

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

HOW TOMORROW'S PROPHECIES  
FORESHADOW TODAY'S PROBLEMS

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# Introduction

While writing this introduction, I'm watching the grim recovery efforts in Surfside, Florida, where the Champlain Towers South condominium collapsed in the dead of night, one floor pancaking onto the next, burying scores of people under tons of concrete. Most were sleeping in their beds, unaware of the suddenness of the coming catastrophe.

There had been signs, including warnings of water seeping beneath critical parts of the structure and weakening its integrity. But the alarm sounded too late.

Three thousand miles away, residents of San Francisco's lavish Millennium Tower absorbed the news with apprehension. Their fifty-eight-story skyscraper with its dazzling views and luxury amenities has sunk eighteen inches into the soft downtown soil on which it was built. It's tilting, and some view Surfside as a warning to the new Millennium.

I'm concerned about the new millennium too—our trembling twenty-first century. I'm burdened for the underpinnings of our culture, our eroding foundations and structural cracks. Like you, I've studied the signs of the times and believe we're approaching a global cataclysm—one predicted in our Scriptures and unfolding before our eyes.

All this came to me in a sort of rush months ago as my wife, Donna, and I were having breakfast. We made the mistake of watching the

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morning news. Every story was more distressing than the one before. We sat there viewing the burning cities, backbiting politicians, runaway infections, heated elections, social upheaval, racial tensions, skyrocketing crime, shouting pundits, deafening lies, eroding sands, and cracking foundations.

I looked over at Donna and said, “You and I are watching the dismantling of America.”

This book was born in that moment.

I began to look at these crises and controversies in a new way. I realized they are not isolated movements, philosophies, or events. They are as interconnected as a spider’s web. COVID-19 seemed like an arbitrary crisis as it unfolded, but it didn’t occur in a vacuum, and the world’s response revealed our souls. Add to that emerging globalism. We’re only one existential crisis from a one-world government.

And what about our worldwide economy, hanging by a strand?

Think of the degradation of our culture. It seems as if every member is a lover of self, a lover of money, a lover of pleasure—and eager to cancel anyone who disagrees with them. This translates to extreme persecution for the church in much of the world and to eroding religious liberty at home. Across our country, an unprecedented spiritual famine is causing an epidemic of emaciated hearts. In the process, many professed Christians are abandoning the faith. This has created a vacuum for the rising tide of socialism to flood into our land.

Simultaneously, events in the Middle East are turning Jerusalem into the powder keg of history. Again! Throw a pandemic in the midst, and there you have it—a world in chaos.

I’ve told you all that to say this: I refuse to be discouraged, and so should you!

This is no time to retreat. It’s time to live by conviction. When Moses sent the twelve spies into the promised land to reconnoiter the territory, ten of the spies were overwhelmed with fear and despair. They were daunted by the giants they saw. But two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, said, in effect, “Let us go forward! We can take the land!”

Years later in recalling the event, Caleb told Joshua, “I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report *according to my convictions*” (Josh. 14:7 NIV, emphasis added).

Well, in this book I’ve explored the territory of our times, and I am bringing back a report according to my convictions. This is not bravado. I’m speaking as honestly and as humbly as I can when I tell you we cannot be still, we cannot be silent, and we cannot live by lies. We must live by our biblical convictions. We can no longer ignore the warnings or sleep in beds of ignorance. I believe we’re approaching the consummation of the ages.

For as long as I’ve had a Bible, I’ve studied scriptural prophecy. I’ve preached and written about the last days from the beginning of my ministry. Perhaps you’ve read some of my previous books regarding the Bible’s message on the end of the world and the return of Christ. I love writing about biblical prophecy because it’s God’s transfusion of hope to our hearts.

But I’ve never written a prophecy book like this one. In the pages that follow, I’m going to deal with ten prophetic issues as current as the morning news. In each chapter, I’ll tell you where we are, what it means, and where we go from here. We’ll thread our way through problems that Jesus predicted—precursors of the tribulation—and we’ll learn how to do the next right thing.

The Lord told us about this epoch in advance, and it’s a privilege to be His agents on the crest of history. We are not helpless, and our world is not hopeless. Even as the world collapses, the Lord is building His church. We can say something, do something, pray something, preach something, and live by the convictions of Christ.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wrote in *The Gulag Archipelago*, “In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousandfold in the future.”<sup>1</sup>

God’s people are more than conquerors. We have a way forward. I

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urge you to study the marching orders at the end of every chapter in this book. Put into practice the things I'm going to recommend. Set your mind fully on the hope you have in Christ, and be ready to pay any price, challenge any foe, and confront any lie for the sake of the gospel.

At any moment, Jesus Christ will descend from heaven for His people. We haven't long to wait. But until then, we need to understand what the age requires—and we need to do what the Lord commands.

In one of the strangest stories in the Bible, the Lord grabbed the ancient prophet Ezekiel by the hair of his head, transported him in a vision from Babylon to Jerusalem, and dropped him into a scene of unimaginable evil (Ezek. 8:3). Ezekiel saw the depravity and decay of his own country, a country which he deeply loved. His nation was disintegrating. But God gave him a work to do. He commissioned him to be a watchman on the walls.

God may not grab your hair, but I pray He will grab your heart. I pray He will show you afresh the triumph of the gospel and call you as His watchman to sound the alarm and to proclaim the truth.

Remember what God later told Ezekiel, "I searched for a man among them who would repair the wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land so that I might not destroy it, but I found no one" (22:30 CSB).



I want Him to find at least two!

One you, and one me.

Come, join me in dedicating the rest of your earthly life to living by biblical convictions, exalting in the triumph of the gospel, and doing all you can to repair the structures of society and to stand in the gap before the Lord on behalf of the land. Don't be fearful, and don't let the times overwhelm you. This world will not end in rubble, but in His return! Our risen and exalted Lord Jesus Christ, our enthroned Savior—He knows the way forward.

He will show us where to go from here.





