

What will believers do when 666 comes? 1 of 4, 20200411

Hi all,

As of this writing the world is on lock down in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, which means a lot of people are online speculating about end times. Among those things being talked about is the 666 economic system, and people wondering if now is the time such a system will be implemented.

Much of what is being said is fear based, unbalanced teaching, lifting verses out of context, adding a good dose of speculation, and calling it God. This series will go into detail of scripture, the first century culture of the Roman Empire, and history to answer the question: **What will believers do when 666 comes?**

Let me work backwards a little bit. There will be disciples of Jesus in the Tribulation. But according to Judaism they will be people who came to Messiah AFTER the Feast of Trumpets blowing of the Last Trumpet. That blowing of the last trump caused the resurrection of those who had previously died, and according to Paul, those who were alive at the time to see that event. So the 666 is not for believers now. I will share more on that next week.

What is the 666?

"He also caused everyone small and great, rich and poor, free and slave to obtain a mark on their right hand or on their forehead. Thus no one was allowed to buy or sell things unless he had the mark of the beast—that is, his name or his number. This calls for wisdom: Let the one who has insight calculate the beast's number, for it is man's number, and his number is 666." Revelation 13: 16-18

The first rule of Bible interpretation is that a passage must make sense to the original readers of the message. So we must note that when Rome took a slave, they took away the person's name and instead tattooed a number on that person's forehead or hand (wrist). Thereafter they were called whatever number had been assigned.

We see this in Romans 16: 22-23 which says: "I Tertius, who wrote this letter (received dictation from Paul) greet you, also Gaius my host, Erastus who is the city's (Corinth) Treasurer, and Quartus, a brother." The names 'Tertius' and 'Quartus' are the Roman numerals 3 and 4. So it literally says, "I, Three, who wrote this letter...Gaius...Erastus...and Four, a brother."

The apostle John sees a whole population of slaves to an economic and religious system, and without such allegiance they will not be able to buy anything. Readers of John's vision immediately understood therefore he was talking about an economic system and a system requiring allegiance to a government or regime.

The number 6 is the number of man because man was created on the 6th day. The number 7 is the number of God and completion, for on the 7th day God quit creating. The three 6's of man represent the 3 elements of rule over nations: Political power (includes military), economic power, and religious power. That is the 666, the effort of 1 ruler to combine in his kingdom those 3 elements. Rulers have tried to combine these 3 for centuries.

Rome tried it and succeeded with 2 of the 3: Political and economic, but could not contain Christianity. Hitler tried and succeeded with political and economic unity, but could not contain the Jewish and Christian population. (Little mentioned fact is the the Holocaust killed about 6 million Jews, but also another 5+ million Christians and political enemies). Look at the efforts of every ruler from Nebuchadnezzar to the USSR - all tried to bring under their power politics, economics, and religion (Either by a State religion, or stamping out religion and making the State the religion). Anti-Christ will attempt the same.

We could therefore say Jesus will succeed with a 777. Zechariah 14 tells us He will be King over all the earth and righteousness will be the rule of law (political & economics), and all nations will come annually to Jerusalem at the Feast of Tabernacles to worship Him. (religion)

Back to 666 - No economic and political system comes into being overnight. Systems and policies often come into place as a result of a crisis. Believers who refuse to be made slaves of that system will have to grow their own food, meat, and/or be in relationships with those who do. It means whatever

you need in life will have to be supplied by those who have either stockpiled supplies before the 666 economic system goes into place, or have the means and connections to get supplies outside the system. People won't be meeting in auditoriums called church, for it will be impossible. They will meet in homes, sharing lives, sharing provisions, praying for one another.

While the book of Revelation does not say anti-Christ will rule the whole world, just the general area of what was then the Roman Empire, the policies and effects of his rule will affect the planet, as will the natural disasters that occur.

History repeats itself...

...because human nature has never changed, and neither has the devil. In Nazi Germany Jewish businesses were officially boycotted as early as April of 1933. They could not participate in the economic system of non-Jewish citizens.

Because most people ignored the boycott and still shopped at Jewish businesses, that boycott was eventually superseded when Jewish people were rounded up and put into ghettos, like in Warsaw, but Jewish ghettos were implemented all over Europe. These closed neighborhoods meant Jewish people only had food and goods among themselves. They could not go out to a store to shop with the general population. They could not go to a grocery or market to get food. They could use and consume only what they shared among themselves.

