



Prophecy in Perspective

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An email newsletter

Look Out! The Church Apostasy is Here!

At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many (Matthew 24:10-11).

But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them...(2 Timothy 3:13-14).

But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1).

1. The Demonic Powers Behind Church Apostasy

Growing demonic activity underlies the apostasy of Christianity in these latter days! The Scriptures I have given above are just a few of the many in the New Testament that warn the church of what to look for as the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ draws near. Behind every false prophet or teacher, there are demon powers and principalities at work. This demonic activity is not just in the teachers and writers currently defining and leading the present day apostasy, but demons are actually influencing the people who are surrendering themselves to their instruction, and placing them into positions of leadership.

Growing numbers of books are being published on witchcraft and the occult today! More than ever before! Christianity has received much influence in the demonically charged teachings of these latter days with books that subtly invite the Christian reader into the dark realms of spiritism, New Age, and direct revelations from a Jesus spirit (see Matthew 24:5). Growing numbers of new titles and "copy-cat" themes are added to the shelves of Christian book stores almost weekly. These are also added to the reading lists of Christians and Christian leaders. Many of these writings are clearly demonic in origin containing false and unbiblical messages for the gullible Christians of the latter days.

Bible teacher, Wilbur M. Smith, stated as far back as the 1940s: "I am becoming more and more convinced that many of the awful and blasphemous teachings that are now found in the literature of our day, indeed, in some of the most widely circulated and highly-praised books of our generation, have been prompted...by evil spirits." (Therefore Stand, pp., 176-177)

Well known Greek professor, A.T. Robertson, wrote: "One wonders today if the degenerates and confirmed criminals so common now are not under the power of demons." (Therefore Stand, p. 178)

If the Holy Spirit is withholding and restraining the advance of satanic wickedness in the world as Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians 2:2-6, then how can we possibly imagine the way things will be on the earth after the rapture? Madness and demonically induced insanity will abound. There will be a cry for one to come to bring peace on the earth. He will affirm and promote, as we see happening today, the new definitions of gender and marriage. They will seek a world leader who will affirm any woman's "right" to kill her unborn child, and even advance this, as is happening today, into partial birth and even after-birth abortions. Sensuality, Pornography and sexual perversions, mind altering methods through music, drugs, experimental forms of unbiblical worship and activities as there were in Sodom, Gomorrah, and Babylon are predicted for the latter days church and religion (see Jude 1:4-6; 2 Peter 3:3-7, Revelation 17;2-6; see also Ezekiel 8:6-18). These forms of worship have been developing in several main line denominations over the past fifty or so years. The more conservative denominations have not escaped the subtle satanic trends toward unscriptural worship, doctrines and practice either through the emerging church. Preparations are now being made in Christianity to unite with the new world religion of the Antichrist. An example of this new world satanic religion may be seen in the opening ceremony of the new Gotthard Base Tunnel in Switzerland which took 17 years to complete and is the longest and most expensive tunnel in the world.



The world's longest and deepest rail tunnel was unveiled with a bizarre ceremony featuring a goat-man who dies and is resurrected, women simulating sex with each other and drone-like human workers marching to a rhythmic drum beat.

The Gotthard Base Tunnel was dedicated in Switzerland with male and female workers wearing orange jumpsuits and marching robotically like soldiers obeying their commands.

Young men and women appear dressed in white underwear, while two of the women engage in simulated lesbian sex. These individuals represent the masses who will ride the trains through the tunnel. (Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2016/06/new-tunnel-christened-by-bizarre-demonic-ceremony/#1SBlxExhe5LPcCuj.99>)

2. Examples of False or Misleading Teachings

In every age there are those who, through spiritual deception, confuse and even deny the most simple and fundamental aspects of the Bible and especially of the gospel. In the 80s, Norman Vincent Peale denied the need to be born again. "In 1984, Peale announced on the Phil Donahue program, 'It's not necessary to be born again. You have your way to God; I have mine. I found eternal peace in a Shinto shrine...I've been to Shinto shrines, and God is everywhere... Look again at Peale's incredulous statement: 'It's not necessary to be born again.' What did Jesus say? 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God' (John 3:3). Who are we to believe?" (The Popular Handbook on the Rapture, LaHaye, Ice, and Hindson, p.179)

