies. Here we have one example of men doing evil without realizing it. God is insulted and provoked when people trust banks more than God. Even Christians seem to mistrust God and bring their money to banks instead of the bank of God in heaven. This mistrust is in direct competition with the needs of the poor. Banks do not keep the money in a vault. They hand it out to someone else and even more than they received, because governments allow them to do so. If all people would go to the bank to get their money the bank would

have to shut down because it cannot repay everyone. All banks promise to repay what you give them, God does as well. Yet people insult God by trusting banks more than God and putting more faith in banks than in God.

There is a financial and economical principle and commandment that seems to be forgotten in large parts of Christendom. I have mentioned it before: "For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, "Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack" (2 Cor 8:13-15).

I hope we all realize what the will of God is. He wants to bring equality into this world by having those he has given more share with those he has given less. Banks have replaced God's role when it comes to saving for retirement or a dry season. God is jealous and we will look at a prophecy later where God tells us: "...for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed" (Zeph 3:8). Man's mistrust towards God, demonstrated by laying up money in financial institutions is one reason for this jealousy.

How Does the Love of Money Spread?

Wisdom teaches us an outward scheme for spreading the love of money and evil. "My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent" (Prov 1:10). The passage goes on to point to greed as their motive, because those sinners say, "...we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder" (Prov 1:13). Usually, humans are enticed by others. Who does not know of an incident in one's youth where he was enticed to do

something evil by others? The scheme behind the enticement is described this way by wisdom: Folly tells the person “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant” (Prov 9:17). At some point everyone becomes aware of God and knows that God is good and therefore punishes evil. The enticement deals with this by blatantly lying that there is no God who judges evil, rather evil leads to more fun and pleasure.

Wisdom talks about sinners who entice. Let us look at the different sizes of groups of sinners. Teenagers like to hang out in peer groups: just a couple of people can entice others to follow them. A bigger group can be a subculture, a group that shares a hobby, a religious group, a political party, or a cultural movement. Since communication technology brings the world to our smartphones these groups can be national or international. The size, net-worth, popularity, political power and degree to which riches play a role within the group, differs among the groups of sinners enticing the individuals. Wisdom talks about another characteristic of these enticing sinners. “...throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse...” (Prov 1:14). The members of the groups have a friendly relationship or comradery. They offer a place of acceptance and love. Sinners can and do love some people. Jesus says about them. “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same” (Matt 5:46)? However, these groups do not love those they oppress or take advantage of.

Lastly, we will look at a special group of people because they differ in political power: governments having an alliance with economical forces. The Atlantic slave trade starting in the 16th

century is one example of governments together with economic power players forming a group of sinners to entice others.

The Bible gives an account of how a government is drawn into unrighteousness:

The Love of Money within Governments

There is an important passage in the Bible about the king of Tyre. Tyre was a wealthy city and a world trade center. It was very rich, and many countries profited from trading with Tyre. Despite its wealth, Tyre faced condemnation from God due to its corruption and violence. What does God say to the king of Tyre: "You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones" (Ezek 28:15-16 NKJV).

Governments can become evil, and the word "politician" is not a proverbial term for an upright, honest and faithful person, who hates bribes and riches. Governments can and do turn evil and we will get into the history of this process later. Governments are supposed to protect the rights of the poor because it is mainly the poor that suffer from violence.

When groups of people join hands to take advantage of the poor, the poor should have the government on their side to defend them. If the government is faithfully protecting the poor, it will take up arms against these groups. God has given the government the sword to defend the rights of the poor. This way they secure their existence: "If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever" (Prov 29:14). "Steadfast

love and faithfulness preserve the king, and by steadfast love his throne is upheld” (Prov 20:28).

However, governments are also enticed to join sinners in going after the poor. We will explore this later.

How Does Jesus Address the Root of Evil?

The Bible tells the world that Jesus Christ is not just a prophet or teacher but the Word of God and God. Therefore, we should pay close attention to what the person with the highest authority here on earth says. Jesus describes serving riches as being completely opposed to leading a righteous life and serving God. “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Matt 6:24). Jesus identifies these two opposing alternatives for men: serving money or serving God. Jesus does not address idolatry in the form of serving carved images. But He has a lot to say about money and luxury. Since Jesus has been seated next to His Father in heaven, where he rules over the earth, He gives us people these two prospects of life.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and

weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets" (Luke 6:21-26).

There is also another very troubling parable He gives us to consider closely.

"There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house-for I have five brothers-so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead'" (Luke 16:19-31).

All Jesus says about the rich man is that he lived in luxury while he let Lazarus suffer next to him. There is nothing said about the rich man committing sins like adultery or the like. All we know is that he was blessed with riches, and he enjoyed them while Lazarus suffered. We have pointed out before that love is the essence of righteousness. Actively doing evil is only one side of unrighteousness. The other side is showing a lack of love and not helping when it was in someone's power to do so.

Jesus Christ is not only the highest-ranking teacher God gave mankind; He is also the highest judge. The apostles were told to preach that as well when they were told by God: "And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he (Jesus) is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead" (Acts 10:42).

The love of money sets people on a trajectory that leads them to a selfish pursuit of life, which will lead them to death and hell. It is very important to understand that a lack of love is sufficient to be damned in the last judgment. There is widespread confusion about the righteousness that God set as the baseline for eternal judgment. When people do not understand that loving God with all your heart, mind, and soul and loving your neighbor as yourself are the core commandments of righteousness, they will be hugely surprised when being judged on the last day. In the parable we looked at before the rich man did not love Lazarus as himself and that was enough to send him to hell.

Jesus Christ makes this very clear when He talks about the last judgment that all of us humans will face. Since it is the most important judgment for us all, we should pay very close attention to what Jesus says and what baseline He gives us for

righteousness. He says about the last judgment: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matt 25:31-46).

Please note that Jesus does not mention any sins of commission like murder, theft, or adultery. The basis for condemning people is a lack of love for their neighbor who needed help.

Serving riches will lead a man to hell as long as there are people in need who are not being helped. The situation we have in the world right now is that riches are served on a global level because of the advanced state of transportation and communication. Oppressing the poor is outsourced in many rich countries. This way it is not seen directly, but rich countries profit from global unrighteousness, and because of information technology, they also know about it.

Allow me to cry out!! Who is going to be saved in the wealthy countries? If there are an estimated 3.5 million children dying from malnutrition a year, which of those people, who together spend billions on vacations and leading a luxurious life, can make it through judgment?

The love of money is the root evil and one of the main reasons why people are heading for hell. Millions of people are on their way to being damned in the last judgment.

Key Events in the History of Redemption

Dear reader, let us look at key events in the history of redemption concerning the love of money. After God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land to have the kingdom of God established there, we see the love of money being the first cause for disobeying God.

“But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the

anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel" (Josh 7:1). "And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath" (Josh 7:20-21).

In the New Testament, we have a parallel story when the apostles were called to take the spiritual territory of the Devil and build the Kingdom of God.

"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men

came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things” (Acts 5:1-11 NKJV).

Again, greed led them astray.

It is also most noteworthy that the reason why Jesus Christ was betrayed was also the love of money. “Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him” (Matt 26:14-16).

Other Roots of Evil

Lusts

But what about other vices and lusts? Do not people do wicked things because they lust for this or that? The Bible teaches that the lust of money brings forth vices and lusts: “But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction”. I do not say that all vices and lusts result from the love of money. But again, when the impact of the root of those vices is compared to the impact of the love of money, it pales in comparison to the love of money.

Sexual Immorality

What about the lust for sexual immorality? Isn't this a root cause of evil that can be as destructive as the love of money? When we consider sexual immorality, we find this verse: “The mouth of forbidden women is a deep pit; he with whom the LORD is angry will fall into it” (Prov 22:14). Since we are looking

for root causes this verse says that sexual immorality with forbidden women is caused by evil the Lord is angry about. Therefore, falling into this pit is the effect and not the cause of evil. However, it is true that the lust for sexual immorality is not exclusively caused by the love of money. It certainly does cause people to fall into sin. Guarding against sexual immorality is a pillar of the fear of God. Sexual immorality is highly dangerous and has destroyed many people. As stated earlier, there are other root causes for evil. These however, are not as bad as the love of money, because only the love of money is said to be the root of all evil. So, we must guard against the love of money and against the lust of sexual immorality as well.

Idolatry

But what about idolatry? What about a person turning to idols and, in this way, becoming evil?

Let us look at the following statement the Bible gives us about mankind turning to idolatry: “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles” (Rom 1:21-23).

The text does not exclusively speak about carved images that represent gods. Worshipping carved images is found mostly in the Old Testament. It is not found in the core teaching of biblical wisdom in the book of Proverbs or in the Gospels. Why not? Carved images are part of idolatry but not the core of it. Idols replace God not only as the object of worship but also as the source of protection, trust, and happiness. Let us now compare

how many people idolize money and to what extent they do so. Let us compare it to carved images. Let us look at areas in which we should seek and honor God: adoration, protection, source of happiness, and wisdom.

It is said about money: "Bread is made for laughter, and wine gladdens life, and money answers everything" (Ecc 10:19). "A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination" (Prov 18:11). Also, our daily experience is that people and governments put a lot of trust in money in all these areas. Over the centuries, the idolatry of carved images has decreased, and the purer form of idolatry of serving riches and trusting in them has grown. Falling away from God can also take a mixed form: that people trust in riches but also worship carved images. It is even possible to mix it with worshipping the true God, who made Himself known in Jesus Christ. People can worship God but also put their trust in riches. I think it is fair to say that there is only one true God but many forms of idolatry. But again, the role riches play is so dominant that it is singled out by Jesus and Solomon.

We can conclude that the love of money is the root of all evil. It plays a dominant role in the life and history of mankind. Sometimes this is acknowledged to some extent in the world, but mostly, it is not clearly discerned as the root of all evil. It is said that money makes the world go round or the governments are corrupt or follow the money. Yet a clear understanding of the scope of the evil the love of money causes is not known. Why is that? Let us look at the next fundamentally important concept, which is also responsible for covering up the hold that the love of money has on this world.

There is another core area Jesus and Solomon do talk about next to riches: hypocrisy. When we were looking at a main statement that sinners use to entice others to follow them, they were talking about lying in wait for blood and ambushing the innocent. What does that mean? Oftentimes wickedness goes hand in hand with deception and lies. Evil is disguised, and wicked schemes are pursued in secret. There is an outward good-looking, deceitful appearance and an inward wicked scheme that is not supposed to be seen. The highly developed form of that is hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy

The teaching of wisdom about the sinners who entice others to do evil is comparable to what hypocrites do in a more subtle and hidden manner. It is worth analyzing to what extent this scheme has been developed.

Jesus Christ was righteous, and nobody was able to blame Him for an evil word or deed. He was truly righteous. The people living at that time who claimed to be righteous were the Pharisees and scribes. However, unlike Jesus, they were evil and were masterfully creating a cover-up. The Pharisees were experts in creating hypocrisy that deceived masses of people. Hypocrisy made the Pharisees look good, although they were evil in their hearts, and took the money from the widows.

Later, we will look at prophecies of the end times. To get a correct understanding, it is necessary to keep insights into hypocrisy in mind. Therefore, we will search for these insights now.

Jesus' Comprehensive Exposure of Hypocrites

Let us listen to the summary Jesus gives about hypocrisy.

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? Therefore he who swears by the altar, swears by it and by all things on it. He who swears by the temple, swears by it and by Him who dwells in it. And he who swears by heaven, swears by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be

clean also. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell" (Matt 23:13-33 NKJV)?

Focusing on Minor Issues While Leaving out the Weightier Matters of the Law

Let us note one of the many characteristics Jesus shows us, which is focusing on minor issues of righteousness and making a big deal out of them, and paying very close attention to complying to them, while huge issues are dropped: justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

Later in the prophecies, hypocrisy will be found among governments and economic forces. This characteristic of hypocrisy will play an important role if a government has picked up the teachings of the Pharisees. If hypocrisy has entered national political systems, minor aspects of righteousness are focused on while some of the weightier matters are completely left out. For instance, the law of God is built on love. Therefore,

to love your neighbor as yourself is a fundamental command given. How come modern judicial systems do not include it?

For now, it suffices to say that many Western democracies are based on completely leaving out the commands to love your neighbor as yourself and love God and focus on human rights which provide cover for hypocrites to exploit the world.

Let us keep in mind what status the Pharisees and scribes had in society. They were not a fringe, strange small group of people who were considered odd. They were respected religious leaders. They stood for the moral leadership of the nation, having ties to the government.

Hypocrisy Goes Hand in Hand With Strife

However, the enemies of Jesus- the Pharisees and lawyers- were not one heart and one mind. They united against Jesus, but without Him they could be at odds with each other. We read: "Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all" (Acts 23:6-8).

Hypocrisy comes with strife. Dueling parties turn to evil, covering up their evil schemes with fake righteousness. They slice the pie of truth into parts, and each side gets some. The rest is filled with deception. When one party is accused of doing wrong, they can now point to the other side's wickedness, which they are not guilty of. Thus, they are able to deflect accusations

much better if there is another side who is guilty of things they do not do. Look at the two-party system in the USA right now, in 2022. Two sides have forsaken the only blameless set of righteousness, the law of God. They hold fast to a part of this righteousness but stick to evil as well, which is sold as wisdom. However, it seems they can endlessly accuse one another of being the evil one.

When people in a democracy talk about electing the lesser evil, this system comes into play.

Later, when we look at the history of the world, this system of strife will be used to uphold the rule of Babylon.

Before we begin to look at the prophecies, we have one point left that will help us understand the prophecies better. We covered the love of money as the root of evil and hypocrisy, which gives cover for this evil. Next, we will learn fundamentals about another very important aspect. We will talk about folly and fools. Folly and fools are fundamental terms in the teaching of godly wisdom, which in turn opens the door to understanding prophecy.

What Makes a Fool?

What Do We Not Talk About?

Before we talk about fools, we must make sure that it is not misunderstood. There is a situation when somebody calls someone else a fool, which is very sinful. Jesus says: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the

council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire" (Matt 5:21-22).

Here, Jesus talks about a hateful, demeaning attitude towards another human that is void of love. When wisdom talks about fools, it is for the sake of peace and right behavior. Normal human experience confirms that people react very differently to rebuke. There is a person who is thankful and loves the one who rebukes, and another person responds with hatred. "Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning" (Prov 9:7-9).

To keep peace and to help people, it is wise to know whether a person is a fool, a scoffer, or a wise person. This determines what can be said and done. Without knowing it, hatred, strife and destruction can be caused. Why is it so easy for wicked people to deceive? Because the deceived person is simpleminded and believes everything. However, a wise person, watches his steps and discerns the moral makeup of someone he must deal with. He is taught by God what constitutes a fool, a scoffer, and a wise person, and then he acts according to the instructions given by God for dealing with these different groups of people. It is foolish to refrain from categorizing others for the sake of love. Zeal without knowledge is not good. You can compare it with a doctor who does not diagnose the sickness first before prescribing medicine or surgery. Scoffers and wise people act and react very differently when it comes to righteousness and truth.

Therefore, the loving person seeks wisdom and knowledge about fools, scoffers, and upright people. After gaining knowledge, he will apply it.

What Do We Talk About?

What does wisdom say makes a fool? There are two characteristics which by themselves, are sufficient to make someone a fool. Let us not forget these two because they explain a great deal.

Slandering Others

The first pillar of folly we will talk about is this: "...whoever utters slander is a fool" (Prov 10:18). A milder form of slander is this: "Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent" (Prov 11:12).

When analyzing hypocrisy, we saw the scheme of people covering up evil with a cloak of righteousness. Hypocrites exalt themselves. There are a couple ways to do that. You can make yourself look better by using a false scale. Either you blow up minor points of righteousness and neglect the weightier matters or you invent new thoughts that make you look righteous. Another way of exalting yourself is to put the other person down. A fundamental way to exalt oneself is to belittle another person or slander him. Racism, for instance, is a form of this method where people join forces to slander others and exalt themselves. There are other ways as well. Some people use education, gender, or other attributes of human life. It can of course, also be exercised on a personal level. All this is folly. The wisdom of God exposes this scheme: that whoever slanders

his neighbor is a fool. This moral statement is like a law of nature, like the law of gravity. It applies universally, whether to an individual or a society.

Trusting in Your Own Mind

The other pillar that can be found in the teaching of wisdom about folly is this: “Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered” (Prov 28:26).

Any foolish statement, like slandering a race, can be proven wrong. But why do people not listen and not yield to truthful arguments? One reason is that they do not believe them and do not accept them. They decide whether to believe an argument or not by trusting in their own mind. They simply do not accept a higher wisdom than themselves.

Does normal reason and experience allow man to trust in his own mind? The Word of God calls trusting in your own mind folly, but what about normal reason and common experience?

Limits of the Human Mind

Common experience tells us that a human mind cannot look at several pieces of information at the same time without grouping them. Some say that nine is the limit. There are differences in the degree of intelligence among humans, but we all know that even the smartest people cannot look at, let us say, one thousand pieces of information at the same time without grouping them. We also know that the world at any given millisecond is made up of trillions of parallel processes. Over seven billion people alone, act in some way or another at any given point of time. We know about the cause and effect of

billions of processes. So, any given second no human can ever understand what is truly going on and where it leads to. The only reason humans exercise some visible control or have some understanding is because everything is well-ordered. Therefore, this is the only way humans can make a bigger, more visible difference. Because human life is also ordered with respect to authority, which is part of God's creation, a leader of a nation can cause a lot of destruction by commanding his military to attack another country. The command structure of his military is ordered, and therefore thousands of soldiers go to war. Because nature and the use of it are ordered, the soldiers do not have to fight with their fists but are able to use weapons like swords. Nature follows ordered laws, and therefore far-reaching effects can be achieved by understanding this order. The increase of knowledge led to the creation of the atomic bomb. In this way, the small influence of man became bigger and bigger by using this knowledge. If you put all these orders together, a simple command by the commander-in-chief can cause a lot of destruction. It can also cause a lot of good if, for instance, a dam is ordered to be built that provides water for several villages or cities.

Pride Resulting From Forgetting About the Limitations of Our Mind and Strength

It is tempting for man to think he is master of everything because he has some knowledge of this order and sits at a high level in the hierarchy of authority. But man has never had control of all processes or been the one who controls everything. The highest level of control is being like God. There are two people we have on record whose pride went so far that

they considered themselves like God. They play an important role in respect to decoding who Babylon is. One person was Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. He said: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High" (Isa 14:14). Once he looked at Babylon and said, "...Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty" (Dan 4:30 NKJV)? Here we can see what pride is: he created neither himself nor the order of authority in his country. He did not create the earth and the order it is submitted to. He did not build the houses and gardens that make up the city. He did not come up with the knowledge of the order nature is submitted to. But because he rejected God as the author of all and all order, he was tempted to look at the small role he played in all of it as being the cause of all.

Next to the King of Babylon, another person exalted himself to the throne of God as well. He was the king of Tyre and God said to him, "...Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,' Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god--" (Ezek 28:2 NKJV). We have looked at Tyre before. It plays a very important part in our considerations. Tyre was not a military superpower that conquered other nations by the sword. Tyre was an economic superpower ruling over other countries by riches. What is true for the military and the commander-in-chief in respect to order is also true for the business world. One person seems to build a big factory, giving thousands of people jobs when you look at it from the outside. But, his actual work is very small, and only because the creation of God is well-ordered, in respect to nature and society can his

influence be considered very big without looking at the role of God.

Only because God allows man, with his very limited mental capacity, to participate in His well-ordered creation and the well-ordered control of His creation, is man able to create or control things. If man only trusts in his mind, he will leave out God, steal all God's glory, and pretend to be something. As we have seen, his pride even reaches heaven and God Himself.

Man Has No Absolute Power to Execute His Plans

However, common sense and common experience give witness to all men that their mental capacity is very limited and that it is not within their power to execute a plan. It is a common human experience that plans do not come to pass as planned. Why is that? Because it is common sense and normal experience that we do not know all causes affecting the outcome of our plan, and we do not control all causes. Weather, for instance, can cause ambitious plans of conquerors to fail.

Man Errs

Next to the natural limitation of our brain, regarding the storage and processing capability of information and knowledge, it is also common sense and our experience that not all our knowledge is right and true. We err. Next to erring with an upright heart, it is also common sense and our experience that we willfully err because it serves our purpose. There is no human who can say that he has cleansed his heart and that he is free from all wicked motives. Because of evil, we adopt lies because these lies serve the pursuit of an evil motive. We are

not upright in weighing all arguments. We want a certain outcome, and then we corrupt our personal knowledge of facts and laws to deal with facts according to the outcome.

Man's Actions and Words are Completely Under God's Control

There is another and most important aspect of the folly of trusting in your own mind. The Bible gives testimony of the truth about all people having a certain knowledge of God: "For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. Therefore they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Rom 1:19-21).

Because God is known by all mankind, when they start out their conscious, they are, or were, aware of His almighty power behind all things. God has created all things and controls all things. All things are made for a purpose, as stated in Proverbs 16:4 "The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble". Man fools himself into thinking that he has freedom to choose his steps and words, but it is just an illusion. Wisdom testifies: "The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps" (Prov 16:9). And: "The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD" (Prov 16:1). It is true that man can plan and desire. But whatever he eventually does and even says is up to God. Some will vehemently oppose these statements. However, if we

are honest, who has not experienced that we planned on saying something to let's say a doctor and when we had the chance, we ended up saying something else. Who has not experienced that we planned something and ended up doing something different?

It is the deceitfulness of man to contradict these statements. Indeed there are instances when someone plans something and puts it into practice exactly as he planned, but even one instance when we could not put our plan into practice proves the point that it is up to God. Let us go even further and ask ourselves whether we can recall an instance when our assessment of the situation and our proposed solution were wrong. Again, some might claim to have never been wrong about their assessments and solutions, but the people who will believe them are probably as rare as those who will claim this regarding all they have said. Oftentimes you hear honest scientists saying that once they found out something a whole new world of unknowns opened.

Those who seek God and His wisdom will get to know His insight more and more and will be more and more convinced of the truth.

“Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered” (Prov 28:26).

Only God Can Trust in His Own Mind

God is the only one who sits at the highest level of control, what is going on everywhere every millisecond. Therefore, he is the only true source of wisdom. He will guide those who ask for it. And those who do that will gain knowledge of God, those who

have repented from folly and evil and seek the insights of an all-knowing God. They have truly escaped the trap of folly.

“Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered” (Prov 28:26). Walking in wisdom is the only way to avoid being disappointed and misled by your own mind.

Folly, however, does not give up without a fight and is now slandering truly wise people by saying they are fools. In fact, foolish people consider everyone else a fool.

How Widespread Is Folly?

Is the world mostly made up of people who slander and trust in their own minds? Or is the world mostly made up of people who say no unnecessary evil words about others and solely walk in wisdom, always seeking God for knowledge and guidance? When we analyze the situation in the world right now, we can only conclude that folly has worldwide dominion. Will it always be like that?

The Future of Folly

To answer these questions, we can choose to trust in our own mind and determine the future of what we know about the past and whatever human teaching we apply. Television and YouTube are full of analyses based on human understanding. As we have pointed out, there is no reasonable hope of getting true answers by trusting in the minds of humans. Only God knows what will happen. He sits at the highest level of control. He can lead all those who trust in their own minds into confusion and destruction. How many great commanders-in-

chief prove the saying that pride comes before the fall? They were successful and became proud, thinking that it was their wit that secured the victory, and their wit will always succeed. But they made foolish decisions or ran into unforeseen circumstances that destroyed their armies. God does give limited success to fools in accomplishing their plans, but only if it serves His plan. Satan is the archenemy of God, and his most wicked plan was to kill Jesus Christ, the chosen one sent by God to save the world. God had the devil succeed in accomplishing this most wicked plan. However, it served the purpose of God to save the world, which the devil did not understand at the time. This principle applies to everything. The evil plans that succeed serve a higher, most often unknown, purpose of God. Therefore, it is written: "The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble" (Prov 16:4).

The way to know what is going on and what will happen in the future is to turn to God and look for His prophecies and His wisdom to understand the prophecies. God tells us about His willingness to give information about the future: "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

The Bible contains prophecies all the way to the end of this earth. The Bible also contains the instruction of wisdom. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and the instruction of wisdom. Those who fear the Lord will be able to understand His prophecies, because it is written: "The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant" (Psalm 25:14 KJV).

Because it takes the wisdom of God, we have looked at some fundamental parts of wisdom so far. Let us not forget these instructions.

If you expect to get a final comprehensive insight, you will be disappointed. Wisdom is a bubbling brook from which we can forever drink. It is not a finite pond that can be fully emptied. In fact, some people offer such finite systems. If so, you can be sure that it is not the wisdom of God. Wisdom from God will always be expandable. You understand something, and tomorrow something more, and so forth and so on if you wait at the door of wisdom daily. The prospect of growth should not keep us from looking into the prophecies now. God knows our frame of mind and will answer any honest desire to know His way by giving us insight, which we will understand. But let us not forget that understanding of the prophecies we will look at will only be in part.

What Has God Prophesied for the Future?

We are going to look at several important prophecies related to a coming global judgment. This judgment is not the judgment at the end of the world. There is ample indication that this judgment has already begun or is about to happen. Therefore, it is of utmost importance for us because it will affect everyone due to its global nature.

Dear reader, I am asking for your patience as we go through several prophecies. In the end, we will look at the solution to the secret identity of the great harlot Babylon in the last book of the Bible, called Revelation. "Babylon" means "confusion," and the great harlot's name is preceded by the word "mystery".

