The Curse of the Fall Series





"DESPITE THE SPIRIT OF HOPELESSNESS THAT IS SPREADING LIKE CANCER THROUGH THE WORLD, THERE IS A SILVER LINING TO OUR CURRENT GLOBAL CRISIS'

rouble is brewing all across our planet.

Resource competition, ethnic conflicts, racial tensions, and religious wars are igniting the flames of strife and violence all around our world.

From Rio to Cairo and from Manila to Athens, a deep dissatisfaction with the status quo is bubbling just under (and sometimes above) the surface.

Americans, too, are chief among the disillusioned masses with only a small minority of citizens feeling confident about the future direction of their country.

Make no mistake. You and I are living through one of the most tumultuous eras in all of world history.

The advent of the internet, and especially social media, has helped to mobilize citizens in emerging nations against oppressive government regimes.

Despite the various stated reasons behind all of the revolutions occurring in our time, they all share one singular theme: A deep and growing mistrust of political and economic leaders.

The public's mistrust in government increased dramatically in the wake of the 2008 global economic crisis. When poor government policies hit citizens in their wallets, faith in the authorities quickly turns to skepticism.

Having failed to solve the underlying issues which plague

"The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not gone astray from Your precepts." - Psalm 119:110 the world economy (i.e. fiat money, fractional-reserve banking, poor monetary policy, etc.), global leaders continue to shepherd their nations to the edge of the financial cliff. Growing fears by many global investors of yet another widespread financial collapse by has added further pessimism, angst, and often, despair.

Despite the spirit of hopelessness that is spreading like cancer through the world, there is a silver lining to our current global crisis. But, let us first examine the current spiritual state of mankind.

A World in Chains

Just as the physical world is inhabited by physical beings, there is also a spiritual world inhabited by spirit beings. (Job 1:6-12; Jude 1:6; Rev. 12:7) According to the Bible, some of the spirit beings (angels) serve God and others (demons) have rebelled against His rightful authority.

Now, imagine for a moment that you suddenly had the ability to see into this "spiritual" dimension, which exists just beyond the limitations of mankind's physical senses.

If we only had the ability to see into the spirit world, we could instantly see the urgency of the world's present spiritual state. We would likely be able to see the devastating impact of man's disobedience and sin upon on all of God's creation. Put simply, the evidence of spiritual darkness detected by the unaided human eye in no way compares to the spiritual darkness that lies just out of our sight.

One evening, while studying through the Old Testament prophets in my prayer time, I had what I can only describe as such a vision.

In this vision, I saw nearly all of humanity lying asleep on the ground. There was little beauty in this vision. All of humanity appeared extremely primitive, barely clothed, wretched, and bound in chains. What caught my attention most were the chains that bound nearly every human within view. (I would later understand that this unusual appearance of humanity in my vision represented mankind's 'MAKE NO MISTAKE. YOU AND I ARE LIVING THROUGH ONE OF THE MOST TUMULTUOUS ERAS IN ALL OF WORLD HISTORY.'

true spiritual condition. In fact, it would not surprise me if this is how humanity appeared to Jesus as He walked the earth in the flesh casting out devils, raising the dead, feeding the poor, and setting the captives free.)

The heavy chains that bound each man and woman were fastened together tightly by a large lock, which could only be opened with a special key.

As I watched in the vision, I felt a deep sense of compassion and duty to my fellow man and wanted to immediately set as many of them free as possible.

Then suddenly, I saw the entire sphere of the Earth, as if from outer space. As I looked closer, I noticed that large platforms, which appeared as large performance stages, had been set up all over the world, littering every nation on earth. As I focused my attention on these platforms, I saw men and women of great power, fame, and notoriety standing atop these platforms shouting at the top of their lungs through megaphones in an attempt to wake up slumbering humanity.



THERE IS ONLY ONE KEY THAT CAN UNLOCK A WORLD IN CHAINS.



