

# Newsbytes

The First Watch

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“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

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by Mary Danielsen

The Scriptures tell us that in the last days, earth dwellers will embrace a global government, a global religion and a global economy. Every significant news item pertaining to prophecy will fit into one of these three categories. The closer we get to the Lord’s return, I have noticed that these three categories also become more and more inseparable, more intertwined. And we will certainly see that here.

I’m going to get a little political which I have never done, I really do not like politics at all, but bear with me, I’m going somewhere with it, and I believe that the political scene playing out today will help us see the big picture.

What’s going on in our nation since the election is far more interesting than right vs left, conservative vs democrat. It appears that the partisan media-driven conflicts we are enduring daily will likely not let up for the foreseeable future, and so we have two options as believers: to view all the chaos since the election through the lens of politics, or through the lens of prophecy. We can be endlessly frustrated with the mess, or we can find a way to be on the edge of our seats watching and waiting for the Lord to return despite the chaos. So, for the sake of both our sanity and our blood pressure, let’s choose door #2.

There’s an oddly upbeat ‘80s tune that you might remember called “Everybody Wants to Rule the World”. Throughout recorded history, both pawns and potentates have steered the course of human events. In the Old Testament, consider Daniel 2 and its account of the history of the major kingdoms of the world conquering and being conquered, from Nebuchadnezzar right up to the return of Jesus. In the New Testament, we have a reference in Revelation 6 to a future white horse of conquest.

In modern times, we had Marx, Lenin and Hitler competing for world dominance. The difference in the global scene today is that Israel is now a regathered nation, the greatest prophetic fulfillment of modern times, and so the clock is ticking, and the world stage is perfectly set up for the final conqueror, Antichrist.

Politics, as unsavory as it often is, is the backbone of a society. The rule of law, political leadership, civil order, and military protection are all wired into society, hopefully, for the good of the people.

Actually, there are two competing philosophies, or worldviews, for governing and they inherently clash

with one another:

**Option 1** is the premise that people are born free and sovereign, and surrender certain freedoms to a limited government to achieve mutual benefits. Sovereign people ruling sovereign nation-states.

**Option 2** is the idea of “sovereign government”, in which the government collects and distributes benefits, controlling people in various ways, convincing their subjects that big government is their one shining hope. It is deceptive because they have to make sovereign-born people with God-given free will think it is a government of the people, but in reality, the sovereign government is really calling all the shots. An important side-bar here: let’s take this one step further. One of the most over-used words when it comes to assessing governments outside of the US is “democracy”. It’s pretty meaningless conceptually, since what Americans think of when they hear the word is either way over-simplified or just plain wrong.

Americans think of a “democracy” as a place where people are free and voting and enjoying western-style living. The reality is, any nation that can vote can elect a dictator. If they are without constitutional oversight, in effect their supposedly free and unhindered vote is making that “democracy” a tyrannical dictatorship. The US is a constitutional republic, not a “democracy”. It amazes me how both politicians and pundits have pulled the woolies over collective eyes when waxing on about how this or that nation has “embraced democracy”. It’s pretty meaningless without the checks and balances of a constitution. If we would catch up on some of those nations who had seemingly won the right to vote, maybe 20 years later, what is their life really like? No one follows up on all the great “victories for democracy” that have made the news since about 1975.

Now, in a future global government we will see the sovereign nation-state give way to a world dictatorship. The autonomous nation-state that was birthed in the Roman Empire will come to an end under a Revived Roman Empire, which the bible says will be the most brutal empire ever in all of history. Revelation 17:12 tells us that 10 kings will deliver their sovereign authority to the beast freely, to be ruled forcibly. There’s something about making people think that radical change and giving up their freedoms for the greater good was their idea all the while forcing Option 2 on them that has been a part of all dictatorial realms throughout history. The last of the last days will be no different as the world heads for judgment at high rates of speed.

I find it very interesting and not a little ironic that it appears, since way before the November election, that the differences between left and right have become less pronounced. Behind the scenes over the last several years, conservative and progressive leaders have surprisingly moved closer and closer in agreement on social issues such as abortion and immigration, gay rights, transgenderism, Islam, global warming, perceived bigotry/racism, and political correctness. Yet for the average citizen there is the impression by the media that there is a deep divide between left and right. Which is it? It’s both. Let’s sort through this a bit from a prophecy perspective.

For those of you who believe our nation has lost it’s collective mind lately, you’re not wrong. But the election of our new president has not caused the current mayhem to break out in this country. It has merely revealed mayhem, because the prophetic battle between options 1 and 2 is in reality a battle for global conquest, it’s spiritual, and it’s underway. America will have to be part of the global collective.