“And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: “Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations” (Rev 17:5 ESV). To untie this great knot of mystery, which has global dimensions and has existed for thousands of years, we need to patiently gather the necessary prophetic information first. However, the effort will be worth it because of its great effect. More to that end later. Buckle up for a journey through the history of mankind and the hidden secrets of it.

Prophecy of Isaiah 11:1-9

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall

be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isa 11:1-9 ESV).

Wisdom Leads to Knowledge of God

The prophecy ends by naming the glorious cause of this state of global peace promised to this world. The knowledge of the Lord will bring about this great time of peace. The prophecy starts with Jesus coming with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding on him. Our endeavor to focus on wisdom and insight seems to be hitting the mark. As we will see, wisdom and understanding lead to the knowledge of God. The knowledge of God leads to this glorious time of peace. Please listen closely to the following way to get to the knowledge of God.

Solomon teaches: "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God" (Prov 2:1-5).

The Knowledge of God Leads to Peace

A great prize for seeking wisdom is the knowledge of God. According to the prophecy that we just read, the knowledge of God will bring this blessed state of peace. But how does wisdom grow among mankind?

Solomon Symbolizes the Path to Wisdom

The Hebrew word “Solomon” means peaceful. During the reign of Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was able to build a temple in a time of peace and prosperity. Never again has the kingdom of Israel experienced such a time as this. The time of adversity and affliction was over, and the ark of the covenant was moved into the temple Solomon built. Solomon was given extraordinary wisdom and ruled the kingdom with wisdom to also bring internal peace to the people.

So How Did Solomon Get There?

Solomon was an attentive son when his father David taught him. He listened well to his father and treasured the words in his heart. “When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, ‘Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown” (Prov 4:3-9).

Solomon was taught as a child that wisdom is the principal thing and will exalt you and place a crown on your head. Solomon took this to heart and held fast to it till the day God asked him what he desired.

Since wisdom comes from God and is Jesus Christ, it cannot be completely acquired, but it can always grow. In fact, part of

learning wisdom is acknowledging having a lack thereof and desiring to have more. Therefore, Solomon asked for wisdom when given a chance by God appearing to him in a dream. God does not lie and always keeps His promises. Solomon received wisdom as well as a crown on his head, and wisdom did exalt him. He is still known around the world for his proverbial wisdom. We can glean from this story that wisdom does exalt the children of God. We have heard about a glorious peaceful state of the earth, which was brought about by the knowledge of God. Again, the knowledge of God is acquired by the way Solomon describes: "if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures"...(Prov 2:1-4)

Solomon sought wisdom, and it exalted him, and the knowledge of God was taught even by the government at that time. Israel experienced the greatest glory it has ever had in the Old Testament, and peace was brought to the country. Israel is an image for the church, and the church will also enter a time of peace, also through wisdom resulting in the knowledge of God. This is one lesson to be learned from the prophecy we looked at. When the church was young, it was taught to seek the fear of God. But then, when the church has grown and is called to rule it must ask again.

The lesson for the church of God is that when they are grown up, they should not stop crying out for wisdom. Glorious blessings are attached to gaining wisdom: "Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She

will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown" (Prov 4:8-9). This is exactly what happened to Solomon, and the same will happen to the church of God. Right now, in some wealthy countries, wisdom, which begins with the fear of God, is not embraced as Solomon embraced it. In Germany the fear of God is despised in a segment of Christendom. Some preachers cannot even speak the words, "the fear of God". The children of God are not commonly referred to as students of Christ. The church needs to wake up and follow the path of Solomon to ask again for wisdom and understanding and then diligently seek it, watching daily at the gates of wisdom.

Judgment, an Essential Part of Learning Wisdom

The prophecy of Isaiah does not say that the person on whom the spirit of wisdom and the fear of the Lord is will now preach and teach all people so that they will learn wisdom and come to the knowledge of God. When listening to some preachers, you might get the idea that this is the only activity to grow the kingdom of God. The prophecy describes the actions differently: "but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked" (Isa 11:4).

Why is that? First, man is too unwilling to learn wisdom and store up instructions in his heart and too complacent. Therefore, it takes more grace of God than just offering to teach mankind. The prayer of the pious person in the Bible is: "My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants

of the world learn righteousness” (Isa 26:9). Wisdom teaches the same idea this way: “When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise; when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge” (Prov 21:11). Mankind is so unwilling to come to God that it takes scoffers being punished for others to come to their senses. A successful teacher, for instance, will single out a scoffer in the class and punish him in front of everyone else, and then the class learns to fear and obey him.

The principle is this: “The wicked is a ransom for the righteous, and the traitor for the upright” (Prov 21:18). The wisdom of God also includes threatening punishment for doing evil and executing these threats. In the history of mankind, we see these judgments. Therefore, the instruction of wisdom is also called the fear of the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

In the prophecy, we are told of this blessed future state of global peace and that the knowledge of God covers the earth like water covers the sea. This is affected by mankind learning wisdom, which in turn is also affected by the judgments of God in addition to His teaching.

The judgment of the scoffer being linked to the learning of wisdom also explains why it takes time for God to lead people to this blessed state over generations. There are certain forms of unrighteousness that are practiced by generations, and by judging them, future generations profit.

Understanding this principle is very important to decode the prophecies of the end times. We have learned before that God has made everything for a purpose, even the wicked, for the day of judgment. Judgments serve the purpose of saving the children of God. Let us keep this important principle in mind:

that judgments and the pursuit of wisdom will bring about a global state of peace.

Jesus Christ Is the Branch That Shall Bear Fruit

The prophecy also reveals the root cause of the glorious change. The shoot from the stump of Jesse, the branch from his roots is Jesus Christ. He was sent by God to bring about this glorious change. When he teaches and judges mankind, they will learn wisdom. Jerusalem means teaching of peace. The city of Jerusalem in the Old Testament stands for people seeking to be taught by Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, nowadays, the word “Christian” is used much more than “disciple”. In the Bible the term “Christian” is hardly ever used to describe students of Jesus. The term “disciple” is usually used, and it simply means “student” or “pupil”. I hope everyone understands the powerful global meaning of what we have just been told. The glorious times for this world will be the effect of Jesus judging and teaching mankind the fear of God, insight, and in this way, the knowledge of God. When people turn from the folly of trusting in their own minds and turn to the true source of wisdom: the Holy Spirit and Scripture, the world will be turned around. Why?

Wisdom Will Triumph Over Folly

“Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city” (Ecc 7:19). Wisdom promises that the righteous will never be removed from this earth, unlike the wicked. “The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not dwell in the land” (Prov 10:30). Another statement about the same fact is: “For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity

will remain in it, but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it" (Prov 2:21-22).

The victory of God over Satan is also the victory of wisdom over folly. The current state of the world is confusion: several confusing human or demonic thoughts against the knowledge of Jesus and the wisdom of Jesus. These thoughts protect the hypocrites and the love of money. They cause governments to attempt to justify favoring some while exploiting the poor and needy.

Mankind must transition from folly to knowledge. The fight is not fought with weapons of this world on battlegrounds of this world where one army faces the other army with visible weapons that destroy human lives. The transition to the world of peace will be fought with spiritual weapons. "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor 10:4-5).

"The way of the LORD is a stronghold to the blameless, but destruction to evildoers. The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not dwell in the land" (Prov 10:29-30).

"The evil bow down before the good, the wicked at the gates of the righteous" (Prov 14:19.).

Poverty Stands for the Ill Effects of the Love of Money?

We have seen that the knowledge of God will bring about the change. Jesus judging the poor with righteousness and Jesus striking the earth with the rod of His mouth will bring it to pass. Why are the poor mentioned of all people? The love of money is

the root of all evil; and therefore, money is the main factor involved in unrighteousness causing poverty.

Fairly judging the poor and defending their rights are the main conditions for a government to rule in eternity. "If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever" (Prov 29:14). Jesus' kingdom will last forever, therefore he must defend the rights of the poor.

The Gospel is good news for the poor and bad news for the rich. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Luke 4:18).

The rich receive this message: "Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous person. He does not resist you" (James 5:1-6).

The Delight of Jesus is in the Fear of the Lord

The fear of God flows from a pure love of God, His grace, and His desire to heal and protect those suffering violence. A corrupted king turns a blind eye to oppression and corruption because he gets his share. A gracious king, however, pleads the

cause of the poor and upholds the justice of God by ensuring that violence and taking advantage of the poor are forbidden. A corrupt king violates the law by removing the love of God and your neighbor. But Jesus Christ delights in the law of God, which is the law of love, and He is faithful in executing all of God's commandments. A hallmark of corruption is abolishing commandments. Therefore, Jesus honors the least of all commandments by saying: "Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:19). It is the vain hope of evildoers that Jesus Christ will not set up His law on earth. This idea has been slandered and misrepresented not only by Satan and the demons who serve him, but also by the church. As we will see later, Satan has introduced a powerful hypocritical set of notions that give cover to hypocrites by denying Jesus full authority over governments and political laws of the land. This system has made even Christians believe that there are different types of righteousness: one for the kingdom of God and one for running a country politically and economically. We will come to this later in more detail.

Let us look at the next prophecies which will shed more light on the role of the government and the coming time of peace in this world. In the former prophecy, we saw that Jesus will bring about a time of great peace through the knowledge of God. In the next prophecy, we will hear about this great prospect of a global knowledge of God from a different perspective.

Prophecy of Habakkuk 2:2-14

“And the LORD answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end--it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith. “Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples.” Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, “Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own--for how long? --and loads himself with pledges!” Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them. Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them. “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm! You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond. “Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity! Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Hab 2:2-14).

Knowledge of God Covers the Earth Like the Waters Covers the Sea

Here we have another perspective of the same outcome as in the prophecy before: the knowledge of God covering the earth like the water covers the sea. In this prophecy the global knowledge of God is preceded by the judgment of the one “who is not upright in heart and proud”. This type of man is further described as having greed as wide as Sheol. He heaps up what is not his own, sets his nest up high by unjust gain, and builds a town with blood and founds a city with iniquity.

Since we have gone through basic principles of wisdom: that the love of money is the root of all evil, and hypocrisy covers up this scheme- we have a better understanding of who the prophecy is aimed at. The knowledge of God comes about when this very type of man is removed and judged. He stands in contrast to the man of faith. On the one hand we have the one who lives by faith, and on the other hand, we have the one who is a proud and greedy hypocrite. The prophecy is also telling us about a group of people judging this man. “Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them” (Hab 2:7).

Rule of Debt

As of the year 2022, the world can be characterized as having the highest developed economical and financial system of debt. Pretty much all countries are heavily in debt. Countries considered to be the wealthiest nations, in the world, like the USA, have gathered unheard amounts of debt. Next to the \$30,000,000,000,000 national debt of the USA an estimated 80%

of its people have personal debt. Not only the amount of debt is out of control, but also the underlying financial system. Most of the money in circulation in the USA comes from debt. Most of it would disappear once the debt is paid off. Banks are allowed to lend around 10 times as much money as they have received. It is wrong to think that if you give a bank money it is stored in a safe and other people can get part of it as a loan. Most of the money banks lend does not exist, because the bank can lend the money they receive multiple times over. Dear reader, if you are confused and have never heard about this before, I completely understand your confusion. How can a bank hand out what does not exist? To confuse you even further, the American Dollar has no value by itself and is not backed by gold or silver. It is so called FIAT money. The term FIAT comes from Latin and means "let it be done." The worth of the money comes from the government just declaring that this is so. It is noteworthy that FIAT is used in the first chapter of the Bible in the verse: "...Let there be light,..." (Gen 1:3). In Latin this verse reads: "...FIAT lux...". The worth of money is simply declared by the government. The total amount of debt worldwide is huge, global debt of all actors in the world is over \$300,000,000,000,000 Our prophecy talks about the debtors rising up against the arrogant and greedy man. Let us keep this information in mind that the world today has reached a climax of debt and a high degree of perversity in the financial system. Debtors will rise up to destroy the greedy and arrogant man at a great judgment before the knowledge of God covers the earth like the waters cover the sea. The prophecy talks in the first sense about Babylon and Israel of the Old Testament. Since it ends with the prediction of the knowledge of God covering the

earth like the waters cover the sea, the prophecy talks about the man of faith taking over from the man of pride and deception. The prophecy builds on the opening statement: "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith" (Hab 2:4). Since there is not only one person of faith in the world at the time of this coming judgment, this statement refers to types of man rather than individual persons. If the faithful people are described by a type the unfaithful, arrogant and greedy person is also a type and not one individual.

Global Judgment of the Love of Money

In the previous prophecy, we mentioned the necessity of judgment to teach hardhearted man knowledge. This prophecy is talking about a global judgment and contains two more woes than what we have cited. The first two woes, which we did cite are directly related to the love of money, the third one relates to overall evil. The fourth woe talks about making others drunk to see their nakedness and the fifth is about worshipping visible idols. This reflects what was said about the love of money being the root of all evil, not the sole root, but the dominant one. The love of money dominates in its evil effects over other abominations. This prophecy gives the ratio of two to one. Two parts for the love of riches, one for sexual lusts and one for visible idols. In this prophecy we are told that a global judgment will come and because judgment teaches knowledge, we can conclude that global knowledge will follow as the prophecy also says. This confirms the insight that through judgments mankind also learns righteousness.

When Christians are told that a time will come with global knowledge of God and peace and righteousness some of them will object that the world has been in a downward spiral. This is true when we only look at the last few centuries and blend out some other good developments. When we look at the whole picture, we get a different and more complex insight. Jesus Christ was deserted by even his closest followers and conquered Satan by himself on the cross at Calvary. The kingdom of God was very small at that time. He took away Satan's power over mankind because through the fear of death Satan rules over mankind. Mankind must die because the payment for sin is death, and all have sinned. All must die and are subject to the fear of death. Jesus, however, took the sins that cause people to die upon himself, and died for them on the cross. He paid the price for sin and gives every person the right to become a child of God who lives forever, if they repent of their sins, receive him and believe in his name. This way they will not be afraid of death, because they will be raised from the dead and enter eternal life in paradise. The devil lost his power over all people.

Jesus was all by himself when he went to the cross. On the cross however, he was joined by a sinner who received him and believed in his name. There was a criminal who was crucified right next to him. He believed in Jesus and made it to heaven with Jesus. At that point the kingdom of God was growing already. After two thousand years the kingdom has been preached on all continents and in all countries and has grown to millions of people. So over thousands of years it has grown but the growth follows certain peculiarities.

Jesus describes one of them this way: "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty" (Mat 13:19-23).

What does this mean concerning the point we are looking at? Four groups of people are reached with the Word of the Gospel. Only one group rejects it right away. Three receive the Word. When looking at the number of those who receive the word the number went up by three. But then this number will go down by two. So, we have three steps forward and two steps back. We have already learned that judgments push people to learn righteousness. Judgments can refer to individuals or to nations. Looking into history we see that judgments over many nations do not occur too often. So, when we look at an international judgment many people are taught righteousness together with the preaching of the Gospel. Then three groups of people will follow Jesus. The parable of Jesus, however, kicks in and then two groups will fall away. So, when you just consider the timespan of one generation or less you can just see a decline. If

not considering the overall process, you might conclude the kingdom of God is not growing but declining.

Next to this we have another peculiarity of the growth of the kingdom of God. It refers to a one-time special event which is described in the prophecies we looked at so far.

In the prophecy we looked at there is a global judgment coming.

When we look at the global judgment in this prophecy, we see that it is aimed at the root of evil, the love of money. Jesus once said that you cannot rob a house unless you have bound the strong man in the house. Global piety cannot be realized unless the biggest power holding them back from faith has been judged. Since the love of money is considered the root of all evil the judgment of it will have a groundbreaking global effect. Oftentimes before God judges he allows pride to excel. "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov 16:18). When the biggest powerhouse of the world that is set up against the knowledge of God is judged, it will most probably have reached its highest degree of pride beforehand. It was a given that it would reach its climax before the fall. As we will see in other prophecies, God allows his enemies to gather first and to join hands on a global scale before He takes them down. His enemies are allowed to be strengthened before being taken out.

What does that mean for the growth of Christianity? Jesus started out his kingdom by himself and then thousands were added and over time millions were added. The growth also reached governments. After the partial judgment of the papacy by the Reformation some governments were following Jesus Christ. The prophecy we look at is talking about a time when governments governed by greed will be overcome. As we will

see later, all governments will be gathered against Jesus Christ at that point. Therefore, governments that were Christian must have fallen away. This process began around 250 years ago. Therefore, the counteracting forces have gained momentum for 250 years and the impression that the kingdom of God is losing and declining is growing stronger than before. In truth however, an arch enemy of it has been given time to reach its climax before it is taken out. Let us compare this effect with the wave trough that precedes a big wave. Before a big wave comes an equally big trough rolls.

At the core of the misconception about the development of the kingdom of God is the fact that we humans usually think within one generation only: "There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to be among those who come after" (Ecc 1:11).

Because the coming wave of promotion of the kingdom of God will be so big, the trough spans more than a generation and therefore people think about the kingdom of God being sucked into the deep.

A Tablet for the Fall of Babylon

The prophecy talks about a global judgment of the love of riches and a time of peace, and the knowledge of God covering the earth like the waters cover the sea. The prophet is supposed to write this prophecy on a tablet for all to see. God is not only speaking to the world, but he is doing it in a most public way. "Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks" (Prov 1:20-21). Jesus is telling His preachers to preach the gospel in a most public way

by using the word that is translated from the Greek word “kerusso.” This word is also used when government heralds proclaim whatever the governments decree. Jesus Christ is the King of Kings. He owns the world and He commands not only all individuals but also all authorities. The prophecy is also about the fall of anti-Christian governments. Following the fall there will be a wide-spread knowledge of God, and as we have learned from the first prophecy we looked at, the wide-spread knowledge of God is at a time of global peace and prosperity here on earth. Therefore, it is noteworthy to point out that the public proclamation about the fall of governments does not refer to the very last day when this world will be dissolved forever, but to a global judgment of anti-Christian governments after which the earth will exist for more time to come. Governments that serve riches, are puffed up, and deceptive will be judged. This message is supposed to be written on tablets so that it will be seen by all. Why is this so unknown nowadays? Why do churches not continue to proclaim this everywhere? As we will see later, corruption and confusion have also entered the church. Unknowingly, part of the church aids and supports the global anti-Christian attack on Jesus Christ’s claim to the world.

Destruction of the Earth

In the prophecy we read: “Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them” (Hab 2:8). It is one of the most shameful and saddest facts that although we have had such advances in science, technology, and advanced means to increase

agricultural output, an estimated 3.5 million children die from malnutrition each year. Although we have advanced technology to identify and filter out harmful particles and gasses, the earth is burdened with global production emissions, leading to climate change. Some deny climate change, ignoring the simple experience of sharing a small room with a heavy smoker. Of course, smoking not only affects the smoker but also the one sharing the small room. The earth is also only a limited space with finite dimensions. We experience ever-increasing threats of wildfires, floods, droughts, and heat. We in Germany were mostly used to seeing these things happen in the USA and other places, but lately, they have reached Germany as well. The prophecy gives us insight into this misery. Greed destroys the earth. It is deceptive to reduce the cause of destruction to certain ways of production when in reality, we all know that the amount of useless stuff people produce and consume is a main cause. In addition to that, greed produces stuff as cheaply as possible in a destructive manner for the environment. The law of God given to Moses is a perfect set of moral instructions, and it contains a commandment that sums up the climate change problem very easily. "If you come across a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young" (Deut 22:6).

In former times, this commandment might have been considered one of the least of the commandments of God. But now, billions of people experience the importance of it in the long run. The commandment urges us to preserve the creation of God and not use it in a destructive, greedy way. Five hundred years ago, nobody would have thought that the economy could

damage the earth. But now we are smarter. All the commandments of God are there for a purpose: to lead us in a good way by avoiding evil. This commandment also illustrates that all of God's commandments are needful, and none can be abolished. Some might seem unnecessary, like this one a couple hundred years ago, but over time the breaking of it has harmed the planet. When I talk about keeping this commandment, I do not limit the commandment to the literal sense. God's commandments cannot only be taken literally, they also stand for principles. Hypocrisy limits commandments to only part of the full scope of their meaning. But wisdom teaches the true meaning of the commandments. Jesus talks about the importance of obeying and putting into practice all the commandments of God this way: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mat 5:17-20).

The commandment also illustrates that you cannot distinguish between church and state when it comes to commandments. Is the preservation of the earth only a matter of the church? The destruction of the earth affects church and state. The oppression of the poor affects church and state. Evil

and good affect church and state in the sense that people use these words.

If governments break away from Jesus Christ, they abolish some or all commandments of God. They leave the terrain of uprightness and righteousness and enter an unholy alliance with greed and the love of money. Hypocrisy will take over. It can be done in the name of religion, ideology, or even in the name of Jesus Christ. It can be detected by the overall scheme of some profiting from others' suffering and not all of God's commandments being implemented. One of the latter forms of this hypocrisy was in the name of freedom from tyranny and religious rule. This was made possible by another abuse where kings were ruling unrighteously and demanded obedience from their subjects by pointing to the commandment given in the Bible to obey the authorities because all authorities are instituted by God. That abuse was instrumentalized in establishing another form of hypocrisy in the 18th century which we will cover in detail later. The concept of freedom was used to lead masses of people into the slavery of indebtedness. This propaganda is still making parts of the world drunk. Freedom from tyranny is propagated as a cover for the love of riches, enslaving masses of people and nations with debt. The people are made to believe that it would be the best form of government. As new insights into technology made production more effective and a large segment of society in rich countries was allowed access to more luxury the hypocrisy was happily accepted. Propaganda in the name of freedom has reached large parts of the world. In truth however, large parts of the world's population increasingly fall deeper into debt.

The truth about “freedom” is this: “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender” (Prov 22:7). Governments must step in to protect the poor because the call of wisdom to them is: “Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Prov 31:8-9).

In the prophecy we looked at, God will plead the cause of the poor against nations that live in unrighteous luxury.

Who Is the Prophecy Talking About?

In the context of the Old Testament the prophecy is about the king of Babylon, who destroyed Jerusalem and conquered many countries, thus becoming a world power. However, the prophecy ends with the knowledge of God covering the earth like water covers the sea, which is the same glorious victory of Jesus Christ and the Gospel over the world. Therefore, the prophecy will have its final accomplishment in the future. The prophecy starts out with two types of people. The one is puffed up, and his soul is not upright within him, while the other one lives by faith. Now it is obvious that not only one person lives by faith. Therefore, the header of this passage is made up of two types of men. One type is puffed up, and the other lives by faith. In the prophecy of Daniel, the king of Babylon is represented as the head of a big statue. Next to this head there are three other parts, each representing a consecutive world power: Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Rome is then further described as splitting up into ten toes, representing several parallel kingdoms that, on the one hand, somehow go together at times, and on the other hand do not go together. History tells us that

the Roman Empire, in its oneness, broke down and was split up into many kingdoms.

We will look at other prophecies that foresee that all nations will be brought together in the last days against God. These nations are led by the type of man who is described here.

The link to the next prophecy we will look at is, in a literal sense, the instruction by God to write the vision on a tablet. In the next prophecy the content of the prophecy must also be preserved and published on a tablet. While the former prophecies were targeting open enemies of God, the next one addresses the children of God, who seek an alliance with the enemies of God. In the Old Testament, Judah was attacked by Assyrians. Then they sought help from Egypt instead of waiting patiently and trusting that God would help them. This prophecy gives us a great deal of insight into understanding the history of the last couple of centuries. Let us refresh our knowledge of what happened during the Reformation which took place in the 16th century. The Reformation brought an end to the rule of the Pope over the nations where Christianity was preached and accepted. The truth about the gospel held forth as the Reformation broke the power of the lies of the Pope, and not only individuals but also governments embraced the true gospel and did not obey the Pope and his heretical teachings anymore. Many countries in Europe were delivered. However, the devil adjusted his tactics and prepared the retaking of political control. Before the Reformation, the Pope and his followers created a system of hypocrisy where some lived in luxury, others were exploited and oppressed, and the true doctrine of God was replaced by the teachings of the Pope. This teaching covered up the ancient system of Babylon, only this

time in the name of Jesus Christ. When the devil realized that this dominant heretical system was exposed in large parts of Europe, he introduced many different false versions of the fear of God, each competing with one another and presenting a challenge to governments. After the Reformation, even in reformed countries like Scotland, it was standard teaching that the government is not only bound by the second part of the Ten Commandments but also by the first part. The ten commandments can be grouped into two parts. The first five commandments all relate to God and the following five commandments to man. The sum of all is love, which also has two sides: loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength; and loving your neighbor as yourself. John Knox, who preached in the 16th century in Scotland, for instance, ascribed to the government the duty to uphold the commandments concerning God as well. However, since the devil spread confusion among Christians by introducing many different deviations from Christian doctrine, governments needed more and more discernment to enforce the first commandments.

In addition to this challenge, the Atlantic slave trade was increasingly corrupting governments from the 16th century onwards. We have talked before about how righteous governments were corrupted. The king of Tyre was said to be a righteous and even blameless ruler, a protector, and full of wisdom till the abundance of trade made him sin. Nations in Europe were delivered from the lies of the popery, but trade was once again a force to bring them back into the fold of Satan. In England, the slave trade corrupted political righteousness, and a system of hypocrisy was set up again. It was not the old system of the popery but a new one, which could pass as an

evangelically correct system to some. Again, any system that is not the holy one which the wisdom of God teaches and has Jesus as the head of everything, including the political sphere, shares the characteristics we have already identified: the love of money, oppression of the poor, and some form of hypocritical set of thoughts that make it appear righteous.

