

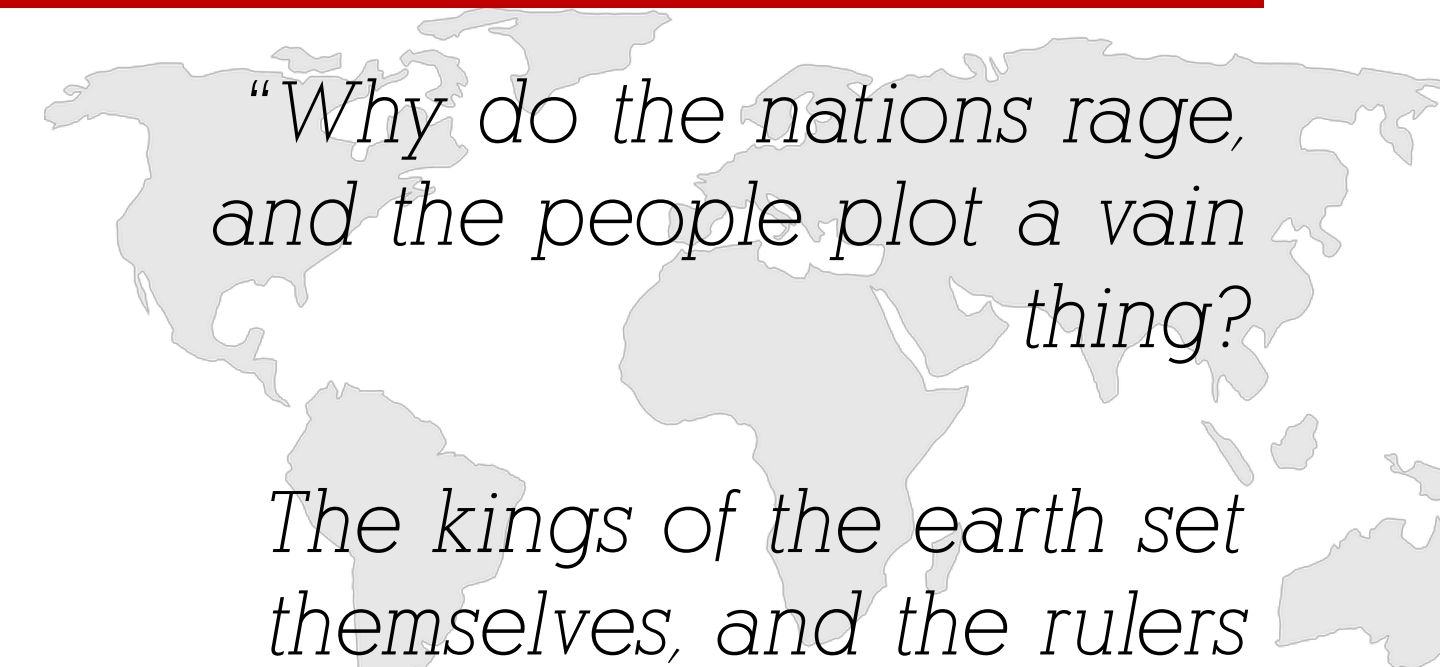
Week 14

Joel 2 Lifestyle



Where Are
We Racing Towards?

Psalm 2:1-3



*“Why do the nations rage,
and the people plot a vain
thing?”*

*The kings of the earth set
themselves, and the rulers
take counsel together,
Against the Lord and
against His Anointed,
saying, “Let us break Their
bonds in pieces and cast
away Their cords from us.”*



Can we imagine a day when man would have the audacity to come against the Almighty God, Creator of the heavens and the earth? Psalm 2 tells us there will come a day when the kings of the earth will question God's laws and commands, and come against the rule of God over their lives. Not only will man come against God, but nations around the world will actually plot, gather together and make war against the Lord God Almighty!

Why would nations even war against God? Because the nations actually believe they can win God!

Unbelievable?

Is this scenario too far-fetched?

Not at all. This is REAL! Even right now we can see the world heading relentlessly down this path. Man is questioning God, and the Creator's right to dictate what is right or wrong.

More and more we see man raising up the trump card of humanism so that he can be his own god – declaring that man has the right to decide what is right or wrong, or what is good or bad. Morality and truth are being redefined. What was once obviously wrong in the eyes of morality is now being repackaged as acceptable, the norm and even “hip” and cool! There is no absolute black and white anymore, only multiple shades of grey!

As we approach the End-of-the-Age, the world is racing towards crises on many fronts, two key ones being the Moral Crisis and the Economic Crisis.

MORAL CRISIS

Just look at how swiftly the world has changed and values shifted within a few decades. Before 1962, sodomy was a crime in every single state in USA. By 2002, 36 states had repealed their sodomy laws, and on 27th June 2015, the US Supreme Courts officially legalized same-sex marriage. Back in 2000, Netherlands was the only country that legalized same-sex marriage. By June 2015, there were 22 nations that have done so!

Do we realize that the first institution established by God after creation of the world is marriage between a man and a woman? Is this same-sex marriage agenda about freedom of rights or is it about man coming against God and His laws?

If we were to go back 10 years, the issue of same sex marriage in Singapore was almost unthinkable.

For the past few years, many are pushing for this agenda. Pornography is widespread.



Divorce rates are increasing, even among believers, with more and more broken family units as a result.

