

**IDENTIFYING SATAN'S COUNTERFEITS INCLUDING
HIS SINISTER MINISTERS AND THEIR FALSE DOCTRINES**

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INTRODUCTION

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One of the greatest attacks by heretical Christianity in 2026 is the attack upon the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Just in case you have not been taught by your teachers and preachers, our God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, is God manifest in the flesh!** We call him LORD because he is God. We call him Jesus because he is our Saviour. We call him Christ because he is God's anointed Messiah who shall rule and reign upon the literal throne of David in the literal city of Jerusalem. The LORD Jesus Christ is Jehovah manifest in the flesh. That has been driven home to me with an exclamation point in the last two years. I have been saved for almost 32 years now and have heard many times in those 32 years that the Lord Jesus Christ is manifest on every page of the Bible. That statement is a whole lot more true than I had realized and even than I had been taught. The book of Isaiah is the ultimate manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. During the course of the last two years, I have completed a massive 100 pages plus study of the Angel of the LORD and other manifestations of deity in the Bible. During those two years it was much more fully revealed to me how much the LORD Jesus Christ dominates the Old Testament. He is Jehovah manifest in the flesh. He is LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS.

Folks, we are starting a series today whose overriding theme **is identifying Satan's counterfeits including his sinister ministers and their false doctrines. Deception, false prophets, and false teachers are birthed in perverting and/or rejecting the word of God.** This series is motivated by the warning of the Lord Jesus Christ that if the commandments and doctrines that we teach are contrary to the word of God, then our worship is in vain. In the course of this series, you will oft hear *Matthew 15:8-9* quoted:

⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. *Matthew 15:8-9*

We are very strong in our conviction that we should not compromise the doctrines of the word of God in word or in deed. In this study, you will hear many passages of scripture quoted several times. Some ideas will be repeated over and over. Repetition is the foundation upon which rock solid memories are built. It is better for you to hear from the word of God than it is to hear from me. There will not be a lot of verse by verse commentary by me. The King James Bible is the best commentary on itself.

Most of us do not consider it, but we are in a battle with a Satanic trinity. Satan is the great imitator. Though we can see it throughout the Bible, the Satanic trinity is never more clearly presented than it is in *Revelation 13:1-18*.

¹ And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. ² And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet

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were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. ⁴ And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? ⁵ And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty *and* two months. ⁶ And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. ⁷ And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. ⁸ And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ⁹ If any man have an ear, let him hear. ¹⁰ He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. ¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six. *Revelation 13:1-18*

On February 23, 2026, in America and in our churches, we are headed for Revelation 13 doing maximum speed down a street that ends in the unsaved bursting through the gates of hell into the fiery pits of the lake of fire. I want to remind you that hell is an eternally burning reality. In *Revelation 13:1-18*, we have the anti-God, the antichrist, and the anti-Holy Ghost (Spirit). The beast is the anti-Christ. The dragon is the anti-God. Of course, the dragon is Satan Himself. The false prophet is the anti-spirit. All three work in unison to oppose and replace the Holy Trinity which is what the Bible calls the Godhead. We typically think of the antichrist as being against Christ. While that is true, the ultimate goal of his opposition is to replace, or, be in the stead (instead) of Christ. That is Satan's objective for every member of the Godhead. Satan focuses on ten major areas in his

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attempt to destroy the church of the living God and to overthrow the Godhead. He produces at least the following ten counterfeits: **A Counterfeit God, Counterfeit Christs, Counterfeit Spirits, Counterfeit Gospels, Counterfeit Baptisms, Counterfeit Churches, Counterfeit Kingdom(s), Counterfeit Miracles, Counterfeit Bibles, and Counterfeit Preachers.** We will deal with each of those in this study. Satan's program is built upon strong delusion and deception.

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AN AGE OF DECEPTION AND DELUSION

The Holy Ghost said in *2 Timothy 3:13* that “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived”. Welcome to America in the year 2025. Much of what we see going on in America is the product of self deception and willful ignorance. Most Americans can no longer think on a biblical spiritual level. Most of what is taught in America’s mostly apostate churches and reprobate secular institutions is the “perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth” (*1 Timothy 6:5*). We are living in a perverse and crooked generation. America has entered into the bondage of corruption. Most church leaders in America have become the servants of corruption while they promise their members great liberty. Within professing Christianity the tree is very corrupt and is bringing forth much corrupt fruit. Turn in your Bibles to *2 Thessalonians 2:1-12*:

¹ Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him, ² That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. ³ **Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*** ⁴ **Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.** ⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. *2 Thessalonians 2:1-12*

Folks, we are living in the most deceived and deluded generation in the history of the world. While America is at the forefront of it all, it is a worldwide deception and delusion. According to verse 12 of *2 Thessalonians 2*, these deluded and deceived wretches take pleasure in their wickedness and unrighteousness. They are past feeling (*Ephesians 4:19*). They are so wicked they cannot be shamed or even made to blush (*Jeremiah 6:15*) . If they do not get saved, they are under the condemnation and damnation of God. They will spend an eternity in hell. They are the reprobates of *Romans 1:28-32* that hate God. They have willfully and knowingly rejected and scorned God’s law and taken

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pleasure in those who do the same. Many of them hold to the delusion that they will be going to heaven even though their vile, habitual, sinful lifestyle and conduct are screaming, "Hey I am going to hell". They have been sent strong delusion from hell if they think that God blesses same sex relationships or marriages. They are under a hellish strong delusion if they think God is okay with the sexual abuse and mutilation of anyone, especially children. Any sexually perverted butcher that performs a physical mutilation of any human being is a vile, reprobate Satanic monster. Forcing a gender change upon any child is the worst form of child abuse. It is the ultimate in strong delusion to think that man's medical butchery and sorcery can change the DNA of any individual once God gives the conception (*Ruth 4:13*). The whole transgender sodomite movement is under the curse of God.

Today, we will be starting an extended series on false prophets, false teachers, and their many counterfeit doctrines. False prophets and false teachers corrupt and pervert God's purpose in providing preachers, pastors, teachers, evangelists, and missionaries to his church and to a lost and dying world.

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THE HOLY DUTY OF THOSE WHO WOULD BE TEACHERS AND PREACHERS

In my ministry, I put much emphasis on doctrine because the Bible says this in *Matthew 15:8-9*:

⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. *Matthew 15:8-9*

That was the Lord Jesus Christ speaking. The Lord Jesus Christ said that if your doctrine is not right that you worship in vain. **Doctrine is no longer being systematically taught in most of our churches that claim to be fundamental Bible believing churches.** That is why most formerly fundamentalist churches are apostate now. Teaching doctrine takes a lot of work, strong discipline, and a willingness to come under the guns of Satan if necessary. There must also be a resolve that is as an adamant stone that you will not compromise God's word. You must learn how to scripturally deal with the resistance and the ignorance of the unsaved and the misunderstandings and ignorance of the saved. A good teacher must develop and foster spiritual discernment through a thorough knowledge of the scriptures and a Spirit filled holy life to go with it. We are warned time and again of false prophets. The Lord Jesus Christ said in *Matthew 7:15-16*:

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? *Matthew 7:15-16*

In *Matthew 24:11, 24* the Lord Jesus Christ also said:

¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. *Matthew 24:11*

²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. *Matthew 24:24*

False prophets and false teachers are birthed in perverting and/or rejecting the Word Of God. False doctrine and false teaching are the result of twisting and denying the Word of God. God's words and God's doctrine walk hand in hand to achieve God's purpose for mankind. In *Deuteronomy 32:1-4*, God's words are tied directly to God's doctrine. In *Deuteronomy 32:2*, is the first of 56 occurrences of the word "doctrine" in our King James Bibles. Doctrine is very important to God. It is that lack of knowledge of doctrine that is destroying God's people and the church in America. The prophet Hosea said:

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⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. *Hosea 4:6*

The pastors, preachers, and teachers behind pulpits and lecterns in Americas churches have betrayed the holy charge that God has given to them. They are responsible for God's people being destroyed because of a lack of knowledge. It is at their willfully neglectful hands that God's people are being destroyed. They will not teach and preach the Word of God without compromise because they are fearful of offending someone. They would rather see someone die and go to hell than to offend them. These compromising preachers and teachers must be reminded that the Lord Jesus Christ said that offences will come, but it is better that the offences come than for someone to be cast into hell (*Matthew 18:7-9* and *Mark 9:35-48*). For those who aspire to be teachers and preachers of the word of God, God has given us the method that we must use in our teaching. Listen to what God says:

⁹ Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.* ¹⁰ For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: ¹¹ For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. ¹² To whom he said, *This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.* ¹³ But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. *Isaiah 28:9-13*

If it is properly taught, the Word of God will hold its hearers responsible. If you are a Bible teacher or preacher, it is your responsibility and obligation before God to boldly proclaim and rightly divide the Word of Truth (*2 Timothy 2:15-18*). Well said the apostle Paul, "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart (*Hebrews 4:12*). If you will put it out there, the Word of God will not return void. It will accomplish the purpose for which God has sent it (*Isaiah 55:11*). According to *Galatians 3:8*, if you will put it out there, the Word of God will preach. *Hebrews 5:12-14* is a New Testament application of the principles declared in *Isaiah 28:9-13*:

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. *Hebrews 5:12-14*

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Men and women that are not taught the Word of God precept upon precept and line upon line will choke upon the strong meat and the “things hard to be understood” in the Word of God (*2 Peter 3:16*). In *Isaiah 28*, notice the emphasis of the prophet Isaiah on knowledge and doctrine. We are not talking about knowledge gained under the tree of knowledge at the feet of unbelieving, Bible correcting, scholars. We are talking about Holy Ghost anointed knowledge. True wisdom is Holy Ghost anointed knowledge. As we have already seen, the Lord Jesus Christ places much emphasis on the importance of pure doctrine. The apostle Paul is yet another example of an individual that placed much emphasis on pure doctrine. Here is what the apostle Paul said about doctrine:

¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; *1 Timothy 4:1-2*

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, ⁴ Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; ⁵ Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. *2 Timothy 3:1-5*

¹ I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:1-4*

The passages of scripture that I just read from in First and Second Timothy speak for themselves. In this year of 2025, they are an up to date commentary on the wicked state of most of our churches and their members. Folks, doctrinal deception producers liars, apostates, and heretics. The fables that the Holy Ghost is referring to in *2 Timothy 4:4* are the many counterfeits that come slithering forth out of Satan’s crypts of deceit and corrupt theology. They are the works of the harlot church of Revelation 17. She is: MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. She is the whore of the end times church: the bride of Satan. We begin our study of Satan’s counterfeits with a discussion about Satan as a counterfeit god.

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THE COUNTERFEIT GOD

The LORD said in *Exodus 20:1-5* and *Exodus 34:12-16*:

¹ And God spake all these words, saying, ² I *am* the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ Thou shalt have no other gods before me. ⁴ Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth: ⁵ Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; *Exodus 20:1-5*

¹² Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee: ¹³ But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves: ¹⁴ For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God: ¹⁵ Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and *one* call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice; ¹⁶ And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods. *Exodus 34:12-16*

The very first temptation in the Bible was Satan telling Eve that she could make herself a god if she would but partake of the fruit of the tree in the midst of the garden. From the fall of Adam and Eve, men and women have been trying to be as gods. They have tried to counterfeit the God of the Bible. The counterfeit god of counterfeit gods is Satan himself. Since his fall, Satan has always sought to be in the place of God. Whenever Satan could, he has led men and women off into idolatry and self idolization. It is not a difficult task for Satan because of the pride and high self-esteem that folks have for themselves. You have one cult within false Christianity that claims you will become gods. There is yet another cult that says that “ye are gods”. They have fully bought into Satan’s lie that men and women can become gods (*Genesis 3:5*)

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are full of manifestations of Satan through the many pagan idols described in its pages. These pagan idols were all attempts to replace God. The phrase “*graven image*” is used 46 times in the Old Testament to describe carved idols. The phrase “*molten image*” is used 23 times in the Old Testament to refer to idols that were cast from molten metals. The phrase “*molten gods*” is used twice. I have a list of 34 pagan deities that were worshipped in the Bible. I am sure that I have missed many in my brief research. These would include: Rachel’s gods (*Genesis 31:19*); Aaron’s golden calf of *Exodus 32*; the groves of trees in *Exodus 34:13* (the trees were worshiped as gods 40 different times in the Old Testament); the sun,

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the moon, and the stars (*Deuteronomy 4:19*) Ashtaroth (*Judges 2:13*); Milcom (*1 Kings 11:5*); Molech (*Leviticus 18:21*); Chemosh (*Judges 11:24*); Dagon (*Judges 16:23*); Ashtoreth (*1 Kings 11:5*); Rimmon (*2 Kings 5:18*); Baal (*2 Kings 17:16*); Nergal (*2 Kings 17:30*); Succoth Benoth (*2 Kings 17:30*); Ashima (*2 Kings 17:30*); Nibhaz (*2 Kings 17:31*); Tartak (*2 Kings 17:31*); Adrammelech (*2 Kings 17:31*); Anammelech (*2 Kings 17:31*); the planets (*2 Kings 23:5*) Nisroch (*Isaiah 37:38*); Nebo (*Isaiah 46:1*); Merodach (*Jeremiah 50:2*); Tammuz (*Ezekiel 8:14*); Nebuchadnezzar's golden image in *Daniel 3*; Beelzebub (*Matthew 10:25*); Jupiter (*Acts 14:12*); Mercurius (*Acts 14:12*); the Greek gods (*Acts 17:16–23*); Diana (*Acts 19:23–37*); and the image of the beast in *Revelation 13:14*. Many of these pagan gods are mentioned numerous times in our Bibles. These pagan deities were so numerous that God referred to them 14 different times as the “host of heaven”. God referred to these idols as “*detestable things and abominations*” 5 (five) different times in the book of Ezekiel. They are all counterfeit gods. I have a book titled “A Dictionary Of Greek and Roman Mythology” that is 224 pages long that lists and describes page after page of ancient Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. These are all counterfeit gods. These pagan gods were duplicated across many nations such that the same god was called by different names in different cultures. These we are all attempts by Satan to replace the God of the Bible (Jehovah). Man also wants to replace God.

Ever since the fall in the Garden of Eden, man has tried to replace the God of the Bible with a god of his own choosing or a god of his own making. **The man that was created in God's image always tries to create a god made in his own image.** Of course, the most numerous want-to-be gods in the world is each and every individual born on the face of the earth. That is why self esteem and selfies are all the rage throughout the world. Self worship is rooted in pride. Pride is used 49 times in the King James Bible. Proud is used 48 times in the King James Bible. Pride is described as an abomination to God in *Proverbs 6:16-17* and *Proverbs 16:5*. The words “proud” and “pride” are never used in a good sense in the King James Bible. Since God totally condemns pride and proud people, it is better not to apply those terms to ourselves. Attitudes such as arrogancy, boasting, haughtiness, loftiness, and frowardness are all rooted in pride. A good definition of pride is self worship. The opposite of pride is humility. We will say more about humility shortly. Listen to just some of the things the Bible has to say about pride:

¹⁶ These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: ¹⁷
A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, *Proverbs 6:16-17*

¹³ The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. *Proverbs 8:13*

⁸ Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹ Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. *Proverbs 16:18-19*

¹¹ The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be

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bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. ¹² For the day of the LORD of hosts *shall be* upon every one *that is* proud and lofty, and upon every one *that is* lifted up; and he shall be brought low: *Isaiah 2:11-12*

¹⁵ And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled: *Isaiah 5:15*

³³ Behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, shall lop the bough with terror: and the high ones of stature *shall be* hewn down, and the haughty shall be humbled. *Isaiah 10:33*

²⁹ We have heard the pride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogancy, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart. *Jeremiah 48:29*

¹ This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. ² For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, *2 Timothy 3:1-2*

⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. *James 4:6*

⁶ But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. *James 4:16*

⁵ Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. *1 Peter 5:5*

Humility is the opposite of pride. Some of humility's friends are humble, humbleness, meek, meekness, lowly, and lowliness. Here are some of the things that God says about humility and its friends:

¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14*

⁴ For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation. *Psalms 149:4*

¹⁵ For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. *Isaiah 57:15*

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²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. *Matthew 11:29*

⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. *Matthew 18:4*

¹² And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. *Matthew 23:12*

¹ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ² With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; *Ephesians 4:1-2*

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:5-11*

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. *James 4:10*

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: *1 Peter 5:6*

Humility is the honey of the Holy Ghost. Put another way, humility is the sweet manifestation of the Holy Ghost. Meekness is the power that comes from Holy Ghost anointed humility. One of the spirits associated with the presence of the Holy Ghost is the spirit of meekness. Have you ever noticed how beautiful a meek Christian is? There is a reason for that. The LORD said in *Psalms 149:4* that he would “**BEAUTIFY THE MEEK WITH SALVATION**”. I say Hallelujah to that! How beautiful are you today? The Bible also says that a meek and quiet spirit is an ornament of great price in the sight of God (*1 Peter 3:4*). That meekness and quietness is borne of the spirit of humility. We are instructed to worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness five different times. That beauty is a manifestation of the presence of the Holy Ghost. That beauty of holiness is extolled in *1 Chronicles 16:29*, *2 Chronicles 20:21*, *Psalms 29:2*, *Psalms 96:9*, *Psalms 110:3*.

A man or woman that is full of boastings about their works makes us wonder what the Lord Jesus Christ has actually done in their heart. Christian, repent of your pride and give the Lord Jesus Christ

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the glory for what he has done in your life. (*Psalm 96:8*). If you want to glorify God, put the Lord Jesus Christ before yourself. If you want to please and glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, put others before yourself. Most Americans will not admit it, but the average American today has the defacto attitude that it is hard to be humble when America is so great. That is a wicked spirit borne of Satan that will bring God's judgment. Many foreigners hate America because of that spirit of arrogance and pride. In a Christian, it is a hindrance to spreading the gospel. I am not proud to be an American, but I am glad to be an American. I rejoice in God my Saviour because he allowed me to be born in America. That does not make me better than anyone. In fact, that places a greater responsibility on me because "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required" (*Luke 12:48*). Now, I love America, but I detest most of what our government is promoting. What does the America that has forsaken God have to be proud of? Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. If proud America does not repent, she is going down. You can be sure that where pride abounds the spirit of antichrist abounds. That spirit of antichrist abounds in America and is the chief agent of Satan.

Satan is the ultimate offender when it comes to pride. Note what *Isaiah 14:12-15*, *Ezekiel 28:1-19*, and *2 Thessalonians 2:3-4* have to say about Satan:

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. *Isaiah 14:12-15*

¹ **The word of the LORD came again unto me, saying,** ² **Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart *is* lifted up, and thou hast said, I *am* a God, I sit *in* the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou *art* a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:** ³ **Behold, thou *art* wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee:** ⁴ With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: ⁵ By thy great wisdom *and* by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: ⁶ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; ⁷ Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. ⁸ They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of *them that are* slain in the midst of the seas. ⁹ **Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I *am* God? but thou *shalt be* a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee.** ¹⁰ Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken *it*, saith the Lord GOD.

