



WILL CATASTROPHE STRIKE EARTH IN SEPTEMBER?

WILL IT BE an asteroid, a comet or a meteor that will strike the earth? What of the Four Blood Moons, the Year of Shemittah, Jade Helm 15? Christians are hearing that prophets are predicting terrible things to occur this coming September, 2015. Some claim that God has given them prophecies about calamities that portend His judgment upon the earth and the imminent return of Jesus. It is even reported that the Rapture will occur on September 23, 2015. Christians around the world are being moved to move. Someplace, anyplace, to escape God's wrath.

What to do? What to do?

Even before John Hagee brought the message of Mark Biltze's four-blood-moons theory to the forefront of Christians' consciousness, there has arisen a new fervor of expectation that "God is about to do something!"

Some are reacting in fear, others in elation that, finally, the ungodly are going to get what's coming to them. Still others are acting as if nothing will come of all these omens. Their reason that just as people have been heading for the

hills for centuries at the slightest irregularity of what occurs in the heavens, with nothing happening, the same hysteria is plaguing Christians over these recent reports of "signs in the heavens." "It's going to be okay; don't get excited."

But coupled with the four-blood-moon-phenomenon, the year of shemittah (shemittah; shmita), and the predictions of an extremely large and deadly heavenly body striking the earth, are certain man-induced events that seem to fit into the overall idea that something of great importance is about to decimate humanity.

The U.S. military exercise called Jade Helm 15 is getting much attention on Christian Internet sites. Rumors abound that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has constructed concentration camps throughout the U.S. in preparation for a massive incarceration of U.S. citizens deemed "undesirable" by the federal government. We are told that government officials are preparing for a cataclysm by secreting in underground storehouses caches of food, medical supplies, survival materials and weapons in

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MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

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WHY MEDIA SPOTLIGHT?

Media Spotlight is a ministry to the Body of Christ, bringing understanding of the ways in which the world shapes our thinking and lifestyles through the influence of the mass communications media.

God's Word exhorts, "Buy the truth and do not sell it" (Prov. 23:23). Therefore we do not sell *Media Spotlight*.

Begun in 1977, *Media Spotlight* was the first ministry on a national scale to address the ungodly nature of the secular media—motion pictures, television, toys, games and other things that contribute to Christians living no differently than the rest of the world.

The mass media have impacted the Body of Christ as much as they have society. Many Christians are so dependent upon the media that they aren't aware of how lukewarm they have become. We have many testimonials from readers who tell us that, because of *Media Spotlight*, they have become aware of the effect the media have on their thinking, and are now more selective in their choices.

But the problem of ungodliness is not exclusive to the secular media. Of major concern are the religious media that present messages contrary to God's Word. *Media Spotlight* addresses the impact that religious teachers have upon believers in Christ, whether for good or for evil.

It has escaped the understanding of many Christians that what they believe is more often shaped by the teachings and traditions of religious men and institutions than by Scripture. Most teachers in the institutional churches rely more upon their theological disciplines than on the pure Word of God. Yet the wisdom of the world is no substitute for God's Word, even if offered from the pulpit or in the Christian media.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:24 that in the last days false christs and false prophets would arise and would show great signs and wonders, "so that, if possible, they will deceive the very elect." He also states in Matthew 24:12 that in the last days the love of many toward Him would grow cold because evil would increase in the world. If we believe Him, then we would be foolish not to guard ourselves against deception. There is little time to waste in the short span of life granted us by God. We must choose today whom we will serve. ❖

Scripture quotations in *Media Spotlight* are from the King James Version of the Bible, rephrased in modern U.S. English unless otherwise stated.



A PERSONAL NOTE

Dear Friends,

These are bad times for America. The nation that once stood for all the virtues associated with the good aspects of humanity is succumbing to the depravity of all the vices associated with the evil aspects of humanity. Elected and appointed officials at every level of government are calling good "evil," and evil "good."

The recent ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States reveals a perverted mindset that has infected the populous. For the first time in history, a significant majority of Americans agrees with that ruling, including many Christians.

Because of the blatant rejection of God's righteousness and instructions on how we should live, Scripture serves as a warning that His judgment will not sleep. In reaction to the trend toward ungodliness in America, some alleged and self-proclaimed prophets are telling us that God's judgment is coming soon, and quickly, with devastating circumstances.

But there are problems with these alleged prophecies, problems we address in this issue. Yet even with those problems, it cannot be denied that America is ripe—no, rotten—to the point of asking for judgment.

We don't address this with pleasure. Far from it. We lament the condition of the nation. But even more so do we lament the condition of the churches which, had they been faithful to God's Word, would have ministered the truth to their congregants and held them accountable to the truth. As it is, with a sizeable majority of citizens claiming to be Christians, the nation has made itself the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

America has joined in revelry with all the nations that have drunk of the wine of the wrath of Babylon's fornication (Revelation 18:2-4).

Although some who are still righteous at least outwardly promise revival and victory over evil, Scripture tells us that there will be no revival in the last days, but a worsening of evil.

But these things are necessary if the Lord is to return. Every prophecy that He uttered in regard to His return reveals a condition signified by the condition of the world at the time of Noah and Lot (Luke 17:26-30).

Yet He has not left us comfortless, but has given us His Holy Spirit to guide us through these perilous times. If we will but heed His call to righteousness and obedience to His Word, we will escape His wrath.

He has provided the sacrifice of His own Son—given once and for all on the cross of Calvary—to pay the full price for all our sins if we will but enter into that sacrifice by faith. His Word tells us that there is no more sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:26). We cannot look to churches, priests, pastors, teachers, apostles, prophets, evangelists, other saints living or dead, or anyone else. We cannot pray to anyone other than the Father through the one Mediator between God and men—the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5), as He told us to pray.

Yes, these are bad times for our nation and for the world. But we must look up, because our redemption is drawing near.

Thank you for your loving prayers and support for this ministry. Please continue to pray that we will remain faithful to God's truth in every way.

In Jesus' love,



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expectation of a worldwide catastrophic event. They want to be able to preserve the government (and their own skins) in case of such an event.

For Christians, concerns center on the fact that we are in a current Hebrew year of shemitah which will end in September.

THE SHEMITAH

God's Word decrees that for Israel every seventh year is a sabbatical year called in the Hebrew, *shemitah*, which means "release." This year in the Hebrew calendar—September 25, 2014 - September 13, 2015 according to the Gregorian calendar—is year 5775, a year of shemitah when the land is to remain fallow:

YHWH spoke to Moses in Mount Sinai, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them, 'When you come into the land that I give you, then the land shall keep a Sabbath to YHWH. You shall sow your field for six years, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather its fruit. But in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of rest for the land—a sabbath for YHWH. You shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard. You shall not reap that which grows of its own accord of your harvest, nor gather the grapes of your undressed vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. The sabbath of the land shall be food for you—for you, for your servant, for your maid, for your hired servant, for your alien who sojourns with you. And for your cattle, and for the animals that are in your land, shall all its increase be food. (Leviticus 25:1-7)

As mysterious as the word *shemitah* sounds, there is nothing sinister about it. It was meant as a blessing to the children of Israel, just as the Sabbath was meant as a blessing. It is man who turns the blessings of God into something sinister.

Johnathan Cahn, author of *The Harbinger*, has written a new book titled *The Mystery of the Shemitah* in which he predicts an economic collapse in 2015 based on his understanding of what is called "Bible Code." In an interview on *InfoWars*, Cahn explains that, although he is not "setting dates," something profound is about to happen based on the fact that we are in a year of shemitah.

Cahn's book is a bestseller, found not only in Christian bookstores but in major secular outlets and online. In it he targets September, 2015, as the time something very dire may fall upon America, particularly in relation to its economic welfare:

The mystery of the shemitah is a 3,000-year-old mystery from the Bible that actually lies behind everything from the rise and fall of the economy, the rise and fall of Wall Street—when Wall Street collapses—the rise and fall of nations. Even the rise of America and what may be the fall of America. This thing is so precise that, as far as I know, it is the only thing in existence that actually gives the exact dates of when things happen, down to the hours, down to the seconds. I mean literally forecasting the exact crashing days of Wall Street.

Cahn is telling us that the coming collapse is so precisely determined by the law of shemitah that it can be calculated to the exact date, hour, even the second that the economy will be destroyed. Yet he qualifies this "exactness" by saying this year of shemitah "may be" the fall of America. In fact, Cahn consistently says that he is not being dogmatic about anything. He's just relating certain events of the past to the year of shemitah in which they occurred, and interpolating his findings into his latest theory of judgment via how he understands the law of shemitah:

So this mystery begins actually on Mount Sinai. When the Law comes—it's called the Law of the Shemitah—and basically, understand, it's this: every seventh year was a sabbath year called "the shemitah." And during that year there was no reaping, no sowing of the land. Everything came to a rest. And on the last day of the shemitah—the last day was called in Hebrew, "Ellul 29"; that is the 29th day of the month Ellul—on that day comes a wipeout; all debt is wiped out; all credit is wiped out; all the financial accounts are wiped clean.

Cahn is almost right about this. But not all debt was wiped out during the year of shemitah—only debt owed by the poor, according to Deuteronomy 15:1-11:

At the end of every seven years you shall make a release. And this is the manner of the release: Every creditor who lends anything to his neighbor shall release it; he shall not take it from his neighbor or from his brother because it is called YHWH's release.

You may take it from a foreigner, but your hand shall release that which is yours with your brother, **except when there shall be no poor among you.** For YHWH shall greatly bless you in the land which YHWH your God gives you for an inheritance to possess it....

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Israel's gay culture flourishing

ISRAELI PRESIDENT REUVEN Rivlin opened his official residence to a delegation from the Israel Gay Youth organization on June 10. His warm welcome coincided with the first anniversary of his term in office, and was the first time that an Israeli president has hosted an LGBT gathering. That same day, the Knesset—Israel's governing body—discussed transgender issues, also for the first time in Israel's history, where LGBT spokesmen gave testimonies of their struggles for acceptance in their respective communities.

At the conference, opposition leader Isaac Herzog and former Ambassador to the United States Michael Oren offered supportive statements. Likud representative Amir Ohana delivered a message from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Marsha Botzer, a transgender activist from Seattle, Washington told *Haaretz*, Israel's oldest daily newspaper, "For me, being able to speak at the Knesset was a life-giving, stunning, and daunting experience, not to mention having folks from my community speak out so powerfully."

Surat Shaan Rathgeber Knan, a British Jewish transgender activist told *Tablet* reporter James Kirchik that he's "been to the U.K. parliament many times and never seen members asking for tissues, and these weren't crocodile tears."

Besides transgender representatives to the Knesset, other members of the LGBT community were given opportunities to share their stories.

The conference followed on the heels of Tel Aviv's Gay Pride Parade, which is the largest of its kind in the region. Estimates ranged from 150,000 to 180,000 marchers in the parade, in addition to tens of thousands of Israelis who turned out to join in the debauched festivities, the contents of which propriety disallows me to relate.

COMMENTARY

Tel Aviv is known to some as the "gay-friendliest city in the world."

Who would have guessed?

The modern state of Israel is coming full circle to the place it was in when God judged its people's ancestors for their sins in ancient times. Here it is, struggling for its life—surrounded by Muslim states and terrorist organizations bent on Israel's destruction—and the government sanctions the celebration and acceptance of an openly sinful life of a growing faction among its citizens.

What must the Palestinian citizens of Israel think of this? Muslims chide the United States and other Western nations whose religious traditions are found in Christianity



for their degenerate lifestyles openly practiced. This gives them additional ammunition for their ideological cannons.

Yes, LGBT people exist in Islam, but they are still in the closet, fearing the consequences of being found out. Muslim society frowns on the debauchery that is so blatantly accepted in the "Christian" West. Now Christians in the West are finding common ground with Jews in Israel in relation to the LGBT agenda.

Where is the protest from Christian Zionists who support Israel, right or wrong? They are vocal about homosexuality in the United States; will they continue to keep mum about homosexuality in the nation to which they lend such strong support while denying the need to present the Gospel to Jews?

They agree that America is ripe for God's judgment for our sins. Would they agree that Israel is also ripe for God's judgment once again? Would they sound the warning to Israel that they sound to the United States and other western nations?

Let us understand something: God allows the iniquity of a nation to come to full fruition before judging that nation. Israel must become sufficiently given to sin and rebellion against God's Word so that His infallible Word will be found true. His prophecies of Israel in the last days reveal a coming time of tribulation upon that nation while His people are in the land. That time of tribulation is called "Jacob's Trouble":

Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it. It is the time of Jacob's trouble. But he shall be saved out of it. "For it shall happen in that day," says YHWH of hosts, "that I will break his yoke from off your neck, and will burst your bonds, and aliens shall no longer serve themselves of him. But they shall serve YHWH their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up to them. (Jeremiah 30:7-9)

This is a promise to Israel when the Lord Jesus returns to establish His Millennial Kingdom in which David will be raised from the dead in the coming resurrection to sit again on his throne in Jerusalem reigning over Israel while the Lord Jesus reigns over the entire earth from Jerusalem also (Jeremiah 30:7-9).

The apostle Paul addresses the salvation of Israel at the Lord's coming:

For I do not want, brethren, that you would be ignorant of this mystery lest you should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel shall be saved, as it is written, "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, turning away ungodliness from Jacob, for this is My covenant with them, when I shall take away their sins."

As concerning the Gospel, they are enemies for your sakes, but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.

For as you in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief, even so these also have now not believed so that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God has enclosed them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all. (Romans 11:25-32)

When Paul says "all Israel will be saved," he isn't speaking of spiritual salvation, but salvation of the nation from its anti-Christ-led enemies after undergoing purification under anti-Christ's rule.

