

The Consequences of Ideas

Lesson 20: The Emerging Beast

I. Introduction

- a. What has been demonstrated thus far in our series is that the consequences of the ideas of man **invariably** lead him away from God. However, there is an explanation for this phenomenon.
- b. **All truth** emanates from the Godhead and if we seek to know the truth about man's folly and his dim understanding of life we will need to seek our understanding from God's point of view.
- c. In the final analysis, the essence of the issues uncovered in this series are **not** about political parties, societal evolution, social justice, economics or legal systems, or even one-world governments.
- d. While we perceive these areas of life to be important and real, what we usually define as issues, in reality, are nothing other than the outward manifestations of the immaterial, spiritual kingdom of **Satan**. *Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. KJV*
- e. True, men may create their own intellectual and reasoned understanding of external societal events, but the ultimate source of unregenerate man's understanding and motivation is rooted in satanic **deception**. *John 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; KJV*
- f. Man is fallen and he is enslaved to the devil and he will never, apart from regeneration, seek to do the will of God. Rational man will never understand this apart from God's revelation because it is spiritually **discerned**. *1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. KJV*
- g. It is only when we come face to face with God through His Word that we understand that the real issues of this life are spiritual in **nature**. Seeking spiritual understanding ought to be the chief pursuit of every Christian. *Ps 73:17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. KJV*
- h. While other interpretations may envelope us and capture our attention, every other interpretation of world events and human experience, is but a **distraction** from the essence of what is really occurring. *2 Kings 6:15-17 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. KJV*
- i. Ultimately, there are no **neutral** spiritual sources of inspiration for man's actions. Every intention, every motivation, and every action is either consistent with God's design and purpose or it is opposed to Him. *Matt 16:23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. KJV*
- j. From this assessment it can be seen that believers ought to have a **different** understanding of current events than that of their unregenerate worldly counterparts. *Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. KJV*

II. The Nature of the World in Which We Live

- a. God is **sovereign** over His creation and there are no maverick molecules within His created universe. Yet among the created beings inhabiting our world we find Lucifer and his demonic host. *Ezek 28:15-17 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. KJV*
- b. Temporary authority over this world has been granted to Satan. Even though he is opposed to God, through his diabolical intrusion into human affairs, he is **unwittingly**, but actively bringing about the purposes of God. *Eph 2:1-2 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: KJV*
- c. Satan is a deceiver. His deception is absolute and his control is unmitigated **by human** effort, intention or motivation. *Rev 20:2-3 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: KJV*
- d. Unregenerate man is the unwitting servant of Satan; his power is irresistible to the natural man. Therefore the natural man will invariably do the will of Satan and believe his **lies** without hesitation. *2 Tim 2:25-26 if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. KJV*
- e. The result of this is that Satan often deceives people through vain philosophies proffered by worldly wise persons like Hegel, and their so-called wisdom is adopted and believed as if wondrously **true** by those who hear. *Eph 5:6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. KJV*
- f. Those who hear these ideas do not **attribute** them to the deception of the devil, but rather, they embrace them and celebrate them as nuggets of pure gold; and as evidence of the genius of man.
- g. In a brazen attempt to cast off their **dependence** upon the God who created them, these deceived men, thinking themselves wise become fools as they live out the vain worldly philosophies they have embraced. *Rom 1:21-22 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, KJV*

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- h. This is the reality behind human history since the Fall. Even though Satan has actively moved in the hearts of men to deceive and destroy, the result is that the world has moved in the direction of God's sovereign purposes.
- i. There remains but one chapter in human history and many believe that we are seeing the emergence of the circumstances and events of that final chapter in our day and time.

III. The Final Chapter

- a. According to many Pre-Tribulation theologians this generation stands on God's prophetic timeline very near the time that Daniel described as he interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
- b. The image Daniel interpreted was of four world powers, and a final, fifth world power, which would come on the scene at the very end of human history just before God judged earth's rebellious governments. *Daniel 2:40-43 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.*
- c. The fifth empire--the final empire, and the only one that is yet to come into being as fulfilled prophecy--is represented by the feet and toes of that metallic image. It is an economic system.
- d. The metallic representations--i.e., gold for the head, silver for the breast and arms, brass or bronze for the belly and thighs, and iron for the legs, feet and toes--is indicative of money and economic power.
- e. The "beast" will come to power and rule ruthlessly through this government. His power will emanate from economics and satanic deception. The State and its ruler will be as god and all but the elect will worship him.
- f. The outline of this one world Statism is visible today. We are witnessing economic developments like no other generation has seen. Even the United States is being forced into the mold of one-world economic order.
- g. Europe today (the revived Roman Empire) is in dynamic upheaval, struggling to stand on the feet and toes that will give the eventual Antichrist economic system its balance.
- h. Like Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the EU is a mixture of strength and weakness. Its strength lies in its ability to govern like ancient Rome, but its weakness lies in the failed economic policies which threaten to topple it.
- i. This makes the whole structure, in fact all worldly economic-governmental power subject to final collapse. This is exactly what Daniel foresaw. *Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. KJV*
- j. This is closer than many may think. For instance, a plan for one world currency is being explored by G-20 nations and in a plan revealed last week, the EU President proposed a new economic government in Europe.
- k. His plan would elevate an economic council to the level of heads of government. This move would centralize economic power and eliminate the economic sovereignty of the 27 nations comprising the EU.
- l. With the economic instability and the growing debt load of the US; and facing an economic collapse of our own, we could easily participate in the world wide currency and join the economic policy makers of the EU.
- m. When we understand the philosophical ideas driving current political thought and policy development in the US and the Western world through the prism of God's Word we can see prophecy unfolding before our eyes.
- n. The truth of God's Word clearly frames what is happening at this time in history, and where it all is heading as the rulers of this fallen sphere struggle for answers and strive to cast off the bonds of God's governance. *Ps 2:2-3 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. KJV*

IV. Application

- a. We are fast approaching the end of the age of the toes of Nebuchadnezzar's night-vision. What we see around us is the ever evolving framework for a one-world Statist economic and legal system.
- b. The sign posts are unmistakable; the end is near. Now, as never before, is the time for Christians to prepare for the possible narratives to follow.
- c. The rapture. If attitudes and behavior were items of clothing and if the rapture were to come today what items of clothing that you are wearing would you not want to wear before the throne of Jesus?
- d. Cataclysmic events (either natural or man caused). There are many things that could happen to throw the earth into chaos which would end the ease and comfort of life as we now know it.
- e. Now, is the time to voluntarily free yourself from the weights of this world that keep you enmeshed in its fabric. What cords bind you to this life that you need to break?