¹¹ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹² Son of man, take up a

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lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³ Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴ Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸ Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹ All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more. *Ezekiel 28:1-19*

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. *2 Thessalonians 2:3-4*

In Isaiah chapter 14, we have the five “I wills” of Lucifer. He states that he will be like the Most High. He is stating that he will be God. Sitting on the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north, is sitting in the place of God (*Psalms 48:1-2, Ezekiel 1:4*). In *Ezekiel 28:1-19*, we have both the type and the antitype of Satan himself. In *Ezekiel 28:1-10* we have the aspiration and declaration of the prince of Tyrus that he is God. He is a mere human who claims to be God. Historically there was a Zidonian King, Ethbaal, who claimed to be God. In *Ezekiel 28:11-19* we have the appearance of the King of Tyrus who is none other than Satan himself. We know from the context that this cannot be a mere human. It is said of him that he appeared in the garden of Eden. That means he was in existence in Genesis chapter 3. That means that this King of Tyrus had been alive for thousands of years. This king is also referred to as the anointed cherub that covereth. Satan is not a fallen angel. He is a fallen cherub. There were originally five cherubim. Satan was one of them. In *Ezekiel 28:14*, he is that anointed cherub that covereth. Verse 14 states that he was on the mountain of God. What is the mountain of God? By comparing scripture with scripture, we can prove that the mountain of God is Mount Sinai. That can be nothing but a reference to one event. That event was the giving of

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the ten commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. Then we have *2 Thessalonians 2:3-4*. It is further revelation from God that expands upon the prophecy of *Isaiah 14*. *2 Thessalonians 2:1-12* is applied to the Antichrist. He is Satan incarnate claiming to be the God of *Isaiah 14:12-15* whose goal is to usurp the throne of God. The beginning of the end for Satan is prophesied in *Revelation 12:7-9*. Satan sees his final punishment in *Revelation 20:10* where he is bound for eternity in the lake of fire. Next we will deal with counterfeit Christs.

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COUNTERFEIT CHRISTS

There have been many antichrists throughout history. These will culminate in the Antichrist. *Matthew 24:4-5, 23-24; II Corinthians 11:4* state:

⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. *Matthew 24:4-5*

²³ Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. ²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. *Matthew 24:23-24*

⁴ For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*. *2 Corinthians 11:4*

There have been many men down through the ages that have made claims to be Christ. There are 7 men among the most prominent Jewish men to have claimed to be Christ (the Messiah). Those seven include Simon Bar Kokhba (132 A.D.), Moses of Crete (5th Century), Obadiah of Isphahan (A.D. 744), Abraham Abulafia (13th Century), Shabbethai Tzvi (17th Century), Nachman of Breslov (18th Century), and Rabbi Menachim Schneerson (20th Century). There have been numerous other Jews also. There have been many Gentile men down through the centuries who have been identified with the supposition that they could be the Antichrist. The list could go on and on. The list is full of political, religious, and financial leaders. Satan must have a man prepared in every generation who can assume the role of the Antichrist because he does not know when the Lord Jesus Christ will return. Christ (Christos) is the Greek term that refers to the Jewish Messiah. Both Christ and Messiah are terms that describe the Anointed One. The Messiah is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Anointed One. The Jewish people and their rabbis are still looking for the Messiah. They did not receive him at his first advent. There is coming a false Christ that the Jews will receive. The Lord Jesus Christ said in *John 5:43*:

⁴³ I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. *John 5:43*

Speaking of multiple men who could be the Antichrist, the Muslims have been set up to receive the Antichrist. If you study the Koran and the Hadiths you will discover that the Muslim Messiah perfectly fits the Biblical description of the Antichrist. The Muslim Messiah is called "the Mahdi".

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Furthermore, in some respects, the Muslim Antichrist fits the Biblical Messiah. The Muslim Antichrist is called “the Dajjal”. Over the years I have heard much discussion as to whether the Antichrist is Jewish, Christian, or Gentile. I have formed an opinion that is different from most of my old line fundamentalist brethren. That opinion was formed based not just on the political character and person of the Antichrist. It is based upon his religious doctrine and the geography associated with his actions as they relate to both Christians and Jews. That opinion is further informed by his attitude toward women. You will notice that I am using the word “opinion”. That is because the Bible does not specifically call out his religion. However, he is called the Assyrian. When we speak of the Antichrist, we typically think of him being against Christ. While that is true, it does not convey a complete picture of the objectives of the Antichrist. While his actions are against Christ, it is more important to him to come instead of Christ. He wants to replace Christ and usurp his authority and right to worship.

The ultimate counterfeit Christ is the Antichrist himself. There are many scriptural types of the Antichrist. These would include Nimrod (*Genesis 10:8-10*), Pharaoh (Exodus chapters 5-14), the Bramble (*Judges 9:14-15*), the abominable branch (*Isaiah 14:19*), the branch of the terrible ones (*Isaiah 25:5*), the Assyrian (*Isaiah 14:25* and *Micah 5:5-6*), the prince of Tyrus (*Ezekiel 28:1-10*), the King of Tyrus (*Ezekiel 28:11-19*) Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel chapters 2-4), Belshazzar (*Daniel 5*), Haman (Esther chapters 3-7), the little horn (*Daniel 7:7-8*), Antiochus Epiphanes (*Daniel 11: 21-32*), the willful king (*Daniel 11:36-45*), the first rider of a white horse (*Revelation 6:2*), and the beast (*Revelation 13:1-10*). Though the Bible contains much about the person of the Antichrist and his wickedness, the word “antichrist” only appears 4 times in the Bible. All four of those appearances are in 1 John and 2 John. We quote *1 John 2:18-23*, *1 John 4:1-3*, and *2 John 7*:

¹⁸ Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. ¹⁹ They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. ²⁰ But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. ²¹ I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. ²² Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. ²³ Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (*but*) *he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. 1 John 2:18-23*

¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: ³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. *1 John 4:1-3*

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⁷ For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. *2 John 7*

In these three passages of scripture, we are warned that there were many antichrists already in the world even in the apostle John's day. Believe me that today that the spirit of Antichrist is manifesting itself in the most vile way since the Genesis flood destroyed all but eight souls. I believe that spirit is more wicked today than it was before the flood. I believe that spirit is more wicked than that which led to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Those who are under the control of the spirit of antichrist desert Bible believing Christianity because they are not of us. They are not only deceivers, but they are deceivers that are being deceived. They have not the Spirit of Christ because they are possessed of the spirit of the Devil which is the spirit of antichrist. We are given the prime marks of the Antichrist in these three passages of scripture. Number one, they deny the existence of God as the Father. Number two, they deny the existence of God as the Son. Number three, they deny the existence and ministry of God as the Holy Ghost. It is the ministry of the Holy Ghost that is the unction, or anointing, that gives Bible believing Christians the spiritual discernment to recognize the spirit and the person of the Antichrist. Number four, they deny that the Lord Jesus Christ came in the flesh. All four of these denials are a perfect description of the doctrines of Islam. They deny the Biblical Godhead in that they deny the theological Trinity and pronounce the death penalty upon anyone who will not deny the Trinity. While the Koran and the Hadiths of Islam are a perfect fulfillment of all that is declared to be true of the antichrist, there are many unsaved professing Christian heretics that deny the Son and that deny the Holy Ghost. They are called Non-Trinitarians. Regardless of their religious affiliation, they are all possessed of the spirit of Antichrist.

In the scriptures, we can readily identify at least 11 contrasts between Christ and the Antichrist. These would include:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as THE Son of God 52 times in the New Testament whereas the Antichrist is referred to as the son of perdition in *2 Thessalonians 2:3*.
2. The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as the mystery of godliness in *1 Timothy 3:16* whereas the Antichrist is referred to as the mystery of iniquity in *2 Thessalonians 2:7*.
3. The Lord Jesus Christ is called the man of sorrows in *Isaiah 53:3* whereas the Antichrist is called the man of sin in *2 Thessalonians 2:3*.
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is called the Holy One 52 times in the Bible whereas the Antichrist is called the wicked one in *2 Thessalonians 2:8*.
5. The Lord Jesus Christ is called the Truth in *John 14:6* while the Antichrist

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is called a lie in *2 Thessalonians 2:11*.

6. The Lord Jesus Christ humbled himself in *Philippians 2:8* while the Antichrist will exalt himself in *2 Thessalonians 2:4*.
7. The Lord Jesus Christ was despised by the world in *Isaiah 53:3* while the Antichrist will be admired and hotly pursued by the world in *Revelation 13*.
8. The Lord Jesus Christ was and will be rejected by most according to *John 1:11* while the Antichrist will be received by most according to *Revelation 13:8*.
9. The Lord Jesus Christ did his Father's will according to *John 6:38*, but the Antichrist will do his own will according to *Daniel 11:36*.
10. The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as the Saviour 29 times in the Bible whereas the Antichrist is said to destroy in *Daniel 8:24*.
11. The Lord Jesus Christ is and will be highly exalted according to *Philippians 2:9-11*, but the Antichrist will be cast down according to *Revelation 19:20*.

We can also make some comparisons between the Lord Jesus Christ and the Antichrist. These would include:

1. The Antichrist appears on a white horse *Revelation 6:2*. The Lord Jesus Christ appears on a white horse at his second coming in *Revelation 19:11-16*.
2. The Antichrist ushers in a period of false peace according to *Daniel 9:26-27* and *1 Thessalonians 5:3*. The Lord Jesus Christ is "The Prince of Peace" according to *Isaiah 9:6*, shall be the peace when the Assyrian comes into the land in *Micah 5:5*, and giveth the peace that passeth all understanding in *Philippians 4:7*.
3. The Antichrist experiences a death and a short lived resurrection in *Revelation 13:3*. The Lord Jesus Christ experienced an everlasting resurrection in *Matthew 28:1-7*, *Mark 16:4-8*, and *Luke 24:1-7*.
4. The Antichrist is worshipped in *2 Thessalonians 2:3* and *Revelation 13:8*. The Lord Jesus Christ accepted and received the worship of men in *Matthew 8:2*, *Matthew 9:18*, *Matthew 14:33*, *Matthew 15:25*, and so forth.

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5. The Antichrist performs many miracles in *Revelation 13:13-15*, *2 Thessalonians 2:10*, and *Matthew 24:24*. The New Testament is full with the miracles performed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

In closing these brief comment about counterfeit Christs, we would remind our readers and listeners that the Antichrist is the greatest of deceivers. He is the greatest enemy of Bible believing Christians and Jews. His ultimate goal is to fulfill the five "I wills" of *Isaiah 14*. He meets his final earthly destruction in Palestine. Please take note of the following scriptures from *Isaiah 14:12-32* and *Ezekiel 28:11-19*:

¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ¹⁶ They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, *and* consider thee, *saying*, *Is* this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; ¹⁷ *That* made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; *that* opened not the house of his prisoners? ¹⁸ All the kings of the nations, *even* all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. ¹⁹ But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, *and as* the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet. ²⁰ Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, *and* slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned. ²¹ Prepare slaughter for his children for the iniquity of their fathers; that they do not rise, nor possess the land, nor fill the face of the world with cities. ²² For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD. ²³ I will also make it a possession for the bittern, and pools of water: and I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts.

²⁴ The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, *so* shall it stand: ²⁵ That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. ²⁶ This *is* the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this *is* the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. ²⁷ For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul *it*? and his hand *is* stretched out, and who shall turn it back? ²⁸ In the year that king Ahaz died was this burden. ²⁹ Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit *shall be* a fiery flying serpent. ³⁰ And the firstborn of the poor shall feed, and the needy shall lie down in safety: and I will kill thy root with famine, and he

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shall slay thy remnant. ³¹ Howl, O gate; cry, O city; thou, whole Palestina, *art* dissolved: for there shall come from the north a smoke, and none *shall be* alone in his appointed times. ³² What shall *one* then answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD hath founded Zion, and the poor of his people shall trust in it. *Isaiah 14:12-32*

¹¹ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹² Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³ Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴ Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸ Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ¹⁹ All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never *shalt* thou *be* any more. *Ezekiel 28:11-19*

This completes our overview of counterfeit Christs. Our next topic is counterfeit spirits.

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COUNTERFEIT SPIRITS

For this topic, let us start by reading *2 Corinthians 11:1-4; 1 John 4:1-3,6*:

¹ Would to God ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me.

² For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*. *2 Corinthians 11:1-4*

¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. ² Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

³ And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. *1 John 4:1-3*

⁶ We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. *1 John 4:6*

There is a wicked spirit that slithers forth from most of humanity today. It is a spirit that lies in wait to deceive looking for an opportunity to strike. It is the spirit of antichrist. The spirit of antichrist controls most of our educational, political, financial, and religious institutions in America and the world for that matter. In most of our battles in the educational, political, financial, and religious realms, we rely upon the arm of the flesh as our chief weapon of warfare. What a major blunder! The Holy Ghost said in *2 Corinthians 10:2-4*:

² But I beseech *you*, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) *2 Corinthians 10:2-4*

We are in a spiritual war folks. We cannot rely upon the arm of the flesh if we wish to win the victory God would have us to win. We must rely upon the everlasting arms of our eternal God. Most Christians are sorely lacking in their knowledge of the spiritual world because they do not study their

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Bibles. There is a battle raging folks and most Christians are ill prepared to fight it because they are in open sin and not in tune with the Holy Ghost and his word. **LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THIS. Live in holiness and live in peace, power, and victory. Live in sin and worldliness and live in fear, weakness, and defeat. Live in holiness and you will have what the power of God can do. Live in sin and worldliness and you will have what the power of your flesh can do and that is to rebel against God and take you from one losing battle to the next.** The battle that we face takes place in a spiritual battlefield that is littered with the spiritually wounded and dying because their weapons of warfare were carnal. Do you want to be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might?!? Then listen to and follow the instructions of Paul, the messenger of the Holy Ghost:

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; ¹⁹ And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, *Ephesians 6:10-19*

The battle that we engage in is not against flesh and blood, but against the wicked hordes of hell under the command of the wicked one himself: that is the Devil and Satan. He is our chief adversary. He is a murderer and the father of lies. Satan is referred to as the “*prince of devils*” three different times. He runs a spiritual kingdom that is in perpetual warfare against God and his children. We are going to look briefly at Satan’s spiritual kingdom and the spirits that it manifests.

A word of warning is in order here. Not every time the phrase “*evil spirit*” occurs is it associated with the actions of the Devil and his devils. The phrase “*evil spirit*” occurs 14 times in the King James Bible: eight in the Old Testament and six in the New Testament. The first seven times the phrase “*evil spirit*” is used it is described as having been sent from God or the LORD. In those seven occurrences, it is not used in the sense of being sinful or wicked. In these contexts, it is used in the sense of being a “troubling spirit”. It is a spirit that causes trepidation. Only Luke uses the term “*evil spirit*” in the New Testament. Luke uses it four times in *Acts 19* where we have God’s one and only commentary on the utter powerlessness of unsaved exorcists. When contending with the Devil, unsaved Christians and carnal Christians do not have a clue what they are up against. Any that would lightly rebuke the Devil and his devils prove they do not have even an elemental understanding of the power of Satan. The Holy Ghost said in *Jude 9*:

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Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. *Jude 9*

Did you hear that?!? The archangel Michael durst not, in other words dared not, bring a railing accusation against the Devil, but said “the Lord rebuke thee”. Continuing with our discussion on Satan’s spirit world, the word “*Satan*” occurs 56 times in our Bibles. Satan’s name means adversary. He is our adversary. The words “*(D)devil*” or “*devils*” appear 116 times in the King James Bible. Thirty-three (33) of those are specific references to THE DEVIL with the remaining references connected to his devils.

The term “*familiar spirit*” appears 16 times in our Bibles. Those appearances prove that familiar spirits are under the curse and condemnation of God. Those with familiar spirits include wizards, witches, diviners, and all spirit mediums. That means that Christians should not participate in Harry Potter, events that promote the occult, seances, weegie boards, or the celebrations of death that occur during the annual pagan Halloween season.

The phrase “*unclean spirit*” is recorded 21 times in our Bibles. Only one of those is used in the Old Testament. It is used prophetically in *Zechariah 13:2* as a characteristic of Israel before the LORD’s Second Coming. The phrase “*unclean spirit*” is used of the Satanic trinity in *Revelation 16:13-14*. *Revelation 16:13-14* is yet another reminder of the Jewish nature of the book of Revelation with it being a throwback to Pharaoh and the frogs of Egypt in *Exodus 8:1-16*. All 14 occurrences of the word “frog” in your Bible are references to that event. Pharaoh is one of the prime types of the Antichrist in your Bible. The Bible mentions several other wicked spirits. These would include:

1. The spirit of whoredoms: twice: *Hosea 4:12* and *Hosea 5:4*.
2. The spirit of an unclean devil: once: *Luke 4:33*.
3. A spirit of divination: once: *Acts 16:16*.
4. The spirit of bondage: once: *Romans 8:16*.
5. The spirit of the world: once: *1 Corinthians 2:12*.
6. The spirit of fear: once: *2 Timothy 1:7*.
7. That spirit of antichrist: once: *1 John 4:3*.
8. The spirit of error: once: *1 John 4:6*.
9. Seven other spirits: twice: *Matthew 12:45* and *Luke 11:26*.

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10. The spirits of devils: once: *Revelation 16:14*.
11. Another spirit: once: *2 Corinthians 11:4*.
12. Foul spirit: twice: *Mark 9:25* and *Revelation 18:2*.
13. The spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience : once: *Ephesians 2:2*.
14. Deaf spirit: once: *Mark 9:25*.
15. Dumb spirit: twice: *Mark 9:17* and *Mark 9:25*.
16. Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up: once: *Job 4:15*. This one gets special mention because of an oft repeated event in many conversations I had with a former co-worker. Sometimes in our conversations concerning the Bible and Christians, he would suddenly point out the fact that the hair was standing up on his arms. It happened many times over the years. I always thought it was strange. I often wondered what spirit that was of. Then I heard a sermon that was preached by Brother Wesley Webb out of *Job 4*. It was pointed out in that sermon that the spirit identified in *Job 4:15* was a wicked spirit. The context supports that conclusion in *Job 4:12-21*. That spirit was a spirit of fear and trembling: a wicked spirit.
17. Seducing spirits and doctrines of devils: once: *1 Timothy 4:1-2*.

