

BELIEVERS INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER, 2001

NEWS



On September 11, 2001, nineteen religious zealots – disciples of hate – changed this nation forever. Not since the Civil War has America seen so much bloodshed in a single day on our soil. This was not an attack against soldiers on a battlefield, but a slaughter of civilians going about their daily lives. In a matter of minutes, thousands were dead, and shock waves of fear and incredulity swept the nation.

It brings us great sorrow to see and read about the suffering humanity that has resulted from this senseless act. Our hearts go out to them, and we pray earnestly for those who lost loved ones in such an unspeakable manner. We also pray for our president, that the Lord would grant him strength, wisdom and leadership for the solemn tasks that lay ahead.

Immediately following the terrorist attack, we watched, spellbound, as an outbreak of religious fervor seemed to grip the people, and a nation that had forgotten God suddenly tried to find Him. What a very small place He had been relegated to before the planes crashed, but when tragedy struck, across the land they cried out, “God is our refuge and our strength!”

More than 100 members of Congress stood on the steps of the Capitol building to sing ‘God Bless America.’ The Secretary of Defense offered prayer at a White House

Cabinet meeting. President Bush talked about prayer and quoted from the Scriptures in his address to the nation, and declared September 14th a Day of Prayer and Remembrance. A prayer service was held at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. with every major political figure in America in attendance. Together they proclaimed, “We have come together to confess our need of God.”

In 1958, a prophet of God warned our nation: “Oh, America, America, how you say, ‘I’m rich and have the best churches in the world, and the greatest missionaries, and am the best fed and the best dressed.’ How little you know. You’re naked, miserable, blind, poor, and wretched, and don’t know it. Remember, your day is now. Tomorrow may be too late. It’s the Word of the Lord.”¹

Tomorrow has arrived, and the true testing time for our nation is already years behind us. Just as Israel of the Old Testament failed its test and the Lord allowed those inhabitants to be delivered into the hands of the Babylonians, so has America failed by rejecting the gift that God sent in our day. America, like Israel, sinned away its day of grace.

Now, the time of sorrows is upon the inhabitants of the whole earth [Matthew 24:8], and America’s turn has come. A God-ordained course of events is in progress, and there will be no divergence, no more reprieves, and no more revivals. This time, “there is nothing left for America but judgment.”²

There’s something about New York City...



Nearly a half-century ago, did God allow Brother Branham to see this act of terrorism against our nation? In 1953, he spoke these words: “Now, there’s something about New York City. Now you watch. Remember, there’s something about New York City. Don’t forget that. Do you hear?”³

His voice was ominous, but he never explained his comment, or made mention of it ever again. We cannot know for certain, but it would not be unusual for a prophet of God to be permitted a glimpse into the stream of time to watch an event of this magnitude transpire.

Neither do we know yet just what will come from this attack on New York City, or what consequences it may have on us as people, as citizens, and eventually as believers. Undoubtedly, more than the 285 million men, women, and children of this nation will feel the long-term effects. Potentially, it is capable of realigning the world – politically, economically, and militarily. And yes, it may even prove to be the catalyst that will bring about the few, final details that are needed for a One-World Order to come completely to power. That still remains to be seen. But it is coming, and soon.

President Bush declared that we are at war. America cheered, and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives unanimously agreed to finance this war, a war instigated by an extreme religious fanaticism that places no value on human life. Virtually the entire world is united behind this cause. Even the media has been surprised by the degree of cooperation that has been generated. Over and over on TV, radio and in the newspapers we are hearing similar statements being made: “We have never seen the nation, or the world, so much as one, pulling together. This has united us like nothing else.”

This show of oneness among nations is truly astounding, even unprecedented. The coalition that supported the war in the Persian Gulf a decade ago seems insignificant in comparison. A world united to this degree has not been seen in 2,000 years, since the might of Rome ruled the earth.

What is the true unifying factor behind this new state of worldwide brotherhood? Are there reasons and a purpose for these developments?

These Have One Mind

Daniel 2:31-45 gives an account of the Gentile dispensation and its four historical divisions: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, Roman. It is this fourth and last kingdom, the Roman, and all that is associated with it, that will endure until Jesus returns. And it will lead the world today, just as it did when Jesus was born.