*A deadly virus is quietly spreading throughout our nation. It is far more lethal than COVID-19, and most Americans are totally unaware of the threat that it poses to our freedom and way of life. This disease is called socialism and, until recently, it had been considered public enemy number one by Americans. That is no longer the case. A 2020 poll showed that 40 percent of Americans had a favorable view of socialism, and that number goes to 61 percent when the polling is for those between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four.*

*From the erosion of free speech and free exercise of religion to the looming threat of a one-world government that allows for no opposition, socialism is a pernicious force that the followers of Christ must be ready to face head on. Our freedom, and perhaps our very lives, depend on it.*

## Chapter 1

# A Cultural Prophecy— Socialism

*“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”*

MATTHEW 24:37

Under the cover of darkness, a middle-aged man inched out the window of his seventh-story apartment, then silently repelled seventy-five feet to the ground. A pair of bolt cutters snipped off his ankle monitor, and the man jumped into a waiting car. This was no movie. After fifteen years of imprisonment on bogus charges, Iván Simonovis was escaping Venezuela.

Simonovis had once been a Venezuelan hero. As a key member of an important SWAT team, he ended a seven-hour hostage situation, all of it captured on national television. That propelled him to celebrity status. After being appointed safety officer for Caracas, he dedicated himself to fighting crime and removing the corruption that had defined the capital’s police force for years.

Things changed when Simonovis ran afoul of Hugo Chávez, Venezuela’s Marxist president and emerging dictator. Chávez viewed

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the decorated safety officer as a potential rival and accused him of crimes against humanity. The charges were false, and the trial was a sham. In the blink of an eye, Iván was behind bars with no hope for reprieve. For stretches of time, he was allowed to see sunlight for only ten minutes a day.

In 2014, Iván was moved to house arrest to seek treatment for nineteen chronic health conditions, many of them caused by his imprisonment. Knowing this was his only chance, he arranged his daring escape. After speeding off in a car, he spent three weeks evading security in a cat-and-mouse pursuit. A fourteen-hour ride in a small fishing boat got him to a Caribbean island, from which he flew to the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Iván could recall when Venezuela was the wealthiest nation in South America. The per capita income of its citizens was greater than those of China and Japan, almost rivaling the income of US citizens. The people of Iván's generation enjoyed religious liberty, political freedom, personal dignity, and economic opportunity.<sup>2</sup>

But when oil prices crashed in the 1980s, and then again in the 1990s, the Venezuelan economy experienced a dip. That dip became a dive in 1998 when the Venezuelan people elected Chávez as their president. Once in power Chávez relentlessly implemented the socialist playbook formulated by the Soviet Union, Cuba, China, and other nations. His first task was to rewrite the Venezuelan constitution, guaranteeing citizens the so-called free rights of government-provided health care, college education, and social justice. When the Supreme Court ruled against Chávez on several important issues, he responded by stacking the court with twelve new justices, all loyal to him.

Socialism totally engulfed the country when Chávez was reelected in 2006. Fully in control of the courts and the legislature, he moved quickly to nationalize the media, removing voices of dissent. Then he authorized government agencies to seize privately owned wealth and property from Venezuela's citizens—all in the name of "fairness" and "equality." Chávez took control of the nation's oil industry, expelling foreign investors and influence. He nationalized power companies, farms, mines,

banks, and grocery stores. His final step was to eliminate term limits for elected officials, setting himself up to rule for the rest of his life in the style of Russia's Stalin and Cuba's Castro.<sup>3</sup>

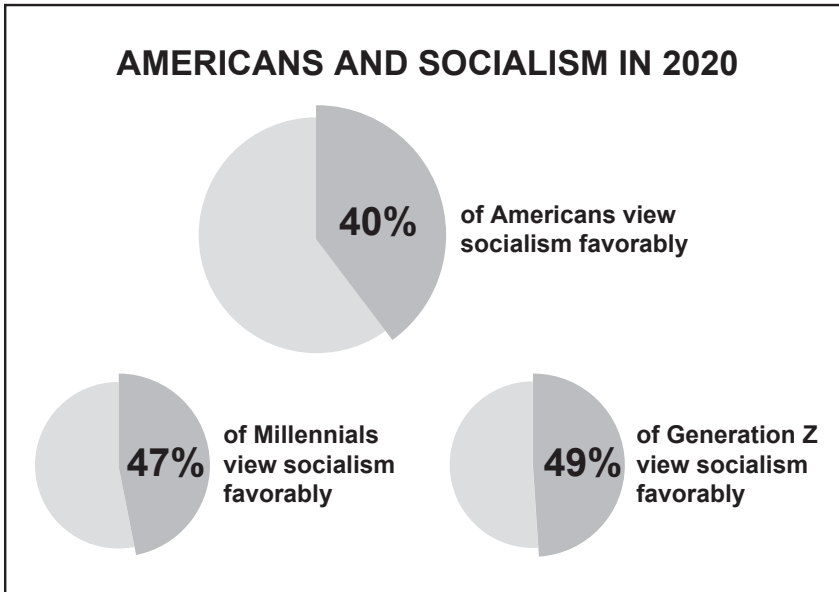
Not even Chávez could evade the last enemy. He died from cancer in 2013. But his hand-picked successor, Nicolás Maduro, continued to implement Chávez's agenda—even going further in some areas to force a Marxist agenda on the Venezuelan people. Today Venezuela is descending into anarchy, and record numbers of Venezuelan migrants are fleeing northward, trying to reach the border into the United States.

## Socialism, Prophecy, and You

Right now, you might be wondering what all of this has to do with you. If Venezuela has proven that socialism is a bad idea, why should anyone care?

You should care because socialist visions and policies are invading the United States. You'll hear them discussed under four different names: socialism, communism, Marxism, and cultural Marxism. From my studies, it seems many people consider these terms nearly synonymous. As you read the rest of this chapter, these four titles will show up, but they all refer to the same invasive ideology, one that seems to deceive people with unusual ease.