COUNTRY BANKRUPTCY



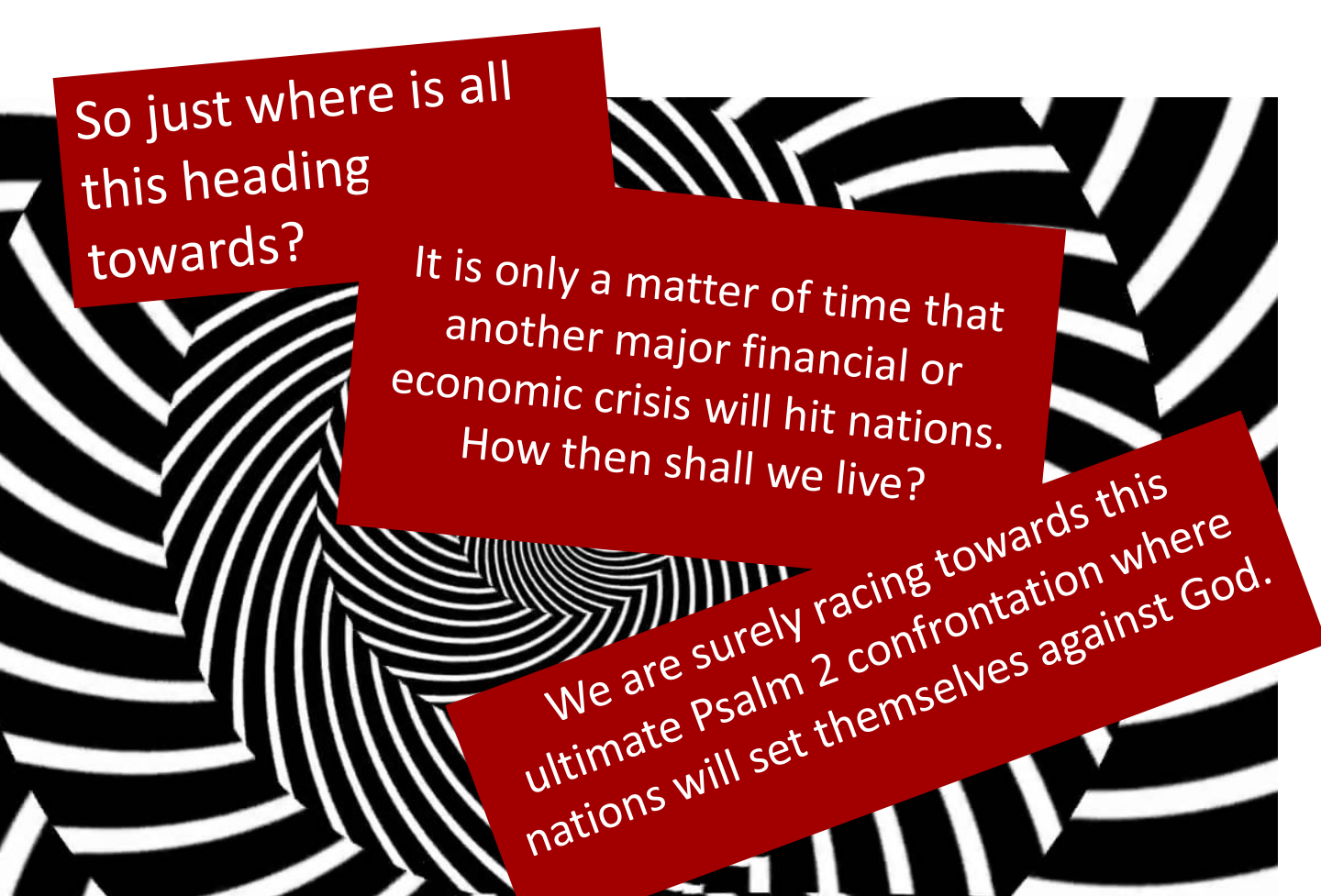
Economic Crisis

According to a report on USA Today on Aug 8 2015, there are 7 countries in the world which are approaching bankruptcy and are at risk of default. One of them is Greece.

Greece was among the countries hardest-hit by the 2008 global financial crisis. In 2012, Greece defaulted on \$138 billion of its debt, the largest sovereign default ever recorded. The debt restructuring accompanied severe austerity measures at a time of already grim financial hardships for many Greek residents.

Although America is not one of the seven countries mentioned in the report, she is also facing her own challenges. As of Jan 2016, USA is in 18.8 trillion dollar debt. This actually translates to a debt of \$58,496 debt per citizen or \$157,820 debt per tax payer.

In times of austerity and economic hardship, people in need of their next meal may turn to theft and even violence and murder. This will lead to a proliferation of crime and lawlessness which will increase and abound (2 Thessalonians 2:7).



So just where is all
this heading
towards?

It is only a matter of time that
another major financial or
economic crisis will hit nations.
How then shall we live?

We are surely racing towards this
ultimate Psalm 2 confrontation where
nations will set themselves against God.

*Will Singapore be any different?
As a Church, what can we do?*

David gave us the solution to this crisis. He told the kings to be wise and to be instructed. He told them to choose the ways of God and to delight in His ways. Let's take heed of 2 Chronicles 7:14, humble ourselves and come together as a Church to pray and seek His face, turn from our wicked ways so that He will forgive our sin and heal our land.

The destiny of a nation is in the hands of a praying Church. Let's come together to do the 2 Chronicles 7:14 for the sake of our beloved nation!



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 14

Spend some time reading and meditating on Psalm 2 to gain insight into what will happen in the days before Jesus' return. What are the events happening around us right now that will lead to this End-Time Scenario?

What does Psalm 2:10-12 exhort us to do in the light of what is going to happen? What is the "solution" God has for the Church?

Prayers for Week 14

Use 2 Corinthians 13:7 to pray that God would shut the door to every evil and perversion from entering our nation. Pray that God will establish this nation on the foundation of justice and righteousness. As gatekeepers, we must stand and be alert to watch over our land. We have a sovereign God and Judge who sits on His throne and our appeal has first and foremost be addressed to the One who holds the key of David (Revelation 3:7).