SEE JOHN 8:32

The simultaneous sound of all of their booming and compelling voices was intensely loud and caused all of humanity to slowly awaken from their slumber.

I watched as men and women slowly began to awaken from their stupor only to find themselves bound in chains. Their anger at being awakened, and at their chains, made them appear eager to do something about their desperate plight.

Soon, the huddled and chained masses began migrating towards the voices emitting from the platforms. All of those in chains gravitated towards a platform that promoted "causes" in accordance with their preference.

Those who shouted from their megaphones atop these platforms included popular media figures, musicians, politicians, religious leaders, and others. They each spoke with a unique passion for their particular cause from their respective platform in an effort to galvanize their "captive" audiences against something or someone they espoused as the problem.

The causes that were promoted from these platforms were numerous and included calls for **political reform with an increasing emphasis upon restoring "rights."** Some of the voices could be heard urging the people in chains to spend their time **fighting political opponents to their caus**e. Still, others encouraged their followers to do nothing but give them constant attention, thus completely distracting them from facing reality.

And while the enslaved masses found temporary solace in the words of their newfound "leaders," none of the individuals speaking from the platforms explained the most important thing. Namely, **how the huddled masses could break free from their chains!**

Instead, those who stood atop the platforms **exploited the fears and angst** of the huddled masses who sought relief from their chains. The voices coming from the platforms sought to distract the people from the reality of their chains by keeping them focused on their own agendas.

I watched in deep sadness and utter disbelief.

"Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge."
- Psalm 31:4

'DISILLUSIONMENT IS THE FIRST STAGE OF SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.'

The Key That Opens The Lock

As I watched all of these events unfold, it was then that I realized **the Key** that these precious people needed to unlock their chains was in <u>my possession!</u>

I knew that I had an obligation to unlock their chains with the Key. The Lord impressed upon me the importance of sharing the Key with all who would listen.

That one and only one Key is the man, <u>Jesus Christ</u>.

While some voices on the platforms invoked Jesus' name, they did so only to promote their own agenda without ever explaining the grave reality of sin that doomed humanity. Sadly, those who had been given the loudest megaphones in this desperate time were all-out deceivers intent on keeping the masses locked in their chains and away from the Key.

The voices worked hard to convince their listeners that the chains that bound them could only be broken and removed through protest, revolution, and even violence and bloodshed.

I have never forgotten this vision and the more I have meditated on it, the more I have come to understand that it is for our own hour.

The scientific and technological advancements made in recent times have served to integrate the entire world more than at any time in history. Modern political and economic integration is occurring in preparation for the events that are soon to transpire, according to the Bible.

Today, as humanity is waking up from its long slumber to a myriad of broken promises by its government and religious leaders, they are also increasingly ripe for the gospel message.

After all, <u>disillusionment is the first stage of any spiritual</u> <u>awakening</u>.

The work of evangelism can be most effective when all trust, hope, and confidence within man's ability to rule himself has been compromised.



For those who have never trusted Christ, I tell you that you are in chains. You were born with a rebellious sin nature coursing through your veins. Left to your own devices, you will remain in spiritual darkness.

No man can serve two masters, but you are currently serving one (whether you know it or not). (Matt. 6:24) If we are not serving God, we are serving His nemesis: Satan the devil. Satan is a brutal overlord who demands humanity's allegiance to this world. But the Bible is clear that placing trust and hope in the governments, institutions, and organized religions of this world is futile and leads to a dead end. (Romans 8:5-8; James 4:4)

But take heart. God has provided the Key!

Reality and true spiritual life are only available to mankind through one man: **Jesus Christ**. (John 1:4,17; 11:25) Throughout scripture, Jesus explains that <u>no man can come</u> to the Father except through Him. (John 14:6

He is the <u>door</u> and the <u>gate</u> and the <u>only means of entrance</u> into the Kingdom of God. (John 10:9) He alone is the Key that will unlock your chains. (John 8:34-36)

"The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; In the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught." - Psalm 57:6 Just as Jesus Christ holds the answer to mankind's sin nature, the Kingdom of God holds the answer to mankind's corrupt attempts at self-rule.

