

PEERING INTO THE FUTURE

“Then he said to them: "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events...On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken” (Luke 21:10-11, 25-26)

People are scared. Watch the headlines and you'll see that the world is starting to get concerned. A general crisis seems to be advancing on several fronts. But while scientists and commentators are wont to catalogue the unfolding global drama, they are in most cases unlikely to draw the apt conclusion; - that these events may have been written of in the Bible, - spoken of by Jesus,- and are but portents of an ever closer End of the Age. The Apostle Peter wrote: **“...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of creation”**. (2Peter 3:3-4) And so we see an ABC News story by Susan Donaldson; - *Apocalypse Now: Flood, Tornadoes, Locusts*, - that mocks the very notion that the Bible could have had anything to say about the times in which we are living. [The fact is, if we take the Scriptures seriously, - if they really have something to say; - then they are saying something about *some* time; - past, present or future. Therefore we must be discerning of what time it is that these prophecies refer to. It's either that, or we make Jesus a liar, or deluded. But I digress.] Ms Donaldson delights in quoting only those liberal theologians that scoff at the possibility of a Biblical connection. Here's one such quote from John P Meir of Notre Dame. **“Only wild-eyed fundamentalists would think that recent weather phenomena have any theological significance”**. The article goes on to lay out a similarity between the **“Christian tradition”** and Hindu and Islamic beliefs. They've **“been forecasting Doomsday for decades”**, opines the piece. Then Thomas Reese of the Woodstock Theological Seminary at Georgetown U, tells us its been going on for millennia, and they get it wrong all the time”. Finally, the author puts a green twist on things, telling us that more and more religious scholars are paying **“more attention to what the Bible has to say about man's destruction of the environment and its relationship to natural catastrophes”**.¹ **“Where is the promise of His coming?”**, say they!

Headlines of Doom

Still the headlines of doom continue in 3 principal areas; - weather / natural disasters, oil, and the global economy. Of course each of these areas affects and is affected by the others. Extreme weather is hurting food production, as is the high price and limited availability of oil. Oil and food shortages are leading to worldwide unrest. All of these taken together are affecting the economy. We'll look at how some of this is going down.

Let's start with food. Even before the earthquake related disasters in China and the massive flooding in the American heartland, the US Department of Agriculture, - after projecting this year's crop, was warning that food supplies would plunge to their lowest levels since record keeping began about a half-century ago; - the equivalent of a 53-day supply.² An official of Britain's Countryside Agency, - stressing the relationship between oil and the food supply, - said that the UK was only **“nine meals from anarchy”**. That is, only about a three day supply was available should anything interrupt the flow of petrol to the British Isles.³ And of course the flooding in Iowa and elsewhere in the US are only exacerbating what is turning into a very real, global food crisis. This is the nation's best farmland

that is going under water, and it is expected to sharply push up the price of corn and soybeans worldwide.⁴ Corn is a major component of many food items. The floods only aggravated an already dangerous situation. Cold Spring weather has delayed plantings in many areas, with some yields expected to be down by as much as 50%. Weather, (in the form of hail, floods and tornadoes) has done its work. Rice, wheat, soy, potatoes, apples and other food items have been affected.⁵

The accumulated bad news has resulted in higher food prices and shortages around the world, - which in turn has led to protests and rioting. The whole food protest phenomenon seemed to get its legs this time around with the Mexican Tortilla Protests of 2007. Thousands of Mexicans took to the streets reminiscent of the Paris Bread Riots of 1789 where Queen Marie Antoinette, when told of the peasants demand for bread, famously replied, "Let them eat cake!" It was an ill-considered remark that fueled the French Revolution and ultimately may have cost the Queen her head. Such is the coin of revolutions. People tend to take eating and feeding their children rather seriously. Now tortillas in Mexico are expected to go up another 18%.⁶ So the food protests and riots have spread around the world. Stan Deyo gives us a rather comprehensive list: Pakistan, Nicaragua, Mexico, Bahrain, Senegal, Ivory Coast, South Africa, India, Yemen, and the Philippines among others.⁷

