

## A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS



The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

---

Vol. 60 No. 47

6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

---

### IN THIS ISSUE

Alternatives Exist - Christian Dogs of War By William Waite	37
My Vision By Neville Archibald	42

---

## **Alternatives Exist - Christian Dogs of War** ***Dipensationalism, Armageddon and no peace in our time*** **By William Waite**

According to dispensationalists Tel Megiddo, the Jezreel Valley is the stage for Armageddon. Some weeks ago I received a little book in the mail. It's called *Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War* (1986) by Grace Halsell. The book deals with a large and influential group of people concentrated in the United States. Halsell's book is about Christian Evangelicals who believe in what she describes as "Armageddon Theology," which is an important aspect of a version of Christianity called dispensationalism.

In a couple of paragraphs, what is dispensationalism?

Halsell relates how dispensationalism was mainstreamed in the United States by the publication of the *Scofield Reference Bible* in 1909 which "became the most widely circulated commentary Bible in Christendom, selling in the high multimillions of copies."<sup>1</sup> Cyrus Ingerson Scofield, author of the Scofield commentary, was influenced by another ex-lawyer and one-time Anglican minister, John Nelson Darby (1800-1882), who formalised dispensationalism as a distinct Christian doctrine. Despite being less than 200 years old dispensationalism is considered orthodox Christian doctrine by millions of Evangelical Christians in the United States.

Essentially dispensationalism teaches that God's relations with man can be divided into several distinct ages, or dispensations. Scofield wrote of these:

*the dispensations are distinguished, exhibiting the majestic, progressive order of the divine dealings of God with humanity, the increasing purpose which runs through and links together the ages, from the beginning of the life of man to the end of eternity.* <sup>2</sup>

and

*There is a beautiful system in this gradualness of unfolding. The past is seen to fall into periods, marked off by distinct limits, and distinguishable period from period by something peculiar to each. Thus it comes to be understood that there is a doctrine of ages or dispensations in the Bible.<sup>3</sup>*

Dispensational schemes	Bible chapters							
	Genesis 1-3	Genesis 3-8	Genesis 9-11	Genesis 12 - Exodus 19	Exodus 20 - Birth of the Church	Church Age - Rapture	Revelation 20:4-6	Revelation 20-22
7 or 8 step	Innocence or Edenic	Conscience or Antediluvian	Civil Government	Patriarchal or Promise	Mosaic or Law	Grace or Church	Millennial Kingdom	Eternal State or Final
4 step	Patriarchal				Mosaic	Ecclesial	Zionic	
3 step (minimalist)	Law					Grace	Kingdom	

*Table showing the dispensations or ages and which sections of the Bible they correspond to.*

As luck would have it we are coming to the end of the Church Age which is marked by the rapture. This is when dead Christians will be resurrected and, along with those still living, rise to heaven before the onset of the tribulation, a period of seven years or so, which will end with the battle of Armageddon and Christ's second coming.

The term Armageddon, used only once in the Bible (Rev. 16:16) is derived from the Hebrew phrase "*Har Megiddo*" meaning "Mount Megiddo." While there is no mountain, the ruins of the ancient city of Megiddo located in the Jezreel Valley, is a real place in northern Israel. Dispensationalists believe that this is the prophesied location of the final war. Armageddon theology predicts a confederacy of Arabs and Russians (Gog-Magog in Ezekiel) to march on Israel for the final showdown between good and evil in which raptured Christians and Christ himself will intervene at the critical moment to save the Jews from annihilation. Only 144,000 Jews will survive and, according to Hal Lindsey leading purveyor of dispensationalist prophecy, convert en masse to Christianity. "They will be like 144,000 Jewish Billy Grahams turned loose at once", he says. Following the victory the survivors enter into the Millennial Kingdom Age in which Christ will reign from Israel for a thousand years.

