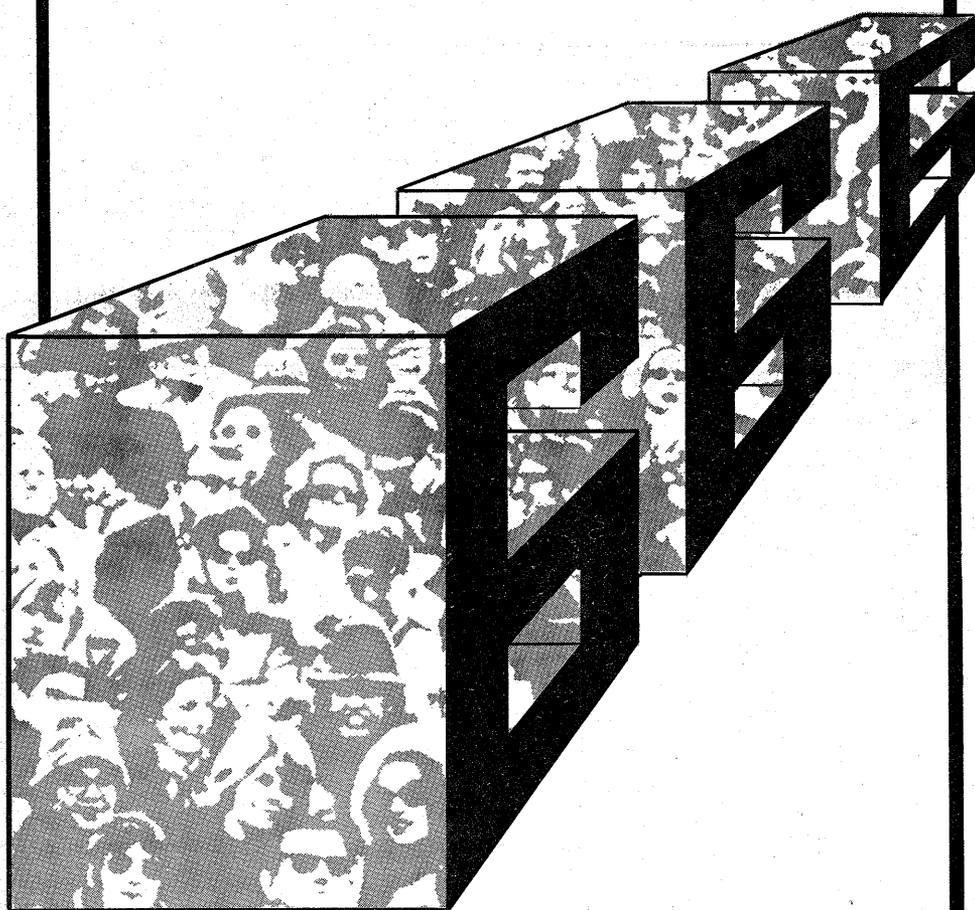


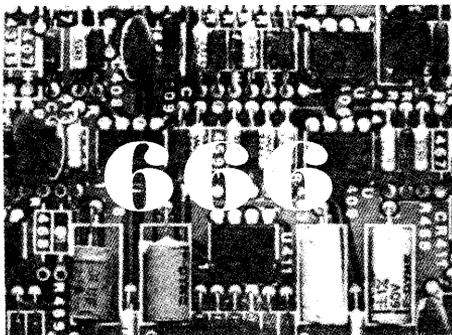
**ARE WE**

**APPROACHING**



**RAY BRUBAKER**

# Are We Approaching 666?



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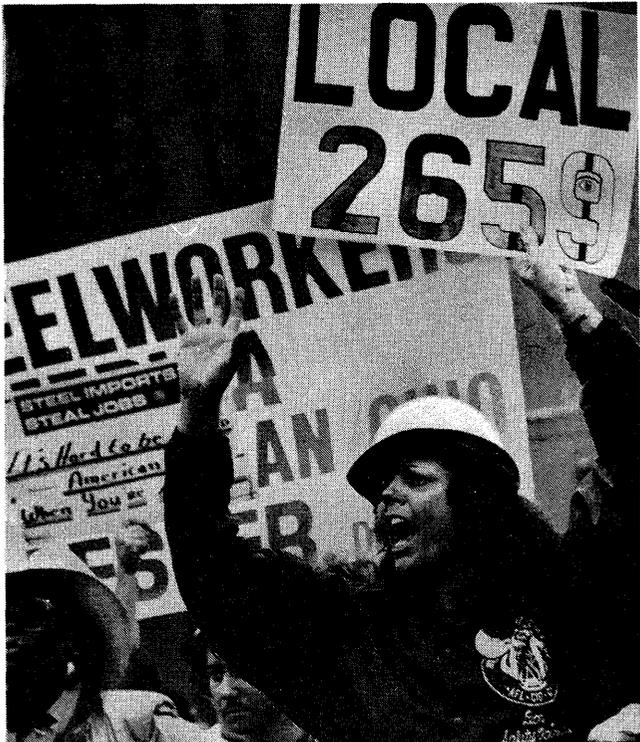
## Are We Approaching

# 666

R. E. McMaster, addressing a conference in New Orleans, told some 3,000 assembled guests that a time of extreme trouble is ahead for the United States and Western civilization. In fact, he said we should be on the alert for our "very survival."

Philip S. Hill, chairman of Hyster Corporation in Portland, has observed, "We've never faced such an uncertain economy. And the reason is that our economy is no longer in American hands, now that international trade has been broadened."

No where is this more obvious than in the battle of U.S. Steel now fighting for its very survival on two fronts.



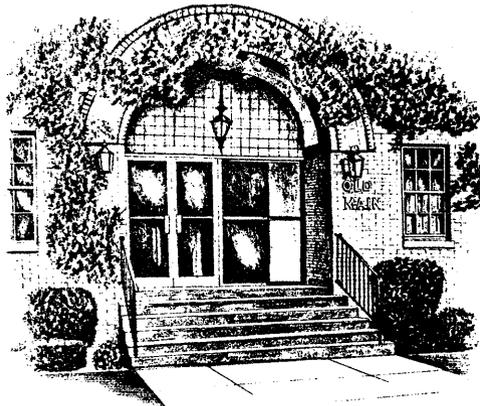
AP

The first is a battle against the European steel exporters. The second is between unions and management. Management says employment costs are pricing American steel out of the international market. But workers—those who still have jobs—are reluctant to give up a relatively high standard of living.

The steel dispute between the United States and the European Economic Community has been going on for some time. But it came to a head on Aug. 25, 1982, when the Reagan administration ruled that steel imports from Europe were being illegally subsidized. Penalty duties could now be imposed on European steel exports, pricing them right out of the market.

What is the significance of all this? What will happen?

The backing of the American steel companies' claim may benefit the industry and the workers in the short term. But the long-term consequence of the dispute, and the inability to solve it more amicably, is depression. Conditions of the 1930's are being repeated when it is impossible to find markets for goods that are being produced.



Few American steel workers remember when unions battled with their employers. I myself was a member of a closed shop and when a strike was called, I would go to the main office to offer suggestions for a settlement of the dispute.

For this I was asked to attend a local college and come back as an advisor to the firm. But my decision had been made to attend a school where I might study the Bible. When I told the firm this, they offered to send me through seminary.

The experience certainly taught me the problems that management and labor experience and the patience that is needed to solve these problems.

Today it is more complex. World trade problems which finds what may be of benefit to the American steel worker could hurt those across the ocean. And vice versa.