Meanwhile, colonies were created on the American continent, and Christians who were persecuted in Europe were able to start a new life in the American colonies. Since England extended its political realm to these areas, Christians were also harassed by a system corrupted by the slave trade.

Let us keep this historical situation in mind when we read the following prophecy. As I said before, the people of God faced enemies. Christians in the British colonies on the American continent were enticed to also seek help with "spiritual Egypt," as the Israelites in this prophecy.

Prophecy of Isaiah 30:1-26

"Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin; Who walk to go down to Egypt, And have not asked My advice, To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, And to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore the strength of Pharaoh Shall be your shame, And trust in the shadow of Egypt Shall be your humiliation. For his princes were at Zoan, And his ambassadors came to Hanes. They were all ashamed of a people who could not benefit them, Or be help or benefit, But a shame and also a reproach." The burden against the beasts of the South. Through a land of trouble and anguish, From which came the lioness and lion, The

viper and fiery flying serpent, They will carry their riches on the backs of young donkeys, And their treasures on the humps of camels, To a people who shall not profit; For the Egyptians shall help in vain and to no purpose. Therefore I have called her Rahab-Hem-Shebeth. Now go, write it before them on a tablet, And note it on a scroll, That it may be for time to come, Forever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, Lying children, Children who will not hear the law of the LORD; Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Get out of the way, Turn aside from the path, Cause the Holy One of Israel To cease from before us." Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel: "Because you despise this word, And trust in oppression and perversity, And rely on them, Therefore this iniquity shall be to you like a breach ready to fall, A bulge in a high wall, Whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant. And He shall break it like the breaking of the potter's vessel, Which is broken in pieces; He shall not spare. So there shall not be found among its fragments A shard to take fire from the hearth, Or to take water from the cistern." For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you would not, And you said, "No, for we will flee on horses"— Therefore you shall flee! And, "We will ride on swift horses"— Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift! One thousand shall flee at the threat of one, At the threat of five you shall flee, Till you are left as a pole on top of a mountain And as a banner on a hill. Therefore the LORD will wait, that He may be gracious to you; And therefore He will be exalted, that He may have mercy on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; Blessed are all

those who wait for Him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; You shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; When He hears it, He will answer you. And though the Lord gives you The bread of adversity and the water of affliction, Yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, But your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left. You will also defile the covering of your images of silver, And the ornament of your molded images of gold. You will throw them away as an unclean thing; You will say to them, "Get away!" Then He will give the rain for your seed With which you sow the ground, And bread of the increase of the earth; It will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed In large pastures. Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground Will eat cured fodder, Which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan. There will be on every high mountain And on every high hill Rivers and streams of waters, In the day of the great slaughter, When the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound" (Isa 30:1-26 NKJV).

Let us take a step back and look at the big picture. There are unrighteous governments: Egypt enslaved Israel, which was delivered by God through the hands of Moses. There is Assyria, which threatens to attack Israel. In this prophecy, God shows the way of deliverance. "For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you

would not" (Isa 30:15 NKJV). Instead of trusting in God, they made an unholy alliance with Egypt.

In the 18th century, Christians in the British colonies also sought an unholy alliance with the world when being harassed by the British government, which was corrupted by the slave trade. In the rebellion against King George III, Christians joined slave holders and people denying the authority of Jesus Christ as the Word of God. They were called deists. Deism is the polite form of saying there is no God in a society which is greatly impacted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On the one hand, they did not want to obey Jesus Christ, but on the other hand they do not want to acknowledge that they are godless and lawless. So they cover up their apostasy from the Word of God by claiming to believe there is a God, but stating he has not clearly expressed His will in a concrete way.

The alliance of godless people and Christians rebelled against King George III. Christians sought protection and help in this alliance against King George III. By now, I hope we can recite the main characteristics of the scheme of the love of money. One group profits, another is exploited, and all is covered up with hypocrisy. The rebellion against King George III was justified by declaring the inalienable rights of men, which the government has the right to secure. Against the backdrop of them profiting immensely from their slaves, it is utter hypocrisy if they complain against taxes that did not originate in their legislative bodies and call that tyranny. They rebelled in the name of liberty against King George III and set up a slave system. All that was covered up by the noble-sounding words of liberty for all. The true nature of the rebellion was to start an enticing set of thoughts that helped the rule of debt take hold of the whole

world in an unprecedented way. And all this in the name of liberty. The end of the revolution were mass casualties on all sides and three countries in debt. The USA was born in debt and has grown to become the most indebted country in the history of the world. In the name of liberty, it has deceived Christians to flee tyranny by joining Egypt and setting up a system bound to collapse in unrighteousness.

The prophecy talks about the Israelites carrying their riches on the backs of donkeys and their treasures on the humps of camels. This talks about them serving money and riches, departing from God, and seeking protection in the world. The system that was established in the USA after the revolution is that of a compromise between Christians and the world. The center of the compromise is the love of riches, and the world is supposed to guarantee the free exercise of worshipping Jesus Christ, while the world has the right to forget about the poor, take advantage of them, and pursue their unrighteous life in luxury. The commandment to love God and to love your neighbor is taken out of the civil law. The rights of the poor are replaced by everybody having the right to pursue a selfish life. Those who love money use these rights to indebt almost everyone.

Prophecies of Coming Righteousness for the Poor Are Replaced

In the prophecy we looked at in the book of Isaiah God charges the Israelites because they tell the prophets not to tell them what is true but what is comforting and acceptable to them. They tell them not to talk about the Holy One of Israel. Before the American Revolution there were real Christian

revivals, and many people came to faith. There were also people seeking godly wisdom to interpret the prophecies we are also looking at. In fact, key insights in this book come from a Christian who lived in the British colonies in the Americas before the revolution. Jonathan Edwards was a key preacher used by God to bring revivals to the people. He had great insight into the prophecies of the last days and major interpretations of this book build on his insights. However, even though he is highly revered in the USA by Christians his insights into prophecies are almost completely ignored. In the USA Christians are listening to a new outlook on prophecies which speak “smooth words” to them. The dominant smooth interpretation of prophecies concerning coming events is that God will remove all Christians when trouble comes to the earth. This completely contradicts what upright people like Jonathan Edwards have found out. Preachers of this smooth look at the future for Christians live in luxury and make millions of dollars with book sales. Even though books could be published for free on the internet, Christianity has turned into a multi-billion-dollar business in the USA. Next to books worship songs are commercially marketed. The house of God has been turned into a house of merchandise in parts of US Christianity.

The prophetic light of Jonathan Edwards has been put out by generations of preachers. In respect to coming events, the USA is in the dark. “Therefore, my people go into exile for lack of knowledge; their honored men go hungry, and their multitude is parched with thirst” (Isa 5:13).

We will come back to the rebellion of the colonists against the King of England later in this book because it not only had a national impact, but the thoughts that were introduced

impacted large parts of the world. The rebels drafted what is called the Declaration of Independence and then the Constitution of the United States. The thoughts justifying their system turned out to be highly influential in many other nations. They resulted in governments outwardly being loosely united under the umbrella of the United Nations, but closely united in spirit in opposing Jesus Christ's ruling over them politically. These statements might come as a huge surprise to Christians living in democracies who were raised believing that democracies are the best possible form of government this side of heaven. They consider freedom of religion to be more holy than the Ten Commandments. Later, we will prove that those dearly held beliefs are proud thoughts that are rebelling against Jesus Christ ruling this world. They enable the love of money to truly rule all over the world and keep the people drunk on believing they are free while being enslaved to debt and evil desires.

The prophecy in Isaiah is also predicting a time of increased light of insight into wisdom and the knowledge of God. The two prophecies we looked at before were putting the same blessing with the knowledge of God. Spiritual light is the same as the knowledge of God. Where the spirit of God is there is freedom. Jesus puts it this way. "...and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

In the first part of the prophecy, we hear about Israel seeking refuge in Egypt. They make an alliance against the will of God. In the second part we hear about the Israelites returning to God and being healed from the wounds God has inflicted. If they return to God, trust in him, wait for him, and are being taught by him, then they will come to true freedom and prosperity for

all and not only for a few who are on the receiving end of the rule of the love of money. The US system is so popular among mankind because it promises a shot at getting rich no matter where you are. The story from rags to riches is the American Dream. The American Dream is not God's "dream" for this world. God's dream for this world was described in the first prophecy which we looked at where all people live in peace and harmony and in the second prophecy, we learned that the dream comes about when the unrighteous rule of riches is removed. The American Dream does not remove the unrighteous rule of riches but offers a "lottery" for all that will make some of them rich. That means that everybody has a shot at getting rich. The American Dream does not stop unrighteousness against the poor but only offers the sweet spot on the receiving end for some of the people, including some of the poor. I hope everyone has understood the difference. The American Dream offers everybody a chance within a system that will allow some to take advantage of the unrighteousness no matter where they have come from. It does not make the system righteous but offers everybody a chance in a race where the front runners will get what God would have shared among all.

If you are not a US citizen, you can skip this paragraph but if you are a white evangelical US Christian, you might now be very upset. You might object by charging these thoughts about the US system as being socialist and communist. The propaganda for political views in the USA is so intense that certain responses are preprogrammed. It seems like that whenever the US capitalistic system is attacked socialism is blamed by some. The righteous system of God is neither socialistic nor capitalistic.

Socialism and capitalism are both hypocritical ways for godless people to avoid obeying the wisdom of God.

The prophecy we looked at talks about increased light which means in this respect that the hypocrisy in these systems will fully be exposed. It talks about God shedding light into the hearts and minds of his people so they will be free to receive and obey God's wisdom. The time will come when confusing concepts and circumstances will be brought to the light of understanding and the people will be able to sort out the truth from the lies involved. They will be taught the instructions of God which will enable them to clearly see through the deception and depart from all evil in it.

Before we go on, we will briefly analyze what a teaching is. Capitalism and socialism are teachings. They can be broken up into statements about a status quo, actions, and relationship between actions and the resulting status. In the physical world it is easier to understand. You pick up a stone and hold it in your hand. The status is the weight of the stone and the distance to the ground. When you consider the action of letting the stone drop you can determine the time it takes for the stone to reach the earth by applying the rule of gravity, the relationship between two masses. Capitalism and socialism describe a highly complex situation of millions of economical actors and actions and a supposed relationship between the actions and the result. Please remember what we have learned in the beginning about key characteristics of folly. One of them was to rely on your own understanding and to ignore the teaching of God. Whenever humans interact with each other God cannot be left out of the picture because He is always involved as an actor as well. We have seen that man has many plans, but the purpose of God

comes to pass. Capitalism and socialism ignore the role of God in the economy and in politics. Since God does not only act but he predetermines any outcome of all actions he is the dominant actor. Without knowing what his role is in the economy and in politics all these teachings are doomed to fail. Therefore, it is also utter folly to make a political alliance with godless people because they cannot agree on reasonable policies which include the dominant actor in political and economic life who is God.

When the time of great light comes the people will search for the wisdom of God and have a good understanding of God's role. Then they will act reasonably and just, unrighteousness will be rooted out, and peace and righteousness will come.

There is a temptation to leave out God and fully trust in human thoughts about the economy and politics because of the following statement of wisdom: "A gracious woman gets honor, and violent men get riches" (Prov 11:16). God allows some godless plans to work out in the short run. Men who plan to rob a bank might succeed and get rich. Politicians might come up with a godless plan that will bring money into the treasuries. This period of granted success might go beyond a generation but it will never stand in the long run when the success is built on breaking the law of God or going against the instructions of the Lord. Wisdom says about God: "Toward the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favor" (Prov 3:34). In the long run God will not bless but punish unrighteousness and he will act according to this wisdom: "Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it" (Prov 11:27). And: "Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling" (Prov 26:27).

This holds true for individuals as well as nations or the united front of nations against God. When we look at the world, we will not find only one teaching without Jesus Christ and the wisdom of God, but many. There are so many that it is confusing. World trade unites them and their resolution to not have Jesus Christ rule over them. Besides that, there is a lot of confusion going on: several forms of Islam, several forms of heresies injected into Christianity, several godless theories about macroeconomics. What is going on? There is so much confusion.

The prophecy predicts great light will be shed on the confusing world. There is a historic development that we should take notice of in this respect. In the last decades we have seen an unprecedented advance in communication technology and data processing technology. We have stated earlier that humans cannot process too many parallel pieces of data at the same time, so we rely on structuring data. Computer technology is helping mankind to store, structure, and retrieve information. Communication technology allows this process to be started with one touch of a smartphone screen and within seconds relevant information is transported back to the smartphone. The world of unrighteousness is built on deception and confusion and the world of Jesus Christ is built on the truth. When a time of light comes how will all the confusing versions of the truth be exposed? Computer science technologies allow information about all aspects of the world now, and many aspects of the history of the world to be stored and retrieved. A normal person with a cell phone can google relevant data. Even these prophecies can be googled and found. God has created this world and has embedded these technologies into it all along, only to be searched out and used for a particular time

and purpose. Light will bring order into the confusion. Facts will prevail over fiction and the data processing technology is a key tool in this process. Therefore, the existence of this technology must be recognized when determining the signs of the times.

Once a political talk show host was called in front of a congressional committee as a witness. When he was asked whether it is tough to be questioned, he answered that if you testify truthfully, you only have to remember one story. There is only one truth but seemingly endless lies and deceptions. If people love money and turn their hearts towards becoming rich, they also leave the path of truth. Since their hearts are not upright but puffed up, they introduce deceptive witnesses that lead to confusion. Babylon means confusion. Babylon is the place where people abandon uprightness of heart and cover up selfish and unrighteous behavior with confusing thoughts. Let us keep this in mind when we read the next prophecy.

Prophecy of Zephaniah 3:8-13

“Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed. “For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord. From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshippers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering. “On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my

holy mountain. But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”

This prophecy contains parallels to the one we looked at, and because the glorious outcome is the same as in the foregoing prophecies, it must be another perspective of the same event.

The glorious outcome of this prophecy is that God will give all nations pure speech, and all of them will call on the name of the Lord and serve Him with one accord. The knowledge of God covering the earth like water covers the sea is the same as having pure speech, serving the Lord with one accord, and calling upon the name of the Lord. It is the same because this prophecy describes the fruit of wisdom and the fear of the Lord, which is calling upon the name of the Lord and serving Him with one accord. The knowledge of God is also the fruit of seeking wisdom, and therefore, the one comes with the other. Again, a glorious time of peace and righteousness is predicted.

This prophecy gives us additional information about the type of man who is puffed up, deceptive, greedy, and seeking unrighteous riches. This prophecy talks about the gathering of all nations. God’s decision is to not take revenge on one nation at a time, but rather he first gathers them, and then he will pour out His wrath on them together. There is no doubt that never before in human history have the nations of the world joined a union as they have today, the United Nations.

Is the gathering of the nations under the umbrella of the United Nations the fulfillment of the first part of this prophecy?

There is no doubt that the United Nations exists and practically all nations are united. But what about this gathering being just another gathering next to the one spoken of in the prophecy? There is one statement in the Bible about God working on this earth that must be taken into consideration: "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

Since this is a global event with global consequences and not a side issue, we should assume that if there are multiple gatherings of all nations, God would have spoken about them in His prophecies. In fact, we do find two gatherings of nations in the book of Revelation. One is before the devil is bound for a thousand years and when Babylon is still around. The other one is after the thousand years of Christians ruling over the earth, after the devil had been bound for a thousand years but was then released. "And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Rev 20:7-10).

The difference between the two gatherings is the following. The first gathering leads to a time of peace and prosperity here on earth. The earth will not be destroyed but continues to exist. The second gathering leads to the last judgment and to the

destruction of this earth by fire, and then the eternal world of paradise comes, where there is no death anymore, and the mortal bodies will be changed into immortal bodies.

The prophecies we have looked at resulted in a peaceful state of the earth, which was still given time to exist.

Next to these two gatherings of the nations, I cannot think of any other gathering. The reason why this prophecy must belong to the first gathering is because of the prophesied change of heart and mind of the peoples still living on earth. It is prophesied that the speech of the peoples will be made pure. The word "speech" can also be translated as "language". The same Hebrew word is used in the story about Babel and the tower the people wanted to build. Back then, people joined hands to make a name for themselves by disobeying God's order to spread out over the face of the earth. Instead of obeying God, they decided not to spread out, but stay together and build a city and a tower. The top of the tower was supposed to reach heaven, and this way, they wanted to make a name for themselves. God disrupted their plan by confusing their language. The word "language" is the same as in this prophecy, where it is translated "speech". The two events go together because first, God confuses the language, and in the end, He purifies it and brings the peoples together again, but this time the right way. This time, they call on the name of the Lord instead of making a name for themselves. This time, they serve the Lord with one accord and not their rebellious hearts by disobeying God.

Again, we see judgment preceding this glorious salvation of the hearts and minds of people. I hope by now that everyone realizes that judgment oftentimes serves the purpose of

reviving true religion as well. There is a certain notion of end-times events that Christians hold on to which only sees judgment as self-serving and not related to the promotion of the kingdom of God among the people here on earth. The global judgment of the anti-Christian power players, however, does serve the purpose of bringing righteousness and faith to the hearts and minds of the peoples.

It is true that there is a last gathering of the nations that will not result in conversion at the end of the earth. This will come after the peoples enjoyed the knowledge of God but fell away. The first global judgment leads to a global revival and a thousand-year reign of Christians over people being converted by the knowledge of God. Then and only then can a great apostasy come, a great falling away, and since they come from the knowledge of God, only destruction will follow their apostasy. "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" (2 Thess 2:3 NKJV).

The events of the prophecy we analyze in the book of Zephaniah clearly result in a global revival of true religion, and therefore, it belongs to the first gathering of the nations.

This prophecy adds additional information about this great global event which is to come: the prideful, exalted ones among Christians will be removed.

Who is prideful among Christians and preachers? Jesus puts it this way in John 7:18 "The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory, but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood".

A humble and faithful Christian and preacher will only pass on what he is taught by the Holy Spirit and what he is sent to

preach. He does not add new things to the teachings of God. He also does not take away commandments from the law of Christ. He faithfully preaches the Gospel of Christ, whether the people hate it or love it. We have analyzed hypocrites before, and they corrupt the teaching of God. Sometimes, they leave out the commandments of God by introducing traditions. Sometimes, they place great emphasis on little issues and leave out the weightier matters of the law. They whitewash the outside of their appearance, while inwardly, they are full of greed and lawlessness. They plunder the money of widows in a subtle way.

When looking at Christianity nowadays, you have hundreds of different denominations, and there are many different versions out there of the fear of God. The prophecy, however, predicts that this will all be done away with when the judgment of the nations comes upon this earth. Later, in the prophecies of Revelation, we will see the method of sorting out the hypocrites from among the Christians.

Dear readers, there is also another way to be an exalted, prideful Christian. God has given you more means than you personally need, but instead of sharing what you have too much of with those who have too little, you spend your extra money on living a luxurious life. You travel the world while your brothers and sisters in Christ do not even know how to put enough food on the table for their children. You exalt yourself by rewarding yourself with many more goods and services, while others cannot even afford the essentials. We have looked at the story of the rich man and Lazarus. Dear reader, this warning must go out to the most public place of Christianity and must be repeated till all children of God have come together to put an end to this evil. We must end the current practice of

some churches living in luxury while other churches scramble to get by, lacking many things. I hope we Christians will heed the warning of this prophecy and humble ourselves now by sharing what we have. We must talk about this later in more detail, but for now we point out that this issue must be a priority on our agendas. We must flee hypocrisy so we will not be found to be hypocrites.

Hopefully, many entangled in hypocrisy will repent, so they will not be destroyed but instead belong to the humble ones being left on the mountain of God. Global repentance, which belongs to the process of getting a pure language, will happen. What a glorious prospect when we just look at the positive side! However, we are also told about the negative, painful side: that God will pour out His indignation and all His burning anger. We are further told that all the earth shall be consumed in the fire of His jealousy.

Dear reader, I recommend you read about the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Jesus was warning the people at His time about the dreadful revenge of God. It did come, and it was horrible. It is terrifying to fall into the hands of the living God.

We must pause and focus on the wrath of God now, because in some countries like Germany, people are mostly offered the picture of a loving, all-forgiving, gentle God who loves all people as they are and does no harm to them. When calamities come over all the world like the Corona pandemic, some preachers are very quick to claim that God has nothing to do with that. They love to paint God as someone who would not hurt anyone. Dear reader, we must face the following truth: "Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it" (Amos 3:6)?

Let us look at all the horrors of wars, pestilences, famines, and catastrophes. Let us consider all the sicknesses and personal tragedies and consider that all that was part of God's plan for us. Oh, yes, God is to be feared, and it can be horrible to run into His judgments. Jerusalem was conquered by the Romans, and the temple was completely leveled. How much pain has come upon mankind as a result of God's revenge? I do not say that all tragedies are punishments for sin, but the saying of Moses is true: "Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you" (Psalm 90:11)?

If a preacher denies the wrath of God, he is a liar, and you should never listen to him again because he deceives you in the most dangerous way. Dear reader, we must also come to grips with the fact that the wrath of God is not restricted to the visible realm. There have been sinners who have never repented and turned from their sins, and they died in luxury. They have not faced horrible consequences here on earth. But they will in the time to come. Jesus Christ puts the horrors any impenitent sinner will face this way: "And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched'" (Mark 9:43-48).

When God created us, He included the sense of pain. Our bodies are made with the capacity to suffer pain, even severe pain. Have you ever experienced excruciating pain? Why is that?

Why are you capable of experiencing it, and why did you experience it?

Dear reader, you must know that God is as faithful in fulfilling all the promised blessings when we listen to Him and trust Him as he is in fulfilling all the consequences threatened for not listening. The history of mankind proves this point again and again. Some people deny the existence of God by pointing to the horrors people go through. The horrors mankind goes through prove that His threats are fulfilled. Not all evil that happens to a particular person is deserved, as the story of Job shows, but certainly evil strikes mankind as God's revenge for their evil deeds.

Lastly, let us consider what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to go through. He was not guilty of anything, but He voluntarily took upon Himself our sins and so was severely punished by being crucified. Can any reasonable person conclude that if God does not spare His own innocent Son from experiencing excruciating pain for sins He did not commit, that anybody else who did commit sin and does not want to repent can escape the excruciating pain of being crucified? Does anyone think that God would give him a pass when He did not give one to his beloved Son Jesus Christ? No, let nobody be deceived. God's wrath will be poured out on His enemies, and his indignation will strike the gathered nations. And yes, in the fire of His jealousy the earth will be consumed.

Dear reader, you might think that the Coronavirus, the natural disasters, and the wars right now are severe judgments of God. Wait and consider that even worse things will come. Think through what God has promised that He will do in this prophecy. So let us become wise and begin to fear God, and

forsake all preachers who do not believe in the wrath of God coming on this earth but pretend that God loves all people as they are and will not harm them in any way. These preachers are blind leaders leading the blind.

The prophecy also talks about the jealousy of God. "...for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed" (Zeph 3:8). We humans are created in the image of God, and as God can be jealous, we can be jealous as well. The feeling of jealousy we experience can also be found with God, as we learn in this prophecy. Is jealousy a more severe emotion than wrath? Wisdom says: "Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy" (Prov 27:4)?. When someone takes away the wife of a husband, we can read in the Bible: "For jealousy makes a man furious, and he will not spare when he takes revenge" (Prov 6:34).

This is also true for God when He takes revenge on all who have not worshipped and loved Him as God and have sought protection and help in some other way. The problem with us humans is that complacency makes us numb to some thoughts about God that would wake us up. God is jealous, and He also does not go easy when He takes revenge.

It is true that the preaching of the wrath of God can be overdone, but it is equally true that it can be neglected, especially at a time when lawlessness abounds. Furthermore, especially when God has foretold that all His wrath will be poured out. This terrible time has come, preaching about it is vital!

Let us now proceed to the next prophecy that will increase our understanding of coming events. In the prophecies we have looked at so far, we have seen a global turnaround. The man

with a puffed-up, deceitful heart is replaced by the one who lives by faith. The love of money is judged, and the knowledge of God dominates instead. The next prophecy will shed more light on the political and social consequences of this huge turnaround.

Prophecy of Isaiah in Chapter 32:1-8

“Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly. The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable. For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. As for the scoundrel--his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right. But he who is noble plans noble things, and on noble things he stands” (Isa 32:1-8).

Global Lordship of Jesus Christ and Political Authority of Believers

In this prophecy, there are familiar aspects, like wisdom will prevail, and folly will no longer dominate and praise godlessness. There is, however, a new perspective concerning the political impact of the knowledge of God covering the earth like the water covers the sea. Political power will be given to the

students of Jesus Christ who also follow his instructions concerning political authority. Right now, some people speak about religion and politics as if they belong to different spheres of life. This notion ignores the truth that there is only one source of wisdom that covers all aspects of life. Jesus Christ is given to man for wisdom. There is only one perfect law and only one love, which can be summed up in loving God and your neighbor as yourself. This is true for governments as much as for all other actors in life. The same wisdom is the source of wise policies as well as wise teachings about God. The same person, Jesus Christ, is the head of the government as much as He is the head of a congregation. When the knowledge of God will cover the earth like the water covers the sea, then all governments will know the truth that Jesus Christ is King of kings, and they will submit all their authority to Him. They will rule according to the wisdom found in Jesus Christ, following the same source of laws as the church has always done, even when in a state of persecution. There is only one perfect law of Christ. There is only one righteousness. There is only one sum of righteousness: love.

