

## What About... End Time Prophecy and Today's World

By Steve Sebastian

In Matthew 24:3, the disciples asked Jesus, "...*what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?*" Jesus begins by describing what appears to be the start of the 7-year tribulation period. Jesus says that, at some point in history, the world will appear to be coming apart through wars and natural disasters, but do not be fooled. In Matthew 24, He explains that the world will not be coming apart, but together, as one people, in rejection of Him. What we see happening today is a world coming together and headed towards a physical conflict in the Holy Land with the Lord Almighty. But God has promised that when the day arrives, He will pour out His wrath and judgment upon the wicked, and after that, *the meek shall inherit the earth* (Matthew 5:5).



### Global Rebellion

Genesis 11:1-9 tells us that about 100 years after the Flood, everyone on earth was gathered together in one place. They shared one language and a common goal, to establish themselves as one people in one location, against God's command to "*be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth*" (Genesis 9:1). In rebellion, they said "*Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth*" (Genesis 11:4).

Mankind was in rebellion against God. But this rebellion ended when God changed their languages and caused them to scatter across the globe, as He had intended. The families of Noah eventually settled into nations, according to Genesis 10:32. But in today's age of advanced technology, it appears that mankind is again coming together in another attempt to establish their own glory, apart from God. How will the Lord respond to this new global rebellion?

### The New Virtue

What is it about the world that causes it to think that the future belongs to man and not God? The answer is pride. Pride, formerly understood in western society to be a sin, has quickly become the greatest of all virtues. "Pride" flags are now being flown in nations all over the world. A biblical definition of pride is "value apart from God." Since the Garden of Eden, human beings are born with a natural tendency towards pride, which blinds them to the truth that man is completely dependent on God. Regardless of this blindness, God has made the knowledge of His power and glory inescapable through what He has created. Everything that exists was created by the Word of God (John 1:1-3). During every age, the witness of creation has given each man

and woman the choice to either humble themselves before God, or follow pride and self-righteousness, glorifying only their own thoughts and achievements. Romans 1:20-21 reminds us of this fact,

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

### A New Global Rebellion

Today, it feels like the world is coming apart, but that is not true. With Satan's help, the world is again coming together, as one people, with the goal of ruling themselves apart from the judgment of God. It is coming together against the Word of God (Psalm 2:1-3). In the western civilized world, which for so long accepted the Bible as the source of absolute truth, we are seeing the knowledge of God attacked in every possible way. For well over 1,000 years, secular western society agreed that the Bible was the source of absolute truth. But, sometime in the early 1900s, society adopted evolution as the new absolute truth. Eventually, the concept of absolute truth was replaced with relative truth. This is the concept of "what is true for you is not necessarily true for me." Once relative truth was accepted, the individual became their own source of truth.

Now, it appears that the individual and relative truth are quickly being replaced by global governance. Global leaders are seeking to create and enforce their own version of absolute truth with which to influence and regulate the thoughts and actions of each person on the planet. Their new global truth

says that people should not be separated into nations but governed by one group of world leaders whose plans and goals can bring universal peace and safety (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

What is a “global leader”? It is any leader who believes that world peace can be achieved by causing people in every nation to embrace one new global value system, managed by a global government. With religious fervor, they insist that all humanity should be subject to their globalist version of truth, righteousness, and justice. An example of this thinking comes from the homepage of the Global Leadership Network:

[True leaders have a vision of something better, something more; and they care about people enough to help them see that vision, too. Then they find a way to get there, together. That’s what leads to changed businesses, changed churches, changed communities, and changed lives. That’s why we are here. Global Leadership Network (GLN) is a global organization passionate about inspiring and equipping leaders to transform the world for the better.]

However, truth, righteousness, and justice belong to God alone, because they are based on His perfect and unchanging character (Psalm 18:30; Malachi 3:6). Romans 1:18 tells us that there is a strong connection between the wrath of God, man’s unrighteousness, and absolute truth. Romans 1:18, *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.* Notice that Romans 1:18 tells us what brings about God’s wrath. It is when man denies the truth in order to justify his sinful pleasures and desires (2 Timothy 3:1-7).

*Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!* (Isaiah 5:20). The term “woe,” as used in Isaiah 5:20, is an announcement that a severe judgement of God is coming. These verses together are a warning for us to never justify our sinful thoughts and behavior by changing the truth into a lie. We should always be quick to agree with God when our behavior is sinful. Lies agree with the character of Satan (John 8:44-45).

## The Final Result

So where is the world headed? The book of Revelation says that eventually truth will prevail, and the entire world will be governed by the righteous rule of Jesus Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4). But first it must come together under a single, evil empire and global ruler known as the Beast (Revelation 13:1). The Beast will claim to possess all truth, and the world leaders of that day will pledge their allegiance to him and his empire. The Beast will have complete control over the Gentile nations, and he will have their full support. This Beast (also called anti-Christ – 1 John 2:18) will make a 7-year peace treaty with Israel. But he will break this treaty and seat himself in their rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, claiming to be God Almighty (2 Thessalonians 2:4). The Beast will devour the whole earth (Daniel 7:23), and the world will worship him. *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain* (Revelation 13:8).

Satan, the father of lies, who first deceived man into desiring their own knowledge apart from God, is behind this emerging global governance (Ephesians 6:12). He is guiding the world towards Armageddon (Revelation 19:11-21). But this global rebellion will also fail, and God will again separate the people, but this time they will be separated by righteousness and unrighteousness as described in Matthew 25:32, *All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

## Conclusion

Today it feels like the world is coming apart, but do not believe it. With Satan’s help, the world is again coming together, as one people, with the goal of ruling themselves apart from the judgment of God. The world is coming together to wage war against the Lord Almighty (Psalm 2).