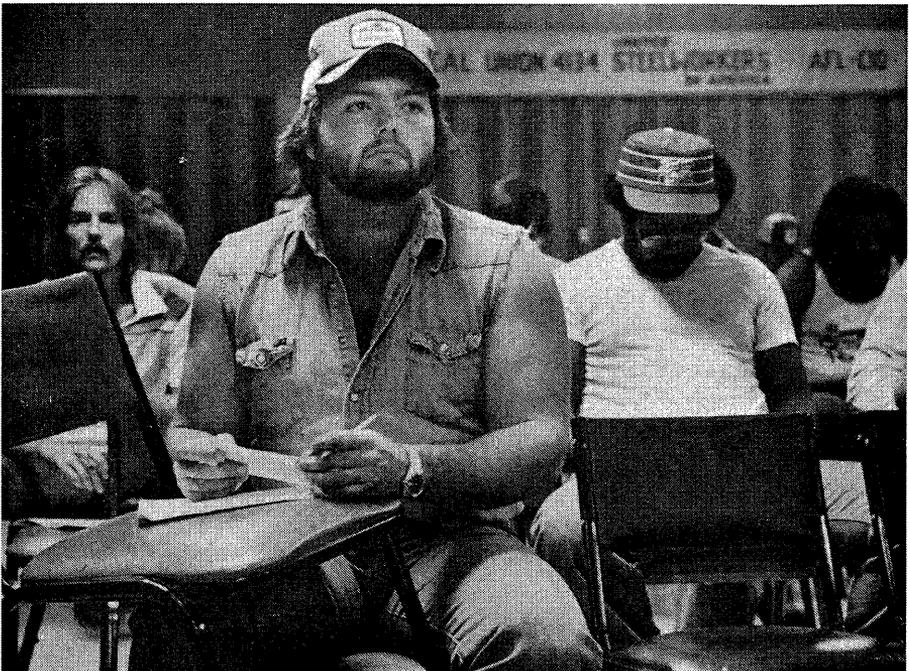
Jobs. That basically is what the problem is all about. Over the last fifteen years, European countries have been streamlining their operations. As a result, thousands of jobs in the steel industry have disappeared. But redundancies must be planned. This is why an agreement with the United States is essential,

The European Economic Community has agreed to limit exports of 11 steel products to below six percent of the U.S. market until 1985. But this deal was rejected by U.S. steel makers. The reason—European steel makers receive too much in subsidies from their governments. Among them, British Steel Corporation was accused of receiving state aid covering up to 40 percent of its export selling prices. In the United States there is vigorous objection to these subsidies. But to the European steel makers, subsidies are vital.

In Europe, subsidies mean jobs. In France where steel is largely subsidized, 30,000 jobs were lost in just one year. The steelworkers grow angry, for they know that once their job has gone, there is little chance of finding another one for a long time. This frustration and fear has led to violence.

Will this bring on the need for a world ruler who can help solve Europe's economic problems?

The Rev. L.A. Steller, writing in the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, says: "I believe the pressures which will bring Antichrist to prominence in the world are not basically religious, but economic."



EARLEY—LONGVIEW NEWSPAPERS

**Idled steelworkers fill out unemployment forms**

We see a fight for survival with all of industrial Europe deeply affected by unemployment and declining production. There are more than eleven million unemployed in the European community. Among them, Belgium has the highest rate.

U.S. steel import restrictions would mean that Belgium must either cut back production or reduce subsidies. In either case, more jobs would go.

Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens warns that European democracy itself is threatened by this massive unemployment and economic dislocation.

Again Rev. Steller comments: "When men can neither buy nor sell because the world monetary system has collapsed, it will take a master statesman to get things going again. He will devise a very simple system of commerce and exchange that needs no money, only a number and a mark."

This is what the Bible seems to indicate the present dilemma in Western Europe will lead to—the appearance of a financial miracle-worker and economic problem-solver.

Daniel speaks of one who will arise of whom it is said, "Through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand."

Needed is someone to design a plan where all can become a part of his economic system.

The Apostle John speaks of one who will arise from within Europe who will be such a person. He will call for world cooperation, punishing by death all who refuse to be part of his economic system.

We read: "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads. And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast (anti-christ), or the number of his name.

"Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man: and his number is Six hundred three-score and six."

Now the seriousness of taking this mark is revealed in Revelation 14:9-11 where we read: "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wrath of God . . . and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone . . . for ever and ever."

Just like a person today is required to have a social security number, so in this coming day of the antichrist it will be necessary to have a mark in the forehead or right hand, or one cannot buy or sell.

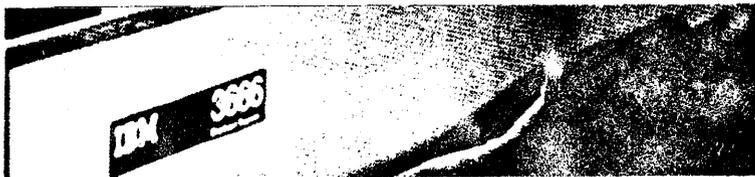


It is reported a laser tattoo gun has been invented by Prof. Keith Farrell of Washington State University that he has used for registering fish. It places a tattoo number on them in one thirty-billionth of a second, is effective and painless. Other similar inventions have been reported.

A banking official tells of an electronic device that is now available that can scan the right hand and identify a person's secret number, thus eliminating the need for credit cards.

Dr. Mary Stewart Relfe, in her book, **WHEN YOUR MONEY FAILS**, gives many examples of the popularity of the number 666.

Some IBM supermarket scanning equipment is prefixed with the number 3 - 666.



The formula for NCR Model 304 Supermarket Computer system is 6 60 6.

Other illustrations of the use of the number 666 might be given, but until Antichrist actually appears, they are only a shadow of that which is to come.

In other words, do not think that by getting a check with the number 666 on it that you have succumbed to the powers of the antichrist. Nevertheless, when Antichrist is revealed, he will require such identification. To accept the number in the forehead or right hand is to forfeit forever eternal life and align oneself with Satan.

In view of our discussion today we can be sure—it's later than we think.

Rex Humbard once said: "I feel that today through our own government, as in the governments of the world, that everybody is becoming a number. Man will be known by a number in his forehead, and I think you will have to memorize this number if they ask you who you are. To buy or sell, or to do anything, you will have to have a number. That's what the Bible says."



However, as we've said on this program many times, we are not looking for the antichrist but for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

However, witnessing trends which we have reported today, we must say with the Apostle Peter that we believe the end is near! Jesus is coming soon!

When George Shultz, who is now Secretary of State was the U.S. Treasury Secretary, he told the financial ministers of the International Monetary Fund that reform of the world money system was necessary.

Already government benefit checks can be deposited electronically into the recipient's bank.

So we are fast becoming a checkless society.

Reports of a computer in Brussels called THE BEAST is believed to contain the name of every person, or has the potential to list the name and number of everyone. Transactions at the supermarket eventually could be recorded in seconds—no muss, no fuss . . . no money.

Where are we heading?

We are embarked upon a one-world government that will be computerized so that all the antichrist needs to do is to question the computer about anything and the answer will be given. In fact, the evidence is that the computer will speak forth the answer.

We read concerning the beast "world-ruler," "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

So we believe the "image" of the beast could very well be a computer that you must honor by accepting its decisions or lose your life.

One of these days, as we see it, your money will be worthless.