Right now, you can find a different view that is widely held: there are different sources of wisdom for the world, and the church. But can this possibly be? If the sum of all commandments is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, then this applies to all humans, no matter where they come from, what they believe, or what they desire. In fact, good and evil will always be measured against this baseline of righteousness. It cannot be otherwise. If you have any set of laws that cannot be summed up in these two laws, that set of laws is by itself evil,

and subsequently will call evil good and good evil. If you abolish love towards God and your neighbor as the baseline and end of righteousness, you sell righteousness to the highest bidder. Whatever he feels like will be considered right and wrong. Whatever his evil heart loves will become the baseline and end of his righteousness. Are we not experiencing the free fall of righteousness in democracies right now?

This thought will bring us to the next aspect we will look at.

Fools Are No Longer to Be Called Noble nor Scoundrels Honorable

The prophecy talks about fools no longer being called noble nor scoundrels being called honorable. If a government sets up a system of commandments that cannot be summed up in the universal law of love towards God and man, you end up with systems that call the fool noble and the scoundrel honorable. This sad situation can be experienced a lot right now in the world. But let us have a closer look at this problem: "The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable. For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. As for the scoundrel--his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right" (Isa 32:5-7).

When the righteousness of God is abandoned by governments fools will be called noble and scoundrels honorable. We have talked about this before, that righteousness has two sides. The passive side: that evil is not committed and the active side: that love is practiced and good

is done and not omitted. In this prophecy, we learn that the fool, who was called noble, leaves the craving of the hungry unsatisfied. He leads a selfish life and gets away with it, and is even called honorable. We can find this happening all around us, but why? One reason is because governments abolished the law of God and abandoned submission to Jesus Christ, who is the source of wisdom. They corrupt perfect righteousness, and this way they manage to appear righteous in the sight of the ignorant. We talked about the US legal system before, and you will see that this system errs concerning God and allows the fool to be called noble and the scoundrel honorable. This system claims to be so human, yet it has eliminated both love towards God and equal love towards man. All this is based on errors concerning knowledge about God. It is said that the US system is based on Christian principles, which is, in truth, admitting that it is not based on the complete set of commandments and thus the law of Christ, but instead it abolishes commandments and only a semblance is left. We have seen before what devastating effect it has had to leave out only a supposedly small commandment like that of the preservation of creation. Since there are Christians who believe that the US legal system is somehow wise and righteous, it must be stressed that leaving out the least of the commandments of God disqualifies it. How much more if you leave out the two pillars of righteousness: which are love towards God and equal love towards men?

All constitutions that leave out these two pillars are corruptions and allow fools to be called honorable and scoundrels to be called noble. The prophecy predicts that this will end. Therefore, we can conclude that the true law of God, which does not leave out any commandment, and of course,

includes the pillars of righteousness: love towards God and love towards your neighbor, will also be included in the political law of the land. What a glorious prospect!

Wisdom Will Cover the Earth

The prophecy reiterates what the other prophecies have stated: that wisdom will prevail. In this prophecy it is expressed this way: "Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed, and the ears of those who hear will give attention. The heart of the hasty will understand and know, and the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly" (Isa 32:3-4).

Let us take notice of one logical connection, however, which links the righteous character of the government to the wisdom that will be found in the people. The flow of thought is that there will be a righteous government, and "Then the eyes....". So wisdom among the people also comes from a righteous government being in power. Governments do contribute to wisdom being found in a country. There are voices in Christianity that claim that only the church brings salvation, and governments have nothing to do with it. This notion mixes truth with confusion. Let us sort out right from wrong because the truth will set us free, and confusion will lead to doubt and unrighteousness. The term church must be looked at through the lens of the Word of God and not through ignorant people's interpretation of it. The church stands in contrast to the world. People are called out of the world, or the rule of Satan, into God's kingdom or the church. The church is the congregation of believers: those who believe in the Word and wisdom of Jesus Christ. People within the church can have all kinds of offices in society. They can be government officials, mothers, doctors,

nurses, cooks, farmhands, or preachers. The role a person plays in society does not determine whether he is in the church of God or not, whether he is called out from the darkness of lies and ignorance to the light of truth and wisdom.

Therefore, the notion that only the church can bring salvation and not the government is mixing up two things that have nothing to do with each other. A politician can belong to a church as much as a pastor. And a pastor who preaches lies belongs to the world as much as a criminal. Now God gives different gifts to people, but more than one gift can be given to one person. A pastor has the gift of shepherding, and another can have the gift of evangelism. Someone can have the gift of wisdom and leadership and hold the office of a political leader, but it does not mean that he cannot have the gift of teaching or evangelism. In fact, major books of wisdom were written by politicians in the Old Testament. Solomon and David were both kings and had a lot to say about wisdom. The wisdom they preached covered both politics and worship.

Therefore, it is simply wrong to say that governments cannot play a role in evangelism. It is against the truth and precedent of the Bible. It is against wisdom. It is simply made-up human or even demonic teaching.

This is only one aspect of why the statement that governments cannot contribute to salvation is wrong. Another very important aspect is that governments can either make people drunk concerning their sinful state towards God or they can convict them of sin and revive the soul. "The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul..." (Psalm 19:7). The government can be taught by the source of wisdom: Jesus Christ, and legislate according to true righteousness and enforce all the

commandments of God. By doing this they will revive the souls of the people and convict sinners of sin.

If they do not do this and instead corrupt righteousness, we have the situation that our prophecy declares: the fool is called noble, and the scoundrel honorable. There is a way the government does contribute to the salvation of souls. Together with the Holy Spirit, it can fulfill one important role of the Holy Spirit: "convict the world of sin". Righteous laws will convict sinners of sin.

In addition to this important role, there is no law or moral reason why governments cannot also preach the Gospel as well, like many preachers who have a secular job and preach the gospel. The Apostle Paul was a tent maker and great evangelist. There is no reason why a ruler cannot also be a preacher, just like Solomon, from whom all evangelists learn. Three books of the Bible come from Solomon. One starts out this way: "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem" (Eccl 1:1). How hypocritical is it for a preacher of the Gospel who has received part of his religious wisdom from King Solomon to claim that kings are not allowed to preach?

The whole notion that governments do not belong to the sphere of religion comes from a rebellious spirit against God and is part of the confusion that has allowed fools to be called noble and scoundrels honorable.

The true reason for people campaigning against governments taking up the role of preaching is what Jesus says about the choice everyone must make: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Mat 6:24). In general, the truth about

governments not serving God is that they serve money. Just listen to what is said about what politics and elections are about in the USA, where the governments have forsaken submission to Jesus Christ from the very beginning. They say, "It is the economy, stupid". In the end it is always about "what shall we eat?" and "what shall we drink?" when it comes to politics in the USA. Money is served, and not Jesus Christ. When listening to this statement, the very thing Jesus says cannot be done, some pretend that it can be done and should be done. What do I mean? Jesus says that you cannot serve God and money. But some pretend to live according to the following rule: when it comes to normal life, we serve money, and on Sunday, we serve God. Making money has nothing to do with God, and therefore, God's commandments have nothing to do with politics. They come into play when we go to church on Sunday or talk with our neighbor after work. Isn't this a widespread notion? But I hope you realize that they claim to do what Jesus says is impossible to do: serve both God and money.

If a Christian is campaigning for the government to serve money and not God, he himself is serving money and not God, because you cannot do both. Right now, there is confusion in the church when it comes to government as to whether it must submit to Jesus Christ. This confusion will end when the mother of confusion "Babylon the Great" falls, and then we will see that this prophecy will be fulfilled, and governments will be a shelter for the poor; they will be like streams of water in a dry place. The wisdom of Jesus Christ will be the universal rule on Sunday in the church service and on Monday at the workplace, as well as all government departments. Everyone will have learned the same instructions from Jesus Christ. No matter what office they

hold in society, they will live their lives according to the only perfect teaching of righteousness, which is summed up in this: love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Then the fool will no longer be called noble, nor the scoundrel honorable, and no errors will be spoken about the Lord. Righteousness will no longer be corrupted.

A Good Prince Will Plead the Cause of the Poor

The concept of liberty is very popular in our societies. Oftentimes, it is a cover-up for justifying the fool and scoundrel taking advantage of the poor and needy. The Bible mainly talks about two rights. One is the right to become a child of God if you repent of your sins, receive Jesus, and believe in His name. The other right is that of the poor. The government must plead for this right, and Jesus, as the King of kings, will do this. How will He do this? In this prophecy, we learn that He will set up princes who will plead the cause of the poor and who will be like streams of water in a dry place. There are important commandments protecting the poor in the Law of Moses that are not enforced. Therefore, the poor are enslaved by debt. In the law of Moses, you were not allowed to charge interest from your fellow countryman. "You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest" (Deut 23:19).

In addition to this protection, debt was canceled every 7 years. "At the end of every seven years you shall grant a release. And this is the manner of the release: every creditor shall release what he has lent to his neighbor. He shall not exact it of his neighbor, his brother, because the LORD's release has been

proclaimed” (Deut 15:1-2). Next to the release of debt, the basic means of production: the land, was redistributed to all families every 50 years. “You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement, you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan” (Lev 25:8-10).

In European countries where the gospel was preached taking interest was forbidden for a long time. Nowadays, debt and interest imprison millions of people. The prophecy, however, predicts that this will change, and the rights of the poor will be enforced. Governments will no longer serve money, riches, and the rich but righteousness and Jesus Christ. Dear reader, please consider the side the governments of the world have taken when it comes to either serving riches or God. Do you see the scheme? The very sad thing is that Christians are even partly supporting the political system of serving money and not Jesus Christ. The freedom of religion is revered and not the first commandments of the Ten Commandments. The freedom of fools and scoundrels is pleaded for and not the rights of the poor. How could Christians have been led astray so fundamentally? We have talked about the rebellion of colonists against the king of England, better known as the American Revolution. We will talk about it later in more depth and against the backdrop of this prophecy: “For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole

world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty" (Rev 16:14).

The Heart of a Good Ruler Will Not Be Lifted up Above His Citizens

When the governments are defending the cause of the poor and take sides with them rather than the rich and influential, as prophesied here, the governments are not abusing their power. In the Western world, democracies are praised for dividing the power in government and in this way securing the government against abuse. The claim of democracies is that a monarchy is bound to abuse power. Democracies however, protect people from abuse by giving them the opportunity to vote against bad leaders and by dividing power among three branches of government. But is that so? What is the true status quo of democracies? Since many people are indebted, large cities have high murder rates and large segments of people in democracies live in luxury while millions of children die of malnutrition. It is safe to say that power is abused. Governments allowed greedy businesses to destroy the earth by turbo production in unsustainable ways. Commandments to protect the poor were abolished. Fools and scoundrels are allowed to indebted large parts of society. People are made drunk with sin by abolishing almost all commandments against sexual immorality, thus drowning the country in the spirit of prostitution. In addition to all this evil, future generations are left with loads of debt. The abuse of power in the USA, for instance, makes young people start out their adult life with thousands of dollars of student loan debts as well as the \$240,000 share of national debt for each taxpayer. All this is the result of the abuse of power of

governments who served the interest of foolish voters or of themselves.

Democracy and the division of power are no securities against the abuse of power.

Let us look at the truth about how governments will remain humble and not exalt themselves over their countrymen now or in the future. We read in the law of Moses about kings: "Only he(a future king) must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold. "And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests. And it shall be with him, and he shall read in it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God by keeping all the words of this law and these statutes, and doing them, that his heart may not be lifted up above his brothers, and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, either to the right hand or to the left, so that he may continue long in his kingdom, he and his children, in Israel" (Deut 17:16-20).

Let us go through this list of instructions. Rulers are not supposed to acquire many horses or cause others to return to Egypt to acquire many horses. What does that mean? Egypt stands for the place of oppression and perversion. In Egypt, the Israelites were kept as slaves. Down there, the true God was replaced by idols. In that country, the love of money and corruption dominated, and a good ruler should not get any help from a place that is built on violence. A good ruler should not

make any arrangement that some of his citizens seek help from that source. A good ruler has nothing to do with their way of upholding power. A good ruler should not heap up treasures on earth but in heaven, so that his heart is not with riches but with God. A good ruler must sit at the feet of the throne of Jesus Christ and be taught daily by Him. He must always seek the fear of the Lord. The wisdom of God will provide what democracies seek in the separation of power and in elections. There is no absolute human ruler on this earth, because Jesus Christ is always above him. Of course, a ruler can deny that, but if he seeks the counsel and instructions of Jesus Christ daily, he will not forget this. In democracies, those in office must submit to other branches of government and the voters. The problem is that these other branches can be wicked as well, so what good does it do then? If the voters are wicked, they will vote for wicked rulers, and wicked policies will not be checked but applauded. Only Jesus Christ is not corrupt. Democracies have replaced Jesus Christ as the head and overseer of government. They believe that humans are wiser and more powerful than Jesus Christ. They put their trust in them. Right now, the USA is reaping what has been sown.

The prophecy clearly states that a King will rule in righteousness, which denotes Jesus Christ, and princes will rule in justice. This predicts that the governments will submit and be checked by the one and only incorruptible source of authority: Jesus Christ. Democracies have one fatal flaw expressed in this saying of wisdom: "An evildoer listens to wicked lips, and a liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue" (Prov 17:4). An evil electorate will elect evil leaders. Evil leaders will then be applauded by an evil electorate and not checked. The proof of the electorate

being evil is that many of the people in rich democracies live in luxury, while at the same time, millions of children die from malnutrition, even though everybody knows about it and the means to help are there.

There is one similarity between democracies and the instructions of God for kings. In both methods there is a written set of laws. In a democracy you have the constitution and in Israel you had the law of Moses. The fundamental difference is that the constitutions serve riches, and the law of Moses serves God. We have seen that there is no middle ground, as some people claim, when it comes to either serving riches or God. The fruit of democracies clearly prove that the constitution serves riches and not God because debt and riches are the determining rules of the land as the saying goes when it comes to politics: "It is the economy, stupid". There is also another fundamental difference between the philosophical foundation of democracies and the rule of God. In the Declaration of Independence of the USA some fundamental statements are made that serve as a baseline for righteousness. In a righteous form of government, when the government submits to Jesus Christ, there is a fundamentally different set of thoughts. When a superficial comparison is made, some want to see parallels in these two systems. A thorough investigation reveals very opposing concepts. We will talk about these important differences later.

Objection Answered

Because There Are Different Religions, the State Cannot Take Sides on Controversial Issues and, in This Way, Impose Their Views on Others

This argument is based on the unspoken assumption that there is no unseen world, where Satan fights against Jesus Christ having all authority. God endorsed Jesus as His spokesperson by raising Him from the dead and by having Him perform many miracles. Jesus tells us that Satan has dominion over all who sin against the commandments of God. If Satan introduces a religion that abolishes a commandment of God, then this dominion takes place. Jesus Christ has preached the true law which is just and righteous. Satan has introduced a lie in the name of religion. However, Satan not only uses the cloak of religion to introduce false notions of moral concepts. He also covers them with an ideology, culture, tradition or constitutional democracy.

Therefore, the distinction between religion and reason is deceptive because both originate either in Jesus Christ or Satan.

People must ignore this truth that Jesus Christ is the Word and Satan is the lie, so that controversial issues based on religious beliefs cannot be enforced by the government. They pretend that there is no Satan who corrupts the law of God by various methods.

It is deceiving to call on the law of nature to find a common ground next to religion. It is deceiving because nature does not think about moral issues. In this visible world only humans who have been given a soul and spirit to think can discern moral issues. All humans have been given the spirit by the father of

spirits, God. The Spirit is based on the Word. Jesus Christ speaks the Word of truth. This Word is being echoed by our conscience. However, everybody knows that you can sear the conscience, especially if a community or nation conspires to do so.

When the government leaves Jesus out as the source of wisdom, the knowledge of righteousness has already been replaced with demonic deception.

Therefore, all governments are called to submit to Jesus Christ. Failure to do so constitutes folly rather than rationality.

The Word of God is clear: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him" (Psalm 2:1-12).

This Psalm clearly commands all governments to submit to Jesus Christ.

There is another argument against governments submitting to the rule of Jesus Christ. Satan has introduced lies into the law

of God in the name of Jesus Christ. Governments also submitted to these lies in the name of Jesus Christ. Of course, this corrupted law is neither righteous nor wise, and if used by a government the fruits it produces are bad. This abuse in the name of Jesus Christ in politics is used as an argument against proper submission to Jesus Christ.

Next to abusing Christianity, Satan has also used other religions like Islam to terrorize mankind by making religion the source of justice. Simple minded people are now arguing that all religion in government is bad.

The truth is that all thoughts that are against Jesus Christ are bad: thoughts within a Christian setting or religious setting or secular setting. All lies against the wisdom of Christ are evil.

Jesus did not talk about politics versus religion as the root source of corruption, but rather about Satan against Himself. And when it comes to the visible world, Jesus Christ did not speak of governments submitting to religion verses governments submitting to a human set of laws. Jesus talked about governments submitting to Him or governments conspiring to break away from Him. Breaking away from Jesus can be done in the name of religion, in the name of reason, democracy, or even by abusing His name.

The world must know however, that Satan has already been judged, and he has lost his power over all men. You can compare it with the 2020 election which Donald Trump lost. Since he succeeds in lying to some of his supporters, they still think he is the legitimate president.

When we summarize the arguments against governments submitting to Jesus Christ, we see that confusion was first introduced about what Jesus Christ stands for. Afterwards,

hypocritical Christian teachings were used by governments to serve riches. They have not only damaged their countries, but also given other nations an excuse not to submit to Jesus Christ but serve riches instead as well.

Prophecy of Isaiah 28:14-22

“Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers, who rule this people in Jerusalem! Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter”; therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.' And I will make justice the line, and righteousness the plumb line; and hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, and waters will overwhelm the shelter.” Then your covenant with death will be annulled, and your agreement with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, you will be beaten down by it. As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message. For the bed is too short to stretch oneself on, and the covering too narrow to wrap oneself in. For the LORD will rise up as on Mount Perazim; as in the Valley of Gibeon he will be roused; to do his deed--strange is his deed! and to work his work--alien is his work! Now therefore do not scoff, lest your bonds be made strong; for I have heard a decree of destruction from the Lord GOD of hosts against the whole land” (Isa 28:14-22.).

Hail Will Sweep Away the Refuge of Lies

In this prophecy, the leaders of Israel make lies their refuge, and they have taken shelter in falsehood. The lies, however, will be exposed because God has laid a stone in Zion- a tested stone, a precious cornerstone. This stone is Jesus Christ, and as we have learned in the previous prophecies, He will judge the poor with righteousness. He will overcome wickedness and set up righteous governments that will not abolish His law, which protects the poor.

The picture used for depicting destroying the lies is hail coming down from heaven. We must keep this in mind when we look at the prophecy about the judgment of Babylon in the last book of the Bible, Revelation. When the colonists of the British Colonies in the Americas rebelled against King George III, they claimed that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed. This was one of their assertions which gave them some justification, in their mind, to kill thousands of British soldiers. When looking closer at this statement, we will see that even without the Word of God, it is simply a lie because this consent hardly ever exists. In democracies, we are so used to overlooking simple truth or sugarcoating facts that speak against widely held notions.

Let us take the history of the USA as an example. According to historical accounts about the time before the revolution, less than 50% supported the revolution. The majority was either indifferent or against it. When the war had been started by the minority and was raging, many of the opponents of the revolution were either driven out or killed. Once the war was won, the first president was elected by less than 2% of the people of the newly founded country. When we consider the

people killed and driven out before, it is even less. Women were not allowed to vote at all, and men without property could not vote either. The worst circumstance of all was that most of the people of African descent could not only not vote but also were enslaved. The true meaning of the word consent is that all people consent. Did the slaves consent to their enslavement being legalized by law? Is 2% of people electing the authority “consent of the governed”? Is killing the dissenters the way to create consent? What was the situation in the last election of the president in the USA over 200 years later? Was there consent? The system forces the people, in the end, to choose between two viable persons. When talking to voters, you can also hear that they do not consent to supporting a candidate, but rather want to vote the other person out. Or you hear them say that they vote for the lesser evil. Is that consent? The approval rating after the election, once the candidate governs, is a better measure of consent. The approval rating in July 2022 for the president of the USA was 38% and for Congress in June 2022 was 16%. I hope everyone sees that the bold claim that governments derive their authority from the consent of the governed is false. If it were true, the US government would have no authority right now. The truth about the source of authority for governments is that authority comes from God, who has given it to Jesus Christ. God said to His Son, Jesus Christ: “Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession” (Psalm 2:8). “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me” (Matt 28:18).

Leaders who refuse to fully submit to Jesus Christ and think they can get by with it trust in a lie, because Jesus Christ is the

head of all authority. If they reject Him, they have already started to rely and trust in one lie. The prophecy we looked at is directed at political leaders as well as religious leaders.

The prophecy makes one fact very clear. Even though authorities abuse power and abandon righteousness and Jesus Christ, they will never succeed, because God has given the world a faithful King and Savior who will never abandon His call and will surely bring justice and righteousness to the nations. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and His name is Jesus Christ. For reasons we looked at before, the enemies of Jesus Christ can have some time to thrive and even gain power, but only to be judged in the end. Yes, if we look at certain parts of the world, we can see evil authorities in politics. The prophecy however, reassures that the stone cannot be moved, and it also talks about the attitude of believers in this situation. "...Whoever believes will not be in haste" (Isa 28:16).

What is true religion? It is also to trust God to help you and take confidence in His faithfulness to do so. If you have this confidence, you are not in haste. We have read about this notion in another prophecy. "For thus says the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." But you would not" (Isa 30:15 NKJV).

Why does Jesus Christ not always help right away, but at times you wait for Him? Patience works out perfection: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4 NKJV).

According to the prophecy, we have all reason to trust that Jesus Christ will eventually make righteousness the plumbline again. Hail will sweep away the cloak of lies.

How Is Hail Sweeping Away the Cloak of Lies?

It is worthwhile to look at this notion closely. What battle is going on in the minds and hearts of the people of this world, including governments and leaders? We read in the Bible: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Eph 6:12).

How is this battle waged? “For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ” (2 Cor 10:3-5).

There is a battle raging in the hearts and minds of man about truth and lies. We have looked at one issue: where does the government get its authority from? Before the American Revolution, it was accepted that kings derive their authority from God, as declared in the Bible. Kings abused their authority, and some people did not want to wait like the believers in the prophecy we are looking at. The prophecy we are looking at talks about the abuse of power by authorities. Now, you can either have faith in the prophecy of God and trust in Jesus to destroy the cloak of lies at the proper time, or you can pick up demonic or human thoughts that give you a quick way out.

The colonists were harassed to some extent by the British government. I think it is fair to say that it was not tyranny as the world has seen with Nero, for instance. But there were issues. But what does a faithful Christian do? He does not transgress the commandments of God and use violence to get his way, instead, he waits upon the Lord. The prophecy encourages us to do this because it makes sure we understand that Jesus Christ has given us an assignment, which we have seen in the previous prophecies, as well as this prophecy. He is faithful and will surely bring about justice and righteousness. We must trustingly wait for Him. Jesus is above all kings and governments, whether they believe in Him or not. And He will either bring them to repentance and faith or to judgment. But He will do it His way at His time.

The colonists could have either waited on the Lord to bring justice, or they could turn to lies in which they take refuge. The violent ones turned to lies, and the Declaration of Independence was born. The lie about the consent of the governed is not the only one. Lies can have great power to make countries wicked and even impact the world.

The decisive battle is the one about the truth in Jesus Christ. "Every thought is to be taken captive to obey Christ." This is also true for governments and the philosophies they follow. Our prophecy talks about hail sweeping away these lies. This means that the battle about the truth of Jesus Christ will be waged and won. His Word against the lies of the city of confusion, Babylon. There are some notions which only look at the end-time prophecies of Revelation with physical eyes. They see real armies with real weapons killing real bodies of people. Will this

get rid of those powerful lies and deceptions which keep people from obeying Jesus?

Let us briefly go back to the time of Martin Luther, whom God used to break the absolute power of the Pope. The Pope ruled by relying on lies and deception, and he was thus able to get people to believe in these lies. Martin Luther did not assemble an army of soldiers with spears and swords and then march to Rome to kill the Pope and his followers. He took the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and destroyed the lies of the Pope. This is a way in which hail will sweep away the refuge of lies.

So instead of saying in the Declaration of Independence, that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed, they should have said rebellious governments derive their support from the consent to their lies.

In our prophecy, Jesus Christ will make His righteousness the plumbline and will destroy lies. You also see that there are people having faith in Jesus Christ. Wait for Him, and His way will prevail.

We were asking how will hail sweep away the refuge of lies? The answer is: "...Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts" (Zech 4:6). The spirit of God will bring forth the truth with power to reach the people's ability to reason and their conscience. They will yield to the arguments and obey Jesus Christ and His Word. As we have also learned, this will be supported by scoffers who will be punished. Since we have seen that the knowledge of God will cover the earth like the water covers the sea, we can conclude that the present confusion with respect to right and wrong, authorities, and where they derive their power from will be swept away. Babylon means confusion,

and Babylon the Great, is the great confusion, which will fall and be replaced by insight and knowledge of God. This also means that Babylon cannot be a physical city with geographical boundaries because all this has nothing to do with where the battle takes place- in the hearts and minds of the people.

Rulers Will Be Judged

Not all people will yield to the Word of God, and not all governments will submit to Jesus Christ. In the prophecy we are told what a relentless judgment will come over impenitent leaders and rulers. It is written: "As often as it passes through it will take you; for morning by morning it will pass through, by day and by night; and it will be sheer terror to understand the message" (Isa 28:19). In the Psalms, we find another warning to leaders: "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him" (Psa 2:12).

