

The Fourth Turning

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9/6/2026



For Discussion: The Fourth Turning Global War Has Entered The Terminal Phase

(zerohedge.com; July 30, 2026)

<https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/fourth-turning-global-war-has-entered-terminal-phase>

Also: "The Fourth Turning" by William Strauss and Neil Howe

Does history repeat itself?

Yes. Scripture teaches that history moves in recurring patterns.

Ecclesiastes 1:9 – *that which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done*

There is, biblically speaking, "*nothing new under the sun.*" The Bible repeatedly points out cycles in human behavior and in God's dealings with nations — patterns of sin, judgment, repentance, and fulfillment of divine purposes.

What patterns have we seen repeating in Scripture?

- the ancient rebellion of Nimrod and the Tower of Babel and the rise of empires like Babylon
- repeated types in Jewish history (Antiochus & Hitler foreshadowing an end-times Antichrist)
- the way nations fall away when they forget God.

How should Christians respond to seeing the set-up to history repeating itself?

The point is not fatalism but twofold assurance and responsibility:

- God is sovereign over the patterns of history and will accomplish His purposes, so believers need not be paralyzed by fear
- Christians must learn from history, be discerning, and speak up against evils that would be repeated.

Since history repeats itself, can a study of history predict the future?

Strauss and Howe make a pretty good case for this in their book, "The Fourth Turning." They've identified four cohorts or generations of people with common characteristics that repeat themselves in history.

- The transition of the fourth cohort being dominate to the first cohort is marked by extreme catechism usually involving war.
- Each cohort dominates for about 20 years making the cycle of the fourth turning about 80 years.

What was the major historical event that catapulted the United States into a position of world dominance?

The end of World War II in 1945.

What cataclysm happened prior to the one resulting in the United States dominating the world?

The Civil War which ended in 1865... 80 years earlier.

What happened 80 years prior to the Civil War?

The new United States had just won the Revolutionary War marked by the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The U.S. Constitution became Law in 1787. 80 years prior was 1785, right in between these two developments.

Where are we in this cycle of four turnings?

We are overdue for a major catechism: 1945+80=2025.

Where else have we heard that 2025 was a prime year for significant developments in the world?

Our Deep Dive of December 15, 2024 titled "2025" where we discussed several indicators...

- Globalist expectations and planning
- The asteroid Apophis near Earth on April 13, 2029
- Price/inflation, solar activity & Metonic cycles
- Predictions of the Essenes (Dead Sea Scroll people)
- Year of Jubilee cycle
- 2,000 years Adam to Abraham, Abram to Jesus...
- New Age spiritist expectations (Alice Baily, 1936)

What does it tell us since it is well into 2026 and Jesus has not yet come for the church?

We are solidly in the season of the return of Jesus for the church. God is sovereign and He is delaying in His mercy so that more people will come to faith in Him...

2 Peter 3:9 – *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Verse 12 indicates that we can hasten the return of the Lord... so it looks like there is a set number of people who will comprise the church.

Why might we be on the cusp of a global war?

- Economic turmoil: exploding debt, inflation, people living paycheck-to-paycheck; erosion of dollar's reserve status
- U.S. strategic leverage: transition from a unipolar US-led order to a fragmented multipolar system
- Asymmetric warfare: Patriot missiles \$2M per intercept versus \$10-50K ballistic missiles
- Russia & China providing intel to Iran
- Hormuz and now Red Sea shut down
- Globalist elite appetite for war
- Not Zerohedge: spill-over between Iran & Ukraine

What trends in society do the commentators at Zerohedge cite that makes the USA vulnerable?

- Americans have been systematically anesthetized through pharmaceutical intervention (25% of adults on psychiatric medication)
- digital addiction (~7 hours daily screen time)
- ideological polarization that substitutes tribal identity for rational assessment
- Conservatives who warned of executive overreach now justify the merger of state and corporate power as necessary security measures.
- The “uniparty” phenomenon: obvious shared policy between opposing political parties... too uncomfortable to acknowledge for people invested in the theater of democratic choice.
- Social stress—the erosion of trust, the atomization of community, the substitution of digital simulation for embodied relationship... the paradox of hyperconnectivity without solidarity
- The psychological impact of sustained strategic decline, “imperial melancholy” — a politics of compensatory fantasy, not progress but magical thinking in technological guise.

The same people who accepted emergency measures 2020-2023 due to projections with no empirical validation now dismiss warnings of systemic collapse as alarmism.

What do the commentators at Zerohedge think all this will lead?

To fulfilling the “Great Reset” agenda, which represents an elite recognition that the existing population cannot be saved, only managed through its decline—a Malthusian calculus that dare not speak its name but structures policy regardless.

- Malthusianism is an economic theory from 1798 that human population grows exponentially while food supplies grow only linearly, inevitably leading to poverty, famine, and war unless checked.

What is the conclusion of the commentators at Zerohedge?

We are not approaching crisis. We are within it. The Fourth Turning Global War is not a future possibility but a present reality.

- The debt cannot be repaid.
- The empire cannot be sustained.
- The social contract cannot be restored.

These are not defeatist assertions but empirical observations, supported by Treasury data, CBO projections, and the visible degradation of infrastructure, education, and public health clear to anyone who looks.

Where do we see the USA in Bible prophecy?

Not very prominently which tells us something about the fate of USA hegemony (no longer a super power).

- Perhaps among the young lions of Ezekiel 38:13 who protest about the threat to Israel but does nothing
- Likely part of Mystery Babylon, just one nation on the collective global community of nations.

What could cause the USA to lose its super power status in the world?

War, a real pandemic, society melt-down, and/or Rapture.

What is significant about this next Fourth Turning of the United States?

- The fate of the world is linked to the fate of the USA (global economy, USA significant share of economy)
- Proliferation of nuclear weapons.

What is the prophetic significance of nuclear weapons?

It is yet another indication that we are in the season of the Lord's return. About the coming Tribulation, Jesus said in the Olivet Discourse:

Matthew 24:22 – *unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved*

It has only been since the advent of nuclear weapons that humanity has the potential to wipe out all flesh.

What other indications are there that we are at the end of the Church Age?

- Fulfillment of prophecies about Israel: back in the land in unbelief, resurrection of Hebrew language, powerful military, temple interest, worldwide antisemitism
- Alignment of nations: Ezekiel 38 stage setting; Islamic infusion into Western Civilization (iron & clay); growing desire for centralized global authority
- Technology: infrastructure for Image & Mark of the Beast
- Nature: increasing earthquakes, signs in the heavens, animal die-offs, unprecedented weather
- Society: violent, anti-God, oblivious to judgment
- Church: lukewarm, apostasy, scoffing

What should we do as we see the end of the Church Age approaching?

Hebrews 10:24-25 – *let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

We can see the Day of the Lord's return approaching and this should cause us to meet together to encourage one another to do the work of God while there is yet time. We should have a sense of urgency...

John 9:4 – *I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*

What applications do we see from our discussion today?

- Even secularist conclude that we are on the cusp of the end of the world as we know it.
- We really are nearing the end of the Church Age...
Luke 21:28 – *Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near*