Willard Cantelon, author of THE NEW WORLD MONETARY SYSTEM, says: "I have sat for hours in conversation alone with men chosen to advise the President of the United States. I have weighed their deductions and examined all their sayings. It is one message. We are moving toward a world system, a numbers system run by computer, that will one day be under central control. If we follow the immediate tempo of inflation and the exploding population, you can almost measure the acceleration yourself and determine when the new system will come. There is not a conversant person in the world with whom I have spoken who would argue that inflation would not bring a new system soon and take the world presently beyond the point of no return. No longer is the question, 'Is a new system coming?' The question is 'When?'"

Addressing a Christian audience, Cantelon urged: "Don't hoard your money. Give as much as you can to the work of the Lord and use it for your needs. Tomorrow you may not have any."

Without hesitancy we must admit the whole banking system is in trouble. Nations are going bankrupt that have borrowed billions of dollars.

Dr. Frank Pick once warned, "I see the complete breakdown of the whole world currency system."

The result has to be the program of the antichrist as set forth in the book of the Revelation.

The Washington Post Service once reported the seriousness of the



Bank Foreign Exchange dealing office.

bank situation, declaring: "International financial markets are verging on the edge of panic, waiting daily for new bank failures . . ." The situation since then has grown steadily worse.

The fluctuating stock market is something of a barometer of our financial uncertainty. As the news headline read: "Soaring market feeds on world financial fears!"

Watching the international financial crisis, one must come to the conclusion that eternal riches are the only true riches.

An investment broker wrote after reading one of our articles on the economy. He observed: "My view on the economy is in agreement with your last letter. I have felt that all investments will eventually be absolutely worthless (except food and clothing).

He continues, "The only thing I've been investing in is gold-related areas."

When it comes to offering advice, we have the Word of God to fall back on.

America and the world are in the midst of economic problems.

We would urge in the words of the Apostle Peter who said: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." (1 Pet. 5:7)

It was Peter who wrote: "But the end of all things is at hand; be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."

For western countries, the post-war years of affluence are over. A decade of economic problems and industrial decline have taken their toll. Without question, we are in trouble. Men's hearts are failing them for fear as they view the world's economic woes.

The hopes of a dialogue of nations will not suffice for this hour in which we live. We need a hope that is lasting, and that is the hope of Christ's coming.

Writes Paul to Titus: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Tit. 2:13-14)

Are you looking for our Lord's return? Is His coming your hope?

If not, pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I believe you died on the cross for my sins; that you rose again, and that you are coming again for all who love you and are ready to meet you.

Forgive me of my sins and help me to live for you. Keep me ready for your coming, I pray. Amen."

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh!"

# Are We Approaching The Cashless Society?



When the state of North Carolina sought authorization to deposit Patrolman Dennis G. Whitt's pay check directly into his bank account, he refused to accept the state's new requirement.

Patrolman Whitt, a Baptist, said he considered the direct deposit plan as the "beginning of the cashless society" which is one aspect of the Antichrist's ultimate plan.

In seeking to overcome the problems that go with banking, the American banking industry is fast moving to new methods of handling checks. It is estimated that 35 billion checks will be processed this year and, unless something is done, the total will come to 44 billion by the end of the decade.

Testifies Robert V. Saveck, a bank executive of the Valley National Bank of Arizona, "The world is drowning in paper."

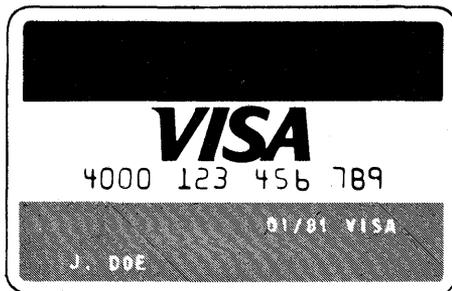
Peter Kerr of the NEW YORK TIMES tells of "Check-truncation" which is a process of recording the check transaction without the returning of cancelled checks to the customer.

This is already being practiced which finds the banks usually destroying the check within three months, although some banks keep them longer.

It has been argued that without the cancelled checks, consumers will be more vulnerable to errors by banks and will find it more difficult to detect forgeries or settle disputes with merchants.

"The basic problem is that you are losing information that was formerly provided by the bank, and the bank is less accountable to you," says Stephen Brobeck, executive director of the Consumer Federation of America.

Testified John Farr, first senior vice president of the local Rutland Banks, "Ultimately, we will become a checkless society." He explains, "The cost of handling paper is so great as compared to costs of handling financial transactions electronically that this move is unavoidable, unless consumers are willing to pick up the costs for checking. Would you be willing to pay \$25 a month for a checking account?" he asks.



Credit cards, too, are due for a change. Visa International's announcement of a new card with an electronic stripe coding of the banking industry is an attempt to have worldwide use in automatic teller machines at banks. The new card has the magnetic stripe coding of the banking industry and both the bar stripe and optical character recognition coding of the retail industries.

It will be discovered eventually that even this will not prove satisfactory. One company reported the loss of some 20,000,000 credit cards as lost or stolen in just one year.

So what will be the solution?

The Bible reminds us of a time coming when man cannot buy or sell unless he has a number or mark in his right hand or forehead.

In Rev. 13:16 we read of a world ruler seen arising of whom it is said, "he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

The Bible goes on to warn, "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation: and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

Due to the seriousness of this required identification, and because this day is believed to be fast approaching, it is urgent and necessary that you be kept informed of activities that relate to the world banking system.

Time does not permit a discussion of the world financial crisis. Mexico, with its \$80-billion foreign debt, the largest in the world; Argentina, with its huge indebtedness which increased as a result of the Falkland's war; Poland, with some \$26 billion that it owes Western

banks and governments; Romania, with \$10.2 billion also owed Western banks, and on and on we could go.

Harry Schultz, in an article entitled "Apocalypse When?" wrote on July 14, 1982, "I fear a sudden big bank failure (they are always kept secret till the situation is hopeless; then it's suddenly announced), which results in a chain-reaction bank closure around the world within two hours. A Banking Pearl Harbor . . . Is the risk really that bad or that imminent? he asks. His answer: "The risk is greater than the 1930's . . . it's global now, and the degree of debt is greater. They won't call it the "Wall Street Crash" this time. It will probably be called the Great Bank Shutdown. And in the place of "Black Friday, 1929" it will be "the Day Money Dried Up, 1982." The evidence is overwhelming . . ." he notes.

Among Mr. Schultz's recommendations is to take delivery on your T-Bills, have some gold coins and junk silver coins and, if possible, buy a second (retreat) home in another country.

Well, praise the Lord, we can have our investments in another country. Our Lord suggested, "Lay up treasure in heaven . . ." Abraham, although wealthy, lived in a tent, for he looked for a city which hath foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

While it is worthwhile to have investments such as we have described, it is certainly worthwhile to consider the future of our financial structure—where we are headed, and make your plans accordingly.

Mary Stewart Relfe, an authority on finance, currency, & banking with a knowledge of the Bible has suggested to her readers, "Trust God; become debt free." Then, if you are in a position to make any purchases, she suggests having 1/10 or 1/4 ounce Krugerrands and junk silver of pre-1965 vintage of dimes, quarters and halves, but do not store them in bank deposit boxes.

Dr. C.M. Ward points out that "farm indebtedness totals about \$200 billion. Many farmers are unable to borrow any more . . . In many cases sales are not paying for the cost of production. Farms are being sold. Foreclosures are increasing."