Halsell quotes Hal Lindsey, author of best selling dispensationalist book, *The Late Great Planet Earth* which by 1990 had sold 28 million copies. He describes the battle of Armageddon:

*At least 200 million soldiers from the Orient, with millions more from the forces of the West headed by the Antichrist of the Revived Roman Empire (Western Europe)!*

*Messiah Jesus will first strike those who have ravaged his city Jerusalem. Then*

*he will strike the armies amassed in the valley of Megiddo, or Armageddon. No wonder blood will stand to the horses bridles for a distance of 200 miles from Jerusalem! ... This whole valley will be filled with war materials, animals, bodies of men, and blood!*<sup>4</sup>

The trailer below is a “documentary” adaptation of *The Late Great Planet Earth*. At the center of the dispensationalist progression is the fate of the nation of Israel, the population of which is believed to be the literal descendants of Abraham and the subject of biblical prophecy in the Old and New Testaments. The Church, which began in Acts and will continue until the rapture, is distinct from the Jews who remain God’s chosen people, but it is widely believed that Christians can work for the realisation of the Millennial Kingdom by providing political and financial support for Zionism.

In their book *The Israel Lobby* Mearsheimer and Walt discuss the origins of Christian Zionism which constitutes a significant part of the lobby:

*The origins of Christian Zionism lie in the theology of dispensationalism, an approach to biblical interpretation that emerged in nineteenth-century England, largely through the efforts of Anglican ministers Louis Way and John Nelson Darby. Dispensationalism is a form of premillennialism, which asserts that the world will experience a period of worsening tribulations until Christ returns. Like many other Christians, dispensationalists believe that Christ’s return is foretold in Old and New Testament prophecy, and that the return of the Jews to Palestine is a key event in the preordained process that will lead to the Second Coming. The theology of Darby, Way and their followers influenced a number of prominent English politicians and may have made British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour more receptive to the idea of creating a Jewish national home in Palestine.*<sup>5</sup>

Dispensationalists moved into the foreground with the momentous events following the Second World War. Mearsheimer and Walt again:

*The founding of the state of Israel in 1948 gave new life to the dispensationalist movement, but the Six-Day War in 1967, which its leaders saw as a “miracle of God” was even more important for its emergence as a political force. Dispensationalists interpreted Israel’s seizure of all Jerusalem and the West Bank (which, like Israel’s Likud party, they refer to as Judea and Samaria) as the fulfillment of Old and New Testament prophecy, and these “signs” encouraged them and other Christian evangelicals to begin working to ensure that the United States was on the “right side” as the Bible’s blueprint for the end-times unfolded.*<sup>6</sup>

This relationship between Israel and Christian Zionists is so important that Michael Freund, former director of communications for Netanyahu, wrote, “Thank God for Christian Zionists . Like it or not, the future of the relationship between Israel and

the U.S. may very well hinge far less on American Jews than on its Christians.” In the same article he cites research from the Pew Institute which found that seven-in-ten white evangelicals (69%) believe God gave Israel to the Jewish people and a solid majority (59%) believes that Israel is the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.”<sup>7</sup> Needless to say Jewish Zionists have done everything possible, which is quite a lot, to promote the growth and influence of Christian Zionism in the U.S.

A leading Christian Zionist organisation is John Hagee’s Christians United for Israel (CUFI) boasting some 10 million members. Hagee does not equivocate in his support for Israel, “We support Israel” he said, “because all other nations were created by an act of men, but Israel was created by an act of God!”<sup>8</sup> On the CUFI homepage spiel he can be found with Sandra Parker, Chairwoman of the CUFI Action Fund, appealing on Israel’s behalf:

*For the past year Israel has been fighting our shared enemies to defend our shared values and to ensure its very existence. As Israel fights this southern front war take comfort because we know with certainty how this war will end.*

*For the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has already promised to intervene on their behalf. The word of God declares in Deuteronomy 28 verse 7, quote:*