Just as the Holy Ghost draws men to the Lord Jesus Christ (*John 16:13,14*), the coming false prophet will push men toward the Antichrist — *Revelation 13:11-12*:

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. *John 16:13-14*

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. *Revelation 13:11-12*

In our day, the spirit of antichrist is driving all lost men into a league with the Devil. They have literally sold their souls to the Devil. The spirit of antichrist pervades almost all American institutions. Some of the biggest promoters of the spirit of antichrist is apostate and heretical

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churches in America and their unsaved and ungodly pastors, preachers and teachers. They have been sent strong delusion and believe every lie and perversion of the truth that comes along. Any church that promotes same sex marriages (sodomy), the transgender movement (sodomy), sex changes for children (sodomy), and drag queen shows to children in churches (sodomy, pedophilia, and burlesque) is a part of the whore of *Revelation 17*. The biggest secular purveyors of deceit, strong delusion, and sexual perversion that are under the control of the spirit of antichrist are all the social media platforms, all of the news organizations, and all levels of government. Christians need to get off of Facebook and get their face in the BOOK. Those of you who watch Fox News and Newsmax need not be deluded. These “conservative” newscasters are also promoting the sodomite agenda. When you bring an adult sodomite, or an adult transgender, on national television to condemn the actions of those who promote child molestation through gender mutilation and drag queen shows, your thought processes are totally corrupt. You have lost all moral compass. I see folks on national news shows that claim to be Christians that joyfully promote that sort of thing. They are doing the very thing that they accuse the Godless left of. They are virtue signaling and pandering to the Satanic reprobates in our society. All of it is still an offence to the Holy Ghost and an abomination. It reeks of the spirit of antichrist. A prime mission of this spirit of antichrist is to promote counterfeit gospels and their counterfeit salvations.

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COUNTERFEIT GOSPELS AND THEIR COUNTERFEIT SALVATIONS

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I have said many times over the years that the most frequently perverted doctrine man-ward is the doctrine of man's salvation and that the most frequently perverted doctrine God-ward is the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are wrong on either of them and remain in that error, you will die and go to hell. When we talk of false gospels, we see man either adding to or taking away from God's scriptural requirements for salvation. When we speak of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, there are many cults that deny that the Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh. If the Saviour you claim to have is not God, then he cannot save you. We will now take a look at *2 Corinthians 11:1-4* and *Galatians 1:6-9* as they relate to salvation:

¹ Would to God ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me.

² For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*. *2 Corinthians 11:1-4*

⁶ I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. *Galatians 1:6-9*

A Jesus that is not God manifest in the flesh is another Jesus. Believing on or in another Jesus will send you to hell. A gospel that does not include faith and repentance is another gospel. Another gospel will send you to hell. Most so called gospel messages that are being delivered to lost sinners today are a perverted gospel that cannot save. Any gospel message that does not require faith and repentance is kindling for the fires of hell. If you exercise saving faith, God the Holy Ghost will work repentance in you. Repentance is God's proof to you that you have not believed a counterfeit gospel. **Faith is the father of salvation and repentance is the mother of salvation. Faith and repentance come together in holy matrimony to produce a born again child of God.** Saving repentance is not a human work outside of the power of the Holy Ghost. Requiring human works for salvation subverts and perverts the gospel. Repentance is not a human work. Repentance is the work of the indwelling Holy Ghost. Any repentance that occurs before a lost sinner exercises faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is a work of the human will or the human flesh. That repentance may even come at the

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prompting of Holy Ghost conviction, but it does not save anyone absent the presence of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. **Put simply, faithless repentance and repentanceless faith cannot save anyone.** A gospel that does not include faith and repentance as its mandatory elements is another gospel. Faith and repentance are the parents of salvation. If either faith or repentance are absent, then salvation cannot be conceived.

As a brief aside, you will not find a verse in the Bible that states that saving faith is the gift of God. When I say that you will not find a verse, that includes *Ephesians 2:8-9* which states:

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

A literal interpretation of the words and the GRAMMAR in *Ephesians 2:8-9* proves that **salvation** is the gift of God. Grammatically, faith cannot be the gift of God in *Ephesians 2:8*. Salvation (“are ye saved”) is the subject of *Ephesians 2:8*. In the English language, faith and salvation are not the same. Grammatically, neither grace or faith can be the subject of *Ephesians 2:8* because they are the objects of the prepositions “by” and “through”. The Augustinian theology of many fundamentalists causes them to confound salvation and faith. Stating that saving faith is the gift of God plays into the hands of those who deny the freewill of mankind. *Romans 12:3* does not fit the bill either because the individuals that are being addressed are already saved. Their faith is “serving faith” and not “saving faith”. The folks in *Romans 12* are called brethren. Serving faith is given as a gift to the believer by the already indwelling Holy Ghost. I have thoroughly addressed the issue of whether saving faith is a gift of God in a 12 page article “[Is Saving Faith The Gift Of God](#)”. All that being said, let us continue with our discussion on counterfeit salvations.

Salvation is not praying some unbelieving prayer that is devoid of repentance and faith. Pronouncing unbelieving sinners saved after praying a faithless sinner’s prayer has just about destroyed Bible believing churches in America. It is a damnable heresy. Manipulated, unbelieving sinner’s prayers have become the Nehushtans of dead and dying churches. Furthermore, false professions have become the leprosy of Bible believing churches. Our churches are suffering from the Sardisian Plague because they have a reputation that they are alive and yet they are graveyard dead (*Revelation 3:1-6*). They are dead because most of their members are still dead in their trespasses and sin. False professions of faith produce whited sepulchres, dead churches, and dens of iniquity. Salvation changes people folks. *2 Corinthians 5:17* says this:

¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

What *2 Corinthians 5:17* is teaching is that if a person gets saved, there will be a change in their attitude and a change in their lifestyle. If there is no change, then there is a new creature. If there is no change, then there is no salvation. As Brother Sammy Allen used to say: no fruit, no root. If there is no fruit, there is no root and no salvation. A word of warning is necessary here concerning the application of *2 Corinthians 5:17*. Many Independent Baptists have promoted the heretical doctrine

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of “Easy Believism” or “Easy Prayerism” where they manipulate a potential convert into praying a faithless and repentanceless “sinner’s prayer” where there is no evidence of conversion or Holy Ghost conviction. Then they pronounce that tragically deceived sinner saved, bring them into their Baptist churches if they can even find them again, baptize them, and make them church members. Then go to preaching *2 Corinthians 5:17* to scrub them up on the outside in a vain attempt to mimic the inward work of the Holy Ghost that is not in that person. That makes them twofold more a child of hell. What these deceived so-called “soul winners” are doing is trying to clean the fish before the Holy Ghost has caught the fish. The rushed up manipulative “sinner’s prayer” is the Devil’s poetry in motion:

**One, two three repeat after me,
And in hell spend an eternity**

My whole point is this, do not try to substitute your work for the work of the Holy Ghost, or rush the work of the Holy Ghost. Salvation does not come to us on a plate of fast food. Be patient, and above all else be sensitive to the work of the Holy Ghost. Remember, salvation is in God’s timing and in God’s place. Pray and ask God to give you the discernment to see when the Holy Ghost is working so that you will know the proper time to enter into the discussion that the Holy Ghost is leading. Do not rush it. Allow the Holy Ghost time to do his work of conviction and conversion. If you are going to be an effective soul winner you must be prayed up, studied up, and living up to God’s standards of holiness. Those three will give you the discernment and boldness that you need to be an effective soul winner. It is God the Holy Ghost and the word of God that will change an individual. You do not have the authority from the word of God to give anyone assurance of salvation. That assurance is the work of the Holy Ghost and the work of the word of God. The apostle John said:

¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. *1 John 5:13*

Folks, you can be saved and also know it because there is a witness of the Spirit. The Holy Ghost said in *Romans 8:16*: “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”. The everlasting presence of the Holy Ghost in a saved individual is the assurance of their salvation. Do you know that you are saved? Is there a witness of the Spirit there? If the Holy Ghost is in there, there will be a witness of the Spirit in there: I am talking about your inward parts. Salvation is not through the water of the baptismal pool. Salvation is not through Christian church membership, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Judaism, and definitely not through the vileness and wickedness of Islam. Salvation is in and through the Lord Jesus Christ only. The Lord Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by him (*John 14:6*). Any other way is a false gospel that is under the curse of God. *Galatians 1:6-9* states:

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⁶ I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: ⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. *Galatians 1:6-9*

I refer to any doctrine that denies the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ or perverts the gospel as a damnable heresy because that is what the Holy Ghost called it in *2 Peter 2:1-2*:

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. *2 Peter 2:1-2*

The doctrine of salvation occupies a prominent place on our website because it is the most important man-ward doctrine in the Bible. As of March 27,2026, there is a list of 21 presentations that deal with the doctrine of salvation that will be on our website located at:

<https://earnestlycontendingforthefaith.com/EarnestlyContendingForTheFaithPreachingAndTeaching.html>

Many of those 21 presentations are composed of multiple parts. At some point in time, all 21 of those presentations will be uploaded to our website. They include all of the following topics:

1. After this the Judgment:
2. Are You Horrified of Hell?: Tract
3. Are You in the Faith?
4. Are You Saved and Still Going to Hell?
5. Examine Yourselves, Whether Ye Be in the Faith
6. Except Ye Repent: Tract
7. God's Plan of Salvation
8. Hell Fire
9. Nothing but the Blood of Jesus: Tract
10. Nothing but the Blood of Jesus Sermon
11. Biblical Repentance [50 Pages]
12. Satan's Attack on the Gospel
13. The Doctrine of Hell
14. The Necessity for Salvation
15. The Scriptural Motivation and Methods for Soul Winning [46 Pages]

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16. The Truth: Tract:
17. What Does God Require for Salvation?
18. Where To: Hell or Heaven?: Tract
19. Who Is the Holy Ghost?: Tract:
20. Why Will You Die in Your Sin and Burn in Hell Forever?
21. Objections to Salvation Answered (47 Pages):

Before we move into our next topic, I would again ask each of you here today, if you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would not go to hell? Are you saved? Do you know Jesus and does Jesus know you? It would be the greatest of tragedies to pass from this earth into eternity and have the Lord Jesus Christ say: “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (*Matthew 7:23*) or, “depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire” (*Matthew 25:41*). *Matthew 7:21-23* gives this very stern warning for those who count on their religious works to get them into heaven:

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. *Matthew 7:21-23*

The Lord Jesus Christ also stated:

¹⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. *Matthew 23:15*

Over the last 32 years, I have watched as deceived and deluded Baptist sinister ministers promoted unbelieving sinner’s prayers to false professors who were made twofold more the children of hell by their reliance upon heretical assurances of salvation straight from the pits of hell. An unbelieving and unrepentant sinner’s prayer make those who repeat them twofold more children of hell. Take heed to the warning. Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith! Hell is a place of everlasting fire and torment! In our next session we will talk about counterfeit baptism.

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COUNTERFEIT BAPTISM

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A word of warning is in order here. The doctrines of baptism and the Holy Ghost were in much transition in the Gospels, in the book of Acts, and in the early church. Some try to strictly handle those doctrines dispensationally and it just will not work. If you try to put doctrine in a straight jacket in the book of Acts, you are in for mass confusion. The word "baptize" and its cognates occurs 98 times in the New Testament. Those 98 break down as follows: baptize (9 times), baptized (61 times), baptizing (4 times), baptism (22 times), baptizest (once), and baptisms (once).

Baptism is an oft misunderstood doctrine. There are at least six different types of baptism mentioned in the New Testament. They are water baptism (65 times); Holy Ghost baptism (7 times); baptism with fire (2 times), baptism with repentance (4 times); baptism into death (18 times); Spirit baptism (1 time); and cloud baptism (1 time). Of the 65 mentions of water baptism, 33 of those instances are references to baptisms by John the Baptist. The two most frequently perverted modes of those five are water baptism and Holy Ghost baptism. It is never said that the Holy Ghost baptizes anyone. We here make a distinction between the person of the third member of the Godhead and his work in a body of flesh. The person of the third member of the Godhead is the Holy Ghost: his work in any body of flesh is the work of the Spirit. Individuals are baptized with the Holy Ghost either by God the Father or the Lord Jesus Christ.

Water baptism is much perverted because Christians just simply will not follow the literal instructions and examples given in the scriptures. Baptism is a point of much contention in professing Christianity. There have literally been millions put to death for not compromising the scriptural doctrine of baptism.

Many conflicts come up over valid subjects for baptism. Some even baptize for the dead. Dead bodies are not scriptural subjects for baptism. Valid subjects for baptism are believers only. Baptism does not make a person a believer. They are baptized because they are a believer. A person should never be baptized unless they know and understand why they are being baptized. That applies to babies and that applies to those who are mentally incapable.

There is also controversy over the mode of baptism. Some practice immersion. Some practice aspersion (sprinkling). Some practice affusion (pouring). Some baptize three times; once in the name of the Father, once in the name of the Son, and once in the name of the Holy Ghost. Many of the denominations that sprinkle and pour today started out using immersion. Up until the early 1300s, immersion was the dominant mode for baptism for most denominations.

Baptism is not an English word. It is a transliterated Greek word. In English, the word baptize literally means to dip in water, or to immerse in water. From *Matthew 3:16*, we learn that the Lord Jesus Christ was baptized by immersion because he "**went up straightway out of the water**". The Lord Jesus Christ is our scriptural example for the mode of water baptism. In *Acts 8:35-39*, the Ethiopian eunuch was also baptized by immersion because it is stated there that he and Philip "**came up out of the water**". **Counterfeit baptisms are those baptisms that occur before salvation.** It does not matter if the unbelieving baptisms were performed on babies, children, or adults. There are also those that state that baptism regenerates its subjects. They say baptism puts them into a state of

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being born again. That is not scriptural. Water baptism is symbolic of that which has happened in the heart of the believer. It symbolizes a newness of life. That is plainly stated in *Romans 6:3-5*:

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: *Romans 6:3-5*

The Lord Jesus Christ is our baptism. Now, let us take a look at some of scriptural narratives concerning baptism. Down through the years, as a Bible student, I have been warned many times against using the book of Acts to establish doctrine. Our study of baptism will prove why that is so. *Acts 19:1-5* states:

¹ And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ² He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. ³ And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. ⁴ Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵ When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. *Acts 19:1-5*

There are several passages of scripture in the book of Acts that strongly suggest that the book of Acts could have been named the "Book Of Transitions". We notice some differences in the practices in the book of Acts and what is the accepted practice of today's Bible believing churches. In *Acts 19:2*, we have believers that had NOT received the Holy Ghost. That cannot happen today and came to an end by the time the Holy Ghost gave the book of Romans to the apostle Paul. *Romans 8:9* says:

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. *Romans 8:9*

According to *Matthew 28:19*, for a baptism to be scriptural, it must be performed in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost and it must be performed only on believers. Some churches only baptize in the name of the Son. That does not line up with *Matthew 28:19*.

Baptizing infants is not scriptural. Unbaptized infants do not go to hell if they die in infancy. As proof of that we have the testimony of David concerning the first child shared between him and Bathsheba in *2 Samuel 12:15-23*. In verse 23, David said: "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me". Let us consider this. Were all the infants of Old Testament saints who died in infancy cast into hell because they were not the recipients of New Testament baptism or had not been

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circumcised? What a monster that God would be! The corrupt theology of some has them equating Old Testament infant circumcision with New Testament infant baptism as being a bond of a covenant between God and man. There is not one scripture in the Bible that states that Old Testament babies who die in infancy without circumcision were cast into hell. There is not one scripture in the Bible that states that New Testament babies who die in infancy without baptism are cast into hell.

Baptism does not save anyone. Therefore, baptism is not required for salvation. Some of the most ungodly people I have encountered have been unbelieving reprobates that had been baptized into Baptist churches. Furthermore, I assure you that it is not a denominational thing. Some of the most vile hit men in history were reprobates that had been unscripturally baptized. Some of the biggest mass murderers down through the years have probably been baptized into every denomination under the sun.

Scriptural baptism always follows salvation. You will not find any individual in the New Testament that was baptized before having made a profession of faith. Baptism is an act of obedience following salvation. That is why we call it "believer's baptism". The Lord Jesus Christ was not baptized to get saved. The Lord Jesus Christ did not need to get saved! The Lord Jesus Christ was baptized to "fulfil all righteousness" (*Matthew 3:15*). His baptism was an act of obedience. Admittedly, his baptism was unique because he never sinned. Neither could he have sinned. Might I add that I believe the Lord Jesus Christ was baptized because of the requirement in the Levitical law that the high priest "wash his flesh **IN** water" before he entered into the most holy place in his role as the high priest (*Leviticus 16:2-4*). The Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest. He is called our high priest at least 11 times in the book of Hebrews. We quote two of those in *Hebrews 3:1* and *Hebrews 4:14-16*:

¹ Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; *Hebrews 3:1*

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14-16*

Once again, we are cautioned to be very careful when using the book of Acts to establish doctrine, but I believe that *Acts 19:1-5* coupled with other passages on baptism provides a valid proof text for those churches that require re-baptism for those who made unbelieving professions of faith and were baptized. According to the scriptures, an unbeliever has not received the Holy Ghost. **Primarily, not having received the Holy Ghost and secondarily not having been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus were cited as reasons by Paul for requiring them to be re-baptized.** *Acts 19:1-5* is an outstanding example of how the ministry of the Holy Ghost was in transition in the book of Acts. The third person of the Godhead (Trinity) was manifesting himself in a way both in

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Acts and the Gospels in a way that he never had in the Old Testament. In 2024, based upon *Romans 8:9*, we would rightly say that someone who does not have the Holy Ghost is not saved. However, the context of *Acts 19:1-5* proves that the disciples of John the Baptist were already saved. So, early in the book of Acts you could believe without having received the Holy Ghost. *Acts 8:12-23* gives yet other examples of the transitional nature of the doctrine of the Holy Ghost and the doctrine of baptism. This passage reads:

¹² But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. ¹⁴ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵ Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶ (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷ Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸ And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹ Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. ²⁰ But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. ²¹ Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. ²² Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. ²³ For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity. *Acts 8:12-23*

In *Acts 8:15-17*, you could also believe and be baptized without having received the Holy Ghost. In *Acts 8:18-23*, I believe you have a documented case in scripture where an unsaved man was baptized. Simon said that he believed, but his actions and the revelation given to Peter seem to indicate that he was an unsaved man whose heart was not right with God and in the bond of iniquity. In *John 6:64-66*, we have similar circumstances in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ where those who said that they believed walked no more with him.

