

The Christian Worldview Transcript

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Topic: The 2010 Forecast: Kingdom Awakens to Socialist Reign

DAVID WHEATON: The 2010 Forecast: Kingdom Awakens to Socialist Reign. That is the topic for hour one here on The Christian Worldview where the mission is to think biblically about all matters of life and faith so that we can then live accordingly. And to share the Good News that Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be, the Way, the Truth and the Life and that His Word is both relevant and our basis for living in this modern world. I am David Wheaton, the host of The Christian Worldview. Our official website is TheChristianWorldview.com.

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Welcome to our annual 2010 forecast program. For the last five years, I can't believe it has been five years. This will be the fifth year that we have actually done a forecast, like a weather forecast on what is coming in this year that we have ahead of us. Of course we can't know exactly what is coming and we are not just about making wild predictions, but it does say in Matthew 16:3, in fact I would like to read that as we start off the program. It is where Jesus talks about understanding the signs of the times. He says in Matthew 16:1-3, *The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you will say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?* That is from Matthew 16.

The reason Christ said that is because here was the Son of God right in their midst doing miracles and healing people and bring the Gospel to them, yet they couldn't discern the signs that came with Him, that He was in fact the promised Messiah. There are signs that are happening in our day today. We as Christians are to be discerning about what is going on so we can respond biblically, so we can shepherd our families correctly. That is what we are going to look at today, the 2010 forecast, as we look at what is going on in the world, America and the Church.

Before we get to that, I just want to spend the opening segment on the horrific tragedy, the earthquake that took place in Haiti this past week. A 7.0 earthquake hit Haiti, which is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. They were totally unprepared to deal with this sort of natural disaster. 7.0 is just an enormous earthquake. Apparently the epicenter was not very far away from the capital, Port-au-Prince where three million people live. Homes are not earthquake proof in the least and just mass devastation in Haiti going on right now, massive suffering. They don't even know how many are dead at this point, anywhere from 30,000 to 100,000 to even 200,000. They have no idea. Many groups are going in right now to try to bring relief and medical care and water and supplies and shelter to the poor people in Haiti right now. This is truly a tragic situation.

This is a country that has had a corrupt government for just decades and decades and decades. This is going to lead into the fact that there is basically no governing authority now. There is no security. You have to guess that at some point here there is going to be on a bigger scale, because there already is, anarchy coming. People will take advantage of the fact that there are limited resources and people want to get them or steal them or loot them. This country needs our prayer. The people of this country need out prayer and support right now. If you know of an aid organization that would brigade in the gospel, in the midst of doing that I would really recommend supporting it because they are in a world of trouble in Haiti at this point.

80% of the country is Roman Catholic. I was watching CNN last night and they said that 80 % are Roman Catholic, but 100% are voodoo. In other words, they have this very strange sort of mixture of Roman Catholicism and a spirit voodoo type of belief. Haiti has been known for that. In light of that, Pat Robertson from the 700 Club came out this week and made a comment about Haiti. Pat Robertson says the earthquake

in Haiti was caused as a result of the voodoo or a pact with the devil. As a matter of fact, a Salem minute came out for townhall.com this week where Albert Mohler wrote, the images streaming in from Haiti look like a scene from Dante's Inferno. Very true. The scale of the calamity is unprecedented. This earthquake is literally as big or as devastating as that tsunami was in 2004. Can you imagine that? 200,000 people died. 3000 people died in 911. We are talking hundreds of thousands of people possibly dead. It is just unbelievable. Then he goes on to say, the 7.0 quake came as a nightmare with the city of Port-au-Prince crumbling, entire villages collapsing, bodies, flying in the air and crushed under mountains of debris. Without power, communication has been cut off and rescue efforts are seriously hampered. Bodies are piling up. Hope is running out and help, though on the way, will not arrive in time for many victims, Al Mohler said.