*“the Lord shall cause your enemies to rise up against you to be defeated before you, they will come out against you one way and will flee before you seven ways.” In the meantime we must do all we can to help in this righteous cause...<sup>9</sup>*

The influence of militant evangelicals should not be underestimated as a factor making for war. For these people calamities are a hopeful sign of the fulfillment of prophecy. “Dispensationalists believe that the Bible predicts the imminent Second Coming of Jesus Christ after a period of global nuclear warfare, natural disasters, economic collapse and social chaos.”<sup>10</sup> If the disasters are in the Middle East, more the better. Halsell devotes a chapter in her book to the overt dispensationalism of Ronald Reagan who believed his role was to arm for Armageddon, and George Bush apparently said to French President Jacques Chirac that “Gog and Magog are at work in the Middle East,” and, “Biblical prophecies are being fulfilled” in an attempt to drum up support for the invasion of Iraq.<sup>11</sup> For those wondering why the Americans refuse to check the brutality of Israel in Gaza it might be useful to know that a large portion of Christian middle America thoroughly approves of it. Recent events make the influence of militant evangelicals especially important in light of the fact that they make up a large part of the Trump base, while at the same time we have Netanyahu’s Israel openly campaigning for a wider war in the Middle East.

It would be of little use to try to convince committed dispensationalists that Christ himself would likely disapprove of Christians’ enthusiasm for all this death and destruction. What about the Golden Rule, “Do unto others...” and life more abundant? What about The Sermon on the Mount where Jesus taught, “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth...” “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy...” and “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called

sons of God.” Likewise, I doubt he would agree with the evangelical obsession for anticipating, even aiding, the coming of the end times. The last thing he said to the apostles before the ascension was a response to their question (Acts 1:6-8), “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel” and his response, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. (8) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And he might have something to say to dispensationalists about the exclusiveness of the Jews, as Paul did to the Galatians (3:26-29):

*For you are all sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

How can Christians ignore these central tenets of the faith with all that is happening in the Middle East? Are Christians permitted to just suspend these principles when it comes to the Jews and their ambitions for political power by military force? Are we supposed to believe that this somewhat peculiar interpretation of the Bible, not two hundred years old, overrides some of Christianity's most important teachings?

Looking more broadly Armageddon isn't the only apocalyptic show in town. It seems you can hardly turn the corner without being confronted by some new crisis cooked up by our betters to scramble our reason; the climate crisis, the corona non-crisis, nuclear war, the immigrant crisis, the mental health crisis, the Chinese, World War 3, the AI-will- take-our-jobs-and-kill-us-all crisis, the cyber criminal crisis; take your pick. The West bristles with fear. It might be that the most useful advice for times like these can be found in the words of those angels who addressed themselves to shepherds one fateful night 2024 years ago: “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” \*\*\*

#### **Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Halsell, G. 1987. *Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War*. Veritas Publishing Company, Pty. Ltd. Australia.

<sup>2</sup> Scofield in Halsell, G. 1987. *Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War*. Veritas Publishing Company, Pty. Ltd. Australia.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Lindsey in Halsell, G. 1987. *Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War*. Veritas Publishing Company, Pty. Ltd. Australia.

<sup>5</sup> Mearsheimer, J.J., Walt, S. M. 2006. *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York. p. 133

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Freund, M. 2006. In Praise of Christian Zionists. *Jerusalem Post*. Available from: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/columnists/right-on-in-praise-of-christian-zionists>

<sup>8</sup> Hagee in Mearsheimer, J.J., Walt, S. M. 2006. *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York.

<sup>9</sup> CUFI Homepage. Available from: <https://cufi.org/>

<sup>10</sup> Halsell, G. 1987. *Prophecy and Politics: Militant Evangelists on the Road to Nuclear War*. Veritas Publishing Company, Pty. Ltd. Australia.