Some comments are necessary here concerning a practice that predates scriptural, Christian Baptism. **If water baptism is the agent of someone being “born again”, does it really matter what the religious affiliation is of the one doing the baptizing?** That is a loaded question because, to name just two, even the pagan Babylonians and the pagan Mexican Aztecs practiced immersive baptism. Did that save them: absolutely not! Both before and after the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, all Gentiles who converted to Judaism were required to undergo baptism by total immersion. It is a practice that continues even in the year 2024. Jewish baptism was symbolic of a spiritual event that already had taken place. In Judaism, it is a ceremonial ritual. Before one could enter the mikvah (the ritual baptismal pool), one had to have already taken a bath to cleanse their bodies prior to entering the mikvah pool. The mikvah was and is always symbolic. It was and is primarily considered to be

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but a symbol of a rebirth. What about that! “Ye must be born again”! In light of what we have learned, that statement had to get the attention of Nicodemus when the Lord Jesus Christ used it in *John 3:3-7*. The word “mikvah (mikveh)” is a Hebrew word that describes a gathering of waters. It is only used 10 times in the Old Testament. The Hebrew word “mikvah” is used in passages of scripture that equate it to living waters. Note the comparisons in the following passages of scripture in *Song 4:15*, *Jeremiah 2:12-13*, *Jeremiah 17:12-13*, *Jeremiah 14:8*, *John 4:10-15*, *John 7:37-39*, and *Acts 28:20*:

¹⁵ A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon. *Song of Solomon 4:15*

¹² Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. ¹³ For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. *Jeremiah 2:12-13*

¹² A glorious high throne from the beginning *is* the place of our sanctuary. ¹³ O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, *and* they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters. *Jeremiah 17:12-13*

⁸ O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man *that* turneth aside to tarry for a night? *Jeremiah 14:8*

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. ¹¹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? ¹² Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? ¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. ¹⁵ The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. *John 4:10-15*

³⁷ In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. ³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet *given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) *John 7:37-39*

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²⁰ For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see *you*, and to speak with *you*: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain. *Acts 28:20*

In *Song of Solomon 4:15* we have the Shulamite, a type of the bride of Christ, being described as “A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters”. Any Bible believing church will be a source of living water. The Lord Jesus Christ is that fountain of living waters. In *Jeremiah 2:12-13*, the LORD (Jehovah) states that he is “the fountain of living waters”. In *Jeremiah 14:8*, *Jeremiah 17:13*, and in *Jeremiah 50:7* it is that “hope of Israel” that is that “mikveh of Israel”. The word “mikveh” in those passages is translated “hope” in the King James Bible. That “hope of Israel”, the LORD, is referred to as “the fountain of living waters” in *Jeremiah 17:12-13*. In *Jeremiah 50:7* the LORD is again referred as the hope – the mikveh – of Israel. The Lord Jesus Christ applies that fountain of living waters to himself in *John 4:10-15* and in *John 7:37-39*. The Lord Jesus Christ is Jehovah manifest in flesh. It is that water of the fountain of living waters that supplies a well of water that springs forth into springs of everlasting life. Hallelujah! Finally, the apostle Paul applies that hope of Israel title to the Lord Jesus Christ in *Acts 28:20*.

A personal illustration is in order here. Some churches require new members from other denominations to be re-baptized. I was re-baptized when my pastor learned that I had been baptized as an unbeliever into Savannah Baptist Center as a twelve year old boy. For years, after leaving my adoptive parents home in Savannah, Georgia, I lived like a reprobate out of hell until I got gloriously saved in my backyard late one Friday evening on August 21, 1992. After I got saved, I joined Coastal Baptist Church in Saint Marys, Georgia and had been teaching Sunday School for years before I was re-baptized. Our next topic for discussion is counterfeit churches.

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COUNTERFEIT CHURCHES

The word “church” and its cognates appears 114 times in the New Testament. It is not our intent here to provide an exhaustive treatment of all those. The church is the most important organization on the face of this earth because the Lord Jesus Christ shed his blood and died for the church. *Acts 20:28* and *Ephesians 5:25* state:

²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. *Acts 20:28*

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; *Ephesians 5:25*

There are those that state that the church did not start until the Day of Pentecost. The Lord Jesus Christ would disagree with that . He told Peter in *Matthew 16:18*:

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. *Matthew 16:18*

That states that the Lord Jesus Christ started the church before his crucifixion while he was on the face of this earth. We also have the instructions of the Lord to the disciples in *Matthew 18:15-17*:

¹⁵ Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear *thee*, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell *it* unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. *Matthew 18:15-17*

If the church did not start before the Day of Pentecost, then how could this commandment be obeyed? How could they tell it to the church? It is eminently more scriptural to state that the Lord Jesus Christ started the church before the crucifixion and empowered it with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost became the vicar of the Lord Jesus Christ on the face of the earth. It is the Holy Ghost that administers the affairs of the church while Christ is in heaven. The administrator of the church has been changed from the Lord Jesus Christ to the Holy Ghost. Without quoting a lot of scripture we are told that the church is:

1. To worship God: *John 4:21-24*.
2. Sing praises unto God: *Hebrews 2:12*.
3. To preach the gospel: *Matthew 26:13, Mark 14:9, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:47*,

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Acts 1:8, and so forth. The word “preach” and its cognates is used 133 times in the New Testament.

4. To baptize believers: *Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16*, and so forth. There are 65 references to water baptism in the New Testament. See the previous discussion on “[Counterfeit Baptisms](#)”.
5. To hold communion or the Lord’s Supper: *1 Corinthians 11:23-34*. Its frequency is not mandated.
6. To receive tithes and offerings of its membership: *Matthew 23:23, Luke 11:42, Malachi 3:8, 2 Corinthians 8*, and *2 Corinthians 9*. Tithing transcends the law. It was required starting in the book of Genesis with Cain, Abel, and Abraham before the law. It was also required under the law. The Lord Jesus Christ commended it In *Matthew 23:23* and *Luke 11:42*. The New Testament church is God’s storehouse for the Christian
7. To discipline sinning an errant church members who will not repent: *Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, Romans 16:17-18, Philippians 3:17-19*, and *Galatians 6:1*.
8. To assemble: *Hebrews 10:25* (after all the root meaning of the word “church” is an assembly).
9. To teach doctrine: *Romans 6:17, Romans 16:17, Ephesians 4:15-16, 1 Timothy 4:6-16, 1 Timothy 6:1-5, 2 Timothy 4:1-4*, and so forth. The word “doctrine” is used 50 times in the New Testament. This is an element that is mostly and sadly missing from most churches. The root word of the word “indoctrinate” is “doctrine”. The word “indoctrinate” literally means to put doctrine into someone. When speaking of Bible believing Christianity, the mocking, unsaved world always uses “indoctrinate” in an extremely derogatory and negative sense. It usually said something like this, “Oh, you Christians are brainwashed”. Quite to the contrary, Bible believing Christians have forsaken brainwashed group think so that they can think for themselves and make decisions based upon the most logical system of reasoning that God has gifted to mankind. That system is called a Biblical world view.
10. To make known the manifold wisdom of God: *Ephesians 3:10*.
11. To minister to widows: *1 Timothy 5:3*.
12. To minister to the sick: *James 5:14-15*.
13. Is the virgin, chaste bride of Christ: *Ephesians 5:21-33*.
14. Is the body of Christ: *Colossians 1:18,24*.
15. Is the pillar and ground of the truth: *1 Timothy 3:15*.

We could identify many, many more responsibilities and characteristics of Bible believing churches. The best way to spot a counterfeit is to thoroughly understand what the real thing looks like. The Bible tells us what a real church ought to be. In the Bible, we can identify three major groups of

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churches that any number of adjectives can be used to describe. Those 3 are: Bible believing churches, apostate churches, and heretical churches. We would place those churches into two classifications: Bible believing churches and counterfeit churches. We identify apostate and heretical churches as counterfeits. There is a difference between apostasy and heresy. Apostasy deals more with the application side of doctrine while heresy deals with an outright rejection of the plain statements of scriptural doctrines. Apostasy is a falling away from scriptural doctrines once held to. Apostasy is knowing what is right while refusing to do that which is right. It is characterized by compromised doctrine; promoting corrupt bibles; vacillating, weak leaders; fearful leaders; a rejection and mocking of the old time ways; loud, corrupt, worldly music in the church; sexually revealing dress by men and women; promoting adult sexual perversion; promoting sexual perversion to children including the mutilation of children through the Satanic transgender movement; grooming and promoting sexual perversion through drag queen shows in churches before groups of children; stealing money from God's people through the promotion of corrupt television, radio, and internet ministries; and so forth. *Ephesians 5:21-33* gives us a broad overview of what the character of a New Testament church should be. It states:

²¹ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. ²² Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. ²⁴ Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. ²⁹ For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: ³⁰ For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. ³¹ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. ³² This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband. *Ephesians 5:21-33*

There are numerous churches identified throughout the New Testament. Churches in homes are mentioned 3 times. You have the churches of large areas such as Asia, Galatia, Macedonia, Syria, Judaea, Galilee, Samaria, and so forth. The first church mentioned by name is the church at Jerusalem. There are churches that have specific epistles written to them. These would include Rome, Corinth, Colosse, Philippi, Thessalonica, Ephesus, and Galatia. Perhaps the most dysfunctional church in the New Testament was at Corinth. It was the subject of much reproof and correction by the Holy Ghost through the ministry of the apostle Paul. If anything could go wrong in a church, it did at Corinth. There were huge issues with doctrine, vile sins, and divisions within

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that church. It is a handbook on what a church should not do. Paul expressed his fear of the compromise and sin in the church at Corinth in *2 Corinthians 11:1-4* when he stated:

¹ Would to God ye could bear with me a little in *my* folly: and indeed bear with me.
² For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*. *2 Corinthians 11:1-4*

Paul again makes a comparison between the church and Christ and a husband and wife. The church, the Bride of Christ, is to be a chaste virgin and not as the harlot of *Revelation 17*. Paul also warns the church at Corinth to beware of Satanic ministers in *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*:

¹³ For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

The pulpits of American churches are full of Satan's sinister ministers. I could anger the disciples of every denomination, including my own, by providing a never ending list of Satan's sinister ministers that teach and preach behind their lecterns and pulpits.

Then we have the seven churches of the book of Revelation 2 and 3. All seven of these churches were literal churches located in what is now called Turkey. Here is what the Lord Jesus Christ had to say about those churches:

Revelation 2

¹ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; ² I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: ³ And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. ⁴ Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. ⁵ Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. ⁶ But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To

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him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; ⁹ I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. ¹¹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

¹² And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; ¹³ I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. ¹⁵ So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

¹⁸ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; ¹⁹ I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first. ²⁰ Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. ²¹ And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. ²² Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. ²³ And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works. ²⁴ But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. ²⁵ But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come. ²⁶ And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: ²⁷ And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. *Revelation*

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2:1-29

Revelation 3

¹ And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. ² Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. ³ Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. ⁴ Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. ⁵ He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. ⁶ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; ⁸ I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. ⁹ Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. ¹⁰ Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. ¹¹ Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. ¹² Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name. ¹³ He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door,

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I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. ²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. *Revelation 3:1-22*

I have heard and read many Bible teachers and preachers that state that Revelation chapters 2 and 3 were a progressive, brief overview of the coming history of the New Testament church. Put another way, they say Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are a microcosm of church history. While I could somewhat agree with that as one application, I more so see the seven churches of the book of Revelation as being types of churches that we see coexisting throughout the world in every generation. Most churches seem to move through a life cycle that takes them from a fervent love of God to a hellish love of self.

All seven of the churches that are identified in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 were located in what is now the home of that God hating Muslim country of Turkey. Those seven churches do not exist today. If they did, they would be suffering great persecutions, tortures, and murders at the blood soaked hands of the peace loving Muslims. Following World War I, on October 29, 1923, Turkey was formed out of some of the remnants of the ungodly, barbaric Ottoman Islamic Empire. The Ottoman Empire has been one of the greatest persecutors and murderers of Christians and Jews in the history of the world. They are a Muslim country that hates Jews and Christians. The current leader of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is consumed with the spirit of antichrist. He hates Israel and the Jew and proves it yet again by his rhetoric and actions against Israel since the start of the Israeli/ Hamas war that began on October 7, 2023. Erdogan also hates Christians. As a reminder to the serious Bible prophecy student, modern day Turkey and the surrounding Islamic countries are the home of the nations that will attack Israel in the lead up to the battle of Armageddon. Some of those nations are clearly identified in Ezekiel 38 and 39. It is this same area of the world that will produce the Antichrist who is referred to in Isaiah 14 and Micah 5 as the Assyrian.

In the letters to the seven churches, the Lord Jesus Christ has something good to say about six (6) of the seven (7) churches with the exception of the church of the Laodiceans. He had nothing good to say about the church of the Laodiceans. The Lord Jesus Christ had nothing bad to say about two (2) of the seven (7) churches. Those would be the churches in Smyrna and Philadelphia. He commanded five (5) of the seven (7) churches to repent not including Smyrna and Philadelphia. All seven (7) letters to the churches closed with a different promise to all the overcomers in all seven (7) churches.

Ephesus, is the church that left its first love. It was once on fire for the Lord Jesus Christ, but the fire had died down with the passage of time. It was the church that was as any new bride and new groom. They were zealous for one another with a fervent love at the first until they began to take one another for granted. They had forgotten the heights to which the Lord Jesus Christ had taken them. They had fallen away from the Lord Jesus Christ. He warned them to repent and rekindle the fire that they once had for him. **At the closing to the letter to the church in Ephesus, the overcomers in the churches are promised that they will eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.**

Smyrna is the martyr's church. Smyrna is a name that means myrrh. Myrrh is a symbol of death.

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Smyrna has lived up to its name. There have been many thousands of Christians martyred there. The destruction of Smyrna by the Ottoman Turks resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 Christians and Jews. The peace loving Ottoman Turkish Muslims also murdered over 1.2 million Christians in the Armenian massacres. The barbaric Turkish Muslims will play a huge role in the persecutions and beheadings that take place during the Great Tribulation. Note the presence at Smyrna of the persecutors that say they are Jews, and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan. Satan is the great persecutor of Jews and Christians. The Jews at Smyrna were of the physical seed of Israel, but were not of the spiritual seed of Israel. What we see in *Revelation 2:9* and *Revelation 3:9* is the Lord Jesus Christ applying his teaching and preaching of *John 8:31-44* to the Jews that were persecuting the Christians at Smyrna. Not all that say they are Jews are Jews in the eyes of God. The Holy Ghost states the same principle through the apostle Paul in *Romans 9:6-8* and *Galatians 6:15-16*:

⁶ Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: ⁷ Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. ⁸ That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. *Romans 9:6-8*

¹⁵ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. ¹⁶ And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. *Galatians 6:15-16*

The problem of false professors is not unique to the Jews religion. Not all that say they are Christians are Bible believing Christians either. It is unbelieving Christians in church history, including today, that have been, or are becoming, some of the greatest persecutors of Jews and Christians in world history. So there are phony Christians and there are phony Jews. However, thank God there are Israelite Jews and pagan Gentiles that become Christians. When they become Christians, they become the Israel of God. God has torn down the middle wall of partition between the unsaved Jew and the unsaved Gentile through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the blood of his cross. *Ephesians 2:11-22* states:

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye *being* in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; ¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace; ¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the

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enmity thereby: ¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; ²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22

If you are Christian that has been taught the heresy that the church has replaced Israel, then you need to read and study very carefully Romans chapters 9 through 11 paying particular attention to Romans chapter 11. Romans chapter 11 is both a promise to the Jew and a warning to the Gentile that would cut off the Jew. Paul asked the rhetorical question “Hath God cast away his people?” and then immediately responded “God forbid....God has not cast away his people”. Replacement Theology is one of the greatest heresies in the history of the church and has been the cause of the death of millions of Jews. What a Satanic paradox that Satan has used professing Christians to murder and persecute Jews down through the history of the church! What is worst of all is that Satan used Christians to promote the Jewish Holocaust of the World War II era! Replacement Theology is under the curse of God. Now, back to the book of Revelation. **At the close of the letter to the church in Smyrna, the overcomers in the churches are promised that they “shall not be hurt of the second death”.**

The church at Pergamos was the compromised church that was located in the city that the Lord Jesus Christ identified as Satan's seat. Pergamos was the city that Satan moved his Babylonian religion and Babylonian mysteries to after the fall of the Babylonian Empire. Pergamos was a huge center of idolatry that had as its chief gods and goddesses Zeus, Athena, Dionysos, and Aesculapius. Some of the church leaders at Pergamos were teaching the doctrine of Balaam that led Israel into idolatry in Numbers chapters 22 through 24. The men in the church at Pergamos were practicing an unscriptural form of church government that established a clergy class to rule over a laity class. It was called the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. The Lord Jesus Christ told both the church at Ephesus and the church at Pergamos that he hated the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. Nicolaitan literally means “above the laity”. The hatred of the Lord Jesus Christ for the doctrine of the Nicolaitans is an application of the admonishment of the Holy Ghost given to Peter in *1 Peter 5:1-3*:

¹ The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: ² Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over *God's* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. *1 Peter 5:1-3*

At the close of the letter to the church in Pergamos, the overcomers in the churches are promised that they will be given “to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone,

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and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receive it”.

The church at Thyatira was the church that had a woman exercising unscriptural authority and leading that church into idolatry. It is obvious from the context that she was teaching men and women heresy. That is a direct affront to the Holy Ghost who said in *1 Timothy 2:12*: “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence”. That woman was named Jezebel. She falsely called herself a prophetess. She is a perfect type of the Old Testament Jezebel whose story is told in 1 Kings chapters 18 through 21. Jezebel had 400 prophets that she exercised direct authority over who ate at her table. In that process, she also effectively usurped the throne of Israel that was supposed to be controlled by King Ahab: the king of no backbone: noodle-back Ahab. The result of Ahab’s weakness and compromise was total idolatry in Israel. Ahab would have withered under Paul’s command, “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong”. When Ahab allowed the throne to be usurped the rightful authority was not sitting upon it. The result is the same in modern day churches that are worshipping a god of their own choosing. They all end up in idolatry. The rightful authority in a scriptural New Testament church is a man. Every qualification for the offices of bishops, pastors, deacons, and elders is given to men only. A woman cannot be the “husband of one wife”. **At the close of the letter to the church in Thyatira the overcomers in the churches are promised that they will be given “power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron...”**.

The church at Sardis claimed to be a lively church, but was spiritually dead. The Lord Jesus Christ warned them that the few believers that remained there were ready to die. That is the state of most churches in America on August 10, 2024. They may be carnally alive, but they are spiritually dead. If you want loud music, sexually revealing dress by men and women, sexual perversion before children, transgender promotion, abortion promotion, weak or no preaching, smoke and mirrors, teenagers and young adults slithering around in mosh pits, and flashing strobe lights welcome to the average seeker friendly church that stands for nothing truly Christian and falls for everything Satanic. They have gone past having a form of godliness and denying the power thereof to promoting a completely Satanic religion. In America we have an unrighteous and unholy alliance between a coalition of Sardisian and Laodicean churches. The Sardisian church in a vain attempt to revive itself has on occasion allied itself with Chrislam which is supposed to be a synthesis of Christianity and Islam. All stop! The next stop is Revelation 17 where they bed down with the MOTHER OF HARLOTS. What about the Antichrist? There is death in the pot for the dying church. They have lost the power of God. The Holy Ghost is not within a light year of them. **At the close of the letter to the church in Sardis, the overcomers in the churches are promised that they “shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot his name out of the book of life”**.

