

## FROM OUR PASTOR

November 12, 2016

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Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

Was this past week part of "The Great Upheaval?" Despite the reaction to the results of the US election of many who were hoping for something different, it probably is not. The Great Upheaval refers to the years between 1788-1800 when the great empires of Europe were truly in great transition and the result left us with the framework for the modern world. Author and historian Jay Winik wrote an epic book by that title that is considered by many to be the finest account of that turbulent time. This current decade is not yet like that one.

The Brexit vote in Great Britain last June has been compared with the election of an outsider as the next president of the United States by many, including the Wall Street Journal. The WSJ opined, "... the establishments in Washington and London were dealt a bloody nose. The two campaigns reflected similar rhetoric: outsiders attacking a cozy clique of insiders in league with bankers and big business, the idea of ordinary people taking back control, and a rejection of immigration."

Just how much "the establishment," as it is referred to, has been dealt a blow is anyone's guess. Firmly established institutions and power centers are notoriously difficult to alter. They never give up voluntarily. The coming years will reveal if anything has truly changed, especially the national slide into moral vacuity. As Roman Emperor Constantine in the 300's AD learned the hard way, it is almost impossible to convince a decadent population to return to character values and principles of a previous time.

The real great upheaval that will usher in a new world is coming and you can be a part of it. We are told that this new society will, in part, be brought about by Christians who have a glorified body as a result of the resurrection. Romans 8: 18-22 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ....] the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God."

Right now society is in bondage and riding a non-stop train into decay. Jesus Christ warned that, left to ourselves, there would at some point be no life left on the earth. Mankind would disappear in a tremendous war and mass destruction (Matthew 24:22). Thankfully, for the sake of those Jesus called "the elect" or the "chosen ones," that time will be shortened by His return to the earth and defeat of the armies of the Beast (Revelation 17: 13-14).

The choice for each one of us today is, "Do you want to be a part of the army of the Beast, or part of the army of Jesus Christ that will bring a time of real happiness, prosperity and peace as a result of the Greatest Upheaval?"

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