Consider this: Hugo Chávez had plenty of cheerleaders in the United States during his rise, including Hollywood stars like Sean Penn, Michael Moore, Oliver Stone, and Danny Glover. Socialism seems to hold an almost hypnotic power over many thinkers, and it's spilling into the common culture. A 2020 poll showed that 40 percent of Americans had a favorable view of socialism. That was up from 36 percent in 2019. Even more frightening, 47 percent of Millennials and 49 percent of Generation Z viewed socialism favorably.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, one 2019 poll in AXIOS found that 61 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 have a positive reaction to socialism.<sup>5</sup>



And then there is this: In 2020, Bernie Sanders nearly won the Democratic Party’s nomination for president of the United States. This is the same senator from Vermont who declared, “I am a socialist and everyone knows it.”<sup>6</sup>

In addition to Sanders, recent elections have seen record numbers of socialist candidates win roles as representatives both in state legislatures and in Congress. Notable among them is Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. In 2018, she became the youngest congresswoman in history.

Ocasio-Cortez is an avowed member of the Democratic Socialists of America, the largest socialist organization in the United States. Given her young age and massive following, many believe she’ll run for president of the United States one day. That’s a sobering thought given her stated goals of ending capitalism and implementing the same socialist agenda that failed so spectacularly in Venezuela.

I’ve come to the conviction that this ideology represents a real and present danger to the freedom and prosperity that has defined America and other Western nations for centuries. As I’ve researched this book, one verse keeps coming to mind: 2 Timothy 3:1. Here it is in the Amplified

Bible: “But understand this, that in the last days dangerous times [of great stress and trouble] will come [difficult days that will be hard to bear].”

Jesus said it like this, “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matt. 24:37–39).

What were those “days of Noah” like? Genesis 6:5 describes them this way: “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

The people of Noah’s day ignored and ridiculed his warnings. Noah built and preached for 120 years, and not one single individual outside his immediate family believed him. The people were so indifferent that they didn’t understand what was happening until it was too late.

The heedlessness of the people in Noah’s day will be duplicated in the last days of our world’s history. It will be a day much like ours, a day when ideologies like socialism can sneak in without much attention.

Ask anyone under communism and they’ll probably agree: socialism is an invasive weed planted by Karl Marx. Despite its catastrophic failures, it keeps spreading over the earth like kudzu. Will this be the dominant political philosophy on earth when the tribulation begins? Yes, that seems likely. Socialism is tailor-made for the Antichrist’s appearance. It creates global conditions that bring great stress and trouble, difficult days that will be hard to bear. And it demands a one-world system of government, which Scripture says will be established before the end of history.

Revelation 13 describes the Antichrist as a beast having vast power and authority. “The whole world marveled . . . and gave allegiance to the beast . . . And he was given authority to rule over every tribe and people and language and nation. And all the people who belong to this world worshiped the beast” (Rev. 13:3, 7–8 NLT).

This beast, or Antichrist, will be empowered by Satan, “who deceives

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the whole world” (12:9), and aided by the false prophet, who “deceives those who dwell on the earth” (13:14). The Lord warned us against this kind of deception: “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ” (Col. 2:8).

## What Is Socialism?

How, then, should we view socialism today? How should we define it? Listen to the definition offered by the World Socialist Party of the United States: “The establishment of a system of society based on the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of society as a whole. . . . We call this common ownership, but other terms we regard as synonymous are communism and socialism.”<sup>7</sup>

Socialists believe the world’s means of production—including infrastructure, farms, factories, energy, natural resources, medicines, and more—should be under the control of “the people.” In other words, society as a whole should own the raw materials and the systems that produce wealth. In a free market system, these materials are usually controlled by companies or individuals, but in socialist countries they are owned by “the people.”

Of course, there’s no way to make decisions based on such a loose concept as “the people.” So under socialism, the *government* becomes the sole authority and controller of the means of production. Unfortunately, governments are controlled by specific people—often the kinds of people who seek out power. And those people are entirely corruptible by greed, selfishness, lust, vindictiveness, violence, and the overwhelming desire for authority. As more power flows to the government, the handful at the top become dictatorial.

While I was writing this chapter, a news network ran a story about a Chinese woman named Xi Van Fleet. She had survived the brutal

communist regime of dictator Mao Zedong. In an impassioned speech to a Virginia school board, she elaborated on the similarities between what happened in China during the Chinese Cultural Revolution and what is happening in the United States right now. She said, “They use the same ideology, and same methodology, even the same vocabulary. And with the same goal. The ideology is cultural Marxism. And we were divided into groups as the oppressor and oppressed. . . . And the take out methodology is also very similar. It’s cancel culture. We basically canceled the whole Chinese civilization pre-communism.”<sup>8</sup>

In his book *We Will Not Be Silenced*, Erwin Lutzer helped us understand the kind of Marxism we’re seeing.

Today we face what is known as *cultural* Marxism. It is not being imposed on people on the war battlefields; instead, it’s a form of Marxism that wins the hearts and minds of people incrementally by the gradual transformation of the culture. Bombarded with exaggerated and illusionary promises, people accept it because they want to; they welcome it because they are convinced of its “benefits.” It promises “hope and change,” income equality, racial harmony and justice based on secular values rather than Judeo-Christian morality. It is known for professing inclusion rather than exclusion and promoting sexual freedom rather than what they view as the restrictive sexual ethics of the Bible. It is not stifled by allegedly narrow religious traditions but espouses progressive ideas that are deemed worthy of an enlightened future.<sup>9</sup>

## The Roots of Socialism

To understand socialism, we must first understand Karl Marx. When you understand who he was and what he believed, you’ll be able to trace much that’s happening back to him.

If you study the life of Karl Marx, you’ll learn he wasn’t just a hater of God; he was a cheerleader for the devil. His family thought him

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possessed by a demon. A biographer described him like this: “He had the devil’s view of the world, and the devil’s malignity. Sometimes, he seemed to know that he was accomplishing works of evil.”<sup>10</sup>

On one occasion, Marx’s own son sent him a letter and addressed it “My dear devil.”<sup>11</sup> Marx’s partner, Friedrich Engels, declared that ten thousand devils had Marx by the hair.<sup>12</sup>

In 2020, Paul Kengor wrote a book titled *The Devil and Karl Marx: Communism’s Long March of Death, Deception, and Infiltration*. Frankly, it was difficult to read, so dark was its subject. According to Kengor, Marx was a tyrant, a racist, and a misogynistic radical who hated God and wanted to see the world burn.

