

outreach

The New Horizons Newsletter

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Matthew 28:19-20

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The Global Plan

Mankind longs for utopia. Hesiod, Plato to today's man-in-the-street - all dream of a golden age of peace and prosperity. It *will* come, for the Creator God has ordained it. *But not yet*, for we still have lessons to learn.

That, however, doesn't stop us trying to implement it! Notice this UK Government statement: 'We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment'.

They are sentiments that all of us, surely, will applaud and they will, when Jesus reigns, be the 'new normal' when God re-sets priorities. They are in fact a summary of the United Nation Sustainable Development plan—also known as *Agenda21*, now updated to *Agenda30* (the projected date for completion).

One World

This plan, formulated with papal support, envisions a world without national borders but can be realized only under the umbrella of a single overarching authority—a 'world government' no less. It is the new 'faith' of *globalism*—a utopian world in which all of us accept the diktats of an elite ruling class.

Agenda30 has three elements—*social equity, economy, environment* and assumes willing compliance by all. Unlikely, given human nature! Few will willingly relinquish their ancestral faith (part of the 'equity' element).

Nor will they relish the redistribution of wealth (economy) nor the appropriation of all private property. (environment).

Inherent in this long-cherished plan, therefore, is the need for coercive enforcement and the elimination of all opposition. This destructive global kingdom will be short-lived. and will be speedily replaced by the universal Kingdom of God. All the expressed aspirations of those behind man's global plan *will* become reality—but only under the benign rule of Jesus Christ.

The prime mover of this one-world movement is the papacy, which seeks to restore its medieval authoritarian rule—but on a global scale. Under the present pope the plan has been accelerated. It has the ardent support of world leaders—political, financial, business, religious—and appears to be approaching maturity. [*see side-bar*]

Alert!

Bible-believing Christians need to

"A global plan called the Great Reset is underway. Its architect is a global élite that wants to subdue all of humanity, imposing coercive measures with which to drastically limit individual freedoms and those of entire populations. In several nations this plan has already been approved and financed; in others it is still in an early stage. Behind the world leaders who are the accomplices and executors of this infernal project, there are unscrupulous characters who finance the World Economic Forum and Event 201, promoting their agenda."

(RC) Archbishop Viganò

The Sabbath Mind-set

Whatever culture we are born into there is instilled in each of us a particular thought pattern. I do it this way because mum and dad did it this way. This is how dad walked and so, too, do I. Mum made pancakes this way. Me too.

You grow up in a Muslim household, so Friday is your day of worship and you observe it as do all Muslims. Or it's Sunday if you are a Baptist of Anglican or Catholic. It is your mind-set and your unthinking inherited pattern of behaviour.

But what if your belief system is challenged and demands radical change? If your perceived behaviour sets you apart from fellow religionists or family or neighbour then, as Jesus warns us, you must first '*...count the cost*' (Luke 14:28), for change may have unwelcome consequences.

Bible Faith

It's a situation that can visit anyone of any faith or none when God taps you on the shoulder and invites you to follow Jesus Christ—*all the way*. For that new path will—whether you are Christian or Jew or Hindu or Muslim—call for fundamental changes not only in attitude but also your day-to-day behaviour,

God's Spirit will work to change you inwardly, to transform you into the image and character of Christ, but *you* have to make outward changes in your life-style. You must nourish a whole new mind-set, one driven by God's revelation of Himself in His written Word.

Sabbath—God's Mark

Almost all of Christendom, submitting to the church of Rome's mark of authority, weekly observes the ancient pagan 'day of the sun'. It is an affront to the Creator who—at our creation—gave us the *seventh* day of the week as a memorial of His power and majesty in the creation and for our benefit: '*...in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it*' (Exodus 20:11).

Society as a whole is already fixated on Sunday as the universal day of rest (voluntary, for now), even worldwide—eg in commerce—and Sunday laws have been proposed in some nations (eg Italy, Poland, Germany, Croatia).

Faced with a future stark *yea* or *nay* choice now

is the time for Sabbath-keepers to develop a Sabbath-observing mind-set. It must become as habitual to us as breathing. God, who doesn't change, has blessed us with this weekly pause in the daily round. It is *His* mark, beloved throughout time by the Israel of God, and unchanging: '*...hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign [Heb. oth] between me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God*' (Ezekiel 20:20).

"Sunday is our mark of authority...the church [of Rome] is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact."
Catholic Record of London, Ontario, 1923

'The [Roman] Church of God has thought it well to transfer the celebration and observance of the Sabbath to Sunday.' *Council of Trent, Catechism, 1566*

As faith withers in face of the onslaught of godless materialism, society pressures us to conform to this hedonistic avaricious world. We must remain alert to the Satanic deceptive influences that increasingly seek to ensnare us.