<sup>11</sup> Brown, A. 11.08.2009. Bush, Gog and Magog. *The Guardian*. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/andrewbrown/2009/aug/10/religion-george-bush>

## My Vision By Neville Archibald

There are several parts to my vision of the world, starting small, my Country.  
**The first is its' people.**

I see a society that is in agreement as to how we wish to live. In this way it is difficult to list the values without sounding like a political hot air balloon slowly deflating. Words like inclusive and tolerance spring to mind, but are tainted by years of wrong usage. No, I shall go back to simple terms and explanations.

As a starting point I think we need to look at the growth of a child and what we should expect for them in an ideal situation, what I would want for my children. For that is indeed the beginning of the future, right there!

A loving home, stable and safe. Free from the worst of the negative emotions. To my mind this means, at least one parent at home when they are. To achieve this, it means a single wage or income should be enough to allow for this.

A home, whether rented or being bought must be affordable at this level. We are not a poor country with no resources, so this is not an unobtainable expectation. A stable base, while not a necessity for everyone, it should be a possibility nonetheless.

The first few years of a child's life will establish their ability to trust and learn. There should be no outside trauma or uncertainty thrust upon them (apart from the normal life and death within family confines). Adult content, conversation or matters of consideration that need of an adult education, should also not be thrust upon them.

When schooling is needed, it should remain the prerogative of the parents to educate or allow to be educated, in the manner they find acceptable. I think some minimum standards should apply, but I believe much of this will happen naturally, as all parents desire a better opportunity of education for their children than they themselves received.

A firm grounding in Civics, or expectations of them as per the continuation of a free society, needs to be a part of that education, for if it is not, then we will see a degradation of society again. This understanding of where they fit in will also give them a stake in their future, a promise and a reason to take part.

The right to choose their future is also a fundamental that I think all would like to see. An ability to pursue their interests where possible would lead to satisfaction in life and far less disengagement than we currently see. The days of being stuck in one job, or trained in one discipline are long gone. In the flowering of human endeavour (the renaissance) many were polymaths who made the important discoveries of the time. A widespread outlook leads to a cross fertilisation of sciences and arts, and the possible is stretched to obtain things we may have never believed probable.

As an adult: with the use of, and rise of, mechanisation, we have seen the need for full employment in the sole pursuit of existence, fall away to the point that much shorter working hours are needed to produce all the necessities of life. Full employment is truly no longer possible unless 'make work' jobs are created.

As we are all a part of this society we are also all inheritors of this created advantage and are thus entitled to a share of its bounty. The days of all money coming only from the drudgery of work are long past, we need to recognise this. To this end, our current financial system does not cater to this fact. Income, or the means of survival for most, is entirely dependent on having paid employment. We've seen longer working hours and a longer working life required, despite this ability to overproduce.

In the past, where all needs were met, leisure was available to do as you please. During these periods of time in the past, great things were achieved. Think what could be made a reality if this leisure time was put to use as each sees fit. Gardening alone, would see a rise in local self grown healthy foods, fresh from the backyard. Tree planting and land renewal would bound ahead, cleaning up and improving our living environment, our health and our outlook on life.

Tinkering in the shed would take on a new meaning, just what is possible when people are allowed to follow a passion would reach new heights. Many discoveries of major importance have risen from lesser places.

The concept of leisure being bad is one that comes from the ruling class fearing loss of control as we have time to ponder the meaning of life.

So, I see a shorter working career for those who wish to. Some form of basic income as a share of what is actually being produced, being made available to all to allow it to be consumed. This can never be realised under current economic principles.

Time to spend with family, especially with developing children or ageing parents, no longer needs to be at the sacrifice of loss of income or holiday time. With this pressure removed, family dysfunction would be considerably lessened.

Constraints to R and D (research and development) in all its forms, would be a thing of the past. It is really only out of economic necessity that it cannot be funded now. As I said, with the realisation of the fact that we do not all need to work for our basic needs, the myriad 'make work' jobs would not be needed. The money thus previously spent on this could be funnelled into grants for actual research for our betterment.