Historically, we know that the glory and power of Imperial Rome crumbled in the fifth century, and that once-great empire seemed to disappear. In truth, it merely reinvented itself. “The spirit that motivated pagan Rome is the same spirit that now motivates false Christian Rome.”⁴

In spirit, Rome has been leading the world for over 2,000 years. From the Message of the Hour we are taught that “her religious empire would keep her on top of the world, governing from the inside, where she would not appear to do so from the outside.”⁵

Make no mistake, Rome will be in charge of world politics, finances, military and religion at the Second Coming of the Lord. And when, as the beast, it takes its position as the head of a global world government, Revelation 17:13 will be fulfilled: “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”

Remember, the Roman Empire does not need to be reborn, only revived. (In a future issue of Believers News, we will be taking a closer look at the progression of this revival.)

We can see the nations of the world becoming more and more interdependent with each passing day, especially Europe and the United States. There can be no doubt that globalization (a new word being used in place of the more threatening term of “New World Order”) is in full swing. For example:

Political unity – The superpowers of the world are already united under one broad political umbrella: Democracy (whose principles, by the way, were established by Imperial Rome).

Economic unity – It would be impossible to financially unite the world without a common currency, but today we have a one-world system firmly in place: the credit card. You can make purchases in any currency, anywhere in the world, and the conversion is done automatically by your bank.

So what is missing? An ecumenical, united religion, and a combining of military might to bring the world into compliance and then enforce the (ecclesiastical) law.

But, to succeed in fully implementing these final measures, what they need is a common enemy.

Terrorism in the name of religion is Satan’s made-to-order puppet for this purpose. What else but terrorism could both inflame the nations of the world into action, and at the same time build a strong case for a unified, religious-based, governing body?

Islamic terrorism has a worldwide reach. “At a three-day terrorist convention of sorts held earlier this year in Beirut, Mr. bin Laden’s al-Quaeda organization joined forces with Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah to pledge themselves to a joint jihad, or holy war.”⁶ Their primary goal is to kill Americans and Israelis, but they are also willing to kill anyone who does not agree with their twisted views. Within the past year, Yemen, Jordan, Turkey, Philippines, Algeria, and India have all been targets of Islamic terrorism.⁷ They are Satan’s perfect killing machines, willing, no, eager to die for his cause. They certainly served his purpose well on September 11th.

The curtain may have just parted on the final act of this Gentile drama, and ready to step on stage is the one man who is able to take leadership and, by the means of a peaceful deception, rule the entire world for a moment in time. “This may seem far fetched to some, but actually it is very plain for all to see because, right now, the churches are controlling politics, and at the opportune time will manifest exactly how great is that control. This ecumenical move will end up with Rome at the head even though the people did not envision it that way.”

Question: *Brother Branham, speaking on the mark of the beast, don't you believe they'll tattoo a number in your head, or tattoo something on your hand?*

No sir. Don't never look for that. It'll be a boycott, certainly. No man could buy or sell, unless he belongs to the confederation of churches. That's true. That will come like a union, unionizing the thing, bringing it down to a unionized religion. Mark my word; it ain't far off. And you'll see it; she's just around the corner.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS 54-0515

France Sets a Precedent

There is a new law on the books in one of Europe's oldest democracies. In May of this year, France's National Assembly and the French Senate unanimously passed what is believed to be the most severe anti-religion law that exists among the democratic nations of the world today.

In a vaguely worded text, the French government is now authorized to fine or imprison members, and dissolve any group whose aim or effect is "to create, maintain, or exploit the psychological or physical integrity of persons." Persons and/or groups found guilty of these ill-defined 'crimes' can be punished by three years in prison and a fine ranging from \$350,000 to \$715,000.

Work on this law began in 1984, under the guise of a governmental crackdown on cults. Today in France, an entire government office is dedicated to fighting cults, even though there is no evidence that the country has, or ever has had, a problem with any group that might come under that hard-to-define heading. In a report titled "Let Them Preach Cake," World magazine states: "Even members of the parliament who passed the law admit they cannot define a cult. A Parliamentary Commission [in France] formed in 1995 to look into cults listed 176 groups as cults in its final

report. The list lumped a Baptist Bible school, three evangelical churches, and the Word of Faith church, together with Jehovah's Witnesses, Scientologists, and several New Age movements."¹

As one of the founding members of the European Union, France's influence

cannot be underestimated. Already, other nations (including China) have contacted the French government to ask for assistance in writing similar legislation. And understandably, religious leaders of all faiths are beginning to question the precedent that this law may be setting for the rest of the world.