So, what I believe is going on here is a struggle between nationalism and globalism, and the recent election merely pulled back the curtain to show us just how far a globalist mindset - not a progressive ideology - has taken hold in America. Globalism and nationalism are going head to head as we are being pushed, pulled and dragged toward the culmination of all things, in which the kingdom of man gives way to the kingdom of Jesus Christ. But first, turbulence. Such as what we are watching unfold.

A globalist wants no borders, no independent thinking, a homogenous mindset and a single rigid viewpoint on just about everything. Political Correctness is the doctrine - the glue - that holds progressive thinking together and homogenizes and cements group thought; the state as the savior of all (Option 2). The Nationalist is someone who promotes national interests, border protection, capitalism, freedom of thought and speech, self-defense, strong parental rights, an individualistic approach to everything. (Option 1). This is what we have known in our nation and those over a certain age are not willing to replace it, for good reason.

But all of a sudden, it's tough to be a nationalist - they are shouted down violently, bullied and marginalized in public forums, as though no conversation is even desired on any point of disagreement. Freedom lovers are gasping for breath today, and this includes Britain who voted to get out of the EU for the same reasons - because the sovereign nation is being pushed aside in favor of a one-world-everything.

Have you wondered why some major corporations join in with political boycotts over bathrooms and who marries whom? Because they're multinational globalists. That "fair and balanced" network that speaks out of both sides of its mouth? Globalists.

How else can you explain the hollywood feminists marching to not only promote abortion rights --but headcoverings and sharia law, and allow themselves to be bankrolled by George Soros, the quintessential globalist? It makes no sense at all without the proper perspective.

Alternately, why are those pushing back against the far left are called Nazis and actually referred to as Hitler himself? Because to globalists, anyone who disagrees with them is a terrifying threat to their vision of an entitled socialist state. And the average person who has been deceived by the spirit of the age doesn't even realize they are up to their necks in the beginnings of what will become the greatest deception of all time, that this is really a war with God, not a political ideology. The end game of earthly politics is Armageddon, in which the armies of the world are deceived to the point that they think they can go to war with God Himself. And I don't know about you, but from this vantage point in 2017, that doesn't sound too far-fetched to me at all.

Think about all of the causes I have mentioned, from global warming to immigration, gay rights to racial issues, transgenderism and feminism - they are conscience and feelings driven causes. These are the global values, morals and ethics that they insist you must have, so that if you disagree on any point, YOU are the amoral person, the hater, the Nazi, the racist, the homophobe, the Islamaphobe.

The religion of the globalist? Atheism, paganism, humanism, the state as god.

When the state becomes the moral conscience of the people, any lifestyle will do as long as it is in step with the ethics of the state. Of course, there is no room for the Holy Spirit because the globalist conscience has nothing to do with sin so that is why Christians are the most vilified of all peoples here in 2017.

In addition, the liberal progressive church and the red letter movement espouses all the above causes I have mentioned - including feminism, political correctness of every kind, social justice, socialism, a hatred for Israel, and an outright disdain for prophecy. They twist the Scriptures to make it fit their social justice gospel and dominion theology because they believe that somehow culture is redeemable first. The Holy Spirit is not their conscience, political correctness is.

This unity driven, ecumenical, inclusive church of the left is blending in perfectly with the globalists and their politics, and then throw in the broad road to Rome, home of the biggest global religion the world

has ever seen, and everything starts to fit.

There is a great falling away, but it's also moving toward something: the final world religion. So far then, we have a world government, an inclusive religion, and we need one more to complete the trio: a global money system. Here's the latest and it is truly fascinating.

In order for sovereign humans with free will to be enslaved by a sovereign government, they must surrender themselves to the totalitarian entity, in every area of life, freely and forcibly.

A huge part of this worldwide deception that will actually cause people to make decisions about their eternal destiny will be in the form of a global ID and money system. We are the first generation in history to be able to say that the technology exists to implement such a thing at any time. This is found in Revelation 13.



I want to call to your attention something called "ID2020".

The goal of ID2020, begun by a pioneer in financial technology (John Edge) and promoted heavily by the UN, is to make sure every single person in the world has a digital identification within the next 3 - 13 year window.

The refugee crisis has served as the catalyst to bring a new level of global problem-solving to the top of the priority heap. This is not the first time we have seen such a crisis. When Ellis Island became overrun with immigrants 125 years ago, our government held a contest to see who could come up with a way to allow the 1890 census to include all our new citizens, for tax and infrastructure purposes.

An enterprising man named Herman Hollerith came up with the punchcard data system, ("Hollerith Punchcards") which was the dawn of the computer age.