Yes, Israel is presently in unbelief; she is even debauched, having rejected its Messiah and giving itself to sin. God is again giving the nation over to a reprobate mind, to do those things that are not fit, especially for a people who have every advantage and promise of God for salvation.

The nation does not realize that by doing this the stage is being set for its judgment that will undo all that it has accomplished since its inception in 1948.

Israel is proud of those accomplishments and has been lulled into complacency, assuming that her fate rests in her own hands. Even the religious Jews in Israel are deceived into thinking that God will spare them. But His judgment will continue for three-and-one-half years until Israel's Messiah returns. Then they will see Him whom they have pierced, and they will mourn (Zechariah 12:10).

A terrible time is coming upon them before they will see their Messiah.

The first half of the seventieth seven of Daniel's prophecy ended in AD 70 with terrible consequences upon a faithless Israel. The second half of that seventieth seven will end with the Lord's return to deliver a purged Israel once and for all. ❖

Campolo accepts same-sex marriage

ON JUNE 9, Christian pop teacher Tony Campolo issued a statement revealing his new position on acceptance of homosexual couples in the churches. Said Campolo:

While I have always tried to communicate grace and understanding to people on both sides of the issue, my answer to that question has always been somewhat ambiguous. One reason for that ambiguity was that I felt I could do more good for my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters by serving as a bridge person, encouraging the rest of the Church to reach out in love and truly get to know them. The other reason was that, like so many other Christians, I was deeply uncertain about what was right.

It has taken countless hours of prayer, study, conversation and emotional turmoil to bring me to the place where I am finally ready to call for the full acceptance of Christian gay couples into the Church."

Although Campolo's statement has instilled a certain sense of gratitude in some LGBT folk, others feel more ambiguous about it.

Kimberly Knight, a "Coming Out Christian" writing for Patheos, a "progressive Christian" website, states:

For a man of words, the words in his statement seem *very* carefully chosen. As such, they do not indicate full inclusion, they do not leave room for queer folks who are single/dating, they do not leave room for queer seekers, they do not indicate affirmation of bisexual or transgender people.

His statement only indicates gay couples and only those who claim the label Christian.

And the word acceptance bugs me, more than a little.

I really don't want it to, but it feels a little like "welcoming but not affirming."

COMMENTARY

For most if not all LGBT people nothing less than total acceptance and even celebration of their sin is acceptable.

Campolo's statement has not generated much concern among most Christian leaders; he is, after all, a very popular figure among the elite in Christendom. Besides, there seems to be a loosening of standards throughout churchdom these days, so why should his position be of any great concern—even if he does identify with evangelical Christianity?

The part of his statement that boggles the mind is his saying he "was deeply uncertain about what was right."

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EDITORIAL

Black Robes = Black Day

By Albert James Dager

HAVE YOU EVER woken in the morning, hoping that what you had experienced the previous day was just a bad dream? With the sun streaming through the windows, you realize that God is in His Heaven, and all is right with the world.

Yes, God is still in His Heaven, but not all is right with the world.

On the morning of Saturday, June 27, Jean and I both woke with the same thing on our minds—the Supreme Court’s decision the day before to force same-sex marriage on all 50 states and U.S. possessions.

What we had witnessed on that ill-fated day is indelibly impressed upon our minds: the image telecast across the world of the White House lit in rainbow colors to celebrate the decision; Barack Obama saying, “Today is a big step in *our* march toward equality”; the mayor of Seattle kissing his “husband” in public for the first time; Seattle ferries flying the rainbow flag; homosexuals and their sycophants celebrating in the streets all over America; men kissing men, and women kissing women in celebration.

By a scant one-vote majority, the Supreme Court has usurped the role of Congress and passed a law by fiat contrary to the Constitution which specifically states that any power not specifically granted to Congress is reserved for the states and the people. There is nothing in the Constitution that requires the federal government to define individual rights or the rights of any group of citizens in relation to marriage. The Court has clearly overstepped its bounds by even addressing the right of anyone to marry, opposite sex or same sex.

At the same time, it has ignored 6,000 years of human history and the standards of every culture without exception. All cultures—even the most ungodly—have perpetually recognized marriage as an institution between men and women, with the primary purpose being procreation for the continuation of the species.

None of this mattered to the five justices who chose to pander to the perverse elements of American society, thus revealing their own perverseness.

Two justices, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor, have performed same-sex marriages. For this reason both should have recused themselves, but neither did, thus tainting the decision with the appearance of bias.

Now that the rainbow flag has been officially flown over government facilities, might it someday replace Old Glory as the nation’s symbol? Why not? What America has come



The perversion of Justice(s)

to symbolize in many ways over this past century bears more affinity with the rainbow flag than with the Stars and Stripes.

My wife Jean has suggested that the homosexual community is a nation of its own, with its own flag, that has taken control by subterfuge over the United States government. Obama has made the White House itself a rainbow flag.

We’ve known for some time that America is in trouble. But now, America is in TROUBLE (with a capital T).

The Supreme Court has shaken a fist in God’s face, daring Him to do something about it.

Oh, He’ll do something about it.

But God’s judgment doesn’t necessarily come in one swift act of destruction; more often, it comes gradually, giving people opportunities to either change or entrench themselves in the muck in which they wallow.

America is on her last legs morally; she is split down the middle, leaning toward the left, with now 60 percent of her citizens favoring same-sex marriage.⁴ This is up from 50 percent just two years ago, in a nation in which 76% percent of its citizens claim to be Christians.

Ecclesiastes 10:2 portends ill for America:

A wise man’s heart is at the right, but a fool’s heart at the left.

This year’s Independence Day celebrations were considerably dampened for those who sorrow for the condition of this once-great nation. The patriotic songs, many of which credit God for our blessings, ring hollow. *God Bless America*; *America the Beautiful*; *America (My Country, ’Tis of Thee)*; even our National Anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*—they have lost their meaning. For the most part, the people who sing them draw close to God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him.

Even as they proclaim loudly, “God bless America!” we know that His blessing is being lifted. He has pronounced *Ichabod* upon our land.

⁴ Gallup Poll, May 6-10, 2015, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/117328/Marriage.aspx>.

But the iniquity of the Americans is not yet full. There is still a sizeable minority who oppose this evil.

There are plans on the part of morally-conscious citizens to work for a constitutional amendment that will guarantee the right of individuals to act according to their consciences in choosing not to be made partakers of this sin. If passed by Congress and ratified by 38 states, the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) (S. 1598, H.R. 2802) will prevent any federal agency from denying a tax exemption, grant, contract, license, or certification to an individual, association, or business based on their belief that marriage is a union between a man and a woman. For example, the bill would prohibit the IRS from stripping a church of its tax exemption for refusing to officiate for same-sex weddings.

Unless such a constitutional amendment is passed, the implications of the Supreme Court decision will reach much further than merely sanctioning same-sex marriage; it will force all Americans to comply, essentially marginalizing those whose consciences do not allow them to participate in or sanction same-sex marriages, or other LGBTQ activities. Refusal to acquiesce could be a federal offense, carrying the possibility of a federal prison term, which in turn might mean the loss of the right to bear arms.

But the protections would stop at the federal level. There is no protection against state, local, and individual prosecution. Believers in Christ, especially, will not be able to conduct many businesses without fear of draconian fines and prison terms unless they comply. Some of the businesses that true believers will not be able to own or operate, perhaps even be employed in, would be: Florists; Limousine Services; Wedding Chapels; Bakeries; Photography; Videography; Jewelry; Music; Disc Jockeys; Rental Equipment Providers; Printing; Newspapers; Insurance Providers; Family Planning; Event Planning; Marriage Counseling; and many others. This will affect not only owners and employees of independent businesses, but those affiliated with major market chains, including supermarkets, drug stores, big-box stores, even fast-food establishments—virtually any business that deals with the public.

Then there are virtually all civil service jobs at every governmental level from national to local. It may even keep such people out of public office or, at the least, prevent them from conducting their official responsibilities to the fullest. Certainly no true believer in Christ could be a judge and rule according to this unlawful decree.

There are many more situations that could place believers in the position of suffering for honoring God's Word.

And don't think the LGBTQ people won't test us. They will conduct sting operations to weed out anyone who might not agree with their agenda, and they will use the power of the government to bring down the hammer.

Satan has a formidable army of perverted individuals with reprobate minds to serve him. Christians and other morally-minded people are Satan's targets. It will be difficult

for them to get jobs if they even suggest that they want nothing to do with this sin imposed upon the nation by five lawless judges in black robes whose minds are also perverted.

Yes, I know my language is strong. I know we are to respect all in authority. And I do respect their positions. In fact, I lament for those in position of authority.

I thought and prayed over the idea of using this term, "perverted"; it did not come easily or flippantly. I concluded that speaking the truth is not disrespectful; it is sometimes necessary in order to paint a true picture of the gravity of a situation. In the process, I looked up dictionary definitions and synonyms, both for the noun and the verb, "pervert."

The noun per'vert: a person who practices sexual perversion; pathology - a person affected with perversion; a person who has been perverted (especially to a religious belief regarded as erroneous).

The verb per-vert': to affect with perversion; to lead astray morally; to turn away from the right course; to lead into mental error or false judgment; to turn to an improper use or misapply; to misconstrue or misinterpret, especially deliberately - distort; to bring to a less excellent state - vitiate - debase.

I came to the conclusion that one who perverts others is a pervert. The five who voted in favor of same-sex marriage are perverted according to God's Word (Romans 1:18-32); God's wrath will be revealed not only upon those who do these things, but also upon those who take pleasure in them (verse 32). The four who did not pervert themselves have no options other than to accept the majority decision or resign. And that would open the door for four more perverters appointed by the perverter in the Oval Office.

It may not be long before God's truth itself is censored by government action. The Bible is already under attack by some in government who do not want to hear what it has to say about them and their actions.

At the 2015 Women in the World Summit in New York City, Hillary Clinton declared that "deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed." She was speaking about women's right to abortion, but the statement is ominous at every level concerning every perversion people such as her wish to express, including the LGBTQ agenda. For any person involved in government (let alone a presidential candidate) to say that religious beliefs must be changed opens a Pandora's Box of evils. Isn't that what perverts in the government want to do in regard to homosexuality, transgenderism and other perversions—change the religious thinking of Christians?

Ironically, Mrs. Clinton claims that "the Bible was and remains the biggest influence on my thinking."

I don't know which bible Hillary is referencing, but there are many that would better suit her thinking than the Word of God. Perhaps Anton LaVey's *The Satanic Bible*?

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These people say they believe in “God,” but their god is someone or something other than Yahweh. I know Jesus teaches us to love our enemies. But what about His enemies?

I’m beginning to better understand David’s cry to God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, in:

Do I not hate them, O YHWH, who hate You? Am I not grieved with those who rise up against You?

I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. (Psalm 139:21-22)

Yet I must then turn to our Lord as David did in the next two verses:

Search me, O Elohim, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts, and see if there is any wicked way in me. Lead me in the way everlasting.

The Lord has often given me grace to love those who have injured me—those who count themselves my enemies. I can easily forgive them. But I cannot so easily forgive those who purposely declare themselves enemies of my Lord, or of my brethren in Christ. I’m almost inclined to ask God to call down fire from the heavens to devour them.

Even so, I find myself pitying them; lost souls caught in the snare of the Devil, yet unwilling to free themselves by turning their lives over to the only One who can make them free indeed. And I realize that this, too, is God’s judgment, first on His people, then on their enemies.

This encourages me to realize that these things must come to pass; they prove the Lord and His Word are true. When He returns there would be little or no faith on the earth, and evil will grow worse so that it will be as it was in the days of Noah and Lot.

But then, who is really to blame for America and the West in general falling into such debauched degradation? Is it only the leftist media, the communist-infiltrated learning institutions, and Satan himself? Or might much of the blame fall on the churches?

Most churches today have sunk to diverse measures of degradation themselves. The mainline Protestant churches have largely surrendered to the homosexual agenda, and their parishioners have not held their leaders to account. The Pentecostal and charismatic churches have turned from living righteously to seeking self-pleasure via pseudo-spiritual exercises, trusting their experiences over God’s Word. The last few popes have loosened their tolerance toward sin, and have imitated their predecessors in hiding the sins of its false priests, choosing to move them secretly from parish to parish rather than deal with their sins as they should have been dealt with. It is only because of exposure by the world’s self-righteous leftist media that the Vatican has acted to censor some of its priests and bishops for their sins against children.

The evangelical churches, both Pentecostal and Fundamentalist, have given themselves to psychology and liberal approaches to Scripture.

Many churches with predominantly black congregants have championed Barack Obama for no other reason than that he is partially black, overlooking his immoral stances on homosexuality, same-sex marriage, abortion, and his anti-Christ Marxist ideology.

Considering that three-quarters of the U.S. Population still identify as Christians, who is supporting the billions-of-dollars pornography, gambling, prostitution and alcohol industries, the ungodly media productions that blaspheme God, spew obscenities, glorify illicit sex, violence, occultism and other affronts to God? Who, besides many of the pastors?

Who voted in Barack Obama, and who is giving Hillary Clinton a sizeable lead in the polls for the next election?

Among some of the churches are a few faithful. But overall, they have removed themselves from God’s reach.

So we must not blame only the Supreme Court and the leftist influences in American society. No, for the most part, the blame must rest with the perverts within the churches themselves. ❖

Dear Brother Al,

I just finished the latest *Media Spotlight* (Winter 2014) and felt that I should send you a quick note to say thank you for tackling the issue of biblical healing, and exposing the many con artists in the world today who are exploiting this scheme. I have been looking for something fairly concise, but at the same time in-depth enough to help people understand this often controversial topic. Very good job.

Thank you for your insight and stance. I appreciate you and Sister Jean. You are in my prayers.

Sincerely,
R.N., Yazoo City, MS

Dear R.N.,

Thank you for your encouragement. When one questions certain people or practices, one is often accused of not believing that God still heals today.