In his 1837 poem “The Pale Maiden,” Marx composed these self-descriptive words:

Thus Heaven I’ve forfeited,  
I know it full well.  
My soul, once true to God,  
Is chosen for Hell.<sup>13</sup>

Four years later, in 1841, he wrote these lines, which are even more damning:

Look now, my blood-dark sword shall stab  
Unerringly within thy soul. . . .  
The hellish vapors rise and fill the brain  
Till I go mad and my heart is utterly changed.  
See the sword—the Prince of Darkness sold it to me.  
For he beats the time and gives the signs.  
Ever more boldly I play the dance of death.<sup>14</sup>

In 1849, one year after publishing his crowning work, *The Communist Manifesto*, Marx was evicted by his landlord who was fed up with his filthiness. “Karl drank too much, smoked too much, never exercised, and

suffered from warts and boils due to lack of washing. He stunk . . . As for the family apartment, everything [was] broken down, busted, spilled, smashed, falling apart—from toys and chairs and dishes and cups to tables . . . and on and on.”<sup>15</sup>

Karl Marx fathered an illegitimate child by his maid, Helene Demuth. He blamed the child on Engels, who thought it was a great joke. Since Marx never had a job, he mooched off everyone—his parents, Engels, and anyone else that he could find. His wife, Jenny, was so miserable in their marriage she wanted to die, a wish she pondered daily. His daughters, Jenny and Laura, fulfilled their mother’s wish. Jenny poisoned herself when she was just forty-three. And in a death pact with her husband, Laura also committed suicide when she was sixty-six.

Marx died in despair on March 14, 1883. Just before his death, he wrote to his friend Engels, “How pointless and empty is life, but how desirable!”<sup>16</sup> He was buried in Highgate Cemetery, considered the center of satanism in London.

I wonder how many who are championing socialism and Marxism are aware of the poisonous roots of this doctrine. Their founder was a hideous person; and what he was, socialism became! This is a spiritual battle of truth versus lies. It brings to mind Ephesians 6:12: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

As many have noted, Karl Marx is ruling the world from his grave. Here are some of the characteristics of his hellish ideology.

### **Marxism Is Anti-God**

Karl Marx hated Christianity, which he saw as a source of oppression. To him, religion was “the opium of the people.” For communism to succeed, loyalty to the church had to be replaced by loyalty to the state. On one occasion, he described the church as “medieval mildew” which must be scraped away.<sup>17</sup>

Other socialist leaders have followed the same path, including Joseph

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Stalin, Fidel Castro, Pol Pot, and beyond. Each of these men saw organized religion as an enemy—a competitor that needed to be controlled or eliminated. As one scholar noted, “Religion was the enemy, a rival to Marxist mind control, and it had to be vanquished regardless of costs and difficulties.”<sup>18</sup> In the Soviet Union, one of their favorite slogans was, “Let us drive out the capitalists from earth and God from heaven.”

Another historian noted: “[In Russia] as early as the spring of 1918, an open campaign of terror was launched against all religions, and particularly against the Russian Orthodox church. [It was a] policy of terror . . . felt by every religious faith.”<sup>19</sup> In the following years, countless Orthodox bishops and priests were murdered, and those who survived were denied their civil rights and subjected to economic oppression.

Despite what many claim to believe or propose, Marxism is not compatible with the free expression of religion.

### Marxism Is Totalitarian

There’s another general fact about Marxism we should grasp. It quickly becomes totalitarian. The term *totalitarianism* was first used by supporters of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, who summed it up this way: “Everything within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state.”<sup>20</sup>

Rod Dreher adds,

According to Hannah Arendt, the foremost scholar of totalitarianism, a totalitarian society is one in which an ideology seeks to displace all prior traditions and institutions, with the goal of bringing all aspects of society under control of that ideology. A totalitarian state is one that aspires to nothing less than defining and controlling reality. Truth is whatever the rulers decide it is. As Arendt has written, wherever totalitarianism has ruled, “[I]t has begun to destroy the essence of man.”

Today’s totalitarianism demands allegiance to a set of progressive beliefs, many of which are incompatible with logic—and certainly with Christianity. Compliance is forced less by the state than by elites

who form public opinion, and by private corporations that, thanks to technology, control our lives far more than we would like to admit.<sup>21</sup>

### Marxism Is Divisive

Marxism thrives on division. In historic Marxism the division was promoted between classes of people: the oppressors against the oppressed; the bosses against the workers. Men like Hugo Chávez went out of their way to ensure that the poor hated the wealthy.

In today's cultural Marxism, the exploited divide is often racial, sexual, and/or gender-related. I believe that's one of the reasons we've lost some of the progress we've made on race relations. Whatever it is or however far it might be removed from actual racism, whenever a socialist or Marxist can't figure out how to respond to an issue, they always—and I mean every time—call it racist.

This is tragic for many reasons. It's very hurtful to be branded a racist if one has done or said nothing that would lead a rational person to make such an accusation. Once racism has been pinned on a person, it's almost impossible to get rid of it, no matter what you do. But there's another seldom-discussed sadness with playing the race card: if everything is racist, nothing is racist. All of us know there are still racial issues that need to be dealt with in America and around the world, but the true issues get lost in the avalanche of unwarranted accusations.

### Marxism Is Deadly

In 1999, *The Black Book of Communism* attempted to calculate a Marxist-Leninist death toll for the twentieth century. It revealed the most colossal case of political carnage in history:

- Latin America: 150,000 deaths
- Eastern Europe: 1 million deaths
- Vietnam: 1 million deaths
- Africa: 1.7 million deaths
- Cambodia: 2 million deaths

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- North Korea: 2 million deaths
- USSR: 20 million deaths
- China: 65 million deaths



The butchers who led this assault on humanity included Joseph Stalin in Russia, Mao Zedong in China, Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il in North Korea, Fidel Castro in Cuba, Nicolae Ceausescu in Romania, and others.

