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# Messianic Perspectives®

*God has not forgotten the Jewish people, and neither have we.*

## PREPARING FOR THE "GREAT RESET"

BY GARY HEDRICK



By now, just about everyone has heard about the proposed “Great Reset.” It’s been on the cover of *Time* magazine. Politicians, financiers, and scientists are all talking about it. Nations are coming together to make plans. But what does it mean? What, exactly, needs to be reset—and why?

The dictionary definition of “reset” is “to set again or anew.” It can also mean “to change the reading [of a register], often to zero.”<sup>1</sup>



Some anarchists take the idea of a global reset to an extreme, saying we should rewind modern history all the way back to zero and start over. Such a wide-ranging reset would effectively wipe out the culture and achievements of the Judeo-Christian West as we know it. One ambitious activist, someone named Hawk Newsome, threatened the United States in 2020 with this ultimatum: “If this country doesn’t give us what we want, then we will burn down this system and replace it.”<sup>2</sup>

However, this threat didn’t emanate from a single, lone voice. It resonated with many others. Within a matter of weeks of the issuance of this ultimatum, violence erupted on the streets of many major cities. That summer, many of us found ourselves glued to our TV screens, watching in disbelief as hordes of mostly young rioters defied police while looting and burning downtown areas in cities like Atlanta, St. Louis, Seattle, New York City, Minneapolis, Chicago, and several others.

<sup>1</sup> Merriam-Webster Dictionary (Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2022), accessed at merriam-webster.com.

<sup>2</sup> Meghan Roos, “BLM Leader: We’ll ‘Burn’ the System Down If U.S. Won’t Give Us What We Want” in *Newsweek* (6/25/2020 edition), accessed at newsweek.com.

As Christians, how are we to think about these developments? Is there a place for legitimate public protest when the rights of common people are trampled by the rich and powerful? Yes, of course, there is. After all, our country was born in the crucible of public protest (and eventually, all-out war) against Great Britain. The main issue in the 1770s was “taxation without representation.” So, there is a precedent in our country for public protest and even, at times, open rebellion. Nonetheless, a word of caution, it seems to me, is in order here. Christians should think twice before falling in line, like mindless lemmings, behind malcontents who advocate taking the law into their own hands.<sup>3</sup>

## Did the Early Church Rebel?

If anyone could have justified rebellion against an oppressive political system, it was the Early Church. The Roman emperor during much of the Apostolic Age was none other than Nero, a madman who (according to some reports) fiddled while Rome burned in AD 64.<sup>4</sup>

The Roman historian Tacitus (AD 55–117) said Nero was a cruel and ruthless persecutor of the early Messianic (Jewish-Christian) movement. But the early believers didn’t riot or protest the crazy king. On the contrary, the Apostle Peter, who was (according to tradition) later crucified upside-down during Nero’s reign, wrote, *Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme* (1 Peter 2:13). A few verses later, he added, *Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king* (v. 17).<sup>5</sup> That king, of course, was none other than Nero.

Peter knew that it is ultimately God’s role to right wrongs in this world—and someday, that’s what He will do. In the meantime, we can try to address inequities by passing laws and enacting policies, but no one can do *Tikkun Olam* like the Lord can.<sup>6</sup> There are 130 references to “justice” in the English Bible, and nine more references to the evils of “injustice.” For instance, it says, [God] *will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor* (Psalm 72:4). He is a defender of widows and orphans (Psalm 68:5). These are the causes that are closest to God’s heart.

<sup>3</sup> Lawlessness is treated in Scripture as a serious matter. In 2 Thessalonians 2:7, Paul refers to a “mystery of lawlessness” operating in the last days. He goes on to characterize the end-time Antichrist as “the lawless one” (vv. 8–9). That is, he will refuse to submit himself to God’s (or anyone else’s) Law.

<sup>4</sup> Just for the record, some historians dispute these reports about Nero’s fiddling while Rome burned. However, no one disputes that the man was deranged and had a vicious vendetta against the early Christians.

<sup>5</sup> One apocryphal source, *The Acts of Peter* (c. AD 190), says that Peter, upon learning that he was about to be crucified, requested that he be crucified “head-downwards” rather than duplicating the way the Lord died. Corroborating data does, indeed, support the contention that Peter died in Rome, although the event is not specifically mentioned in the NT.

<sup>6</sup> *Tikkun Olam* is Hebrew for “repair (the) world.”

## Messianic Perspectives®

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Nero (AD 37–68), the last emperor of Rome's Julio-Claudian dynasty, was a ruthless and cruel persecutor of the first-century Church. Thousands of believers in Yeshua perished during his bloody reign.



John William Waterhouse

## A Globalist Agenda

Following that speech, reaction from conservatives all over Canada was swift and strong. What Trudeau said was controversial because it sounded like he was promoting a longstanding globalist agenda that includes three problematic strategies:

1. To redistribute wealth on a worldwide scale (something sounding suspiciously like classic Socialism/Marxism);<sup>8</sup>
2. To undermine the sovereignty of individual countries by eroding border controls and undermining the self-governance of individual states; and
3. To bankrupt Western industrialized economies by imposing a radical “Green” economic agenda on them based on a narrative of apocalyptic climate change.

Trudeau’s speech sparked an avalanche of debate on social media—both in Canada and around the world.



## Reset What?

There is no question that our society is imperfect. But are flawed, human politicians and social engineers really in a position to carry out a “reset” to correct everything that’s wrong? Can they solve the world’s problems with their proposed reset?

The term “Great Reset” garnered widespread attention in June 2020, when it referred to an initiative of the World Economic Forum (WEF). The WEF sponsors an annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, where leaders from around the world are invited to convene for a discussion of their shared economic interests. The focus of the 2020 forum was the devastating effect of the COVID pandemic on the economies of the world.