At right is an ad that was recently placed in our local paper, telling people (without regard to what they believe) to come and learn how to heal for the bargain price of \$25.

How can someone learn how to heal? We can’t learn how to be anointed by God.

To me this is as obscene as the Supreme Court’s decision to force same-sex marriage on the nation. At least they didn’t do it in the name of Christ.

In Jesus’ love,

FAITH NEWS

Faith-based healing training offered

Dove’s Nest Healing Rooms of Sequim offers training on healing from 7-9 p.m. Friday, June 26 in a free session, and an all-day training for ministry from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 27, for \$25. The training sessions will be at Sequim Valley Foursquare Church, 9090 Old Olympic Highway, Sequim. Call 670-7188.



(Continued from page 3)

If there is among you a poor man of one of your brethren within any of your gates in your land which YHWH your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother. But you shall open your hand wide to him, and shall surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wants.

Beware that there not be a thought in your wicked heart, saying, “The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,” and your eye be evil against your poor brother, and you give him nothing, and he cry to YHWH against you, and it be sin to you.

You shall surely give him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing YHWH your God shall bless you in all your works, and in all that you put your hand to.

For the poor shall never cease out of the land. Therefore I command you, saying you shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and to your needy, in your land.

God was telling the Israelites that He will bless them in their land so that there would be no poor among them, provided they obeyed His Law. But He knew they would not obey the Law perfectly, and that there would be poor in the land. So He made this provision for release “except when there shall be no poor among you.”

The time for all debt of any kind to be released, no matter who owed it, was the year of Jubilee which came every 50 years—the year after a seven-shemitah year cycle, and the year beginning the next seven-year shemitah cycle.

Apart from the year of shemitah, another law of release concerned slaves who were to be released after seven years of service no matter which year that may be (Deuteronomy 15:12-18).

Cahn goes a step further than Scripture by applying the law of shemitah to the United States of America, not as a law Americans must obey, but as a curse on the nation for having turned from God:

Now, the shemitah was supposed to be a blessing, but when Israel turned away from God the shemitah comes back, not as a blessing, but as a sign of judgment on a nation that has once known God but

is now driving God out of its life. And this ultimately would lead to the destruction of Israel.

So the question here is, could this ancient mystery, the shemitah, still be in effect? Could it be affecting us right now? Could it be a warning with what is happening in America?

And the answer—and that’s why I wrote the book, *The Mystery of the Shemitah*—the answer is, incredibly, yes. It’s in effect; it is affecting us; it has affected us; it is affecting us, and I believe it will affect us.

None of this is found in Scripture—that God turns the shemitah against a nation as a judgment. It is purely Cahn’s conjecture based on what he has observed of economic downturns that have coincided with shemitah years.

It’s no mystery that God does judge nations for their sins, but there is nothing to link that judgment to the year of shemitah other than Cahn’s surmisings. But then, it’s always a good selling point to work things out to form a “mystery.”

Cahn points out that most of the largest financial downturns in America have occurred during shemitah years:

...If you look at the greatest collapses in world history—I mean in modern times—the top three, which is—number three is 1937-1938—that’s the year of the shemitah. But number two is 2007-2008, the Great Recession, year of the shemitah. Number one is the Depression, greatest year is 1930-31, year of the shemitah. Every single one happens in this time period. And it even gets more precise, because actually, there’s a certain time of the year when these things have to collapse.

Biblically, the time of the year is called the month of Tishri—that’s the time that actually closes the shemitah, the seven-year cycle. So it’s the time that manifests this wipeout that comes at the end.

Well, if you look at the greatest day crashes in Wall Street history, the amazing thing is that the majority of them all happened at the same time of year; they happened at the time of the month of Tishri. That’s why, for years, economists have been boggled. Why do all these great crashes happen around September-October? Well that’s the biblical month of Tishri.

Cahn stretches things by saying the “greatest years” of the Great Depression were 1930-31 to make it fit his shemitah theory. The Great Depression was much more complex than Cahn relates, affecting different countries at different times. In the United States, there was a downturn in the Stock Market on September 4, 1929, but the crash didn’t occur until October 29 (known as Black Tuesday), which was not in a year of shemitah, or in the month Tishri. As for the “greatest years” of the Great Depression, those were not 1930-31, but 1932-33. In 1933, unemployment was at its highest level, with one in every four Americans who wanted

to work unable to find a job. The combined total number of bank suspensions for 1930 and 1931 was 3,643. 1933 alone saw 4,000 bank suspensions.

In addition to this, two questions arise: 1) why have only the majority and not all the greatest day crashes in Wall Street history occurred during years of shemita; 2) what about the shemita years in which nothing happened—1944-1945; 1952-1953; 1959-1960; 1966-1967? It's true that major downturns (not all were "collapses") took place during most shemitas since 1966-1967. These were in shemita years 1973-1974; 1980-1981; 1987-1988; 2000-2001; 2007-2008. But other downturns have taken place outside of shemita years. Yet if the pattern for the past five shemita years continues, then yes, something dire could happen before September 13, 2015, because that date ends the shemita of 2014-2015.

Cahn's information is truly interesting—even fascinating in some cases—but he tends to overstate the implications, such as this claim:

But it even gets more like, intense and stunning, because you look at the last two cycles, which 2001 and 2007, the amazing thing is this phenomenon—or actually 2008—this phenomenon is getting more and more precise and more and more powerful or stunning.

For example, 2001 you had—9/11 happened. It causes the greatest point crash in world history. Well, when did that take place? It's September 17, 2001—that's the greatest crash. What date is that? That date is Ellul 29, the exact day of the shemita that comes once every seven years. That's the day appointed to wipe out the financial realm in the Bible—the exact day—and it's a sign of judgment.

If you go seven years into the future, you find you have the other greatest crash in world history to this day, September 29, 2008—greatest crash ever. When does that take place? On September 29. In the biblical calendar it's Ellul 29, the exact same biblical day that comes once every seven years. So the two greatest crashes in world history each happened exactly seven biblical years apart, down to the day, down to the hour, the minute, the second, on the day that's appointed once in seven years to wipe out the financial realm.

So, I mean, this is stunning. I don't believe, no matter what, anybody could have put this thing together. I mean, that's how precise it is, down to the day, and down to the second.

Down to the second? How does he know that? Did each crash happen at exactly the same second? This is reaching.

Cahn's entire statement is an overstatement. The "crashes" of 2001 and 2008 are not the "greatest crashes in world history," at least not in terms of their overall effects on the

lives of the people, and certainly not for as long term as the Great Depression.

More important, the shemita was not appointed to "wipe out the financial realm." It was appointed to allow the land to remain fallow, and to release the debts of the poor of Israel. There are no other biblical "appointments" inextricably linked to the year of shemita.

So what are we to make of Cahn's claims? Has God revealed this "mystery" to him as a prophetic word? Or is it merely conjecture on his part? Cahn's own words tell us:

Well, here's the thing. I'm not being dogmatic; I'm not saying it has to be, but if we follow this one more time, where does it take us? It takes us to the shemita that we're in right now. That's the seventh shemita, and the period of prophetic restoration would be September, 2015, to September, 2016.

Now, again, not being dogmatic, but if it follows the pattern of what happened before, it would mean war—war in the Middle East, and a war resulting in the next piece, or puzzle piece of prophecy. So this is so big, I mean, we're talking about it from our pocketbooks, our bank accounts, to America, to prophecy, to the end time. So it's very specific; it's very exact.

It's very specific; it's very exact." (But we're not being dogmatic.)

If one cannot be "dogmatic," then we know that he is not speaking as a prophet. Nor does Cahn claim to do so. He is merely relating interesting facts that he sees as connecting some economic downturns and collapses to years of shemita. But he doesn't always apply Scripture or Hebrew timing accurately in drawing his conclusions.

For example, as we have seen, he applies judgment to the year of shemita, when God's Word is silent in that regard; he also believes the shemita wipes out all debt, when that is reserved for the year of Jubilee. Also, as we have just seen, Cahn has assumed that this current year of shemita is the seventh in the cycle that is to be followed by the year of Jubilee. But the end of this year of shemita doesn't mark the beginning of a Jubilee year according to the Hebrew calendar. The first Jubilee was in 1222 BC; the next true Jubilee should begin in 2022.¹

So how do we approach this "year of shemita" alarm? Just as I suggested we approach Cahn's book *The Harbinger*—with admiration at his ability to delve into such obscure and interesting facts, but not trusting our lives and our walk with the Lord to them. Neither proves anything. Yet any true believer who doesn't already know that God's judgment upon America is already being made manifest may be stirred to take their faith more seriously and to get right with God. That is essentially Cahn's stated purpose, as is the

¹http://judaism.about.com/library/3_askrabbi_o/bl_simmons_hebcaljubilee.htm)

stated purpose of all those who are sounding this latest Doomsday prophecy.

We can certainly find no fault in that, except that when salvation is tied to false prophecy or unsubstantiated predictions, the Gospel loses its flavor.

Asteroids, Comets, Meteors

Coinciding with this year of shemitah are reports that a prophet of God has predicted that a large object from the heavens will strike the earth in September, and that Barack Obama will be killed by the ensuing calamity. Following are some pertinent excerpts from “prophet” Efrain Rodriguez’s appearance on *The Prophecy Club* in May, 2014:

I am the brother Efrain Rodriguez. God called me prophet when I was only 16 years old. The message that you will see and listen to tonight is not fiction. It’s a message that you will see with your own eyes....

Tonight I will tell you the plan of God. The American nation will start feeling the strike at 2:00 AM, beginning by the city of Miami. At 5:00 AM in Miami they will begin to receive the strike of a great tsunami. But before that they will be receiving the cause of an atomic explosion that we spoke of in the area of Puerto Rico. They will be receiving an expansive wave all over the United States. It will hit our nation first.

This is why I’m here speaking to you and all those who are at home listening to this message.

This expansive wave will be entering the nation at 300 miles per hour just wind. Which means God has shown many people who are here, in their dreams, about this event over this nation. The reason I will tell you at last. This expansive wave will be the first one to come in. It will lift off houses; it will create fires because of the gas that is consumed throughout this nation in the houses. It will be destroying everything in its way.

We informed the president of all of these events. When we informed them, they made preparations for our island first. They sent FEMA’s people to Puerto Rico about three years ago I sent the message out all over Puerto Rico day and night without stopping. I am very tired, but I cannot rest because many people are going to die.

Rodriguez uses the term “atomic explosion,” but he is speaking of an asteroid that he says will strike Puerto Rico. His message is being relayed throughout the Internet by many who believe him to be a true prophet of God. Here are the pertinent aspects of his prediction as he originally laid them out in a video published on October 4, 2013:

To all brothers in the faith. May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you that read this prophetic message of the living God about an event



“Prophet Efrain Rodriguez

that soon shall take place in Puerto Rico and the surrounding Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean.

I was named by God Himself 40 years ago to be His prophet to inform His people of His plans, and to declare with great detail what the Lord will do against the wickedness that prevails over His people in all Puer-

to Rico and the world, just as it happened with the prophet Jeremiah....

I would never say these things of my own accord. I say these things because God has truly revealed them to me. I am informing the church of Jesus Christ in the island of Puerto Rico that this is final and true on behalf of the living God. It does not matter how much you pray, or fast or scream; no matter what you do, God will not change His mind.

The Lord told me that this is just like Pharaoh’s dream. It will happen. This means that this is serious for God, and God will soon bring it to pass.

There will be three judgments or events happening in the same night. Holding my head up high, I can say that God revealed to me things that no eye has ever seen in these times. He showed me a huge rock—an asteroid entering from the municipality of Arecibo in Puerto Rico, and exiting through Mayaguez. As it exits Mayaguez, the asteroid will collide with the island called Mona to the west of Puerto Rico. Then the asteroid will enter the ocean and collide with a seismic fault which will then cause an earthquake of 12 points on the Richter Scale. At the same time, this impact will produce a large wave which will enter the island of Puerto Rico immediately. This wave will enter into cities that no one will believe possible—cities like Marias and Maricao where Satanists sacrifice new-born babies.

Once this asteroid enters our skies there will be no time to do anything. There will be nowhere to run. All we can do at that point is give ourselves to God spiritually. If the Lord has not told anyone to get up and go before this happens, then don’t move. Stay in your home. All we can do is prepare for what’s coming.

I am speaking to God's people, as He told me that on that night many Christians will die. The impact of the asteroid will be such that it will feel like a nuclear explosion. God's priority in giving this message of judgment is so that all His people will understand the urgency and content of His message....

Thusly, I will first explain to Jesus Christ's Church. I say with all certainty that the 12 Richter Scale quake will be Jehovah God of the Universe Himself, executing this judgment in person, identically as He executed His judgment on King David. That is why the Trinity will have their feet touching the ground that night. They will be walking on the island, executing the judgment, very similar to when God visited Abraham to warn him about His destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah....

The massive wave will be moving at a speed of 400 miles per hour, according to a scientist that studies these phenomena. After the impact, the wave will be taking everything in its path to the Caribbean islands. It will be entering Miami, Florida, at around 5:00AM. It will make its way up the eastern United States, also the Gulf of Mexico and South America....

Scripture says that the Lord will not do anything until He first reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets. Thusly, God who is in Heaven is being faithful to His servants here in Puerto Rico, and to all the righteous in the island. For this reason, He told me, "My servant, soon I will take My servant Yiye Ávila, and I will allow for My people to honor him."

He said, "As soon as Yiye is laid to rest, immediately I will send My judgment to the island."

It is in God's time, not ours.

The Lord will do with those that say that they are of His Church as He did with His people that came out of Egypt. Those who were 20 years old, or older, did not see the Promised Land. He told me that the majority of the Christians in the island would perish that night, and that a new flock would enter the Church, including many who do not know God. They will give Jesus their hearts. And together with the righteous that remain alive, will become the new Church of Jesus Christ.