Similar situation in Thyatira

In the apostle John's time, believers in Thyatira were experiencing a similar thing. In Revelation 2: 18-29 we find a woman nicknamed 'Jezebel', who thought herself a prophetess, teaching believers it was okay to commit sexual sin and in that sin, eat food offered to idols. (I have a series on this true 'Jezebel spirit' - which is far different than the popular teaching.)

Thyatira was home to most of the Roman Empire's guilds, forerunners of labor unions. If a woman owned let us say, a dress shop in town, if she wanted to buy material for her shop, she would have to enter into an agreement with the guild for that material and then go to a temple, make a sacrifice to that guild's idol, and then to confirm the business agreement, have sex with a temple prostitute.

The same would be for a man who say, owned a metal works business. If he wanted to buy raw material he would have to make a deal with a supplier, go to a temple and sacrifice to that idol, and then confirm the contract by having sex with a temple prostitute. It's interesting to note and well known historically, that these prostitutes danced around poles in the shape of an erect...ahem, let's be polite - phallic symbol. The modern version is the 'pole dance' of strip clubs and exercise classes that are so popular. Those were first seen in temples in the Roman Empire.

Without entering into an agreement with a guild, a person could not be in business for very long. Or they had to move outside of the city and/or find a secret supplier who wasn't part of a guild. My personal opinion is that Lydia of Philippi*, the original hostess of the house church there, who was also a seller of purple originally from Thyatira, moved to Philippi to maintain her integrity - my opinion as I said. *Acts 16:14

Jezebel in Thyatira called herself a prophetess, which meant what she taught had a 'thus says the Lord' attached. She taught that it was okay to have sex with the prostitute and offer the required sacrifices to the idol, because God knows you have to eat, have to stay in business - right?

Jesus said no. Emphatically. Fortunately not all in Thyatira followed this woman, and those who did not no doubt had sources of food and supplies from outside the city, or of their own gardens and livestock, and other suppliers.

Next week - why we won't be here to experience it, and more about the 666 system. Until then, blessings,
John Fenn

www.cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com

What will believers do when 666 comes? 2 of 4 - 20200418

Hi all,

Having started to examine the economic and political system that implements the 666, let me shift attention this week to explain why you and I won't be around to see it. Next week I'll get back to the 666 and signs around it.

"...He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself...and for those who look for Him, He will appear a second time not to bear sin, but to bring us the fullness of salvation." Hebrews 9: 24-28

The author of Hebrews believed Jesus was going to appear to bring the fullness of salvation, to "those who look for Him". This isn't the 2nd coming at Armageddon because then Jesus will appear to the whole earth whether they are looking for Him and believe in Him or not. So this is about an event in which Jesus appears to those who look for Him, to complete their salvation.

Is he implying believers who aren't looking for Him, won't go in that event? Could it be that those believers who don't believe in a pre-tribulation rapture will get their wish and not be taken? I don't know, and that point has been debated for many years. Everyone Paul wrote to was looking for Him. But in our day that is not the case. But it is clear the author is writing about an event that will bring the fullness of salvation, and it is for those who are looking for the Lord in that event.

First century Judaism, from which Paul wrote

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, is also called the Feast of Trumpets. In Judaism the 7 God-given festivals are called 'rehearsals' and 'appointments' for the True which will come one day. (Leviticus 23)

The 4 spring festivals were therefore fulfilled on their exact day: (1) Unleavened Bread and (2) Passover - at the cross, (3) Feast of First fruits of the earth - started that Sunday, Resurrection day, (4) Pentecost - which was 50 days after the feast of First fruits/resurrection day, and was the anniversary of God giving Moses the Law. The connection between Moses receiving God's Word and people speaking in tongues may not be immediately understood, but it has to do with God's Word at Pentecost now written in the hearts of men, the Living Word now throughout mankind.

That leaves the 3 fall festivals; (5) Feast of Trumpets/Rosh Hashanah (6) Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, and (7) the Feast of Tabernacles, celebrating God living with man.

We are told in Zechariah 14: 16 the Feast of Tabernacles will be fulfilled on its exact day for 1000 years in a row during the Millennium. That means 5 of the 7 were or will be fulfilled on their exact day. These last 2 occur in September or early October depending on the calendar.

Yom Kippur or the Day of Atonement answers to the return of Jesus and the world being called into account for their sins. Jesus' statement that He doesn't know the day nor hour of His return could be interpreted to mean His return would break the pattern and not be on the Day of Atonement - we don't know.

Sun/Son

The Feast of Trumpets is the only festival of the 7 to start at the new moon phase, when there is no moon, said to be 'hidden'.