'...be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God'

Global...cont'd from p.1

pay close attention. However practical and however harmless such worldwide unity might appear, therein lie the seeds of destruction. The present gentle and supportive garb donned by the modern papacy shrouds a dark and devilish agenda. The unity they seek to impose is coercive, a many-headed hydra. That seeks to enthrone Satan as 'king of the world'.

'Climate change', 'global warming' and 'economic stability' are a cover for engineered world depopulation and appropriation of all private resources. 'World peace', given mankind's unregenerate nature, is possible only by abject submission to draconian authority enforced by the arms of a pliable union of nations.

The world faith will be an affront to the Father and to Jesus Christ—blasphemous. The idol before which all must bow on pain of torture and death is not the Bible Sabbath but a universal Sunday. The 'god' of this re-set world is Satan, who knows his time is short, infesting a willing and plausible but prominent anti-Christian leader ensconced in the 'temple of God', the church of God, Christendom. Ω

The 'Remnant' Identified

The history of the people of God can be summed up in the words of Isaiah: '*...Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah*' (ch 1:9). God, for their iniquity, would have destroyed Israel if there had not remained a faithful few, the 'Israel of God'.

Just as in Noah's time or with Lot (II Peter 2:6-7) few in today's world are willing to stay faithful to the whole word of God. Indeed in the book that is designed to prepare us for the catastrophic events that precede the return of Jesus (Revelation) the apostle John refers to this 'remnant' at that time (Gk *loipoi*—the rest, residue).

It has ever been so. Jesus referred to his true followers as a 'little flock' (Luke 12:32), and warned that '*... narrow is the gate, and constricted is the way that leads away into life, and few are the ones finding it*' (Matthew 7:14). That 'life'—to become adopted into the Kingdom of God—is so awesome a responsibility that total commitment is needed: '*...Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God*' (Luke 9:62). The apostle John sheds light on why.

The 'Remnant' Defined

Jesus's focus is the residue of the church of God in the years just prior to his return. Recall that he had queried as to whether at that time he would 'find faith' (Luke 18:8). The apostle provides the characteristics of those who will be faithful.

Earth will then be in turmoil. Christendom will have long abandoned the Biblical faith, despite the (incomplete) worthy attempts at reform down the centuries—often in the face of persecution and martyrdom at the hand of secular and ecclesiastical Rome.

John is projected into the time that God will terminate man's rule and unleashes a series of terrible warnings—'seven trumpets' (Revelation ch 8 to 10). Despite the awesome events of these judgments mankind still opposed God: '*...they did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornications, nor of their thefts*' (ch 9:21). The warning of this *sixth* trumpet refers to mankind's relations with mankind. Worse followed, as the seventh trumpet (or 'third woe') judgment was unleashed (ch 10:7).

The *seventh* trumpet blast has a different focus. It (also called the '*third woe*') is the harbinger of the '*seven last plagues*' by which God unleashes on rebellious mankind the awesome force of the disturbed natural world, a world that has for millennia spurned the righteous laws by which God established the natural order. Pivotal to this is God's *fourth* command, as identified by the seventh angel.

The angel swears: '*...by him that lives for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein*

are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein' (v.6). The angel here clearly summarizes the *first four* commandments, our relationship with the one true God (Exodus 20:1-11).

Judgment comes on mankind, he is saying, for rejecting Him and for neglecting God's rest day—the seventh day of the week. It is God's 'signature'. His mark of authority inscribed at the heart of the Ten commandments. If mankind had followed the one true God's guidance we would have unlocked unfathomable blessing, both material and spiritual.

It's a concept writ large in the Scriptures. The LORD, for example instructs Moses: '*...Speak also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths you shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that you may know that I am the LORD that sanctifies you*' (Exodus 31:13). It is still understood five hundred years later: '*...hallow my sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you, that you may know that I am the LORD your God*' (Ezekiel 20:20). And '*...set a mark [Hebrew, a signature] upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof*' (ch 9:4)..

Christendom's Alternative

Not many centuries passed before the church Jesus is building became entangled with the pagan culture that enveloped the Roman Empire. By imperial decree the church (4th cent) adopted Sunday as its day of worship in accord with the all-pervasive sun worship. It is proudly professed by the church as it's mark of authority: '*...the Catholic Church claims that the change (Saturday Sabbath to Sunday) was her act... And the act is a mark of her ecclesiastical authority in religious things.*' H.F. Thomas, Chancellor of Cardinal Gibbons. And: "*Sunday is our mark of authority. . .the church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of that fact*" . Catholic Record of London, Ontario, 1923.) The 16th century Reformers well understood the true Sabbath but to this day most Protestant churches continue to embrace Sunday worship.