The church at Philadelphia is but one of two churches that the Lord Jesus Christ had nothing bad to say about. The other church that the Lord Jesus Christ had nothing bad to say about was the church of Smyrna. They both had something else in common. They both were severely persecuted by Jews who falsely claimed to be Jews who were of the synagogue of Satan. The church at Philadelphia has kept God’s word and has not compromised doctrine. They have not denied the name of the Lord Jesus

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Christ. We have so many in the rotting corpse of compromised Christianity that deny the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ whose name is that name that is above every name. These heretics do not believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. These heretics do not believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. They deny the Father and the Son which marks them as antichrist to the core (*1 John 2:18-22, 1 John 4:1-3, and 2 John 7*). *First Timothy 3:16* states:

¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. *1 Timothy 3:16*

The church of Philadelphia is the church “that is creating division in the body of Christ” (to use a heretics phrase) based upon them teaching false doctrine. Folks, we are to separate from apostates and heretics that teach and preach false doctrine. It is a commandment of God. We are not to go along to get along. If we do, we become partakers in their evil deeds. We are to call false doctrine and false teachers out and separate from them. The church at Philadelphia is the church that has the men to stand in the gap against the false prophets and teachers of the apostate and heretical MOTHER OF HARLOTS church. The church of Philadelphia has an open door set before her because she has not compromised the word of God. The Lord Jesus Christ seeks such churches and men to glorify him just as God sought men in the Old Testament to glorify him by not compromising his word. Ezekiel 22:23-31 gives the price of compromise by stating the following:

²³ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ²⁴ Son of man, say unto her, Thou *art* the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. ²⁵ *There is* a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. ²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. ²⁷ Her princes in the midst thereof *are* like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, *and* to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. ²⁸ And her prophets have daubed them with untempered *mortar*, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken. ²⁹ The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. ³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. ³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 22:23-31*

At the close of the letter to the church in Philadelphia, the overcomers in the churches are

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promised that they will be made “a pillar in the temple of my God...”.

Finally, we come to the church of the Laodiceans: the totally compromised church that is neither hot nor cold. Notice that prior to the letter to the church of the Laodiceans that each letter was addressed to a church **IN** a particular city, but it is not so for the church **OF** the Laodiceans. The Laodiceans own the church in the place of the Lord Jesus Christ. The church at Laodicea is so lukewarm and wishy washy that the Lord Jesus Christ promises that he will spew them out of his mouth. What a condemnation! She is much increased with worldly goods and wealth, but is totally spiritually bankrupt. She is a miserable wretch that is blinded to the shame of her nakedness and spiritual poverty. Her garments are filthy with the works and goods of this world that are worthless before God. She is so spiritually blind that she has lost all discernment. She does not have a clue how spiritually bankrupt she is before God. She has become so hardened to her sin that she can no longer blush. They cannot harken to the voice of the Lord because they have rejected his word for the thoughts of unbelieving Bible scholars and Bible correcting preachers and teachers. The Old Testament parallel in Israel was *Jeremiah 6:10-19*:

¹⁰ To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear *is* uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. ¹¹ Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with *him that is* full of days. ¹² And their houses shall be turned unto others, *with their* fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD. ¹³ For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. ¹⁴ They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter* of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace. ¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time *that* I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. ¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*. ¹⁷ Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. ¹⁸ Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what *is* among them. ¹⁹ Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, *even* the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it. *Jeremiah 6:10-19*

Even in the midst of all the apostasy and heresy of the church of Laodicea that our loving Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, stands at their door knocking and pleading for them to let him in. If they will

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but open the door and receive him, he will open their blinded eyes that the light of the glorious gospel would come flooding in. Hallelujah! What a God, what a Saviour, and what a King we have. Bless his name! **At the close to the letter to the church of the Laodiceans, the churches that “him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne”.**

The Lord Jesus Christ said nothing negative to the churches at Smyrna and Philadelphia. Smyrna was the martyr's church. Smyrna is the church that exists in 2024 in lands that have outlawed Christianity. That would include every Muslim majority country in the world. For instance, you will not find a Christian church of any denomination in Saudi Arabia. Anyone who would attempt to start one would have their head removed. The church at Philadelphia was a church that was persecuted by a group falsely claiming to be Jews. The church at Philadelphia was the church that refused to compromise or deny the word of God. Thank God we still have some Philadelphia type churches even in America! The church at Ephesus was the simmering church that was once on fire for the Lord Jesus Christ, but had left its first love. For many decades, the apostate church in America and its heretical ministers have promoted a Satanic self esteem gospel that adds unsaved reprobates to the church pews that profess that they know God, but in works they deny him. One television preacher said that losing one's self esteem was his definition of hell. A lack of self esteem is not the problem. Too much self esteem is identified as the problem by the Holy Ghost in *2 Timothy 3:1-3* when he stated that the apostate compromisers there were “*lovers of their own selves*”. The churches at Pergamos and Thyatira promoted false teachers and preachers. Pergamos promoted male false teachers and preachers while Thyatira promoted female false prophetesses and teachers. Take note also of the presence of Satan at Pergamos and Thyatira. Pergamos was described as the place “where Satan's seat is. After the fall of Babylon, many of the Babylonian pagan priests brought the Babylonian mysteries with them to Pergamos. Thus, it is rightfully called Satan's seat: a manifestation of MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS. Note the use of the term Nicolaitans in reference to the churches at Ephesus and Pergamos. The Nicolaitans were a group of men who exercised unscriptural authority over the church. The term Nicolaitans literally means above the laity. The concept of separate classes of clergy and laity is contrary to scriptural New Testament doctrine. The Lord Jesus Christ said that he hated it. In the church at Thyatira, we have a woman exercising unscriptural teaching authority over the church. The Holy Ghost said in *1 Timothy 2:12*: “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence”. Ahab's wife Jezebel is an Old Testament type of the New Testament Jezebel. Jezebel had 400 false prophets that ate at her table. Jezebel was a persecutor of the true prophets of the LORD.

Twelve (12) times the doctrine of repentance is mentioned in the book of Revelation. Five of the seven churches in the book of Revelation are commanded to repent. Oh how the Sardisian and Laodicean church hates the doctrine of repentance and its child holiness!! Those who will not repent come under the judgment and condemnation of God in Revelation. It is said three times in Revelation that the world and the church refused the call to repent. That refusal brought the judgment of the tribulation.

The church at Ephesus was told to repent of having fallen away from their first love. They had lost their fervent love for the Lord Jesus Christ. The church at Pergamos was commanded to repent of

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teaching and practicing the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans. The church at Thyatira was commanded to repent of allowing Jezebel to teach and to promote false doctrines that led into idolatry and sexual perversion. What we see in Jezebel is a promotion of sexual promiscuity and perversion as well as spiritual perversion. The church at Sardis was told to repent of the false idea that it was alive when it was actually dead. The church at Sardis was also guilty of not watching for the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The church at Laodicea was commanded to repent of being focused on the world, its goods, and its riches. Wealth has blinded the church at Laodicea and it has locked the Lord Jesus Christ out of its congregation because it falsely feels that it has need of nothing, even the Lord Jesus Christ. Each of the letters to the seven churches opens with the Lord Jesus Christ stating that "I know thy works". Some of those works were good and some of those works were bad in these churches. There is nothing that can be hidden from the Lord Jesus Christ. Hebrews 4:13 says: "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do".

Each of the seven letters to the churches closes with a promise to the overcomer that is addressed to all seven churches. The final words of the Lord Jesus Christ to each of the seven churches was listen and heed: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches". Most of today's churches have uncircumcised ears so that they cannot hear or harken to the word of God (Jeremiah 6:16).

The final four usages of the word "repented" in Revelation apply to the world in general and they tell a tragic story: they repented not. Because they repented not, they suffered the judgments and wrath of the great tribulation.

Just prior to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ TO THIS EARTH in Revelation 19, we see the apostate and heretical tribulation church wallowing in its wickedness and hatred of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a totally corrupt religious system that denies every Bible doctrine. The Bible describes it as MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS. Lets read about it in Revelation 17.

Throughout the world, there are apostate and heretical "Christian" leaders promoting what is called ecumenical unity by Bible believing Christians. Those heretics that seek ecumenical unity are seeking a one-world church. It is the church of the Antichrist and it will lead untold millions into the pits of hell. The ecumenical church will be the Satanic church that is beheading Bible believers during the tribulation. See Revelation 20:4. The ecumenical church stands for nothing and falls for everything. The ecumenical church condemns and rejects those that are opposed to the acceptance of diversity of doctrine that is nothing more than rank heresy. There can be no unity in diversity of doctrine. The ecumenical church is the melting pot for every heresy and false doctrine that comes slithering forth from Satan's crypts of corrupt theology. There is death in that pot.

Chrislam is the ultimate melting pot for apostate and heretical Christianity and the purely Satanic religion of Islam. It attempts to blend Islam with Christianity. Speaking strictly from a human standpoint, no two religious systems could be more diametrically opposed to one another. Speaking from the mind of God, which is the Bible, and the mind of Satan, which is the Koran and the Hadiths, no two systems could be more in conflict with each other. They are adamantly opposed to one

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another. The Koran and the Hadiths are everything that God says is antichrist. In the end, that one world church is much more than just a blending of Islam and Christianity. It includes every false religion on the face of this earth including compromised and corrupt Baptists and Protestants. It also includes religions such as Catholicism Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Shintoism, Witchcraft, Wizardry, Voodoo, the Occult, and the whole host of tribal religions. That is what the antichrist term “your faith tradition” is all about. “Your okay if you just believe”. It begs the question, believe what?!? Its design is to work toward worldwide unity in diversity. That is a huge problem for a Bible believing Christian!

I repeat. There can be no unity in diversity of doctrine. *Hebrews 13:9* says in part: “Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines”. The Bible commands Christians to separate based upon both false doctrine and ungodly conduct. That covers ALL of God’s words (doctrine) and the application (conduct) of them. Neither can there be Biblical unity in the so-called essentials while rejecting other portions of the Bible. All Bible doctrine is essential. So, “*why can’t we just get along*” with the apostates, false teachers, heretics and pagans? The church and its members are commanded at least six different times to separate from false doctrine and unholy living. Those are documented in *Romans 16:17-18, 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, Ephesians 5:6-12, Philippians 3:17-20, 2 John 10-11, and Revelation 18:1-4* where we read:

¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. ¹⁸ For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. *Romans 16:17-18*

¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. ¹ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1*

⁶ Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. ⁷ Be not ye therefore partakers with them. ⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light: ⁹ (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) ¹⁰ Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. ¹² For it is a shame even to

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speak of those things which are done of them in secret. *Ephesians 5:6-12*

¹⁷ Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. ¹⁸ (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:* ¹⁹ Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is their* belly, and *whose glory is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.) ²⁰ For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: *Philippians 3:17-20*

¹⁰ If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed: ¹¹ For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. *2 John 10-11*

¹ And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. ⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. *Revelation 18:1-4*

I believe all these verses speak unequivocally for themselves without a lot of theological bloviating. They need no exposition. The problem most professing Christians will have with these six passages of Scripture is not a lack of understanding, but rather they will have neither the courage or the convictions to earnestly contend FOR the faith because if they do they will either be accused of being unloving, Pharisees, legalists, or some combination of thereof. Since somewhere around the 1960s, the words "Pharisee" and "legalist" have been used in American Christianity as Christian curse words to attack those who will not compromise Biblical doctrines and standards. These Christian curse words are used like daggers by compromised, apostate Christians and unbelievers to hurt and wound holy and separated Bible believing Christians. They are pulled from the same quiver as Satan's fiery darts. These Christian curse words are used to run cover for doctrinal compromise and sin. Most of the time when you hear the words legalist and Pharisee used they are rooted a lack of obedience to the word of God.

So, how are real Christians to respond to the accusations of being Pharisees and legalists? We are to respond to them in love and meekness in an attempt to recover those making the accusations out of the snare of the devil. Most will not respond in a godly manner. Then you must quit ye like men, boys. Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Ultimately, compromise and a lack of convictions are the prime ingredients of the leaven of ecumenicalism. Pope Francis manifested that spirit of ecumenicalism in his recent trip to Asia in September of 2004. The devil is in the details

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folks. The spirit of ecumenicalism is the spirit of Antichrist.

Many of the doctrinally illiterate “conservative” Catholics have rightly criticized Pope Francis for promoting ecumenical unity with the Muslims on his trip to Indonesia on September 3-6, 2024. Also, on his trip to Singapore on September 11, 2024 he had this to say and I quote him verbatim:

“All religions are paths to reach God. They are, to make a comparison, like different languages, different dialects, to get there. But God is God for everyone. If you start to fight saying ‘my religion is more important than yours, mine is true and yours isn’t’, where will this lead us? There is only one God, and each of us has a language to arrive at God. Some are Sikh, Muslim, Hindu, Christians; they are different ways to God.”

Folks, that statement by Pope Francis is outright heresy and is a complete rejection of Bible believing Christianity. The so-called conservative Roman Catholics that condemn him for promoting universalism do not know their own catechism. Canons 841-843 of the 1994 Roman Catholic Catechism states the following

841 The Church's relationship with the Muslims. "The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind's judge on the last day." [330]

842 The Church's bond with non-Christian religions is in the first place the common origin and end of the human race:

All nations form but one community. This is so because all stem from the one stock which God created to people the entire earth, and also because all share a common destiny, namely God. His providence, evident goodness, and saving designs extend to all against the day when the elect are gathered together in the holy city. . . [331]

843 The Catholic Church recognizes in other religions that search, among shadows and images, for the God who is unknown yet near since he gives life and breath and all things and wants all men to be saved. Thus, the Church considers all goodness and truth found in these religions as "a preparation for the Gospel and given by him who enlightens all men that they may at length have life." [332]

In making his statements in Indonesia and Singapore, this heretical Roman Catholic Pope was only following the official dictates of his false religion. The Pope’s conduct in Indonesia and his statements in Singapore line up almost perfectly with the dictates of canons 841, 842, and 843. Read his statements and the canons again. Roman Catholic canons 841, 842, and 843 are an outright rejection

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of the Bible and the exclusivity of its salvation offered through the Lord Jesus Christ alone. The Lord Jesus Christ speaking in *John 14:6* stated: **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”**. There is no salvation in any other religion or any natural man. There is no other way and no other truth. Furthermore, there is no other unbelieving “faith tradition” that works either. The pope also needs to read, BELIEVE, and heed that which *Acts 4:10-12* states:

¹⁰ Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. ¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. *Acts 4:10-12*

Ecumenical unity leads to spiritual death for those who embrace it. It is a part of the Sardisian and Laodicean mind-set. The Sardisian and Laodicean churches are Satanic counterfeits that are the work of the spirit of antichrist. The Sardisian and Laodicean compromise ends in the Medussian embrace of the MOTHER OF HARLOTS in *Revelation 17*. Here is what we read there:

¹ And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: ² With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. ³ So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. ⁴ And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: ⁵ And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶ And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. ⁷ And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. ⁸ The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. ⁹ And here *is* the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. ¹⁰ And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, *and* the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. ¹¹ And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the

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eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition. ¹² And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. ¹³ These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. ¹⁴ These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful. ¹⁵ And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. ¹⁶ And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. ¹⁷ For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. ¹⁸ And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. *Revelation 17:1-18*

For decades, I was taught that the church of Revelation 17 was exclusively the Roman Catholic church. I do not buy that. The MOTHER OF HARLOTS OF Revelation 17 is a worldwide synthesis of all the world's false religions. We refer to it as syncretism. The MOTHER OF HARLOTS is made up of apostate and heretical Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Orthodox Churches, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Pentecostal Churches, Churches of Christ, Catholic churches, and other compromised Christian religions. That MOTHER OF HARLOTS will also include unsaved Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, Shintoists, and so forth. I believe that the largest part of the MOTHER OF HARLOTS will be the devils of Islam followed by Roman Catholics and Hindus. The MOTHER OF HARLOTS'S most powerful force will be Islam. For hundreds of years, Protestant Reformers such as Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, Hugh Latimer, Martin Bucer, William Tyndale, Philip Melancthon, John Rogers, Heinrich Bullinger, John Calvin, and many others have denounced the Pope as being the antichrist and the Roman Catholic Church as being the MOTHER OF HARLOTS of *Revelation 17*. I am not trying to promote or defend heresy here, but much of officially published Roman Catholic doctrine is Orthodox unlike the tenets of Islam that are in violent opposition and confrontation with the Christian Bible. Like all false religions, Islam claims to be the latest and final revelation of God to man. The Koran, the manifesto of Islam, is a Satanic synthesis of the Christian New Testament; the Jewish Tanak (Christianity's Old Testament), ancient Arab pagan religious practices, and Zoroastrianism. Allah of Islam is the ancient Arab moon God. If you will study the Koran and the Hadiths, you will find that Islam is a perfect religion doctrinally for the Biblical Antichrist. The Muslim Antichrist is for the most part the Biblical Christ. The Muslim Christ is the Biblical Antichrist. Put another way, the Muslim Messiah who is called "the Mahdi" is the Biblical Antichrist. The Muslim Antichrist is referred to as "the Dajjal". Apostate Western Christianity has set themselves up to be the perfect tool of an Islamic Antichrist because of their antisemitic Replacement Theology that purposefully promotes the hatred of Jews and Israel. It attempts to justify the violence against Jews. Why do you think that you are seeing American cities and college campuses under the attack by lawless, Islamic, pro Hamas thugs? A lot of that has originated in American churches where the heresy of Replacement Theology is taught and preached.

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Replacement Theology teaches that the church has replaced Israel in Bible Prophecy. It is a false doctrine that throws out every unfulfilled Bible Prophecy that relates to the Jew and the nation of Israel. It is a doctrine that makes God a liar who does not know the end from the beginning. It is under the curse of God. So, lets get this straight. So, you say that God did not know that Israel was going to reject the Messiah at his first advent. So, he had to replace Israel with the church and abrogate at least 20 percent of Bible Prophecy. That is absolutely ludicrously outrageous and faithless! What ever happened to rightly dividing the word of truth? God said in *Isaiah 46:9-11*:

⁹ Remember the former things of old: for I *am* God, and *there is* none else; I *am* God, and *there is* none like me, ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times *the things* that are not *yet* done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: ¹¹ Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken *it*, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed *it*, I will also do it. *Isaiah 46:9-11*

Next we will deal with counterfeit kingdoms which in the end will be melded together by Satan to produce a one-world government that will be promoted by a one-world church.