It was interesting because Brodie and I yesterday were enjoying a nice day here in the Minnesota winter. We have dinner, sit by the fire and go to bed at night. You just think that the paradox of the world that at the same time that we are living here, just a three to four hour flight away, people are in just abject suffering to the nth degree trapped under rubble, dying, amputations with little anesthesia. It is just unbelievable the way things can happen in this world.

Basically what Pat Robertson said was because of this pact with the devil, supposedly made back 100 years ago that the nation has just suffered one thing after the next from a standpoint of being cursed. You would have to say that Haiti has been cursed, but the country has never been able to pull out of anything. Like I mentioned, the greatest poverty in the western hemisphere, the human tragedy and suffering that they have had to endure all these years is truly sad. Pat Robertson finished his sound bite, not by condemning the country but by asking for prayer for them and they need our support and so forth and so on.

The news ran away with the story and said that Pat Robertson said this. He really didn't say it like they said he said it. Now he has said some things in the past and I am not excusing those things. My point is that we can't necessarily know why these things happened. We need to be very careful about trying to presume that we understand exactly what God is doing through something like this.

We know from Isaiah 40 that God is in control of everything. *Isaiah 40:15-17, Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.*

In Isaiah 40:12, *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in a pair of scales?* It just goes to show that God truly is in control. He did allow or cause this earthquake for some purpose. One of the purposes is that we, like it says in Luke, it is a reminder that life is short and it is only by God's patience and mercy that we are not all immediately destroyed in an earthquake like this or killed by God directly because of our great sin against Him. Life is tenuous and we all need to repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ because we are going to die too. Whether it is in an earthquake, cancer or something else, we are all going to die. It is all coming. We just don't know.

Luke 13:1-5 says, *Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.*

The lesson is this fallen world, death happens and we need to be circumspect about our own lives. Repent. Put your faith in Christ before you die without Him.

(break)

DAVID: The 2010 Forecast: Kingdom Awakens to Socialist Reign. We are going to look at the world, the country and the church. I am going to make a couple different predictions, I don't really like that word, just looking forward and trying to discern what could possibly happen this year so that we as Christians can be

prepared for what is coming our way. I read that passage in Matthew 16 where Christ said we need to be able to discern the signs of the times. He says, do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, the weather, but cannot discern the sign of the times?

Let's start out in the world. I am going to pick out a couple things and give you an opportunity today also to call into the program and tell us what you think is coming our way, what you think Christians need to be prepared for, either in the world, the country or the church. What can we expect this year?

Number one, from a world standpoint, let's start globally, I see this situation in Iran right now as at a fork in the road. Iran is trying to get a nuclear weapon. They are also experiencing a sort of revolution or resistance within the country right now. It is very unclear as to which way it is going to go. In one sense Iran seems like a very strong and repressive country that has got very strong consolidation of power, but in the other sense we see these riots and these resistance marches going on in the streets. It is a little hard to know what exactly is going on in Iran at this point. It is a big deal especially for Israel and for America as well. If this country led by someone like Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gets a nuclear weapon, you know he is not going to hesitate to use it. Immediately, he wants Israel annihilated off the face of the earth. He has said it many times.

So the question is, if they do develop a nuclear weapon, what is going to happen? I think if that does happen and it sounds like it is going to happen, maybe within this coming year of 2010, I don't think the U.S. will act on it. I don't think the Obama administration has the backbone to do that sort of military attack that will be required to destroy that, but Israel will have to. I wouldn't be surprised this year to see Iran develop a nuclear weapon and Israel have to act in defense of themselves pre-emptively to stop Iran from using that nuclear weapon against them. Joel Rosenberg, the great Christian author, has a lot of great things on this particular story. If you follow him at all, you know that he writes about this frequently.

As far as the resistance going on within the country, I would like to be hopeful that this might be regime change for Ahmadinejad, maybe a more moderate western style. The regime would be coming into power but I don't see that. Again, I don't see the Obama administration as doing what is necessary to support that resistance within the country to overthrow this Islamic dictatorship that they have going on in Iran. That is my prediction there. Look out for what happens in Iran this year. Iran is a country that is in prophecy, nations of the east, China, Russia, Turkey and Iran. These are key countries to see what is going on from a standpoint of what happens in the end times.