The Individual should not be constrained by constant lawmaking. The idea of right and wrong have long been the subject of scrutiny. Tempered with justice and trial by a jury of peers, wrong doing has had enough development to ensure fair trials are possible without continued amendments. Lawmaking, in the realms of make work legislation, where a rule of law already exists that can deal with it, should be regarded as frivolous and a waste of resources.

Simplicity of law, so that all can understand it should be the ultimate aim of the judicial system. As it stands at the moment, only the wealthy or connected are truly guaranteed equality under law, this must change.

Our government was created under a constitution. One tempered by reliance on Christian principles and a Monarchical empire who was to judge laws by their

adherence to our inherited rights and freedoms, under God! Not as Parliament sees fit to recommend. Perhaps our Governor General needs a codified book of rules to limit assent to only those laws that reflect this. God's laws. Those who would live by rules or laws other than these would be given the option to leave for another suitable place or to pull their head in. If they are unwilling to abide by our rules they should not be eligible to stand for our parliament. I believe we have seen enough globalist representatives do damage to our country. At the first sign of treason (let us call it what it is) they are barred from any form of public life. In this way we would ensure we had people with the true interests of our nation at heart. Fines or asset stripping, of those found guilty of this corruption, would be mandatory, not so much to pauperise them but enough to leave them only with the equivalent basic wage of the average person. This must be done, again to ensure we do not revisit the situation we now find ourselves in.

### **The second its' landscape.**

What vision of our countryside? Do we see a green and heathy environment here, or are we to go back to a slash and burn approach where only original native species can survive? Are our National parks to expand to an unlimited size and be owned by overseas or United Nations Bodies? What of our right to determine our own desire of how to live. If we were to go back 60,000 years we would see a far different landscape than we currently believe is natural. Hunting, burning and moving on while waiting for regeneration has drastically altered our original landscape, but so far in the past that we seem to believe it is now the natural state of affairs. Once we had a huge variety of trees and undergrowth, now largely extinct due to this process. What do we want our future living landscape to look like? To follow the direction we are currently on, we will be poorer and hungrier in the future. Native forests as they stand at the moment are harsh and unforgiving places, not capable of feeding more than a few nomadic peoples. Our existence in this world relies on our ability to alter our landscape, surely that would mean for the better.

We can absolutely leave some areas as they are as a reminder of what we had, but the altering of the landscape for our purposes is what we have done since the dawn of time. Even the Aborigines were guilty of this, it is in our will to survive, to do so. We know what environmental degradation looks likes and we have knowledge enough to create a far more livable environment without doing damage. Is this not our desire?

Everyone who builds a house and plants a garden does this to their own taste, the choice should be largely ours. Home gardens should be diverse and productive, and most certainly can be. From a health perspective and an environmental one this would seem to make the most sense. Very few of us would decry this desire. As our population increases, that very concept would help to provide balance and a closeness to the earth that only such an endeavour can. With this closeness comes a respect and stabilising influence on our lives, from an emotional standpoint too, this make sense.



Our rivers and waterways? Again, we need to rely on their use for successful food production, to think otherwise is to condemn us to starvation. If we (unrealistically) think that some other place on this earth will provide for us, then a similar degradation will occur there, if we were to just buy it all in. Locally we have far more control over the correct husbandry procedures and can ensure the best possible practice takes place.

If we have overstretched our water supply, then to what degree have we? and how has it come about? Both of those questions need to be asked seriously before any meaningful remedy can be suggested. We have already altered much of our landscape to take advantage of this usage in the cheapest possible way, flood irrigation. The land once suitable for natural rainfall would need huge funding to return it to a land once again suitable for this purpose. Good farming practice is the only true answer to obtain sustainability. I would argue that individual farmers with a personal investment in their land are the best solution to this. Large corporate groups follow the dollar and dividends to a greater degree than they do land health. A faceless investor only wants profit at the end of the day, running and maintaining is often left to the whims of managers whose bonuses rely on production. Never a recipe for truly responsible management.