It is easy to see that under such broad guidelines, pastors could be jailed for counseling members of their flock, and evangelists could be fined for ministering the Gospel. But such restrictions would be unacceptable to the majority of the world's diverse religions. So in order to gain general approval, the law must be refined. Legislators must take the next logical step. Religion must be compartmentalized, and the accepted tenets for each belief must be clearly defined. [See box at left]

From the perspective of the End Time Message, we believe that this can be seen as a very public step (coming, unexpectedly, from the political instead of the religious arena) toward the unionizing of the religions of the world.

1. White, Michelle, "Let Them Preach Cake." *World*, August 18, 2001; page 26.

How Does The World Define Christianity?

The following articles of faith are considered by the majority of Christian theologians and religious leaders of the world to be the fundamental principles of Christianity, and are used as a measuring stick in discerning whether any group or organization is genuine:

- The virgin birth
- The atonement of Christ's death on the cross
- The deity of Christ
- The Holy Trinity

"This mark in the head means that they will have to take the doctrine of the world church system, which is Trinitarianism, etc., and the mark in the hand, which means to do the will of the world church.

With this great power, the church systems will persecute the true Bride. This image will try to keep the Bride from preaching and teaching, etc. Her ministers will be forbidden to give comfort and truth to the people who need it.

But before the antichrist (in person) takes over this complete world system of churches, the true Church will be taken away from this world to be with the Lord. God will catch away His Bride for the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb."

All Is Well

The prophet pointed out in 1962 that an alignment of five stars that had just appeared in the heavens marked the onset of a time that Jesus referred to as “the beginning of sorrows.” He warned us that every year that followed would only get darker and darker. How true those words have proven to be! Fires, earthquakes, hurricanes. Sorrow following sorrow. Crime, epidemics, ethnic cleansings, starvation. More sorrows.

But at the same time, he assured us, “The Coming of the Lord gets brighter and brighter, as He reveals Himself in His Word and in His manifestation.”⁸ The Holy Ghost is leading the Church, and we have nothing to worry about. So rest.

Even as we hear the cries and share the heartaches of a nation and a world that has rejected God, the Bride of Christ is safe in Him. Rest.

We have spiritual food in due season to sustain us. Just rest.

1. *Queen of Sheba* 58-0125
2. *Faith* 58-0315
3. *Africa Trip Report* 53-1109
4. *An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages. 'Pergamean Church Age,'* page 195.
5. *Ibid.* page 192
6. *World, September 22, 2001* pg 34.
7. *The Jerusalem Post, April 14, 2001, page 8.*
8. *The Third Seal* 63-0320

Mexico

Things are heating up,
and drying out

Eastern Mexico, especially those areas that are bordered by the Gulf of Mexico, is suffering through an extended and very unusual rainy season. Record amounts of rainfall have ruined crops and made life even more difficult than ever for the hundred-plus believers living in the mountainous region near Octojub.* But, as Brother Roberto Murillo has informed us, the most immediate need among the people is a lack of dry firewood. The duration and intensity of the rains have made it almost impossible to find and then dry a sufficient amount of wood to prepare food, and ward off the damp chill that night brings. He reports that it has become a constant, all-day-every-day battle.

Just this week, we have sent funds to Brother Roberto and asked him to purchase three gas stoves and supervise their delivery and set-up in the homes of pastors in the affected area. Propane is readily available and inexpensive. These will be ‘community stoves’ and will be made available to all that need them.

Sometimes there are things like this that slip by and we don’t take the time to tell you of all the small services that your contributions are helping to provide throughout Latin America. Thank you for being a blessing.

*The story of the saints in Octojub appeared in the December 1988 issue of Only Believe magazine, called “Go Tell It On The Mountain.” This can be viewed on our website at www.onlybelieve.com



Can you imagine what a difference a new gas stove will make to this Huastecan sister?

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