Number two, for a forecast is what is going to happen with the wars that the U.S. is conducting in Afghanistan and Iraq? We are spending a tremendous amount of money. We are having our young men and women over there, over 100,000 at this point, dying in this region of the world. I am lacking confidence that our current administration has the will to see these things through, in other words, to do what it takes to win these things. Rather than focus on the political side of why we are there, they are just doing enough to keep the peace, but not doing enough to actually win the wars. I know that President Obama doesn't want to be there, but he knows that he cannot pull out because it would be a disaster if he did. The countries would just implode into chaos and disaster.

Watch this coming year to see what is going on. I have a feeling, and I hope this isn't the case, that things aren't going to go well over there unless we really come ready to really solve and overwhelmingly use enough force to keep the peace and somehow turn these countries over to some sort of moderate governmental institutions which I think is going to be very, very difficult. The situation in Afghanistan and Iraq look for that this year as well.

The last thing I am going to make a forecast on for the world is the move towards a United Nations globalistic type effort. We see this in two areas going on right now, economically and environmentally. Economically with the U.S. economy in decline; with the U.S. currency not being dominant any more. There are calls for world currency. There are calls for a global economic system, so there could be more stability in the world. I think we are going to see more of this in the coming year. You could say that there are lots of religious conflicts in the world. There are lots of other conflicts. The world could fracture apart. I don't see this. I see as things become more unstable in the world, there is actually going to be a push to have the world unite as the solution to the economic downturn and uncertainty. Look for more economic globalism, world currency talk, that kind of thing.

Also, despite the fact that the Copenhagen Climate was an abject failure, look for more environmental type unity across the world. They have swallowed the global warming environmental worship religion hook, line and sinker. They are not going back now. So in spite of the fact that there is global cooling going on, they are not going with that. They call it climate change, whether it is cooling or warming. They don't care at this point. They are going to use this means of taking care of the earth as a means of controlling the earth politically and trying to get the U.S. under rules of international law and taxation. Look for this environmental issue to continue to be an issue that unites the world.

Those are my three big things to look out for on the world stage. Iran, the wars with Afghanistan and Iraq and also the move towards globalism. I know there are more, but I am just going to pick three and let you pick a number of them as well and call in during the next segment to tell us what your forecast is for 2010.

Let's move now to America. I picked three things with America as well. I think number one, we can expect more attacks on this country by Islamic terrorists. We have already had two or three in the very recent months. The one down in Fort Hood killed twelve or thirteen of our soldiers down there. Also the recent attack on a Delta airline flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. There is a perceived weakness in spite of the fact that Obama is running around the world trying to be conciliatory and saying that we are going to push the reset button. We are not going to be such a heavy trampling country in different parts of the world, that we are a kindler, gentler America. The fact is that the Islamic world perceives that as weakness of our leadership. The fact that we tie our own hands on national security, inability to do what it takes to protect the people of our country, this is perceived as weakness by them, not as conciliatory and not as an olive branch. It is an opportunity for them to try to take us over. I think, unfortunately, we are going to see more of this Islamic attacks in our own country in the coming year. It is only going to be by the grace of God that something really major, like a nuclear attack or an EMP, electro-magnetic pulse, attack doesn't really disable our country even more; financially, economically and confidence-wise in every way. That is number one.

Number two; the economy is obviously a huge thing right now, the downturn in the economy. I don't think there is any end in sight. Despite what financial forecasters say, they want to think that things are going to get better, that is good for their business. I don't think we can say that. There is a domino effect going on right now in this country with huge debt, printing of money, borrowing of money, huge government spending, the stimulus bill is not working, high unemployment – 10%. We are creating this government bubble just like there was a real estate bubble, there now is a government bubble. All of this money is being injected into the economy that is going to burst at some point. This will require higher taxes, more borrowing, more printing and this is the creation of a nanny-state, which is really what they want.