Not too long afterward, this technology became IBM (in the 1920s under Thomas Watson). IBM was also complicit in using this tech to round up and register every Jew in Europe in the 1930s and had a presence at the death camps, as verified in a display at the holocaust museum in Jerusalem. (And thoroughly documented in the blood-chilling "IBM and the Holocaust" by Edwin Black.) IBM has never stopped researching the potential of mass ID. But in my mind technology was birthed in 1890, and here we are again, only technology is no longer in its infancy but reaching its prophesied culmination.



Check out the above mission statement of ID2020 as found on their home page ([id2020.org](http://id2020.org)):

“Accelerating technology to ensure that every person on the planet can access a unique digital identity as part of their basic human rights.” Wow, that’s some kind of entitlement! A digital identity as one of your most basic human rights. I did not get that memo. But they claim that 1.5 billion people live without an officially recognized ID. That’s one in 5 people, or equal to the population of China.

According to their website this digital ID is 1) PERSONAL: unique to you and you only; 2) PERSISTENT: lives with you from birth to death; 3) PRIVATE: only you can give permission to use the data; and 4) PORTABLE: accessible anywhere you happen to be. It’s all about you, this giving up and dissolving your own sovereignty, abandoning yourself to the system for the good of all, based on some birthright, freely, and forcibly.

The white paper that they posted on this tells us that, “having proof of one’s identity is a prerequisite to social and economic inclusion in the modern world.”

Now, precisely how they intend to reach that one person who is impossible to reach, I don’t know, but I do know that this is truly bible prophecy leaping off the page, Revelation 13 at eye level because, without this ID, the global citizen will not have access to health care, groceries, government benefits, education, housing, or employment. That’s your “sovereign” life”, that’s buying and selling beyond groceries. Between 2020 and 2030, this non-profit organization, with the platform of the UN, plans to put in this in place for every single human on earth and that includes children under 5. And you can imagine the push for such a thing following the rapture of the church, to see who is left on earth and enable them to access their bank, job, and other necessities that are a part of life.

This ID could easily be a fingerprint, retina scan, or a tattoo of RFID ink on the hand or forehead, that technology is already a few years old. Implanting chips is old technology so that has to tell you something. Personally, I don’t see a bulky chip being implanted into a bony forehead but that’s my two shekels. The RFID tattoo “on” the hand or forehead seems to line up better with Scripture.

Here’s what’s under the hood, the fine print if you will:

in 2016 I put in many hours of research on something called “Cryptocurrencies”, a digital currency that would not exist without the internet. This is simply a digital, not physical, currency that is encrypted with a password or unique number to protect access - hence the name, “crypto-currency”. Encryption can be as simple as an email or internet password to access a bank account, or it can be much more complex.

The first one to take off is “BITCOIN”. Bitcoin was developed by one person, and it is not going away but rather increasing in value, as major corporations such as Microsoft seek to find a way to adapt and capitalize on this new way of buying and selling. Common retailers such as Amazon, Target, Subway, Ebay, Wholefoods, Dominos and Home Depot are already taking Bitcoin as methods of payment, and major financial players are calling it “the future of money.” (“Bit by Bit, The Rise of Cryptocurrencies” is the result of this research.)

Along with these currencies, there is a global ledger that exists that records every single instance of buying and selling that uses them, in real time, with no wait time to clear a bank. This Ledger of Everything, called the Blockchain, forms a seamless global network in which very transaction, person, event, item, crop, animal and interchange on earth could be registered and accounted for without error, around the clock. Thanks to RFID chips in every single manufactured product on earth, everything going on on the planet could conceivably be known at all times. It is phenomenal technology, whether we can wrap our heads around it or not. I first spoke about the ubiquitous RFID chip in 2007, at the genesis of the “Internet of Things” and is well worth your research. Ten years later, it’s already said to be in place.

The developers of this digital ID that every person will eventually receive claim that it will be kept in the ledger and recorded along with all digital transactions. Blockchain is here, it's working, it's quite possibly the future of buying and selling; it's unhackable and unalterable, cannot be shut down, and will ultimately contain an unfathomable amount of info for a global authority to preside over. The potential for tyranny is off the charts, but if you are a prophecy student, you've been expecting these developments. To see them take shape before our very eyes is not something we want to take for granted. As Jan Markell is fond of saying, "things aren't falling apart, they are falling into place."

How late is it? Don't blow off prophecy like most of the churches today. Don't let yourself be distracted by the politics of the day because it's not worth it, because at the end of the day, the only thing that IS worth it, is to be found watching and waiting for Jesus, and every other detail will "fall into place".