Governments will not be exempt when it comes to the wrath of God being poured out on this earth. We have heard and seen individuals turning to Jesus Christ. Will all governments be judged, or will governments repent and turn to Jesus Christ? Will there be some that will yield? The writings of the Old Testament are given to us "for our instructions, that through patience and encouragement of the scriptures we have hope" (Rom 15:4).

In the Old Testament, there is the remarkable story of Nineveh. Nineveh was a very wicked city, but when the call to repent reached the people and the government, the government did not execute the preacher of bad tidings. Instead, the king led the nation in repentance. "The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne,

removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish" (Jonah 3:6-9). God did relent and did save Nineveh, including the king.

Dear reader, maybe you have authority, maybe you work for the government, or you are a leader. What do you say? Do you believe that Jesus Christ will come after you if you seek refuge in lies like human philosophy or false prophets who deny that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

There was an absolute ruler whom we have talked about before because he was so prideful that he saw himself as being exalted like God. His name was Nebuchadnezzar, and he was the king of the world empire of Babylon around 600 BC. It is often said that the president of the United States is the most powerful man on earth. The King of Babylon had much more authority over his people. However, he was humbled by God, and then he wrote a message for all the world:

"Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. How great are His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation. I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my

palace. I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me. Therefore I issued a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers came in, and I told them the dream; but they did not make known to me its interpretation. But at last Daniel came before me (his name is Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god; in him is the Spirit of the Holy God), and I told the dream before him, saying: "Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the Spirit of the Holy God is in you, and no secret troubles you, explain to me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and its interpretation. These were the visions of my head while on my bed: I was looking, and behold, A tree in the midst of the earth, And its height was great. The tree grew and became strong; Its height reached to the heavens, And it could be seen to the ends of all the earth. Its leaves were lovely, Its fruit abundant, And in it was food for all. The beasts of the field found shade under it, The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches, And all flesh was fed from it." "I saw in the visions of my head while on my bed, and there was a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven. He cried aloud and said thus: 'Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit. Let the beasts get out from under it, And the birds from its branches. Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth, Bound with a band of iron and bronze, In the tender grass of the field. Let it be wet with the dew of heaven, And let him graze with the beasts On the grass of the earth. Let his heart be changed from that of a man, Let him be given the heart of a beast, And let seven times pass over him. 'This

decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.' "This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation; but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you." Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for a time, and his thoughts troubled him. So the king spoke, and said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation trouble you." Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream concern those who hate you, and its interpretation concern your enemies! "The tree that you saw, which grew and became strong, whose height reached to the heavens and which could be seen by all the earth, whose leaves were lovely and its fruit abundant, in which was food for all, under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the heaven had their home— it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth. "And inasmuch as the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze in the tender grass of the field; let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let him graze with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him'; this is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of

the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. "And inasmuch as they gave the command to leave the stump and roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be assured to you, after you come to know that Heaven rules. Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity." All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of the twelve months he was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?" While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you! And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses." That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws. And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as

nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down." (Dan 4:1-37 NKJV).

This was a long passage, but worth reading because the lesson is that if God has access to the most powerful king, how much more to presidents or authorities with lesser power?

Jesus Christ is not only a stumbling block for individuals but also for authorities. However, as we have seen, the door of grace is wide open for all, individuals and authorities. Nebuchadnezzar and the king of Nineveh yielded to God. And in Nineveh, in addition to the king, all souls were saved.

If rulers refuse to yield, they will share the fate of all who refuse to yield and will encounter the relentless jealousy of God, who will not spare but punish, and no one can deliver them.

In the next prophecy, we will hear about another version of the fall of man. Maybe you know the fall of Adam and Eve, the first humans here on earth, and how they fell away from God. They could enjoy all the fruits of the trees except for one. Satan succeeded in deceiving Eve into disobeying God and eating of the forbidden fruit. Eve, in turn, led Adam into sin. Then Eve realized that what Satan told her was a lie, and what God told them right from the beginning was still true. The punishment God threatened was carried out, and eventually, they both died.

There is another account of a person who lived blamelessly before God and then fell away.

Dear reader, you most likely do not have trees in your garden, among which is one that will kill you if you eat its fruit. However, you might be going through the process we will hear about in the next prophecy. It is about the fall of politics.

Prophecy of Ezekiel Chapter 28

"The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, "Son of man, say to the prince of Tyre, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Because your heart is lifted up, And you say, 'I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods, In the midst of the seas,' Yet you are a man, and not a god, Though you set your heart as the heart of a god (Behold, you are wiser than Daniel! There is no secret that can be hidden from you! With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of your riches)," 'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, Behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, The most terrible of the nations; And they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, And defile your splendor. They shall throw you down into the Pit, And you shall die the death of the slain In the midst of the seas. "Will you still say before him who slays you, 'I am a god'? But you shall be a man, and not a god, In the hand of him who slays you. You shall die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of aliens; For I have spoken," says the Lord GOD.' " Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre,

and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created."You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. "By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. "You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever'" (Ezek 28:1-19 NKJV).

Human Wisdom and Understanding Become an Idol

In this prophecy, a blameless king ruling in wisdom has turned evil. God blessed him with understanding and the ability to reason, to think, and search things out. However, instead of giving thanks to God and fearing His name by obeying His

instructions, the king became proud of his wisdom and ascribed his wealth to his wisdom, especially his wisdom in trade. Does this end state of the king not sound true for large segments of modern societies in rich countries? Like this king, people also believe that nothing will be hidden from them. Eventually, human science will discover everything. Like the King of Tyre, people think they are smarter than the prophets of the Bible. They think they are the plumbline of discovery. Whatever they do not understand cannot be. They will find the answer on their own. It is only a matter of time. Miracles Jesus performed cannot be, or the story we just read about Nebuchadnezzar turning into an animal-like creature cannot be, because they have not observed such transformations in their laboratories or in nature.

Like the King of Tyre, their wealth is ascribed to their wisdom in trade, and therefore they deserve to enjoy all this wealth. Who told them that their wisdom produced all this wealth? Was it the wisdom of God? The wisdom of God says something very different: "Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all" (Eccl 9:11). Time and chance determine who will be rich. When we look at the end of the king, we will see that all his wealth was stripped away from him. It is God who controls all things. He gives riches and takes them away.

Since it is said that the king was wise and blameless in his ways, he was aware of God at some point before, but this true wisdom was corrupted – but how? "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the

sake of your splendor..." (Ezek 28:17 NKJV). The beauty and splendor caused the king to corrupt his true wisdom. A beautiful young girl is tempted to become proud because she is the beauty queen of her class. But who made that beauty? It was God and He alone who decided to give her such a beautiful body. She might not be able to draw something that looks a little bit like a human, and she cannot make a sculpture at all, but she is proud of her beauty. She has not created the least of the atoms that make up her body, yet she is still proud. This is true for rich people who believe that their wisdom that made them rich. There are other factors that lead to an increase in goods, for life is not in a laboratory where only one element comes into play. Life is made up of trillions of factors, all working together at the same time and leading to the next moment.

Wealth leading to the Idolization of Wisdom and Pride

Riches oftentimes have a devastating effect on the hearts and minds of people. There are rich people who become proud, godless, arrogant, selfish and hard-hearted. The wise man's prayer is therefore: "Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God" (Prov 30:8-9).

Trade Leading to Falling Away from God

The prophecy is also talking about trade as the cause of corruption. The king of Tyre was blameless in his ways and wise. True wisdom means that he protected the poor and pleaded

their cause. Then his flourishing trade corrupted all that, and violence and sin was found in him. The Reformation in the 16th century turned governments to Jesus Christ. The devil was countering this defeat by bringing up the Atlantic slave trade, which, over the centuries, drew many governments into evil and unrighteousness. England was turning towards Christ after the Reformation but was drawn deeply into the slave trade. The slave trade is not the only way to be filled with violence, if we look at the world right now to see how trade brings corruption to the nations. Congo has dire poverty, although it is one of the ten richest countries in terms of natural resources. Bangladesh produces clothing under unrighteous production conditions. When it comes to the economy, suddenly, all good principles seem to lose their importance. Does this ring a bell? Do we not live in a world dominated by world trade, where unrighteousness is part and parcel?

The gospel has been preached for centuries in Europe, and even governments have converted to Christianity, so why are all nations united against the political rule of Jesus Christ now? We have talked about the American Revolution before and will do so now. We do this because the force of corruption through trade has really picked up steam in the USA. And it was not a coincidence that in 2001 the World Trade Center was brought down before the eyes of the world. World trade played a huge role in Babylon the Great. It plays a huge role in corrupting governments and nations. When looking back only one or two centuries, you might conclude that trade and the love of money are stronger than the gospel and the folly of making money is stronger than the wisdom of waiting for the Lord. This prophecy, however, teaches the opposite because it predicts the horrible

judgment of the world-trade-superpower. It shows the end of the rule of money and riches.

Apostasy of Authority

Full of Wisdom

In the middle of the above text the prophet is told to raise a lamentation – but why? It is truly very sad to see a person fall away from God, wisdom, righteousness, and life. The king was truly blessed with wisdom. Wisdom is better than all you can desire. We are talking about true wisdom, which comes from God and which leads to the knowledge of God. True wisdom makes you fruitful in doing good. It will allow you to be a guardian cherub, protection, and shelter for those in need and affliction. Wisdom fills you with joy in the Lord and gives you peace in knowing you are protected and can securely walk your path. Oh, what a sad story that the king fell from this blessed state where he enjoyed the presence of God. Dear reader, how deceptive the world is with all the outward splendor but without love, protection, and fellowship with God. The fall of the king is truly a reason to mourn. How much should we mourn nowadays when there are many governments and nations following the path of this king?

Corruption of Wisdom

When true wisdom is corrupted, the fall is inevitable. True wisdom coming from God is completely opposed to pride, violence, and partnering with evildoers. Corruption of wisdom means that you pick up wrong thoughts like the ones in the Declaration of Independence, ideas that justify your wrong

behavior. The teaching of the Pharisees is such corrupted wisdom. Jesus is warning His students that they must watch out because it works like leaven. It can be just a little, but over time it grows more and more. How many Christians have corrupted their wisdom by participating in an unrighteous economy? How can Christians justify living in luxury while their brothers and sisters in Christ suffer poverty in many countries? What about the prideful thought we just read in the prophecy? "With your wisdom and your understanding You have gained riches for yourself, And gathered gold and silver into your treasuries; By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your riches, And your heart is lifted up because of your riches" (Ezek 28:4-5 NKJV). Do some Christians also think that they deserve the large amount of money they earned because of their hard work and wisdom?

Dreadful Judgment

When we look at the history of the church, we see that after the Reformation, the church was delivered from the lies of the Pope. But we also see what devastating impact the riches of the Western world have had on the church to this day. We see how the fear of the Lord is corrupted.

Some congregations live in luxury and spend thousands of euros for the fine arts like musical instruments and lighting in their luxurious worship halls, while their very brothers and sisters in other countries cannot even have worship for months during the rainy season because they do not even have \$2000 Euros to put up a tin roof. You see, equality not being preached and being replaced by giving a tenth to pastors who live in

mansions, drive luxurious cars, or might even own several private jets.

Once Jesus said: “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation” (Luke 20:46-47 NKJV). Dear reader, the king of Tyre was judged, and all others will be judged as well when they follow in his footsteps. And if you follow his example as well, and you are doing the same things in the name of Jesus, then allow me to warn you that you will not be justified. Instead, your condemnation will be increased if you do the works of the scribes we just heard Jesus talking about.

Prophecy of Revelation 16:12-16

“The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. (“Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!”) And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon” (Rev 16:12-16).

We have worked our way through prophecies of the Old Testament and have now arrived at the last book of the Bible,

Revelation. The book of Revelation starts out with seven letters to churches meeting at the time the Apostle John received the revelation. Then Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, opens seven seals. After these seven seals, seven angels blow a trumpet. Then we read: "Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished" (Rev 15:1).

In between the trumpets and plagues, we have one chapter about two beasts that fight the saints of God. The first beast was granted to make war against the saints and overcome them. He was given authority for 42 months. The next and biggest power-player of the enemies of the saints of God is Babylon the Great, which will be prophesied against after the prophecy we have just read. We will look at Babylon in more detail by reading the relevant texts in the Bible and interpreting the prophecies by applying the wisdom we have gained so far.

The reason we start out with the sixth bowl that was poured out onto the earth to finish the wrath of God is because there are many indicators that this has just ended right now.

Meaning of Armageddon

The main information we get in the prophecy is that governments are assembled for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. They are assembled at the place that, in Hebrew, is called Armageddon. What does Armageddon mean? The word Armageddon consists of two parts. The first one is "har", which means hill or mountain, and the second is "m^agîdôn"- which means place of crowds. A democracy is a place where the crowd rules. Hills are symbols of power. The United Nations, where many member countries are democracies, fits nicely into this

picture. God gives us the following key for matching history and world events with His prophecies. "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). In all of history, there has not been a gathering of all nations under one umbrella like the United Nations before. They are gathered loosely and not in a strict order of authority where there is one commander. Authorities are gathered at a place of crowds, Armageddon - the United Nations.

Before we go on, I would like to remind you that there are two gatherings of the peoples. This is the first one, and when Babylon has fallen, there will be one thousand years of peace and righteous governments. After that, the devil will be let loose again to deceive the nations, and then there will be the second gathering, resulting in their destruction from heaven by fire, which will end the existence of the physical earth as we see it right now.

In this first gathering, we will not have a world ruler and a strict political global structure but rather a loose union resembling a crowd, as we have in the United Nations. The United Nations is not controlled by a single nation or even one leader, but you have a General Assembly where over a hundred nations sit. and then you have the Security Council which has some authority but is certainly not ruled by one nation alone. There are world powers like China, Russia, and the USA which do not take orders from each other. The unifying sentiment is their opposition to Jesus Christ ruling over them. All those countries reject submission to Jesus Christ.

The prophecy talks about three unclean spirits who assemble the nations. As we have seen, the hearts and minds of people,

and in this case, governments, can be controlled by thoughts that are lifted against submission to Jesus Christ. Starting 250 years ago, several powerful arguments or teachings have arisen and taken root in the minds of governments and nations. The American Revolution introduced democracy based on the Declaration of Independence and human rights. Later, communism took over Russia and many other countries afterwards. Next to these powerful ideologies, Darwinism has gained momentum in the minds of the people in democracies and communist countries. These three forces were the main arguments raised against submission to Jesus Christ. Communism is openly opposed to Jesus Christ. Darwinism is completely going against the testimony of God: that God created this world by Jesus Christ. The US system is also opposed to Jesus ruling over them, but in a more subtle manner. Ever since it was introduced into this world, there has been a propaganda machine running, claiming that it was somehow Christian or based on Christianity. We will see that when looked at in detail, according to Biblical wisdom, this notion falls apart.

American Revolution

As the saying goes: "History is written by the victors." Since the USA is rich and powerful, their version of history about the American Revolution is shaped by their view. When you dig deeper, you will find severe hypocrisy and shameful aspects of the story. We will try to look at it from a biblical perspective. A couple decades before the revolution, extraordinary revivals had taken place in the colonies that later rebelled. Many of the Christians back then came from a reformed tradition embracing the teachings of John Knox and John Calvin. However, the

notions of John Knox about governments, for instance, were in part very opposed to what was later established in the USA. John Knox believed that governments not only manage the second part of the Ten Commandments, but also the first part. This might come as a huge surprise to some modern Christians, because as we will see, this is exactly the area where the spirit of the sixth bowl of revelation succeeded in introducing lies against Jesus Christ.

Let us read in the Confession of the Scots, which was primarily written by John Knox, about what duties the government has, among others: "Moreover, to kings, princes, rulers, and magistrates, we affirm that chiefly and most principally the conservation and purgation of the religion appertains; so that not only they are appointed for civil policy, but also for maintenance of the true religion, and for suppressing of idolatry and superstition whatsoever: as in David, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah, and others, highly commended for their zeal in that case, may be espied." https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Scots_Confession

John Knox saw harmony between the role David, Solomon, and other rulers of Judah played and New Testament rulers who were Christians. He saw no breakup of the Ten Commandments when it comes to civil law. All is good and fine and in harmony.

Since John Calvin and John Knox were God fearing people, it can be safely assumed that they also obeyed biblical wisdom to neither join hands with evildoers or unbelievers, nor walk in their godless ways.

During the revolution Christians departed from this reformed tradition. They made an alliance with Deists (people who deny Jesus representing the Word of God) and slaveholders when

signing the Declaration of Independence and ratifying the Constitution. These documents introduced demonic thoughts. The union of Christians with Deists and slaveholders can be compared with the prophecy we looked at in Isaiah 30, where the Israelites sought an alliance with Egypt against the Assyrians. The Christian colonists made an alliance with ungodly people to oppose King George III. They took up arms and rebelled against him. The Bible clearly forbids rebelling against a king because it is written: "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore, one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing" (Rom 13:1-6).

This commandment was given to Christians in Rome, of all places, around the time of the rule of Nero. There is most probably no historian who would ever make the case with a straight face that King George III was a worse tyrant than Nero. Nero persecuted Christians, and it is even reported that Nero had Christians be burned in parks to illuminate them. Christians were thrown before the lions. Compare all this with a charge of

the colonists that the Parliament of England dared to raise a little tax on tea. Allow me to point out this little side note, the Tea Act of 1773 made tea even cheaper for the colonists. That was done to bail out a company selling the tea. Again, let us repeat that no one can make the case that King George III was a worse tyrant than Nero. Therefore, there is no case that can be made that the colonists were allowed to break this commandment while the Christians in Rome were bound to this commandment. There are some futile attempts by US Christians to justify the breaking of the commandment. Interestingly, they do not agree on one but rather confuse the clear-cut understanding of a clear-cut commandment with several confusing arguments not worth repeating because none is able to explain why Nero had to be submitted to, but not the King of England.

Jesus Christ Himself was unjustly killed by the Roman Empire. He submitted to their authority because He obeyed God, even though it cost Him His life. How then, can Christians complain that the Parliament in England raised some minor taxes without their consent?

Rebellions have occurred oftentimes in history. When we look at major developments in world history in the light of prophecy, the rebellion would not have been mentioned unless something special came with it. In the case of this rebellion, indeed, demonic thoughts made their way into the conscience of the world. One of these evil spirits started his work to gather the governments for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

Before I come to the point, I will admit that I am well aware some US Christians will cry foul and might even blame me for being the Antichrist; others might blame me for being an enemy

of mankind because I dare to cut apart a holy cow of thinking in the USA and many other parts of the world.

But truth compels me to simply disagree with main statements of the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

My dear readers, please take a deep breath and give me a chance to explain my disagreement.

I must disagree because Adam and Eve have sinned, all their descendants have sinned, and the curse of God because of their sinning is still active. Therefore, it is not self-evident, and what was claimed is wrong.

Let us go through this decisive event in the history of mankind, when Adam and Eve decided to sin against God. "Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' " Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they

sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:1-19 NKJV).

The Curse of God Takes Away the Absolute Right of Life, Liberty, and Happiness

After Adam and Eve sinned, the right to life was taken away from them. The curse reaches all sinners after them as well. The curse of God takes away the right to happiness. "Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:17-19 NKJV).

All humans are not created equal anymore because wives have to submit to their husbands: "To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you" (Gen 3:16 NKJV).

Everyone knows that women still have pain during childbearing. All workers know that in pain they eat their bread, because the ground is cursed and brings forth thorns and thistles. Everyone knows that we must die, and it is just a matter of time till we are gone, maybe even tomorrow. It is obvious that the curses are still around.

Will they be around forever? Jesus Christ was sent to deliver mankind from all these curses in the long run. He gave His life and died for our sins on the cross. By doing this, man was given a way out of these curses. But Jesus Christ is the way, and not the Declaration of Independence.

Jesus Christ gives a condition for getting out. You must repent and follow Him. Jesus will then sanctify the believer, and only those who are sanctified and holy will enter paradise, where all these curses will be taken away for good.

The Declaration of Independence promises these liberties without the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, without repentance and without becoming holy. I hope everyone realizes the attack of the Declaration of Independence against Jesus Christ, the gospel, repentance, and sanctification. Now you hopefully also better understand why in democracies, all these aspects are also partly removed from churches.

The demonic idea that these are self-evident truths, has made people believe that this is so. They are blind to the truth that they are sinners bound to die unless they embrace the truth in Jesus Christ who will bring all these liberties, but with a price.

The price people must pay for getting rid of the curses of God and truly having a right to life, liberty, and happiness, is that they must lose their life here on earth for Jesus' sake and the gospel's sake. Jesus says: "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35). The lies of the Declaration of Independence opened the imaginary door to winning your life here on earth. These lies, however, have spread all around the world, and people are made resistant to the gospel, because the gospel asks you to lose your life here on earth, while the gospel of the US system offers you riches, happiness, and liberty to pursue evil desires. As we have pointed out, it is deception because the US system has led masses of people into indebtedness. Next to being a slave to the lender, many are slaves to their sins, which the US

legal system has given them a pass for. Look at how much liberty and freedom are talked about in the USA, while the vast majority are enslaved by debt and so many by their sins. So many Christians are echoing these lies and praising the US system. They have forsaken the law and do not see that everyone who sins is a slave to sin. They have forsaken wisdom and do not see that the rich rule over the poor and the borrower is slave to the lender.

Allow me again to repeat the major attack on the truth. The US system is a demonic version of the gospel. It offers good news without Jesus dying, without repentance and obedience to the law of God. There are also other gods that were lifted up to be worshipped: riches and arms. I do not know any other country where soldiers are so revered and almost worshipped as the saviors of their liberties. The rebels against King George III took up arms to shoot British soldiers and the country has never laid down their guns to this day. God hates when people trust in their strength.

Love Is Eliminated From the US Legal System

The Gospel of God restores the perfect love Adam had before the fall. Through the blood of Jesus and by Jesus sanctifying the people when they follow Him through many tribulations, the heart is renewed. Jesus continues the call to love one another and will not allow anyone to skip this restoration of the heart if he wants to live in paradise forever. The gospel of the US system eliminates the commands to love God and love your neighbor as yourself but allows them to pursue a fool's form of happiness. This happiness is pleasing an evil, unholy heart. This is what worldly freedom is about. This is what the US liberty is about:

allowing evil hearts to please their desires. So many pursue the love of money while millions of children die of malnutrition. Even Christians can be found among those leading a luxurious life. How can they get by?

Unholy Alliance of Christians with the Civil Gospel of the US System

Segments of Christianity have sucked up these demonic thoughts and now worship Jesus Christ and the USA. They pursue their right to life, liberty, and happiness, which the US system promises. They also think that it is the gift of God to them, and they still expect to live in paradise with God. Preachers live in luxury and preach for years the message: your best life now. Some own private jets and live in luxury. They add faith to the false gospel of the US system and claim that because of their faith, they are so blessed, living in luxury, while Christians in Africa are trying to keep their children from dying of malnutrition.

Most of the people living in the United States are not from this area. The Native Americans make up approximately 2% of the population. They were driven out of the good places by those who pursued their right to life and happiness. The USA is the first type of United Nations where multiple peoples come together under this false gospel of the US system.

The Lie of Authority Coming From the Consent of the Governed

As pointed out before, the US system claims that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed. I have already shown that this does not exist in most

cases. Elections force a large segment of voters to make a choice between the lesser of two evils. So why is this false claim made? Since the US system emerged out of a Christian background, this lie was introduced to keep the authority of Jesus Christ away from the government. Jesus Christ has all authority over government. Government must submit to Him. This lie about consent keeps Jesus out of the picture. I hope all readers see that it is a lie, because it hardly ever exists. It is also a lie because nobody among the governed has created himself. We are all created by God, and naturally it is the right of the creator to rule over His creation.

The Constitution Replaces the Law of Christ

The concept of the consent of the governed keeps Jesus Christ from ruling and the Constitution keeps the authority of the Word of God from being recognized. Jesus Christ is the Word of God. He is the wisdom given to mankind. Righteous laws, whether civil or religious, all flow from this wisdom. They all flow from Jesus Christ. By introducing a constitution as the supreme word of the land, you replace the Word of God, Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is no surprise that over the years all Ten Commandments can be broken in the US system.

Those who determine the laws, the legislative branch, or as it is called in the USA: Congress, are mindful of the things of man and not of God. Since the citizens were given the right to pursue the happiness that their evil hearts long for, the citizens elect lawgivers who make a way for them to pursue their evil desires. Democracies are bound to end in Sodom and Gomorrah as we see in the USA and other democracies. What were the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah? Next to sexual immorality it is written:

“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy” (Ezek 16:49).

Millions of children die of malnutrition. In the USA more money is spent on going out to eat than it takes to feed these children. A survey of 1,000 Americans found that the average American spends \$166 monthly per person on dining out. The 3,500,000 children that died of malnutrition could have been easily saved with a portion of this money.

So, can we not see this lived out in the USA by a considerable amount of people? “...pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.”

Let us come back to our prophecy. It was about evil spirits gathering the governments for battle at the great day of God the Almighty. There is no doubt that governments are gathered now. They are gathered in a form that can be described as Armageddon, the hill of the places of the crowds. There is no doubt that evil spirits were involved introducing lies. Communism, the US system, and Darwinism all attack the truth in Jesus Christ and His Word.

If we now consider the promise of God, that He is doing nothing unless He has revealed it to His prophets, then we must pick one of two gatherings to match this event. There are two gatherings prophesied in the last prophetic book. Since the second gathering is preceded by the first one, it must be the first one because there was no gathering of all nations before the United Nations. Therefore, this gathering of the nations under the umbrella of the United Nations must be the fulfillment of this prophecy. Also, the fact that three strong arguments in the form of constitutional democracy, communism, and Darwinism,

against the political lordship of Jesus Christ were instrumental in this gathering speaks to the fact that the prophecy of the sixth bowl of the wrath of God is meant.

