

FROM OUR PASTOR

May 28, 2016

Warm Sabbath Greeting to Everyone!

As the summer begins this weekend, there are ominous things taking place around the world. The most apparent is Venezuela. Venezuela has more oil reserves than Saudi Arabia and should be a prosperous nation. For the past few weeks it has been in chaos and the future looks to be worse. Work has almost stopped, there is no food in the stores or utilities and services. Thousands of people are standing in line in the hopes of getting something for their families to eat, but usually to no avail.

Not long ago, the standard of life for a typical Venezuelan was higher than in most developing countries. That has changed drastically. Venezuela is in the midst of a stunning social, political, and economic collapse. The country of 30 million people is facing dire food and medicine shortages, frequent power outages, serious political unrest, the world's highest inflation rate, rampant violent crime, and one of the world's highest murder rates.

Venezuela has become the world's most visibly failing state. Less than twenty years ago Hugo Chavez took over a prosperous and peaceful Venezuela. He announced a socialist revolution and required companies to sever all ties with the US, blaming the US and the CIA for any and all problems. Government "agents" took control of every aspect of business. One-world idealists across the globe watched in awe. President Obama made a special trip of friendship to see Chavez.

The nation is now falling apart, and the only solution tried so far by the new president Maduro is to keep armed troops stationed everywhere to keep crowds in line. He and his advisors still blame the CIA and the US for the terrible mess they have created. A civil war and years of bloodshed are likely.

Socialism, or central control of business and personal life always fails because it is contrary to human nature. The great God who created us also gave us a book—a book of truth—that tells us much about how we as humans think and what kind of economy works. Here are just a few verses on the subject:

Zechariah 3:10 ... "Everyone will invite his neighbor under his vine and under his fig tree."

Private ownership of productive land as God intended for Israel under Joshua leads to prosperity.

2Thessalonians 3:10 ... "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat."

Exodus 20:17 ... "You shall not covet ... anything that is your neighbor's."

A person does not have a right to what someone else has worked for.

Genesis 39:3 ... "The LORD was with him and ... made all he did to prosper in his hand."

Trusting in God works, trusting in man does not.

Jeremiah 17:5 ... "Cursed is the man who trusts in men."

As Venezuela collapses into chaos and bloodshed there are many other governments around the world, especially in Europe, that are in deep trouble and are losing the confidence of their people. Soon there may be a "one world government solution" imposed on everyone.

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