WHEN JESUS RETURNS

JAN MARKELL

GENERAL EDITOR

HARVEST PROPHECY
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This book is dedicated to all sincere saints who have faithfully searched for a solid, Bible-believing church. Some of you are blessed to have found one, and others are still looking, traveling many miles weekly and getting discouraged. Don't give up!

As Hebrews 10:25 says, we must gather together to encourage one another—and all the more as we see the day approaching.

That day is indeed drawing near!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Olive Tree Ministries' 22 international conferences could not have transpired without our dedicated staff and volunteers. I am deeply thankful for them. Many turned up before dawn to finalize so many wonderful, life-changing events. And they showed up year after year, never daunted by the backbreaking work nor the thousands of people with so many needs. More will be in eternity thanks to this selfless enthusiasm!

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FOREWORD

AMIR TSARFATI

In the final chapter of the Bible, Jesus said, "I am coming quickly." He said it not once, not twice, but three times (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20). There is no way to miss this promise. One time establishes a point, a second time drives it home, but the third time ensures that everyone sits up and takes notice. "Yes, what you've heard is true. I will be returning, and you better get ready because it won't be too long." If Jesus felt it was important for Him to give this promise a three-peat, then it should be important to us as well.

When the apostle Paul wrote about Christians as citizens of heaven, he put it this way: "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also *eagerly wait for the Savior*, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20). According to Paul, to be a believer is also to eagerly anticipate the Lord's coming. The two go together.

During His last moments before the crucifixion, Jesus said to His disciples—and to us—"I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:3). As you read those words, can you sense His great affection for you, and how eager He is for you to be with Him?

In these ways and so many more, Jesus tells us that His return is a really big deal. Is it a big deal to us as well? It should be!

That's why I am grateful for the many Understanding the Times prophecy conferences Jan Markell has hosted over the years. I've had the privilege of teaching at several of these conferences. Every time I have done so, I've been incredibly blessed by the teachings and the opportunity to fellowship with dear brothers and sisters in Christ who are eager for His return.

Jan's love for Bible prophecy and her excited anticipation for our Lord's appearing is truly contagious. Because of her ministry, countless thousands of people around the world now have a great enthusiasm for Bible prophecy and live in eager expectancy of Christ's return.

When Jesus Returns brings together a wonderful collection of powerful messages spoken at Jan's prophecy conferences—messages that I know will instruct and encourage you deeply. You will come away more informed about God's plans for the future, and more excited about your place in those plans.

After Jesus repeated the promise of His return three times in Revelation 22, the apostle John was so excited he couldn't help but cry out, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" (verse 20).

My prayer is that by the time you finish reading *When Jesus Returns*, you'll find yourself eagerly echoing those very same words—all the way to the day of His glorious appearing!

—Amir Tsarfati

OUR ASSIGNMENT TODAY

I began my radio career in 2001 in the Twin Cities with a program called *Understanding the Times.* It began as a live interview and call-in program. As a result of the program and format, I could easily get the pulse of those in my audience. And I concluded that they wanted to learn and to make sense of our times.

I also realized—again based on feedback—that most of our churches were silent on key issues. And the topic that underwhelmed them was Bible prophecy. *The pulpits were silent*. That is, they were silent about the fact that the stage-setting signs of Christ's return were on the increase and that planet Earth was running out of time. Jesus was going to return for His bride so very soon. Churches seemed to be embarrassed about this message!

So I decided I would start a conference ministry that would feature the best when it came to informing my audience about our times, and about the nearness of Christ's return in the clouds called the rapture. There are stage-setting signs exploding around us today, and someone has to sound the alarm: *We are running out of time.*

But at my first event in the spring of 2002, I never expected 1,500 people! And from there, enthusiasm and attendance only grew and grew as the Twin Cities became a destination for tens of thousands of people from around the world. Attendees would come from every state in America, every province in Canada, and a dozen foreign nations.

Imagine, people traveling—in some cases, thousands and thousands of miles—to learn, to fellowship, and to eagerly await His return together! Here, they found the like-minded. At such events they learned they could talk about their longing to hear the trumpet and a shout and not be mocked.

I am so thankful to Harvest House for allowing you and me to travel down memory lane and revisit some of the best messages given at a total of 22 conferences at various venues in Minneapolis-St. Paul. I do hope they help you be like the sons of Issachar, who understood the times (1 Chronicles 12:32).

I am convinced that is our assignment today!

CHAPTER 1

HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW: THE NEW WORLD ORDER IN BIBLE PROPHECY

JAN MARKELL

We hear a lot about the new world order. For those who aren't familiar with Bible prophecy, that term might not have much meaning. But biblically speaking, the new world order refers to the coming one-world government, over which the antichrist will rule. When we talk about the new world order, we're speaking of the antichrist's future kingdom. While that kingdom is not here yet, in a variety of ways, it has long been in the process of being built. Through the ages, Satan has made use of many tools to build this future kingdom, and eventually, the parts will come together as a global system.

On the surface, many of these tools don't necessarily appear to be part of Satan's agenda. But if we consider how these tools have steered the direction of humanity, we're able to see how they can contribute to the end result he desires to achieve. Just to name a few, Satan has used communism, socialism, and a wide variety of organizations, including the United Nations. International banking systems

will eventually take us to a one-world economy. Issues like open borders and climate change are used to further globalism. The media and educational institutions help to advance ideas and concepts that emphasize man-centered global unity. And even supposedly Christian organizations can unwittingly contribute as vehicles that move us closer to a one-world system.