This is the socialist reign as the title of the show says. This is what they want, socialism to reign, jam it down the throats of the American people before the mid-term elections coming up. Get Americans devoted to large government largesse and then they don't want to go back. Social Security, Medicare, government education, once people get it, they don't want to have it go back

(break)

DAVID: We are talking this hour about the 2010 forecast and trying to discern the signs of the times coming our way this year. In the last segment we talked about what is going on in the world, Iran, the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, the globalism issue. We finished up going to America and talking about the fact that there might be, and lets hope there aren't, more Islamic attacks on this country because of the perceived weakness they see in the leadership of this country not doing what is necessary to strongly resist those who want to harm us.

The economy, as I mentioned, was number two for America. I don't think there is an end to this economic downturn because the policies we are doing are exactly the opposite of what we should be doing to end this. Printing and borrowing more money and more stimulus funds and spending a trillion dollars on health care and next is cap and trade, energy issues, climate, immigration, this is not tenable. As a matter of fact, I don't see the end. I don't see how we get out of this on the current course.

As I mentioned before we took our last break, the issue is once people get used to this government largesse, and this is what the socialists in this country know, they don't want to go back. Human nature, I believe,

accepts a lower standard of living, if it is free. We are always willing to accept a little less standard level of health care, if in fact it is free. The thought that nowadays that we think that we deserve to go to any medical care provider and get free health care – free – like you shouldn't have to pay anything for it. It is just an astounding change of worldview that is going to be hard to overcome for those who have more of an individual responsibility; conservative worldview on the way government should work.

The problem is that whenever you have this acceptance of a lower standard, the equality, where everyone has the same, people are willing to accept that. When you have this forced equality that Obama tries to impose on the country, the re-distribution of wealth, make sure everyone has something, when you do that there is a domino effect. It takes away individual liberties. These are mutually exclusive, equality and liberty. The more security or equality you must have, you must have health care, you must have a job, and you cannot get fired. Let's take the issue of health care. Once the government gives you health care, if they are paying for it, then you lose our personal liberty, how you want to live your life. If you want to eat a certain way or not exercise, you can't do that anymore because the government is paying for your health care and if you don't go along with their system of how you need to live your life, then they may not give you the care that they pay for. Remember, equality and liberty are always at opposite ends of the spectrum. You can't have more and more liberty and also have more and more equality at the same time.

The third thing is that despite the fact that there is going to be possibly more Islamic attacks on this country, despite the fact that the economic downturn is not going to end any time soon, number three is a positive point. It is the subtitle of the show; kingdom awakens to socialist reign. I say that because, I really do believe from a political standpoint and a Christian standpoint which I will get into in a second, that there is an awakening going on in this country. There is an awakening of people who said what have we elected here? This is not the type of free market, individual liberties, American exceptionalism, individual rights type country that this country was designed to be. I think that what happens in these mid-term elections coming up in November of this year is going to be a real statement on the awakening of the kingdom, so to speak. I think you are going to see a lot of Republicans, a lot of conservatives, be voted back into power in these mid-term elections.

Even on this very Tuesday, January 19, in Massachusetts, there is a very important election taking place to replace Ted Kennedy's seat who died recently this year. Massachusetts has been an overwhelmingly Democrat state for years and years. All of their Congressional seats, all their Senatorial seats are always Democrat. The fact is now that a man named Scott Brown is now in the lead to take over this seat, this Senatorial seat, over the Democrat challenger, Martha Coakley. This would be truly mind-boggling, tsunami of sorts, in the political world, if this were to happen. I think a predictor of what is going to come in the November election as well. Watch closely what happens on Tuesday, January 19 in Massachusetts. Just the fact that it is even close says a lot right now. I think the kingdom is awakening to the socialist reign. That is not going to turn the country around completely, but I think the honeymoon has worn off with the big smiling, sweet-talking, charismatic, Mister cool-type image that President Obama has. They are realizing that there is a worldview behind this image. There are actual policies, socialistic policies, beyond this image that aren't good and aren't traditionally American.