Attention intensified the following September, when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada made a presentation at the United Nations in which he said:

This pandemic has provided an opportunity for a reset. This is our chance to accelerate our pre-pandemic efforts, to reimagine economic systems that actually address global challenges like extreme poverty, inequality, and climate change.”<sup>7</sup>



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

<sup>8</sup> In a socialist economy, the means of production (e.g., businesses, factories, utilities) are owned or controlled by the state. Marxism resembles socialism in some ways but differs in that its objective is a classless and stateless utopia in which there are no borders and no private property. Some people point to Acts 2:44 (*Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common*) as evidence that the Early Church practiced a form of Marxism. The difference, however, is that the *koinonia* the Early Church practiced was voluntary, not mandated. Ananias and Sapphira died not because they withheld their property, but because they lied about it (Acts 5:1–11). No true Marxist state has survived in the world today—an indication that such a system is not sustainable. Even today’s “communist” China is a quasi-socialist state at best. According to Axios, modern China has more billionaires than the United States (1,133 to 716) as of March 2022 (axios.com). So much for Karl Marx’s ideas about the equitable redistribution of wealth in a classless society!

<sup>7</sup> Trudeau’s September 2020 speech may be viewed on YouTube at [youtu.be/n2fp0Jeyjvw](https://youtu.be/n2fp0Jeyjvw). Here, we have provided only a brief excerpt.

## Should Christians Go Green?

In the beginning, then, the idea of a reset was propelled forward by the so-called “green” movement. Many conservative Christians instinctively distance themselves from anything with the “green” label. But do environmental concerns necessarily undermine Christian values? On the contrary, many Bible-believers affirm our responsibility to care for our environment. We believe our world is part of God’s magnificent Creation, and He has placed it in our care as His stewards (Gen. 1:26–31). This responsibility should be taken seriously.

Left to right: Harold Hoehner, J. I. Packer, R. C. Sproul and James Boice, signing the The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, October 1978.



When the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy (ICBI) met in Chicago in October 1978, 200 evangelical scholars from dozens of denominations came together to produce a joint declaration entitled “The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy.” Article XVI of this groundbreaking document is “Stewardship of the Environment.” It goes into some detail regarding the significance of God’s Creation and our responsibility to care for it as His representatives. The Bible nowhere gives us license to mismanage natural resources or to damage the environment needlessly.

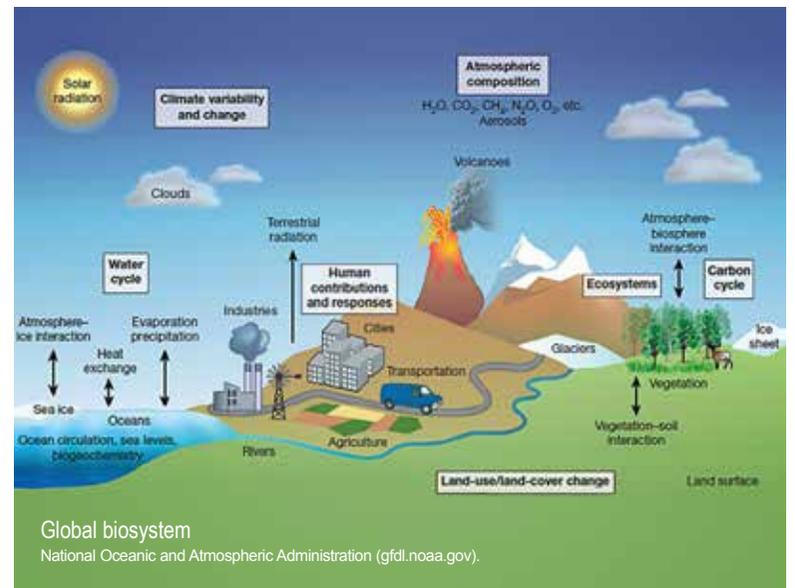
Would you kindly permit me a brief personal observation? When I was a young boy, my grandfather was a rancher in Moreno Valley, California. He raised melons and potatoes, among other crops. My most vivid memory of the ranch was an old milk cow, Millie, who used to chase me across the barnyard when I startled her. Grandpa Hedrick respected the environment and believed in the principles of conservation and sustainability. My wife, Marcia Goldsmith, is also from a family of farmers who felt the same way about the environment. Her dad loved to hunt, but he wouldn’t kill an animal unless it was going to be food for his table. He didn’t believe in killing God’s creatures just for the fun of it.

However, the so-called “green” movement is an entirely different animal. It’s no longer about mere conservation and caring for the environment. Now it’s more about the destruction of the industrial infrastructure that underlies the economies of the Western industrialized world. Its tone of strident and alarmist catastrophism goes far beyond the limits of responsible conservatism.



Many conservatives would agree that there’s a place for all-electric (or even hydrogen-powered) vehicles, wind turbines, and solar panels as sources of energy.<sup>9</sup> We’re not opposed to looking for cleaner, more plentiful, or more efficient sources of energy. However, green advocates often fail to acknowledge that huge amounts of fossil fuels are required to create, install, and maintain these technologies.<sup>10</sup> This renders green initiatives like the proposed “Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty” impractical and unworkable (utilizing technologies that are currently available) in terms of achieving zero emissions.<sup>11</sup>

Militant green proponents have taken an apocalyptic tone with their warnings about an approaching end-of-the-world scenario brought about by catastrophic, manmade climate change. Just last year, one well-known scientific journal published an article with this provocative title: “How Much Time Does Humanity Have Left?” But anyone who took the time to read the article found that the answer to the question is “about a billion years.”<sup>12</sup>

