Gold in the Last Days

The Bible refers to gold and wealth in several last days' prophecies. From these Scriptures we learn that:

- 1) Gold will increase in value and be stored up by many in the last days. This will be a witness against those who trusted in riches rather than God (James 5:1-3).
- 2) Men will be "lovers of money" rather than lovers of God. They would have an appearance of godliness but it would only be a religious veneer (2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- 3) The wealthy of the world will not only store up gold as a hedge against all the global turmoil, but many will even "worship...idols of gold" (Revelation 9:20). In other words, their confidence will be in gold and materialism rather than their Creator.
- 4) The Antichrist will honor a false god with "gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things" and he shall have control over much of the world's gold, silver and wealth (Daniel 11:38-43).
- 5) The last days apostate church will be decked with gold and wealth (Revelation 17:4). Not surprisingly, the Roman Catholic Church has huge reserves of gold and silver treasure.
- 6) Neither the world's silver nor their gold shall deliver or save them in the day of the Lord's wrath (Zephaniah 1:14-18).
- 7) Jesus counsels all to repent and place their faith in Him rather than temporary riches (Revelation 3:16-19). As Peter explains "that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7).

Scriptures concerning gold and wealth in the Last Days:

"Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries that are coming upon you! Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver are corroded, and their corrosion will be a witness against you and will eat your flesh like fire. You have heaped up treasure in the last days" (James 5:1-3).

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, **lovers of money**,...having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

"But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that **they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver**, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk" (Revelation 9:20).

"And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore: merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls... Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! 'For in one hour such great riches came to nothing..." (Revelation 18:11-12, 16-17).

"The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and **adorned with gold** and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication" (Revelation 17:4).

"But in their place he (Antichrist) shall honor a god of fortresses; and a god which his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and pleasant things...But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps" (Daniel 11:38, 43).

"Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?" (Ezekiel 38:13). Apparently when Russian, Iran and their Muslim confederacy attack Israel in the last days, they are invading in part to take over Israel's gold, silver, and other spoil. Some speculate that Israel may soon discover the vast treasures of gold and silver as listed on The Copper Scroll which was discovered in the 20th century. Others believe they will tap into huge mineral deposits in the Dead Sea or find huge reservoirs of oil. Time will tell. Israel is already advanced in wealth compared with their neighbors and in January of 2009 Israel discovered a huge natural gas deposit in the Mediterranean Sea.

"Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land" (Zephaniah 1:18).

Concerning the Last Day's church, Jesus has this to say: "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' —and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent." (Revelation 3:16-19).

Witnessing, Stewardship, and Investing

The Bible indicates that the world and even the visible church will be heaping up riches – in particular gold – in the last days. Therefore, the demand and value of gold will likely be on the rise as we see the Day approaching. Not surprisingly, this is exactly what is happening today (refer to the chart at the end of this paper). This is one of the many last days prophetic trends which prove the Bible alone is the inspired Word of God.

Because many are now talking about and investing in gold – and some speculate it will top \$8,000 per ounce – this is a popular topic in which believers can springboard to share the Gospel. The next time gold is brought up in conversation you can use this prophetic trend to validate the Bible and then share who Jesus is and what He has done to save us.

Concerning stewardship Jesus said "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". (Matthew 6:19-21).

As followers of the Lord our hope is in heaven, not earth. In fact, everything outside of Christ will soon be dissolved with fire (2 Peter 3:7-11). Surely we are not to heap up treasure on earth. Those who do lay up treasure for themselves on earth are foolish and worldly-minded according to Jesus (Luke 12:15-21).

We are called to be faithful stewards of whatever the Lord has entrusted to us (Luke 19:12-26). Therefore we should invest our time, talent, and treasure in the Lord's work. A faithful steward will put the Lord and obedience to His Word first and foremost.

But some might still wonder "If gold will increase in value, shouldn't I invest in gold short-term?" Remember that Jesus likened the last days prophetic signs to birth pangs (Matthew 24:8). While birth pangs do increase in frequency and intensity as delivery draws near they are often volatile. Also considering all the warning verses cited I would not want to be sitting on gold when the Rapture occurs – which is imminent.

However, we are called to be wise stewards with the money God has entrusted to us (Luke 16:10-11). Our first financial responsibility is to, "Owe no one anything except to love one another" (Romans 13:8). If you're in debt, first work off the debt before making financial investments. If you are free of debt and giving generously to the work of the Lord (2 Corinthians 9:5-7), then pray and seek the Lord's counsel. Having a savings is biblical (Proverbs 13:22; 2 Corinthians 12:14), provided everything the Lord has given you is at HIS disposal (Matthew 10:8).

Because time is so short and every other prophecy is lining up, it is no surprise to see gold rising. Therefore, gold may be a good short-term investment. But remember ultimately it is souls that God is concerned with. "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

Our primary commission as followers of Christ is to reach out and seek and save the lost. Therefore, we should definitely use this prophecy and other prophetic trends to confirm God's Word and then share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Only God can show you if you should invest short-term in gold or the world's goods. Remember the Lord has promised us that if we "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" He will guide us and take care of everything else (Matthew 6:33).