Again the need of having long-life foods on your shelf instead of having all your money in the bank is recommended. Food you can eat. Money may be able to buy food, but you can't eat coins.

Finally, we would ask again—how close are we to the day when you can't buy or sell without an identification on the forehead or right hand? Are we approaching the computerized society?

In January, 1975, a trade journal stated, "Work begins on a private international telecommunications network that will speed the movement of funds throughout Europe and also link with banks in the U.S. and Canada."

MOODY MONTHLY in March, 1974, featured an article which reported the unveiling of the "Beast," a computer which occupies three stories of the Berlaymont Building in Brussels. This is also the headquarters of the European Economic Community.

Some have discounted this information as wild rumor, but sufficient evidence would assure us of the possibility of a system now in effect that will be able to record a number for every human being on earth.

When the editor of a giant firm that builds computers and puts out a trade journal was called, he stated that it was a fact that the European Economic Community was heavily engaged in computerization. "They have computers coming out of their ears," he quipped.

One thing is certain. We are approaching the day of which we have read when the world will be computerized.

William Beirnes, writing in the MIDNIGHT CRY, says, "The world is becoming number conscious." And he warns against accepting a number that is tattooed on his forehead or hand. "Wake up, believer. This is the Last generation," says Beirnes, "Jesus is coming."

Prof. B.A. Hodson, director of the computer center of the University of Manitoba, recommended a mark of identification on the forehead of every person.

He noted: "We find ourselves in a dilemma. We advocate an era in which everybody will have a number on his forehead and won't be able to do anything without it."

Prof. Hodson went on to observe: "The centralization of government, business and credit records will help to bring this about."

Indeed, it may be later than we think.

John Wicklein, former Columbia Graduate School Professor and Boston College Dean, in his book ELECTRONIC NIGHTMARE, points out that with new technology it is now possible to use your telephone or your television to extract all kinds of information that would aid a government wanting to control its people. He adds: "What should seem like 1984 is already state-of-the-art. But: Who will control the system that can either benefit mankind or sound the death knell for privacy and individual liberty?"

It's interesting to observe that the director of the Passport's Office in the State Department has called for and predicts a national identity card for every American. In an exclusive interview for U.S. NEWS and WORLD REPORT the director was quoted as saying, "I predict that national registration eventually will come to this country because it will be demanded by citizens who are sick and tired of supporting non-tax-

paying criminals and illegal aliens."

Without question, the world is being prepared for the day when there will be a one-world political and religious system. As we would understand the Scriptures, this will come about following the rapture of truly born-again believers who are ready to meet their Lord.

Then Satan will be cast down upon the earth to rule through the one called in Scripture, "the beast," and his henchman, the "false prophet."

For those who are left behind the choice is clear. Identify with the system, take the mark in your right hand or forehead, and there is no more salvation for you. Your doom will be eternally sealed by an act of your own choice. On the other hand, to refuse to take the mark or number means you cannot go to any grocery, do business in any shop, eat in any restaurant. In fact, you cannot engage in any commercial activity of any kind.

Do you want to be left behind to go through such a period when the trinity of hell will be the ruling authority for this world?

Remember how the devil offered Jesus the rulership of this world if He would only accept it. Praise God, He turned down the offer and today our Lord is the authority over hell, death and the grave. He only waits for the consummation of the plan of God which allows for this earth to go through its testing time after which He will return to rule as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Now it's fairly easy to be a believer in Christ, but in the day when Satan rules the government of earth, one will die by starvation or by the guillotine if he refuses to take the mark or number.

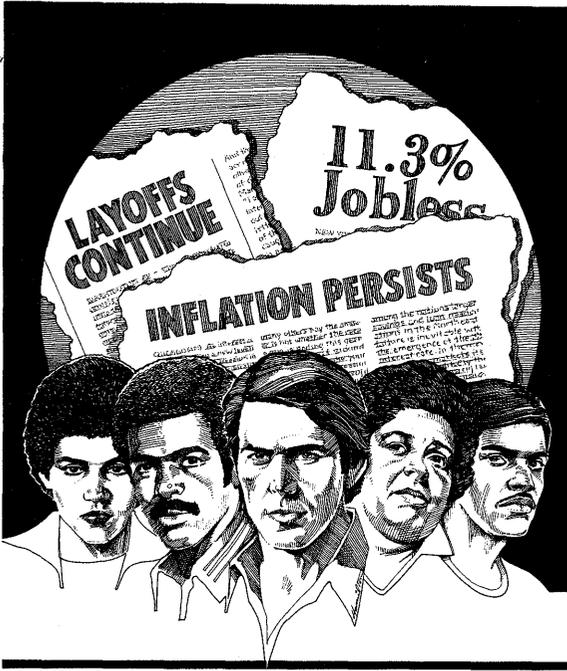
Today is still a day of salvation. Jesus said, "Watch ye therefore and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

Beloved, as long as our Lord offers the hope of escape, conditioned upon His answer to our prayers, let us urge all to pray for His soon return. For did He not urge us to pray, "Even so come quickly, Lord Jesus"?

If you've never done so, receive Him as your Lord and Saviour. Invite Him into your life by praying, "Lord, save me. Forgive me of all my sin and come into my heart to dwell by your Holy Spirit. I receive you now as my Saviour and Lord to serve you and live for you until you come. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it.

And, be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.



## Coping With The Economy

With the nation's unemployment rate hovering around the 10% level, and joblessness in the auto industry soaring to 20%, labor leaders are calling for a "get-tough" policy with our trading partners.

For example, Japan produces more than 30 percent of the cars sold in the United States. Yet, the Japanese keep out our citrus fruits and will not accept our beef.

AFL-CIO Pres. Lane Kirkland says, "The Japanese economy is the worst advertisement for so-called free trade that could possibly exist."

What is the reason for our economic dilemma? Is our faltering prosperity a "sign of the times"? What should be the Christian's attitude to the serious economic upheaval?

As Bishops Paul J. Moore and John H. Burt in the N.Y. TIMES observe: "Not since the industrial revolution has the place and role of work undergone such revision and dislocation. The internationalization of investments and production, combined with new technologies, place the economy of millions of families and hundreds of local communities in jeopardy."

Among the bishops' suggestions is the recommendation "that every community participate actively in the process of supporting, encouraging and aiding the unemployed worker. Declared the bishops: "We challenge the people in our churches and all people of good will to become champions of afflicted workers and to serve as advocates for the restoration of the control of work to every American community, and, indeed to every community of the world."

Today we might ask--Have we been living too well?

God has been good to America. Our business boom has been unprecedented. Steel mills have been humming, and furnaces have been going full blast until it would appear the bottom began falling out of the economy.

Our towering silos full of harvested wheat are reminders of what the Lord said to Noah, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Gen. 8:22)

Yet, we are faced with an economic dilemma which finds farmers paying more for their implements but receiving the same prices for their crops that they did years ago.

Grain, steel . . . and the Soviet natural gas pipeline have been at the center of a debate with our European allies.

Shall we do business with the Russians who give evidence of wanting to take over the world? Shall we help them with grain shipments that would help the farmers but may only further their evil ambitions? And what about efforts to stop European involvement in the building of the Soviet pipeline?

In Versailles, June, 1982, a summit meeting was held which was attended by seven major non-communist industrialized countries. The main theme of the conference was the state of the world economy—especially the industrial recession.

While the discussion then centered also on the Falklands war and the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the main topic was the economy.

What the president later referred to as a "fight in the family" was already brewing.