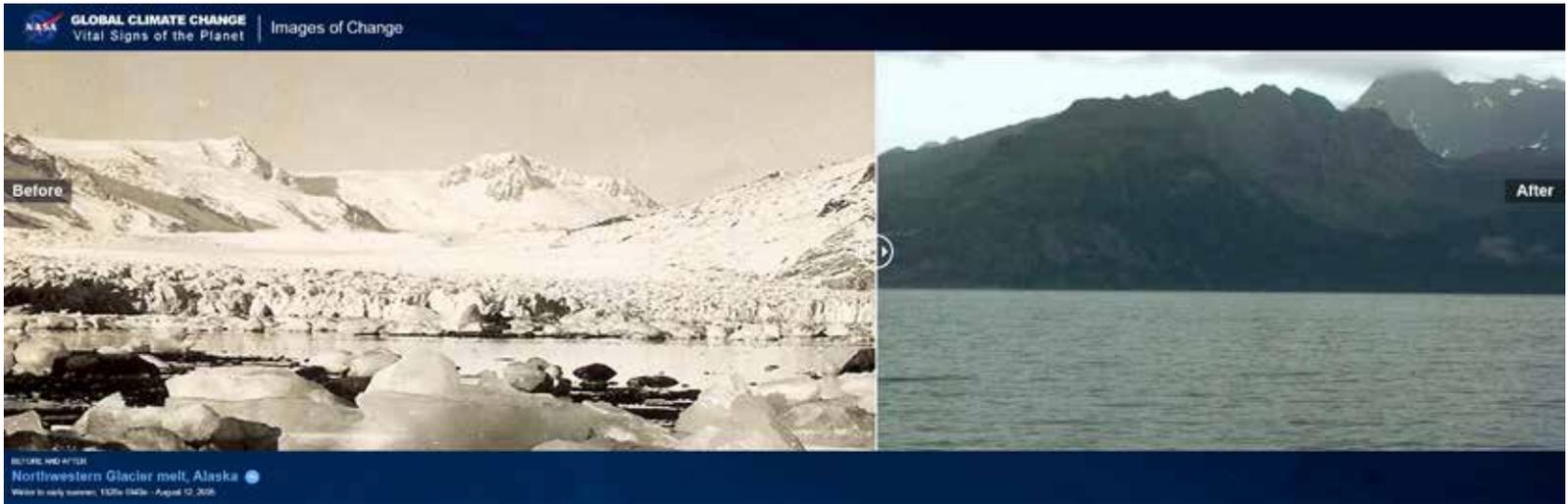


<sup>9</sup> Scientists estimate that there’s enough potential fusion energy in roughly twenty gallons of water (H<sub>2</sub>O) to power the entire continental United States for one full year (i.e., an output of roughly 4,000 terawatt hours of energy). The problem is that we do not yet possess the technology to extract that energy from water.

<sup>10</sup> See Bonner R. Cohen, “Going Green Requires Using Fossil Fuels, Says New Study” (*Heartland Daily News*, Oct. 7, 2022), accessed at [heartlanddailynews.com](http://heartlanddailynews.com).

<sup>11</sup> “What Is the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Movement?” in *What on Earth?*, the science news service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (11/17/2022), accessed at [cbc.ca/news/science/what-on-earth-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-1.6655049](http://cbc.ca/news/science/what-on-earth-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-1.6655049).

<sup>12</sup> Avi Loeb, “How Much Time Does Humanity Have Left?” in *Scientific American* magazine (May 12, 2021), accessed at [scientificamerican.com](http://scientificamerican.com). The article sums up our predicament like this: “Although Earth serves as a comfortable home at the moment, we will ultimately be forced to relocate because the sun will boil off all liquid water on our planet’s surface within a billion years.”



## It's All about One-and-a-Half Degrees

Is “climate change” real? Yes, of course, it is. It’s a matter of simple observation. May I offer another personal anecdote? My family and I were invited to visit some dear friends in Alaska a few years ago. One day, they were showing us a beautiful lake near Anchorage when one of the daughters said, “Do you see that ice out there?” She was pointing to a big chunk of ice, about the size of a 1960s Volkswagen bus, bobbing up and down out in the middle of the lake. She told us that chunk of ice used to be a full-sized glacier that they played on when they were children.

Under their mother’s watchful eye, they would climb way up to the top of the glacier and then slide back down. It was great fun! But when we were there, that VW-sized chunk of ice (and the water in the lake) was all that was left of a glacier that had once been the size of a small mountain.

I’m not a scientist, so I’m not going to go too far out on a limb here. But it seems to me, in my amateur opinion, that the earth’s climate has a long history of changing due to a variety of factors. Climatologists say that we are still emerging from an ice age—so yes, we are predictably still in a period of global warming.

Here’s what many people in the green movement may not fully appreciate. God didn’t create Planet Earth to be static and unchanging. On the contrary, this amazing, intricately-designed, blue orb is like a living organism—and it’s dynamic (that is, constantly changing) in many ways. It has a very complex, global ecosystem that goes through cycles of warm and cold, among other changes. From the dawn of Creation, there has always been an ebb and flow of climate conditions as global temperatures and ocean levels rise and fall.<sup>13</sup> It seems to me that the relevant questions are not about whether global warming is real (because it obviously is). Rather, the relevant questions are these:

1. How much of the current warming cycle is anthropogenic (that is, caused by human activity); and
2. Even if there is a human element in global warming, how catastrophic, realistically, might the results of human activity be?

<sup>13</sup> Some of these cyclic, climate changes may be attributable, in part, to the Great Flood in Noah’s time. Francis Schaeffer, the renowned Christian philosopher, and co-founder of the L’Abri community in Switzerland, suggested that the Flood may have occurred sometime before 20,000 B.C. and was worldwide in scope: “We have already pointed out that since the [Genesis] genealogies do not constitute a chronology, we cannot date the flood. There are reasons to think that, if the dating systems used in present anthropological studies are correct, the flood should be dated before 20,000 B.C. Let me say that I think these dating systems are still open to question, but if they are correct, then this date is to be considered” (*Genesis in Space and Time* [Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1972], 134).

Some of what scientists call “evolution” in the animal kingdom is nothing more than the God-given ability of living organisms to adapt over generations to natural changes in the earth’s evolving ecosystem. These gradual, adaptive changes in His creatures are part of the divine design to enable them to survive and thrive.

Humanity’s mistake, then, has been our short-sightedness and our failure to respect the planet’s dynamic nature. Maybe it should have occurred to planners that it’s not a good idea to build huge cities in coastal regions that may be under water in a century or two. It will be interesting to see how building permits and the like will be handled during the coming, earthly Kingdom of God. No doubt the criteria will be more enlightened and far-sighted than they are now.