The death count that resulted from Marxism between 1917 and 1979 would “equate to a rate of multiple thousands dead per day over the course of a century. Even Adolph Hitler got nowhere close to that. In fact, neither did the two deadliest wars in history, World War I and II, which need to be combined and doubled to get near Communism’s butcher bill.”<sup>22</sup>

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was fooled by none of it. He taught that “socialism of any type and shade leads to a total destruction of the human spirit and to a leveling of mankind into death.”<sup>23</sup>

## What Does This Mean?

I'm afraid this new political trajectory in our nation is more than just a trend. It is a seismic shift toward a Marxist agenda. We are harvesting the weeds from Karl Marx's toxic garden. If you look closely, you can draw the connections.

### The Destruction of Monuments

It's become common in recent years to see news headlines or live video of protest groups surrounding, defacing, and eventually removing statues and other historical monuments they consider to be offensive. These incidents began with controversial monuments of Civil War participants, but they have expanded to include key men and women from history—even figures such as George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

When we witness these events, we're not simply seeing a bunch of rowdy young people tearing down statues. Instead, these are part of a concerted effort to attack and ultimately erase the past.

As Milan Kundera wrote during the rise of communism, some people rewrite or erase the past. In that way, the masses forget who they are and can be drawn into a new future. He said, "The first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory. Destroy its books, its culture, its history. Then have someone write new books, manufacture a new culture, invent a new history. Before long the nation will begin to forget what it is and what it was."<sup>24</sup>

Totalitarians are determined to wipe out everything that is not in their particular interests. Remember Mussolini's definition of totalitarianism: "Everything within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state."

On the contrary, it's interesting to discover that the word *remember* is found 164 times in the Old Testament. Socialism wants you to forget; Christianity wants you to remember. "Remember the former things of old," God said through the prophet Isaiah, "I am God, and there is none like Me" (46:9).

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Yes, remember all that God has done for us. On the basis of past mercies, we can build a future of grace. We can say with the psalmist, “For You, O God, have . . . given me the heritage of those who fear Your name” (Ps. 61:5).

Biblical heroes built monuments to remind future generations of God’s goodness and guidance. For example, when Israel entered the promised land they went through the parted waters of the Jordan River, a story told in four verses in Joshua 3:14–17. But the entire fourth chapter of Joshua describes what happened next. Twelve strong men from the tribes of Israel erected a monument on the western side of the river. Joshua said, “When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What are these stones?’ then you shall let your children know, saying, ‘Israel crossed over this Jordan on dry land’” (4:21–22).

Psalm 77:11 says, “Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.”

The Bible itself is largely a history book, telling the stories of flawed heroes who, through faith, conquered kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, and became valiant in battle (Heb. 11). But revisionist historians are scrubbing our children’s textbooks of all that is biblical or Christian, and they are rewriting our history to suit their own secular and socialist agendas.

### Cancel Culture

Don’t think it’s just statues and histories that are being torn down. It’s also anyone who doesn’t kneel at the altar of prevailing political passions. You are canceled. Elsewhere in this book you’ll find an entire chapter on this subject, but for now I want to point out that this, too, is a child of totalitarianism. In cultural Marxism, there can be no room for tolerance or dissenting opinions.

While working on this chapter, I found it frustrating to watch the news because I felt I was drowning in illustrations. For example, I watched a school board in New Jersey cancel the titles of the holidays on its scholastic calendar. It will no longer be Christmas or Thanksgiving or Martin Luther King Jr. Day. From now on, these will all be referred

to as student holidays. But here's the kicker: When one of the parents in the back of the room tried to raise an objection, the chairman of the school board slammed his fist on the table and said, "This is not a debate."

Case closed. Discussion over. Opinion canceled. The attempt by that board of education to eliminate the holidays was later overturned, but perhaps not for long.

Dreher wrote, "Today in our societies, dissenters . . . find their businesses, careers, and reputations destroyed. They are pushed out of the public square, stigmatized, canceled, and demonized as racists, sexists, homophobes, and the like. And they are afraid to resist, because they are confident that no one will join them or defend them."<sup>25</sup>

Before the First Amendment is ushered out the door, let me remind you of what it says:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### The Dismantling of the Nuclear Family

Marxism reaches its cold fingers into your very home. Marxists want to raise your children and determine your income. Families based on Judeo-Christian values bred inequality, Marx thought. As Lutzer put it, Marx believed Christian homes "feed on greed and systemic oppression. Such families had to be dismantled if the Marxist vision of equality was to be realized. . . . In Marxism, the family is perceived as a unit in which wives are suppressed by their husbands and children are suppressed by their parents. These clusters of oppression have to be broken up; mothers have to leave their homes and join the workforce."<sup>26</sup>

God created the family to be the glue in human society. For example, when God desired to create humanity itself and establish people within the ecosystem of our world, He did not reach down and fashion a

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full-blown society. He did not create cities or nations with laws and roads and structures.

No, He created a family. He began with Adam and Eve, and He told them to “be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28).

Similarly, when God desired to reveal Himself more intimately to a human civilization that was staggering under the influence of sin, He did not accomplish that mission by fashioning a philosophical system. He did not thunder from heaven in great speeches with powerful rhetoric.

Instead, He spoke through a family. He told Abraham, “Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him” (17:19).

And when God chose to take on human flesh in order to fulfill His promises and provide salvation for all people, He did not join a kingdom or seek to win an election. He did not attempt to connect Himself with an existing power system.

Instead, He joined a family. The angel told Mary, “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS” (Luke 1:31).

Socialists know that as long as the family remains strong, socialism cannot flourish. So, there’s an ongoing attempt to subjugate the home to the government.