The nation's leaders returned home to pressing domestic problems—high unemployment, small business folding, even big business on the brink of collapse.

A month after the summit, government officials in the United States described relations with Western Europe as the worst in years.

The biggest row at the time was over the gas pipeline. Because of Soviet deeds and misdeeds, the Americans wanted their European allies to impose sanctions on the pipeline which, when completed, would run 3,000 miles from the Urengoi fields in the Soviet Union into Western Europe.

American firms were asked not to fulfil contracts to supply parts to the Soviet Union. One reason was that the Americans wanted to convince the Soviets that they should leave Poland alone. The Reagan administration believed its policy would teach the Russians a lesson they would not soon forget. And, there was also concern lest Western Europe might become too dependent upon the pipeline which has the

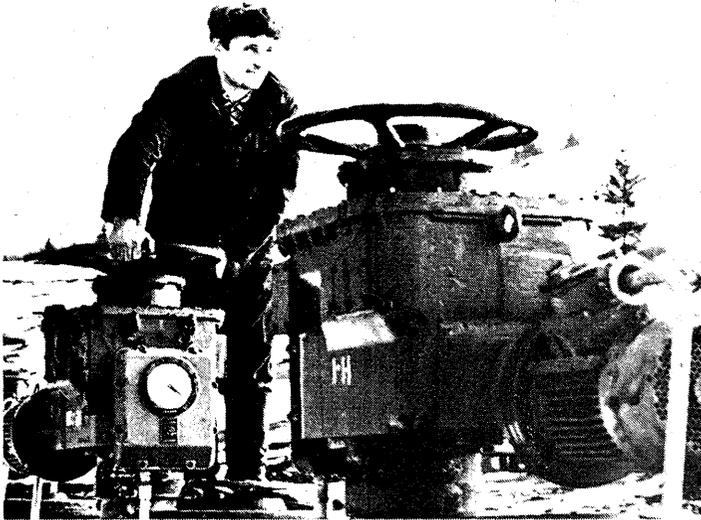
capacity to deliver up to forty billion cubic meters of natural gas.

The American administration has supported the reform movement in Poland since the birth of Solidarity. President Reagan came into office pledging he would tackle what he alleges is the Kremlin's growing interference in countries throughout the world.

In Warsaw we have seen the demonstrations followed by the repressions. Despite months of hardline policies by the government, Solidarity still exists. The labor force has not slackened in its demand that the Polish people continue their fight for freedom from Soviet-styled tyranny.

Scenes of the Polish military dispersing a crowd in the main square in Warsaw flashed on our television screens. This only made the Reagan administration more adamant in believing its foreign policy was correct. The Kremlin was directly accused of propping up the unpopular and unrepresentative government in Poland.

Syigma



This pipeline has the ability to become a major source of revenue from the West. So the administration in Washington felt the only way to censure the Soviets effectively was to try to keep it from happening, thus making it difficult to obtain badly needed foreign capital.

The Polish people have received basic humanitarian aid from the United States. But their economy has stagnated, and political issues have not been resolved.

Relations between Washington and Moscow have cooled greatly. After all, how far shall we go in helping a nation whose leadership is godless, and whose oppression of the human rights of others is well-known?

The Kremlin expressed little concern about the pipeline sanctions. In fact, to finance the vast pipeline project, the Kremlin was able to negotiate five billion dollars in cheap credit from four major Western European countries. In return, the European countries were awarded construction contracts. Work was well in progress when the Polish

crisis flared up and martial law was declared. The Americans then decided that sanctions be placed against the Soviets which would put pressure on Polish and Soviet leaders.

The Soviets were served official notice that if things didn't ease up in Poland, deals made to supply parts to the pipeline would be off. Pres. Reagan was probably expecting to hear howls of protest from the Soviets, but instead they came from his European allies. They had strong feelings about Poland, too, but they couldn't afford to lose the pipeline contracts.

The Soviets said they would go ahead, if need be, without foreign equipment and technology. But they didn't have to worry. Even the United States' strongest ally, Britain, quietly ordered British firms to fulfill pipeline contracts.

The Americans suddenly became aware of the split inside the Western alliance.

Britain, France, W. Germany and Italy all said they would honor contracts which permitted shipment of parts to the Soviet Union.

In defiance, France ordered an American subsidiary, Dresser-France in the port city of Le Havre, to go ahead and ship components. This was contrary to the instructions issued by the American owners who instructed the factory not to ship compressors made at the plant. The French government over-ruled them. This resulted in the American government drawing up a blacklist of companies that were not complying with the sanctions order.

In the interest of prosperity our European allies have sought to work with the Russians.

However, such problems which affect our prosperity are worldwide.

For example, in this country with 150,000 steelworkers laid off, the human consequences are enormous.

We might suggest that our economic plight is a sign of the times. But more than that, we see it as a sign that we are living in the days prior to our Lord's Return.

James writes: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten." He goes on to say, "Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days . . . Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter."

Is this not a picture of the luxurious living we have enjoyed?

Georges Karlweis, chief executive bank officer in Geneva, says of us, "The U.S. is living way beyond its means and doesn't know how to bring its lifestyle under control." (NEWSWEEK, Nov. 13, 1978)

Or, as some might say, we have been living "high on the hog."

In the middle of the decade of the 1970's the NEW YORK TIMES made this observation: "For the first time since the 1930's, an economic slump has hit the major trading nations at roughly the same time." It noted further: "Americans aren't alone in facing rampant inflation and a declining economy. Throughout the western world, economic gloom is spreading . . ."

Declared Richard Burwell, a scientific consultant in Cambridge,

England: "For the first time since the war, I think our family has experienced a relative fall in our standard of living."

This is in harmony with the Scriptures which picture "miseries" coming on the rich.

By the world's standards we are among the "rich" of earth.

What should be the Christian's attitude in view of the troublesome economy?

First of all, keep your trust in the Lord.

Prov. 3:5-6 reminds us to "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Without a job and bills coming due, the temptation is to panic!

We must realize that these are the last days, and economic failures may affect our way of living. A loss of a job may mean a loss of luxuries we have enjoyed. We may have to learn contentment with what we have.

What makes us content?

The Apostle Paul writes: "Having food and raiment let us be content." (1 Tim. 6:18)

We don't have to own a home, have the best-looking house in the block, or own any property to be content. Our Lord is coming soon and we will leave it all behind.

Abraham could have lived in a palace. He was well-to-do. Instead of becoming comfortable, enjoying city life like his nephew, Lot, we read he chose to dwell in a tent: "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

It's possible to enjoy our homes here and then not be interested in our heavenly home.

Jesus warned of the danger of being "rich." Likewise, the Apostle Paul wrote, "They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." You may be facing bankruptcy. But this may be God's way of getting your attention. "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

So Paul encourages, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, now trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they may do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate." (1 Tim. 6:9,10,17,18)

It's all right if you become rich lawfully if you will use your riches to help others and to communicate. (Radio and television are forms of communication. So keep this in mind when you give.)

This brings us to our second point: be helpful to others.

In 3 John we read, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

God does want his people to prosper. Joshua 1:8 reminds us if we will meditate upon the Word of God, and keep those things that are written therein, "then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

Isn't that what you want?

Well, the reason God wants us to be prosperous and have good success is so we can help others who are in need.

In 1 John 3:17 we read, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him"?

Two medical sociologists at the University of Florida Medical School say the way to fight off depression is to have friends or loved ones to whom you can go and get help. According to George Warheit and Charles Holzer, "Close friends and supportive families mean more than a cheerful disposition when it comes to warding off depression."