Believe it or not, the warnings we’re hearing from green activists are mostly about limiting global warming to one-and-a-half degrees by 2030. According to the United Nations, our survival depends on it: “‘This is not fiction or exaggeration. It is what science tells us will result from our current energy policies. We are on a pathway to global warming of more than double the 1.5-degree (Celsius, or 2.7-degrees Fahrenheit) limit’ that was agreed in Paris in 2015.”<sup>14</sup>

<sup>14</sup> “UN Climate Report: It’s Now or Never to Limit Global Warming to 1.5 Degrees” in *United Nations News: Global Perspective Human Stories* at news.un.org.

## Follow the Money

So, then, if it's true that climate change is cyclical, and what's happening today is nothing out of the ordinary for Planet Earth, why have many professional scientists been so quick to jump onto the green, end-of-the-world bandwagon? The answer to that question, it turns out, isn't all that complicated. There are dissenting voices on climate change within the scientific community, but their views are routinely suppressed by the ruling majority. That ruling majority maintains its control of the narrative by marginalizing any colleagues who don't buy into their world-ending catastrophism and scary predictions about a dystopian future.

Like a wise person once said, "If you want the truth, just follow the money."<sup>15</sup> And in this case, that's certainly true because what drives much of the professional scientific community is government funding, research money, and grants. So, the money flows in the direction of programs which produce the outcomes that large donors, governments, and foundations want. Researchers with opposing views are often left out in the cold (no pun intended).<sup>16</sup>

## Is This Evangelical Propaganda?

Some left-wing sources claim that right-leaning evangelicals are the main source of opposition to progressive agendas like those of the green movement.<sup>17</sup> However, this indictment of conservative Christians is naive and misguided. The truth is that there are many voices from diverse segments of the religious world that are warning about elitists and social engineers using the COVID pandemic as cover to advance a globalist, anti-God agenda.

One notable example is Carlo Maria Viganò, an archbishop of the Catholic Church who served as the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States from October 2011 to April 2016. He had previously served as Secretary-General of the Governate of Vatican City State from 2009 to 2011. What could a Catholic archbishop possibly have to say that might enlighten Bible-savvy, evangelical Protestants like us? Here are some of Viganò's remarks about the urgent need for an anti-globalist alliance to respond to the threat of a growing conspiracy:

This anti-globalist alliance will have to bring together the nations that intend to escape the infernal yoke of tyranny and affirm their own sovereignty, forming agreements of mutual collaboration with nations and people who share the principle and the common yearning for freedom, justice, and goodness. It will have to denounce the crimes of the elite, identify those responsible, denounce them to international tribunals, and limit their excessive power and harmful influence. It will have to prevent the actions of the lobbyists above all by fighting against the corruption of state officials and those who work in the information industry [i.e., news networks], and by freezing the capital used to destabilize the social order.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Steve Moore, "Follow the (Climate Change) Money" on *The Heritage Foundation* blogsite at heritage.org.

<sup>16</sup> Dr. Matthew Wielicki, a professor of geological sciences at the University of Alabama, has been a leading voice of dissent in the current climate change debate. He doesn't dismiss climate change per se, but he vigorously denies that humans are the main cause of the earth's current warming cycle or that we are facing any sort of climate emergency. Dr. Wielicki began his career as a post-doctoral research scientist in the Department of Earth, Planetary, and Space Sciences and the Institute for Planets and Exoplanets at UCLA. His home page is found at matthewwielicki.com, and includes his impressive curriculum vitae (CV). Search his name on social media to view his numerous, educational videos on the climate change debate.

<sup>17</sup> See Eric English, "Why Evangelicals Hate Deconstruction" on the *Unenlightenment* channel at patheos.com/blogs.

<sup>18</sup> Joe Hoft, "Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò Calls on People of Faith to Unite in a Worldwide Anti-Globalist Alliance to Free Humanity from the Totalitarian Regime" in *Gateway Pundit* (Nov. 17, 2021) at thegatewaypundit.com.



Carlo Maria Viganò  
BostonCatholic

More recently, Viganò came straight to the point:

To think that there is no relationship between the instigators of these crimes and those who carry them out at the highest levels of national governments, the EU, and the UN, is a sign of bad faith, because even a child could understand that we are held hostage by a group of technocrats who are ideologically deviant and morally corrupt. The peoples of the world need to reclaim their sovereignty, which has been usurped by the globalist elite.<sup>19</sup>

Here, then, we have a Catholic archbishop warning us about developments that are taking place under our very noses. And these developments are setting up a scenario that the Bible's prophetic passages warn us about.

## The Rise of Another "Caesar"

The prophets said that as we approach the end of this age, an international alignment of nations will begin to coalesce with a singular political figure—an aspiring, modern-day Caesar, if you will—at its helm.<sup>20</sup> The laws, borders, economies, and even cultures of individual nations will become subject to the dictates of this new world order and its slick, fast-talking leader.

The Apostle John, for instance, refers to this end-time despot as the "beast from the sea" (Rev. 13:1-8). In popular lore, this Beast is more commonly known as "the Antichrist," although that term is used sparingly in the Bible. However, he will be nothing like the dark and menacing "Antichrist" figure portrayed in Hollywood features like *Rosemary's Baby* (1968), *Fear No Evil* (1981), *Prince of Darkness* (1987), and *The Omen* (2006), among others. Instead, he will be a charming and charismatic leader (most likely from Western Europe, if our interpretation of Daniel 9:27 is correct) who will hold the gullible masses spellbound during the Tribulation (Dan. 11:3).

Understandably, then, any talk about a global reset, or establishing a New World Order, triggers a negative reaction from many believers who see these developments as playing into the hands of operatives working surreptitiously on behalf of a sinister, end-time agenda.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> A similar international arrangement was deployed in biblical times. The first-century world was ruled by the Roman Empire—with the god-like Caesar at the top of the pyramid. The Romans obviously didn't have the Internet or modern communications; however, they built a vast system of roads (some of which survive today) that united the entire Empire. The saying was, "All roads lead to Rome," or in its expanded, Latin formulation, *Mille viae ducunt hominēs per saecula Rōmam* (lit., "a thousand roads lead men forever to Rome").