I am going to open up the phone lines now. I am going to get into the church, but I want to open the early enough so you have a chance to call in and give us your forecast for 2010 either on the world, the country or the church. What do you think that Christians need to know about coming up in the year 2010 and what do you base it upon? We don't want wild predictions. We want you to look at the signs of the times and say, I think this is coming our way. Christians need to know about this. We need to be prepared.

I just received via instant message that this seat in Massachusetts is critically important because of the fact that if there is one less democrat senator, that is going to take them from the super majority of 60 down to 59. This is going to change the way the whole health care vote might take place, which is truly astounding if you think about it. This health care bill is very much in flux. They are trying to decide on a bill and if they don't have their 60 votes to do it (it has gone straight down partisan lines, 60 democrats, 40 republicans) if this changes, there are 59 democrats and 41 republicans this socialist, universal government, tax-payer funded health care may not go through. This is a very important thing to look out for this coming Tuesday, January 19.

Let me go to my 2010 forecast for the church. I don't think that a political change in November is going to change the country's direction so to speak. Only the pulpit and only the commitment of individual Christians

can do that. It is the hearts of the people that changes this country. We are a representative republic. When more people have a strongly Christian worldview, then the country changes. That often comes through a stronger preaching in the pulpit.

One thing I see is that the socialist reign, so to speak, that shouldn't dampen Christian's commitment or the church itself. We have our call to obey God and be loyal to our heavenly citizenship far more than we do to any earthly citizenship. When our earthly citizenship conflicts or tells us to do something against our heavenly citizenship, we know which way to go. We obey God rather than man. We use discernment to try to figure out when those situations are.

So this socialist reign so to speak, with it is a literal rainfall or reign as in a rule, shouldn't really affect a Christian's outlook. We can be hopeful. We can have joy because Christians have lived in this kind of situation or way worse. They are living in them right now across the world. Sure it is more challenging for us, but we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Jesus says in John 16:33, *"you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."* We can be over comers throughout this because we obey God over any particular political system. So be encouraged in that aspect.

Number one, I think the good news from the church standpoint is there seems to be a gaining influence of a remnant within the American Evangelical Church that does have a biblical grounding. I look at certain expository teachers like John MacArthur or Steve Lawson or John Piper or Albert Mohler or RC Sproul or Alistair Begg, many others, I am just naming some of the headline ones that do preach a biblical gospel. I think they are making inroads in speaking to people right now. There are writers and bloggers people like Tim Challies and Kevin DeYoung and Justin Taylor, many of these people we have had on The Christian Worldview. These are people who are influencing this country with a biblical worldview. Even radio hosts like Todd Friel, host of Wretched Radio, brings a biblical view to the radio waves and many others who do this.

So there is an influence in this country that does have a biblical grounding. Now I think the mainstream Evangelical Church is not necessarily going to go this biblical grounding way. There is a growing ecumenism there. There is a health, wealth and prosperity gospel; there is a social gospel that is very strong in this country.

(break)

DAVID: Let's go to our patient callers. Let's go first to Little Rock, Arkansas and William. Welcome to The Christian Worldview. What is your 2010 forecast?

WILLIAM: I really don't have a forecast, but I do in the back of my mind. I am really hopeful that things aren't like I think they are going to be. In other words, my forecast is bleak. I listened to a lot of radio. I am a truck driver and a retired police officer. I think it was Alistair Begg or one of the speakers. This is my thinking. I think all of our nation's preachers and all of our gospel leaders, all of the big names, Alistair Begg, Dr. James Dobson, and on and on and on, I think it is time that we started pointing fingers and calling it what it is. With all due respect to the President and his office, his statement to the nation and the rest of the world was that he was a Christian person. Yet, the fruits that he is producing do not tell us that at all. I just think it is time that our nations leaders and preachers that we all love and respect to take a stand.