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COUNTERFEIT KINGDOMS

When we speak of a New Testament kingdom, it is not the kingdom of the church. Scripturally speaking, that kingdom can be none other than the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God.

The Bible knows no other kingdoms in the New Testament. The only earthly kingdom that is promised to Christians is that great Millennial Kingdom that follows the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ in Revelation 19. The Millennial Kingdom is the 1,000 year earthly reign of the Lord Jesus Christ that takes place between his Second Advent and the Great White Throne Judgment. That Millennial Kingdom is a future earthly kingdom that will be ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ on the literal throne of David from the literal city of Jerusalem.

The only way you can pervert the church into a kingdom is to replace Israel with the church. That generates numerous other fallacies and contradictions that fly in the face of logic and reason and a literal reading and interpretation of the Scriptures. I am not a very smart man, but I do know that it is not wise to speculate to the point of surety beyond what God has literally stated in his word. If you do, you are putting words in God's mouth that he did not say. It is beyond utter foolish speculation to say, "God must have meant". No, he meant what he said..... literally....! I do not have to speculate. To do so results in the utter confusion that we see in most churches in America in 2024.

If you believe the church has replaced Israel as the physical kingdom of God I challenge you to take all 75 occurrences of the word "Israel" in the New Testament and replace them with the phrase "the church" and you will see the utter foolishness of the heresy of Replacement Theology. It is a doctrine straight out of the pits of hell. It is a doctrine that negates every "for ever" and "everlasting" that God stated in the unconditional Abrahamic Covenants in the Old Testament. Replacement Theology is a most hateful doctrine that came slithering up out of the pits and crypts of Satan's theology. Now, what does the Bible say about the kingdoms?

The word "kingdom" occurs 163 times in 154 verses in the New Testament. Never, ever is the word "kingdom" used to describe an earthly "kingdom of the church". God did not, and has not, granted scriptural authority to the church to exercise earthly reigning authority. You will not find the phrase "kingdom of the church" used anywhere in your Bible. In *Mark 8:15*, the Lord Jesus Christ warned the apostles to beware of the leaven of Herod. Specifically he said: " And he charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod". The "leaven of the Pharisees" is the leaven of false religion. The Pharisees and Sadducees were the controlling false religious authority for the Jews in the days of the Lord Jesus Christ on this earth. The "leaven of Herod" is the leaven of state sponsored and state controlled religion. Herod was the controlling secular governmental authority when the Lord Jesus Christ was confronting the Pharisees. The "leaven of Herod" is government interference in the church. During the time of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Jewish high priest(s) served at the pleasure of the Roman government contrary to Old Testament scriptural dictates. In effect, the state had veto power over who could serve as the Jewish High Priest. We know that was under the curse of God.

Regardless of what country you go to, either in the present, or historically, you will not find a state sponsored "Christian" church that was not started in corruption and ultimately ends up being in bed with the MOTHER OF HARLOTS. *Revelation 17* is the "Kingdom Now Church". *Revelation 18* is

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the state sponsor of the "Kingdom Now Church". In state sponsored churches, it is the secular government that ultimately dictates what doctrines can and cannot be preached and taught. If you say "Au contraire", you have been deceived and are being deceived. "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived"(2 Timothy 3:13). Welcome to modern America where ungodly states with the support of the God hating Federal government have passed hate speech laws whose ultimate goal is to imprison and destroy any who would preach and teach against sin in general, but especially those who would preach against the sins of abortion, sodomy, the transgender movement in general, and the mutilation of children through sex change operations. State sponsored churches have been the greatest persecutor of Bible believing Christians in the history of the false church. It is not just been churches, but it has been false religion in general that has been among some of the most bloodthirsty tyrants in the history of the world. We will talk more on that later.

There are Christian false religions and other pagan religions that have established themselves as state sponsored religions. If we look around the world today we see at least 84 countries that either have official state sponsored religions in their governing documents such as their "constitutions" or they have statements or confessions, in their governing documents allowing government support of a specific religion. There are 48 countries that have government established state religions in their governing documents. There are an additional 31 countries that mention specific religions in their governing documents as having favor with the government. What follows is a very broad breakdown of those state sponsored religions. You have 26 nations that have established the religion of Islam as their official state religion. You have 5 nations that lend official support to Islam. There is no religious liberty in any of the Islamic nations. The largest sect in Islam is the Sunnis with the Shiites being the second largest sect. Though Indonesia has neither a state sponsored official religion or a supporting statement in their governing documents, they have a Sunni Islamic population that is second to none in the world. There are 4 nations that have Buddhism as their official state religion. There is 1 (one) nation that lends its official support to Buddhism. There are 5 nations that have Catholicism as their official state religion. There are 14 nations that lend support to Catholicism in their governing documents. There are 4 nations that have Evangelical Lutheranism as their official state religion. In addition, there are 3 other nation that lend support in their governing documents to Evangelical Lutheranism. There are 4 nations that have Anglicanism as their official state religion. Anglicanism is the Church of England. There are 2 nations that have Presbyterianism/Calvinism as their official state religions. Finally, there are 5 nations that have Communism as their official state religion. There are two stand outs among these religions. All of the world's false religions including apostate and heretical Christianity will show up in the brothel of the MOTHER OF HARLOTS.

Two of the official state religions we have just mentioned have a sordid history of attempting to establish a worldwide theocratic kingdom by shedding the blood of Bible believing Christians and Jews. Those two religions are Catholicism and Islam. In the past 450 years, Islam has been at the forefront of persecuting, torturing, and murdering Christians and Jews. As wicked and vile as they were, the atrocities of Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich are but a drop in the bucket compared to the actions of the most wicked religion on the face of the earth, and that is Islam. Islam is Satan's master religion. Islam's wickedness is justified, lauded, and promoted in the vile pages of the Koran and the Hadiths. However, Christians are specifically forbidden to take such actions. The Lord Jesus Christ

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had the following to say in *John 16:1-3* on the subject before us:

¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. ² They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. ³ And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. *John 16:1-3*

At the bottom line, persecution and murder in the name of religion is at the heart of not knowing God the Father or God the Son. It is an issue of unbelief. Islam thinks they do God a service when they kill Jews and Christians. Such is the nature of an Islamic theocratic kingdom ruled by wicked men. Little known to most Christians is the political and geographic power that Islam has held in the world. Speaking strictly from the perspective of how much land was controlled as a percentage of the world's land area, of the top 49 empires, Islam has controlled 13 of those empires. Of the top ten empires, Islamic empires occupy slots 7 and 8. Contrast that with the empires that appear in the pages of the Bible including Persia (Achaemenid Empire) in slot 20, Greece (Macedonian Empire) in slot 21, and Rome (Roman Empire) in slot 24. Of the Islamic empires, perhaps the most vile and bloodthirsty was the Turkish Ottoman Empire that came apart in 1922. It will be revived in Ezekiel 38 and 39! That revival is the dream of the current reprobate Islamic dictator of Turkey by the name of Recep Erdogan. I digress: continuing on.

Catholicism has also thought to do God a service by persecuting, torturing, and murdering Bible believing Christians that they falsely accuse of being heretics. They also must shoulder most of the blame for the world's attempts to exterminate the Jewish people. Such is the nature of a Catholic theocratic kingdom ruled by wicked men whose chief architects are the Jesuit priests who are the Devil's executioners. Violence has been a much used tool by heretical and apostate Christianity in the pursuit of church kingdom building. That would include the atrocities that Bible believers suffered at the hands of the Protestant Reformers. The Holy Ghost said this through the apostle Paul:

² But I beseech *you*, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) *2 Corinthians 10:2-4*

We are not to use men's carnal weapons of warfare to force people to believe as we do or to promote so-called Christian kingdom building. If your weapons are carnal, they cannot be of God. We have false churches that have not known God trying to build a visible Christian kingdom because they have been poisoned and corrupted by the heresy of Replacement Theology. Their rejection of the Jew and Israel has spiritually blinded them. There are at least 14 different passages of Scripture that prove that the church is a strictly a spiritually entity that can have no visible, physical geographic boundaries. Those 14 passages include *John 18:33-37, Revelation 11:14-15, Matthew 20:20-27, Matthew 25:31-34, Luke 17:20-21, Luke 19:11, Luke 22:15-18, Luke 22:28-30, Acts 1:6-8, Romans 14:17, 1*

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Corinthians 15:50, Colossians 1:13, 2 Timothy 4:1, and 2 Timothy 4:18. All 14 passages are quoted below for your instruction in righteousness (summary to follow):

³³ Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? ³⁴ Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? ³⁵ Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? ³⁶ Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. ³⁷ Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. *John 18:33-37*

¹⁴ The second woe is past; *and*, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. ¹⁵ And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. *Revelation 11:14-15*

²⁰ Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping *him*, and desiring a certain thing of him. ²¹ And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom. ²² But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able. ²³ And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but *it shall be given to them* for whom it is prepared of my Father. ²⁴ And when the ten heard *it*, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. ²⁵ But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. ²⁶ But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; ²⁷ And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: *Matthew 20:20-27*

³¹ When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: ³² And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: ³³ And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: *Matthew 25:31-34*

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²⁰ And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

²¹ Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. *Luke 17:20-21*

¹¹ And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. *Luke 19:11*

¹⁵ And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: ¹⁶ For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. ¹⁷ And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide *it* among yourselves: ¹⁸ For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. *Luke 22:15-18*

²⁸ Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. ²⁹ And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; ³⁰ That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. *Luke 22:28-30*

⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. *Acts 1:6-8*

¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. *Romans 14:17*

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. *1 Corinthians 15:50*

¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: *Colossians 1:13*

¹ I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; *2 Timothy 4:1*

¹⁸ And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve *me* unto his

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heavenly kingdom: to whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen. *2 Timothy 4:18*

If we were to summarize the teaching of those 14 passages we would state:

1. Our utmost conclusion would have to be that Christ's kingdom in its current state is not of this world. *John 18:33-37*
2. The Lord Jesus Christ has not yet received the kingdoms of this world to reign over. *Revelation 11:14-15*
3. Born again believers in the church age are not to seek to build kingdoms over which they can rule. *Matthew 20:20-27*
4. Believers will not inherit the kingdom promised to them until AFTER the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Matthew 25:31-34*
5. The Lord Jesus Christ emphatically stated to the Pharisees that the kingdom in its current state is not a visible kingdom, but rather a spiritual kingdom inside of believers. *Luke 17:20-21*
6. In a parable to those gathered at Jericho, the Lord Jesus Christ told them that they were mistaken if they thought he was to immediately set up a kingdom. *Luke 19:11*
7. At the Passover supper, just prior to his crucifixion, the Lord told the apostles that he would not partake of the supper again until the kingdom of God was realized. He was looking to a future kingdom. *Luke 22:15-18*
8. In *Luke 22:24-30*, following strife over who should rule, the Lord Jesus Christ told the apostles that they would sit on thrones in his kingdom judging the twelve tribes of Israel. *Luke 22:28-30* That prophecy is not fulfilled until *Revelation 20:4*. Therefore, it is the future Millennial Kingdom. Lets apply some Replacement Theology here. So, I am supposed to believe that since the church has replaced Israel that the apostle will sit upon thrones and judge the twelve tribes of the church. Incredible! So, who are the twelve tribes of the church?!?
9. Following his crucifixion and his subsequent resurrection, when the apostles were expecting him to restore the kingdom of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ responded that the restoration was not in God the Father's timing. The conclusion from his statements to them would be that they would not receive earthly kingdom power, but instead spiritual Holy Ghost power. *Acts 1:6-8*
10. In writing to the CHURCH at Rome, Paul told them that the kingdom of God was not a visible carnal kingdom, but a spiritual kingdom in their hearts ruled by the Holy Ghost. *Romans 14:17*
11. If the church is to be a continuing visible earthly kingdom, then why would the apostle Paul tell the CHURCH at Corinth "that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God". It is just another way of saying that the kingdom in its current state is strictly a spiritual kingdom. *1 Corinthians 15:50* The whole of

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1 Corinthians 15 sets up an extended comparison and contrast between the natural body and the spiritual body; between the EARTHLY and the HEAVENLY.

12. It is stated that the kingdom is the kingdom of his dear son. It does not say that it is the kingdom of the church. *Colossians 1:13*
13. The Holy Ghost states that the Lord Jesus Christ will sit as the judge in his kingdom; not the kingdom of the church. *2 Timothy 4:1*
14. The Holy Ghost refers to the Lord's kingdom as "his heavenly kingdom". *2 Timothy 4:18*

Those 14 passages of Scripture should forever settle the issue of whether the current kingdom should be viewed as a carnal earthly kingdom or a heavenly spiritual kingdom, but I am sure it will not because many of Satan's sinister ministers have beat God to the punch by programing themselves to believe a lie. Such is the deluded state of those that are deceiving and being deceived. Tragically, they are already camped out in *2 Thessalonians 2:9-10*. The end result is that those who hate the truth are literally blinded by the light that they reject. However, there is coming a future earthly kingdom that believers will rule and reign in. More on that later. Now, lets dig a little deeper.

There is a group in professing Christianity that promote dominion theology that seek to establish a Christian kingdom on the earth now. We know it as "Kingdom Now Theology". It is sometimes referred to as the "Christian Reconstructionist Movement". The church is not to be kingdom builders. That is the sole prerogative of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are two aspects of the kingdom that we will deal with here; one of them very briefly. There is the earthly and the spiritual aspects. The spiritual kingdom is the "*kingdom of God*". The earthly kingdom is paradoxically referred to as the "*kingdom of heaven*". The "*kingdom of heaven*" is an earthly kingdom whose authority comes from heaven through the sovereignty of God. The kingdom of heaven is but a part of the kingdom of God. The book of Matthew is the only book in the Bible that uses the phrase "*kingdom of heaven*". It is used 33 times in Matthew. In many of the parallel passages in the other gospels the exact same thing is said of the "*kingdom of God*" as is said of the "*kingdom of heaven*". In other words, in many cases, the terms "*kingdom of heaven*" and "*kingdom of God*" are used synonymously to describe the same events in different Gospel accounts. In *Matthew 19:23-24*, both terms are used in the same context to describe the same difficulty of a rich man entering the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God. These verses state:

²³ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. ²⁴ And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. *Matthew 19:23-24*

The difference is in the context and in the application. Exclusively in Matthew, the Lord Jesus Christ is presented as the potential Messiah, a reigning king over an earthly kingdom. The phrase "*kingdom of God*" is used 71 times in the New Testament. The phrases "*kingdom of God*" and "*kingdom of*

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heaven” are never used in the Old Testament. For purposes of our study here, when we speak of a counterfeit kingdom, we are referring to any EARTHLY kingdom that does not have the Lord Jesus Christ reigning in Jerusalem on the literal throne of David as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (*Luke 1.:31-33, Isaiah 24:23, Micah 4:7*). Christ’s kingdom is one of the great subjects of unfulfilled Bible Prophecy. It is not our intent to get into a detailed discussion of that subject here because it would take months. I have an in depth study on the subject that covers 68 typewritten pages. We would refer to Christ’s earthly kingdom as the Millennial Kingdom. For well over a thousand years now, heretics and despots in the professing church have tried to establish an earthly kingdom over which the church reigns as the governing political authority. That was not the intent of the Lord Jesus Christ in his first advent and he made that plain to Pontius Pilate. In response to a question from Pilot asking whether Jesus was King of the Jews he replied:

³⁶ Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. *John 18:36*

The phrase “but now” spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ to Pilate left wide open the prospect of a future kingdom. That kingdom is the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ANY KINGDOM THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY THE CHURCH ON THIS EARTH IS A COUNTERFEIT KINGDOM. The church’s charge is not the establishment of an earthly kingdom. Christ’s charge to the church is:

¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen. *Matthew 28:19-20*

Stated another way, the mission of the church is not the establishment of an earthly kingdom. There is coming a kingdom that Christians will participate in, but it is a joint kingdom with Israel being the head of the nations with the Lord Jesus Christ as its head as LORD OF LORD AND KING OF KINGS. The Lord Jesus Christ will sit upon a literal throne of David in the literal city of Jerusalem. He will rule the world with a rod of iron from Jerusalem. Absent the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, mankind’s rulers have always failed. That Christians, including tribulation Christians, will rule and reign with Christ is plainly stated in *2 Timothy 2:12, Revelation 5:9-10, and Revelation 20:4-6* where we read:

¹² If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us: *2 Timothy 2:12*

⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the

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seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. *Revelation 5:9-10*

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. *Revelation 20:4-6*

Attempts by men through their religious systems to set up what we would refer to as theocratic kingdoms have always resulted in the vilest and most barbaric persecutions, tortures, and mass murders in the history of the world. The Roman Catholic persecutions of the Satanic inquisitions during the Dark Ages resulted in the torture and murder of over 50,000,000 Bible believing Christians. Wherever Protestants held control they were guilty of committing atrocities also. Martin Luther, John Calvin, and many of the so-called reformers were guilty of some of the most heinous acts of persecution and violence against both Christians and Jews that they disagreed with. John Calvin had Michael Servetus burned at the stake. Folks, that is not Christian! John Calvin also ruled the city state of Geneva, Switzerland with an iron fist. There was no religious liberty outside the dictates of John Calvin. Martin Luther hated the Jews and proved it out of his own writings and open advocacy of persecution and violence against Jews. If you do not believe it, read Martin Luther's own book "On The Jews And Their Lies". One of the great motivators of the vile Adolf Hitler was Martin Luther's writings. Adolph Hitler publicly extolled Martin Luther's Satanic writings as justification for his anti-Semitic atrocities that created the Jewish Holocaust.

