

Marching Toward Armageddon

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the world will increase by 73,285,608 people during this year of 2005. This means that since January we have already increased by over 35,000,000 souls worldwide. This is more than 200,000 people each day, or about 2.3 folks per second. In the next fifty years Saudi Arabia will multiply 420 percent, going from the present 22 million to 91 million. Yemen will increase by 415 percent population growth. And, all of the Islamic world is not far behind in such an explosion of people.

World population growth is outstripping Christianity by leaps and bounds. The Christian world is shrinking rapidly. The spiritual message of salvation in Christ is disappearing, even in the marketplace of our own nation. The world repudiates the "tightness" and "absoluteness" of truth, and the proclamation of spiritual doctrine. Even in our own country children in secular public schools ask the teachers: "What is this stuff about the birth of Jesus all about?" Or, "What is this Easter celebration mean?" They have no clue to what these basics of the Christian message mean.

All other parts of the world, China, Europe, the Middle East, are becoming the most important parts of this globe, far-surpassing the strength and influence of America by giant steps! As this happens the earth is becoming a "one" world just as the Bible predicts in the book of Revelation. The tribulation will affect all peoples and ripple throughout the nations as societies collapse like dominoes under the weight of the wrath of God.

Since revival must come through the light of the gospel, and by the truth of the Word of God, apart from some unseen miracle, all peoples are marching toward Armageddon. The tribulation is just around the corner.

But you say, "There has always been in past history some who thought that the end was near." While this is true to a degree, there were certain elements missing that are now in place, such as: (1) A massive world population that is tying all civilizations together. (2) The ability to destroy all of the earth, as prophesied by Isaiah, Christ, and John the apostle in the book of Revelation. And most important, (3) The fact that Israel is back in the land, though in unbelief as Scripture prophesied.

One of those times that people understood the Bible literally, was during the rampage of Napoleon Bonaparte. He was called the new Caesar who was pulling all Europe together. His wars brought on "an ideological struggle over the future order of Europe." With the Enlightenment goading him on, he set out to destroy the various monarchies in order to establish a universal rule under his "Caesar-ship." He was considered the Antichrist, "a grotesque upstart, a malignant outgrowth of evil." He had designs on the whole of civilization: Europe, England, Malta, Egypt, the Middle East, and India.

Napoleon felt some "divine" destiny that was "directing all my operations." France ceded to him the title of Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire." He was considered the "King of Rome," the heir of Europe, and he called himself "the master of all the capitals of Europe!" The French followed him because they felt he was bringing in "the golden age of peace" and that he was "regenerating Europe" back to her glory under Roman rule. He felt he had to attack Russia because the Russian ruler (who also called himself the Caesar, "Tsar") was laying claim to the legacy of ancient Roman Byzantium. He had to be put out of the way so that the true European Caesar could come to power and dominate all civilizations. One of the Tsars dressed himself in the regalia of the Byzantine Roman emperors. To make Russia the capital of "universal Christian monarchy over all others on earth," Catherine the Great names her two eldest sons Alexander and Constantine, with the glory of old Greece and Rome in mind.

Before Napoleon's invasion of Russia one Russian official was seen reading the book of Revelation and calling Napoleon the Antichrist of chapter 13. Napoleon was also labeled the ruler of the abyss, Abaddon and Apollyon. The Russian Orthodox Church denounced Napoleon as a usurper of the Messiah who was conspiring with the Jews to destroy the Christian faith. Napoleon was said to be in league with "all the devils of hell." Before his invasion of Russia, Napoleon was at peace with Alexander of Russia. Some of the young Russian army officers accused the Tsar of embracing the Antichrist!

Napoleon also decided to invade Asia. He said: "I see myself founding a new religion, marching into Asia, with the Koran in my hand, exploiting for my own profit the theatre of all history, and in time, also renewing all of old Europe. This is my destiny." He planned to conquer the Middle East and going no further than the River Euphrates. (Shades of Revelation!) As with the Antichrist, Napoleon planned to "create a pan-European empire." He would unite the old "Holy Roman Empire." "Napoleon's mind filled with a notion that lived uneasily beside the vision of himself as a latter-day Roman emperor throwing back the barbarian hordes, and marching all the way to India."

What is missing from this picture? The three points I listed above. And especially the fact that the Jews were not back in the Holy Land! I believe we are on the verge of the Antichrist being revealed. It has been tried before as with Napoleon except all of the pieces were not in place. Everything is now coming together.

What does this mean to those who trust Christ as Savior? We are commanded to share the gospel until the rapture takes place. That is our mandate! But we will no longer have the same influence as in the past, neither in our own country, nor in the world at large. Christ reminded us: "Work until the night comes, for the night will come when no man can work!" (John 9:4).