DAVID: William, you are right and I appreciate your call. I am going to read a quote by John Wesley that I think speaks to exactly what you are saying. It is a dark time. There have been other dark times, but it is a time for Christians, all of us, to commit to having a deeper faith and taking a stronger stance. People want stability in unstable times. This is an unstable time. The reason the economy isn't turning around is that the American people, despite what the administration says, despite what they say they are doing; jobs are being saved and things are looking better and looking up; people know intuitively. They don't have a confidence in the future. They don't where all of this is going to go. There is uncertainty. During this unstable time, people want stability. Who has a more grounded and truthful message than Christians? I agree with your call. We as individual Christians and Christian leaders need to stand up now and not necessarily speak politically. I am not saying that. They need to preach the Word strongly, biblically, calling to repentance, calling to sanctification.

Listen to what John Wesley said, "Give me 100 men. I care not whether they be clergy or laity who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God and I will shake this world for Christ." Aint that the truth? It says in 2 Corinthians 2, Be diligent. This is an admonition for all of us. *Be diligent to present yourselves to prove to God as workmen who need not be ashamed accurately handling the word of truth.* We need to accurately handle the word of truth right now. As I mentioned, some of these in the Church are, MacArthur, Lawson, Piper, Mohler, Sprowl, Begg and others are doing a good job of that. Despite the fact that some of the mainstream Evangelical Church are going to go the ecumenical route in times of trouble. We saw this in the Manhattan Declaration. It is more important for us to fight against certain social ills than it is for us to be clear on the Gospel. I disagree. It is more important for us to be biblically clear right now. When we are biblically clear, then we will also get the political issues correct as well.

Let's go next to Laura in St. Paul, Minnesota. Laura, welcome to The Christian Worldview. What is your forecast for 2010?

LAURA: Everything is in God's hands, as we know. However, I have heard some radio and TV talk show hosts talk about deflation and then inflation will hit big time. I am trying to get debt free and I am storing food. I hope that doesn't sound too extreme but I think that getting debt free so you won't worry about your credit card ratcheting up or your mortgage ratcheting up and that is it for now David. Thanks very much.

DAVID: Thank you Laura. I don't see actually how we cannot be going into an inflationary period. When the government is printing money or borrowing money or injecting money into the economy, how at some point, can there not be inflation? If those kinds of things happen and there is a run on those things, storage of food is good. We are not looking at end of the world scenarios, but why not be prepared a little bit so that you are not caught in a situation where there is scarcity. I don't disagree with that all.

Let's go to Macon, Georgia and Martha. What is your forecast for 2010?

MARTHA: My forecast for 2010 is that everything is going down but the Word of God. If we in the United States and all over the world don't line up with God's word, the world will continue to go down. The people in the world will continue to go down and down. Pat Robertson meant no harm when he said what he said. I heard him that morning when he said that and I received it because the United States has been destroyed in a lot of places. God is not pleased with unrighteousness anywhere, in the United States or in Haiti. In the meantime, man needs to stop trying to take over God's work like with the climate.

DAVID: Martha, I appreciate your comments. I agree in this particular instance, Pat Robertson didn't say what people said he said. It maybe wasn't the best timing to say these things, right in the midst of this terrible tragedy. The typical media trying to misrepresent what he said. We all deserve, as I mentioned earlier in the show, to not be able to take another breath because of our sin. Certainly when a country does not follow biblical principles, when it rejects that, there are natural consequences that happen. You can see that in the corruption and the tyranny that has been in that country for so many years. So much aid has gone in there, yet it has never helped. The structure cannot go on because there are not righteous, biblical principles to uphold the foundations of the land. America sadly has much of the same thing in certain areas now. It is only by God's grace that we are allowed His patience and mercy during this time.

We may live in a world where there is a challenging 2010 forecast but there is one thing you can always count on and trust in, Jesus Christ and His Word are the same yesterday, today and forever.