# QANON and the Great Reset

The “reset” that we’re told is currently underway is a movement that seeks to leverage the COVID pandemic and its aftermath to promote a liberal, globalist political agenda. This observation is not conspiratorial propaganda. Documents like those posted publicly by the World Economic Forum (WEF) explain their proposed methods and goals. Neither is this crank “rapture watch” alarmism. One of the clearest voices these days against the Great Reset is a fearless and outspoken Catholic archbishop who was once in control of Vatican City. He’s hardly an evangelical alarmist or crackpot.

Conspiracy theorists have seized on this opportunity to piggy-back their false narratives on the COVID-related Great Reset. For instance, “the mother of all conspiracy theories” is QAnon, an online community that follows a person or persons designated as “Q.” Among other things, they claim that “a cabal of satanic, cannibalistic sexual abusers of children operating a global child sex trafficking ring conspired against former US President Donald Trump during his term in office” (“QAnon,” *Wikipedia* at [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)). Some of them also say that alien reptilians (yes, seriously, a species of reptiles from another world) have secretly assumed the identities of the British royal family and are working toward world domination. Another variation of the theory expands its narrative to include the idea that Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, and George Soros were planning a coup d’état to depose President Trump and take control of the country sometime after 2016. The problem is that there is no evidence that any of this was ever true—no other-worldly lizards and no coup d’état. It was all contrived by people with overactive imaginations—and possibly some suffering from mental health issues, as well.

Perhaps the most concerning problem with QAnon is its underlying anti-Semitic bent. It demonizes “Jews,” saying that the great conspiracy to take over the world is being masterminded by a secret cabal of “Zionists,” or Jewish “elders,” in league with the Bilderbergers, the Rothschilds, the Illuminati, and various other, mostly imaginary Jewish organizations.

Sadly, QAnon continues to make inroads among naïve and gullible Christians. It’s a horrible testimony in the eyes of a watching world. It also deflects attention from the legitimate issues of our day—like ongoing efforts to globalize the international community and undermine the Judeo-Christian underpinnings of Western Civilization.

The silver lining in this dark and foreboding cloud is that those of us who know and love the Messiah have already read the last chapter. We know how this story ends! Another “reset”—this time, the real one—is coming someday. When Yeshua (Jesus), our King-Messiah, returns to this sad and war-torn planet, He will set everything right. Under His global government, justice will prevail. Evil will be vanquished—and evildoers from all the ages will finally get what’s coming to them. As the Prophet Isaiah says, “*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea*” (Isa. 11:9).



WHERE WE GO ONE WE GO ALL

## Competing World Orders

In the old days, we used to talk about one, emerging New World Order. Now, in the twenty-first century, it’s no longer quite that simple. What we are seeing in our generation is the emergence of at least two competing world orders. The older, western world order is led primarily by North America and Western Europe. It champions the virtues of freedom, social justice, and democracy. The newer, competing eastern world order consists of Russia, certain countries in Eastern Europe, and portions of Asia (most notably China).

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) sees itself as the good guys in this death-match. They describe themselves as a “staunch force for the peaceful and equitable world order and a firm opponent of the US. . . .” According to the CCP, the opposing, US-led world order “champions hegemony and power politics.”<sup>21</sup> Both the Chinese and the Russians see the US and her allies as increasingly corrupt, undisciplined, soft, and morally decadent.

Each of these competing world orders (West and East) has its own set of problems. Here in America, we are plagued by internal strife and division, corrupt politics, insipid, feel-good religion, and ultra-rich activists pouring vast amounts of money into efforts to influence elections and alter our way of life. News services on both the left and the right are more interested in feeding their constituencies a steady diet of cherry-picked propaganda than they are about reporting the news fairly and objectively. Economically, we are so far in debt, there is no clear path out of the bottomless pit our politicians (from both sides of the aisle) have dug for us.

The Eastern world order is experiencing similar problems. Their news services, for example, are heavily slanted and censored. The Chinese economy has been teetering for years on the brink of collapse.<sup>22</sup> They rely heavily on virtual slave labor to produce goods and services. There is social unrest and political instability in countries that are ruled by oligarchs, like Russia, Turkey, Iran, and Belarus. A significant portion of the population in North Korea is suffering from malnutrition and many are dying of starvation.

These two competing world orders continue to vie, like dogged, determined boxers slugging it out in the ring, for global dominance and control.

<sup>21</sup>Yin Chengde, “Jostling Two Types of World Orders” (*China-US Focus*, Foreign Policy [Dec. 3, 2015]), accessed at [chinausfocus.com](http://chinausfocus.com).

<sup>22</sup>Some economists are using the term “death spiral” to describe China’s growing social and economic woes. For an informed and captivating take on this topic, see Gordon G. Chang’s *The Coming Collapse of China and the Great US-China Tech War* (New York: Random House, 2001), where several of the author’s key 2001 predictions have come to pass over the past twenty years, except for the final collapse of China’s economy. However, China’s mounting problems don’t mean she is becoming less of a threat. Any experienced hunter will tell you that in the wild, a wounded animal is often the most dangerous.

## Globalism: What's the Problem?

In many ways, global governance is a great idea. In fact, the most efficient way to conduct world affairs would be to have a single ruler or monarch who oversees everything. The prophetic Scriptures, in fact, tell us that the coming Kingdom of God will be a global government with Messiah Yeshua ruling from His throne in the New Jerusalem (Isa. 9:6–7; Rev. 21:1–5).

So, then, what is the problem with establishing such an arrangement prior to the Lord's arrival? The problem can be summed up in one, simple question: Who will oversee the global order? If the world comes together under one, unified administration, someone—whether it's an individual or an entity—must be in charge. Someone or something will be atop the pyramid—and everyone downstream will fall into line or suffer consequences.

Who will rule the world? That is the sticky wicket for advocates of global governance.