Rodriguez states that the Trinity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—will actually set foot on the earth and personally execute this judgment.

Efrain Rodriguez's prediction is being widely broadcast by Lyn Leahz who, according to her website, is "a Christian End Times Author and Journalist who, as a watchman, exposes evil."

Leahz claims to have found out from a "reliable source" that some large object from space could strike the earth in September. She says she got her information from a friend

who is retired military, who got information from an unnamed friend in a foreign country. Following his lead, she says she went online and found information on a comet that is about two-and-a-half miles wide somewhere in space.

Leahz claims to have had visions of mountains of dead people, leading her to believe that a comet is going to strike the earth, but that it will break up in the atmosphere. Even so, it will cause a "mass extinction event" that will "obliterate the U.S.A." Says Leahz:

It's going to cause every fault zone to quake and shake—the New Madrid; the seismic zone in the Northwest; the San Andreas—every single, solitary one. The United States of America is going to be devastated—ripped into pieces. Not just in half, but it's going to be ripped apart.

In another message, Leahz speaks of other "prophets" who have confirmed what she claims to have seen.

I can only tell you the source that told me has always given me accurate information. He is in the know; he is retired military....

Anyhow, we've been hearing so much about an asteroid hitting the earth. And then you have prophet Efrain's prophecy about an asteroid or a meteor. So anyhow, I talked to my friend....

Well, he gave me more information than this, but I'm not showing that to you. He did give me the name of it.

So I went online and this particular body is—or heavenly body is—two-and-a-half miles wide. It's not an asteroid; it's a comet. And according to the real-time data that we're shown online, it's nowhere in even proximity to us, or would even come in contact with us.

So I contacted my friend again, and I said, "Hey, I found this on the website and it shows real-time, and it doesn't even show—and you can go all the way through by date—and it doesn't show, we're far behind it never even shows us in the pathway of this. What's up with that?"

And he said, "Well, the information I gave you is from my friend, and this friend is in another country, and I guess works in that industry that would know such a thing, and he said he would find out.

I said, "Yeah, I need confirmation because I want to do a video on this and tell everybody about it, and so I need some sort of confirmation."

So he did contact me last night and said that he spoke to his friend and did confirm it; it is this particular comet. What is being shown online is not correct; not real; not true. So that's why I'm purposefully not giving you the name of it, because of that information, okay?

But so you know, it's two-and-a-half miles wide. It's pretty big. Now, even if it broke up, when it got into our atmosphere it would still do mass damage.

Now here's what he said about it. Again, some things I'm not showing you on here. I've deleted.

He told me, "This is why countries are moving equipment and missiles around. They're relocating them for a path of least resistance in order to shoot at the comet." Kind of like last resort.

Leahz has a dire warning for the United States:

A good friend of mine who is in the public eye a lot right now, prophetically speaking—in fact you would know him if I said who he was—he has a very good friend who is a prophet who always gives him information, and his prophecies have always been accurate. I told my good friend about this, and my friend happened to receive a phone call from his friend who has the gift of prophecy.

Well, that friend had called him with a message about a catastrophic natural disaster or something to that effect coming to the United States in September. But before his friend told him, my friend began telling him about the message I had given him.

His friend said, "Well now it all makes sense."

He said, "I called you with a message from the Lord, that there's going to be a major catastrophic disaster in September. It's going to devastate the United States of America."

So there's the information for you. I'm just being a watchman and giving you the information that has been given to me.

So we're to place our faith not only in an anonymous friend, but in an anonymous friend of a friend? That wouldn't stand up in a court of law; why should it move believers to make judgments, especially when Leahz doesn't claim to speak prophetically.

She may not make that claim, but she doesn't mind pushing people to hysteria with headlines such as this: "Confirmed-2.5 Mile Wide Comet Headed Toward Earth With Chilling Hellish Mystery Sounds."

It turns out that NASA was recently tracking a comet that made a circuit around the sun. Comet ISON (named for the International Scientific Optical Network, the project that discovered it) was first spotted in September, 2012. It is the only comet NASA has determined to be in the vicinity of our solar system. In October, 2013, scientists determined that "The size of ISON's nucleus could be a little over half a mile across—at the most."²

When ISON passed within 1.1 million miles of the sun's surface (classifying it as a "sungrazing comet"), it lost most

² Alfred McEwen, principal investigator for the HiRISE instrument at Arizona State University, in Tucson, AZ., <http://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/fire-vs-ice-the-science-of-ison-at-perihelion/#.VYnEafVhBc>

of its mass. (Comets are essentially dirty ice balls, swinging through our galaxy, the Milky Way, some rarely entering our solar system.) When ISON approached its perihelion (closest proximity to the sun) it was visible to NASA. But after it entered perihelion it was no longer visible, leading NASA's scientists to believe that the comet broke up. Although NASA has drawn no definite conclusions as to the fate of ISON, the agency doesn't consider it a viable comet at this point.

As for any other objects in space that might pose a threat to the earth, NASA reports none.

Efrain Rodriguez claims that he informed NASA of his prophecy, but that NASA has ignored his warnings. At the same time, however, he claims that the United States is preparing for the event he has predicted, and that nations are moving missiles into position to shoot down what he claims is a meteor (not a comet) on its way.

THE START OF THE GREAT TRIBULATION?

On her website, Leahz features a segment from *The Jim Bakker Show* posted in September, 2014, in which he interviews Mark Biltz, pastor of El Shaddai Ministries in Tacoma, Washington, and originator of the four-blood-moon theory. Biltz claims that the alleged seven-year Great Tribulation must be a shemithah cycle, and therefore, the Great Tribulation must begin at the end of the current shemithah cycle in September, 2015. If it doesn't begin then, it must begin seven years later, or seven years later than that, *ad infinitum*.

"But," Bakker says, "we'll be out of a generational period of time."

"That's my point," says Biltz. "And not only that, the very fact that we have these solar/moon eclipses, the end of this shemithah cycle. We have one year to prepare before the Tribulation....If you realize, just like the seven-day week, it doesn't start with a Thursday, the shemithah cycle—the tribulation will not start in the middle of a shemithah year cycle."

Biltz rests much of his understanding that "the super blood moon is the end of the seventh shemithah year, beginning, well actually, the Feast of Tabernacles is two-weeks into the first year of the Tribulation."

Biltz's conclusions rest a lot on Bible numerics, and he has done his research on events in the heavens and in the Stock Market that point to the number seven as significant. Space doesn't allow for an exhaustive treatise on these things, but remarkably, he points out that this shemithah year ends on Rosh Hashanah, September 13, 2015.

Well, of course. Rosh Hashanah is the Jewish New Year. It must begin at the end of every Jewish year, including every shemithah year. But what is significant, he says, is that "we have a solar eclipse on Rosh Hashanah."

True, there will be a solar eclipse on September 13, 2015, but according to NASA, it will be only a partial eclipse, visible in South Africa, Madagascar and Antarctica.³

Flabbergasted at Biltz's statements, Bakker states, "I don't know why, but I say this often on the program, because I've been the only preacher in America that I know of that talks about the sun and the moon going dark—and nine times the Bible warns it—'before the coming of the Lord.'"

I don't know what cave Bakker's been living in, but that's hard to believe. The Christian media, books, and the Internet are swarming with "prophets" warning of these "signs in the heavens."

The man does get excited. Practically shouting, he states, "God is specific! His numbers are always the same! Numerology will make you know God!"

Numbers may help us understand some things about God and His works, but His ways are still higher than our ways, and His thoughts higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

We do not know God through Bible numerology; we know God through the Word of God, both the Word of God incarnate—Yeshua ha Mashiach—and the written Word about the Messiah (Romans 10:17).

I'm not splitting hairs. This is important to understand in view of the emphasis on signs and wonders permeating Christianity today. Such careless words do nothing to strengthen faith; they move people's attention from the Word of God to how certain people interpret the positions of the stars, the planets, the sun and the moon. It borders on astrology—hidden mysteries known only to initiates.

It's as if Christianity has its own initiates into mysteries surrounding the Lord's second coming.

The conclusion drawn by Bakker, Biltz and co-host Zach Drew is that the beginning of the next shemitah year may be a Jubilee. Biltz admits he doesn't know if the next shemitah year will be a Jubilee year, but as we've seen, the next Jubilee year should be 2022. Yet these men believe that, according to Jeremiah 31, God is going to call His people Israel back to their land during a Jubilee year, which they say may be September, 2015 to September, 2016.

Because these men hold to some form of "pre-tribulation rapture" theory, they excitedly proclaim, "Get ready!"

They definitely seem to be expecting the Rapture to occur in September, 2015, according to their human reasoning.

Add to this the predictions of another alleged prophet by the name of Renee N. Moses who has set numerous dates for the Rapture, all of which, of course, have failed. Now she states:

"I am proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord from now until September 23, 2015, Yom Kippur, Day of Atonement."

"Starting September 24, 2015, I will be announcing the coming of the Glorious Kingdom and His Majesty."

Yet in another place she claims the Rapture will take place in December, 2016.

Another conclusion drawn by Bakker, *et al*, is that because about half of all Jews in the world reside in America, there must be an economic collapse that will spur the Jews here to return to Israel. This they tie into Jonathan Cahn's shemitah theory of financial collapse.

Wait a minute. It won't be an economic collapse that gathers all Israel from the nations; it will be the Lord Himself when He returns to the earth. But before that can happen, there must be the time for anti-Christ to reign, first over the territory given him by God, then, for three-and-one-half years over Jerusalem:

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that you not be suddenly disturbed in mind, nor be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by letter as from us, that the Day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day shall not come until there first comes a falling away, and that man of sin is revealed—the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4)


Before any of the things these so-called prophets predict can come to pass, the man of sin must first be revealed.

But to whom must he be revealed? He will be revealed only to God's elect—not to anyone else, because all others will be deceived by him. The last great deception would be so great that, if it were possible, even the very elect would be deceived, meaning that all others *will* be deceived.

After the man of sin has trodden Jerusalem underfoot for three-and-a-half years (the time of Jacob's Trouble), the Lord will return to destroy him and to establish His Millennial Kingdom, during which time He will call Israel back to the Land. (For details on these truths, see my book, *The Day of Yahweh*, Sword Publishers).

JADE HELM 15/FEMA CAMPS

What about the dire predictions surrounding Jade Helm 15 and the construction by FEMA of concentration camps with barbed wire facing inward atop their fences. Don't these things give credibility to the alleged prophecies we've addressed?

Why should they? Whatever the U.S. military is preparing for, or that FEMA is up to, has nothing to do with the year of shemitah, natural disasters or the Lord's return. They may be preparations for natural disasters, which would just be good government caring for the people. 

³ http://nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov/event-view.cfm?Event_ID=60374



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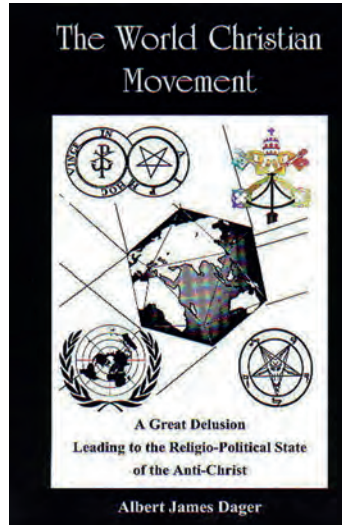
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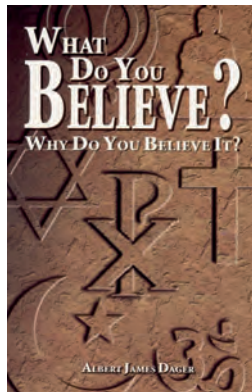
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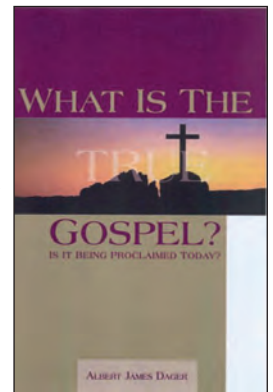
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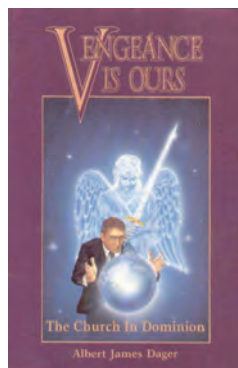
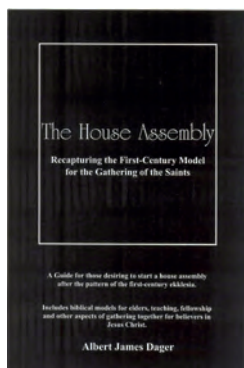
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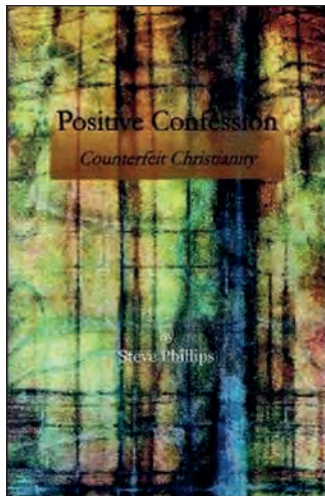
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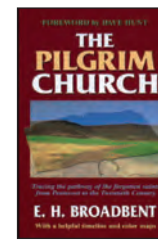
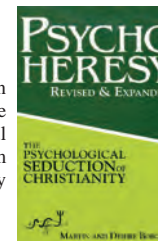
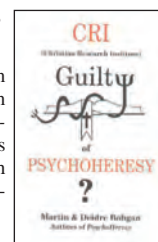
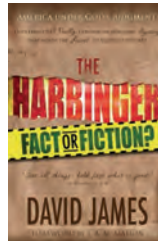
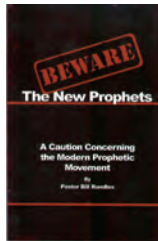
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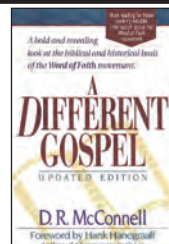
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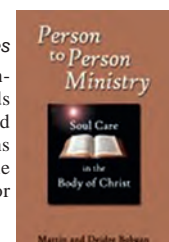
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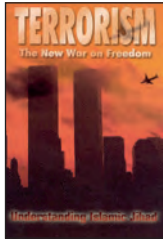
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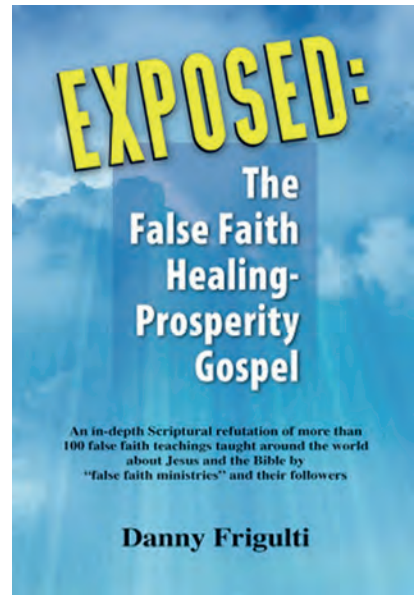
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CONCLUSION

All these Doomsday predictions are good for is to engender fear in people. Yes, some may be spurred to “get right with God,” but that’s up to the Lord to handle. As I’ve so often stated in relation to false teachings, false prophecies and false brethren, God can and will use whatever and whomever He chooses to use for His purposes. He will honor His Word no matter who speaks it or for what purpose they speak (Philippians 1:15-18). God uses evil for His purposes, but that doesn’t justify the evil.