We repeat—if God has blessed you, it is for the purpose of blessing others.

No true ministry of God should be without means of support. God should be first in our giving.

A magazine recently stated, "For every \$100 an American family paid for fun, it put about \$4.50 in the church offering plate."

Somewhere we have gotten the impression that radio and television ministries don't need our support like the church needs it. Good people write, "We are building a church and my support is needed there." That's fine.

But as Dr. Oswald J. Smith put it, "We must decide whether we are going to put our money into the building or into the message. For nearly 1900 years now the Church has been putting its money into the building instead of getting out the message. We have been erecting magnificent and luxurious auditoriums in which to worship God." Smith continues, "God did not tell us to build luxurious churches and invite the people to come in. He told us to go out with the message and preach the Gospel to the entire world. Let us put our money, not into the building, but into the message!"

Beloved, we need to get our priorities straight. When we stand before God, we are going to have to give an account of our stewardship—our giving as well as our living.

I think it is wonderful when an audience watching television takes time to write the evangelist or program to say, "We thank God for your ministry," and enclose a gift to help make it possible.

CHRISTIAN LIFE magazine once observed, "If the average church member contributed as little to his church as he does to Christian radio and TV, his church would need a membership of close to 100,000 to pay the pastor's salary." This is a shocking indication of how some Christians today support gospel broadcasts. "Yet," observes this magazine, "many Christian radio and TV programs are reaching more people for Christ in one program than the average pastor reaches in a year."

That's why we need your help. During this period of the economy when funds are so desperately needed everywhere, God is counting on your help. Ninety percent of the people are gainfully employed in this country. So we who are working must help those who are financially in need.

It is one of God's laws of love that we help one another. "Bear ye one

another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2)

Finally, we urge you to rely upon the promises of God to see you through these trying times.

If without a job, believe God for employment. There's something you can do, and God will reveal it to you if you'll trust Him.

Until Jesus comes, we can expect a measure of prosperity.

Our Lord declared His coming would be "as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built." (Lu. 17:28)

That's prosperity.

Frederick Lewis Allen said, "Prosperity is more than an economic condition; it is a state of mind."

Believe God for a job. "Whatsoever things ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and he shall have them." (Mk. 11:24)

You ask, Is God concerned about my need? Indeed, He is.

Jesus said, "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore, take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or Wherewithal shall we be clothed? . . . for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

This is the secret. Trust the Lord for the supply of your need. He who fed the children of Israel with manna from heaven can do it again.

The Psalmist David wrote, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread!"

Maybe you are not spiritually where you should be. Perhaps you have never received Christ as your Saviour and Lord.

Receive Him now as your Saviour. Then you can say with David, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." (Psa. 23:1)

Again we read, "The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing." (Psa. 34:10)

The secret is to trust the Lord. Cast all your care upon Him. Turn your business over to Him and let Him prosper it.

In Matt. 6:33 we read, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

God's promise will not fail. First, make sure you have repented of sin. Make restitution where you have wronged anyone. Get right with God and with one another. Trust the blood of Christ as cleansing for your past life of sin. And now seek to live for Him through the power of His Holy Spirit.

"And be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

## The Beast Of Brussels



Tass—UPI

Soviet Leader Brezhnev

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, on the occasion of the 26th Communist Party Congress, declared: "A rapid increase in production of Siberian gas is of prime economic and political importance."

Dr. Ronald Carrol, a consulting economist, says the natural gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe is mainly to the benefit of the Soviet Union. At least 85% of its gas will be utilized in Russia.

The U.S.S.R.'s gas reserves of some 34 trillion cubic meters are one-third of all the known gas in the world.

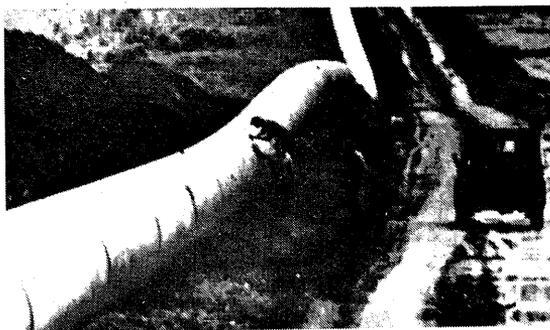
According to **READER'S DIGEST** Russia has embarked on a huge strategic gamble to restrain the European Community from emerging as a rival for world dominance by forcing them to become dependent on Russia for the bulk of her needed energy. (See Mar. 1982)

Harald Malmgren, a former ass't trade negotiator, says of Pres. Reagan's policy on Russia's gas pipeline to Europe that the sanctions he imposed were "really part of a broader effort to bring all industrial relations with the Soviets to a halt."

Hobart Rowen in the WASHINGTON POST says of the pipeline issue that there is evidence the Reagan Administration is using this as "all-out economic warfare against the Russians."

What is feared most is that the nations of Europe will become so dependent upon Russia's gas that they dare not oppose Soviet policy lest the gas were turned off and they were left in the cold.

Something to think about!



Tass via AP

*Gas line under construction*

There is coming a time when the Bible speaks of a move by Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, who is seen launching an invasion of Israel. Meshech and Tubal are believed to be representative of two Russian cities, Moscow and Toboisk. Gog is the leader.

We read: "Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days . . . ."

It is when Russia's neighbors see this invading host that they remain motionless. We hear them saying, "Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?"

The indication is that these nations do nothing more than protest. Why? Could it be they don't want their gas turned off?

The National Security Council has estimated the earnings from the pipeline to be \$70 billion per year.

Also of concern to the United States is the depressed Soviet wheat harvest.

It may seem ironic that while the administration does not favor feeding gas to Europe, it does support sending grain to the Soviet Union.

Our harvests may be an indication of God's blessing upon our land, whereas in Russia the wheat harvests have been down for years.

To Israel the Lord promised them that if they would hearken unto the voice of the Lord and keep His commandments, then blessing would come upon them.

We read, "Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be

in the field . . . The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand." (Deut. 28:3 and 12a)

On the other hand, failure to honor the Lord and keep His commandments brings His chastenings. We read, "Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field . . . The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust; from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed." (Deut. 28:16 & 24)

An example of Soviet disregard for the human rights of others is the invasion into Afghanistan.

Jimmy Carter, as president, thought we should show our displeasure, so he ordered a grain embargo on the 4th of January, 1980.

The Soviets countered with the explanation that they were invited and that they intended to stay.

The Western Allies made various protests but to no avail.

Afghan rebels would have probably preferred more direct action like a huge supply of arms and equipment. And the American farmers weren't too pleased either. At least those with massive surpluses to get rid of found the Russians were good customers.

Today's farmer is in trouble. Farm indebtedness totals about \$200 billion. Today's farmer isn't getting much more for his produce than he did ten years ago. Yet farming is becoming more expensive all the time. Today's expenses are around \$141.5 billion compared to \$75.9 billion in 1975.

In many instances the farmer is not getting the income that is necessary to offset his investment. Some farms are being sold. Foreclosures are increasing.

Dr. C.M. Ward of REVIVALTIME fame would remind us our Lord said, ". . . there shall be famines . . ." (Mt. 24:7) This has something to do with our food supply. Says Ward, "It is a discipline that pleasure-loving nations forget that God uses to awaken the public."

He quotes Ezekiel 16:27 to indicate our food resources may become greatly depleted. We read, "Behold, therefore, I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food . . ."