### WHAT IS GLOBALISM?

Broadly speaking, the term “globalism refers to various patterns of meaning beyond the merely international. It is used by political scientists, such as Joseph Nye, to describe ‘attempts to understand all the interconnections of the modern world—and to highlight patterns that underlie (and explain) them’” (“Globalism” at Wikipedia.com). Note: The terms “globalism” and “globalization” should be differentiated. They are not the same thing.

Some extremist, alt-right groups use the term “globalist” pejoratively in connection with conspiracy theories about an alleged, secretive Jewish (“Zionist”) conspiracy to seize control of the world’s political and economic systems (see “Quantifying Hate: A Year of Antisemitism on Twitter,” an Anti-Defamation League Report accessed at adl.org).

When we refer to “globalism” here, however, we mean it in the sense of moving toward the implementation of global governance—that is, a future time when affairs of state for all nations will be interconnected and handled by a central authority to whom they are all accountable.

## A Counterfeit Kingdom

The word “conspiracy” is often overused in discussions like this one; however, what we’re talking about here is clearly that—a conspiracy. Yes, of course, many conspiracies are imaginary—but not all of them. Like Mel Gibson’s character (Jerry Fletcher) says in *Conspiracy Theory* (1997), “I’m only paranoid because they want me dead.” And in poor Jerry’s case (warning, spoiler ahead), the secretive conspiracy against him turned out to be real.

One example of a real, non-fictional conspiracy is the one that’s described in Scripture. It’s a dark and sinister conspiracy that can be traced back to the Garden of Eden—and even before. Its perpetrators are the devil and his powers of darkness—and their purpose is to foil the plans of God.<sup>23</sup>

It’s a “shadow conspiracy” because its operatives don’t allow themselves to be seen—at least, not in the beginning; but their invisibility to human eyes doesn’t make them any less threatening. They lurk in shadows, behind the scenes, and are skilled at influencing unwitting dupes to do their bidding.

However, not all participants in this conspiracy are clueless. The three key players (that is, the Beast, the False Prophet, and the Dragon, or Satan) will know exactly what they are doing.<sup>24</sup> The conspiracy will encompass every aspect of life on Planet Earth:

- Politically—The “Beast” will be the consummate demagogue and a master manipulator. He will rule the world democratically, by massive, popular acclamation (Rev. 13:12).
- Religiously—The “False Prophet” will bring the religions of the world together during the Tribulation under one, ecumenical banner (19:20). It may not be merely coincidental that work will soon be completed on the “Abrahamic Family House” in Abu Dhabi. The brainchild of Pope Francis, this “cultural landmark . . . in the UAE capital . . . [will include] a synagogue, a church, and a mosque . . . [and is] meant to be a beacon of understanding and peaceful coexistence, inspired by the Document on Human Fraternity.”<sup>25</sup> Numerous Christian social media outlets on Twitter, Facebook, and Reddit have characterized this soon-to-be-completed complex as the headquarters for a new, global religion—and it does indeed appear to be a step in that direction.<sup>26</sup>
- Economically—“Babylon the Great” (17:5) and its globally-interconnected economy will make any form of commerce impossible for anyone who’s not plugged into the central system (13:17). An identifying “mark” of some kind will be required for participation in the new, world economy (13:16–17).

<sup>23</sup>This vast, dark, ages-old conspiracy is carefully chronicled in *The Conspiracy to Silence the Son of God* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1998), a collection of essays edited by the late Tal Brooke two decades ago. Tal (1945–2021) was head of the Spiritual Counterfeits Project in Berkley, CA. This important book continues to be available in both print (End Run Publishing) and digital (Kindle) editions.

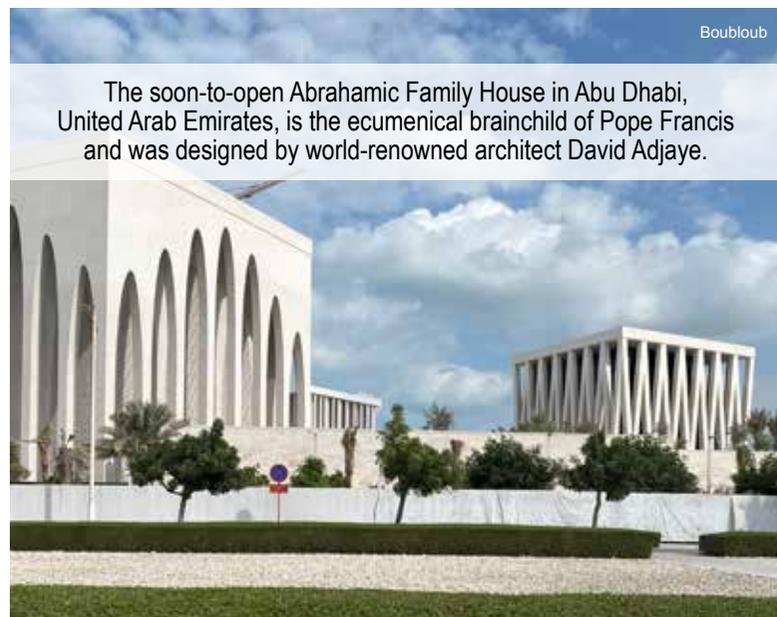
<sup>24</sup>These three prophetic personages—the Dragon (or Satan, the devil), the Beast (the Antichrist), and the False Prophet are the principal members of the opposition in the Book of Revelation (12:7–17; 13:1–15; 16:13) and constitute a counterfeit, satanic trinity, of sorts.

<sup>25</sup>Robin Gomes, “Abrahamic Family House in Abu Dhabi to Open in 2022” in *Vatican News* (June 2021), accessed at vaticannews.va.

<sup>26</sup>The full text of the Pope’s 2019 “Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together” is available on the website of the Holy See at Vatican.va.

In this conspiracy, the strategy involves conditioning the masses of humanity to accede to the demands of a popular demagogue (i.e., the Beast/Antichrist) who tells them what they want to hear. They will overlook his character flaws, or any other evident shortcomings, as long as he coddles them (2 Tim. 4:3). By the time the Beast's pandering runs its course, it will be too late for the nations of the world to take back their autonomy.