Dear reader, is this timeline of the prophecies in Revelation something never heard of before in Christianity? Maybe you hear about this timeline for the first time? You might wonder why nobody has come up with it before? This timeline, however, is nothing new. It was displayed before by one of the most prominent Christians on the American continent. Jonathan Edwards interpreted the end-time prophecies, according to this timeline, to mean that Babylon will fall now. He lived right before the American Revolution, but his view, back in history, ended pretty much with the fifth bowl.

Consequently, the sixth bowl was in the future from his perspective, and he predicted the fall of the anti-Christian world system right at our time. When you read his book "A History of the Work of Redemption" you will see him explain historical events before his time. Then he gives his outlook on the time after him till today and to the end of time.

Allow me to repeat these three important aspects because together, they make the interpretation. God does not do anything unless it is revealed in prophecy. The unprecedented event of all governments being gathered against the lordship of Jesus Christ over them can only be the fulfillment of two prophecies in which there is a global gathering against Jesus Christ. These two prophecies are linked together timewise. One precedes the other. Since there has not been any other gathering of all governments against Jesus Christ before, it must be the fulfillment of the first of the two prophecies, the sixth bowl. This gathering is further identified by three spirits going

out to gather the governments. The political effects of communism, constitutional democracy, and Darwinism cannot be denied and are of global dimensions.

Let us come to the next prophecies, and since we have seen that all indications speak to the sixth bowl being poured out, we enter the exciting and scary terrain of the prophetic words for our time. Dear reader, sometimes we start out reading a book out of curiosity. We lean back in a comfortable chair and observe whatever is reported as a bystander. Sometimes, however, our position changes from bystander to target. This is exactly what is happening now. You might have looked at all this from a distance so far, but now we will find ourselves in the center of prophecy, the word for our day and our place.

Prophecy of Revelation 16:17-21

“The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, “It is done!” And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found. And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe” (Rev 16:17-21).

Not the End of Time

Maybe some readers immediately associate the words of the prophecy with Jesus coming back, this earth being destroyed, and the last judgment being held, where people will be divided into those who will be given over to everlasting punishment and those who are entering paradise.

Remember the prophecy we looked at in Zephaniah 3:8-9: "Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed. For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord."

The pouring out of all the indignation leads to the global revival spoken of in Zephaniah. This judgment of Babylon is not the judgment that comes after the second gathering. There are two gatherings against Jesus Christ and His followers. This prophecy describes the end of the first gathering. After the second gathering the end will come, when the earth will be destroyed by fire and the last judgment will decide the eternal fate of all humans.

Hail Coming Down - Lies Are Destroyed

Another prophecy we looked at before included hail, which destroyed lies. Here in this prophecy, we see this image again. The size of the hail is big enough to destroy a person, when we consider the image. We have seen what an important part lies and falsehoods play in this world where governments conspire

with the elites to serve money and cover up this evil with whitewashed arguments. Wisdom, however, will prevail over folly. Truth will expose lies. How will lies and falsehoods be exposed?

What Does the Bible Say About How Secrets Are Exposed?

Exposure by Living Righteously

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you” (Eph 5:11-14).

As pointed out before, Christianity is partly devoured by the deception of the US system and Christians live in heartless luxury. What if God revives true religion and the sleepers awake and will not participate in luxurious living anymore but start sharing globally and fear God? What will one of the effects be? True righteousness that is based on equal love will be lived out and visible for all the world to see. This true love will expose the fake liberty of pursuing pleasure with an evil heart.

The world will see how Christians live out the love of Christ and come together in true love towards each other. Christians in rich countries will lower their standard of living and share with churches in poor countries. They will finally obey the commandment of God to establish equality all over the world. Maybe an internet platform will be set up to make sure equality is made possible in all the churches in the world. They will hate

and depart from all evil and all evil associations, which divide them right now. They will pursue wisdom and grow in the knowledge of God. Then the prayer of Jesus Christ will be fulfilled: "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me" (John 17:20-23).

Babylon makes people prideful so that they glorify themselves and live in luxury. When Babylon falls, God will call all Christians out of Babylon. The following prophecy predicts that the prideful will be removed from the church: "On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain" (Zeph 3:11). When Christians share with those who have too little, they live humbly before the Lord and do not proudly exalt themselves.

The evil of Babylon will be exposed by the church living out true brotherly love all over the world.

Exposure by Preaching the Word of God

In chapter 18 of Revelation, we see a God-fearing preacher or preaching coming and exposing Babylon the Great. Martin Luther exposed one aspect of Babylon, the system of the Pope, at the time of the Reformation in the 16th century. This time the whole city of Babylon will be exposed, her lies refuted, and the

truth in Jesus Christ held forth. Communication technology has set the stage for a global show down. Not only can the preaching of the fall of Babylon go forth into all the world very quickly through viral videos or e-books but the evil fruits of Babylon can also be looked up on the internet to prove her corruption. The Pope and his teachings attack the truth of Jesus Christ. The Word of God prevailed against the lies of the Pope and took away lots of the Pope's power at the time of the Reformation. The truth exposing Babylon the great will be so powerful that it is compared here to "hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people." The conviction of sin will strike the heart and conscience of people.

Remember the image of the prophecy in Isaiah 11. "...and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked" (Isa 11:4).

Dear reader, if humans speak, what power is released? But when God spoke, all visible things were created. If the Holy Spirit adds his power to the preaching of the fall of Babylon, her lies will fall and she with them. The power of the Holy Spirit is promised for the preaching of the Word of God. Since preaching about the fall of Babylon is part of the Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit will be given to this special season of preaching as well. "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete" (2 Cor 10:3-6). The fake arguments of

Babylon will be destroyed by the divine power assigned to the preaching of the Word of God.

Babylon is based on folly, and the kingdom of God is based on wisdom. Wisdom, however, prevails over folly, and finally, the global victory will come.

Right now, so many human and demonic arguments have been introduced into the world that Babylon, which means confusion, seems to have reached the height of her power. All this confusion will be destroyed by hailstones, about 100 pounds each, and the wisdom of God will lead to the fulfillment of the blessed prophecies we looked at: that the knowledge of God will cover the earth like water covers the sea.

The fall of Babylon is covered by more than two chapters in Revelation. No other enemy of mankind is given more verses in Revelation. Isn't it amazing that so little is heard of her in churches right now when so much attention is given to her in the most important book of prophecy in the Bible? Why is that?

Reasons Why Babylon the Great Has Been Able to Fly Under the Radar

Babylon Has Been Able to Disguise Herself

Let us go back to the time of Jesus Christ to find our first answer. Before Jesus came to this earth, the Pharisees and scribes were the respected leaders of the Jewish religion. Their righteousness was fake, however. They whitewashed the outside and were able to hide their wicked hearts and erroneous teachings, just like Babylon. Jesus exposed them by example and by His teaching about true righteousness and their hypocrisy. Babylon was not known as Babylon before because

she was able to keep up the cover of righteousness. The hailstones, however, will destroy her outward disguise. Two prophecies we looked at ended with the knowledge of God covering the earth like the water covers the sea. Babylon has confused this knowledge by telling lies about God. She was able to make the people drunk and keep them from seeing the truth. She was even able to portray herself as the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem means the teaching of peace. Babylon could fly under the radar because she disguised herself. Her identity has been kept a secret.

Christians Have Shared in Luxurious Living

The children of God are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. We have seen that their righteous example of living in brotherly love will contribute to exposing Babylon. Therefore, if Christianity has not stopped serving riches, not enough light will be shed on the disguise of Babylon.

Since the root of Babylon is the love of money, Christianity must stop serving money completely. Right now, there are preachers pretending to preach the Gospel while serving riches themselves. They even make it a matter of faith for the audience to be able to serve riches as well. Jesus Christ, however, is the sure foundation who will make true righteousness the baseline. This righteousness is loving your neighbor as yourself and, in this way, seeking first to bring about equality with extra wealth before spending it for yourself. Because a considerable segment of Christianity lives in luxury, not enough light has been shed on the identity of Babylon by the lives of Christians.

Key Commandments of Jesus Are Systematically Not Preached

When you get your car inspected, the people there do a test run made up of test cases, which will find problems your car has. God is also testing the hearts with His commandments. However, if specific commandments are left out of the test run, certain faults will not be discovered. Babylon is closely tied to the love of money. Two vital commandments of God are systematically not preached as they should be.

Dear reader, have you ever heard an evangelist or pastor tell the converts or the children of God this commandment: “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:33-34).

Some Christians do not even know that Jesus gave this commandment to all His students and followers. They might know that Jesus told this to a rich young man who wanted to have eternal life. Jesus gave this commandment to him and all who follow Him. This commandment is preceded by this verse: “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). Dear reader, in case you have not ever heard your pastor or preacher preach about this commandment, you have just found one reason why Babylon has been able to fly under the radar.

The other commandment is the one we have cited before. “I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may

supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, 'Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack'" (2 Cor 8:13-15). Some churches have a lot to say about tithing, which means that you give one tenth of your income. There was a prominent pastor explaining in detail what is written about tithing and quoting wisdom saying: "Honor the LORD with ... the firstfruits of all your produce" (Prov 3:9). When you consider rich countries and what some Christians make, their yearly income can be as high as \$100,000 and more. Tithing means you give \$10,000 leaving you with \$90,000 when you earn \$100,000. The complete verse of wisdom says this however: "Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce" (Prov 3:9). We are called to honor God with our wealth as well. Rich countries can pay so much money because they profit from an unrighteous world economy where the average income is only around \$18,000. We know that there are Christians so poor that they live on \$2 a day. The commandment of equality is not looking at \$10,000 but at maybe \$20,000-\$70,000. Yes, you cannot make a hard rule of the percentage because there are a variety of factors, but for sure it paints a very different picture than tithing. The prominent pastor lives in the USA, where money is staring at you on every corner. While he had so much to say about tithing, he said nothing about equality among the churches. The church must come back to brotherly love and share according to a loving heart- a heart that loves your brother as much as yourself, no matter where he lives in this globalized world. Globalization has set a trap for the church, and the church is caught in it. Globalization has, on the one hand, made it possible to take advantage of economical unrighteousness on other

continents. This has paved the way for luxurious living, while on the other hand, it has also made the unrighteousness and needs of the oppressed known and provided easy ways to help them. There are churches in rich countries, however, which made their local church the center of their universe, and forgot about the will of God: that all his churches all over the world should practice equality.

The Fear of God and the Wisdom of God Are Neglected and Even Partly Despised Among the Children of God

Babylon is built by folly calling people to learn from her. The Kingdom of God, however, has wisdom call people to learn from her. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and instruction in wisdom. In countries like Germany, the fear of the Lord is severely neglected and even partly despised by a considerable segment of Christendom. Instead of faithfully building on the instructions of biblical wisdom, modern concepts are introduced. These buzz-word teachings rake in fame and money for their promoters. Books are sold and speakers are applauded and booked. The more biblical wisdom is neglected, the better off is Babylon at flying under the radar. Babylon cannot be seen by the biological eye, but only by the eye of wisdom from God. If Godly wisdom is absent Babylon cannot be discerned. And without the fear of God biblical prophecies cannot be decoded either, which we will look at next.

Babylon Has Been Able to Confuse End-Time Prophecy

Another important reason for Babylon not being exposed is the confusion in the interpretation of prophecy. "Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law" (Prov 29:18).

It is striking and very saddening to look at the poor state of discernment among the children of God when it comes to the signs of the times and end-time prophecies. Unfortunately, even leaders of seminaries are in the dark or have only a little understanding of where we are on God's roadmap and what is to come. The roadmap they see can be compared to a man who wants to go from Berlin to Madrid, and all he knows about the trip is that it will end in Madrid and there will be mountains and rivers to cross. He does not know what country he is currently in, what towns he passes, or where exactly he is on a detailed roadmap. Whenever there is a mountain, he cannot name it. He always says that we will end in Madrid and there will be mountains and rivers to cross. Likewise, preachers mention that there will be wars, famines, earthquakes, and rumors of wars and in the end Jesus will come. Babylon was able to confuse the interpretation of Revelation. Revelation is a detailed roadmap guiding the children of God over the centuries. There are two major ways to confuse this roadmap. One puts most events into the first seventy years after Jesus Christ came to earth. The other one puts most events into the last seven years. You might ask what about the thousands of years in between?

Let us come back to the comparison of a man driving from Berlin to Madrid. He has a printout of instructions of what turns to take. What sense does it make if his printout only contains directions about how to get out of Berlin and stops after 70 km?

Or how will he get to Madrid if the printout only contains the last 70 km before Madrid? One of the most popular interpretations of Revelation in the USA is the latter one, which pretends that only the last 70 km before Madrid are described in detail. But not only that. This interpretation also says that the driver will be taken out before the last 70 km or 35 km. He will be airlifted out because the traffic will be too rough.

Moneymakers made millions of dollars with this interpretation. The profitable, flattering interpretation of Revelation is that Jesus will take all Christians off the earth before the wrath of God is poured out. It sounds so good because it is mindful of the things of man. However, it is not logical. It takes away faith, and it contradicts what wisdom and Jesus teach. It is not logical because the one is not connected to the other. God can pour out all His wrath on evildoers while protecting His children who are next to them. Wisdom says: "Do not be afraid of sudden terror or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes, for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught" (Prov 3:25-26). Even when many people are hit by God's wrath the Word of God promises: "A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked" (Psalm 91:7-8). The last verse gives a reason why the Christian is around when judgment comes to the wicked: "...You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked" (Psalm 91:7-8). Next to being illogical, the thought that Christians will be taken out of this world before the bowls of wrath are poured out flatters Christians that they do not have to overcome giant enemies by faith because God will take care of them. The Old Testament

was given to us for our learning. Israel was enslaved in Egypt. God delivered them and promised them the land of Canaan. However, he had the Israelites conquer Canaan. They had to do it by faith in the promises and presence of God. While they were still wandering in the desert in between Egypt and Canaan, they sent twelve spies to Canaan to see what was going on there. What did the spies say when coming back?

“At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. And they told him, ‘We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large.... The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height’ (Num 13:25-29, 32).

Only two of the twelve spies had faith in God being with them and one of them said: “...Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it” (Num 13:30).

We face the same situation today. Some look at the enemies of Jesus Christ gathered all over the world and say that we cannot be victorious over them. Then they expect God to snatch the Christians out of the world and afterwards pour out all His wrath on those giant enemies, have Jesus come back in person and conquer the enemies. But how will the world be overcome? “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world- our faith” (1 John 5:4). We have looked at many prophecies so far in this book

that promise a marvelous time to come where the knowledge of God covers the earth like the waters cover the sea. Back then, when the Israelites were promised Canaan, the knowledge of God was pictured as a land flowing with milk and honey. The promises are all fulfilled in Jesus Christ, and by faith, we must carry on and follow the promised road map ending in Madrid. The driver will not be taken out 7 km before Madrid, but God will be with him and guide him even though traffic might be much worse than in the countryside.

The teaching that Christians will be raptured out of this world before the wrath of God is poured out flatly contradicts the very words of Jesus Christ and the teaching of wisdom. Let us go to Jesus and see whether He wants His followers to be taken out or not. He prays to His Father: "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one" (John 17:15). This prayer is very remarkable because it is very uncommon for someone to mention what he does not pray for. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance; otherwise, Jesus would not have said it in this context. Jesus Christ says very directly that He does not pray for Christians to be taken out of the world. And why not? Because wisdom teaches the very opposite of who will be removed: "For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it" (Prov 2:21-22). It is just the other way around. The wicked will be removed, not the righteous.

And why is that? Jesus Christ will reverse the power structure on earth. The wicked will lose their power and the righteous will take over: "The evil bow down before the good, the wicked at the gates of the righteous" (Prov 14:19). In the 20th chapter of

Revelation we read: "Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years" (Rev 20:4).

The vision that Christians will be taken out of the world before God pours out his wrath also ignores the purpose of the judgment. As we have looked at multiple times, the judgment of scoffers at the first gathering will aid the conversion of others. Allow me to repeat this important principle because it is much ignored in large segments of Christendom. "My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. If favor is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness he deals corruptly and does not see the majesty of the LORD" (Isa 26:9-10). And wisdom teaches likewise: "When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise; when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge" (Prov 21:11).

This false interpretation of Revelation, that Christians will be taken out before the battle and have nothing to do with the coming battle was introduced in the 19th century. It made thousands or millions blind to the promises of the fall of Babylon and our role in it.

Babylon has confused the interpretation of Revelation. And how will the confusion be done away with? Wisdom will remove it. The hailstones we read about will destroy all the confusion and the truth will be preached in the most prominent places.

The Fall of Babylon Will Be Global, Brutal, and Completely Reshape the World

The corruption caused by the love of money has reached the political ends of the earth. All kinds of disguises for corruption have been added over the centuries. False arguments about all aspects of life, like religion, politics, and the economy have been introduced inside and outside of Christianity. The time has come to reveal the disguises and replace confusion with the knowledge of God. Wisdom, reason, love, humility, and righteousness will then replace, lies, deception, pride, greed, lust, ambition and luxurious living while others starve.

God has given Babylon time to fill up the measure of her guilt. He has allowed Babylon to live out her full variety of confusion. Because of all her different ways of deception, the scheme has emerged that, in the end, it is all about the love of money. Some people get rich, exalt themselves, and live in luxury, while others suffer, and lies concerning God are spread.

There has long been the interpretation that Babylon is the Catholic Church of Rome. Millions of deaths are attributed to the popery, as the Catholic Church used to be called as well. She has been a murderous system for many centuries. She murdered, tortured, and persecuted millions of people. Dear reader, if you doubt the truth of the murderous character of the Catholic Church, take the time to google how many people were tortured and killed by her. You will be amazed to see the estimates go up to many millions. As an example of her murderous character, look up the history of the Waldenses, and you will see that many waves of persecution went over these poor Waldenses because they refused to participate in the idolatrous worship of the Catholic Church and to follow her heretical doctrine. Jesus told

everybody how to identify false teachers. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, you will recognize them by their fruits" (Mat 7:15-20).

To consider the Catholic Church as the true church of Jesus Christ, you must completely ignore this warning of Jesus Christ and the history of the Catholic Church. If Jesus Christ says that by their fruits, you will know them, and over one million people murdered are not enough, I guess nothing will convince you. What does Jesus mean by bad fruit, if a million people killed are not enough? What is bad if a million people killed is not bad enough? Dear reader, if you are Catholic read about those evil fruits, read about the history of the Waldenses, and then leave this evil church of Rome as soon as you can before you are completely blinded and cannot even be convinced by over one million human beings being killed.

The Catholic Church has also brought deep spiritual darkness over Europe and is still confusing the minds and hearts of many people all over the world. The Reformation has exposed her lies and wickedness and has freed large portions of people held captive by her. The Catholic Church was not overthrown completely, however, and as we know, she is still around. She certainly belongs to Babylon and represents a main district, but she is neither the root of Babylon nor all of Babylon. The proof for that statement are the demonic thoughts of the sixth bowl

that have deceived nations and peoples just like the popery in the last two centuries. Nowadays, communism and the US system have more impact on governments than the Catholic Church. Communism has also killed millions of people directly, while capitalism has let millions of people starve to death, although it was in its power to help. This is written about Babylon the Great: "And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth" (Rev 18:24). Therefore, communism belongs to Babylon as much as the Catholic Church belongs to Babylon, because both have shed the blood of millions and confused the minds of governments and people. Babylon has been around for thousands of years, and many powerful false arguments under the disguise of non-Christian religions, Christian religions, and ideologies have covered up the love of money.

Even though Babylon has come up with multiple cover-ups, she will not escape her global judgment. Even though she has been able to build up her dominion over the centuries many powerful lies, God will destroy them all with the truth.

Because Babylon is a root cause for so many political, cultural, economic, and religious aspects of this world, her fall is compared to an earthquake, one so severe, that its magnitude has never been experienced before. There have been revolutions and changes in the existence of nations and continents, but this fall will have an impact that we have never seen before.

The Greek word "megas" is used more often in the verses we have just looked at than in any other passage of the Bible relative to its length. The Word "megas" means "great". In Germany, people like to use the word mega, which is derived

from it. In verse 17, we have a great voice. In verse 18, the word “great” is even used twice for the earthquake. In verse 19, the word “megas” is used twice again for the great city of Babylon. Finally, in verse 21, we have the word used twice for the hail coming down. Overall, whenever Babylon is talked about, the word “great” comes into play. Greatness is part of Babylon’s appeal. However, even though Babylon thinks she will always be great, her greatness will be brought down in a great way by God, who is, of course, much greater than Babylon. God is the greatest.

Let us recap and emphasize that we are talking about the fall of earthly greatness, which is compared to a great earthquake, the like of which we have never seen. One of the means of destruction is great hail. We will face great changes in thoughts, hearts, and teachings among people of all nations all over the world. Massive revolutions in the unseen world are ahead. Let us compare the impact of the Reformation to the coming fall of Babylon. The Reformation changed many nations in Europe with respect to religion, politics, and the economy. The fall of Babylon, however, will affect everyone worldwide, and it will be much greater and for good. God will make an end of Babylon the Great forever. She will never be able to corrupt the governments again and make the nations drunk.

Again, let us not forget that the promise of God is that the knowledge of Him will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea. When considering the current state of godlessness, there must be great spiritual revolutions in between. And since the fall will not take long, as we will see later, we are heading towards unprecedented global changes the likes of which the world has never seen. It is a process where the object that is supposed to

be removed is first allowed to become bigger, and when it has reached its climax, it is removed. "Before destruction a man's heart is haughty" (Prov 18:12). It looks like Babylon the Great has reached its climax right at our time, when the dominance of riches is so apparent all over the world. Dear reader, since we have seen the sixth bowl being poured out, we have entered this extreme time of change for judgment and a coming world of righteousness. While the Corona epidemic stopped the busy life of megacities like New York and the war in Ukraine, climate change and inflation are changing our lives right now, the biggest change is about to happen.

In the next chapters of Revelation, we get more insight into Babylon and how she will be brought down. And we will see what impact the destruction will have.

Prophecy of Revelation 17

"Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." And I saw the woman, drunk with the

blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly. But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. These are of one mind and hand over their power and authority to the beast. They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth" (Rev 17:1-18).

Here we have a lot to unpack. To make sense of major aspects, let us come back to the promise of wisdom: that by the instructions of wisdom, we will be able to understand the riddles and words of the wise. "The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth-- Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles" (Prov 1:1-6).

In the prophecy of Revelation chapter 17, the mystery of Babylon is shown to us. Much of the unraveling explanation is about the beast with the seven heads and ten horns that carries the woman who represents Babylon. "This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while" (Rev 17:9-10)

To understand the image of the beast with the woman, we need wisdom. But how do we obtain wisdom? Solomon says: "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,.." (Prov 2:1-4).

Short recap of how to obtain wisdom:

- Make your ear attentive to wisdom
- Incline your heart to understanding
- Call out for insight and understanding

- Seek it like silver and search for it like for hidden treasures.

Therefore, let us again call on God to give us wisdom because there is only one source of wisdom: the blessed Lord and God. "Please God of heaven and earth, give us insight, give us understanding."

The first step to get wisdom is taken by asking the Lord God Almighty. The next step is to make our ears attentive to wisdom and to incline our hearts to understanding.

But what is wisdom? We can use computer intelligence and only match words from this prophecy with other passages of the Bible, but wisdom is more than words. Words have meaning, and wisdom is made up of meaningful instructions and not just words. Wisdom leads to the knowledge of God concerning who He is, what He does and why He does it. There are some within Christianity who tell you that taking the Bible literally is wisdom. This is partly true, but this has been overdone. The Bible cannot be taken literally all the way because wisdom is more than words. The following instruction of wisdom shows this beautifully. "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes" (Prov 26:4-5). You cannot obey this insight literally because it literally contradicts itself. "Do not answer a fool according to his folly" and "Answer a fool according to his folly". It takes the wisdom of God to understand and obey this instruction.

God's wisdom is all throughout the Bible and in a concentrated form in the book of Proverbs. In Proverbs, you have a formula comparable to one which students use in

Physics. In Physics, a formula contains the laws of nature that always apply. You can look at them one by one or collect all which are applicable to a situation in real life. When you look at how a car drives, you have different laws of nature present: the law of friction, kinetic energy, inertia etc.. The same is true with Proverbs; you can also look at them one by one or collect all which apply to a certain prophecy or to wisdom for a situation in life.

To decode the mystery of the woman sitting on the beast with seven heads and ten horns, we will look into this book of formulas of godly wisdom and collect the instructions needed.

Some of my dear readers have never looked at interpretations of Revelation and the chapter we have just read. They will not be challenged by what they have read before. Others have read interpretations of this chapter, and they might be hesitant to accept any other thought than what they believe to be true. To them I direct the question: was godly wisdom the base of the interpretation, or rather, the tradition of your church or seminary? While it is good to be taught by preachers and teachers, we should always keep the attitude of the people in Berea in mind. They listened to one of the best teachers the world has ever had, the Apostle Paul, but they did not just take everything at face value; instead, they checked it out with the Scriptures. "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (Acts 17:11).

When considering Babylon the great, we come to a core enemy of God that has brought immeasurable misery to mankind over the centuries. Therefore, it is truly worth double-

checking whatever we hold true. Let us challenge whatever we have heard about Babylon with the wisdom of God. I do not ask you to forget whatever you have learned about Babylon because it might be true. But I do ask you to dig deep into your interpretation and check out whether the wisdom of God is the foundation of the arguments of teachers and preachers you have heard. Most probably, the foundation of the arguments of the preachers and teachers you have heard was the Bible. However, there is a difference between referring to verses that give a supposed precedent or that contain a matching word and referring to an instruction of wisdom.