I’m not saying these people are evil; they may be misguided because they have taken their eyes off God’s Word and have been distracted by alleged signs and wonders. It should be noted that these things are largely being promoted among and followed by Pentecostals and charismatics who, I’m sorry to say in all love, are not always the most discerning of brethren.

Yes, they are brethren, and I separate the gifts of the Spirit from the fleshly attempts to emulate them. I say this so the reader will know that I am not a cessationist, but that I believe we must be biblical in how we approach the gifts of the Spirit.

That said, one may legitimately ask how God would allow true believers to be deceived in light of Matthew 24:24.

None of these deceptions are that one prophesied by the Lord; it is yet to come. In the meantime, we are all subject to deceptions of various kinds, at least temporarily. All the more reason to keep our eyes on the Word of God, keeping a pure heart before Him and trusting in His Holy Spirit to give us understanding.

What about the “coincidences” of prophecies of doom, historical financial collapses, the four blood moons, a (partial) solar eclipse, all the turmoil in the world, etc., etc., all coinciding with the end of a shemitah cycle?

If one will look closely, one will find that these “prophets” build upon one another’s tales. Someone has a dream; God spoke to him. Someone else picks up on it, then broadcasts it, often without giving credit to the initial source.

Someone gets an idea in his head; God spoke to him. Ditto. Someone had a bad reaction to a meal; God spoke to him. Ditto.

People are susceptible to suggestion. Please forgive me, but this is especially true of Pentecostals and charismatics.

I’ve known more than one Pentecostal brother who has told me that God told him to do something. After that something goes wrong, God told him he made a mistake. Now God wants him to do just the opposite of what He told him to do the first time.

One dear brother insisted that God told him to marry a particular woman. The day after the wedding, God told him he shouldn’t have married her. God wanted him to get a divorce.

This is more common than one might think. Subjective reasoning often trumps the clear Word of God.

Which is more important? To learn about predictions from self-proclaimed “prophets,” or to live in obedience to God’s Word and exhibit the love toward others that He requires of us?

Do you ever get the idea that God may be joking around with us? That although He has established feasts for Israel at set times, and has set the heavens in motion to coincide with His feasts, and with human affairs and natural disasters, He is testing us to see if we will follow after these things or if we will remain true to His Word?

Then, too, might Satan be moving men to cry “Wolf!” at every nuanced “sign in the heavens” so that when the genuine time for testing comes people will say, “Yeah. Been there; done that”? Then, when the wolf is really at the door they will be unprepared.

When September morphs into October, and nothing happens, who wants to bet that these people, for the most part, will say they just missed it by their timing, but it’s still going to happen?

Oh, yes. Efrain Rodriguez’s “prophecy” was originally supposed to occur in September, 2013, by the way. In a video made in May, 2010, Rodriguez stated:

I was praying, asking God to give His servant Yiye Ávila, the great Puerto Rican evangelist, more time here on earth, because I knew that Yiye’s parting with the Lord, whenever it happened, was to be the sign that God had chosen for Puerto Rico as prelude to this judgment in order for His true small Church to be able to prepare itself, and would be able to escape to the mountains just like Lot did when the Lord’s angels told him where to go.

Scripture says that the Lord will not do anything until He first reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets. Thusly, God who is in Heaven is being faithful to His servants here in Puerto Rico, and to all the righteous in the island. For this reason, He told me, “My servant, soon I will take My servant Yiye Ávila, and I will allow for My people to honor him.”

He said, “As soon as Yiye is laid to rest, immediately I will send My judgment to the island.”

It has been over two years since Yiye Ávila died on June 28, 2013. When the “prophecy” failed to come to pass in 2013 “as soon as Yiye” was laid to rest, Rodriguez moved the date to September, 2014. Failing that, he moved it to September, 2015.

One would think Christians would learn from all the false prophecies of the Lord’s coming over the centuries. Yet today’s Christian teachers continue to promote Rodriguez’s “prophecy” all over the Internet and Christian media, making merchandise of God’s people with sensationalistic pronunciamientos. ❖

Breaking the Chains of Ministry



By
Albert James Dager

FOR A SHORT season, beginning in 1979, the enigmatic folk-rock singer Bob Dylan experimented with Christianity, releasing two albums with quasi-Christian songs, one of which especially speaks truth. That song, *Gotta Serve Somebody*, tells us that no matter what station we hold in life—even if among the world’s elite—we’re “gonna serve somebody.” The refrain goes:

But you’re gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed;
You’re gonna have to serve somebody;
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord,
But you’re gonna have to serve somebody.

Nobody can speak authoritatively on where Dylan stands today, but it seems as if his brief foray into Christian-themed music has passed, and his beliefs rest more in a “superior power.” He never did claim to be “born again.”

Yet whatever prompted him to write *Gotta Serve Somebody*, those lyrics bring to recollection the Lord’s words that (no matter who we serve) we cannot serve two masters:

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon. (Matthew 6:24)

So whom do we serve? And what, exactly, does it mean to serve?

Writing to the believers in Rome, the apostle Paul began with these words: “Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God” (Romans 1:1).

He iterated that greeting to Titus: “Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s chosen, and the acknowledging of the truth that follows godliness” (Titus 1:1).

In the opening salutations of their letters to the saints, Peter, James and Jude followed suit, calling themselves servants of God or Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:1; James 1:1; Jude 1).

There are several Greek words translated “servant” in Scripture, but the one chosen by each of these apostles to describe themselves is *doulos*—a slave. They were actually calling themselves slaves of God and of Jesus Christ.

They did not choose, for instance, the word *diakonon* (1 Timothy 3:10-13), which would be one who serves at tables or performs menial tasks. Nor did they choose *oiketes* (Romans 14:4), a menial servant, usually of a household. All four apostles chose to identify themselves as slaves—those who have no will of their own in performing their responsibilities to others.

It may be said that all slaves are servants, but not all servants are slaves. Still, if we are truly desirous of serving others—especially our heavenly Father—we must submit ourselves to their will. We cannot truly serve anyone if we wish to do it according to our own will. Otherwise it would not be service, but self-promotion in the quest of favor from those we serve.

The difference between a good waiter and a bad waiter in a restaurant is the degree to which either chooses to meet the needs and desires of his customers. The more a waiter submits his will to the will of his customer, the better service he will be found giving (and the more likely he will receive an ample gratuity).

Perhaps more important than the service itself is the motive behind the service. In terms of worldly service, we expect that people will bend their wills to the wills of their customers for the pragmatic reason that they will be better rewarded. And there is certainly nothing wrong with that—in business relations. But there is a higher calling for believers in Christ, even in business—the calling to serve from a motive of love, and to work as unto God and not as unto men (Colossians 3:23). In our service to our heavenly Father especially, our motive counts for considerably more. And thus, so do the works we perform for Him.

Is our motive to receive greater reward when His Kingdom comes to the earth? Or is our motive to serve Him according to His will regardless of any reward, simply because we love Him and want to please Him no matter the cost? If we examine ourselves before beginning any task for Him, it is hoped that we will discover that our motive is the latter rather than the former. The latter will result in greater reward, but we leave that in His hands; we do not put the reward before our desire to serve Him even as a slave, bound and without a will of our own.

It may be argued that as believers in Jesus and joint heirs to the Kingdom of Heaven, we are not slaves, as Paul writes in Galatians 4:1-7:

Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ from a servant, though he is lord of all, but is under tutors and governors until the time appointed by the father.

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law, so that we might receive the adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, "Abba," "Father." Therefore you are no longer a servant, but a son. And if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

The important thing is to look at these verses as reflecting God's point of view toward us. He has graciously adopted us into His family through faith in His only-begotten Son, and we are eternally grateful for that. Yet although He considers us His sons, we should consider ourselves His slaves.

The good news is that although we are slaves to Him, He does not act as a slave master toward us. And this is an understanding that, sadly, eludes many who desire to serve Him.

Our heavenly Father is just that—a father to us. He loves us and desires that we come to Him with full assurance that His will is better for us than our own will. His will is that we be led by the Holy Spirit:

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, "Abba, Father."

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs—heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him—that we may also be glorified together. (Romans 8:14-17)

This is encouraging, seeing how our heavenly Father perceives our relationship with Him. So although we perceive ourselves as slaves to Him and to Jesus Christ, He does not put upon us unreasonable demands. This is the crux of our service: God moves gently upon our consciousness to tell us what He wants of us. We respond by following His orders without compulsion, but cheerfully, if so be that we truly love Him.

Problems arise when we lose sight of His love for us and think that we must serve Him with such fervor that we burn out and harm our health or our relationships with family, friends and brethren in Christ. How often I've heard of

ministers who have left serving God because they couldn't take the burden. But it wasn't God who put the burden on them; it was their own misplaced understanding of what God expects of His children.

We must not be afraid to take the time necessary to live life. We still need to eat, sleep and enjoy our familial and friendly relations. We still have to shop for the things we need (or even just want sometimes). We still need times of recreation and refreshing of our souls and bodies.

Some seem to believe that everything they do must have a ministerial purpose. They won't take time to do those necessary things for themselves, so they either put that burden on others to do for them, or they hire someone to do them. Their service to our loving Father becomes a burden and often a joyless exercise in futility.

If we cannot serve Him with joy, then we'd do better not to serve Him at all. Otherwise it is a work of the flesh and panders to our self-pride.

Some believers pride themselves in their service to God. They brag to themselves, if not to others, of how hard they work for the Kingdom of God. They sacrifice others to their religious ego, often alienating their own wives and children who need them more than those to whom they minister. Some have sacrificed their marriages, wondering why their wives would leave them. After all, can't their wives understand that God's work must come first?

Don't get me wrong. Our Father doesn't want us to be lazy, or to work for Him in a haphazard manner, not taking seriously the tasks He has set before us. But if the joy has left us, or if things are getting out of control, we must question if the task before us was set by Him or by our religious spirit.

Maybe the secular song isn't so far off: "Don't worry; be happy."

Worry. That's another bugaboo that plagues believers. Worry over finances; worry over how others see us; worry over the time needed to meet what we may perceive as our Father's deadlines when, in truth, the deadlines are arbitrarily imposed by our own lack of faith.

Especially for those who depend upon the financial support of others for their ministry, we may be tempted to think that unless we produce at a consistent rate, the support will fall off. And this could lead to one of the worst temptations—to serve in order to receive support, rather than to look to the support as a means to serve.

Succumbing to this insidious temptation places Mammon before God, and reveals lack of faith in His ability and desire to sustain us. Many an initially well-intentioned public ministry has become a "money-grubbing" enterprise because the minister tried to build a religious empire rather than be content with the small things first. Remember the servants to whom the Lord said, "You have been faithful over a few things; I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:14-23).

We often focus on the unfaithful servant who buried the talent given to him, as we must. But we may miss the truth that the Lord first gives us with small things to do before giving us big things. Sometimes He wants us to continue in small things for longer than we would like.

The number of followers and the size of a bank account are not reliable measures of whether or not we are faithful. It begins with our hearts and a deep-seated desire to be faithful to begin with.

I'm not relating anything I haven't struggled with myself. Our soulish nature is quick to take advantage if we do not purposely submit to the Spirit of God in all things. We must not allow personal zeal to run ahead of the Holy Spirit

I recall a number of years after I had given my life to the Lord that, for lack of consistent fellowship, I had gone back into the world, focusing on making a living and trying to get ahead in life. I was selling advertising for a small company that eventually went nowhere, but I was doing okay for myself.

One day as I left work I found a piece of paper on my windshield. It was a Gospel tract from a Christian foundation that ministered to street kids in Hollywood, California. I thought to myself that I should go there sometime and get my life back on track with the Lord.

I called the phone number on the tract and spoke with the wife of the minister. She assured me that they proclaimed the true Gospel of faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. This spurred me further to want to go, even though it was a bit of a drive from my home.

