

## THE RAPTURE, PART 8

In last week's message we looked at two of the nine additional precursor signs that will most likely be in progress prior to the rapture of the church. The first was Israel becoming a nation, and the second was the rise of Russia as a major world power. As we have discussed previously, each of these are simply the “**beginning of sorrows**” or “**the beginning of birth pains**” as Jesus told His disciples in [Matthew 24:8](#). For the most part, all of the signs that we have looked at so far have always been occurring in history (earthquakes, famines, pestilences, wars, nation rising against nation, etc.), but it is their increase in frequency, intensity, and magnitude that help quantify them as legitimate end time event harbingers.

### 3. [Revelation 13:16-17](#) – One world monetary system.

Rev 13:16 (NKJV) **He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell EXCEPT one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

David Jeremiah wrote an excellent book called [The Coming Economic Armageddon: What Bible Prophecy Warns About the New Global Economy](#) in which he said that much of what is related to greed is based on the continued borrowing of money by governments or individuals for the purpose of living beyond their means. It is the idea of buying things we do not need with money we do not have. It is like the world is experiencing what we might call “global financial earthquakes”. Many countries are financing and administering huge entitlement programs, wars, and runaway big government spending that sink their countries into a quagmire of deficits, debts, and skyrocketing inflation. Eventually, that lack of financial control leads to very undesirable consequences. It is similar to a national Ponzi scheme in which we are trying to outrun ourselves because we know that spending and borrowing at an ever-increasing pace will lead to the entire financial system collapsing from exhaustion in trying to stay ahead of its debt and inflation.

I know that these end-time signs / events that are addressed in the Scriptures are not specifically related to the United States, and I do not want to even give the appearance that they are. These are worldwide, global events. Because we live in America, we know that the national debt is so outrageous that it defies imagination as to how bad it really is. No one wants to really talk about it, and in reality, it is very doubtful that anyone can do anything about it. Reversing the damage may be virtually impossible. I do not think that it would surprise anyone with the way that the government is printing money and handing it out in trillions in an age of entitlement and reparations, that there could easily be a repeat of the Great Depression in the 1930s, but to a much larger magnitude. In America, the United States government is the nation's largest employer. I looked up what the current national debt of the United States is today on the U.S National Debt Clock and it is almost \$28 trillion which means that it would cost every taxpayer in America nearly \$225,000 to be able to pay it off. The revenue that the government takes in from taxes, however, is less than \$3.5 trillion / year, so the debt is far outdistancing the revenue that can be collected to pay it off. It is just a matter of time before the house of cards falls – right? That is simply common sense.

Now, no matter what kind of perspective you choose to have on all of this, suffice it to say that some kind of major global financial collapse seems inevitable in the future. Never in the history of man are

global economies so intricately interwoven with one another as they are today. This is a subject that we could literally address for days, but suffice it to say that technology will eventually be the driving force in how monies are handled. Just as a point of reference, all that is needed to implement and implant digital monies into someone's body is already in place. As described in [James 5:1-6](#), many of the financial problems are clearly fueled by greed at every level. In America we have big pharma, big government, big financial institutions, and huge corporations that somewhat control the wealth. Elon Musk recently became the world's richest man with a net worth of \$189 billion. With the advent of manufacturing robotics, the working middle class in America could begin to realistically vanish in the next decade or two as we progress further and further toward socialism. Whenever it actually happens, the mark of the beast will be widely and quickly accepted at the mid-point of the Tribulation, and we can see everything falling into place for that kind of event to actually occur.

Without me going into much detail about this sign, it should be obvious that the world is on the brink of a potential economic collapse or at least some kind of monetary readjustment. Just trying to define which national world currency becomes the standard, and whether or not to even use actual cash is very much up for debate. Digital money may soon become the only form of money utilized, and if that is ever an international reality, then the issue becomes what kind of system will handle the transfer of monies for buying and selling. Obviously, it will be controlled digitally, invisibly, seamlessly.

I was reading this week about some predictions that the World Economic Forum was making for 2030, and its first statement said that by 2030 that you will “no longer own anything, but you will be happy”. It said you would not go shopping, but everything would be delivered to you by drones. They said that after the pandemic that we must not slip back into the old ways of doing business. They said that COVID-19 has revitalized the social contract – whatever that means. Their goal is to control and reshape what they call “mindsets and agendas” and create what they refer to as “historic shifts”. They call it “The Great Reset Initiative” that they are starting in managing the direct consequences of the COVID-19 crises. I want to quote for you how they describe this “opportunity”.

*“As we enter a unique window of opportunity to shape the recovery, this initiative will offer insights to help inform all those determining the future state of global relations, the direction of national economies, the priorities of societies, the nature of business models and the management of a global commons. Drawing from the vision and vast expertise of the leaders engaged across the Forum's communities, the Great Reset initiative has a set of dimensions to build a new social contract that honors the dignity of every human being.”*

Sounds noble, but this is probably a reset for what is often called “The New World Order”. The language is commendable and appealing, but it is often the hidden agenda that is really in play. Who are “*all those determining the future state*” or “*the direction of national economies*” – which is your money by the way? It is the incredibly wealthy and extreme elitists making decisions for the rest of us – what they call the “*vast expertise of leaders*”. I can assure you that it is not you or me. What is happening is that this kind of initiative is trying to move the world from what they call “crisis to consolidation”, and resetting the financial system is one way to accomplish that initiative. The rich will remain wealthy and everyone else will grow poorer.

