

From Our Pastor

June 9, 2018

Sabbath Greetings to Everyone!

Some of the most powerful figures in politics, finance, journalism, and academia are meeting in Turin, Italy, for the secretive annual meeting of the Bilderberg Group. The Bilderberg Meeting, founded in 1954, was designed to facilitate dialogue between Europe and North America, and gives influential people the chance to discuss issues without details being made public.

This year's conference faces a Europe in transition...but no one knows in transition to what. The number one topic on the list is "populism"-- meaning that people want to put their nation's interests ahead of the interests of global organizations such as the EU and UN. The topic of populism was moved to the top of the meeting's agenda after being in the eighth-place last year. Since the 2017 Bilderberg Meeting, populist parties won elections in the Czech Republic and in Italy. The populations of Europe--from Sweden & Germany to the Balkans--are expressing their anger at the massive immigration of people from Africa and the Middle east being forced on them by EU managers. They see their culture and homeland being changed into something very different than what they want and have known.

The reality of the Brexit process (the UK leaving the EU) and the changes to trade policies of the USA are coming to reality. According to bilderbergmeetings.org, 131 participants from 23 countries have confirmed their attendance. About two-thirds are from Europe, the rest from across the pond. They are the wealthy and powerful of the western world. The meeting is chaired by French businessman Henri de Castries and he leads the organization's "steering committee."

Other topics being discussed reveal that the world is changing as a result of technology. CNBC's reported list of topics includes: The inequality challenge, The future of work, Artificial intelligence, Quantum computing, and the "post truth" world. Post-truth, which was Oxford English Dictionary's word of the year in 2016, is an adjective defined by the dictionary compiler as "relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief." Post-truth is apparently the result of social media and the rapid and uncontrolled spread of "knowledge" whether it be truth, fiction, or something in between.

Where all this will lead is almost impossible to understand. 2600 years ago, a wise man named Daniel, who was an advisor to a king of Persia named Darius, saw a vision but did not understand what he saw. He asked the one who explained the vision, **"My lord, what shall be the end of these things?"**

The answer?

"Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand." (Daniel 12: 8-10)

So only a small group--called "the wise"--are going to understand. How does one become wise? The answer is simple: "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." (Psalm 19:7). The word of God gives us an overall understanding of the temporary nature of this society and events coming in the future. Even though few want to, the leaders of the world are warned to listen to God in Psalm 2:10, "Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth."

So as these powerful people assemble and discuss the challenges facing the world, will the words of wisdom from the Bible be read and followed? Not likely. Would it not be a much better world if all of those in power and leadership positions were guided by God's word? The wonderful truth is that they will be someday, hopefully soon!

When the Kingdom of God is established on the earth, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9). Until that time, study God's word daily so you can be one of the wise who will understand.

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