

# Kingdom Report

For week 17 March 2018

## The Second Renaissance and the Second Reformation

Are we interpreting the signs of the times correctly? Well it depends on what you are looking for. And that also depends on where you think God's prophetic timeline is heading. Let me give you some ideas on an alternate view of the times...

There is a common view in prophecy interpretation that God sent His Son to earth at a special time...a prepared time. It comes from Gal. 4:4...

**"But when the fullness of the time was come God sent forth his Son ...."**

It is popular among all commentators to interpret this "fullness of time" idea as both a time in terms of the year of His coming which correlated with the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel but also in terms of the circumstances of the world in which He made His appearance. Typically one would say that the prophesied kingdoms to arise in the world that God showed Daniel: Babylon, then Persia, then the Greek empire then the Roman empire...prepared the world in a unique way for not just the coming of the Messiah but also the preaching of the gospel to all the known world.

The idea here being that by the time after the crucifixion in 33 AD the known world under Roman rule was amazingly peaceful and prosperous. So Paul as a Roman citizen could travel widely as did the other apostles to establish new churches in their missionary journeys.

The rise of the Greek empire before Rome created a unified world culture with a one world language...Greek. The Hebrew Bible being translated into Greek (which we call the Septuagint) in about 280 BC and disseminated all over the Greek and Roman world allowed everyone to read the Hebrew scriptures and allowed Paul and the other apostles to travel everywhere and be able to say "the Scripture says..." and local people would have an idea what they were talking about especially since they would go first to Jewish communities. But most Jews in the world then did not know Hebrew or Aramaic as they grew up speaking Greek. The same with their gentile neighbours.

So you had for the first time in world history that a major region of the world had one incredibly large empire of a vast number of different tribes and peoples, all speaking the same language, all under Roman law and relative peace and safety to travel, and world commerce. Perfect conditions for establishing the foundation for the Church.

Now let me move forward in time and draw two different parallels to the Reformation of Martin Luther started in 1517 and what I have called the coming Second Reformation that will change the world in even greater manner than the first...

I saw an interesting new perspective on these two Reformations from reading a fascinating book recently. "Age of Discovery: Navigating the Storms of Our Second Renaissance". by Ian Goldin and Chris Kutarna.

Second Renaissance? That caught my attention on the Exclusives Books shelves. I know about the first Renaissance. The first renaissance was followed by the Reformation. Aaah! I thought, wait a minute... what do we have here. These guys obviously are not into the my idea of a first Reformation and a Second Reformation but something clicked in me that I liked about the idea of a First Renaissance followed by a First Reformation and a Second Renaissance followed by a Second Reformation.

So I bought the book....and glad I did.

Here is their basic idea: For about 1400 years life was no different in the western world from Augustus Caesar to about 1450....and then over a hundred years from 1450-1550 the whole world changed drastically for the better. The sage of that time Peter Ramus (1515-1572) wrote "***We have seen more progress in this century than our ancestors did in 14 centuries.***"

And yes those 100 years scholars called "The Renaissance" period. An unprecedented era of changes in an enormous variety of fields which I will relate in a moment.

The point and an interesting point that the book makes is that they point out conclusively that we, all over the world, are now in a similar earth shaking era of unprecedented rapid improvement and progress in world conditions similar to that era...a veritable Second Renaissance.

I want to describe for you some of the similar breakthroughs of the First Renaissance with the Second Renaissance that caused a major advance in world conditions but first I want to make my point of this blog and then demonstrate in and then draw conclusions.

My insight is this....

If you analyze the period of western human history from 1450 to 1550...all the amazing breakthroughs of that era...then you can immediately see that the timing of the Reformation starting in 1517 was exactly the right time in world affairs for all that followed for the Church afterward. Which I will point out in a moment.

But now my real point....

All the incredible breakthroughs of world development these last decades are the similar foundations necessary for the great things that Gods is about to do all over the world through His Church in what I have called and will call the coming Second Reformation.

We are now in an incredibly exciting time of God's prophetic timeline and I am saying that most of what you have heard in sermons or read in books on "the end times" is wrong. They are not reading or analysing the "signs of the times" properly.

Let me give you some parallels between the two Renaissances and see what that leads us to as to our prophetic times....