Today, Southern Baptist International Mission Board President, David Platt, has gone on record as stating unequivocally that the "sinner's prayer," a prayer which simply invites Jesus into your heart through faith, is "unbiblical and superstitious." An insightful article from the Lighthouse Trails Research Project website states in part concerning Platt's unbiblical view of salvation:

Platt's de-emphasis on having a personal, one-on-one relationship with Jesus Christ and his emphasis on community, relationships, groups, disciples, leadership, etc. is a mixture of the "new" Christianity, emerging spirituality, and a works-based belief system. The Southern Baptist Convention has been making some big slips into apostasy for a long time through its embracing of the Purpose Driven Life, contemplative spirituality (i.e., spiritual formation), and so forth, but electing Platt may be one of the more blatant things they have done to date. Platt says that the traditional way of presenting the Gospel is "damning." And yet a brief look at the "sinner's prayer" shows a very clear Gospel message... However, the multitude of leaders that have risen to the top of the evangelical church through big marketing plans of their publishers and a Christian media world that advertises and exalts them to a high stature are convincing millions that the pure simple Gospel is not enough—they need better and more complex ways to find the Lord and eternal life. With Rick Warren, it has to be purpose-driven; with Beth Moore and Richard Foster, it has to be through contemplative stillness; and now with David Platt, it has to be through "discipleship" (as well as spending time in global missions because anything less, such as local missions, is insignificant). Too bad if you are only six years old, want to receive the Lord into your heart because you realize you are a sinner in need of a Savior but you can't even read yet. According to Platt's plan of "salvation," you'll have to wait until you are old enough to get some "proper" discipleship that is presented by manipulating leaders who teach that coming to Christ is anything but simple. (lighthouse trailsresearch.com/blog)

John wrote: ***"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name"(1:12).*** This is one of the clearest and simplest verses in the New Testament as to how a lost person can be saved! I myself prayed this very verse in prayer when I was sixteen years old on the last day and final invitation of a Fellowship of Christian Athletes conference in Black Mountain, North Carolina. That is when I was wonderfully and eternally saved! And I have led many people to salvation through this very prayer of asking Jesus to come into their heart to save them! Receiving Jesus is simply believing on Jesus Christ. Since we are saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), receiving Jesus is a statement or act of faith, which is exactly what receiving Jesus means: believing on His name! This is what John states in John 1:12, "...even to those who believe on His name."

3. Demonic Powers Are Behind World Governments

While theological compromise, confusion, innovation, error and outright heresy which we see today has demonic forces working behind the scenes, we are seeing a great deal of evidence of demonic movement today in politics as well. World governments are manifesting pervasive demonic activity. The satanic influence over the world governments, and even over the presidential campaigns in the United States, is obvious and continuous, as Merrill F. Unger writes:

However, in the realm of human government the unseen personalities of the evil supernatural sphere are just as real and active as their visible human agents. And any deeper interpretation of human history, tracing in it a divine purpose and goal, must take into account the invisible yet very real realm of spirit. Thus interpreted, human history is seen to be not merely an account of human activities and

events independent of spiritual forces, but a continuous interaction of spiritual and human personalities, in which demons play a prominent part.

Although demonic activity is prominent in this and preceding ages, and will be augmented as the age draws to a close, it is not un-curtailed. God is permitting Satan under certain restrictions and through his myriads of demon-helpers to work out his own unholy ambition to be like God and to attempt all the functions of God. But Satan's program is foredoomed to failure and destruction and serves to demonstrate to the entire universe the utter folly of a creature attempting to act in independence of and in opposition to the Creator. (Biblical Demonology, Merrill F. Unger, pp. 181-182)