Rule by religious despots is about as ungodly as it gets. Much of what I have said here about the persecutions, murders, and other atrocities of the Catholics and the Protestant Reformers could be accused of gross understatement. It is a whole lot more ugly than what just a few sentences here can describe. If you do not believe it, read and study John Foxe's work "**The Acts and Monuments of the Christian Church**" commonly known as "**Foxe's Book of Martyrs**". It is, to say the least, a monumental work totaling 5,574 pages. It is composed of 14 volumes. If you want to find out how wicked and vile unsaved professing Christian religious and political leaders can be, read and study it. Many of the persecuted Protestants that fled the persecutions of Europe brought their persecutions with them to America. That spirit of persecution precipitated a battle. Where they could, they set up state run churches. Many of those churches used the power of the state to deny religious freedom to Christians who were not a part of their state sponsored denomination. They also used the power of the state to persecute and jail those Christians outside the state sponsored church denomination. The

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book “America In Crimson Red” by James R. Beller documents much of that sordid history in its 607 pages. All that said, here is the bottom line of it all: Nowhere in the New Testament does God sanction or authorize the use of force and violence as a weapon against someone who does not hold the same doctrinal or religious beliefs of those who would be the persecutors of Bible believing Christians and Jews. In fact, *2 Corinthians 10:3-4* states this:

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) *2 Corinthians 10:3-4*

That passage of scripture should settle the issue of whether Christians can use coercion and violence to promote Christianity. The carnage wrought by all the aforementioned devils in the name of Christianity was supported by some of the greatest atrocities in the history of the world. Among those atrocities were: burning people at the stake; pulling people apart limb from limb with horses; pulling people apart on torture racks; beating people to death over weeks; imprisonment; forcing people to watch as their loved ones were tortured to death or burned at the stake; ripping babies from mothers wombs; beheadings; and so forth. It was a Satanic bloody history. Some of the Protestants in Europe had whole families of Baptists and Anabaptists chained together and thrown into rivers to drown. The “crimes (!?)” of these Baptists and Anabaptists were refusing to baptize infants, practicing believers only baptism, and re-baptizing folks that came into their churches from outside Baptist churches. Many Bible scholars try to defend these persecuting and murdering heretics by stating that they were victims of their own times. That is using wicked peer pressure as justification for not obeying God’s laws. I totally reject that notion. In cases of proven heresy and apostasy the Bible demands separation; not persecution and murder. It was these persecuting Protestants that were euphemistically called “The Reformers” by their supporters even when those supporters were condemning their persecutions and actions. On page 65 of Leonard Verduin’s work “The Reformers And Their Stepchildren” he states:

However common or uncommon the carrying of a staff may have been, we shall in this study let the term *Stabler* stand for the “heretic” as he resisted the encroachment of coercionism in matters of the Faith.

It was Augustine, he perhaps more than any other, who supplied the Constantinians with arguments from the Scriptures (**or rather with arguments fastened upon the Scriptures**) whereby coercion was rendered theologically respectable. The expression found in Luke 14:23, “Constrain them to come in”, rendered in Latin *Compelle intrare*, was exactly what he needed in his running battle with the Donatists.

(Underlined text in bold is this authors emphasis)

Verduin was exactly right. Their arguments were “fastened upon the Scriptures” and NOT rooted in the Scriptures. That is the action of every persecutor, heretic, and apostate. They always twist the

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Scriptures to their own destruction. Might I say this about the doctrines of the “reformers” especially those of John Calvin and Martin Luther. The heretic Augustine was the great theological hero of Calvin and Luther. Calvin’s and Luther’s doctrines of salvation were imported from the works of the arch heretic Augustine. As it relates to salvation, they all three held to the same twisted concept of free will and the sovereignty of God. The doctrine of salvation that is wrongfully referred to as “Calvinism” would more rightly be called “Augustinianism”. That much of John Calvin’s theology was that of Augustine is proved by the fact that Calvin quoted Augustine over 400 times in his “Institutes Of Christian Religion”. Augustine has rightly been called “the father of corrupt theology”. What is amazing about Leonard Verduin’s book is that he was a Calvinist himself.

Folks, I seriously question the salvation of anyone, especially religious leaders, who would claim to be saved and then have someone put to death because of a doctrinal disagreement. The Lord Jesus Christ had this to say in *John 16*:

¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. ² They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. ³ And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. *John 16:1-3*

Notice that the Lord Jesus Christ said that all who practice persecution and murder in the name of religion have not “known the Father, nor me”. In other words, they are not saved. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ had three major religious groups in mind when he gave that prophecy. First of all, it included the unsaved Jewish religious leaders of his day. That would include the apostle Paul before he got saved on the road to Damascus. Secondly, it included unsaved, reprobate professing Christians and their leaders who have had over 50,000,000 Bible believing Christians put to death in the name of their false Christ. Thirdly, it included the blood thirsty devils of Islam. The devils of Islam have murdered over 280,000,000 people so that they might establish a worldwide theocratic kingdom in the name of that devil Allah. Islam’s Allah is Satan himself. Never has there been a more bloody religion on the face of this earth. Islam is Satan’s perfect religion to head up the religious system of the Antichrist. Islam perfectly fits theologically, doctrinally, politically, and geographically. Their practice of jihad is the ultimate killing machine of a false religion that promises that they will end up in heaven if they do their god the service of killing a Jew, a Christian, or anyone else who refuses to convert to their hateful, ungodly, Satanic religion. It is antichrist to its most vile and wicked core. The theocratic kingdom envisioned by Islam is the ultimate counterfeit kingdom. It sees its complete fulfillment in *Revelation 17* and *Revelation 18* (See also *Isaiah 47*). *Revelation 17* reveals the cyanide of the world’s most corrupt religion and *Revelation 18* reveals the arsenic of the world’s most corrupt government and economic system. They both work hand in hand with the Antichrist and the False Prophet of *Revelation 13* to produce the most corrupt and most violent theocratic kingdom in the history of the world. I like to call the Antichrist the most religious political leader ever and the False Prophet the most political religious leader ever. That political and religious system will be headquartered in a literal, rebuilt Babylon.

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Babylon is one of the world's most ancient cities. Babylon is the first city built by man after the Genesis flood. It is mentioned 296 times in the King James Bible. In 294 of those instances, it is called Babylon. In its first two mentions in the Bible in *Genesis 10:10* and *Genesis 11:9*, it is called Babel. It was founded by Nimrod whose father was Cush and whose grandfather was Ham. Nimrod is identified as a type of the Antichrist by Bible students. Babel was in the land of Shinar which is the ancient name for Babylonia and Chaldea. The only city mentioned in the King James Bible more than Babylon is Jerusalem which is mentioned 814 times: 670 in the Old Testament (the Tanak), 144 in the New Testament. It is very significant that Jerusalem is never mentioned in the Koran though the devils of Islam lay claim to it.

A word of warning is necessary here concerning the interpretation of Bible Prophecy. A partial fulfillment of a particular passage does not constitute complete fulfillment. A prophecy cannot be stated as having been fulfilled until EVERY detail of it has been fulfilled. That is critical in the interpretation of the prophecies concerning Babylon which is the subject that we have before us. The law of "Double Reference" must be applied in many instances. By that we mean that many Bible prophecies refer to both near term events and future events. Some of these are presented in types such as types of Christ and types of Antichrist. The prophecies concerning the fall and destruction of Babylon contain events that will be or have been fulfilled in both the near term and the future term. There are many events in the prophecies concerning Babylon that have but one application and that is to the future events which take place during the tribulation in Revelation chapters 14, 16, 17, and 18. One tool of interpretation is to look for time signatures. When does God say that those events described will take place? By time signatures I mean phrases like "the last days", "the latter times", "the day of judgment", "the day of the LORD", "the day of God", "the day of wrath", "the day of Christ", "the times of the Gentiles", and so forth. When interpreting those time signatures, it helps to have done an exhaustive study of those time signatures in every context where they occur. Another tool of interpretation is to look for and understand references to historical events such as the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. What does God say about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? You will need those tools of interpretation when we look at the Babylon prophecies in *Isaiah 13*, *Isaiah 14*, *Isaiah 47*, *Jeremiah 50*, *Jeremiah 51*, *Revelation 14*, *Revelation 16*, *Revelation 17*, *Revelation 18*, and in the statements of the Lord Jesus Christ in *Matthew 24*, *Mark 13*, and *Luke 21*.

The great subject of the book of Jeremiah is Babylon for it is mentioned no less than 169 times in the pages of Jeremiah. That is over 3 mentions per chapter. That is fully 57% of all the occurrences in the Bible. Much of the events concerning Babylon in the book of Jeremiah have already taken place. However, *Jeremiah 50 and 51* are about a future destruction of Babylon. There is some disagreement as to whether *Jeremiah 50 and 51* are unfulfilled prophecy. By carefully reading *Jeremiah 50 and 51* and analyzing them in the context of history and some other key passages of scripture, it can be proven that many of the events in *Jeremiah 50 and 51* have not been fulfilled yet. The details are provided in the following discussion. Note the following passages in Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51:

³⁹ Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell

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there, and the owls shall dwell therein: **and it shall be no more inhabited for ever;** neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation. ⁴⁰ **As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah** and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD; *so* shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein. *Jeremiah 50:39-40*

⁷ *Babylon hath been* a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad. ⁸ **Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed;** howl for her; take balm for her pain, if *so* be she may be healed. *Jeremiah 51:7-8*

¹⁹ The portion of Jacob *is* not like them; for he *is* the former of all things: and **Israel is the rod of his inheritance;** the LORD of hosts *is* his name. ²⁰ Thou *art* my battle axe *and* weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms; ²¹ And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider; ²² With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid; ²³ I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers. ²⁴ **And I will render unto Babylon** and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD. *Jeremiah 51:19-24*

²⁶ **And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD.** *Jeremiah 51:26*

⁶¹ And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words; ⁶² Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever. *Jeremiah 51:61-62*

In *Jeremiah 50:39-40* it says that when Babylon is destroyed, it will never be inhabited again. It is also stated that its destruction will be like that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed and not a trace of them can be found in 2024. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed in *Genesis 19:24*. They have never been rebuilt. Though Babylon has fallen, it has never been completely destroyed and left forever uninhabited as prophesied in Isaiah and Jeremiah. Shortly before the time of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Jewish historian Josephus stated that there were 50,000 Jews still living in Babylon. In yet another proof of the continued existence of Babylon, the apostle Peter also referred to "the church that is at Babylon" in *1 Peter 5:13*. About the year 1000, a Jewish traveller named Benjamin of Tudela visited Babylon and stated that there were still about 7,000 Jews

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living there. Prior to the death of Saddam Hussein, he had for many years been in the process of rebuilding Babylon.

In *Jeremiah 51:7-8*, we have the statement that “**Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed**”. That has only been partially fulfilled in the near term. According to *Daniel 5:30-31*, Babylon did fall in one night to the Medes and Persians, but it was not destroyed in fulfillment of Bible Prophecy. It still exists today.

In *Jeremiah 51:19-24*, we have the LORD using Israel to destroy the nations. The LORD refers to Israel as his battle ax and his weapons of war. In verse 24, Babylon is identified as a specific target. There has yet to be a historical event in the history of the world that meets the requirements of *Jeremiah 51:19-24*. *Jeremiah 51:61-62* said that Babylon would be desolate forever. Babylon is not desolate in 2024.

In *Jeremiah 51:26*, we are told that when the city of Babylon is destroyed in fulfillment of Bible prophecy, there will not be one stone taken out of it for cornerstone or a foundation. I do not have the reference, but I know that there are at least five cities in Iraq that have stones in buildings that were taken from Babylon! I also know that Saddam Hussein's reconstruction project was excavating down to the original foundations of Babylon.

Jeremiah 50 and 51 expand upon prophecies given to the prophet Isaiah in *Isaiah 13:19-20*, *Isaiah 21:9*, *Isaiah 47:1-15*:

¹⁹ And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, **shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.** ²⁰ **It shall never be inhabited,** neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there. *Isaiah 13:19-20*

⁹ And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, *with* a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground. *Isaiah 21:9*

In *Isaiah 13:19-20*, we have yet another prophecy that states that when Babylon is destroyed in fulfillment of Bible prophecy that its destruction will be as that of Sodom and Gomorrah. Not only will Babylon be totally obliterated from the face of the earth, but it will never be inhabited again. In *Isaiah 21:9* we have yet another prophecy of the coming fall of Babylon. In *Isaiah 21:9* and *Isaiah 13:19-20* we have two prophecies that were written about 100 years before that of Jeremiah 50 and 51. Now, let us read a few verses in *Isaiah 47*:

¹ **Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.** ² Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. ³ Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet

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thee as a man. ⁴ *As for* our redeemer, the LORD of hosts *is* his name, the Holy One of Israel. ⁵ Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms. ⁶ I was wroth with my people, I have polluted mine inheritance, and given them into thine hand: thou didst shew them no mercy; upon the ancient hast thou very heavily laid thy yoke.

⁷ **And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.** ⁸ **Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:** ⁹ But these two *things* shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, *and* for the great abundance of thine enchantments. ¹⁰ For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, *I am*, and none else beside me. ¹¹ Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, *which* thou shalt not know. ¹² Stand now with thine enchantments, and with the multitude of thy sorceries, wherein thou hast laboured from thy youth; if so be thou shalt be able to profit, if so be thou mayest prevail. ¹³ Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from *these things* that shall come upon thee. ¹⁴ Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: *there shall not be* a coal to warm at, *nor* fire to sit before it. ¹⁵ Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, *even* thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee. *Isaiah 47:1-15*

All of the prophecies that we have discussed in Isaiah and Jeremiah lead us to events in the book of Revelation where all the prophecies concerning Babylon will see their complete fulfillment. Next we will look at *Revelation 14:6-8*:

⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, ⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. ⁸ And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. *Revelation 14:6-8*

The gospel is “the good news”. What is the message of the everlasting gospel that is being preached

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here? The message is twofold: (1) Fear God, and (2) give glory to God. We are to fear God and give glory to him because the hour of his judgment is come. That message is immediately followed by the declaration of the coming destruction of Babylon. *Revelation 14:6* is the only place where it is said that an angel will preach. That angel is NOT a man. Next we will turn to *Revelation 16:17-20*:

¹⁷ And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. ¹⁸ And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great. ¹⁹ And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. ²⁰ And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. *Revelation 16:17-20*

In this case we can say that Babylon has literally fallen into three pieces at the hand of a cataclysmic earthquake that comes through the hand of God.

¹ And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. ⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. ⁵ For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. ⁷ How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. ⁸ Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong *is* the Lord God who judgeth her.

⁹ And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, ¹⁰ Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. ¹¹ And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: ¹² The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of

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brass, and iron, and marble, ¹³ And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. ¹⁴ And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. ¹⁵ The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, ¹⁶ And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! ¹⁷ For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, ¹⁸ And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What *city is* like unto this great city! ¹⁹ And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. ²⁰ Rejoice over her, *thou* heaven, and *ye* holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. ²¹ And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast *it* into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. ²² And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft *he be*, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; ²³ And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. ²⁴ And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth. *Revelation 18:1-24*

The whole point of going through all this scripture is to prove that passages that speak to the total destruction of Babylon have never been fulfilled. *Revelation 18* is the passage that describes the total destruction of a rebuilt and revitalized Babylon. It is the final destruction of Satan's counterfeit kingdoms. Rejoice, rejoice! We close this section by restating in the strongest possible terms that the church is absolutely not to participate in any physical kingdom building before the Lord Jesus Christ returns to rule and reign in the Millennium that starts in *Revelation 20:4*. In the Millennium, we will see God's promise of ruling and reigning in an earthly kingdom fulfilled. The fact that there is a kingdom that believers will rule and reign in is described in *2 Timothy 2:12*, *Revelation 5:10*, *Revelation 20:4-6*, and *Revelation 22:5*:

¹² If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us: *2 Timothy 2:12*

¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

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Revelation 5:10

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4-6

⁵ And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:5

Next we will deal with acts of supernatural deception that Satan uses to deceive the saved and the unsaved alike.

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COUNTERFEIT MIRACLES

Perhaps we should not use the term “counterfeit miracles” here. A better term might be “miracles of deception”. Not every sign or miracle that you see is of God. Satan uses deceptive signs and wonders as a means to deceive men and women. The miracles are very real. It is their purpose that is wicked. In some cases Satan uses supernatural events to deceive people into thinking that he is God or as a means to mimic God. The Devil is the great imitator. Read carefully the following four passages of Scripture in *Exodus 7:8-12*, *Exodus 7:19-22*; *Exodus 8:5-7*, and *Exodus 8:16-19*:

⁸ And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, ⁹ When Pharaoh shall speak unto you, saying, **Shew a miracle** for you: then thou shalt say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and cast *it* before Pharaoh, *and* it shall become a serpent. ¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the LORD had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. ¹¹ Then Pharaoh also called the wise men and the **sorcerers**: now the **magicians** of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their **enchancements**. ¹² For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. *Exodus 7:8-12*

¹⁹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and *that* there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in *vessels of* wood, and in *vessels of* stone. ²⁰ And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that *were* in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that *were* in the river were turned to blood. ²¹ And the fish that *was* in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt. ²² And the **magicians of Egypt** did so with their **enchancements**: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said. *Exodus 7:19-22*

⁵ And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch forth thine hand with thy rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up upon the land of Egypt. ⁶ And Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt; and the frogs came up, and covered the land of Egypt. ⁷ And **the magicians** did so with their **enchancements**, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt. *Exodus 8:5-7*

¹⁶ And the LORD said unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Stretch out thy rod, and smite the

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dust of the land, that it may become lice throughout all the land of Egypt. ¹⁷ And they did so; for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt. ¹⁸ And the **magicians** did so with their **enchancements** to bring forth lice, but they could not: so there were lice upon man, and upon beast. ¹⁹ Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This *is* the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said. *Exodus 8:16-19*

In the eyes of unsaved mortal men, these duplicate miracles would be seen as acts of God. Notice that the Devil's counter miracles were performed by sorcerers and magicians who used enchantments. These were actual miracles by Satan that prove his supernatural abilities. He uses those supernatural abilities for instilling fear and deception into the unsaved and unholy saints. Satan could not duplicate the last miracle because it involved creating life out of dust. Remember that "the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life"! There is another event in Job that shows Satan's supernatural powers in *Job 1:13-16*:

¹³ And there was a day when his sons and his daughters *were* eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: ¹⁴ And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: ¹⁵ And the Sabeans fell *upon them*, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. ¹⁶ While he *was* yet speaking, there came also another, and said, **The fire of God** is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. *Job 1:13-16*

While the messenger naturally mistook the fire as being "the fire of God", he was deceived by a miracle performed by Satan. That is but a very small indication of how powerful Satan is. For those who would lightly rebuke the Devil outside the power of the Holy Ghost, we have the warning given by Jude in *Jude 9*:

⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. *Jude 9*

It never ceases to amaze me how heretics lightly take it upon themselves to rebuke the Devil. Read it again. The archangel Michael durst (dared) not bring a railing accusation against the Devil. So, we have established that Satan has the power to perform real miracles. Having said all that, both during the tribulation and in events leading up to the tribulation Satan will use a deceptive signs and wonders movement in an attempt to deceive the saved and the unsaved. There is a deceptive signs and wonders movement associated with the manifestation of the Antichrist. The Lord Jesus Christ warned of this

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deception in three of the gospels near the close of his ministry. So did the apostles Paul and John. We will let the Scriptures speak for themselves. Below we quote *Matthew 24:4-11*, *Matthew 24:23-26*, *Mark 13:3-6*, *Mark 13:21-22*, *Luke 21:7-8*, *2 Thessalonians 2:3-12*, and *Revelation 13:11-18*:

⁴ And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. ⁵ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. ⁶ And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. ⁸ All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. ⁹ Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰ And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. *Matthew 24:4-11*

²³ Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not. ²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. ²⁵ Behold, I have told you before. ²⁶ Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, *he is* in the secret chambers; believe *it* not. *Matthew 24:23-26*

³ And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?

