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The New World Order

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THE NEW WORLD ORDER

Today, America leads the nations of the world in a crusade against terrorism. On a prophetic tomorrow, our country shall lead the world in a second crusade.

Who, then, will be the enemy?

Shortly after the apocalyptic events of September 11, 2001, terrorists and their allies declared that the destruction of the United States was imminent. In an exclusive interview, Taliban leader Mullah Muhammad Omar said that the ultimate goal of the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda terrorist network was "the extinction of America. If Allah's help is with us," he said, "this will happen within a short period of time." He wanted Americans to "keep this prediction in mind."

During his first court appearance following the attacks, Zacarias Moussauoi, the alleged would-be

20th hijacker, called for the destruction of the United States and Israel. Moussaoui insisted that his trial represented a cosmic struggle between good and evil—evil being pagans, Jews, Christians, and hypocrites.

Neither President Bush nor the American people were intimidated. Said the President: "Every nation, in every region, has a decision to make"—that "either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." Thus he put the world on notice that America is ready to exercise its for-

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When President George W. Bush declared shortly after Sept. 11 that “Every nation, in every region, has a decision to make—that either you are with us or you are with the terrorists”—he put the world on notice that America is ready to exercise its formidable military power to eliminate any government that harbors terrorists or sponsors terrorism.

midable military power to eliminate any government that harbors terrorists or sponsors terrorism. While waiting for the official support of the European bloc nations making up NATO, the President, through this declaration, set the stage for America’s own holy war with the Taliban government in Afghanistan, and with Osama bin Laden.

Of course, the rest is history. Gilles Kepel, professor of Middle East Studies at the Institute for Political Studies in Paris, accurately noted in *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*, that “America did not falter after September 11, despite weeks of mourning and disarray. Within a hundred days the U.S. had wiped out the Taliban regime, and bin Laden was on the run.”

Though mindful of the serious nature of such predictions as Osama bin Laden and Zacarias Moussauoi have ventured, students of Bible prophecy point out that according to the Book of Revelation, the United States is going to become even more

powerful before Jesus returns. Its destiny: to marshal the civilized world in the elusive quest for peace and economic security. Terrorists and their co-conspirators probably have no clue that the Christian’s Holy Bible foretells the emergence of the United States as the world’s last superpower—just the opposite of their prediction.

Before examining the prophetic references that point to an American-led global alliance, we need to review what contemporary experts say confirming this developing phenomenon. Certainly their viewpoints would have seemed ridiculous only a few decades ago, in the world of two great opposing superpowers. Can our parents ever forget the Cuban crisis, with a nuclear war between the U.S. and the Soviet Union seeming imminent? How ridiculous it would have seemed then to speak of one great superpower! But, assured by Bible prophecy, our Adventist pioneers did! And the Berlin Wall fell, and the Soviet

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Union, burdened by debts and lack of productivity, collapsed. Premier Gorbachev with his “glasnost” and “perestroika” tried to bring democracy to his nation, but the corpses of Communism proved too numerous to overcome. Russia remains a nuclear power, but one that is now allied with the American-led global coalition.

The Developing Superpower

What do contemporary experts say about the development of this superpower? Not all would be expected either to approve of it or acknowledge its potential. Some leading scholars in the late 1980s and early 1990s believed America to be in a state of economic and military decline. Yale professor Paul M. Kennedy revealed his convictions in the title of his best-selling book, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*. At the same time, Harvard professor Joseph S. Nye, Jr., pointed out in *Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power*, that America’s current and future success would depend on its ability to adapt to the constant shifts in the balance of power among nations. It must skillfully lead the international community in carrying out forceful corrective measures on those

groups, individuals, or nations that would threaten to upset that balance. This objective could be achieved through economic sanctions, direct military action, or humanitarian intervention—with each option being dependent on the situation, American national interests, and the immediate or long-term necessity of our involvement. Since 1991, we have seen “corrective powers” exercised in our dealings with Iraq, Somalia, Yugoslavia, and Afghanistan, as well as our arduous and complex war on terrorism.

The President’s “either you are with us or with the terrorists” did not fare as well in the context of Iraq as it had subsequent to the attack on the twin towers. Particularly irritating the alliance was an invasion, for whatever pretext, that neither the alliance nor the United Nations had endorsed. Only Britain of the major European powers was involved in the invasion.

Thus, born of necessity—at the beginning of the 21st century—the U.S. has emerged as the world’s lone, and likely *last*, superpower with the wealth, technology, military firepower, and international respect to shape the future of the world.