As of now, there are two huge obstacles that are making it difficult for Satan to bring his plans to fruition. One is the United States, which still has many who advocate national sovereignty and autonomy rather than globalism, and the other is Christianity, which affirms the biblical truth that it is impossible for sinful man to achieve the one-world utopia he so badly wants—only God can do that. That is why we are seeing both under attack as never before.

THE PURSUIT OF A ONE-WORLD SYSTEM

Humanly speaking, man has always tried to achieve true and lasting peace and prosperity. Those are the goals that have long been touted by leaders, politicians, and governments. Mankind has also searched for relief from pain. But these pursuits have always been in vain and will continue to be. Yet they explain why there are people who are always looking for ways to make peace and prosperity happen. They set up programs and organizations in the hopes of reaching those goals. They want war and poverty and inequality to go away, but no matter what mankind tries to do, it fails. Satan has convinced people that if they only try harder, they will succeed. If only they can get everyone on board with the agenda, they can make things happen.

This is the kind of thinking that is behind all efforts made toward globalism, or a one-world system. But what many don't realize is they will never be successful because, at heart, mankind is evil. Only God can bring about the success man so desperately wants, because only He has the answer to mankind's problem of sin.

In recent decades in American politics, we have seen a growing number of clashes between nationalists and globalists. There are those who believe a country should function autonomously and make a priority of caring for the needs and concerns of its own people. And there are others who want America to submit to the globalist agenda.

We saw this happen during the 2016 presidential election, when Donald Trump ran against Hillary Clinton. In a campaign speech given in April 2016, Trump said, "We will no longer surrender this country or its people to the false song of globalism."[1] In contrast, Hillary's husband Bill, a former US president, founded the Clinton Global Initiative, which aims to create "a community of doers who are taking action on the world's most pressing challenges, together."[2]

This battle of agendas continues through today on many different fronts. And it's one of the reasons the globalist community is so critical of those who don't agree with them. In Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu has held to a nationalist position for the Jewish state, which has put him at odds with globalists. More recently, we've seen that with President Javier Milei of Argentina, whose policies run contrary to the globalist agenda.

At first glance, globalism seems innocent enough. We're told that it's all about cultures learning how to live together, appreciate one another, and make sacrifices for the common good. Globalist causes plead for people to give money and support that will make it possible to solve problems that will make the world a better place. What could possibly be wrong with that?

But in reality, globalism is about powerful leaders and organizations making decisions about how they believe the world should be run. They use their authority and resources to implement ideas and programs that supposedly are for the good of all, but ultimately, call for forced compliance or undermine human autonomy and freedom. And whether these power brokers know it or not, ultimately, they are paving the way for the future antichrist.

THE HISTORY OF GLOBALISM

To give us some perspective on what's happening, I'd like to go back to where globalism first began—in ancient Babylon. The people who lived in the land of Shinar had become prideful and said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves" (Genesis 11:4). This was an act of rebellion against God. And what did God do? He shut it down. He said, "This isn't a good idea." He then confused the people's languages, and they ended up being scattered around the world.

These same seeds of pride and destruction have been a part of every effort for a world order ever since. Ultimately, human pride rebels against God, and that leads to judgment.

EUROPE'S PLACE IN THE PURSUIT OF GLOBALISM

You may be aware that in the middle of the sixteenth century, artist Pieter Bruegel painted what has since become one of his famous works, featuring the Tower of Babel. What's interesting is that this image—created nearly 500 years ago—was featured on a poster created by the European Community in the 1990s, which bore the slogan, "Europe: Many Tongues, One Voice." The poster announced the coming of the European Parliament building that now stands in Strasbourg, France—and the building bears an amazing resemblance to the Tower of Babel as depicted in Bruegel's painting.

So it seems as if there is a sense in which there are some who want to keep the idea of Babylon alive, even though it was an experiment that failed terribly.

A lot of what we are seeing happening today with Europe and the European Union will contribute to making it possible for the antichrist to rise to power. I agree with the Bible prophecy teachers who say that the antichrist will come out of Europe. In Daniel 9:26, we

read that "the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary." "The prince who is to come" is a reference to the future antichrist. And it is his predecessors—"the people" in the ancient Roman Empire—who came to Jerusalem to "destroy the city and the sanctuary" in AD 70.

Today, we see Europe facing many challenges. Europe is reeling from a variety of problems. A significant one is largely unchecked immigration, which has not worked out as planned. Huge numbers of Muslims from North Africa and the Middle East have moved to Europe but refused to integrate with European society. Other issues include political and economic disparities that have generated serious disagreements between the member nations of the European Union. The cover of the April 22, 2019 issue of *Time* magazine featured an article titled "The Unraveling of Europe." And a July 30, 2016 *Breitbart* article was headlined, "Polish Experts: 'Europe Is At the End of Its Existence. Western Europe Is Practically Dead.' "

I believe one of the biggest reasons for Europe's demise is its long-time rejection of God. When people throw God out of their lives, there are terrible consequences. And as long as Europe continues to decline, it's not hard to imagine there will come a day when everyone will be desperate enough to want a powerful leader who says he can set things right.

Among the current leaders of Europe are many globalists. They are active in the World Economic Forum and the European Union, and they have significant sway over what happens in European politics. They have significant influence over policies that affect all the member nations of the EU, and even the world. That's because other world governments who want to do business in Europe are expected to abide by policies established by the EU and are expected to abide by its rules. More and more, I believe we are seeing Europe move in a direction that will facilitate the rise of antichrist's global empire.