

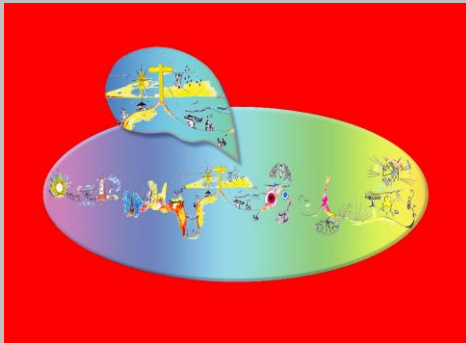
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We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testaments) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

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HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

【 MAN'S FINAL SOLUTION 】

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world –the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does– comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever.

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us .For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist –he denies the Father and the Son. No-one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us –even eternal life. 1JOHN 2:15-25.

What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. 1CORINTHIANS 7:29-31.

Last month we dealt with the importance of keeping watch for signs in the heavens so as to understand the whereabouts of our time in God's redemptive plans for human-beings. It is very much a biblical teaching to be vigilant to the world affairs as well as nature. In September this year, a series of high-profile failures triggered by Lehman Brothers in the financial world has caused a growing global economic crisis.

It is reported that the fall of the US dollar has spurred foreign investment in the US and the sale of key US high profile properties such as Manhattan's Chrysler Building and also other critical infrastructure such as ports, power plants and telecommunications networks have been prompted by foreign investors from Europe, China and oil-producing nations in the Middle East. While the US housing bubble has burst in recent years, and inflation and consumer debt have significantly increased in the US, it is apprehended to have opened the door for foreign investors to take advantage of her financial difficulties. Sovereign wealth funds in six Persian Gulf countries are said to be attempting to control major banks and securities firms in the US, and actually, Middle Eastern investors have already acquired 19.9% of Nasdaq, the second largest stock exchange in the US. Such an increasing influence of an Arab nation that could be linked to Islamic terrorism over the US has ominously raised concern.

Sovereign wealth funds are essentially investment funds controlled by governments that have a surplus of cash, in which the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Singapore, China and Russia have invested about three trillion dollars and the amount is estimated to reach twelve trillion dollars within ten days. Chuck Missler, a Bible expositor comments 'The rise of sovereign wealth funds is just one example of how the global economy is changing. The balance of power is shifting from the West to up-and-coming nations like China, India, and the oil-rich Middle East. It is also a sign of the further globalization of the world economy.' (K-House eNews in Nov.'08).

There is another comment about the financial crisis, which points out that the crisis did not come without warning: 'One of the most alarming things about the crisis in the global financial system is that the warning signs have been out there for some time, yet no one heeded them. Exactly 10 years ago a hedge fund called Long-Term Capital Management failed to convince investors that it could repay its debts, thereby bringing the world to the brink of a similar "liquidity crisis" to the one we now see. Disaster was averted then only because regulators managed to put together a multibillion-dollar bailout package. LTCM's collapse was particularly notable...Its fall should have been a wake-up call to banks and their regulatory supervisors that the models were not working as well as hoped ...' 'Banks are vulnerable to liquidity crisis because they borrow money that may have to be repaid in the short term, and use it to back up more lucrative longer-term investments. If depositors withdraw their money and other lenders refuse to lend the bank the funds they need to replace it, the bank ends up in trouble because it can't easily turn its long-term assets into cash to make up the shortfall.' ("*Finance in crisis*" New Scientist in Sep.'08).

The first article warns us about the possibility that after the current sovereign nations have been weakened to the point where they would urgently need to be unified into global governance, a so-called "New World Order" will emerge, under the financial system of which a mark is to be imposed on the participants' forehead or hand as predicted in Revelation 13:16-17. The second article warns us of the importance of not ignoring what is happening in the real world and of responding to the warning signs properly as Christ taught in Matt.24:32-33. False assumption and faith in wrong models have proved to be fatal through the recent events in the financial world.

There is another article that predicts the end of civilisation through the studies of how complex systems behave. According the article, in 1972 when the book entitled "*The Limits to*

Growth”, using computer models, predicted the future that if trends in population, industrialisation, pollution, food production and resource depletion continued unchanged, resources would eventually run out, it was only few people that accepted the theory that human activity could have global impacts or that resources were finite. But nowadays such ideas seem to be commonplace. Apart from doomsday scenarios such as a massive asteroid, nuclear war, and a catastrophic pandemic, the studies emphatically throw a question of another chilling possibility ‘What if the very nature of civilisation means that ours, like all the others, is destined to collapse sooner or later?’

Researchers claim that once a society develops beyond a certain level of complexity it becomes increasingly fragile and eventually it reaches a point where even a relatively minor disturbance can bring everything crashing down. ‘To keep growing, societies must keep solving problems as they arise. Yet each problem solved means more complexity. Success generates a large population, more kinds of specialists, more resources to manage, more information to juggle –and, ultimately, less bang for your buck.’ An archaeologist Joseph Tainter says this “law of diminishing returns” appears everywhere, as complexity increases. ‘Then when the climate changes or barbarians invade, overstretched institutions break down and civil order collapses. What emerges is a less complex society, which is organised on a smaller scale or has been taken over by another group.’ Thus, diminishing returns were the underlying reason for the collapse of all ancient civilisations.