Maranatha!

*Mary Danielson*

## **Who's to blame for bookstore closures?**

Posted By Jim Fletcher    wnd.com

News came recently that Family Christian Stores is finally shuttering all 240 locations. The 85-year-old chain filed for bankruptcy protection in 2015, and now the end has come for the Christian retail giant that employed 3,000 and stretched across 36 states.

As one writer put it, Amazon warlord Jeff Bezos deserves much of the credit for turning most independent bookstores into karate schools or bakeries. But there is another, more specific reason Family Christian Stores is gone.

They did it to themselves.

The explosion came from within, as decades of pandering to the lowest-common denominator within evangelicalism resulted in poorly educated Christians who have read more about Jesus in "Jesus Calling" than from the Bible.

And the "Jesus Calling" version of "Jesus" ain't Him.

The erosion of Christian retail began before my entrance into the publishing industry in 1993, but that decade saw the worst kind of compromise with error in the Church. If one looks at the top 50 bestsellers from CBA (the Association for Christian Retail) currently, a Bible-believer couldn't recommend more than a handful, at most. Family Christian Stores stocked them all.

Whereas CBA for years has allowed the Brian McLaren and Health Communications of the world to be featured at the summer convention, Family Christian Stores has taken a front-row, star-studded table at the front. A powerful entity, Family was courted by publishers and their sales reps. The result was a multi-headed monster that gouged itself on heretical books and other materials.

The demise of Christian retail and, by extension in my view, the majority of the Evangelical church in this country, came about from a tightly coordinated effort. This ranged from celebrity pastors and ministry heads to publishers and, yes, Christian retail.

The irony is, while Family Christian Stores has imploded, the carcass will simply remain for a while on the highway of “Christian” resources, and the road is well traveled. If books are no longer sold by Family Stores, they will be sold by Amazon, or Saddleback Church, or North Point, or Willow Creek. Et cetera.

You see, a dirty secret of the Evangelical world is that if heretical books no longer have a home in bankrupt retail stores, they live and thrive in conferences, mega-churches, and media.

Celebrity pastors don’t need no stinking Family Christian Retail. They have myriad platforms to rake in the cash.

Mystical, contemplative spirituality, weird experiential-driven claptrap, and social justice progressivism passes today for Christian resources. They all contribute to the biblical illiteracy in this country.

At the Family Christian Stores fire sale, one can find books by Jen Hatmaker (a Never-Trumper, socially progressive “evangelical”), Hillsong’s Brian Houston and William Paul Young, who wrote “The Shack.”

That’s just the tip of the iceberg that has rendered the Evangelical community just another glitzy, over-confident Titanic.

Family Christian Stores made a conscious decision years ago to make cash the only real priority. No vetting of books being peddled by publishers and salesmen who were, in some cases, more pagan than Baal. Anything labeling itself “Christian” was allowed in the door, more enthusiastically if the book sold like hotcakes as we used to say.

The vast majority of evangelicals today, whether in the pews or in Christian retail, have no interest in a lecture by the likes of me. So the pollution of the Evangelical waterways will no doubt continue.

I watched the progressions over the years. At one time, Baker Books promoted heavily the works of people like the creationist scholar Henry Morris (the house still publishes “The Genesis Record”), but only a few years ago found itself in the quicksand of a new imprint, Emergent Village. There, one could find (and still can) books by progressive radicals like Doug Pagitt and Tony Jones (“The Emergent Manifesto”).

A few years ago, Jones – who at one time taught at Fuller – announced that he no longer believes in Original Sin.

Why in the world would Christian retail promote such a person?

Christian Retail has no one else to blame. The sad case of Family Christian Stores is but one (gigantic) example of what happens when a Christian entity doesn’t guard its heart.

I sometimes say “no one cares” when I point these things out. A few readers rightly complain that that isn’t technically true. Of course I am aware some/many(?) do care, and deeply. But my point is in general, American evangelicals are simply annoyed by columns like this, because they are “negative.”

Well, poison in the bloodstream (just try and count all my metaphors in this piece!) is definitely negative. The messenger is not actually negative, you see, and that’s an important distinction. Because if you can avoid the trap of believing the messenger carrying this sad news is negative, you can begin to see the real culprits.

It is a sign of our times that when I tell audiences or readers that their best Christian resources are a Bible, pen and notebook, I hear laughter from the audience. It sounds funny, I guess. But it is also the truth. If the American Christian community would study the Bible, pray, and make real disciples, there would be a thriving Christian bookstore on every street corner.

Ironic, isn't it?

*("Heaps of teachers"...which the bible condemns. — MD)*