So we are NOT *headed* toward a major food crisis. According to Paul Roberts, author of *The End of Food: It is already here*. Roberts cites drought, rising demand, and bad energy policy for the precipitous fall in global grain reserves. This is not a short term problem. He points out that it takes 8 lbs of grain to make a pound of meat; - and the newly prosperous Indians and Chinese want to eat meat. The oil shortage is another major problem. Not only is petroleum needed to produce the food, - but it has become what he calls, "the lifeblood of modern agriculture", being used in nitrogen fertilizers, "which are responsible for 40% of the calories produced worldwide".⁸

Another contributing factor is the emerging dominance of Genetically Modified (GM) crops. GM foods are genetically engineered organisms, which use "combinations of genes that have never before existed in nature". Genes from flounder were inserted into strawberries and spinach genes into pigs. The idea was to make crops higher yielding and more resistant to disease. One major problem with this according to one researcher is that "it is dangerous to create living things that may in future be revealed to possess properties or behaviours causing harm to themselves or to other life forms on this planet, including ourselves".⁹

And scientific evidence is mounting that many foods produced this way are indeed unsafe for human consumption. FDA documents made public only after a lawsuit revealed that genetically modified foods "might create toxins, allergies, nutritional problems, and new diseases that might be difficult to identify".¹⁰ It's interesting to know that right now about 70% of the food in American supermarkets contains GM components in various proportions.¹¹ The short history of GM crops is that it came out of a program developed and financed by the Rockefeller family. The Rockefeller's interests became American policy with the adoption of National Security Memo #220, issued in 1974. That policy encouraged the depopulation of Lesser Developed Countries seen as a security risk to US interests. Those countries include; -Thailand, the Philippines, Turkey, Nigeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico, Colombia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Brazil and Pakistan. Just these 13 countries are expected to account for nearly half of world population growth in the near-term future. The memoranda promotes contraception and other measures to reduce populations in those countries.¹² Does this include the strategic use of food supplies? You be the judge. Henry Kissinger, a Rockefeller man who served under President's Nixon & Ford, said this: "Control oil, you control

nations. Control food, you control people”.¹³ Former UN Undersecretary Catherine Bertini stated it perhaps more ominously, at a conference in 1995. “Food is power! We use it to change behavior. Some call it bribery. We do not apologize.”¹⁴

To that end we now have a situation where world agriculture is increasingly controlled by a handful of agribusiness giants; - Cargill, Archill Daniel’s etc. Monsanto, DuPont & Dow etc control the seed industry. And the chief by-product of the GM crops is something referred to as ‘terminator seeds’. This terminator technology means that the crops do not produce seeds that can reproduce. They’re infertile. This is nothing but “inferior second generation seed”. This gives the seed companies complete control of the farmers next crop. And as Big Agriculture gains an increasing grip on the world’s food supplies, - the world’s farmers become more and more dependent on Big Agriculture. Edward Hammond, of the Rural Advancement Foundation International, states plainly that “The sole purpose of [the Terminator] is to sterilize seed”. That “technology is aimed solely at the purpose of preventing the germination of anything that is grown in the farmer's field. There's no agronomic benefit for the technology”. Even the US Department of Agriculture has admitted that the target for terminator technology is primarily “Second and Third World” nations. This is all a matter of control. It is a globalization of the food market.¹⁵ That globalization is continuing. Monsanto now has plans to acquire Central America’s largest seed company.¹⁶ So for a number of very interrelated reasons: It appears the food crisis is here to stay. Jan Lundberg puts it very succinctly. “You. Will. Not. Be. Able. To. Get. Food.” She concludes; “We are headed for massive shortages of food and other essentials”.¹⁷ That’s the same conclusion the Bible comes to regarding the time of the Tribulation.