So let us start the road trip to reveal the mystery of this woman and the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carry her.

The Big Picture of Biblical History Concerning Superpowers Ruling Over the People of God

After the flood, which occurred round about 2350 BC, there were only Noah and 7 other people left. Not too long afterwards Nimrod, the fourth generation after Noah, was the first to take up political power. Among the cities he ruled was Babylon, a city where people came together, following their own understanding and seeking to make a name for themselves. A couple hundred years later, a superpower emerged when Joseph's wisdom and a global famine summoned by God made all the earth come to Egypt to buy grain: "Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth" (Gen 41:57). Even though Joseph was a Hebrew, Pharaoh made him prime minister over all of Egypt

with sweeping authority because Pharaoh perceived the Spirit of God was in Joseph giving him wisdom:

“And Pharaoh said to his servants, ‘Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?’ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are’ (Gen 41:38-39). “And Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.’ Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph's hand and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, ‘Bow the knee!’ Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt’” (Gen 41:41-44). After Joseph's reign, a Pharaoh took over who did not know Joseph and started to enslave the Israelites. In this way, Egypt became the first superpower to oppress the people of God. After years of oppression, God delivered the Israelites from Egyptian slavery and gave them Canaan to live in. Years of independence from foreign rule began. First, God and judges ruled in Israel, but later, they asked for a king like the other nations had. So God gave them Saul as king and afterwards David, who was followed by Solomon. After the reign of Solomon, the kingdom was divided, and God said: “..because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and they have not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight and keeping my statutes and my rules, as David his father did” (1 Ki 11:33).

Round about 740 BC, the superpower Assyria captured the Northern Kingdom of Israel because its inhabitants continued to sin, despite prophecies warning them of a coming captivity. The other part of the divided kingdom of Israel was led into captivity as well, by Babylon around 600 BC. During that captivity, Daniel received prophecies of three other superpowers ruling over the children of God afterwards: Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. One prophecy described them as beasts. Wisdom says: "Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people" (Prov 28:15). The prophecies of Daniel also included the end of the reign of those superpowers. The last superpower, Rome, was portrayed as a very fierce kingdom "strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things" which would morph into divided kingdoms, portrayed as 10 toes in the prophecy. Those kingdoms will then finally be destroyed by God's kingdom, which will fill the whole earth. Just as Daniel received those prophecies during the reign of Babylon, the Apostle John received a set of prophecies during the reign of the fourth superpower, Rome, which are recorded in the book of Revelation, including the 17th chapter we just looked at. These are the last prophecies recorded in the Bible and give us a picture of God's work on earth: how He defeats His enemies and sets up His kingdom on earth.

Who Are the First Six Heads and the Beast?

When we count the superpowers ruling over the Israelites, we get six of them. Since the prophecy was given when the sixth head ruled, according to Chapter 17, we can conclude that Rome is the sixth kingdom, preceded by five other kingdoms. There were indeed five superpowers ruling over the people of

God, like Rome, as we have seen in the preceding history: Greece, Medo-Persia, Babylon, Assyria, and the first one, Egypt.

The heads are part of the beast. The beast has the additional description that it was, is not, and later it “shall ascend out of the bottomless pit”. If the superpowers we looked at are portrayed as the heads in this prophecy, then what about the beast, that had been, was not, and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit?

Can we find an answer in the book of Proverbs, the core book of wisdom in the Bible? A fundamental passage of wisdom and folly gives an interpretation. When wisdom and folly are described in Chapter 9, we read about folly: “The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house; On a throne—the high places of the city, calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, ‘Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!’ And to him who lacks sense she says, ‘Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.’ But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol” (Prov 9:13-18 ESV, v.14b YLT).

This core teaching about wisdom and folly links the beast to the prostitute and gives an interpretation of the following riddle: “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction...” (Rev 17:8). Now the saying of wisdom we just looked at teaches us that people who listen to folly are in the depths of Sheol, or the bottomless pit, as it is called in Chapter 17. Folly sits on a throne just as the great prostitute Babylon who “...has dominion over the kings of the earth” (Rev 17:18). When we apply this teaching to the beast, then the beast is in Sheol when it listens to folly and not wisdom.

We learn in Proverbs: “A ruler who lacks understanding is a cruel oppressor, but he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days” (Prov 28:16). When a superpower lacks understanding, when it listens to folly instead of the wisdom of God, it lives in the bottomless pit. Folly teaches lies and lies corrupt governments: “If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked” (Prov 29:12).

Listening to falsehood can be compared to “not being” and living in the bottomless pit. But what about the beast when it “was” and when it was not in the bottomless pit? In the history of superpowers ruling over the people of God, we have learned that the first superpower, Egypt, did, in fact, listen to wisdom in the beginning. Joseph made the superpower listen to wisdom and he did the will of God. The Bible proves this point because it says about the duty Pharaoh gave Joseph that he was “to bind his princes at his pleasure and to teach his elders wisdom” (Ps 105:22).

Wisdom says: “It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out” (Prov 25:2). Pharaoh was given a dream by God, a concealed message. Pharaoh searched it out by looking for an interpreter, whom he found in Joseph, gifted by God to interpret dreams. Joseph was able to tell Pharaoh what God was about to do, and in addition to that, Joseph also gave advice, which Pharaoh heeded. Egypt turned from folly to wisdom and followed the wisdom of God by heeding God’s prophecy and making Joseph the prime minister who taught the officials wisdom. Egypt left the bottomless pit and was alive and well to bring blessings to the nations. Let us also keep in mind that the Old Testament is given for our learning, and stories are oftentimes images that can be easily

grasped because they are about visible things to make us understand spiritual truths in the New Testament. Joseph made Egypt come out of the bottomless pit and “be”. In the New Testament, we find this expression: “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). Joseph, the prime minister of Egypt, was filled with the Spirit of God. Pharaoh said about Joseph: “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God” (Gen 41:38)?

Because Egypt represents a superpower oppressing the children of God as well as a superpower that was ruled by wisdom for some time, we have found an interpretation of the beast, that “was and is not” and its six heads. The six heads can be interpreted as the superpowers we have identified: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Egypt started out being ruled by the Spirit of God through Joseph and was therefore alive and not in the bottomless pit; it was not in Sheol, the term used by wisdom, like it was later and like the other five kingdoms coming after it.

Who Is the Seventh Head?

The seven heads can be interpreted as the wicked superpowers in history that ruled over the people of God. The first six superpowers were: Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. All of them came into being when the children of God were a visible people descending from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The time of the old covenant, that God made with Moses ended with Jesus and the destruction of the temple. There was no need for the temple in Jerusalem anymore because the temple was just an image of the true

temple of God, which is the church. The church is made up of the children of God, who are the body of Christ and the true spiritual temple of God, as it is written: "The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man" (Acts 17:24).

And Paul said to Christians: "...For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Cor 6:16).

The people of God, who could be recognized by their ethnicity in the Old Testament, are now recognized by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. During the reign of Rome, there was a transitioning from the Old Testament to the New Testament, from real visible things as images and shadows to invisible spiritual truth in Jesus Christ.

This change is also taking place in the role of Rome. Rome started out ruling over the country of Israel. But then Jesus Christ came, the temple was destroyed, the church of Jesus Christ was born, and the enmity between Rome and Israel changed to enmity between Rome and the church. Emperors of Rome conquered the land of Israel and later also persecuted the church in ten waves of persecution. But please notice that the nature of those Rome persecuted changed. First, it was a nation with people living in a territory defined by borders. Later, Rome fought a group of people from many nations, defined by the Holy Spirit living in them. The persecution by Rome ended when the emperor of Rome, Constantine the Great, converted to Christianity and stopped all persecution. This was the end of the sixth head. The visible government of Rome was now part of the body of Christ, the church.

However, after Constantine the Great, Julian the Apostate turned against Jesus and the people of God again. He started out being a Christian, but then he fell away from the faith and was therefore called the Apostate. Rome transitioned from being a head in the spiritual sense, being opposed to Jesus Christ and those who believed in Him on a purely spiritual basis. Julian the Apostate, and the way Rome was ruled by an anti-Christian sovereign can be interpreted as the seventh head that remained only a little while. Notice the description of the seventh beast: “they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while” (Rev 17:10).

Since we had a transition from the old covenant God made with the Israelites to the new covenant in Jesus Christ during Rome, we also see a transition from a fight between worldly armies with physical weapons to a different fight. First Israel fought neighboring countries with swords and spears before Jesus. Now the church fights by preaching Jesus Christ and the gospel. The other side fights back by preaching folly and persecuting the lamb.

The spiritual nature of the fight is also represented by the description of the beast that had been, was, and will arise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. As we have seen, following wisdom or folly determines whether the beast is or is not, whether it is in the bottomless pit or comes out of it. God has determined the way He will conquer long ago in this well-known prophecy. “...Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts” (Zec 4:6). When the Lord fights the kingdoms of the beast, it is not in a battle with visible weapons of war like tanks and fighter jets, but by his Spirit. In

one of the prophecies we looked at before in Isaiah chapter 11 we read about the way Jesus rules: "...and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked" (Isa 11:4). The prophecy in Revelation 17 says: "They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful" (Rev 17:14). Here God foretells us the victory Jesus will have over the ten heads of the beast. Since He said He would do it by His Spirit, we can conclude that the victory will be over the hearts and minds of governments. Governments that listen to lies and folly will be conquered by the truth, they will come out of the bottomless pit. The prophecy foretells us that when Babylon falls, this conversion of the governments to Jesus Christ will be for good because the beast will go to destruction. The unbelieving people on earth will marvel when they see that: "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come" (Rev 17:8). It is easy to imagine unbelieving people being very surprised to see governments turning from folly to the wisdom found in Jesus Christ and submitting to Jesus Christ as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Governments all over the world have clung to folly for a long time. They have fallen away, and many have been gathered against Jesus Christ decades ago. As we have seen, the sixth bowl is about this gathering of all governments for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. Since this started over 200 years ago, our generation and even the preceding generations

have witnessed the power of the anti-Christian spirits in the world who gathered the governments against Jesus Christ, the King of kings. It is important to see the big picture of the prophecy, which looks at thousands of years in which God deals with governments and nations. We have come to the climax of the battle. The enemies have been gathered, they have gained strength only to be defeated by the King of kings, and Lord of lords.

In the 21st century we seem to have reached the climax of opposition to Jesus Christ being the King of kings over all governments. Even voices inside Christianity do not want Jesus Christ to rule over their nation politically. Just as the high priests cried out to Pilate before Jesus was crucified: "We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15), you can hear Christian leading voices say: "We have no king but we the people. We have only one political king, our democracy." Since the opposition has been so great, we need some time to grasp the magnitude of the meaning of this prophecy that Jesus Christ will turn governments from listening to folly and lies to listening to wisdom and the Holy Spirit. Would it be something new without precedent, that governments submit to God?

This has happened before temporarily multiple times, which is not considered much anymore in churches. God has oftentimes turned evil governments of superpowers to listen to wisdom. We can find in Scripture that five of the six superpowers which ruled over the people of God turned to wisdom, fully or partly.

As stated before, in the story of Joseph we read that Pharaoh, king of Egypt, turned to the true living God when he listened to the Spirit of God, working in Joseph. As we have seen, the next

superpower ruling over the people of God was Assyria. Again, the king of Nineveh, which was the capitol of Assyria, was converted to the living God after the prophet Jonah preached about the coming destruction. "Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, 'Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish" (Jonah 3:4-9).

The king of Babylon was also converted and acknowledged the living God. He was warned by a prophecy that judgment would come upon him, but he did not listen. So he was humbled and lost his kingdom and also his ability to reason for some time till he was able to say: "And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And

among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done"(Dan 4:34-35 NKJV)?

Even the king of the next superpower, Darius, was also converted, to some degree, to the living God. "Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: 'Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions" (Dan 6:25-27).

As we have heard before, Constantine the Great, the emperor of Rome, which was the last superpower ruling over Israel as a nation, was also converted. He became a Christian. God has indeed demonstrated His power over the hearts and minds of kings, even those who belong to the beast. "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will" (Prov 21:1).

Due to false teachings and false interpretations of end-time prophecy, God's purpose for governments in the last days has been ignored or misunderstood. What is a main purpose of a ruler? "...for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer" (Rom 13:4). The purpose of the last, the seventh bowl is told to us: "Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished" (Rev 15:1). The last bowl of God's wrath will target the great prostitute

Babylon. In this prophecy we see that governments will carry out God's vengeance and the pouring out of His wrath against Babylon.

The challenge for us now is to believe that God will turn the hearts of governments against the prostitute with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication for thousands of years. We are called to believe that the governments will be instrumental in destroying Babylon the Great. God will use them to avenge the evil she has done.

The challenge we face is to believe that Jesus Christ will finally conquer the governments. The importance of the information given to us in Chapter 17 cannot be stressed enough: "They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful" (Rev 17:14).

Jesus Christ has also been persecuted for thousands of years by governments, and now He will conquer the governments. Whatever is done to the least of the followers of Jesus Christ is done to Him. How many Christians have been killed and persecuted by governments? Yet Jesus will conquer the governments at the appointed time, which is right at the fulfillment of this prophecy. Jesus Christ is the King of kings.

Governments have been sources of evil, but the greater evil and the root evil is Babylon the Great. The blood of the martyrs is assigned to Babylon, as we will learn in the next chapter. It is said about Babylon: "And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth" (Rev 18:24). When Jesus Christ was crucified, Pilate was the one who condemned Jesus to die on the cross, but he just gave in to Babylon. Pilate wanted to release Jesus and tried to do so, but

Babylon opposed Pilate and he finally gave in. However, his guilt was not as great as that of those who handed Jesus over to him. "Jesus answered him (Pilate), "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin" (John 19:11).

Babylon means confusion, and stands for the rule of folly. She has dominion over the governments of the earth right now. While governments listen to her, she survives and rules, but once Jesus overcomes folly with wisdom, governments will hate evil and destroy Babylon. The peace of the world is ushered in by governments destroying Babylon. Therefore, Paul tells the Christians: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Tim 2:1-2). The prayer ties all people and governments together, because once Babylon falls and the governments have turned from folly to Jesus Christ, the prophecy we looked at in Zechariah will be fulfilled: "For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord" (Zeph 3:9). Babylon makes the people of the earth drunk and, in this way, unwilling to see truth in Jesus Christ. "... and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk" (Rev 17:2).

The Destruction of Babylon Opens the Door for Governments to Be Ruled by Jesus Christ

Wisdom teaches: "Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel; take away the wicked from

the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness" (Prov 25:4-5). By removing Babylon from the presence of the governments, righteousness will be established. It is Babylon who keeps the kings from serving Jesus Christ. She is the answer to the question: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us" (Psa 2:1-3).

The God-given, natural interest of governments is for righteousness and good people: "It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness" (Prov 16:12). And: "Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right" (Prov 16:13).

The way for a king to preserve his authority is: "If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever" (Prov 29:14).

We can compare this natural inclination with the love that a husband has for his wife if all is well. But a married man can go to a prostitute to get what should only be gotten as part of loving his wife. So governments can turn to those who love riches and serve them instead of the poor.

Their love should be for those in need of justice. Governments should follow this advice of wisdom: "Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Prov 31:9).

But instead, they do not heed the warnings: "Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has

been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted” (Prov 31:3-5).

Jesus Christ will conquer governments by the Spirit of God, as we have heard before. He will turn the hearts and minds of governments against Babylon. Instead of going to bed with Babylon, they will now destroy her: “And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire” (Rev 17:16).

I admit that it is not quite clear to me right now from Revelation Chapter 17 when the governments will fully turn to our Lord Jesus Christ. They will turn against Babylon, for sure. However, whether their hearts will be with Jesus Christ when they destroy Babylon needs to be examined more.

The False Interpretation of Jesus Saying That His Kingdom Is Not of This World

There is a widespread error in the minds of people concerning what it means when Jesus says: “...My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world” (John 18:36). The erroneous interpretation says that Jesus’ kingdom does not include political power. It implies, on the one hand, that the world refers to the visible things. A political kingdom is visible, it has well defined borders, visible printouts of laws, courts, prisons, and armies etc. Because Jesus’ kingdom is invisible and its coming cannot be seen because it is a spiritual object, it has nothing to do with visible kingdoms. It is concluded that Jesus does not want to rule over governments, and governments are

not commanded to be ruled by Jesus Christ through faith in His word. A considerable segment of Christendom believes this interpretation in one form or another.

What is wrong about that? It is true that the battle of Jesus Christ is not over territory but over the hearts and minds of people. They either listen to folly or the Word of God.

Let us look at the disciples of Jesus Christ. They are real people with flesh and blood. Please notice what Jesus says to these people having flesh and blood: "...If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you" (John 15:18-19).

Here Jesus says of His followers that they are not of the world. Please notice that it is the same phrase used for His kingdom: "My kingdom is not of this world". So, when Jesus says that His disciples are not of the world, does that mean that all Jesus says has nothing to do with human beings who have flesh and blood? Does it mean that all he says is not for human beings who can be seen? No, not at all. Of course, we can see followers of Christ, and they live and work among us. They are visible and have earthly occupations. The difference between them and the people of the world is this: "Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). What does it mean to be born again? "Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:5-6).

Those who are born again and are not of the world believe and obey Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and the wisdom of God

instead of folly. The very same is true for governments. If they are born of God and listen to the wisdom of God instead of folly, they are not of this world. They are still visible and still perform political duties as before, just as normal people still perform their earthly occupations. But they love God and the citizens, and they follow the teachings of the wisdom of God instead of trusting in their own minds and believing folly. They understand righteousness and justice and know about the rights of the poor. They are not in bed with Babylon and thus forgetting about what is decreed as well as the needs of the poor and oppressed. They are serving God and not riches.

When you look through the teachings of godly wisdom, you find instructions for kings, rulers and politicians as well. When you learn righteousness and justice, you dig into a main area of politics: the law. The wisdom of God gives as much advice and instructions to normal citizens as to politicians. It is also noteworthy that the main books of the Bible about godly wisdom are written by politicians. Solomon's occupation was ruler. It did not keep him from preaching: "The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem" (Ecc 1:1). Wisdom teaches about good and evil and how to deal with evil. It covers all areas of life, including all areas of authority. Wisdom is a main part of true religion, Jesus Christ, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is pure confusion to elevate politics above wisdom given to us in Jesus Christ. Politics is one part of the areas covered by true wisdom. Politics is just like medicine, keeping a household, child rearing, and other occupations: work given by God to men, that man should do it according to His wisdom.

Let us repeat this important truth. The difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world is not whether they can be seen or not.

Another false interpretation makes the office a person holds the distinguishing feature. It looks at what office a person has and then puts them either into the kingdom of God or the kingdom of the world. If a person is a pastor, he belongs to the kingdom of God, and if he is a politician he belongs to the kingdom of the world.

One reason why this is not true is that a preacher can belong to the kingdom of the world and not to the kingdom of God when he teaches lies. Jesus warns us in Matthew 7: 15-16: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles"? These false prophets are of the world and not of the kingdom of God. They have church buildings and hold Sunday services. They have Bible studies and prayer meetings. Nonetheless, they belong to the kingdom of the world, because they teach lies and folly. And the world listens to them. The Bible puts it this way: "They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them" (1 John 4:5). Please notice that the Bible assigns false teachers to the world as well as all those who listen to them. So the false preacher and his church belong to the kingdom of the world. Therefore, it is very important to understand that belonging to the kingdom of God or the world does not have anything to do with the office a person holds.

So when Jesus says that His kingdom is not of this world, He does not mean that in His kingdom nobody executes the office

of ruler, instead he means that in His kingdom, people are born of God and believe in Him, submit to Him as King of kings, and follow the wisdom God teaches and not the folly Babylon teaches.

The following commandment of God towards government, in the book of Psalms, clearly shows that government is not excluded from the kingdom of God. As individuals are called to repent and submit to Jesus, so are governments. In Psalm 2, we read: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying, "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him" (Psa 2:1-12).

Let us repeat this main truth. The kingdom of God determines what spirit a person obeys no matter what office he executes. Jesus Christ is the King of preachers and Lord of church elders as much as He is King of politicians and King of judges. All are called to depart from folly and Babylon and learn from Jesus Christ and serve in His kingdom in the office they hold.

A condition for understanding this truth is knowing that there is a spiritual realm above the visible realm of life. Human beings are subject to this superior realm. By denying that there is a more powerful realm, you end up with a false understanding of the kingdom of the world and the kingdom of God. Then Jesus' kingdom is falsely associated with a church which is made up of a pastor, elders and members. If you take this view, you will not understand what it means: that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. Only if you understand that the behavior, words, and actions, are influenced by a higher level of life will you understand the meaning.

People who do evil are oftentimes unaware they are submitting to the evil side of the spiritual realm. Once Jesus was approached by those who even believed Him. But then Jesus confronted them with the truth about whose slaves they were. We read about Jesus: "As he was saying these things, many believed in him. So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' They answered him, 'We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will become free?'" Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.' They answered him, 'Abraham is our father.' Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham

did, but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are doing what your father did.' They said to him, 'We were not born of sexual immorality. We have one Father--even God.' Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but He sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me" (John 8:30-45).

The true meaning of Jesus saying that His kingdom is not of this world must be seen against this backdrop. It is about the superior spiritual realm of life in which you have either the devil as your father or God. You either hear the Word of God and submit to it or you submit to lies, right now the city of lies: Babylon. A government can either be ruled by Babylon or by Jesus Christ.

Please also notice that Jesus was telling those who believed in him, that their father was the devil and they did his will. The same is true today. There are people who call themselves Christians and believe in the existence of Jesus Christ, but they do the will of their father the devil. They are not born again and do not abide in the Word of Christ. Some of them held or hold an office in government and govern in the name of Jesus, but in truth they rule according to the will of the devil. They pretend to serve God, but in truth they serve riches. They lie, deceive, and

follow politics and a wisdom, that is not from God. In Germany, there are political parties that call themselves Christian, but also stand for evil policies that have nothing to do with Jesus Christ. These policies come from the devil.

As we have seen in the prophecy of the sixth bowl of the wrath of God, evil spirits gathered the governments for the battle at Armageddon. Since there were governments in Europe listening to Jesus Christ and the Gospel after the Reformation, Satan had to find a way to gather these nations as well. The American Revolution was the start of one main way to do that. Christians made an alliance with those who were not born again, deists and unrighteous slave holders, and together they agreed on a set of good sounding but deceptive, false thoughts that replaced the wisdom of God. Christians in other countries followed that evil example. However, this alliance with children of the devil is doomed to fail in the long term and it is foolish because it is written: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever" (2 Cor 6:14-15)?

It is extremely shameful for many white US Christians to have voted for a person like Donald Trump in droves, someone who is a poster-boy for so much advice in wisdom about identifying a person who should be avoided, not followed, and not partnered with. And yet they have supported him, because they listened to folly and have been made drunk by the lies of Babylon and the spirit of the American Revolution.

It is a great evil when pastors and preachers of the Gospel confuse the hearts and minds of Christians by propagating a

false meaning of Jesus saying: "My kingdom is not of this world." The American Revolution has introduced an unholy alliance of Christians with children of the devil, and the truth has been corrupted to this day in churches. Too many preachers are blind and have contributed to Satan being able to gather the nations for the day of the great battle at Armageddon. That was evil, but God meant it for good to fulfill His master plan, which ends in the fall of Babylon and the fall of the alliance of governments against Him.

When Jesus Christ stood before Pilate the leaders of the Old Testament church said: "...We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15). Nowadays, Caesar has partly been replaced by an outwardly whitewashed kingdom of the world, the US system, and cannot this cry be indirectly heard again by leaders of the church? "...We have no political king but the Constitution and the electorate." Segments of the church have done what Israel did in Isaiah chapter 30. They were attacked and sought help from the kingdom of the world. They wanted to make an alliance with the kingdom of the world that has great riches and a powerful army.

But what should Christians do in a democracy? We will come to this later, when we talk about the steps we Christians should take.

Who Is the Harlot Babylon?

To understand Babylon, we must understand the nature of the battle the kingdom of God is involved in, and the weapons used in this battle: "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the

knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete" (2 Cor 10:4-6).

The victory of Christ in this battle is the fulfillment of the promises: "They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Isa 11:9); and: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea" (Hab 2:14).

Babylon means confusion and needs to be exposed, brought to the light, and replaced by the fear of the Lord: the instruction of wisdom, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The instruction of wisdom leads to the knowledge of God foretold in the prophecies. Jerusalem means teaching of peace and stands for this knowledge of God which will replace Babylon.

Babylon is a city of people greedy for gain who conspire to hold on to confusing thoughts that are raised against the knowledge of Christ. They conspire to serve riches and not God. They do not all cling to one set of thoughts; they are oftentimes grouped into competing parties, each promoting a particular set of thoughts. These sets are promoted as religions or philosophies. They are deceptive and gloss over greed, an evil heart, and wicked motives. They are promoting self-righteousness and are designed to call the fool noble and the scoundrel honorable.

The main sets of these thoughts right now in the world are the US system, Islam, and communism. There are also other deceptions out there as well. All together, they form Babylon.

Segments of Christendom are also part of Babylon. They replace parts of wisdom with false arguments: that Jesus Christ

is not ruling over the nation politically and that serving riches or leading a luxurious life while Christians hunger is okay or even God's will. They have replaced the pure fear of God, and all the instructions of wisdom, with their traditions.