The individual pursuit by caring people who have that passion for the land is the best way to ensure things are done properly.

Our housing? Where are we to live? City size is forever on the increase. Commuting, pollution and overcrowding is steadily getting worse. Many wish to live in a cleaner and more friendly place, where trees and open spaces are nearby. Our policy of ever expanding suburbs and cheek by jowl houses, gives little joy to many who would jump at the chance to move out to a better place for their children.

I see a decentralised country, with correct infrastructure to allow smaller towns, linked by efficient railways, to be the norm. Individual communities that mean people can get to know each other and derive their own future together. Like all human gatherings there is a size limit before it becomes unworkable. We need to figure this out, we have already seen how the biggest gatherings can cause issues.

With time available, building your own home or having a greater input, would see better suited housing, incorporating personalised adaptations and variety rather than the constant sameness we now see. Council input, instead of being restrictive would once again be helpful in creating a safe livable home, a service provided to encourage rather than hinder. There are so many alternative building methods that can produce homes that last so much longer and are much more efficient that could be used. The satisfaction of having input into your own choices is always a positive contribution to your growth as a responsible citizen, no matter what it is related to.

Decentralisation has never truly been a policy of government. Allowing development and fostering it in rural and remote areas would include modern amenities and transport. In a true civil style all relevant needs should be addressed and made available.

These ideas have been thrashed out many times before, but never really implemented, as it suits political parties to keep us anxious about our future and voting for possible relief rather than demanding a more independent outcome.

The rise of officialdom is also a problem in need of solving. Much of what we face is due to a failure to imagine a better outcome for ourselves. Left to be directed by people trained in management for the collective, we are getting just that, a collective society. All things being done to suit easier control over us rather than allowing us to be independent in our actions and desires.

New innovation is swamped by the regulation of every tiny part of daily life, amended it would allow creative solutions to housing and lifestyle, as people sorted out their own needs rather than resale needs or investment liabilities. The house you 'live in', being the aim we really want.

### **Perchance a third, its' future .**

We have a beautiful and bountiful country. One that has wide open spaces and room enough for everyone to have a small piece of it to call their own. With ownership comes responsibility, with responsibility comes attention to detail, to the future. You must look forward in order to keep and improve what you have. Much of what we see today is growing out of the idea of living for today, the struggle most are familiar with. It sees us becoming so fixated on getting through today, that we have no time for questioning ourselves about tomorrow or next week, let alone fifty years hence, when we will be retired or our children's children will be starting out.

Our vision, that of C.H.Douglas, is essentially correcting a flaw in the way we recognise wealth and it's exchange. The system we have at the moment, no longer serves the individual. Those who it does serve best, know its faults and use them to increase their own power and wealth at the expense of everyone else.

Whereas the system currently raises up only one small portion of society. The Douglas vision, if effectively implemented, would raise us all. Create a civilisation with a potential like we have never seen before.

We look at ancient civilisations and wonder, how did they do that? Many say it was widespread use of slavery, and plenty of time. The more recent example of the renaissance, where great works were done and mankind leapt forward in so many ways, was done with little slavery and much free time. The words, 'free time', could be looked at as time not needed to be spent in the drudgery of just staying alive. Consider this and ask yourself what could be achieved with mechanisation and free time.

The problem of feeding ourselves is over, we produce far more than we can consume. The same with almost every form of need. Only artificial shortages or the shortage of money with which to purchase our surpluses is now the problem. Futuristic visions of colonies on Mars, or flying cars and robots that look like us, can be fanciful notions, brightening the silver screen. I see a future where anything is possible, given the leisure time, freed from financial slavery, together we can enable ourselves to do things we cannot even imagine!

\*\*\*