In preparation for what is referred to as the “mark of the beast”, it may seem like science fiction to many, but the idea of implanting wearable electronics on or under your skin is already very much a reality. These implants, which are already being used by some individuals, can monitor medical data and keep your doctors apprised of your health. Many heart patients already have implants that transfer vitals to their doctors on a regular basis. In banking, these “digital tattoos” would become what we could call a “foolproof digital wallet”. It would give a new meaning to “paying in person”. The advantages of this kind of financial system will make paper money and credit cards useless if the technology can be embedded into an individual with some kind of non-threatening technology. The obvious downside is that if some government does not like what you are doing and hard currency is no longer in existence, all the government would have to do to control everything about your life is to cut off your digital account so that you cannot buy or sell anything until you comply with their demands or regulations. Let me just forge a legitimate example here. If you own guns and they have been registered and the government decides to ban and confiscate guns, if you choose to not play by their rules, then all they have to do is cut off your digital monetary account. It will be a kind of legal blackmail. You would be at the mercy of the ideas of anyone in power at the time and if their ideologies conflicted with yours, they would be able to easily control you by cutting off your ability to buy or sell. What we are talking about here is no longer make-believe, but reality.

From a purely biblical perspective, the technology advancements in this area coupled with the deteriorating global economic systems, are making everything ripe for the ready acceptance of the “mark of the Beast” on a person’s right hand or forehead as a means of control in what will be the new methodology of controlling the masses. This ability to control what someone buys or sells is prophetically mentioned in [Revelation 13:16-17](#) which says,

**Rev 13:16 (NKJV) He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell EXCEPT one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**

This “mark of the beast” is not actually initiated until after the antichrist sets himself up as God in the temple in Jerusalem and that is what will mark the midpoint of the tribulation. Thankfully, Christians will have been raptured 3 ½ years prior to this event. It seems from these verses that this kind of system, even though the technology is currently present, may not actually be implemented on a global scale until [Revelation 13:16-17](#) has been fulfilled. Obviously, implementing and developing this kind of cultural shift and economic change will somehow be under development and will probably be taking place in some form prior to [Revelation 13](#), and that is what may impact believers.

To make it even more believable, it is a well-established fact that the technology is already in place to use what are called microchip tattoos (often called electronic tattoos) that are currently being used to track animals. They will soon be used to track and monitor people, to include all of their finances, personal information, and vaccine and health records. It is not beyond reason to think that vaccines may become the new standard of control for such areas as employment and travel. Some countries have already adopted and are currently implementing what they call a COVID-19 Passport. Many health facilities are mandating their health workers must be vaccinated to be employed. The microchips are marked with a small barcode that can be scanned just like the tags on any item that you buy in a grocery or retail store. Everything about you will be able to be tracked and catalogued, and especially your

finances. Not everything that I am describing is in and of itself a bad thing, but the point is that it all is a precursor for the fulfillment of an end time, last days prophecy. Just as a side note to this discussion, the current microchips used in animals lead to increased incidences of cancer and tumors in certain animals and rodents. Because the technology is available to implement this, it will not be long before some governments may require this of all citizens, or they will be denied access to food, gasoline, medicine, and any other item necessary to live.

Now, at this point in the discussion I want to make a couple of spiritual observations that really impact all of us. The first is that no matter what man wants to create as some kind of New World Order, or whatever other kind of name that they may give it, the ultimate and final New World Order will be the one sovereignly ordained by God. It has two distinct aspects. The first aspect is what we call the Millennium and is described in [Revelation 20:4-6](#).

**Rev 20:4 (NKJV) And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.**

The second aspect of God's new world order is called "a new heavens and a new earth" described in [Revelation 21:1-4](#).

**Rev 21:1 (NKJV) Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. <sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. <sup>4</sup> And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."**

Obviously, there is much more detail related to both of these, but most of the biblical information is in the Old Testament books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Amos, Micah, and Zechariah. Suffice it to say that this world is not our home and as [Hebrews 11:10](#) says, we are looking for that city "which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God". [Titus 2:13](#) clearly states that for which we as Christians should be looking,

**Tit 2:13 (NKJV) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**

I love how the writer of Hebrews states this in [Hebrews 11:13-16](#) when he says,

**Heb 11:13 (NKJV) These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. <sup>14</sup> For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a**

**homeland.** <sup>15</sup> **And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.** <sup>16</sup> **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.**

No matter what kind of condition the world is in and no matter how much unrest and turmoil that surrounds us at various times, this is not the world that God wants us to be looking for and putting our hope in, but rather God's kingdom which is to come. This world simply is not our home. Any kind of global "utopia" that anyone thinks is achievable without God is a fool. At best, most anything that man creates without God eventually becomes a living hell.

Secondly, and this simply an encouragement to each of us relative to the near term future in light of the unrest and tension that surrounds us nationally and politically. Hopefully over the years I have taught you well regarding the sovereignty of God over all things – over the spiritual principalities and powers in the heavenly places, over the rulers and kingdoms of the world, and over anything else with which life may confront us. My encouragement to you is simple. Now, we get to find out who truly believes in the sovereignty of God. We will either spend our time and days complaining against the outworking of the sovereignty of God in these last days, or we will bow our knees to seek His face on how He wants us to submit to that sovereignty and be conformed more and more into the image of Jesus Christ. May God in heaven, may Jesus Christ at the throne, and may the Holy Spirit within give us the grace to be and live how He desires during turbulent times. If it gets worse, if things do not go how we would like, may we never forget how glorious, how powerful and how sovereign our God is. [Romans 13:1-6](#) is a great passage on which to study and meditate, and [Romans 13:1-2](#) is very clear when it declares,

**Ro 13:1 (NKJV) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.** <sup>2</sup> **Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.**