## **New Mass Communication and Education**

Then: In about 1447 Johannes Gutenberg invented moveable type and the printing press. In Germany they invented making paper from wood rather than writing on parchment which was made from animal skins. Millions of books were printed, first the Bible and the Greek and Roman classics and then host of new books. Millions of books made available to the masses. The Bible for hundreds of years to late 1800's the most popular printed book every century.

Today: The Internet, TV, Cell Phones, etc etc. What do I need to say...the information explosion since the internet and world wide web was launched in about 1992 has been unprecedented. And that includes Nokias invention of the mass produced cell phone in about 1992.

## **New Discoveries**

Then: That was the age of discovering the earth as it was. Magellan sailed around the world. Proving the earth was round. De Gama around Africa. New routes to the riches of the east. New continents of North and South America.

Today: Our space age has sent out ships of discovery into our solar system and telescopes in space. We discovered not only new worlds but more than a trillion galaxies...and we discovered that the universe is not only endless but expanding at an accelerating pace. And add the discoveries not only in outer space but inner space of atoms and molecules and chemistry and metallurgy...and endless new discoveries too many to mention.

## **New Power**

Then: Water wheels were known since Roman times used for power but this was the age of the discovery of wind power in the form of sails...in ships and wind mills. Ships went from 300 mt to 1000 mt. for vast increase in commerce. Wind mills by the thousands were erected all over Europe. A windmill could do in an hour what 30-50 men could do in that hour. Huge productivity increases for labour in textile making, forges and furnaces, milling. The Dutch discovered how with cams to make rotational movement into up and down movement and made sawmills. They became the centre for high tech ship construction with their sawmills.

Today: Unprecedented increase in all sorts of power available for manufacture and communication and increasing productivity of labour many fold.

## **New Wealth**

Then: The new world discoveries brought fantastic new sources of wealth and consumer goods. From the Americas came not just huge quantities of gold and silver but new consumer products like maize, potatoes, cocoa, tobacco and many other things. The introduction of potatoes allowed for a great increase in food production for peasants as did corn. Wheat could be burned or trampled or stolen. But an acre of potatoes underground could not be burned or trampled but could feed a peasant family

for a long time. The trade among nations increased as new goods, new products and new ships carried wealth all across the world.

Today: I am not going to even try to expound on the incredible proliferation of goods and services available to us today from all over the world.

### **New Finance**

Then: The financial world moved from Italy to places like Antwerp where 5000 traders from many nations set up a trading exchange to trade new financial instruments of bills of exchange, hire ships, rent space, trade cargoes. The vast amount of gold and silver from the Americas flowed into the new trade exchanges to finance bills of exchange, invest in new construction of ships and finance voyages of trade. All this assisted by the new development of double entry bookkeeping.

Today: World finance has mushroomed and exploded with new types of financial instruments, bourses, internet trading, crowd funding, crypto currencies, block chain.

### **World Peace, New Culture**

Then: During this time the hundred years war between France and England came to an end. The Italian city states stopped their incessant wars and formed a league...and most of Europe got down to the earnest business of arts, literature, education, trade, and a rapidly rising middle class of artisans, educators, artists, writers, city workers etc. This was the age of De Vince, Michelangelo, Bruneschelli, Copernicus, Galileo, Shakespeare etc

Today: We have had since 1991 amazing fall of communism, Russia and China transformed, a world culture developing through international travel and communication, arts and sciences and literature.

I have many more examples that can be given of the parallel of those years with this era. And the closer you study the amazing new world that was created between 1450 and 1550...the more you analyze what happened to the spreading of the Reformation gospel of salvation by faith in Christ all over the world....that Rebirth" of the church and its spread all over the world through missions could not have happened without the foundation laid by the Renaissance developments of 1450-1550.

"In the fullness of time" indeed. God is in control of the nations and in control of history.

God is in control of our world and the incredible new world that has emerged in the last 50 years.

And so I say boldly...God has created this new world as a new "fullness of times". It is a preparation for all that we need to for a new "Renaissance" of the Church, a new discovery of who the Church is and what our mission is and what are the wonderful gifts and tools the Lord has prepared in the world for us for this coming era of the Second Reformation.

Yes there are big troubles ahead. But it does not mean either the end of the world or the end of history. It means the end of an age the start of a new age.

And it is vitally important for us to read the signs of our times and realize a new "fullness of times" has arrived in our day and that means a new and greater presence of our Lord in all the earth and the creation of a new heavens and new earth is about to begin.