### The Redistribution of Wealth

This ideology also teaches that all human assets should be claimed by the government and redistributed to the masses by a more equitable formula. This would supposedly rid the world of poverty. But somehow it has never worked out that way. It doesn’t take a scholar to see that wherever this principle has been implemented, the poor have gotten poorer and the few elitists who have been assigned to redistribute the wealth have themselves become filthy rich. Equality cannot be engineered.

Economist Iain Murray said, “The central issues with income inequality, is that the people who seem to be the most concerned with it

never really ask the question, how are the poor actually doing? Because when you asked that question and look at the data that answers it, you will see that the poor do the best in economically free societies and do the worst in societies where they are controlled in one way or another, whether it be by socialist, or fascist or authoritarian regimes.”<sup>27</sup>

Jude Dougherty, dean emeritus at Catholic University, understood the impossibility of universal equality when he wrote that people “differ in strength, intelligence, ambition, courage, perseverance and all else that makes for success. There is no method to make people both free and equal.”<sup>28</sup>

### Defunding the Police

Socialists are especially keen on keeping the reins of law enforcement in their tight fists. In America, their first step is to villainize the police, then to defund them. That’s why some cities have slashed their police budgets. And surprise! Each of these cities has seen a dramatic uptick in violent crimes in the months that followed. In Minneapolis, murders rose by a mind-numbing 46 percent. In Portland, Oregon, murders more than tripled. And the Los Angeles Police Department reported a 38 percent increase in murders.<sup>29</sup>

Police officers are retiring early, and the recruiting of new police officers is at an all-time low. Unless something changes, our once beautiful cities will become wastelands where gangs rule the streets while politicians go to and from work in their limousines accompanied by their expensive security personnel.

There’s a remarkable verse in the Bible about police and law enforcement officials. The apostle Paul called them “God’s minister to you for good” (Rom. 13:4). Like all other humans, police officers are fallible, but without them our society would not be viable. The Lord views them as His ministers to maintain order on earth.

Whatever you do, don’t miss the socialist’s motivation for vilifying local authorities. No matter how loudly they deny it, they are simply trying to let the local government fail so that they can federalize our cities and states, moving control for all that happens to Washington.

## Where Do We Go from Here?

If we stopped the chapter at this point, we'd all be pretty grim. But darkness cannot withstand light, and Marxism is no match for the Master. Our Lord Jesus Christ “has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him” (1 Peter 3:22).

So let's formulate a biblical strategy for exalting Christ in a world where socialism is once again on the rise.

### Review What the Bible Says

First, we have to grasp what the Lord has to say about issues related to Marxist thought. Dr. Albert Mohler gave us a well-considered summary:

The Bible reveals several important economic principles. Scripture affirms the dignity of work (Ephesians 4:28) and the fact that those who refuse to work should not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). The Bible clearly affirms private property (Exodus 22:7) and condemns theft (Exodus 20:15) and covetousness (Exodus 20:17). Saving (Proverbs 13:22), thrift (Proverbs 21:20), land ownership (Acts 4:34–37), and investment (Matthew 25:27) are all honored in Scripture, and the Bible teaches that the laborer is worthy of his wages (Luke 10:7). Socialism contradicts or subverts every one of these principles.<sup>30</sup>

It's particularly important to have a firm grasp on the ending of the second chapter of Acts. Someone will likely tell you the Bible teaches socialism here, and that the early church was communist. Here is the passage they are referring to:

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. (Acts 2:42–45)

This is a story of personal *sharing*, not public *socialism*. The generosity of the early church would have baffled Karl Marx. In their pentecostal enthusiasm, the early Christians wanted to help the poor and to share with one another. No one asked them to do it. No one applied any pressure. Their own internal hearts of kindness compelled them to give to those in need.

This was friends sharing with friends, not the government seizing assets from one person, keeping some for itself, and redistributing the rest. Neither the city fathers of Jerusalem nor the imperial court of Rome ended up with as much as a widow’s mite.

That was fortunate for those early believers, because generosity was key to the early Christians’ survival in the face of persecution. The Jerusalem believers eventually faced extreme oppression and were scattered from the city—yet they remained faithful. People under persecution often have better priorities than the rest of us, and those disciples showed how Jesus is more important than all this world can offer. Our earthly resources are secondary to our heavenly inheritance.

So, Acts 2 is a story of generous hearts, not governmental control. It’s also a story of humble dependence on God for all the needs of life. Jesus said, “For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matt. 6:32–33).

### Refuse to Live by Lies

We must also remain true to the truth. Proverbs 29:12 says, “If a ruler pays attention to lies, all his servants become wicked.”

After his expulsion from Russia for writing his famous work, *The Gulag Archipelago*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn published a final message to the Russian people: “Live Not by Lies.” In this essay, he challenged

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his fellow Russians not to yield to government pressure. Here is some of what he wrote:

Let us admit it: we have not matured enough to march into the squares and shout the truth out loud or to express aloud what we think. It is not necessary. It's dangerous. But let us refuse to say what we do not think.

Our path is not that of giving conscious support to lies about anything at all. And once we realise where the perimeters of falsehood are (everyone sees them in his own way), our path is to walk away from this gangrenous boundary. If we did not paste together the dead bones and scales of ideology, if we did not sew together rotting rags, we would be astonished how quickly the lies would be rendered helpless and would subside.<sup>31</sup>

Later in the essay, Solzhenitsyn offered a list of what citizens must not do if they are to be faithful to the truth. They must *not*:

- Say, write, affirm, or distribute anything that distorts the truth.
- Go to a demonstration or participate in a collective action unless he truly believes in the cause.
- Take part in a meeting in which the discussion is forced and no one can speak the truth.
- Vote for a candidate or proposal he considers to be dubious or unworthy.
- Support journalism that distorts or hides the underlying facts.<sup>32</sup>

Christians, too, have been called to refuse falsehood—even to accept or listen to what is false.

“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,” wrote Solomon (Prov. 12:22). “He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house,” echoed the psalmist. “He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence” (Ps. 101:7).

So much of what we hear in our culture today has no connection to common sense, and it often feels easier just to ignore the falsehoods and

mistruths. But ignoring them allows those falsehoods to continue. Even to thrive!