We said earlier that another aspect of the conspiracy involves globalism—that is, subordinating the sovereignty and individual interests of individual nations to the “greater” and more pressing interests of the international community. It's not hard to see these trends reflected in modern policies like open borders, linked economies, cashless currencies, lawlessness, and redistribution of wealth.



The soon-to-open Abraham Family House in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, is the ecumenical brainchild of Pope Francis and was designed by world-renowned architect David Adjaye.

## What's the Endgame Here?

Let's not forget that the devil knows his Bible. He knows it far better than we do, in fact. He knows very well that God has ordained that His Son, Yeshua (whom the devil remembers from the time he spent in the heavenly council in primordial times<sup>27</sup>), will rule and reign over an earthly Kingdom of God someday (Zech. 6:13). Yeshua's reign will represent the fulfillment of the ancient promises God made to His ancestor, King David of Israel (2 Sam. 7:1–17).

The devil knows that if he could somehow preempt and replace this promised, future Kingdom of God, it would bring God's plan of the ages crashing down like a collapsing house of cards. In the first century, Satan and his minions mistakenly thought they had thwarted God's plan by orchestrating the Crucifixion of the Messiah in AD 30: *But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory* (1 Cor. 2:7–8, emphasis added).

We all know how those desperate machinations 2,000 years ago turned out. Yes, the Lord died on the Cross; and even now, two millennia later, we can imagine the screeches and howling of the demons as they celebrated their victory! He was stone, cold dead and sealed securely in a tomb guarded by Roman soldiers! What could possibly go wrong?

<sup>27</sup>See Job 1:6–12.

However, their declaration of victory turned out to be premature. Death couldn't hold the Lord—and He arose triumphantly on the third day! And once again, here at the end of the age, the devil's efforts to squash God's plans will backfire. His attempt to establish a counterfeit kingdom, with himself reigning as its “king,” will prove singularly futile and doomed to failure.<sup>28</sup>

Nonetheless, in his continuing efforts, the devil is backed up by his cadre of wickedness, a vast host of fallen angels who formerly lived in Heaven but chose in the primeval past to rebel against God and follow the dark path. Scripture suggests that this Prince of Darkness has organized his legions in a hierarchy, arranged perhaps in order of angelic power and rank: “principalities,” “powers,” and “rulers of the darkness.” These are the entities that constitute what the Bible calls the “spiritual hosts of wickedness.” The Apostle Paul explains:

*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* (Eph. 6:12, emphasis added).

In these final hours of the current age, the forces of darkness are focused on the eradication of Israel and the Jewish people from the Middle East. Antisemitism is the central feature of their endgame. They know perfectly well that if they were to succeed in this anti-Judaic, anti-Israel crusade, the Abraham and Davidic Covenants would be rendered null and void—and God's Word would have failed. This should concern every Christian because if it ever happened, God's promises in the New Covenant would be reduced to a pile of smoldering ashes. The Upper Room (Luke 22:10–20) would be rendered meaningless.

However, this will never happen—not in a billion years. The LORD God—Lord of Heaven and earth—has His own endgame. He will not be pushed off His throne. His plan will not be derailed or disrupted. Israel will not be destroyed—and neither will the Church. King Jesus (*Mel-ech Yeshua*) will come someday in power and glory—and that's when the *real* Great Reset will happen. “All Israel” will come to faith (Rom. 11:26). The world will be transformed. Everything will be made new and glorious:

*Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful”* (Rev. 21:5).



Gary Hedrick is president of C/JF Ministries.

<sup>28</sup>There will be one, final, desperate attempt after this one to derail God's plan. It will take place at the end of the Millennium, when the devil will be turned loose on earth one, final time. He and his forces will surround the New Jerusalem, only to be quickly destroyed by “fire” from Heaven at the second Battle of Gog and Magog (Rev. 20:7–10). The first battle by the same name will have already taken place during the Tribulation (Ezek. 38 and 39). We call these two end-time, biblical conflicts the Battles of Magog One and Two.

# Bible Questions & Answers

by DR. GARY HEDRICK

Have a Bible question?

Submit it to Dr. Hedrick at [garyh@cjfm.org](mailto:garyh@cjfm.org), or mail it to 611 Broadway, San Antonio, Texas 78215.

You may see your question addressed in a future issue of *Messianic Perspectives*.

**QUESTION:** *The Gospels tell us that “all” of Jesus’ disciples “forsook Him and fled” when He was betrayed at Gethsemane (Matt. 26:56; cp. Mark 14:50). Yet even after their departure from the scene, the narrative continues, uninterrupted and in vivid detail. My question is this: In the absence of His followers, who wrote down these details so they could be included later in the Gospels? Or were the details just made up by a later editor? The information couldn’t have come from Jesus himself because He was taken into custody by the Romans and quickly escorted out of Gethsemane. His disciples didn’t see Him again until He was about to be crucified. So how could they have possibly known what transpired in the garden while they were sleeping?*

**ANSWER:** Interesting question! Some Christians will tell you that the Holy Spirit provided the missing information supernaturally, filling in the gaps when there were no eyewitnesses. Their basis for this is 2 Timothy 3:16–17, where we read: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* The phrase “inspiration of God” translates the Greek *theopneustos* (θεόπνευστος), which literally means “God-breathed.” So, the Bible is a divine book. God is its source. It is imbued with His authority.