On the evening that I determined to go to the meeting for the first time, it began to pour rain. I lay on the sofa feeling tired and listless, still wanting to go, but finding it difficult to get up. Suddenly, without any thought on my part, I found myself jumping off the sofa and heading out the door.

When I got to the house on a side street off Hollywood Boulevard, I found a lot of people—mostly young—singing praises and standing with uplifted arms to the Lord. I immediately felt at home and knew that I belonged there. For a few months I returned almost every evening, joining the people on the street, witnessing to kids caught on drugs and various other vices.

Some things happened in the meetings that disturbed me somewhat, but I was still relatively young in the faith, and just trusted the minister. What really came out of it for me was a renewed devotion to the Lord, and a newly-found zeal to serve Him. And so I began to pray consistently and earnestly: "Lord, use me! Lord, use me!"

One evening, as I was heading home from one of the meetings, I was listening on my car radio to a program titled *Night Sounds*, hosted by the now late Bill Pierce. It was one of my favorite programs, offering quiet, worshipful music focused on Bill's smooth trombone. I would often listen while looking at the night sky and wondering in awe at the majesty of God.

That one evening as I drove home, I was praying, "Lord, use me! Lord, use me!" The music faded and Bill came on to share some wise words of comfort and encouragement, as was his usual practice. The very first words he said were, "Some people pray, 'Lord, use me,' when what they ought to be praying is 'Lord, make me usable.'"

That hit me between the eyes, and my prayer changed from that point on. I knew I wasn't ready to be used by the Lord, at least not to any significant degree.

After some months I felt the Lord leading me away from that street ministry, but I continued to seek the Lord's direction for my life.

As it turned out, that street ministry, the Tony and Susan Alamo Christian Foundation, ended up as a cult, with the Alamos virtually enslaving the kids they were supposed to be serving by making them work in one of the foundation's businesses with little or no pay. The Alamos lived in a mansion, served by some of the kids, while the kids lived in cramped quarters in less-than-ideal conditions in one of the foundation's group homes.

Eventually, Tony Alamo ended up in prison for tax evasion and other serious financial crimes, and Susan passed away.

But in spite of their shortcomings, I must say that the Lord used that work for a time to pull me back to Himself.

I've related this personal testimony to encourage those who desire to serve the Lord to first make sure they are usable, and that their motives are absolutely pure before Him.

Be sure that you are a slave to Him and not to the ministry He may entrust to you. Serve Him, and not your own religious spirit. ❖

Campolo

(Continued from page 5)

Really?

And he is held up as one of the most brilliant and astute spokesmen for Christianity? His books sell on the Christian market in the millions; he speaks at numerous conferences, seminars and churches; he is admired by hundreds of thousands of Christians—leaders and "lay persons" alike.

But he didn't know what was right regarding the conflict over same-sex marriage and its inclusion in the churches? To whom was he praying to come up with this perversion?

How about reading Scripture and taking it at face value without giving ear to ungodly sex-driven demons?

Campolo has always been a false teacher, but so popular that to point that out to most Christians would bring the wrath of Satan upon one's head.

Now we'll see just how popular he remains after coming out in favor of same-sex marriage and its acceptance in the churches.

I won't hold my breath hoping that enough Christians will be so disconcerted that they'll stop buying his goods. ❖

MINISTRY
from the
INSIDE



How to Have a Successful, Effective Ministry While You are in Prison, or Elsewhere

Christian Inmate's Manual

Russell Nestor

A REVIEW

By Albert James Dager

MINISTRY TO PRISONERS is a unique calling by God. There are prison chaplains available to virtually all prisoners, but for the most part secularist policies deny them the opportunity to proclaim Jesus as the only way to the Father. Many chaplains are not

true believers in Jesus as the only way to God to begin with. It is left to individuals called by the Lord to offer spiritual sustenance to the incarcerated.

Besides those believers from the outside who are called by the Lord to minister in prisons, He is raising from the inside many who have given their lives to Christ and are in a unique position to minister to fellow inmates.

One such inmate is a brother by the name of Russell Nestor, who has written *Ministry from the Inside*, which offers excellent insight on how believers should conduct their lives and service to others.

In a way, it's unfortunate that he limits his target audience to those ministering to prisoners, specifically those on the inside themselves. The insights he offers are essential to *all* believers, whether or not they minister to prisoners, or even if they have no particular ministry apart from their everyday contacts. (A study guide is also available.)

This book is so rich in so many areas, that I couldn't possibly do it justice by pointing out just a few of Russell's gems. But I felt it necessary to provide at least a few of the sage instructions that he offers, such as these that follow:

While offenses come in many different forms, your job, in ministry, is to make sure that you, personally are not the offensive factor....even though your Message may be offensive, the way you say it never should be! If your presentation is offensive, it means your pride has infected your side of the conversation.

Besides your relationship with the Lord, your testimony and your ministry are the most important things for you to protect....What do people say about you? How are you perceived by others around you?

Here is what they should not be saying about you: He's a Christian, but he's really grouchy or grumpy or short-tempered at times. No one wants to deal with you if you are offensive to them. Where do these bad traits have their roots? That is right, in that old pride! Do you become defensive easily, also? Guess what that is from? It is that pride again. These traits are testimony-wreckers! As well, here's a partial list of things that will absolutely destroy your testimony as a true Christian and a minister of the Gospel: Profani-

ty, fighting, porn, alcohol, drugs, knives, fornication, insubordination, intemperance, write-ups, gossiping, laziness, "gunning", ogling women, flirting, "snitching," racism, greed, etc.

When you are teaching and preaching the Message of freedom from sin through the Gospel, your life must reflect that you indeed have been freed from sin and bondage. Living a pattern of sin is terrible enough to devastate your effectiveness as an example of Jesus' saving power, but you must also realize that individual acts of sin also tarnish your credibility. Remember: do not take it upon yourself to live a Holy life. Trust God to manifest and display Jesus' Righteousness in your life through the power of the Holy Spirit as a testimony to His saving and keeping Grace.

Russell hits on numerous human failures that plague not only prison inmates, but those on the outside: keep your word no matter what; honesty in all things, but be wise in what you share; control your tongue; let the Bible they read be you.

Russell stresses a strong prayer life, study of Scripture, consistent fellowship with other believers, even personal fitness and hygiene, for those who wish to be effective in their testimony to others. At the same time, he warns against legalism and unrighteous judgment.

I offer only two caveats: 1) Russell states that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by speaking in "tongues"; 2) he believes tithing is still a command for believers in Christ.

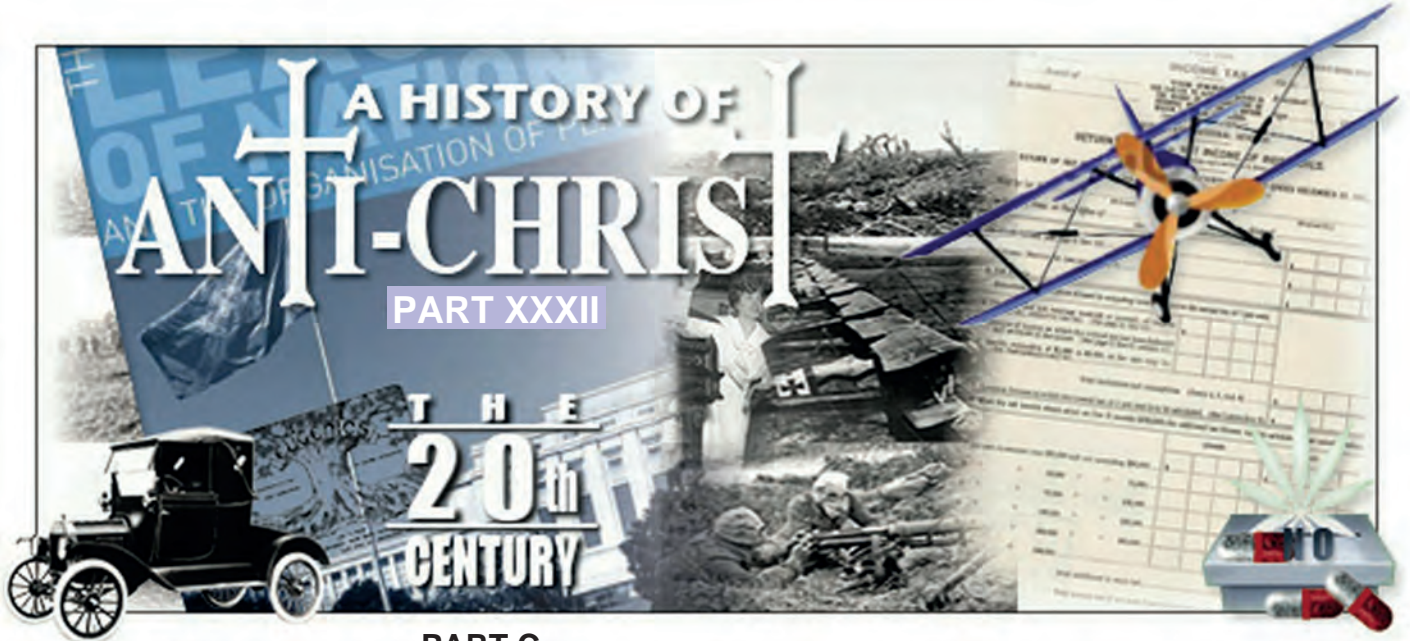
In the first instance, there are many Holy Spirit-led brethren who do not speak in another language; in the second instance, tithing is part of the Mosaic Law to which we are not bound. I can overlook these for the overall value of the book, however.

Russell found favor with John and Andi Bayer who head Free at Last Prison Ministries, and who decided to publish his book and offer it free of charge to prisoners. The Bayers are approved to minister in 65 prisons in 22 states.

Free at Last has already distributed 2,500 copies to inmates and wardens. Burl Cain, warden at Louisiana State Penitentiary (a.k.a. Angola) has given *Ministry from the Inside* high praise, saying, "This book is a MUST READ for any prison official and offender. Best guide I've seen other than the Bible."

The Bayers are asking the larger Christian community, especially churches, for financial help to print and distribute the books to as many local, state and federal prisons as possible. Says John Bayer, "God is doing something here. There is a great harvest of souls coming out from behind prison bars in these latter days."❖

The Bayers may be reached at Free at Last Prison Ministries
PO Box 84051, Baton Rouge, LA 70884.
Email: bayer7@bellsouth.net.



PART C

THERE APPEARED TO be a lull in world events during the second decade of the 20th century. Nations were still enjoying times of relative peace; colonization by the major European powers seemed to be going well, although stirrings of protest against colonization began to rise. The American and French Revolutions gave impetus to those stirrings of protest as people in third-world nations thought they could somehow build prosperity into their lives if they could just shake off the white man’s dominance.

They failed to understand that prosperity is not automatically achieved through freedom. With freedom comes responsibility to act in a certain manner that engenders prosperity. The United States of America was uniquely suited to the attainment of prosperity because it was founded upon certain biblical principles that recognized the unalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as God-given rather than bestowed by government. Without the biblical ethic as the foundation for any nation’s freedom, the people are quickly relegated to poverty and injustice, and the freedom they sought evaporates quickly. That has been the sad result of independence gained from European and American colonization over the course of the 20th century. And within Europe and America it is the sad result of these nations having moved progressively away from that biblical ethic toward the paganism from which they had been delivered by the Gospel.

It is anti-Christ’s design to bring the masses under the control of the few dedicated to global dominance. To attain that, it’s been necessary to foment discontent with anything associated with biblical faith. And although the European and even the American form of colonization had many ungodly elements, the Lord did use colonization to bring the Gospel to the lost within those nations that were otherwise often exploited for their natural resources.

Truth be told, without European expansionism, a far greater percentage of the world’s population would still be living in dirt and eating meager, restricted diets than are doing so today.

Anti-Christ doesn’t care whether a nation is materially prosperous or not. His desire is that the Gospel be rejected. But with the Gospel came the material blessings that accompany civilization. Take away the Gospel, and poverty will eventually come upon even the most civilized and prosperous nation.

The fullness of the colonized nations’ revolt against their European and American masters would not be attained for decades, but the early part of the century had its share of discontent and rebellion.

1911-1920

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Nuclear Science

In 1911, New Zealand-born British physicist Ernest Rutherford developed a model of the atom that replaced the model generally accepted among physicists. He theorized that the electrical charge of atoms is concentrated within a very small nucleus. He had previously received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1908 “for his investigations into the disintegration of the elements, and the chemistry of radioactive substances.” His research into the atom resulted in his being deemed “the father of nuclear physics.”

It is Rutherford’s experiments in nuclear physics that would lead to his splitting of the atom in 1917, which, in turn, would lead to many benefits for mankind through further nuclear research. Anti-Christ would, however, use that same research to prompt men into experimenting with the destructive side of nuclear physics, developing the atom bomb.

Mass Production of Automobiles

1913 saw the innovation of assembly-line construction of automobiles under the guidance of Henry Ford. Having already produced by hand the Model A, Model N, and Model T, Ford took ideas from watch makers, gunsmiths, bicycle makers and meat packers, and melded them into a new production line for the Model T.

The ability to mass produce the Model T made it so affordable that by 1922 half the automobiles in America were Model Ts. The rugged little car opened the door for Americans to travel great distances over rough terrain (there were few roads outside of city environs for some time). Before long, other car manufacturers followed suit with assembly-line production, and the automobile became an inexpensive mode of travel. Perhaps more than any other invention for its time, the automobile became the most influential medium for change in mores, prosperity and further technological achievements.

Anti-Christ was quick to find nefarious uses for the automobile as it was used to great extent in the transport of illicit drugs, prostitution and in the breakdown of morals among young people who found freedom from parental oversight, not to mention the carnage as millions have found death on the highways.

As with all things material, the automobile is not evil in itself; it is how men use it that makes it good or evil.