Instead, let us refuse to live by lies.

### **Resolve to Follow Christ and Not Just Admire Him**

Jesus said, “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:19).

Now, let me ask you something. If we are not of this world but chosen out of the world, shouldn’t everything about us be under the King’s control? Shouldn’t we yield all we are and all we have to the King of kings and Lord of lords? If so, it is God—not government—that orders our lives. To persevere in an increasingly socialist culture, you’re going to have to decide whether to be a Christ-follower or merely a Christ-admirer.

Søren Kierkegaard wrote something similar: “The admirer never makes any sacrifices. He always plays it safe. Though in words, phrases, songs, he is inexhaustible about how he praises Christ, he renounces nothing, will not reconstruct his life, and will not let his life express what he supposedly admires. Not so for the follower. No, no. The follower aspires with all his strength to be what he admires.”<sup>33</sup>

This is what Jesus was talking about when He explained the cost of discipleship: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. . . . So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:26, 33).

There’s no getting around this, nor do we want to. This method of discipleship has brought untold blessings to endless generations of Christians for the last two thousand years. Now it’s our turn to put these words into practice.

### **Rethink Small Groups**

Today’s evolving political culture also compels us to upgrade all the small group ministries in our churches. As many of us learned during

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the COVID crisis, small groups are vital in rough times. Going back to the second chapter of Acts, let's remember the form established for us by the early church: "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God" (vv. 46–47).

At our church in San Diego, over three thousand people are part of small groups, and they lightened the stress of many hearts during the lockdown. I expect that number to grow as we look back over our shoulders and look forward into the future. Technology can help. Zoom small groups played a big part in holding our congregation together during the fourteen months we were apart. Furthermore, the government has more difficulty tracking small groups than large crowds.

One person wrote, "What the experience of the church under communism, and a discerning read of the signs of the times today, tells us is that all Christians of every church should start forming these cells—not simply to deepen its members spiritual lives, but to train them in active resistance."<sup>34</sup>

Small groups are not retreats from the rest of the world. They are gatherings that help us care for one another, study the instructions of Scripture, cope with the world, and advance with the gospel. They are biblical in nature, and they will prepare us to resist the socialist thought army that is surely coming after us.

### Resist Any Way You Can

And speaking of resistance, let's remember Peter's words in Acts 5:29: "We ought to obey God rather than men." Hopefully, we'll be able to continue as law-abiding citizens of our various nations, but anytime the government tries to force us to violate our biblical beliefs, we have a responsibility to speak up. You might be surprised to learn how receptive some of our leaders are to a calm, but assertive, word on behalf of our religious liberty.

For example, Elizabeth Turner worked hard on her valedictorian speech for Hillsdale High School in Hillsdale, Michigan. She

intentionally highlighted her faith in Jesus. In the draft of her speech she said, “For me, my future hope is found in my relationship with Christ. By trusting in him and choosing to live a life dedicated to bringing His kingdom glory, I can be confident that I am living a life with purpose and meaning. My identity is found by what God says and who I want to become is laid out in Scripture.”

That didn’t go over well with school officials. Her principal told her, “You are representing the school in the speech, not using the podium as your public forum. . . . We need to be mindful about the inclusion of religious aspects. These are your strong beliefs, but they are not appropriate for a speech in a school public setting. I know this will frustrate you, but we have to be mindful of it.”<sup>35</sup>

This didn’t just frustrate Elizabeth; it frustrated my friend Robert Morgan when he read about it. Picking up the phone, he called the school and spoke with someone in the principal’s office. Rob was gentle and soft-spoken, but he questioned the school’s decision. “This is an infringement on the student’s civil rights,” he said. “It’s an erosion of our freedom of speech and worship.” He was directed to the office of the Hillsdale Superintendent of Schools, where he left a message on the answering machine. Then he posted a link to the story on his social media sites.

“I had just gone to the grocery store to get a banana for lunch,” Rob said, “when my cell phone rang. To my total surprise, Superintendent Shawn Vondra was on the line. He wanted me to know Hillsdale High School will certainly allow Elizabeth and all their valedictorians to express their genuine faith without censorship. Superintendent Vondra’s call was so warm it almost felt we’d been friends for years.”

Rob told me it wasn’t his phone call that made all this happen. It was the outpouring of support from Christians all over the country. One of these supporters was Mat Staver at Liberty Counsel. He sent a legal complaint to Hillsdale High School, alleging that federal law had been broken when they tried to censor a student’s speech for a school event.

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Everyone's voice played a part, and this is an example of the power of our voices speaking up.

### Remember Venezuela

Today, Venezuela is a social and economic wasteland, with 96 percent of citizens living below the poverty line. Most people earn less than a US dollar a day. Poor economic management brought about inflation rates of more than ten million percent, which is why a roll of toilet paper cost 2.6 million bolivars (the Venezuelan currency) in 2018.<sup>36</sup> And the lack of investment in commodities means the nation is barren of essential medicines and medical services. As a result, an estimated 5.5 million refugees have fled Venezuela in recent years—a number that represents more than a sixth of the nation's total population from 2014.<sup>37</sup>

In short, a country once defined by freedom and opportunity is now oppressed, barren, and hopeless. That is the fruit of a Marxist revolution.

No form of government on earth is perfect. Every political philosophy is defective, including democracy and the free market system. But some ideas are worse than others. Marxism is among the worst ideas ever conceived. Just ask its oppressed multitudes and its countless casualties. We should be aware of its history, herald its dangers, and oppose its spread.

The best news of all is this: When Jesus returns, “the government will be upon His shoulder. . . . Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever” (Isa. 9:6–7).

Our Lord will “judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore” (2:4).

Socialism, Marxism, and all the other ugly “isms” of history will be . . . well, they will *be* history. And our Lord Jesus Christ will reign forever and ever. When the twelve spies explored the promised land, only

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two of them brought back a faithful report—Joshua and Caleb. It was Caleb who later said: “And I brought [Moses] back a report according to my convictions” (Josh. 14:7 NIV).