However, the term “God-breathed” doesn’t imply some magic process where the writers were divinely directed to pull information out of thin air. The NT itself makes it clear that the inspired writers drew on written sources for their information. Luke himself was not an eyewitness, for instance, so Luke-Acts is his compendium from earlier sources (Luke 1:1–4; Acts 1:1–3). The Holy Spirit, then, didn’t merely dictate the Gospel narratives to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Rather, the Spirit’s function was twofold: (1) to help the disciples recall the things they had heard or witnessed (John 14:26), and (2) to oversee the process of compiling the Gospels, preserving the written sources, and protecting the final product from any meaningful error (2 Tim. 3:16–17).<sup>1</sup>

You may be forgetting something when you say the Lord couldn’t have provided the details about Gethsemane because the disciples didn’t see Him again until He was about to be crucified. Remember that the disciples saw Him again after His Resurrection (e.g., John 20:24–29). In fact, the NT tells us that He remained here on earth for forty days after He was reunited with them (Acts 1:3). Haven’t you ever wondered what He was doing during those forty days? He no doubt used the time to share with His followers many final teachings before His final departure (vv. 9–11). He could easily have told them what He prayed about in Gethsemane while they were sleeping (Mark 14:39–40), as well as what took place later, after they fled from the scene. 



staceyfranc0

<sup>1</sup> We say “meaningful error” here because there may be inconsequential matters, like certain figures of speech, that some critics consider erroneous. It would be like someone today saying something about “the four corners of the earth” and then being accused of making an erroneous statement because it’s not scientifically accurate. Many of the supposed “errors” critics point to in Scripture today are not theologically significant and can sometimes be explained by the difference between the ancient culture and ours. It’s up to us to do our due diligence and interpret Scripture in its first-century cultural context. For more information about biblical authority, we recommend *Explaining Biblical Inerrancy: Official Commentary on the ICBI Statements*, edited by Norman L. Geisler and R.C. Sproul (Matthews, NC: Bastion Books, 2013). ICBI is an acronym for the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy held in October of 1978 in Chicago, Illinois.

# Fruit from the Harvest



by Violette Berger



## Teaching and Reaching

**Diann Parkas, CJFM Northeast representative (New Jersey)**, has had the opportunity to teach online Bible courses through a school in California to students who are immigrants from Asia and South America. Some are not believers and some are, but very new to the faith. In the Fall 2022 semester, she taught a course titled, "Rescue for Humanity." Among questions as to why humanity needs to be rescued and from what, was the question, "What does the Bible say about how humanity would be able to recognize the True Rescuer?" At the end of the course, Diann's last worksheet asked what each student had learned in the course that had made a difference in their life. Diann was blessed by the responses. Following are just a few excerpts: "I didn't have the idea that I am able to have a personal relationship with God." "This class gave me a strong conviction about what is true and what is God's will for my life." "I learned that it is a decision and commitment to trust in Jesus as the One who is our Rescuer." "The class on sowing was a challenge, because it made me look at myself and ask if I am on good soil and bearing good fruit. I will always take it into the future, so as not to deviate from the path of the Lord." "Because of your teaching, I feel closer to God!" "What I learned from this class is that Jesus died to save us, and even with the sinful nature we have, He came to rescue us if we let Him."

## Simcha (Joy, Gladness)

**Richard Hill, CJFM representative and pastor of Beth Yeshua Messianic Congregation (Las Vegas)**, is blessed to have the *Simcha Dancers* at every Friday night service. His wife, Oanh, has trained her dance team to praise the Lord in Davidic and Israeli dance. Recently, the *Simcha Dancers* had the opportunity to dance and share the Gospel in a convalescent home. Following the dance presentation, the ladies ministered to those in attendance (which included two Jewish individuals). Oanh had the privilege of leading four people to the Lord. Please pray for the *Simcha Dancers* to have more opportunities to minister in convalescent homes, since they have reopened following the pandemic.

Richard and Oanh are also excited about their ministry on the campus of the University of Las Vegas (UNLV). So far, this semester, nine students have prayed to receive Jesus. Last semester their volunteer team led 33 students to the Lord. Rich writes, "It is truly amazing and feels like we are having a mini-revival on campus!" That is most likely why they are being harassed by a very vocal and hateful student who interrupts their conversations with students while they are sharing Jesus with them. He lies in an attempt to damage Rich's campus ministry. Please pray for the salvation of "T" and that he would stop the harassment in this urgent matter.

## Something New

**CJFM representative, Eric Chabot (Columbus, OH)**, tried something new this term and reserved space at the Student Involvement Fair at Ohio State University (OSU). He and his team engaged with many students including a Jewish student. Eric asks that we pray for "R" to seek out the truth. "We shared many things about the Messiah with her." He also adds that their weekly discipleship/apologetics meetings have been going well and they have even implemented a Bible study on the book of John. They use the community room at Panera Bread on campus. Eric writes that he is blessed with a group of so many gifted students who are eager to grow in their faith and who want to engage the campus for the Lord. Please pray for more students to find them and join. Eric was also blessed recently that a student who found his campus ministry through the C. S. Lewis event he hosted last Fall began attending their weekly meetings. He had been struggling with his faith and asking some hard questions. The meetings helped him go forward with his faith, and he rededicated his life to the Lord and was recently baptized in his local church. A Jewish student has stopped by their table on OSU's campus at least five times asking questions. They have spent a lot of time sharing with him and answering his objections. Please pray for the salvation of "B." Eric is encouraged to see what is happening in response to his apologetics/discipleship ministry on the campuses of OSU and Columbus State Community College. He writes: "God is on the move."

## Thanksgiving

**Yossi Ovadia, CJFM pastor of Kehilat HaDerech (The Way) Messianic Congregation (Karmiel, Israel)**, writes: "There is much to give thanks to the Lord for in the life and witness of our congregation. This year we decided to focus our Shabbat teaching on the theme of *discipleship* to help equip believers to move from passive observers to active followers of Yeshua, bearing fruit in their lives during these difficult times." Pastor Yossi gives thanks for the following developments: New families and individuals are joining the congregation almost every week. A four-week seminar, led by Israel Harel, on sharing the Gospel and how to be effective witnesses for Yeshua in their families, workplaces, and communities, was well attended. A joyful service was held together with the "Israel Chai" congregation to celebrate Purim together as believers. A future meeting has been planned at the congregation to bring Arab and Jewish leaders together to renew friendship and dialogue on the relationship between Arab and Messianic believers in the Land. As they seek the Lord for His leading and guidance, Pastor Yossi asks us to "pray for God's wisdom and grace in responding to the political, social, and security crisis in Israel and for believers to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." 

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