The Oil Thing

So there’s the food pressure, but oil is related to it and its causing its own set of problems. Peering ahead, Gazprom, Russia’s petrol monopoly, is predicting that oil will be selling for \$250 a barrel in 2009.¹⁸ Oil traders, speculating on the effects of an American or Israeli strike against the Iranian nuclear sites, are looking for as much as \$300 oil and \$12 per gallon gas if that should occur.¹⁹ The price of oil, and gasoline is climbing, with or without the specter of a confrontation with Iran. So what’s the cause?

Of course we’ve reviewed some of the long-term reasons in the past; - the refusal of the US to drill and explore new fields over the last quarter century, - the refusal to build new refineries, - the refusal to explore the nuclear alternative, - the refusal to explore other technologies, - the rising demand for oil from Asia, - the diminishing supply, - the fear and rumors of war. Even an increase in Saudi production of about 500,000 barrels per day has had little effect. According to one OPEC minister, that’s due to the fact that the West does not have the ability to take advantage of that windfall because it does not have sufficient refining capacity.²⁰

The price of fuel is now starting to have an effect worldwide. In Belgium, hundreds of protesters including truckers, taxi drivers and farmers blocked roads to send a message to EU officials meeting in Brussels.²¹ But Belgium wasn’t alone. Spanish drivers conducted a ‘go slow’ campaign as did those in Hong Kong. There were protestes in Portugal and France. There was tire burning in India and Nepal. Compared to overseas, American gas is downright cheap. The Brits were paying \$8.65 for a gallon of gas and about a dollar more for diesel.²² Oil, which drives everything else, is on the way up.

Poised For A Crash

Pressure from the real estate market, and the bond markets, and the falling dollar have precipitated unprecedented warnings from some pretty 'conservative sources'. Citing differences in monetary policy between the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank, Morgan Stanley is warning of a "catastrophic event" that will effect the entire world.²³ As to the strength of the dollar, Schroeder Management, - a \$277 billion investment business, - predicts that the American currency could fail so badly that the price of gold could go to from a little under \$900 to near \$5000 an ounce.²⁴ While many of the dollar's woes can be traced to systemic conditions such as the massive American debt and the dependence on foreign investors like the Chinese to keep the American bond market afloat, - some of it too, is linked to purposeful attacks on the part of its enemies. According to MEMRI, radical Islamists are attempting to engineer a massive sell-off of US dollars. This is to be done, prior to, - in their words now, - a major al-Qaeda terror attack on the American mainland that will undermine the economy.²⁵ Then there's the Royal Bank of Scotland, who last week warned its clients to "brace for a full fledged crash in global stock and credit markets" over the next quarter. They foresee a massive fall in the S&P 500 by September.²⁶

The Accumulated Affect

Put this all together and it presents an unprecedented opportunity for the forces promoting One World Government to advance their agenda. The constant and accelerating pressure from wars & rumors & food shortages & terror & oil shortages & economic collapse, puts the New World Order types in the drivers seat. Why not increase our security. It's the peace and safety argument. So we see the first stirrings of martial law in America as law enforcement government employee "strike teams" break into homes in the Iowa flood areas, - in seeming violation of the 4th Amendment guarantees. In contrast people trying to reenter their homes were being arrested or turned away at gun point.^{27 28} But Iowa was not the only site of this martial law training. The Denver Daily News reports that that city was 'invaded' by a number of military helicopters involved in an anti-terror multi-agency training.²⁹ Earlier this year, the Marines conducted martial law training on the streets of Indianapolis.³⁰ To many observers, this is all but part of a plan to prepare the American people to accept the necessity, if not the advantages of martial law and total government control. In his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul admonishes us to recognize the times in which we live. As we look at the evidence of the age in which we are living and compare it to Scripture, we are to understand the importance of the days we were granted to live in. **"But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman."** (1Thessalonians 5:1-3)

So where is this all headed? We cannot say for certain. As Christians we know that we are to recognize the season in which we are living. **"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."** *Next week we will look at the outlook from two sources that have proved accurate in the past. One is a modern think tank, the other is David Wilkerson, the pastor of Times Square Church in New York City. I promise you an interesting ride.*

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