Babylon serves riches and not God.

Babylon means confusion and therefore, she does not promote only one set of thoughts against the wisdom of God. Why is that? Babylon is based on the love of money, which produces pride, strife, envy, and bad fruits. How can such a system prevail and not be exposed as evil immediately? Hypocrisy needs to kick in in order to deflect from one's own errors and be able to point fingers at someone else. Therefore, Babylon offers somewhat opposing systems like capitalism and communism, the Catholic Church and Islam, or within a country, two opposing political parties like the Democrats and Republicans in the USA. These opposing sets of high thoughts do contain true notions of righteousness but are mixed with false notions. However, because there is some truth to it, they can point to the evil in the competing system and consider themselves more righteous than the other side. The other side can do the same.

Babylon is a secret when people do not seek wisdom from God. The wisdom of God exposes her, and then Babylon is visible. The way Babylon will be exposed: "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Eph 5:11-14).

The fall of Babylon is the global awakening of the church, when people and governments arise from the dead, from Sheol, and Christ shines on them. The visibility of Babylon is the other side of the coin of this global awakening promised in the Bible. Once people come to Jesus Christ and learn from Him, she is exposed in the hearts and minds, and she becomes visible.

Therefore, you can say that Babylon is only seen and becomes visible by knowledge that is God given about the system of the world. The fear of the Lord is the powder that makes the fingerprint of Babylon at the crime scene visible. Maybe you have seen night vision devices for soldiers and the like. Without night vision you cannot discern what is going on when it is dark. But with night vision you see. The fear of God and the wisdom of God, are the night vision needed to see Babylon.

If people look for actual cities that are defined by territory to identify Babylon, they will not see that the battle is a spiritual one led by people living in the same geographical city. It is a battle of wisdom against folly, and therefore also a battle about the value of the wisdom of God. Why is wisdom more valuable than gold, silver, riches and all you can desire? Because wisdom will free this world from Babylon and bring peace. "A wise man scales the city of the mighty and brings down the stronghold in which they trust" (Prov 21:22).

Much emphasis has been laid on one aspect of Jesus Christ lately: Jesus Christ is given to us for righteousness. However, Jesus Christ is also given to us for wisdom. The global rediscovery of this will come with the fall of Babylon. What is one of the main promised fruits of wisdom? "She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful

crown” (Prov 4:9). The peak of the Old Testament church was reached with Solomon, the ruler who asked for wisdom. When the church returns to the fear of God all over the world, the church will reign just like Solomon. And just like Solomon’s reign ended by his compromising the worship of God, so will this coming 1000-year reign of the church also end with a compromise. Then Jesus will return with His angels, the earth will be destroyed, and the final judgment will be held.

Because Jesus Christ is given to us for wisdom, Jesus Christ does not have to come down to this earth personally to set up His rule, as some Christians believe. Jesus’ death on the cross has also purchased the wisdom needed to expose Babylon and to rule on earth according to His will politically.

How Does the Harlot Babylon Commit Sexual Immorality With the Kings of the Earth?

The basic enticement of wickedness also applies to Babylon and governments: “My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, ‘Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse’” (Prov 1:10-14). Not many governments are enticed by this plain, open and overtly wicked way. But wisdom also says that this extreme way just described is in essence the way of all who are greedy for gain. “So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof” (Prov 1:19 KJV). The enticement of governments is often formulated in

a much more subtle and complex way, but it amounts to the same evil way.

Instead of doing their God given duty, governments choose to follow the path that corrupts authorities. All this is put together in the advice for a king in the book of wisdom: “The words of King Lemuel. An oracle that his mother taught him: What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows? Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings. It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. Give strong drink to the one who is perishing, and wine to those in bitter distress; let them drink and forget their poverty and remember their misery no more. Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Prov 31:1-9).

Instead of pleading for the rights of the poor and needy, governments give fools and scoundrels a pass for exploiting the afflicted or at least not helping them. We have read in the prophecy of Isaiah 32 about the consequence of good rulers ruling in wisdom. “The fool will no more be called noble, nor the scoundrel said to be honorable. For the fool speaks folly, and his heart is busy with iniquity, to practice ungodliness, to utter error concerning the LORD, to leave the craving of the hungry unsatisfied, and to deprive the thirsty of drink. As for the scoundrel--his devices are evil; he plans wicked schemes to ruin the poor with lying words, even when the plea of the needy is right” (Isa 32:5-7).

When Babylon lies in bed with governments, fools are called noble and scoundrels honorable. Governments burst God's bonds apart; they discard God's law that protects the poor and set up laws that appear just, but in truth they allow the scoundrel and fool to keep on walking their unrighteous, greedy path and even be called honorable and noble. And the governments receive their share of the plunder. Then governments serve riches instead of God. We have talked about the US system and have seen that the law of love has been taken out and replaced with supposed human rights, which sound nice but, in fact, protect the fool and scoundrel as well. The US system serves riches and not God, just like governments all over the world, which are assembled for the day of the battle of Armageddon.

Love for God and equal love for your neighbor are sold, making governments and Babylon rich. This is also true for so-called democracies.

The impact of governments committing sexual immorality has been huge all over the world over the centuries. For reasons we looked at before, God has used this however, to accomplish His overall plan. "The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble" (Prov 16:4).

In the prophecy of Chapter 17, we have seen governments being conquered by Jesus Christ and then judging the harlot Babylon.

Let us recall that the battle of Jesus Christ against governments is not with weapons of the flesh but with the truth, which is the Word of God. In the next chapter, we will get a closer look at how this battle for the hearts and minds is fought and how Babylon will go down.

Prophecy of Revelation 18

“After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. And he called out with a mighty voice, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.” Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues; for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, ‘I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.’ For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her.” And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, “Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come.” And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all

kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls. "The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!" The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud, "Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls! For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste. "And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?" And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste. Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!" Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more; and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more, and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth" (Rev 18:1-24).

The prophecy begins with the message that Babylon has fallen. Wisdom is speaking globally. The time for wisdom to be exalted has come. "Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud" (Prov 8:1-3). In this prophecy we see wisdom speak to the whole world. Before the communication revolution of the internet this would have been difficult to imagine, but today a message going viral reaching all ends of the earth is fully within reach technologically.

God is fulfilling what He has said all along through His instructions of wisdom. "The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge" (Prov 14:18). Babylon, the teaching of folly, has fallen, but Jerusalem, the teaching of peace, will take over.

The simple find themselves fooled by Babylon. Babylon is exposed as a "dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast" (Rev 18:2). Now the world is called to see through the confusion of Babylon and realize what has been going on for centuries: "For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living" (Rev 18:3).

Wisdom is fulfilling her promise to place on the head of the church "...a graceful garland; and to bestow on her a beautiful

crown" (Prov 4:9), starting with the messenger coming down from heaven. The messenger, which is another translation of angel, is taught wisdom by Jesus Christ and in this way, he comes down from heaven. He is given great authority, and in this way a graceful garland is placed on his head. He passes on the knowledge and starts a revival of religion that many are waiting for right now. Babylon has destroyed many through her confusion, but wisdom will save many by knowledge: "With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered" (Prov 11:9). By the fall of Babylon, the nations will become wise. "When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise; when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge" (Prov 21:11).

Many have patiently listened to the Lord and waited for Him and now their hopes will not be disappointed: "Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed. 'For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord'" (Zeph 3:8-9).

The evil spirits within the world will be bound all at once, and a huge judgment and deliverance has commenced. Wisdom causes the world to be enlightened because she has made the messenger triumph over Babylon. "When the righteous triumph, there is great glory..." (Prov 28:12). "...and the earth was made bright with his(the messengers) glory" (Rev 18:1). Wisdom proves to give more strength to the wise than the assembled authorities: "Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than

ten rulers who are in a city" (Ecc 7:19). Now the time has come when folly will be dethroned and wisdom will triumph.

Wisdom revives the understanding of prophecy, and the nations will no longer cast off restraint. Because of the message that Babylon is fallen, the book of Revelation becomes a roadmap again that guides the church through the times. Prophecy will lead governments and nations again. The time when Babylon put out the light of prophecy is over. "Where there is no prophetic vision, the people cast off restraint" (Prov 29:18).

For thousands of years, Babylon has confused the hearts and minds of governments and nations with all kinds of ideologies, religions, and traditions, but now the pattern has become visible: serving riches is at the heart, and this evil is covered up by high thoughts, so the fool is called noble and the scoundrel honorable. Now Jesus Christ shines forth. The gospel gains unseen momentum, and the prophecy is going to be fulfilled. "For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord" (Zeph 3:9).

The church will be called out to leave Babylon and be free from serving riches. Once the church has left Babylon, she will be ready to inherit the world because she has become faithful with the least of the things of this world. "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love

the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Luke 16:10-13)

Right now, segments of the church have been dealing with unrighteous wealth unfaithfully, but when Babylon is exposed, their sin will be exposed as well. The true children of God will repent and come out of Babylon, and the hypocrites who will remain in Babylon will go down with Babylon. The prideful will be removed from the church according to the prophecy: "...for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD" (Zeph 3:11-12).

Wisdom has taught all along: "The evil bow down before the good, the wicked at the gates of the righteous" (Prov 14:19). By going out of Babylon, the church will receive authority from God to rule politically, and then they will execute justice. "Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed. As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see'" (Rev 18:6-7). The righteous laws of God will also be heeded politically, and justice will be done to the nations. "When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers" (Prov 21:15).

What Shall We Do?

Prayer of Repentance

When Daniel the prophet realized that the time of the captivity of the Israelites in Babylon was prophesied to be seventy years and those seventy years were up, he repented and prayed.

“In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. "O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God

belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem. "As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. Therefore the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly! "O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our

supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies” (Dan 9:1-18 NKJV).

Many Christians have started to pray for revival. Let those prayers continue and let all others join them. Let them be shaped by the pattern of Daniel’s prayer and let them learn from the humility of Daniel, who acknowledged his sin and the sin of his people. Let the prayers be fueled with the knowledge of the signs of the times and insights into the prophecies about the fall of Babylon.

Let us not stop praying till Babylon has fallen before our eyes, the church of God is restored to brotherly love and holiness, and the prophecy is accomplished: “For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord” (Zeph 3:9).

Acts of Repentance

Equality and True Brotherly Love

Equality among all churches and Christians.

Let us come back to the roots of the Gospel of Jesus Christ when John the Baptist prepared the way: “And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise” (Luke 3:11). Let us bring the fundamental instruction for the New Testament church into the focus of our attention until it is accomplished: “I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written,

“Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack” (2 Cor 8:13-15).

The first Christians were practicing equality. It is recorded: “There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold” (Acts 4:34). They understood that Jesus was giving the following commandment to all his disciples, up to the present day. “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys” (Luke 12:33). There are some people who consider these first Christians as naïve or simple-minded, not being mindful of a long-term economy that is working. When studying the economy according to folly, they have a point. Folly does not see God as a part of the economic cycle. If you do not take God and His promises into account, you argue that you give your extra money to financial institutions that will support you when you need it: saving for a rainy day.

Folly does not consider the promises of God and reasons without Him. Wisdom, however, studies the instructions and promises of God, trusts in them, and acts accordingly. A wise person will find this saying of the wise: “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed” (Prov 19:17). God takes over the function of a bank or financial institution.

Therefore, it is not unreasonable at all to act according to the example of the first Christians. A functioning economy acts according to the wisdom taught in the Bible. This way, the hearts and minds will also be transferred to heaven. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy

and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Mat 6:19-21).

How can we make sure that no church on this earth is lacking while others have extra?

Media Platform of Brotherly Love

"..for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory" (Prov 24:6).

The following is just an idea and is waiting to receive further suggestions about how to reach equality:

Facebook and other social media platforms have made the world meet online. God has given us internet and computer technology, and therefore, we could set up a social media platform where churches could come together all over the world, post needs, and meet those needs. The challenge is to come up with truthful information and trusted participants. We have seen, however, that even the world that serves riches and oftentimes is selfish and deceptive can come up with some system of verification and trust. We should be able to come up with that as well. When you sell merchandise on eBay you put your trust in the positive feedback score and a high percentage of positive feedback. A social network networks its participants. Paths of trust can be established. Right now, there are already trusted connections between rich and poor churches all over the world. When those trusted links are recorded, additional links can be established.

For example, Church A in Germany is already supporting Church B in Congo. There are personal relationships and long-

standing contacts. Church B in Congo knows church C in Congo and trusts the leadership. Church A in Germany knows church D in Germany and trusts it. When those links are added, we have a trusted path from the new churches in Congo and Germany. In the beginning, the bonds of trusts will not be strong. Therefore, additional steps for establishing trust should be added. If Church D sends money to Church C church B in Congo could verify the righteous use of the funds to Church A in Germany, which in turn will report it to Church D. Video conferences, video clips, and other things could also be used to establish trust. International prayer groups along the paths of trust could be established. If there are prayer meetings with members of Church A,B,C and D additional trust is built up. Preachers of those churches can also minister to churches on the other continent via Zoom.

Social media platforms right now are mostly driven by profit. Is brotherly love not as powerful or even more powerful? If the pursuit of profit builds up a media platform, true brotherly love should be able to as well.

Wisdom knows however, that we do not even know what will happen tomorrow. That is true, and from a human perspective, we can only envision such a platform, but it is not in our power to set it up because without Jesus Christ, we can do nothing. However, wisdom knows about God as the true author of all that is good, and wisdom knows about God's will. God has also promised that He does not withhold good from those who walk uprightly. "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly" (Psa 84:11). As we have seen it is the express will of God that there should be equality among His

churches all over the world. Therefore, we can put all our trust in the promise of God and His steadfast love that He will answer prayer for things according to His will. So let us pray until He has answered our prayer. Therefore, let us all pray for the means to be set up to bring about equality. Let us also pray to the Lord to change our hearts so we want to share from our heart.

Change in Standard of Living

Who would have thought three years ago that New York, the city that never sleeps, would be shut down and get its nightly rest? The response to the Coronavirus shut down cities all over the world. Suddenly, life changed on planet Earth. Why did some authorities shut down social life for some time? One argument was that intensive care units needed to be protected from being overrun. Therefore, they hoped to slow down the development of infection by making people stay at home. The justification for this rule was that saving lives was more important than people having fun.

When millions of children die of malnutrition, this very thought should make us Christians go into a voluntary lock down with respect to a luxurious life. Is saving the lives of the children of our brothers and sisters in faith not a good enough reason? When Christians do not have enough to feed their families and provide for health care and education, we Christians should not go out to eat, travel the world, and pursue a luxurious lifestyle. Now I am not talking about special events like engagement dinners or the like, but everyday luxuries. Think of the lockdown, where people were forced to not go out to eat and to stop travelling the world. Should love for brothers and sisters not be at least as powerful a motivation to stay at

home and not waste money? God has shown us a lifestyle during the Corona pandemic that we should take to heart, not living extravagantly.

The most important commandment of Jesus Christ is brotherly love. Jesus says: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34).

If we cannot even share what we have extra, how will the world and God believe that we fulfill this commandment? If however, we will bring equality to the church all over the world, then the world will see the love we have for each other.

Return to the Fear of God

Segments of the church are in Babylon, and brotherly love among the Christians in the world is not universally practiced. Many other sins can be found in the lives of Christians. Not only the walk of us Christians is corrupted, but also the talk and teaching.

We need to come back to the fear of God, which is hatred of evil and love of instruction in wisdom. Hypocrisy in walk, talk and teaching has torn down much of the walls that protect the church of God.

Therefore, let us consider the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ closely.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be

called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 5:17-20).

I have heard that the following commandment is considered as the least by some: "If you come across a bird's nest in any tree or on the ground, with young ones or eggs and the mother sitting on the young or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young" (Deu 22:6).

The main purpose of this commandment is the preservation of this planet. The breaking of this commandment has led to an ever-increasing global catastrophe. All commandments are there for a purpose: to detect a lack of brotherly love and love towards God. There are people who do not have enough insight, and they argue that the commandments are done away with the new commandment of love. They do not understand that the sum of the commandments is brotherly love and love towards God. If they are the sum, the breaking of one of them means that love is no longer complete and true love needs to be returned to. The broken commandment shows the way to come back to complete love. Consideration of the commandments makes sure we strive for a perfect love that has no lack.

These commandments and instructions for achieving perfect love are what the fear of the Lord means. It is written: "By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil" (Prov 16:6).

Jesus Christ atoned for our sins because of His steadfast love and faithfulness. Some people believe that the knowledge of this love alone, will make us turn away from evil. They say this

because they do not have enough wisdom, but have replaced the wisdom of God with human philosophy. Because the wisdom of God teaches exactly this: “ ...and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil” (Prov 16:6).

The church needs to let go of all human philosophies, traditions, and popular teachings that are not based on the fear of God taught in the Bible. The church needs to come back to the fear of God: the instruction of wisdom. A lot of wisdom is taught in Proverbs. There are young, well-meaning Christians who lead youth groups who have been taught human and devilish thoughts that go against the fear of God. All leaders, teachers, and preachers must test all they hold true by seeking the wisdom of God and testing their thoughts against the fear of God that is taught in the Bible.

The teaching of the Pharisees has crept into many hearts and minds. So, allow me to repeat what Jesus Christ says as a warning to all who think God does not protect His true version of love with the instructions of the fear of the Lord. Jesus Christ, the head of all youth group leaders, teachers, preachers and elders, says:

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the

scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mat 5:17-20).

God wants us to turn from evil. The fear of the Lord teaches us what is evil, what causes evil and it makes us turn from evil. "... and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil" (Prov 16:6). Therefore, we are all called to come back to studying the fear of the Lord, which is the beginning of wisdom.

How do we seek wisdom? Solomon says in Proverbs: "My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the

departed; none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous. For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it" (Prov 2:1-22).

Practical Advice to Come Back to the Fear of God

There are thirty-one chapters in the book of Proverbs. Next to other Bible reading, it is a helpful habit to read one chapter of Proverbs a day, corresponding to the day of the month. Example: today is the seventh of December. Read chapter seven. Tomorrow is the eighth of December and you read the eighth chapter.

Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God

Jesus Christ gave the command to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. The gospel has been preached for thousands of years now, and the kingdom of God has spread to all nations. Just like Jesus said, it started out small and it has grown to this day.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is recorded in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the Bible.

I will not repeat all of what is written in these books now. But I will point out what parts found in the Bible need to be preached as well as part of the gospel.

Jesus Christ Is King of Kings

In Germany some have reduced the gospel to a personal level. It is true that a personal level is included, but it is much more than that. We have talked about the erroneous teaching that the kingdom of God has nothing to do with earthly governments, setting the law, and judging people in court.

The truth is that God calls all people to repent and obey His Son, no matter what occupation they have or office they hold. Governments are as much called to repentance as labor unions, churches teaching heresy, or individuals because the kingdom of God is above all spheres of earthly life.

The Apostle Paul preaches: "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

God does not make it a matter of religious freedom whether someone feels like turning to God or not. God commands all people everywhere to repent. I hope all reasonable people will see that a command does not mean you are free to refuse to obey the command. If I go to a market, a seller makes an offer, and I have the freedom to either accept or reject it. No punishment will follow my decision. When a police officer commands me to do something that is within his authority, I am not free to either obey or refuse to obey. If I do not obey, I will face punishment. The same is true when God commands everyone to repent and obey His Son, Jesus Christ. God has created the earth and everybody on it. He is the lawgiver and judge. Therefore, he has all authority to command the people

he created, who have sinned against His law, to repent and worship him. People do not have the freedom to not obey because their refusal to obey will be punished. They also do not have the freedom to worship idols, or riches, or themselves, because God will surely punish that.

It is simply a lie to preach that God is only making an offer to believe in His Son, and a rejection will not make the person liable to judgment.

God commands all people everywhere to repent and obey His Son Jesus Christ. The version for governments in the Bible is similar: "Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him" (Psa 2:10-12).

With respect to governments, God threatens to destroy those that do not yield. Does that sound like freedom of choice? No, not at all.

It is true that individuals and governments have refused for thousands of years to repent and obey Jesus Christ, and they continue to do so to this day. Because of God's plan to have all governments gathered for the day of the great battle of Armageddon, governments all over the world are set up against Him right now. But does their refusal take anything away from the authority of the commandment of God and from his punishment?

True gospel preaching includes the fact that people understand that God commands all people everywhere to repent.

As we have seen, governments lie in bed with the harlot Babylon, and fools spread errors about God. The US system has flooded the world with highly deceptive notions of so-called liberties and freedoms that are deceptive because they partly do not exist and are designed to give Babylon a cover to pursue unrighteous riches. We have seen that US law deprived true righteousness of its most fundamental core, which is equal love toward your neighbor and love towards God with all your heart, soul, and mind.

Babylon does not want governments to repent and obey Jesus Christ because if they do the poor would be protected, and they would stop serving the rich. She is the one who spreads these lies about governments not being commanded to submit to Jesus Christ, because she wants to be free to love riches instead of God and your neighbor.

God, however, wants governments to protect the rights of the poor, and this is one reason why He has given all authority to His Son Jesus Christ. God has endorsed the authority of Jesus Christ by raising Him from the dead. This way, all governments and every person are without excuse for not obeying Him. God has endorsed Jesus Christ as King and King of kings. If He had not raised Jesus from the dead, they might have had a point to ask for proof of Jesus Christ's authority. But God did raise Him from the dead, and there are over 500 witnesses of that fact.

So, if anyone questions the proof of Jesus' authority- that God raised Him from the dead- let him prove the authority of governments that do not obey Jesus Christ. What is the proof of the authority of the Constitution of the US, for instance? The consent of the governed? It is said that less than 50% supported the rebellion against King George III to begin with. The

Constitution has never been voted for by 100% of the governed. Not even more than 50% of the governed consented to the Constitution by vote. Not even 50% of adults were allowed to vote. A large segment of the governed was enslaved by people justifying their rebellion against King George III with their claim that all men are created equal. The US system is based on blatant hypocrisy and has no proof of authority according to their own standards, and still, people do not doubt its authority, but they do doubt the authority of Jesus Christ, which is proven by God. Do you see the obvious untruthfulness of people doubting the authority of Jesus Christ and not doubting the authority of their own system, like the US system?

Let gospel preaching include the universal authority of Jesus Christ over all people and all governments. Let the preaching include the fact that God gave proof of Jesus' authority by raising him from the dead. And let gospel preaching include the fact that God commands all people everywhere, no matter what office they hold or occupation they have, to repent and believe in the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Love and Not So-Called Human Rights Is the Plumbline of All Righteousness Including Political Righteousness

The US system and the United Nations lie in bed with Babylon and give people and governments a pass to serve riches and not Jesus Christ. They declare the scoundrel and fool to be partly free to either actively exploit the poor or passively omit to help them. They are deceptive, build on lies, and make people think they will attain freedom.

True righteousness and freedom, however, are loving your neighbor as yourself and loving God with all your heart, soul,

and strength. Only when you do this are you free, otherwise, you are a slave to sin, and on a collision course with the law of God, and His punishment is heading your way.

The Fall of Babylon

Since the prophecy preceding the fall of Babylon is accomplished, the fall is at hand and should be preached. Everyone should understand that the judgments on Babylon are imminent and that God will pour out His wrath on her. People are made drunk by Babylon, and in this way, they resist the gospel. Once they understand what is going on, they will also hopefully be saved by this knowledge. For sure, God will fulfill the prophecy that masses of people will be saved: "For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord" (Zeph 3:9).

Allow me to remind you that Babylon stands for confusion, and God confused the speech of the people when they wanted to build the tower of Babel. Soon, this will be reversed in its true sense.

Forming a Political Party Standing for the Fear of God and Making Jesus King of Kings

In democracies a party should be formed that stands for Jesus Christ being the King of kings and His wisdom must also be obeyed politically.

One fundamental mistake of the Christians participating in the US Revolution was disobeying the law of God that everyone must submit to the authorities and not rebel against them. Therefore, the party condemns all rebelling against

governments. It proclaims that the fall of Babylon is imminent. It preaches the gospel of the Kingdom of God, and, in this way, uses the political avenue to also evangelize.

It stands up for the three core laws against serving the rich:

- Forgiveness of debt every seven years
- Ban on taking interest.
- Redistribution of basic wealth as soon as possible and afterwards every 50 years.

Dear reader, let me tell all those who have no knowledge of the law of Moses that these three laws reflect three commandments God gave Israel as part of their political law. Maybe now you understand more fully what it means: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Mat 6:24). This, of course, is also true for politics. What is the pillar of authority of Babylon over the world? "The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender" (Prov 22:7). These three laws lay the axe at the root of Babylon's leverage.

Proclamation of God's Judgment: "...Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it?" (Amos 3:6). What good does it do to break God's law of love and make riches in the short term when God's judgments will sweep away all unrighteous gains? Societies cannot sin against God and argue that these policies lead to more prosperity and happiness because wars, pandemics, and other disasters are generally caused when God's commandments are broken.

Proclaiming the necessity of equal love towards you neighbor and love towards God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, is the baseline of all law and not human rights.

Conclusion

Dear reader, we have reached the end of this book. We have not reached the end of the topic of this book. Babylon Is Fallen, Is Fallen. In true life, we have come to the beginning of the fall of Babylon, an event that we probably are not able to fully grasp in its magnitude: terror for some, glorious prospect for others, as well as all the personal implications.

Let us not forget what we read about the Word of God in this book. Let us listen to the Apostle Peter in with respect to the prophecies we read about: "And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts" (2 Pet 1:19).

As a final warning, let us take to heart what wisdom tells us.

"Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster" (Prov 1:20-33).