In his book *Diplomacy*—the first



chapter of which is titled “The New World Order”—former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger observes: “Almost as if according to some natural law, in every century there seems to emerge a country with the power, the will, and the intellectual and moral impetus to shape the entire international system in accordance with its own values.” In the 20th and 21st centuries, says

Kissinger, that nation is without a doubt the United States of America.

The Decline of Radical Islam?

To many Americans, it would seem absurd to claim that radical Islam is on the decline in terms of power and influence throughout the world. Likely this judgment prevails because we are still feeling the effects of watching the twin towers of the

INSURANCE AGAINST DECEPTION

The people of God are directed to the Scriptures as their safeguard against the influence of false teachers and the delusive power of spirits of darkness. Satan employs every possible device to prevent men from obtaining a knowledge of the Bible; for its plain utterances reveal his deceptions. . . . So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.

Those who endeavor to obey all the commandments of God will be opposed and derided. They can stand only in God. In order to endure the trial before them, they must understand the will of God as revealed in His word; they can honor Him only as they have a right conception of His character, government, and purposes, and act in accordance with them. None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. . . .

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World Trade Center collapse into a molten heap of ashes and twisted steel, under which were nearly 3,000 victims, the result of a few hours of mid-morning terror. We live with the subconscious expectation of another September 11.

As Geraldine Sealey of ABC News noted on New Year's Day 2002: "As the most powerful and wealthy nation in the world, we are accustomed to

being the captains of global change, not having our course altered against our will. But on that late summer Tuesday, we were forced to change how we live and travel, how we are governed and how we see our world." This was exactly the kind of effect that Osama bin Laden had in mind.

Moshe Sharon, professor of Islamic history at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, says that most Muslims

The apostle Paul declared, looking down to the last days: "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine." 2 Tim. 4:3. That time has fully come. The multitudes do not want Bible truth, because it interferes with the desires of the sinful, world-loving heart; and Satan supplies the deceptions which they love.

But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms. The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority—not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. . . .

Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will. — Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, pp. 593, 595.

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and so resourceful.”***

believe the world is divided into two parts—“one that is already under the rule of Islam, [and] the other which must come under the rule of Islam.” He explains: “This is why Osama bin Laden repeated this concept on the infamous Nov. 9, 2001, video tape: “These events have divided the whole world into two sides: the side of believers and the side of infidels.”

But as Professor Kepel asserts, the events of September 11 were actually indicative of the desperation of radical Islam and its modern global decline. “In spite of what many hasty commentators contended in its immediate aftermath, the attack on the United States was a desperate symbol of the isolation, fragmentation, and decline of the Islamist movement, not a sign of its strength and irrepressible might. The jihadist-salafists, who belonged to bin Laden’s al Qaeda network, imagined themselves as the spark that would ignite a firestorm. They believed that once the great American Satan had

been made to shake on its foundations, for all to see, a sweeping tide of jihad could overwhelm the modern world.”

From his extensive research of radical Islamist movements during the past quarter century, Kepel is convinced that “In that autumn fury . . . the world witnessed, in a snapshot, the rise and fall of the most extreme version of Islamism.” He argues that this is so because, “The greatest strengths of terrorism—its suddenness, its use of surprise, and its anonymity—are also its greatest weaknesses when the time comes to reap real political dividends.” Right! An underground movement cannot achieve the political mobilization of the masses. Having recognized this truth, a number of Muslim countries have gradually moved toward at least a semblance of moderate and democratic forms of government. Among them: Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Egypt, Algeria, and Turkey—the latter being the most secular and democratic.

Even Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia—the heartland of Islam—aware that 15 of the 19 hijackers were from his country—has been very active in the Middle East peace process, putting pressure on Yassir Arafat to reform or face the reality of being forcefully removed by Israel. His awareness of the geopolitical shift taking place impelled his judgment of the attack on the twin towers: “September 11 was a horrific crime. It changed the world.”

