

How Will the World Come Together?

by J.K. McKee 01 March, 2003 www.tnnonline.net

One day soon the Lord Jesus Christ will come. He will gather all those millions who know Him into the clouds in the rapture. Because so many will disappear, cars will be without drivers, planes will be without pilots, and infrastructure will come to a standstill. So many people will be missing that the world will be forced to unite.

How many of us have been taught something like this? How many of us have been told that the only thing that will bring Planet Earth together under a world government will be the rapture?

In recent days, especially during the late 1990's, speculation about world government among Believers has been at an all time high. Following World War II and with the inauguration of the Cold War, it seemed unlikely that world government could occur. The Cold War polarized the world between the power centers of Washington and Moscow. The United Nations was nothing less than a debating chamber for the two superpowers and their proxy states. Western European integration might have been occurring at the same time, but this was largely due to post-World War II devastation and an effort to revitalize Europe's economies through integration. Suffice it to say, world government was the last thing on anyone's minds.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, nation-states of the world are now in a more viable position to seek greater unity. The prime element behind globalization and the global community is a drive to see greater exchange of goods and an expanse of trade. With global communications and the Internet people all over the world are able to share information and ideas. With the initiation of the euro, there is now a single currency for the world's largest market, the European Union. We are definitely moving toward greater world integration. One day, as the Scriptures tell us, there will be world government and a single world leader:

“Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms and will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings. He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time’” (Daniel 7:23-25).

The question that is being asked by many prophecy teachers right now is not necessarily “Will the world come together?” This much should be obvious if you read the Bible and believe in the literal fulfillment of prophecy. The question being asked is “How will the world come together?” Suffice it to say, everyone has their own theory or opinion about how the world will come together.

The predominant view in evangelical Christianity right now is that the rapture will happen, millions of people will suddenly disappear, societal anarchy will ensue, thus causing the world to unite under the antimessiah/antichrist.

Is there a problem with this scenario? Other than the fact that Yeshua the Messiah plainly tells us that He returns “after the tribulation” (Matthew 24:29-31) and Paul says He returns at “the last trumpet” (1 Corinthians 15:51-52)—yes, there is a serious problem. Other than the fact that the pre-tribulation rapture is *not supported by Scripture*, how do we know that in the event that a pre-trib rapture were to occur that there would be enough people missing for it to even matter? This is not a trick question. How many people in Christianity are even “saved” so that they would be taken up into the clouds to meet Yeshua? If you were thinking billions, then we believe you are mistaken. Many Christians today are *unwilling to experience the Tribulation or hard times*, which speaks volumes as to their salvation experience and if they truly have faith in God.

Many popular pre-tribulationists have done a good job at making people think that the pre-trib rapture is what is needed to cause societal anarchy and thus the rise of the antimessiah. But must it be the rapture that causes problems that lead to world unity? I do not believe so. I believe that there can be something much worse happen than the rapture that leads to chaos:

“For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong. And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of immorality* and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning, standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘Woe,

woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come” (Revelation 18:8-10).

There are many prophecy teachers who believe that the end-time Babylonian phenomenon is more than just a world-wide system. There are those who believe that Revelation 18 speaks of a literal city, in fact, they believe that it speaks of New York City. The implication among some prophecy teachers is that the city that is destroyed in one hour is New York, a city that is a center of world trade, industry, and diplomacy.

If September 11, 2001 has proven anything, it has proven that the world has new threats—like global terrorism. Terrorists want to do more than fly airplanes into buildings, because the more people they kill, the more people they scare, and the more they scare, the more they get an audience and a platform for their beliefs. Terrorists, be they Islamic terrorists or otherwise, want weapons of mass destruction. Consider an even worse scenario than the rapture taking millions of people to Heaven prior to the Tribulation period:

Leaders from all the United Nations member states were assembled in New York. They sat down at the conference, ready to discuss the issues at hand. Every one of them was prepared. And then it happened. We did not think it would happen, but it did. Terrorists exploded a nuclear bomb in the city of New York killing millions—including the world leaders, presidents, prime ministers, chancellors, executives, at the United Nations. The world is in a total state of shock and disarray as the leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, India, China, and other countries were all slaughtered in a blink instant. The world will move on, but can there be a tragedy that tops this? Who was responsible? Whomever they are we will be a united world around _____ and we will make them pay.

Considering our times, this is a plausible possibility on how the world will come together. More anarchy will be caused if world leaders are slaughtered all at once in a nuclear blast then if people just disappear via the pre-trib rapture.

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