Warfare

Airplanes made dramatic advances during the second decade of the 20th century. Powered flight was only nine years old when airplanes began to be used for military purposes. The first military reconnaissance flight was undertaken by Italy in Libya on October 23, 1911, during the Italian-Turkish War (September 1911 - October 1912). The first bombing mission took place just over a week later on November 1, 1911.

Soon aerial warfare would determine battles during World War I. The French were the first to solve the problem of inaccurate shooting due to lack of a steady mount for guns when, in 1914, pilot Roland Garros attached a fixed machine gun to the front of his plane. But in July, 1915, German Luftstreikräfte Leutnant Kurt Wintgens, scored the first aerial combat victory with a purpose-built fighter plane that carried a synchronized machine gun capable of firing rounds between the spinning propeller blades.

The history of aviation—particularly military aviation—chronicles how anti-Christ would use this otherwise beneficial tool called the airplane for the destruction of millions of lives throughout 20th century and beyond.

Also in 1912, the first military tank was patented by Australian inventor Lancelot de Mole.

Motion Pictures

In 1912 motorized movie cameras were invented, replacing hand-cranked cameras. Now men could produce mo-

tion pictures without the jerky, fast-motion characteristic of earlier cameras. And anti-Christ’s use of another otherwise benign instrument could be more realistic and attractive, particularly when it came to sex and violence (with words and music, yet).

Methamphetamine

On December 24, 1912, Merck and Co. Inc., filed for a patent for a styptic medication—a vasoconstrictor known as hydrastinine. Listed in the application as a chemical intermediate was 3,4-methylene-dioxy-methamphetamine (also known as “Meth,” “MDMA,” “ecstasy,” “E,” “X,” or “XTC”). Meth is a psychoactive drug that has no known medical properties, and is not found in nature; it must be synthesized in a laboratory.

It has become one of anti-Christ’s most effective means to destroy people psychologically, physically and physiologically.

Eugenics

The study of eugenics, which was introduced in the 1890s by Sir Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, made a considerable advance with the first International Congress of Eugenics in London in 1912. According to Galton, “Eugenics is the study of the agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations either physically or mentally.”

Eugenics is a science devoted to the alteration of human genes in order to produce a “better humanity.” The process involves the elimination of “dysgenic qualities,” or bad traits, whether physical or mental, through scientific experimentation with the human genome.

In 1912, a “Study and Report on the Best Practical Means of Cutting Off the Defective Germplasm in the Human Population,” stated:

Society must look upon the germ-plasm as belonging to society and not merely to the individual who carries it.

This sentiment went hand-in-hand with the emerging Marxist socio-political philosophy undergirded by atheism. Without God in the picture, the highest moral agency becomes the collectivist state. Children would no longer be considered extensions of their parents, but extensions of the state—property of the state to be guided and indoctrinated with humanist reasoning.

Eugenics began in England and quickly spread to the United States where experimentation on physically and mentally disabled people would result in horrific exercises in torture and euthanasia. The U.S. model for eugenics would later be adopted by Adolph Hitler in his quest to produce his “master race.”

Eugenics would also form the basis for Margaret Sanger’s organization, Planned Parenthood, through which she advocated the sterilization and abortion of less-than-desirable people such as Negroes whom she considered inferior be-

ings less advanced along the evolutionary path. Planned Parenthood has become the foremost proponent of abortion-on-demand for anyone who wishes to terminate a baby's life in (and lately outside) the womb. This is particularly encouraged should pre-natal tests determine that the child might be "defective."

Abortion and eugenics as a whole have been used by anti-Christ to kill millions upon millions of innocent people throughout the world in an attempt to destroy man created in God's image.

POLITICS

Other than World War I, the most significant and far-reaching event in the realm of politics during this decade was the Bolshevik Revolution that destroyed the Romanov Tsarist regime in Russia. Little publicized today is the fact that the Bolshevik Revolution did not directly unseat the Tsar. Prior to the Bolsheviks, and while Russia was embroiled in World War I, Tsar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate after the first of two 1917 Russian revolutions were supported by Russian Army forces. The Tsar was replaced by a provisional government under Prince Georgy Lvov, which was an alliance of liberals and socialists desirous of political reform. Ruling alongside the democratically-elected executive and constituent assembly was the Petrograd Soviet under an arrangement called Dual Power. The Bolshevik Revolution followed in October, 1917, bringing changes in Russia's social structure and setting the stage for the creation of the Soviet Union. The barbarous Bolsheviks assassinated Nicholas and murdered his family to ensure that the Romanov line of succession would never present an opportunity for revival of the Tsarist regime.

The atheistic philosophy of Marxism would provide the philosophical underpinnings of communism. This gave anti-Christ a strong police state and military that would crush biblical faith throughout Russia. The future Union of Soviet Socialist Republics would spread throughout Eastern Europe and influence large parts of Asia including China, Korea and Vietnam.

WARFARE

The true causes of World War I are virtually unknown to the masses. The cause put forth by most historians is tension over territory in the Balkans. Austria-Hungary competed with Serbia and Russia for territory and influence in the region and they pulled the rest of the Great Powers into the conflict through their various alliances and treaties. The catalyst, we are told, was the June 28, 1914, assassination of Austro-Hungary's Archduke Franz Ferdinand by 19-year-old Gavrilo Princip, a Serbian national acting on the orders of the secret Serbian society called Black Hand, which was backed by Serbian military officers. The alleged purpose was to take over the Austria-Hungarian south-Slav provinces so they could be melded into Greater Serbia (Yugoslavia). One

must question why the assassination of the Archduke of Austro-Hungary would spark a world war.

Ostensibly, it is because of certain alliances that compelled first Germany to ally with Austria, who shortly after declared war on Serbia. For obscure reasons, Germany decided to declare war against France, while Russia was making military preparations in support of Serbia. On August 1, 1914, Germany declared war against Russia. The next day, Germany and the Ottoman Empire signed a treaty, creating the Ottoman-German Empire. Two days later, Britain declared war on Germany in response to Germany's threat to Belgium if Belgium did not allow access to German troops in their campaign.

But what was the real cause of the war, and of the U.S. shift in foreign policy which has since kept us embroiled in war after war without a real threat to our national security?

To understand, we must again visit the matter of Babel, and anti-Christ's ages-old quest to unite mankind into a global mass prepared to challenge the Kingdom of God on earth when the Lord returns. For that to happen, national sovereignty must be surrendered to a global governing entity formed in response to nation vs. nation conflicts.

By the second decade of the 1900s, man's science and technology had advanced sufficiently to allow for global communications and speedy travel (relative to its time) across the globe. The stage was set for a "war to end all wars" which would condition the nations to accept a global governing body.

The first attempt was the League of Nations, formed after World War I to resolve international conflicts. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the League of Nations was the alleged brainchild of President Woodrow Wilson, an internationalist, as part of his Fourteen Points, of which Article XIV stated, "A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small states alike."

Although the League of Nations was Wilson's brainchild (as far as the public were meant to know), the U.S. Congress refused to ratify the treaty, and the U.S. never became a member. Thus, the life of anti-Christ's first attempt at globalization was cut short due to the still strong isolationist influences in Congress. Although the people were manipulated to move toward involvement in the war, they were not yet ready to surrender their sovereignty to an international body politic.

We know, however, that it was not the Lord's timing for such an organization. That would be the United Nations at a later date, which would set the stage for the anti-Christ's kingdom of the future.

As for the real reason for World War I, the secret powers behind governments, controlled by an international cabal of super-capitalist industrial and banking barons given to

the satanic deception embodied in a Freemasonry corrupted by subversive members of the Illuminati, were setting the stage for the moral and spiritual destruction of Western Civilization which had been established upon the biblical ethic found in God's written Word. At the time, Britain was the unchallenged "Christian" nation on whose empire the sun never set. Britannia ruled the waves, but that could not be allowed to continue. Britain's use in the globalist plans of the Illuminati had run its course. Now Britain's supremacy had to be tempered via revolution in its colonies and the sapping of her military might through warfare in the causes of other nations. Such wars destroy both the morale and the morals of a nation, as the ensuing history of the Allies after WWI has shown.

Now it was time for the United States to rise in military supremacy for a time in order to lead it into constant conflicts that would eventually destroy its morale and morals. For that reason America's policy of isolationism must be overturned. And the best way for that to happen would be to stir nationalistic pride to the point where a warlike mentality would take over the consciousness of the people. That would take an event of such stunning and barbaric proportions that the consciousness of a large portion of the populace would be outraged—such as the killing of innocent civilians.

With the sinking of the British ocean liner RMS Lusitania by a German U-boat on May, 7, 1915, the stage was set to draw the United States into the war through propaganda that the Germans had breached the Cruiser Rules forbidding firing upon passenger ships. At the time, the fact that RMS Lusitania was carrying munitions to Britain was withheld from the public. Britain's actions were also a breach of the Cruiser Rules, but the death of 1,198 passengers, including many Americans, shifted public opinion in the U.S. from the isolationist policies instilled since its founding, to an international mindset. For the first time, the United States military would be sent to foreign lands to fight for the cause of a foreign nation.

Although the anti-Christ powers that be have allowed the U.S. to prosper and lead the nations for a season, it is clear that our time has run out. Throughout almost the entire 20th century, the U.S. has been embroiled in war after war under the lie sold to the masses that we must "defend our interests overseas." Thus far we have been spared warfare on our own soil since the Civil War, discounting the 9/11 attacks and other relatively minor terrorist plots. But we must not be deceived to think that the destiny of this nation is in the hands of its people. It is first and foremost in the hands of God; it is secondarily in the hands of the god of this world, Satan, at the behest of the true God of Heaven who is working out mankind's history to His own purposes.

In the meantime, there will be a hefty price to be paid for this nation's having turned its heart from the true God to the god of this world through the latter's many enticements away from holiness.

GOVERNMENT

World War I and the League of Nations were not the only means employed by the secret powers behind government to destroy America's morals and morale. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to tax the people to the point where they see little reward for their labors. That is easily done through the imposition of an income tax.

The first attempt to impose an income tax upon Americans was undertaken when President Abraham Lincoln, with the aid of Congress, created the position of commissioner of Internal Revenue in 1862, and enacted an income tax to pay for the War of Secession (erroneously called the "Civil War"). That tax was repealed 10 years later. In 1894, Congress tried to revive the income tax, but the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional.

It would take a constitutional amendment to allow for an income tax, and that was accomplished in 1913 when Wyoming ratified the Sixteenth Amendment, providing the three-quarter majority of states needed to amend the Constitution. The income tax was originally meant to be temporary, and was levied at one percent on net personal incomes above \$3,000, with a six percent surtax on incomes over \$500,000. The income tax "coincidentally" was available to finance the U.S. involvement in World War I, during which the top rate rose to 77 percent. (To finance World War II, Congress imposed payroll withholding and quarterly tax payments from employers.)

Although the Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution forbids indentured servitude of U.S. citizens, the government has conveniently applied that only to private interests. The government has, through the income tax, imposed its own form of indentured servitude.

Even so, believers in Christ are compelled to obey these laws lest we hinder our testimony and bring shame upon the name of our Lord.

While we are in this world we are subject to the authorities the Lord has placed over us. That doesn't mean we may not use all lawful means to right the wrongs, but it takes a lot of Mammon's help to accomplish anything contrary to anti-Christ's designs. Even then, unless the Lord is in it, nothing we attempt to accomplish will succeed.

Even more than the war efforts that would follow the enactment of the income tax, is the indentured servitude to private money interests under which the government would place its citizens. Again, the tax "coincidentally" provided the means to support the Federal Reserve Corporation which would, with Congress's action, remove the production of the nation's money and place it in the hands of the international banking cabal through the Federal Reserve Act.

ECONOMICS

Contrary to public understanding (which neither the government nor the mass media have made even a small effort to correct), the Federal Reserve Bank of the United

States of America is not owned by the government of the United States. It is a private bank whose Class A stockholders are unknown, but who are not all (or even a majority) American citizens. All the national banks of all the nations (including Communist China, North Korea, Cuba, and even the former U.S.S.R., now Russia again) are private banks owned by the same cabal.

Space does not allow for an in-depth study of the Federal Reserve System, but briefly, the Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) is charged with issuing money and controlling the monetary policies of the nation through influence in Congress and the administration, and through control of the inflation rate of the U.S. dollar. With the creation of the Federal Reserve System, Congress set the stage for taking the nation off the gold standard and replacing the true U.S. dollar (which was redeemable in silver) with the Federal Reserve Note made to look similar to the U.S. dollar.

Here is how the Federal Reserve robs the nation and its people:

When the government wants to place money into circulation it has the FRB print “X” number of dollars. The FRB puts the dollars into circulation through its member banks in major U.S. cities. The FRB member banks lend the money to other banks and lending institutions at a certain interest rate which goes to the FRB, not to the government. But the FRB is not limited to lending the “X” number of dollars it has printed. It can legally lend ten times that amount and charge interest on that sum. No actual money changes hands. These are all credit and debit items on the books of the banks involved.

Whatever amount a bank or lending institution borrows from the FRB, it, too, can loan up to ten times that amount through credit and debit entries to the public citizens, and charge interest on that amount.

In essence, the international banking cabal is sucking the lifeblood of the nation and enslaving the people through the income tax system. Thus, the nation’s morale is being slowly ebbed away as people work harder and harder to make ends meet.

To keep up with the scale of living imposed upon the consciousness of the people through manipulation by advertising and media hype, many families have both parents working while the children are placed in government-controlled indoctrination camps called “public schools.” There they learn the anti-Christ philosophy of globalism with its attendant evils of rebellion against parental authority; sexual license; feminism anti-Americanism; atheism, to name just a few.

Most people think all these things are merely coincidental; there can’t be a conscious conspiracy going on.