In Judaism the sun represents God and believers represent the moon. Like the moon, believers have no light of their own, but reflect the light of the sun/Son, and were created to rule the night/darkness. The Feast of Trumpets starts when the moon is hidden because Paul said, the blowing of the Last Trump hides the believers in heaven. That's why he wrote the new moon is a type of something to come*. (I Corinthians 15: 52, Psalm 81:3, *Colossians 2:16-17)

The blowing of the Last Trumpet at the Feast of Trumpets causes the righteous dead to rise, and Paul added his own revelation that those alive to see that event, will also be changed and join them. A Hebrew Lexicon says the word for blowing the trumpet, 'teruah', means 'an awakening blast'. The Last Trumpet was originally said to be the right horn of the ram caught in the thicket when Abraham was to have offered Isaac in Genesis 22. It has been associated with resurrection ever since.

Paul, alluding to this event, paraphrasing the temple prayer of the Feast of Trumpets in Ephesians 5: 14-17, which started with: "Awake you who sleep, and remember (rise to) your Creator..." Paul wrote: "Therefore as it is said, 'Awake you who sleep, rise you sleepers and Messiah will give you light...'"

That Paul teaches these Jewish beliefs of what we call a pre-tribulation 'rapture' to the Corinthians, above to the Ephesians, makes mention of the event to come as seen in the new moon to the Colossians, and spells it out in detail in 2 letters to the Thessalonians, as well as what Hebrews 9 says, makes it clear he and those around him believed the 'teruah', the 'awakening blast', would be blown before the world entered the time of Jacob's trouble.

If people don't understand Paul's Judaism and first century believer, they cannot connect the consistency of his writings to the Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, Thessalonians, and readers of Hebrews about the Jewish belief in the Feast of Trumpets awakening the righteous dead BEFORE the earth enters the time of Jacob's Trouble.

The end of the age

After the blowing of the trumpet Judaism teaches, the earth goes into a 7 year period known as 'the time of Jacob's Trouble' and 'the Days of Awe'. This mirrors the 7 days between the end of the Feast of Trumpets and the start of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The Feast of Trumpets/Rosh HaShanah is on the 1st-2nd, and Yom Kippur is the 10th, leaving the 3rd-9th, 7 days between.

While the hidden ones are in heaven having their feast, on earth God will divide the remaining population into 3 groups. The first is the righteous, which is made up of those who believe in the Lord after they witness the catching away of believers. The next is the wicked, which is those who have decided not to believe no matter what.

The largest group, is called to this day in Judaism 'the Intermediates'. These are those people who have not yet decided if they will believe in and follow God. They have (7 years) until Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, when Jesus returns to call the nations to account and set up His earthly kingdom.

The 666 isn't for us

So what the apostle John sees in The Revelation concerning multitudes being martyred, or dying due to the double asteroid hit and sun being blocked out, or war and economy in ruin and famine, has to do with those remaining on the earth after the Feast of Trumpets blowing of the Last Trumpet. In heaven believers (primarily Gentiles) have been judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and are celebrating the wedding feast - which is 7 years long. But on earth it is the Days of Awe, the days of repentance.

The 666 has nothing to do with you and I other than the beginning of that system is something we can observe taking shape in our day. And that's for next week. Until then, blessings,

John Fenn

www.cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com

What will believers do when 666 comes? (Why the 666?) 3 of 4 - 20200425

Hi all,

Last week I established the Jewish teaching of Paul's day that a blowing of the Last Trump at the Feast of Trumpets will one day cause the righteous dead to rise, and those who are alive and looking for Him, to be changed and join them with the Lord.

Shofar

In many ancient Jewish tombs the shofar is engraved, and even now in some funerals the shofar is blown in anticipation of the resurrection - just as Paul taught.

Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 1:10 that we have been delivered from the wrath to come, and in 5:9 that God has not appointed us to wrath, but to salvation. In Jewish terminology, the 'time of Jacob's

trouble' was also called the 'day of wrath'. Paul said God has not appointed us to the 'day of wrath/Jacob's trouble'.

Following the statements that we aren't destined to the days of wrath, he wrote there will be the blowing "of the trump of God" which would cause us to meet the Lord in the air in 4: 13-18. He told them to 'comfort yourselves with these words' - folks, if you think he is teaching believers would go through the Tribulation, then why did he tell them 2x we aren't, and to be comforted by his words?

In his 2nd letter he told them "He" (Christ, body of) must 'depart' before the man of sin can be revealed, and again told them to be comforted by his words.

Because there are believers in the Tribulation however, some teachers see that and think there is no rapture, not understanding Judaism teaches those will be people who believe after the resurrection of the righteous. Or, some don't understand the 7 days/7 years 'time of Jacob's trouble', and see us going through the first 3 1/2 years, and then being raptured.