Says Ward, "God knows more than one way to get the attention of the man on the street."

According to the Bible there's coming a day when it will take a day's wages just to buy a loaf of bread. In Revelation 6:6 we read, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and the wine."

A denarius, or "penny," was a day's wages in our Lord's day. So it will take a day's wages eventually to buy a quart of wheat or three quarts of barley.

The collective income of the American farmer has dropped to the lowest level since 1929. Net income in 1981, for example, was \$22.9 billion, down from \$24.5 billion in 1975.

President Reagan lifted the grain embargo as one of his first acts upon becoming president. He knows the farmers are in trouble. He was speaking to America's disgruntled farmers when he went before the nation to say why he was supporting a new economic strategy.

Bible students know the world economic system will ultimately experience a dramatic change.

It might be likened to the National Recovery Act of Franklin D. Roosevelt, except it will be worldwide and more demanding.

In Revelation 13:16-18 we see demands made by the coming world ruler we call the Antichrist.

Concerning him we read: "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man: for his number is 666."



Some have declared as seen in this pamphlet 666 is here!

This article declares, "Since all transactions ultimately are to be controlled by the antichrist, identified as the coming leader of the 10-nation empire in Western Europe, it is no coincidence that the largest computer complex in the world is in the Monet building in Luxembourg. This is the successor to the giant one that some people still call "the beast" because of its size. It occupies three floors at Common Market Administration Building in Brussels and has input capacity sufficient to register every person on earth."

Dr. Patrick Fisher, Canadian Computer Scientist, says, "You and I are tied into this computer by one or more keys: our social security number, our driver's license, our birth certificate, our passport and whatever credit cards we use."

Many are asking, Is there really such a computer that has all of this information about you? What about this giant computer called "The Beast"?

Today we would ask—Is the antichrist world ruler about to make an appearance? What are the scriptures that warn us against taking a mark or a number? What assurances are there in the Word of God which indicate we do not have to go through the tribulation or suffer the wrath of God?

Occasionally when we see tracts which say "666 is here," or warnings which urge us to resist any required identification which uses the number 666, we find some people may be led to believe the Antichrist system is now here.

It is our conviction, based upon the Word of God, that the Antichrist will not make his appearance until after the rapture when the Lord comes for His own.

In 2 Thess. 2:3 we read, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day (the day of the Lord) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

We will not attempt to identify any person as the Antichrist. As the Apostle Paul states, "the day of Christ," or "the day of the Lord" will not come before the apostasy and the appearance of the Antichrist.

It is the "falling away" that concerns us. We are living in a day when it is easy to call one's self a Christian, but be lukewarm in our profession. The danger is that multitudes who expected to be raptured will be left behind to go through the tribulation. For to the Laodiceans our Lord said, "I will spue thee out, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot." (Rev. 3:15)

In Rev. 7 we have a picture of a "great multitude, which no man could number of all nations, and kindreds, and peoples and tongues." When the question is asked, Who are these? whence came they? the reply is given: "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Rev. 7:14)

The indication is that these were left behind at the rapture to go through the tribulation. They are not given robes typical of those who are saved and clothed with Christ's righteousness. Rather, their robes were "washed," which indicates they were defiled and dirty when our Lord wants a church that is "without spot or blemish or any such thing."

While no one wants to think of missing the rapture like the five foolish virgins missed the coming bridegroom, we would ask—What if the rapture did occur and we were left behind? Is there hope for us?

It is our conviction that the greatest revival will occur after the rapture takes place when multitudes will be left behind. They will go to the Word of God to discover the reason. And they will discover that if they do not succumb to the temptation to identify with the Antichrist system and follow Christ even unto death, they can be saved—even in the midst of tribulation.

Nearly a dozen times "saints" are mentioned as on the earth during the time of the tribulation.

For example, concerning the Antichrist we read, "It was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them." (Rev. 13:7) Who are these saints?

Some think they are only Jews who will be converted during the tribulation. Others think they're the converts of Jewish evangelists

during the tribulation. However, the evidence is that there will be a numberless multitude. And when the resurrection occurs at the end of the tribulation and just before the millennium, we have mentioned, "Them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Isn't it interesting that the only ones seen resurrected at this time are the tribulation saints? So the evidence is overwhelming that the rest of the saints were resurrected prior to the tribulation.

Now, here is the warning that is given in Revelation 14:9-11. We read, "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation: and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

Did you hear it?

The next verse reads, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

If you are left behind at the rapture, remember—do not take the mark or accept the number they will tattoo on your hand or forehead. Die if you must.



Our Lord referred to the tribulation as a time "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Mt. 24:21-22)

There will be on earth those referred to as "the elect." Now previously he warned, "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." (Mt. 24:12)

We fear for those whose love for Christ has become lukewarm or grown cold. Jesus is soon to come. Let us stir ourselves of careless indifference and lethargy.

Our Lord then reminds us, "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Mt. 24:13)

We repeat. If left behind at the rapture, do not accept the mark of the antichrist. Suffer torture if you must. Let them chop off your head. You

will be "better off" than those who have to go through the tribulation. Look at Revelation 16 where we see the vials of the wrath of God poured out.

When the first vial is poured out upon the earth, we read: "There fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image."

Those who take the mark or who worship the image will not be spared God's judgment. In fact, as a result of the outpouring of His wrath, the sea becomes as blood, and every living soul died in the sea. The sun scorches men of earth with great heat. Great earthquakes so powerful that they level mountains will occur, and every island fled away.

There will be lightnings and thunder and great hail out of heaven with hundred-pound chunks of ice falling upon the earth, for "the plague of the hail . . . was exceeding great."

Beloved, all I can say is that I don't want to be around when this happens.

In 1 Thess. 5:9 we read, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ. Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."

Hallelujah!

We do not look for wrath but for rapture. If born-again and doing the will of God, and on fire for Him, we can look for His coming before this day of wrath.

Why not turn to the Lord today with all your heart? Realize He died to save you, lives to keep you, and is coming for all who are ready to meet Him.

The most important thing you can do is to accept Christ as your Saviour and Lord if you have never done so.

Pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. Forgive me of all my sins. Help me to live for you. Fill me with the power of your Holy Spirit. Keep me ready for your coming. I pray. Amen."

Read your Bible. Discover for yourself what God's Word says about the return of our Lord and the need of being ready for that glorious event.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

## Are We Approaching AntiChrist?



An article by William Martin in the ATLANTIC MONTHLY (June, 1982) made the observation that the stage may be set for our Lord's return.

He notes: "Since pre-millennial doctrine holds that deterioration in economic, political, domestic, and moral spheres will precede the Second Coming, many evangelicals, unsurprisingly, have felt that the end of the age is near."

Is this not a reminder of what Peter wrote, saying: "The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." (1 Pet. 4:7)

Although written nearly 2000 years ago, this pronouncement seems especially applicable today. It is voiced by various commentators, economists and others.

Donald Campbell tells of attending a meeting where he almost heard Elliot Janeway, an internationally known economist, say, "The end of things is at hand."

Malcolm Muggeridge, the famous British journalist and television personality, is among those who suggests the end of western civilization may be approaching.

His interviewer said, "What about your claims that civilization itself is coming to an end? On what grounds do you come to this judgment?"

Muggeridge replied, "The basic condition for a civilization is that there should be law and order. Obviously this is coming to an end. The world is falling into chaos, even perhaps especially our western world . . ."

Most basic to man's survival is the economy. And everyone knows that the world's economy is on the skids.