The Massive Geopolitical Shift

How did the events of September 11 change the world? First, they united the international community, including a number of liberal Muslim states, against bin Laden and his co-conspirators. As U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said: “You’re going to see new relationships coming out all across the globe.” One significant development was the newfound cooperation that Russia offered in the aftermath of September 11. With the fall of Communism—itsself the single most important development of the century, so far as propelling America to its position of dominance in the world—there occurred a major shift in the balance of power

among nations. The United States and Europe emerged as the pre-eminent leaders, Russia began the unexpected process of aligning itself with the European bloc of nations known as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

This was a remarkable development: NATO was the Cold War military alliance created by the United States and its allies to confront the Soviet threat on the other side of the Berlin Wall. As Condoleezza

Rice, President Bush’s Na-

tional Security Adviser, commented: “To see Russia firmly anchored in the West . . . [is] a dream of 300

years, not just of the post-Cold War era.” The timing seems right: Europe, along with Russia and the civilized world, find

common cause in a U.S.-led global war on terrorism—a war viewed by many foreign policy experts as necessary to deny terrorists access to weapons of mass destruction.

An American-Led Global Alliance

In mid-February of 2002, Vice President Dick Cheney spoke to the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. He said: “We’re dealing with a terror network that has cells in 60 countries. Such a group cannot be held back by deterrence



nor reasoned with through diplomacy. For this reason, the war against terror will not end in a treaty. There will be no summit meeting, no negotiations with terrorists. This conflict can only end in their complete and utter destruction.”

However, the vice president made it clear that even though “many nations throughout the West, in Asia and in the Islamic world” were joined with the U.S. in a broad coalition against terror, “only we can lead it. Only we can rally the world in a task of this complexity against an enemy so elusive and so resourceful.” Cheney concluded: “The United States and only the United States can see this effort through to victory.”

Why? Cheney offered the qualifying reason: “This responsibility did not come to us by chance. We are in a unique position because of our unique assets, because of the character of our people, the strength of our ideals, the might of our military and the enormous economy that supports it. We cannot take these for granted.”

On March 11, 2002, commemorating the six-month anniversary of September 11, President Bush followed up Cheney’s speech by announcing that he was expanding the war against terrorism on a global scale, beyond Afghanistan. In April 2003, American and British armed forces invaded Iraq, ostensibly because that nation possessed “weapons

of mass destruction.” As noted earlier, this action was taken *without* concurrence of the United Nations, or (with the exception of England), even America’s European allies.

Prophetic Rumbblings?

The Book of Revelation—Christ’s “revelation” to the world—records information about a global alliance that forms just before his return to Earth. Chapter 17:12, 13, alludes to this alliance: “The ten horns you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but who for one hour will receive authority as kings along with the beast. They have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast” (NIV). Verse 14 reveals their target: “They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.” This amazing passage portrays a short-lived global alliance that threatens God’s loyal followers with extinction.

Dating back to the Protestant Reformers, the “ten kings” in the Book of Daniel have been interpreted as the leading nations of Europe. However, in Revelation, these kings are representative of the leading nations of the civilized world. In chapter 17:12-14, a number of Adventist theologians—C. Mervyn Maxwell, former professor of church history at Andrews Uni-

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versity, is one who comes to mind—identify the beast described in these passages as likely America.

Yes, our beloved country. Maxwell writes: “In Revelation 17:13, 14, all the ten kings give their power to the beast. In the passage about the lamb-horned beast or false prophet (Revelation 13:11-17), the lamb-horned beast, a symbol of America, persuades everyone in the world to erect an image in worship of the beast. In the Armageddon passage (Revelation 16:13, 14) the dragon [Satan], the false prophet [evangelical America], and the beast [Rome] (whose comeback the false prophet has vigorously promoted) send demons to assemble the ‘kings of the whole world.’” “In these three passages,” says Maxwell, “we have one and the same global development viewed from different perspectives, the response of the ‘ten kings’ to American leadership. The entire world responds under America’s influence to advance the cause of religious oppression.” Maxwell concludes, “The beast . . . is a ghastly realization of the global village, the one-world idea, gone satanic.”*

The Stunning Truth

Today, America—for the sake of

national and international security—is leading out in *eradicating an entire class of extremists*—in this case, Muslim terrorists. *Who will be next? And the last time?* God reveals the answer.

In Revelation 17:12-14, a world-wide coalition is portrayed acting at the behest of religious leaders. Having been duped by Satan—who appears as a counterfeit Christ—they stir the anger of the world against a little “obstructionist” group who refuse to violate God’s holy Sabbath. World peace and security, the masses are led to believe, can be achieved only by exercising their patriotic duty to eliminate these “Judases.” Of course, God sees them in quite another light—as those who “keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12, KJV).

This great “time of trouble,” as the Bible describes it, will end as the returning Messiah leads a coalition from the stars to rescue his faithful disciples. Events transpiring even now among the nations of Earth indicate that his great rescue mission will not be long delayed. □

* *God Cares*, Vol. 2, pp. 477, 478.