Grammatically speaking, Jesus made distinct points in His Matthew 24 teaching to those who have a Jewish ear - His original listeners and readers of Matthew. When Jesus said in Matthew 24:8 "(false Christ's, famines, wars, diseases) are the beginning of birth pangs", to the Jewish ear the phrase 'beginning of birth pangs' was clearly the start of the time of Jacob's Trouble; what we call the Tribulation.

The full phrase in Judaism is "birth pangs of the Messiah". It was not taught that the birth pangs were the suffering of the Messiah, but rather the labor pains Israel must go through to 'birth' Messiah's Lordship into the world, culminating in the 'day of the Lord' (Coming of Messiah). (Jeremiah 40: 3-7, Isaiah 13: 6-9)

Fortunately it says for His return in v31, the angels will collect believers from one end of heaven to the other, not from one end of earth to the other. This agrees with Revelation 19: 6-8, 14, where the body of Christ is seen in heaven in the time of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, followed by accompanying Jesus (on horses) at His return.

Why would a government implement a 666 system?

In part 1 we saw the 666 is an economic system without which a person won't be able to buy or sell. If we lay aside the religious implications of the 666 system, we can ask what are the conditions that make such a system needed?

Remember that on a personal basis God enters earth by invitation. He won't violate our free will. He came into each of our lives when we asked Him to, and perhaps became involved when a parent or friend asked Him to become involved in our lives, leading to our salvation. He won't violate our free will, but as Creator....

He retains complete sovereignty as Creator

According to Romans 1, knowing Him as Creator is the most basic means of knowing Him. And as such during the time called the time of Jacob's trouble, the Creator will allow creation that has been groaning and travailing under the weight of sin, to be used by Him to humble mankind.

Revelation 8: 8-12 and 9: 1-11 describe a double asteroid/comet hit on the earth; one in an ocean and one on land. It says one third of sunlight is blocked, (so it follows) that one third of plants die and one third of water is poisoned. (algae and sea plant life dependent on sunlight.) Of the one that hits land, chapter 9 tells of sores and disease that come to mankind, which agrees with scientific belief that a hit on earth would not only cause a world-wide dust cloud, but release everything from spores of mold to anthrax which would cause disease world-wide. Revelation 9 tells us demons are behind the spread of those diseases.

There are numerous statements about that being a time of economic hardship, especially inflation. Revelation 6:6 says: "A quart (.9 liter) of wheat for a denarius, and 3 quarts of barley for a denarius." In that day a 'quart' was a dry measure.

A denarius was 1 day's wage, and 1 quart was the amount of grain 1 person required each day. A day's wage will buy enough grain (wheat) to feed 1 person for 1 day. That same wage will buy the less valuable barley enough for 3 people. In other words, in the midst of political turmoil, in the midst of a double asteroid hit on earth, war and nature produce economic disaster and famine. There is some grace, for the verse says not to damage the oil or wine. Food grains will be in short supply, but people will have oil and wine, condiments we might say. In our day it might be like going to the store and there is no meat, no bread, but still oil and salt and spices are there to buy.

It is interesting to note that ancient Romans, Greeks, and Jews diluted their wine with water. Homer mentions 20 parts water to 1 part wine, but in day to day use by Jesus' time it was roughly 3 or 4 parts water to 1 part wine. There is much scripture that details the dangers of drinking full strength wine, but in day to day use it was diluted, which is why Paul advised Timothy to add wine to his water to help his stomach ailments (medicinally - I Timothy 5:23).

A strong ruler is needed

Beyond his importance to us as the anti-Christ, during his rule this man will have to bring order out of natural and man-made disasters, and the way to do that is unify the nations economically, and of course in religion. In every economic system there has always existed a shadow economy, a black market or a system outside the official system. And that's for next week - until then, blessings,
John Fenn

www.cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com

What will believers do when 666 comes? 4 of 4 - 20200502

Hi all,

What will believers do when an economic system is put in place that every merchant and bank uses, and that is the only way to buy anything? I believe in the Jewish Feast of Trumpets and the blowing of the Last Trump which will cause believers to rise or be changed and taken to heaven, while earth starts the 7 year time of Jacob's trouble. But we can see the principles of the 666 system being put in place in our time.

The mark of the beast

Revelation 13: 15-17 states: "...as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: That no man might buy or sell, except he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

This is important, because in all the talk on the Internet about the 666, no one is mentioning that BEFORE that is put in place, or with it, people will have to swear allegiance to the State or be killed.