The same conclusion that Tainter reached from studying history has also been led through an analysis of complex systems by Yaneer Bar-Yan. He claims ‘Social organisations become steadily more complex as they are required to deal both with environmental problems and with challenges from neighbouring societies that are also becoming more complex.’ To explain the researchers’ arguments concisely, added by more layers of management, this eventually leads to a fundamental shift in the way a society is organised, and we are now at the point where hierarchies give way first to another hierarchy and then, to highly interdependent networks. Although there is a widespread belief that this shift to decentralised networks has led modern society to be more resilient than the old hierarchical system where decision making was not distributed, Bar-Yan believes, complexity leads to higher vulnerability. He means that as networks become ever tighter, they start to transmit shocks rather than absorb them. ‘A financial crisis, a terrorist attack or a disease outbreak has almost instant destabilising effects, from one side of the world to the other.’ There are some real instances when large areas of North America and Europe suffered blackouts in 2003, which was caused by failure of insignificant nodes of the electricity grids, and when China suffered a similar blackout after heavy snow hit power lines this year. Bar-Yan concludes, ‘A networked society behaves like a multicellular organism … Now that we can ask questions of such systems in more sophisticated ways, we are discovering that they can be very vulnerable. That means civilisation is very vulnerable.’

Scientists in other fields are also warning that complex systems are prone to collapse. Similar ideas have emerged from the study of natural cycles in ecosystems. According to an ecologist Buzz Holling, ‘some ecosystems become steadily more complex over time: as a patch of new forest grows and matures, specialist species may replace more generalist species, biomass builds up and the trees, beetles and bacteria form an increasingly rigid and ever more tightly coupled system.’ A political scientist Thomas Homer-Dixon argues, ‘It becomes an extremely efficient system for remaining constant in the face of the normal range of conditions… But unusual conditions –an insect outbreak, fire or drought- can

trigger dramatic changes as the impact cascades through the system. The end result may be the collapse of the old ecosystem and its replacement by a newer, simple one. Globalisation is resulting in the same tight coupling and fine-tuning of our systems to a narrow range of conditions.'

Eventually, the researchers introduced above do not seem to have been convinced that even new technology will save civilisation in the long run. Historically, collapse always led to a fall in population. This means that if industrialised civilisation falls, the urban masses that occupy half the world's population will be most vulnerable and the conclusion, which they reached is significant, that is, **The people with the least to lose are subsistence farmers...Perhaps the meek really will inherit the Earth.**' (Emphasis added, 'New Scientist' in April'08).

Scientists' arguments from different angles amazingly agree with the unchanging statement of the whole Bible, God's Word. From the beginning God is clear that 'this world is not likely to get much better.' However civilisation develops and even despite a lot of efforts and attempts of Christians to christianise the world by the church, nothing will change until the Christ's millennium reign on earth starts after Satan is cast out of it. Among mainly six different interpretations over the second coming of Christ, this view that the world won't be improved by man's effort, though still only supported by few today, is actually the earliest belief and the only one that was supported for a considerable time by the early fathers such as Barnabas, Hermas, Ignatius, Polycap, Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Hippolytus, Methodius, Commodian, Lactantius and Papias. They believed in the corporeal reign of Christ on this very earth, in that the restoration of the kingdom of Israel will be completed under the eternal king of the Jews, Jesus Christ. This view is called "Classical Pre-Millennialism", differentiated from "Dispensational Pre-Millennialism" which only appeared after 1830 by John Nelson Darby, an Anglican curate in Dublin who became the founder of "Plymouth Brethren" and who produced the "Schofield Bible," incorporated with dispensational comments.

Jesus' beloved disciple John warned the first century believers in a sense of urgency, not to be deceived by antichrists who once shared fellowship with His followers and yet who went out from them because they could not remain in the true gospel, i.e., in "**what you have heard from the beginning...also...in the Son and in the Father**". These antichrists who emerge in the last days, i.e., during the whole period between Christ's first coming and His return, are characterised by the following: 1. They deny Christ's incarnation and thus, His divinity. 2. They deny the Father and the Son, and thus, they do not have the Father. 3. They are liars and deceivers. 4. They were the early Gnostics, the heretics in John's days. John, in the end of this epistle, seriously warns the believers not to commit sins that lead them to death, in that he probably meant that the Gnostics' adamant and persistent denial of the truth and their shameless immorality and their unrepentant sin would lead to spiritual death, and hell.

'But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once...and he will appear a second time...to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him...He sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool...Do not throw away your confidence, it will be richly rewarded...we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and saved.' (He.9:26-28, 10:12-13, 10:35-39). God's Word is the final authority and solution for human-beings to find their way to the end, and there is the only one Saviour Jesus Christ to whom alone we should cling in order to live eternally both on earth and in heaven.

**We hope all the blessings and peace of this special Season
Will light up your life with Faith, Hope and Love.
Wherever and Whoever we are,
JESUS CHRIST is God's Gift for us!**