As William J. Holstein of United Press International has observed in a news headline, "The Whole World Is Hurt by Hard Times."

He writes, "Virtually no one has been left untouched. From Detroit's auto factories to the Philippines' coconut plantations, uncomfortably large numbers of people are out of jobs and entire industries are threatened with failure. Everywhere, the working man is painfully aware that dollars, pesos or marks are being drained from his pocket." And everywhere more and more men like this one lament being out of a job.

How serious is the world's economic outlook? Just where are we heading? Is there a solution to the world's economic ills? Is there some kind of hope?

In the WALL STREET JOURNAL, the question is asked: "Is the nation's banking system about to fall off a cliff? And are the rest of us going to take the plunge along with it?" (7/30/82) Do banks fudge numbers?

The writer of this article goes on to observe: "For the first time in decades many people are asking such questions. They also expect the credit problems to get worse before any turn around comes. And their fears are being aggravated by the reluctance of many banks to admit how many loans have gone sour."

Take the situation in Mexico for an example. Its debts are a huge \$80 billion, involving our American banks.

Ruben Ramirez



When Jose Lopez Portillo, the outgoing president, nationalized the banks, he became the villain of the banking world.

Joseph Kraft of the LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE, observes, "Many other countries have their own version of the Mexican problem." In fact, the list is too long to recite.

Then there is the concern for Soviet Union's Siberian gas pipeline to Western Europe. As you know, Washington opposed this venture for it would tie Europe too closely with the Soviet Union.

Because of Soviet involvement in Afghanistan and Poland, the United States is opposed to selling strategic materials which might only advance the cause of Russia's expansion policies.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn would remind us, "The communist ideology is out to destroy your society. This has been their aim for 125 years and has never changed."

He quotes Russian School textbooks which say, "Look at the Western world, it's beginning to rot. Capitalism is breathing its last. It's already dead. And our socialist economy has demonstrated once and for all the triumph of communism."

Witnessing the nations of the Western world facing bankruptcy, you might wonder if they may be right.

Solzhenitsyn, pointing to the Berlin wall, and observing the slavery of the Russian people, says all it would take for their system to collapse is to stop doing business with them.

Says Solzhenitsyn, "Let it stand on its own feet for 10 or 15 years. Then we will see what it looks like." He urges, "The only thing I'm asking you to do is to stop helping the Soviet economy."

Europe, upset with the embargo and its effect on the Soviet Union, is calling for "family unity."

Again, EUROPE magazine notes, "The last decade has seen the growing separation of the United States."

What ultimately will happen is that the nations of Europe which have united economically will unite politically. They will form their own government that is independent of the United States but will exercise powerful control politically, economically and religiously.

This will happen as ten nations are ultimately seen surrendering their authority to one whom they seek to reign over them. Whoever that will be will be the Antichrist.

In Rev. 17 we read of ten kings which have received no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. We read: "These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast." (world-ruler)

We read further, "These shall make war with the Lamb (Christ) and the Lamb shall overcome them; for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings . . ." (Rev. 17:12-14a)

Hallelujah!

There are many powerful personages—even those who say they are Christ on earth. But as Paul writing to Timothy says, when Christ shall appear, "He shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords." (1 Tim. 6:15)

The imposter who is seen arising, elected to power by ten European nations which give him his authority, exercises his rule worldwide.

As Rev. 13:7 states, "And power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

The way he will exercise his authority is to force everyone to receive a mark of identification in his forehead or right hand to show acceptance of his rule.

However, if you accept his mark, you will forfeit forever eternal life. There will be no further salvation once a person accepts identification

with the antichrist, for that person is really pledging his allegiance to Satan who possesses the man.

And far from being a Hitler, he will be a very beautiful-type person. Satan was one of the most beautiful of God's creatures before he fell. And he knows no one would worship a madman, but he would worship one who gave appearance of being Christ on earth. The word "antichrist" has the connotation of being "against Christ," but it also means "over against," so that he appears as a Messiah and is in reality a false Christ. How many times Jesus warned us, saying, "Be not deceived."

In Matthew 24:4-5 He says, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

In verse 23 He repeats, "Then if any man say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Matt. 24:23-24)

Now, how can we know when this system of the Antichrist is here?

In Rev. 13:16-18 we read of a time coming when all must have a mark in their right hand or in their forehead. When that happens, beware! Don't take the mark or number. We read: "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their forehead: and that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast; for it is the number of a man: and his number is Six hundred three score and six."

Then we read of an image that is erected which has the ability to speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. So not only are people killed if they don't accept the mark or number, they are killed if they do not worship the image.

Dr. David Webber of Southwest Radio Church comments on this passage in Revelation 13 which speaks of a time coming when no one can buy or sell except he identify with the world system of that day.

Says Webber: "For almost 2,000 years the world has wondered about the prophecy of Revelation 13:15-18. While there may be some things we do not know about the number and mark of the beast, there are many things we do know: And he lists them as follows:

1. This prophecy has not been fulfilled to this hour. History records no such number or mark to this date.
2. This prophecy involves a totally new economic system of buying and selling by using a mark or a number.
3. This prophecy envisions a new money system on a world basis, controlled by one central authority.
4. This prophecy projects total religious and political allegiance to one man.
5. Millions will die by starvation and the guillotine for refusing to take the mark or number.
6. Such an economic system must be related to worldwide, instant

communication."

Wally Wood, writing for the Southwest Radio Church, likewise asserts, "Out of a world which is sinking deeper and deeper into political chaos and economic nightmare, there is coming a new school of thought and motivation. Through the rising maze of falling world leaders, increased terrorism worldwide, faltering economies and rampant spread of drought and famine, there is emerging a peculiar preoccupation in the creation of something new—involving new faces, new policies, new priorities, new systems—a united world community under common leadership; a new world order under a universal Caesar."

John Englund echoes the same sentiment when he states, "No one can deny that these are perilous times; therefore, "the last days." The world is in general chaos. Economists don't know how to deal with the world's problems. Scientists are baffled. Politicians seem only to make matters worse with each new law they enact. There is no great world statesman. But the nations are searching for one."

Similarly, Arnold Toynbee, the noted historian, has stated: "We can, however, foresee that, when world-government does come, the need for it will have become so desperate that mankind will not only be ready to accept it even at the most exorbitantly high price in terms of loss of liberty, but will deify it and its human embodiments as an excruciated Graeco-Roman world once deified Rome and Augustus."

In our lifetime we have witnessed various attempts of men who sought to deify themselves as world rulers.

There was Mussolini who set out to resurrect the Old Roman Empire. There was Adolph Hitler who marched to the slogan, "Today we rule the fatherland, tomorrow we rule the world."

The question arises, Who will appear on the world stage of whom it is written, "and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations"? (Rev. 13:7)

Again we read, "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelation 13:8)

In closing, may we ask, Is your name written in that book?

If a charismatic world ruler were to suddenly appear who could perform miracles, would you be awe-struck with his personality and his power to do wonders?

Or, do you accept the truth of God's Word that there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved, but **JESUS CHRIST**?

Pray this prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I do here and now receive you as my Saviour and Lord. I believe you died on the cross for my sins and that you rose again and you are coming again for all who are ready to meet you.

Help me to live for you and to be ready when you come. Amen."

Pray that prayer and mean it. Find a Bible-believing church where they love the Lord. Read your Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in all of your relationships. Pray every morning, "Lord guide me today," "Be ye ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."