It’s time for us all to live by convictions, not by convenience. And remember, the battle is the Lord’s, and the truth cannot be intimidated.



*The world is getting smaller every year. We can be almost anywhere on the planet within twenty-four hours. We know more—and more quickly—about the news in far-flung countries than we do about what’s happening in our own neighborhoods.*

*Though there are many benefits to being so interconnected, there are also dangers. The “global” empires in the past—Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome—might have had efficient infrastructure and ease of doing business, but it often came at the cost of personal and religious freedom. Not to mention the old adage that the bigger they are, the harder they fall. And when an empire falls, you can bet there is plenty of collateral damage.*

*In our modern day, calls to increased globalization seem to go along with talk of a single government, currency, and culture. But whose? And to what end? Should we be worried? What does the Bible have to say about all of this?*



## Chapter 2

# An International Prophecy—Globalism

*All the world marveled and followed the beast.*

REVELATION 13:3



A story recently spread over the Internet saying the United Nations was quietly working on shadowy plans to create a “new world order” and a one-world government. Among items under discussion: a global currency, a central bank, the end of national sovereignty, mandatory vaccines, universal basic income, microchipping of citizens, and the end of fossil fuels. Many of these goals could be achieved by 2030, said the report, which was titled U.N. Agenda 21/2030.

The United Nations quickly disavowed the report, and the media debunked it.

But why did this story spread so quickly? Because every element of it seemed plausible! When we look around at the world today, it’s easy to believe governments and influential people behind the scenes—the powers behind the power—could be laying just those types of plans. In



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fact, sometimes it's easy to feel such things are on the horizon—that they are inevitable.

This is especially true in light of a global emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic, which nearly crushed the world's economy. Imagine what would have happened had the mortality rate of the pandemic been exponentially higher. Such an existential global crisis would certainly call for a unified global response.

If and when that happens, there's no going back. We will have officially jumped headfirst into the waters of globalization, global governance, and a global economy.

Even at this present moment, we've already got our toes in those waters. In his book *The Ages of Globalization*, Jeffrey D. Sachs wrote about the importance of having a global response to pandemics like COVID-19: "Disease control is not the only area where global cooperation is vital today. The case for global cooperation and institutions extends to many urgent concerns, including the control of human-induced climate change; the conservation of biodiversity; the control and reversal of the massive pollution of the air, soils, and oceans; the proper uses and governance of the internet; the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons; the avoidance of mass forced migrations; and the ever-present challenge of avoiding or ending violent conflicts."<sup>1</sup>

During the coronavirus crisis, former British prime minister Gordon Brown vocally called for "a temporary form of global government" to deal with it.<sup>2</sup>

Professor Arvind Ashta of the Burgundy School of Business in France wrote, "Perhaps, the situation created by COVID-19 might serve to highlight the particular advantages of shifting to a world federal government. This may trigger a change that would not only help mitigate the damage caused by the pandemic, but would also offer a solution to many of the other challenges humanity currently faces."<sup>3</sup>

Each of these statements is a call from serious-minded people toward a greater, more intentional establishment of globalization. But

what does that actually mean? What is it that such people want to happen? Let's bring this conversation down to a definition.

Globalization is exactly what it sounds like—the global spread of finance, trade, technology, resources of all sorts, movements of all kinds, information, and people. It's the entire world being bound up in interconnected systems.

Dr. Albert Mohler wrote, "Globalization means that we now understand ourselves as living in an economy and in a community that is irreversibly connected globally. We are able to get on an airplane in virtually any American city and be at any spot on the globe within twenty-four hours. Globalization means that headlines from around the world can arrive as quickly as headlines from across the street. There is a growing awareness of the fact that we are now part of a global civilization that includes, and seems to reach, virtually every inhabitant of the planet."<sup>4</sup>

Jason Fernando wrote for *Investopedia*, "Globalization is a social, cultural, political, and legal phenomenon. . . . Culturally, globalization represents the exchange of ideas, values, and artistic expression among cultures. Globalization also represents a trend toward the development of a single world culture."<sup>5</sup>

Notice that! A single world culture. Perhaps I'm just a Doubting Thomas about this, but I don't relish the thought of a single world culture. What kind of culture would it be? What forces would prevail? And what kind of economic influences would take over? Perhaps most importantly, what would happen to the distinctly different—and distinctly wonderful—cultures that exist today when we travel from region to region around the globe?

Globalization will ultimately involve a single economy with a single currency. Yet even now the economies of the nations are so interconnected it reminds me of a game we used to play called Jenga. Players build a tower using fifty-four blocks, then they take turns removing one block at a time, making it more and more unstable. The game ends when the tower falls.

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Over a decade ago, I wrote a book about the dangers of a coming worldwide economic Armageddon. Here's what I said:

Could we be standing today on the edge of a recession from which no one economy, no one nation, no one union will be able to extricate the world? The Bible predicts that such an era is coming. Fueled by the world's economic convulsions, the only answer will seem to be the unification of the nations under one economic system and one world ruler.

One would expect such a process to begin with the gradual consolidation of wealth and power, both nationally and globally. Today as we witness the merging of banks and the centralization of financial regulations, we cannot help but wonder if the Antichrist is waiting in the wings, ready to make his entrance onto the stage of this desperate world.<sup>6</sup>

I wouldn't change a word now, except to add something. The rise of a handful of powerful billionaires and their Big Tech companies are shaping the way we think about globalization. Big Tech is unifying the world in a way that transcends human government and dominates the world economy.

Author Alexis Wichowski called these massive corporations "net states." She wrote, "We're in a world still dominated by nation-states, but increasingly influenced by the actions of net states. Nation-states continue to own the physical territories within their borders, but net states wield significant power both within and across country space, guiding events that affect us both on an individual and on a global level."<sup>7</sup>

Experts refer to the five FAANG companies: Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, and Google. But don't forget China's Big Tech behemoths: Baidu, Alibaba, and Tencent.

Amy Webb wrote, "Even the best-intentioned people can