

The Tyranny of the Present

By Pete Garcia, Jan, 9 2023

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For my more seasoned readers, let's say you could travel back in time and revisit a moment in your life. You're not going back to change the past, but simply to sit as a silent guest and listen in on a conversation you might have had back then. Let's say you decide to go back to the year 1993 when you and a friend are in a restaurant having lunch. At some point the conversation steers into the *signs of the times* and when you think the Lord will return.

Your friend might mention the fact that the year 1993 is exactly seven years from the end of the millennium, which means the Rapture is near. One of you might add in Hosea 6:2 for good measure to seemingly shore up this idea that there is some significance to the coming year 2000.

You overhear yourself confidently mention the fact that the nation Israel is the supersign, and it's been 44 years since Israel became a nation again. You discuss the merits of a forty-year generation, but it seems since the 1948 date didn't pan out in 1988, perhaps the time might in fact start from the unification of Jerusalem in 1967. However, the idea of waiting until 2007 seems very unpalatable and too far off to be taken seriously.

Now the conversation turns back to the *signs of the times*. The discussion turns to the recent and unexpected presidential election of a relatively unknown democrat governor named Bill Clinton. While you don't really see America in bible prophecy, you are not really sure how she disappears apart from the Rapture because the economy is strong, the nation still largely self-identifies as a 'Christian nation,' and America still seemed like America.

You might mention the recent Gulf War in Kuwait as a fulfillment of *wars and rumors of war* and how Saddam Hussein could easily fill out the role of the Antichrist. You might even mention the increasing use of credit cards to make purchases and the potential for UPC barcodes to be the fulfillment of the mark of the beast.

However, as you begin to go over the signs in more depth, you and your friend realize there are still so many things that don't make sense. There are things you aren't quite sure about because you can't see how they happen. Things like how this relatively new thing called the internet will play into the Antichrist's coming kingdom. Things like how the barcode gets on your hand or forehead, and how that controls all buying and selling around the world when cash was still king.

Things like how the collapse of the evil empire (the Soviet Union) just left a messy and uncertain future for Mother Russia. You still can't see how Iran, Turkey, and Russia come to form some monstrous Magog coalition when Turkey and Israel are still friends, and Russia is now becoming democratic. You don't even mention Iran, because you both know that nation is still recovering after a devastating eight-year war with Iraq. Furthermore, you don't know which of the 11 nations in the European Union will drop out to make it an even, ten-nation confederacy?

As fascinating as this conversation has become, you both come to the conclusion that there are still too many unknown variables for it to make sense. You both admit that you were in the *last days* (in the Hebrew 1:1 sense of the word), and if that is true, then the end didn't seem quite as bad as you thought it would be. The picture was there, but there were still too many unanswered questions. As you get up to pay the bill, the one definitive conclusion you both arrive at is that while the end is near, neither of you could see it going much further than the year 2000. You certainly couldn't see it going further than 2008, which seemed so far into the future it was bordering on science fiction territory.

Does this conversation sound familiar to anyone?

I am using 1993 as a random number, but we could go back 10, 15, or 20 years and see that much of what is happening now, was still a mystery then. It was a mystery largely because we were limited to the information available to us at the time. Now, ask yourself these questions in the present time. Can we see our nation and world going on (i.e., the status quo) another 15 years into our future? Are the signs of the times still foggy and vague, or are they becoming increasingly clear?

While it is true that we also can't see into the future, much of what is laid out in the Bible is manifesting itself into a series of possible and highly realistic scenarios. Are we struggling with things like the Gog-Magog alliance? The Mark of the Beast technology? The one world government? A one world currency? The destruction of Damascus? The post-modern and post-Christian America? The demise of the US apart from the Rapture? The Psalm 90:10 application to Israel?

I think these things are becoming crystal clear.

Assessment

“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” Daniel 12:4

I think one of the more underrated signs is the explosion of prophetic understanding regarding what is coming upon the world in these last days. I mean, it's becoming so obvious now that even non-Christians are starting to see it. Think about it this way, what is becoming increasingly obvious to even the most casual of laypersons, is something the greatest eschatological minds of the past two thousand years struggled mightily with understanding.

Here is something else to take into consideration. The four horsemen of the apocalypse, are the first four seal judgments the Lord Jesus Christ unleashes upon the earth. He does this because nobody else in the universe can do it. He is the only One who is worthy to take the scroll from the Father's hand and then open them. But consider this.

We are starting to see these horsemen's shadow form in our day. We are starting to hear the hoofbeats of the riders in our day. What this means is Satan is trying to get **ahead** of Jesus' opening of the seals, and preemptively break prophecy by making these happen before Jesus is ready to execute them. Obviously, we know this **can't** happen until **after** the rapture of the church because the rapture is what sets the stage for these things to come about. Remember the boundaries in [Luke 17:26-30](#): things are normal until the rapture, and then sudden destruction and judgment. Not the other way around. The days of Noah and Lot certainly can't apply to the time inside the 70th Week. So what do the horsemen represent again?

White Horse: regional/global government- the establishment of the Antichrist's kingdom

- The popularization of globalist and regional systems: BRICS, AUKUS, Agenda 2030, the Great Reset, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the World Economic Forum, etc. that is creating the framework for the ten kings, and ultimately, the Antichrist

Red Horse: peace taken from the earth

- Currently, there are 30 active conflicts in the world today, with violence soaring through crime in almost every nation that will give governments the justification to increasingly fast-track weapons technologies and artificial intelligence

Black Horse: economic collapse and ruin...

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