John in these words sums up the characteristics of the faithful: '*...Here is the patience of the saints; here are the ones keeping the commands of God, and the faith of Jesus*' (Revelation 14:12). Patiently they endure persecution and often martyrdom in face of a Satan-dominated world. Ω

The Sixth Trumpet

The UN *Agenda 2030* focuses on what is highlighted by the papacy as 'the common good'. The concept encapsulates those six commandments which summarize '*love your neighbour as yourself*'—as John notes in describing the '*sixth trumpet*' (Revelation 9:14ff).

All very praiseworthy—but not globally achievable with unregenerate mankind: '*... they did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornications, nor of their thefts*' (v.21).

The Mystery of Satan

Sceptics deride the account in Genesis of the encounter with the Devil by our first parents. Let's look at this record, probably from the words of Adam himself.

Satan appears on the scene—in Genesis chapter three—suddenly. His interaction with our first parents starts abruptly. Or so it seems. On the face of it he arrives coincident with our first parents. But we aren't told how many days, or years even, that Adam had already remained faithful. It may, for example, have taken a lengthy time to appropriately—through observation—name the various species, and time for Adam to become aware of a need for companionship.

“The “knuckle-dragging” mystery has challenged researchers for years. Walking on your knuckles is absolutely as odd as walking bipedally, a very peculiar way to get around. It doesn't make sense, and it's bothered us anthropologists for years. Only chimps and gorillas do it.”

Likely, the Devil had many amicable conversations—perhaps with both Adam and with Eve. He 'groomed' the latter and we have here only their final conversations which climaxed with her deception: *'...as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety'* (II Corinthians 11:3). Our first parents undoubtedly had long discussions (and perhaps also with God) about what Satan said! And isn't it rather strange that they would converse with a snake—even if it was upright, standing on its tail? A strange sight!

The Devil, note, is an evil *spirit*—he doesn't have a material body (eg he can enter into an individual, as with Judas Iscariot—John 13:27), and a 'legion' of spirits can enter one individual (Luke 8:30). To have utterance he needs access to vocal chords—serpents can only hiss. Is there an alternative?

[NB. You don't need to believe this for salvation!!]

The word for 'serpent' (Heb. *nachash*) is used for other creatures and features in Scripture (eg Isaiah 27:1, Job 26:13). It is of interest that a cognate word in the Arabic language (Clarke) refers to simians, apes—which do indeed have suitable vocal apparatus. (Researchers today 'converse' with chimps.) The word is also the Arabic for 'Devil'. But, crucially, apes lack functional activity in their brain in the Brocas area. This 'speech area' is eight times larger in humans. Satan made use of that facility.

It has also been shown from their skeletal structure that chimps and gorillas were designed to walk upright—and they have indeed been trained by anthropologists to do so. They now usually crouch using all four limbs—'knuckle draggers'. They are also surprisingly 'intelligent' and recognize word patterns.

Not such a silly story, then!

Ω

All Roads Lead to Rome

There is one denomination in Christendom that dwarfs all others in numbers and in its influence—the Church of Rome. There are 1.3 billion Catholics—about the same as all other Christian denominations combined.

It presents as a monolithic and cohesive church but has, since the second Vatican Council (1962–65) experienced serious internal fractures. Many of the clergy, including Cardinals, have dissented from the 'Magisterium'—the official teaching office ('ex-cathedra'). It marked a liberalizing of the hitherto austere conservative face of the church and was viewed by many as a betrayal of foundation principles and tradition. It facilitated the installing of such venerated figures as John Paul the twenty-third and the present Pope Francis. The latter replaced Pope Benedict, the last (but still alive) of the 'old school'.

Predictions

Many, following St Malachy (13th cent.), believe Pope Francis is the final pope: *"In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church there will reign Peter the Roman, who will feed his flock amid many tribulations, after which the seven-hilled city will be destroyed and the dreadful Judge will judge the people. The End [of the papal line]."*

Also accredited with many predictions concerning the end-time is Jesus's mother—held in high esteem, especially in the Church of Rome—which warn of the same disintegration of the church and the end-time chaos. *[Mary, of course, is dead and incapable of direct influence, being asleep and unconscious until the resurrection!]*

A New Path

Whenever the church has been in the ascendant—as in the thousand years plus of the medieval period—it has exerted powerful pressures on its client states and their citizens to conform, often by force of arms [the Inquisition]. This power was stripped from it in the late eighteenth century, but restored in 1929 by Mussolini. Although it is also a secular state ('the Vatican') it still doesn't yet wield its former worldwide influence, though it has now begun to enshroud most world leaders and also Protestantism as major pastors embrace the papacy and its agenda for change.

All who profess the name of Christ—and especially Sabbath observers—are urged to be aware of the present 'signs of the times'. Our commitment will be tested.

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