4. Current Trends Against the Bible as Final Authority for Faith and Practice

The subtle and demonic drift in Christianity today is impelled by the false idea that we have more than just the Bible upon which to base our authority. Today, we can observe the unfortunate reality that some are putting the writings of man on the same level as the Bible and the Bible writers. I find it more than curious to hear or read of men seeming to put the teachings of, say, John Calvin, on the same level as the Word of God. Or some devotional authors write as though they are communicating the exact words of Jesus to the reader personally. However, the only dependable word for word record of the sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ today is the Bible. We must be very careful about receiving the testimony of anyone who claims to have gotten a new, personal and direct message from our ascended Savior which no one else up to that time has received. Remember that the age of apostolic inspiration is past, the Bible is complete (66 books make up the true Bible, no more, no less!) In addition, we should not regard the writing of the "Apostle" Calvin, the "Apostle" Young, nor of any as though their writings were to be equated with the those of Holy Scripture, the Bible. The Bible is sufficient and is our only authority for right faith and practice! Of course, the writing of sound teachers and theologians are helpful so long as they base what they say upon the Word of God; WE should not REPLACE their words for the Word of God. Remember, they are not final nor authoritative on the level of the inerrant Bible.

5. Drift From the Bible Brings Vagueness on Important Doctrines

As the Bible is not emphasized as God's final authority today, so the clear teaching about the gospel of salvation as well as the teaching on the Holy Trinity is not emphasized either.

John the Baptist proclaimed: ***"Behold, the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).*** John, the writer of the Gospel of John stated: ***"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him" (John 1:18).*** These clear statements point to the only One who can fit this description: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As these verses show, it is impossible to understand Jesus Christ as the Son of God without knowledge of His relation to both the Father and the Holy Spirit. Yet, people today are taught almost nothing about the Person or Work of the Lord as related to the other two persons of the Trinity. Yet, the opening verses of the Gospel of John immediately state for all to read what is hardly ever mentioned from pulpits, Christian books or in Christian music today: ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1).*** Christians are often kept in shallow water theologically and are conditioned to be happy with non-descript and even vague talks about "Jesus," with little or no reference to the Father or the Holy Spirit in their proper relation to one another. Consequently, both the doctrines of salvation and of the Trinity have fallen on hard times in Christianity these days. Sound teaching on God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is now often

referred to in "Jesus only" terms. "Jesus only" theology is heresy that denies that there are three persons in the Trinity. These are the two prime targets of Satan that identify most cults: denial of the Holy Trinity and denial of salvation through faith alone! Yet a sound explanation of these pivotal theological realities, largely absent in today's pulpits or Christian books, is precisely what will be found in biblical and verse by verse teaching!

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires" (2 Timothy 4:3). The apostasy of the church actually began in the early days of Christianity. Wrong interpretations and applications of the Scriptures began to misdirect the churches theologically in many different quarters of the ancient world. The seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3 show the types of errors and heresies that have effected Christianity through the centuries.

Today, in the interest of popularity and numbers, as well as acceptability with the world, the doctrines of the gospel, that is, salvation through faith alone, and of the Holy Trinity are under assault. The Bible has also been questioned over the years and now many do not believe it to be the final authority, not even Christians. Underlying doubts and neglect of the Bible's authority and leading has brought Christians unconsciously to focus upon the authority of Christian personalities for direction in right belief and practice.

I believe this is why we no longer hear from Christian teachers and leaders the term: "The Bible says..." In fact, some in the emerging churches are down playing the word "Bible" in favor of the word "Scripture." While this may seem to be perfectly harmless, we should not forget that Islam also speaks of their "scriptures," but they will not use the term "Bible" either, because the Bible flatly contradicts their "scripture." The effort today is often to downplay any distinctions between religions and to exchange terms like, "born again," for "follower of Jesus," or, "worship service," for "gathering," etc. It won't be long before the outside names of churches will exclude the word "church" in their name. The term "Second Coming of Christ," is also rarely heard. Some also criticize verse by verse and expository preaching in favor of simply communicating positive and affirming messages about God, Jesus, hope, tolerance and other general themes vaguely defined in order to "engage the culture."

Yet, today, as the coming of the Lord draws ever closer we should be aware of these demonically influenced trends not to discourage us but to give us clear direction for prayer and involvement to teach and believe right doctrine. God has given us His truth to encourage us and direct us to witness for Him daily to a lost world. We are to witness His gospel of salvation in simplicity and in truth until the coming of the Lord.

**He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly."
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20**

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