Yet behind the ungodly government, media and international banking conspiracy lurks the father of lies—Satan—the ultimate anti-Christ, working through super-wealthy indi-

viduals given to Satanism. But they do not promote Satanism. They promote atheism. Anti-Christ knows he can’t outright propagandize the majority of people to worship Satan. All that is necessary anyway, is to get enough people to reject the God of the Bible—the true God Yahweh—and they will be easy prey for the Satanists to enslave in their globalist Babel civilization.

Because all these national banks have their original foundation in the international banking family of the Rothschilds and certain Jewish-affiliated money interests, it is assumed that the international banking cabal is Jewish. It is to a large degree, but not exclusively. Wealthy nationals from many nations are involved in the international banking scheme. Yet we cannot escape the truth that certain unscrupulous anti-Christ Jews were the foundation and are still the backbone of the conspiracy. These are often referred to as those “who say they are Jews, but are not,” and are of “the synagogue of Satan” (Revelation 3:9).

The problem is that many anti-Semites associate all Jews with “the synagogue of Satan,” not distinguishing between the servants of Satan and the Israelites who are blinded in part until the time of the Gentiles is completed (Romans 11:25). This lack of discernment has been the reason many Christians, beginning with the Roman Catholic Church under the first popes, have persecuted Jews throughout history.

These anti-Semites are every bit anti-Christ as those they accuse.

RELIGION

With the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia came a determination to stamp out religion—especially Christianity—wherever communism would gain a foothold, beginning with Lenin’s persecution of the Russian Orthodox Church. It didn’t help that the Russian Orthodox Church collaborated with the White Army after the October Revolution. But it wouldn’t have mattered either way. The Soviet objective was to destroy all churches throughout Russia and the territories it conquered. The ethnic heritages of the Eastern Bloc and the Balkan States were strongly linked to their churches, and for communism to be successful it was necessary to break that link. Anti-Christ determined to wipe out Christianity first from Eastern Europe, with the hope of spreading atheism to Western Europe and the Americas. But it wasn’t in God’s plan, as we will see in ensuing installments.

Pentecostalism

While Christianity was being persecuted and almost wiped out under the Soviet pogrom, and Higher Criticism was decimating the churches in the West, there was beginning a new force within Christianity that would rock the foundations of the established churches which had fallen prey to a formalism that lacked any expression of spiritual life. A malaise seemed to hang over Christendom even as individual Christians longed for a deeper relationship with God.

As the Azusa Street phenomenon (1906) gained attention throughout the nation via secular media, new church institutions began to spring up which focused on the Pentecostal experience. These new churches allowed for freer expression, particularly in the practice of “speaking in tongues.”

In 1913, five men convened with the purpose of combating certain aberrant doctrines and practices that accompanied Pentecostalism. Eudorus N. Bell, Howard Goss, Daniel C.O. Opperman, Archibald P. Collins, and Mack M. Pinson put out a call for a general council on Pentecostalism through Bell’s periodical, *Word and Witness*, which was publicized in other periodicals as well.¹ From their efforts was born the largest and most influential Pentecostal denomination, the Assemblies of God (AG), formed in 1914.

Even as the AG was in its fledgling state serious disputes arose, not only around the idea that “tongues” is the necessary evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but over the doctrine of the Trinity and restorationism, as well as other issues. *The International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* (Zondervan, 2003), states:

Before the AG had organized, another disagreement had agitated independent pentecostals. Early pentecostals had tended to regard sanctification as a second, instantaneous spiritual crisis. The leader of a Chicago mission, William Durham, had challenged that view after 1908 and had advocated, rather, “the finished work of Calvary.” Responding to the extreme teachings some contemporary Holiness advocates urged, Durham insisted that penitent sinners received both Christ’s pardon and cleansing at conversion. Their further responsibility was not to pursue crisis cleansing but to live an “overcoming” life....

Since the AG did not seek to enforce doctrinal unity, it embraced people who held various views on sanctification. Participants at the first general council heard Mack M. Pinson advocate Durham’s position. Early versions of the Statement of Fundamental Truths attempted to satisfy those with Holiness sympathies while identifying with Durham’s essential approach. As time passed, it became increasingly evident that the AG supported Durham’s understanding. The denomination’s early leaders, accused by Holiness advocates of minimizing holiness, found it necessary to assert frequently that they believed in sanctification.

A third doctrinal issue, in addition to the Trinity and sanctification, that helped mold the AG emerged in 1918 when a popular evangelist, pastor, and former executive presbyter, F.F. Bosworth, resigned from the denomination in a disagreement about evidential

tongues speech. Bosworth published his critique of the movement’s espousal of tongues as uniform initial evidence of Spirit baptism in a pamphlet entitled [sic] “Do All Speak with Tongues?” His actions prompted a thorough discussion of evidential tongues and marked the culmination in the AG of an evolution toward rigid promotion of evidential tongues without qualification, but increasingly the movement had tended to do so. It became committed to that position. The denomination was saved from a showdown by Bosworth’s magnanimous spirit. Only he and his brother resigned over the issue.²

One of the most divisive issues within Pentecostalism concerned the nature of “the Godhead,” which was known as the “New Issue.” In 1916, the AG was faced with this “New Issue” when proponents of the “Jesus’ Name” Pentecostal movement (a.k.a. “Oneness Pentecostalism”) began to exert influence. Teaching a modalistic view of God, the Jesus’ Name faction denied the doctrine of the Trinity, asserting that there is one divine Spirit who manifests Himself in many ways, three of which are as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Oneness Pentecostals split from the AG to form several other Pentecostal denominations, two of the largest being the United Pentecostal Church and the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World.

The noisy and expressive manner in which Pentecostals worshiped resulted in much criticism from the mainline churches, including from the older Holiness and fundamentalist churches that were closest to Pentecostalism in theology and practice.³

As fervent as Pentecostals were in attempting to adhere to biblical truth concerning the gifts of the Spirit, the anti-Christ spirit wormed its way into the movement to create divisions and to draw away from the genuine working of the Holy Spirit by appealing to emotions rather than God’s Word when it came to expressing themselves.

Perhaps the most obvious departure from Scripture is the manner in which “tongues” are approached in the assemblies in contrast to God’s Word:

Brethren, do not be children in understanding (however in malice you be children), but in understanding be men.

In the Law it is written, “With men of other languages and other lips I will speak to this people, and yet for all that will they not hear Me,” says the Lord.”

Therefore languages are for a sign, not to those who believe, but to those who do not believe. But prophesying does not serve for those who do not believe, but for those who believe.

¹ *International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, Revised and Expanded Edition, Ed. Stanley M. Burgess and Eduard M. van der Maas (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), p. 333.

² *Ibid.*, p. 334.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 554

Therefore, if the whole assembly has come together into one place and all speak with languages, and there come in those who are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that you are mad? But if all prophesy, and there comes in one who does not believe, or an unlearned one, he is convicted by all, he is judged by all, and thus are the secrets of his heart made known. And so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is truly in you.

How is it then, brethren? When you come together every one of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a language, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

If any speak in a language, let it be by two, or at the most by three—and that by sequence—and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter let him keep silent in the assembly, and let him speak to himself and to God.

Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the others judge. If anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first hold his peace. For you may all prophesy one-by-one so that all may learn, and all may be comforted. For the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets, for God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all assemblies of the saints. (1 Corinthians 14:20-33)

I urge my Pentecostal brethren to re-read these verses as many times as necessary to have it settle in their spirits. It isn't that Pentecostals are purposely defying God's Word, but they are not being taught by their denominational leaders how God's Word must be honored in all we do for Him.

When Christians wish to act contrary to God's Word they often say that we must listen to the Holy Spirit, and that is true. But the Holy Spirit does not lead us contrary to God's Word. The Holy Spirit is the author of God's Word, having inspired the human authors to write what they did.

God is not double-minded. It is a lie from anti-Christ that the Holy Spirit is our authority. God's Word is our authority, and the Holy Spirit holds us to it by convicting and convincing us to obey it.

Women in Ministry

Until the early 1800s when the Society of Friends (Quakers) allowed women to take roles of leadership and teaching in their congregations, there is no historical evidence of women taking those positions in any of the established denominations. A few were ordained in the mid- to latter-19th century, primarily in some Unitarian, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. In 1909, the Church of God (Cleveland TN), a Pentecostal denomination, began ordaining women. The Assemblies of God struggled early on with the issue, and has largely held to male leadership.

Membership in the [AG] general council was limited to ministers. Numerous pentecostal women had engaged in ministries before they had embraced pentecostalism. Some had been ordained (though usually in nontraditional and highly irregular settings). Although their ordination was recognized by the AG, such women could not vote at general councils until 1920. Full ordination of women by the AG was not granted until 1935. Even then the proviso "when such acts are necessary" was appended to women's permission to administer the ordinances.⁴

Among denominations that might fall under the heading of "fundamental," the Pentecostal churches took the most liberal position toward ordaining women and placing them in positions of authority and teaching contrary to Scripture (1 Timothy 2:11-14; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35).

One of anti-Christ's most potent weapons against the authority of God's Word and against the order for male-female relationships according to His eternal purposes has been feminism which first reared its head in the 19th century among rebellious women who were able to manipulate weak men in the world system. That feminism began to spread within the churches almost immediately. It gained its greatest achievements within Pentecostalism which through the 20th century has seen many women not only take roles as pastors and teachers, but as apostles. Some even founded their own denominations.

I believe it is the emotionalism attendant to Pentecostalism that set the stage for feminism to make such a strong mark among its churches. When anti-Christ can get Christians to focus as much, or even more, on ecstatic experiences, Scripture becomes more subjective in areas not considered "essential," as if the whole counsel of God is not important. Pentecostalism to a large degree (though not exclusively) has retained the so-called essential truths of Scripture, but it has allowed what people have claimed to experience to mold its approach to many practices, particularly where women in ministry is concerned.

Anti-Christ has had, and is having today more than ever, a great influence through feminism that has rocked not only Pentecostalism, but virtually all of Christianity.

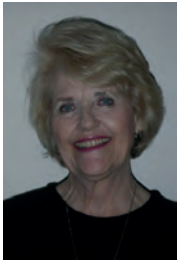
CONCLUSION

Other influences of anti-Christ in Christianity during this second decade of the 1900s include the Jehovah's Witnesses doctrine that Jesus returned invisibly in 1914 with the beginning of WWI, an increase in the rise of snake-handling cults, and the increasing influence of New Thought in Pentecostalism through the teachings of E.W. Kenyon and John G. Lake, among others.

NEXT

THE DECADE 1921-1930

⁴ Ibid., p. 335.



Jean's Turn

Gardening and Me

By Jean Dager

I ADMIT IT. I don't know the first thing about gardening. In fact, my friends at our former home in western Washington refer to me in a joking manner as having a "brown thumb." That home was located on a partially wooded property containing lots of cedar and pine trees, ferns and wild plants that are indigenous to the area. Deer frequented our little forest. So really, not much was required of me. Besides, my next door neighbor had a tenderly-cared-for gorgeous flower garden. I particularly enjoyed her heavenly-scented roses. We just settled back and enjoyed her lovely garden from our deck.

Then we had to downsize considerably (which suits us just fine), and we moved to the small town of Sequim located on the Washington Peninsula. Whew! Time sure flies, as the saying goes. In June, Al and I had been in our new home for a year. We've grown to love the area—partly rural and partly small town. Sequim (population 6,500) is known for its abundant lavender farms. A hugely popular lavender festival takes place each year and draws tourists from around the world.

Our new home is on a street lined with pink and white flowering cherry trees. Most of our neighbors' small yards are beautifully maintained and landscaped. Each little garden has colorful blooms of diverse varieties. This tranquil scene is not only lovely to behold, but truly uplifting to the soul—a brilliant reminder of God's handiwork and marvelous creation.

So now I find myself surrounded by "green thumbs." And then there is me. It's a bit daunting to say the least. So I've decided to join a local gardening club and hopefully learn something from those gifted with gardening skills. I pray this works.

In the meantime, time is spent each week pulling out hearty weeds which grow without any assistance from me. I've even ventured out and planted simple flowers—petunias, pansies, heathers, lavender and grasses. I couldn't believe it when the tulips and daffodils that I bravely buried in the soil last fall actually poked through and flowered in the spring. A miracle!

As a result of all the weeding, planting, fertilizing and watering, something wonderful happened. Flowers bloomed. It reminded me of the constant weeding of sin from our hearts that must faithfully be done each day so that something of the Lord's light can shine through. "*He must increase but I must decrease*" (John 3:30). An author I admire once wrote that "we must be ruthless with sins and weeds when they are small." Also, "God will send the sunshine and rain but He won't weed for you."

So true.

A beloved brother-in-the-Lord we know, frequently reminds us to examine ourselves when, after reading a portion of Scripture he stops and asks, "So, how are we doing?"

Striving for sanctification is a constant goal in the life of a sincere believer. Daily examination and weeding of sin from our hearts is essential for living a life abiding in Christ. Just as in my garden, I don't want those weeds to be firmly entrenched.

May the love of the Lord Jesus be preeminent in each of us so that our lives can be beautiful gardens of God's Glory. ❖

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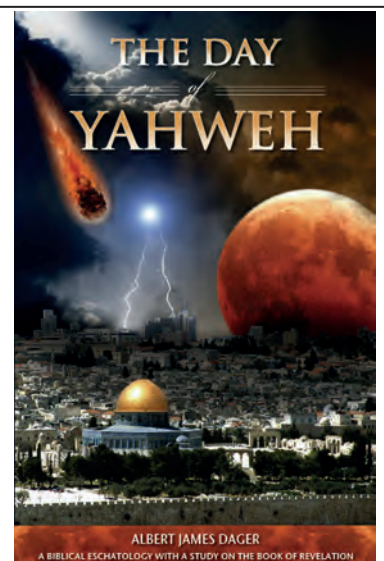
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