So personally, I wonder how many believers will be left when they first refuse to worship 'the beast.' The Greek of verses 15-17 is one very long sentence, and Greek doesn't have punctuation, so it could be understood that a statement of loyalty to the 'beast' may first be required to get the mark.

I can see building persecution now, so am more concerned how are we viewed and treated by society in our time, more than I am of some future economic system I could work around by growing my own crops and animals (If I were on earth at that time and had survived the double asteroid hit, reduced sunlight, etc).

Consider China's social grading system started in 2014 and is to be fully operational this year, 2020. It is called 'social credit'. By facial recognition and monitoring activities, friends, and web activity, the government determines a 'grade' for each citizen which determines what privileges they may enjoy, or be punished for straying from government guidelines.

Published examples requiring a negative mark to their score include smoking in a non-smoking zone, bad driving, buying too many video games, and posting things online not in agreement with government policy. They now ban or limit the ability of such people to travel by train or air, they slow their Internet speeds, can ban your children from better schools, keeping you out of the better hotels, and even take your dog from you.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/china-social-credit-system-punishments-and-rewards-explained-2018-4#6-getting-your-dog-taken-away-6>)

What if a similar system as outlined in The Revelation went further, shutting out undesirables like Christians and Jews from society and the economy altogether?

What if....

What if you and I because we are Christians, were excluded from the economic system and could therefore only buy and sell amongst ourselves? What if to get milk, you had to know someone in Christ with a cow who was willing to sell, trade, or barter with you? What if to get chicken meat or eggs you had to know someone with chickens who would be willing to sell, trade, or barter for them?

Would we shun them because they believe differently than we do about say, water baptism, like some might do today? I suggest the average Christian in need of the farmer's chicken eggs, or one in need to the extra toilet paper you have, will set aside what they don't believe in common and focus on Who is held in common, Christ Jesus.

At that point, the body of Christ will grow up. Many Christians already walk in that level of love, able to celebrate Who we have in common and lay aside differences. But if you read many of the posts on Facebook for example, or if you have about any church experience, you'll find a lot of Christians being rude, argumentative, and purposely provoking fear, strife, and confusion.

I wonder who people like that have to turn to as a network of support in their time of need? We are each other's greatest resource for Christ lives in each of us. It's time now to lay aside childhood in order to grow up in love in Christ.

Consider...

Right now among your circle of Christian friends, if you had to depend on them for your daily needs: Could you eat? Could you find someone with household supplies? Would you be meeting openly in auditorium churches, or in homes among those in your network of support? Could it be that gathering around a dinner table sharing a meal becomes the intimate celebration and sharing of faith we already have in so many of the home based church gatherings?

More what if in our day...

What if Jews and Christians were blamed for what's wrong with a nation? What if Jews and Christians and conservatives are believed to be holding back a nation from progressing to a great new economy and society? What if in our day Christians and conservatives are harassed on social media, what if their blogs and videos are removed because of their views, which are thought to be controversial or inciting people? What if people demonstrate outside church buildings and synagogues against the (hated) Jews and Christians? What if the State encouraged citizens to spy on and report one another they suspected of violating restrictions or laws?

We are seeing everything I just mentioned in the paragraph above, is happening right now in the USA. As the Lord told me in the visitation in December of last year and I have shared: "We are just starting, like someone on the shoreline with their toes just getting wet, but about to wade into deeper water." See the groundwork being laid, but don't fear. It is for a future time. Be prepared, but not to the point you break your own budget for fear of what may be coming. We do what we can within what we have, and the Lord takes care of the rest.

The biggest thing a person can do now, is walk in love. Grow up body of Christ. Ephesians 4:14-16 talks of Jesus' goal of causing us to stop being children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine devised by the cunning of man. Grow up in love in Him in all things, the body supporting the body.

If the Father can time our lives in such a way now to provide for us, He will again when another crisis hits the world. Start looking back over the course of your life to remember and acknowledge His guidance and provision, and you won't be afraid of the future. He never changes. He hasn't brought you this far to fail you now. Take peace in His record of faithfulness in your life, and you will know peace now, and then.

As holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom so famously said: "It's never wrong to trust an unknown future to a known God."

But this series is about a post-rapture believers...

We can see the storm clouds building on the horizon, we can see the spirit in the world that will bring that 666 system into fullness, but it isn't upon us. I am thankful the NT teaches we are not called to the days of wrath, but to receive our salvation instead. But we can learn by what that spirit is doing for we are in the light and have revelation from heaven on what that spirit wants to do.

New subject next week...until then, blessings,

John Fenn

www.cwowi.org and email me at cwowi@aol.com