If you have already heard and believed the words of Jesus Christ, and declared Him your Master and Lord, then you possess the Key too! (Gal. 5:1)

In summary, the nature of our current global awakening is more spiritual than physical. Satan, that old wicked serpent, knows his open rebellion against the Creator is nearing its finale. (Rev. 12:9,12)

Therefore, he has cleverly planned out his final assault upon the object his hatred: <u>God's people</u>.

Before we begin our study, take time to meditate upon the following three statements as they will help explain the nature of our present spiritual battle.

1. A trap has been set for humanity in these

last days. Humanity, inspired by the god of this world, is marching under Satanic influence. He has set a trap for men as they wake up in this final hour just before the Second



Coming of the Christ.

The platforms that I saw in my vision represent the global communication infrastructure that Satan will use, and is even currently using, to deceive as many people as possible, in the quickest amount of time.

To do this, Satan has ensured that our modern world is extremely loud. Everything and everybody demands our attention. Signs, advertisements, commercials, apps, video games, breaking news, all blaring at the top of their lungs, 24/7.

Information overload is putting it mildly.

So too, the signs in the heavens that God uses to communicate with men have been virtually erased, as the starry expanse has gone missing from the night canvas over every major world city, thanks to excessive light pollution.

This "connected" generation is losing all connection with the divine. It would seem that God has never been further away. In such an environment, God's still small voice is easily smothered, and hardly identifiable.

The trap is set. And many are stepping right into it.

2. <u>Humanity lies trapped in chains... and is now being roused from its slumber to a horrific</u>

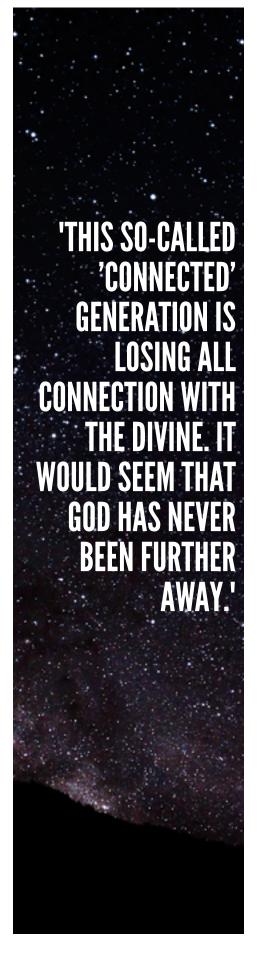
reality. In these last days, a great spiritual awakening is unfolding as the earth is being prepared for its final battle.

Under the power and control of Satan, the earth and its inhabitants have been in the grasp of a cruel master. Satan seeks to sabotage and consume every living being on earth before he is inevitably judged by God. (Rev. 20:10)

In his sadistic cruelty, Satan longs to have all of God's creation join him in eternal misery and destruction.

Therefore, he will conscript a human army for his upcoming cosmic battle in the valley of Megiddo. (Rev. 16:16)

But before he enlists them, he seeks to exploit their anger and hatred and have it directed at anything other than at



'THERE IS ONLY ONE KEY THAT WILL UNLOCK MEN'S CHAINS: THE MAN, JESUS CHRIST.' himself. And, of course, Satan wants to prevent every soul from receiving the Key that will set them free to resist His plan.

3. Jesus Christ is the only Key that can set men

free. Very few men who have been given a worldwide platform in these last days have used it to present the only Key that can set men free from their chains: **Jesus Christ**.

The time is short, the fields are full, and the harvest is ripe. Now is the time for God's people to take the Key that released them from their own chains and that freed them from the former bondage, and to share it with those who have not yet heard the glorious good news of Jesus Christ.

There is **no** other solution.

There is **one** key that will unlock men's chains: **Jesus Christ**.

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"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery." - Galatians 5:1