⁵ And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any *man* deceive you: ⁶ For many shall come in my name, saying, I am *Christ*; and shall deceive many. *Mark 13:3-6*

²¹ And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here *is* Christ; or, lo, *he is* there; believe *him* not: ²² For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if *it were* possible, even the elect. *Mark 13:21-22*

⁷ And they asked him, saying, Master, but when shall these things be? and what sign *will there be* when these things shall come to pass? ⁸ And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am *Christ*; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them. *Luke 21:7-8*

³ Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; ⁴ Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so

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that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ⁵ Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶ And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. ⁷ For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth *will let*, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸ And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹ *Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰ And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. *2 Thessalonians 2:3-12*

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. ¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. ¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, ¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. ¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. ¹⁶ And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: ¹⁷ And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. ¹⁸ Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number *is* Six hundred threescore *and* six. *Revelation 13:11-18*

So, the conclusion of the matter is that Satan , Satan's ministers, and Satan's devils can, have, and will perform miracles with the specific intent to deceive. Not every miracle we see is of God. The tribulation will witness a period of the greatest deception mankind has ever seen. Its chief agents will be Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet. When we add to that deception the fact that God will send the entire unbelieving world strong delusion that they will believe a lie, we have the ultimate environment for complete deception. Next, we will talk about counterfeit bibles.

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COUNTERFEIT BIBLES

Later we will deal with the consequences of rejecting the word of God. That is not our objective here. The whole point of the present discussion on counterfeit Bibles is to get you to think about the importance of an inspired, perfect, preserved Bible. One of our objectives is to get you to think about how serious it is to tamper with the word of God. If you have a "Bible" that you think you can correct, then you do not have **A BIBLE**: you have a book with man's errors in it. Another objective of this study is to assure you that we can have, and we do have, a perfect Bible that you can trust every word of, every letter of, and every jot and tittle of. I have such a Bible in the King James Bible. It is without error. It is inspired. It is perfect. When it is **rightly divided**, it is impossible to use it to teach false doctrine. That is a huge statement when considered in the light of the fact that there is an unlimited supply of false doctrine out there that is based upon the perversion of the word of God: all of it wrongly divided.

This is an issue that I have studied off and on for almost 32 years now. I have written an unpublished 460 page book titled "An Introduction To Bible Version Issues". I have at least 72 print books in my library that discuss issues related to Bible versions. I have well over 1,500 electronic articles on my computer that deal with the Bible version issue. I have also watched numerous videos over the years that dealt with Bible version issues. I am not saying all that to brag. I want you to be assured that when I say something about this issue that I have researched and studied it diligently for years and years. I do not speak lightly when I discuss this issue. There has been much thought and meditation to go into the convictions that I express concerning our Bibles. During the course of my research for the book that I wrote, I compared 19 different English language translations to the King James Bible. It would both shock and amaze you at all the doctrinal twist and turns that I discovered in those corrupt "bibles" when compared to the King James Bible. The many doctrinal corruptions that I saw in them included those of denying the inspiration of the scriptures, taking away from the word of God, denying the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, denying the Trinity, deleting references to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, promoting works based salvation, taking away from the blood of Jesus, severely limiting the power of the doctrine of hell, introducing extreme doubt in the accuracy of their own translations by casting doubts on their so called original manuscripts, and so forth. Some years after I completed my book, a new "bible" version came out called the "Good As New" bible that promoted fornication in *1 Corinthians 7:9*. The most precious possession that a Christian can have on this earth is a perfect Bible. I say again. I have a perfect Bible and it is the Pure Cambridge Edition of the 1611 King James Bible.

Many false teachers will tell you that there is not a perfect Bible on the face of the earth that is without error. To make such a statement is a damnable heresy that is under the curse of God. They are infinitely wrong liars and are mouth pieces for the Devil. The first sin recorded in the Bible was Satan questioning the word of God: **YEA HATH GOD SAID?** Satan seeks to cause doubt in (*Genesis 3:1*), additions to (*Matthew 4:6*), and corruption of the Word of God (*2 Corinthians 2:17*) which state:

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¹ Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? *Genesis 3:1*

⁶ And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. *Matthew 4:6*

¹⁷ For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ. *2 Corinthians 2:17*

It is very telling and very appropriate that many of the modern translations substitute the word “peddle” for the word “corrupt” in the King James Bible in *2 Corinthians 2:17*. They are peddling the word of God for money. That is a corrupt motive. The chief motive for the proliferation of so many English Bibles is the ages old love of money. Satan has used man’s love for money to corrupt the Bible and to promote one updated corrupt Bible after another. Religious publishing has reached sales of over a billion dollars in the United States. D. A. Waite in his book “Defending The King James Bible” documented 135 complete English Bibles that have been published since 1388 and 293 New Testaments since 1380. Though that would seem to be quite a comprehensive list, I have a book called “Historical Catalogue of Printed Editions Of The English Bible 1525-1961” that has 514 pages of bibles listed in it that includes complete bibles and New Testaments. **It gets much deeper than that. During September and October of 2023, I read three books that proved that the Greek manuscript named Sinaiticus was a forgery. Why is that important? Because Sinaiticus constitutes almost half of the manuscript evidence used to support the modern English language Bible translations. Its other major partner in crime was the Vaticanus manuscript.** There are three other manuscripts that modern Bible translators infrequently reference to support their translation. That is a total of five manuscripts. The Greek language textual support for the King James Bible uses over 5,200 manuscripts to support its text. The greatest corrupter of the Bible for doctrinal reasons was Adamantius Origenes, otherwise called Origen. **Origen once said, “the Scriptures are of little use to those who understand them as they are written”. That should settle the question of whether anyone should trust his translation work. Yet he is looked upon as having been one of the WORLD’S preeminent textual scholars.**

The most insidious and destructive form of doubt that has been sewn in our apostate and heretical American churches is that seeded by Bible correcting want-to-be Greek and Hebrew scholars from the pages of corrupt books that they call Bibles. As a growing Bible student and Christian, one of the most putridly disgusting statements I would hear was: “a better translation would be”. Every time I heard that phrase it immediately offended me and the Holy Ghost that was in me. I knew it was wrong because it had the wrong spirit associated with it. That spirit reeked of intellectual pride. We are not to correct the Bible. The Bible is to correct us. John Bois, one of the preeminent King James Bible translators, refused to use Greek or Hebrew in his pulpit because he was afraid it would cast doubt

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upon the Word of God for his congregation. Would to God that we had more pastors, preachers, and teachers that were that way today!

I have run into many counterfeits that have been Satanically foisted upon a deceived American Christianity. All of these counterfeits are the manifestations of the biggest and most successful false flag operation in the history of the world. They are all machinations of the master of deceit himself; that great purveyor of "Yea hath God said". That master of deceit is Satan. Most professing Christians buy into these counterfeit Bibles because they have not been properly taught by their pastors and teachers. *Hosea 4:6* states:

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. *Hosea 4:6*

All the deceit is based upon the corruption and perversion of the word of God. That deceit and its associated delusion is one of the great subjects of Bible Prophecy. The Holy Ghost has warned us of that deceit through the apostles Peter and Paul in *2 Peter 2:1-3* and *2 Timothy 3:13-17*:

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ³ And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. *2 Peter 2:1-3*

¹³ But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. ¹⁴ But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; ¹⁵ And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. *2 Timothy 3:13-17*

2 Timothy 3:16 is the preeminent passage of scripture that states that the word of God is inspired. Many describe inspiration as being God breathed. It is that and much more. It is literally the words of God that have been "in spirited" with the Holy Ghost. It is God's words made alive. It is an expression of the power of God who spoke all things into existence. It is the voice of creation. It is much personified in Psalm 29. God's words go thundering forth from the pages of our Bibles. *Philippians 2:10-11* states:

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⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:9-11*

Yet, it is that name that is above every name that is set below the word of God in *Psalms 138:1-2* where it is stated:

¹ I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.

² I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. *Psalms 138:1-2*

It would amaze you the emphasis that God puts on his name in the Old Testament. God uses the phrase "my name" at least 85 times in the Old Testament. He is very Jealous for his name. Yet, he has exalted his word above all his name. That should be sufficient to warn those heretics and apostates who would either correct, add to, or take away from his word. Any who would do so are guilty of presumptuous sins. God said this in *Deuteronomy 18:20-22*:

²⁰ But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. ²¹ And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? ²² When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, *but* the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him. *Deuteronomy 18:20-22*

That is a very strong warning to any that would falsely state that his or her words are God's words. We will close this topic by quoting *Proverbs 30:4-6*, *Deuteronomy 4:2*, *Deuteronomy 12:32*, *Jeremiah 26:2*, and *Revelation 22:18-19*:

⁴ Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what *is* his son's name, if thou canst tell? ⁵ Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ⁶ Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. *Proverbs 30:4-6*

² Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. *Deuteronomy 4:2*

³² What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor

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diminish from it.

Deuteronomy 12:32

² Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word: *Jeremiah 26:2*

¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:18-19

That should be warning enough for Bible correctors and perverters. Our next topic is counterfeit Christian music.

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COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIAN MUSIC

Psalm 47:5-7 says:

⁵God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. ⁷ For God *is* the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding. *Psalm 47:5-7*

There are at least 102 references to singing unto the Lord in our Bibles. We have trees singing unto the Lord. We have the whole earth singing unto the Lord. We have the mountains singing unto the Lord. We have the heavens singing unto the Lord. Lastly we have the trees singing and clapping unto the Lord. They are offering up an eternal anthem of praise unto our God and creator, the Lord Jesus Christ. Thirty-two (32) different times the phrase “sing praises” are used of and for God. Seventeen (17) times the Bible says “sing unto the Lord”. *Psalm 150:6* says: “Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD”. If we do not praise him, the rocks will cry out in our stead. That would make us dumber than a rock. Even the pagans have their own worship musick. It particularly manifests itself in Daniel chapter 3 where we see:

³ Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴ Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, ⁵ *That* at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: ⁶ And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ⁷ Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down *and* worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. ⁸ Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews. ⁹ They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever. ¹⁰ Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: ¹¹ And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, *that* he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. ¹² There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. ¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in *his* rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it* true, O Shadrach, Meshach,

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and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up? ¹⁵ Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who *is* that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter. ¹⁷ If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. *Daniel 3:3-18*

Most of the counterfeit churches in the world are offering up musick to another manifestation of the same pagan deity as that of Daniel chapter 3. It is but another manifestation of the Devil himself. Would to God that we had some real men in our churches such as Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah that would stand against the paganism that has taken over our churches and our society. Notice the musick that is associated with the worship of paganism. Nothing has changed today even thousands of years later. Contemporary Christian Music is still offering up pagan music unto the false god of Daniel chapter 3. God has standards for music that honours him. Here is what the Bible says about music in *Ephesians 5:18-19*, *Colossians 3:16*, and *1 Chronicles 25:1-7*:

¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; ¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; *Ephesians 5:18-19*

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. *Colossians 3:16*

¹ Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was: ²Of the sons of Asaph; Zaccur, and Joseph, and Nethaniah, and Asarelah, the sons of Asaph under the hands of Asaph, which prophesied according to the order of the king. ³ Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the LORD. ⁴Of Heman: the sons of Heman; Bukkiah, Mattaniah, Uzziel, Shebuel, and Jerimoth, Hananiah, Hanani, Eliathah, Giddalti, and Romamtiezer, Joshbekashah, Mallothi, Hothir, *and* Mahazioth: ⁵All these *were* the sons of Heman the king's seer in the words of God, to lift up the horn. And God gave to Heman fourteen sons and three daughters. ⁶All these *were*

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under the hands of their father for song *in* the house of the LORD, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman. ⁷ So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD, *even* all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight. *1 Chronicles 25:1-7*

These are but some of the Biblical requirements for Christian music. Notice that the songs are to be spiritual songs. That means that both the lyrics and the music are to exalt God. The songs must be holy and they must be uplifting. When we say spiritual we mean that the songs are anointed of the Holy Ghost. The scriptures call for hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs to be sung in the church. Verses 1, 2, and 3 of *1 Chronicles 25* says much about the spiritual power of the musical instruments. **MUSIC IS NOT NEUTRAL.** Notice that the musicians in the Temple were to **PROPHESY** with their musical instruments. That means that the musical instruments were to **PREACH**. The musical instruments had a message themselves that was independent of any lyrics. Never let a corrupt musicians tell you that the music is not critical to conveying the message of the lyrics. The problem with most counterfeit Christians songs today is that they lack a Godly melody. It is that melody that speaks God's message to the soul and spirit. Most Christian music today has been hopped up and chopped up. Many of the old hymns are being destroyed by speeding them up so that the old folks cannot keep up. Hymns should be sung as they are written and not put on speed or caffeine . Many song leaders have neglected to notice that many songs are top noted stating that they are to be sung slowly. Songs that are sung slowly do not hinder worship. They promote worship because they force people to slow down and meditate upon what they are singing. Many of the melodies that speak to the heart are being chopped up by being sped up. Many of the old hymns sound like The Chipmunks singing today. Many Independent Baptist churches have embraced the camp meeting style hymn books produced by the Pentecostals. Many of the hymns in the Pentecostals hymn books were written and licensed by apostate, spiritually shallow Southern Gospel musicians. They are not Baptist hymns. Many of them are carnal; sold under sin. I find myself longing for the days when we sang Baptist songs from Holy Ghost anointed Baptist hymn books. It is a sad day when our Baptist pastors have forsaken the ancient landmarks and latched onto hymn books that are compromised at best. The deeper we go into that movement the less truly spiritual we become. The compromised hymn books are the darlings of the Satanic Contemporary Christian Music movement.

God expects Christians to maintain holy standards of separation from every worldly lust and sin. That expectation especially applies to music that is used in the churches and in our personal lives. Music is the most powerful influence in many peoples lives. Satan uses counterfeit Christian music to corrupt Christians and their churches. Not every kind or genre of music is suitable for Christians to use in church or in the personal lives. Music is not neutral. If music sounds like it came out of a rock concert, you would not want it in the church. If music sounds like it came out of a country and western bar, you would not want it in the church. If music sounds like rap music, you would not want it in the church. If music sounds like it came out of a jazz festival, you would not want it in the church. If music sounds like it came out of a blues concert you would not want it in the church. All

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music that is used in the church must honour and glorify God. **You cannot use the world's music to honour and glorify God.**

I have studied the issue of Christian music for years and have watched many churches get destroyed by compromising on the issue of music. I have over 20 hours of video and 17 hours of audio on my computer that deals with every aspect of both good and corrupt Christian music. I have read 7 books on the issue. I have 267 articles on my computer dealing with Christian music. It has been a burden for me. My greatest hindrance in studying the issue is that I am not a musician. Over the years, I have had a number of disagreements and discussions with my pastors about the music they allow into the churches that they pastor. When I hear corrupt and loud music, it grieves the Holy Ghost that is in me. When I say loud, I know that there are 5 passages of scripture in the Bible that encourage loud singing and/or loud instruments. Those include *2 Chronicles 30:21*, *Nehemiah 12:42*, *Psalms 33:3*, *Psalms 98:4*, and *Psalms 150:5*. When the Bible says we are to praise God with loud voices and loud instruments, that does not mean that the voices are screaming and the instruments are deafening. Listen up pastor and music leader. When you push and allow music in your church that is deafening, it leads to the destruction of your listeners hearing. That is a sin against God.

Much of the raucous music that is sung in our Independent Baptist churches adds insult to injury through the obnoxious applause that follows it. It is a grievance to the Holy Ghost. Is it worship music or performance music?!? I have heard Independent Baptist pastors publicly criticize, mock, and rebuke those who are opposed to clapping following music PERFORMANCES. That is borne of a wicked spirit. It is offensive to me and the Holy Ghost that is in me. Not that I am any great singer, but many years ago I would occasionally try to sing in church: that is until the clapping started. It begs the question. Are you praising men or are you praising God when you do that? I once heard Pastor Charles Lawson publicly rebuke his congregation following the applause that followed some singing. I said Hallelujah! Praise God!

The issue of counterfeit Christian music is much more controversial than money (tithing) in so called fundamentalist churches including Independent Baptists who like to think of themselves as the fundamentalists of fundamentalists. I have served as a church treasurer for many years in two different Independent Baptist Churches. I have served as a Bible Institute teacher, Sunday School teacher, and preacher for about 29 years now. I know the controversy and outright spiritual warfare that takes place over the issue of tithing and how its moneys are spent. Over the years, I have watched the nervous reactions that I observed from my listeners when I, their treasure, taught and preached on tithing. At times, I thought I could see some people sweat. In general, if you want to follow the controversy, follow the money. BUT....there is a subject that is much more volatile than money. That subject is Christian music. I was not ready for the vitriolic attacks that came my way. I found out in a hurry that peoples corrupt "Christian" music was much more important than their money. They were ready to fight and die for it! It was a lot easier and much less controversial to teach and preach on tithing than it was on Christian music. Whoa Nelly, get that wild stallion under control before he stomps you to death under his feet!!

I have listened to MANY men preach against Contemporary Christian Music and then turn around and have it PERFORMED in their churches. Inwardly I shudder when I hear it. It is an offense to the

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Holy Ghost that is in me. The truth of the matter is that most men in Baptist pulpits and behind Baptist lecterns do not know how to recognize the Devil's music when they hear it. They are spiritually clueless to the dangers of corrupt music masquerading as Christian music. They have not been trained and will not train themselves. They are wilfully ignorant. They will condemn Contemporary Christian Music because those who they run with condemn it in word, but not in deed. Most Baptist pastors do not know what it is they are condemning and WHY it should be condemned. I have had two pastors to either tell me that I should not teach on Contemporary Christian Music or that I should back off from the teaching that which I was already teaching. I obeyed their directions. Both of those pastors either had serious issues, or, were developing issues with the poison of Contemporary Christian Music in their churches. I once attended a so-called Independent Fundamental Baptist church that was trying to call a replacement pastor. He led several services before he was called. He and his wife sang music together and they sang some of their music while he was candidating. The music was atrocious and reeked of Contemporary Christian Music. When that church called that man to pastor, my wife and I left over the issue of music and the King James Bible. He was compromised in his music and in his Bible.

I have said for years that if I can steal a church's Christian music and substitute the Devil's corrupt music, then I can steal their Bible, their doctrine, and any standards of separation they claim to have. The Devil's counterfeit Christian music is wide open doorway to sin, compromise, apostasy, and heresy. Once that doorway is opened, it cannot be closed without a very painful amputation. Its head must be chopped off if a church has any hope of being delivered from its Satanic clutches. Corrupt Christian music corrupts absolutely. When the doorway to it is first opened, it squeaks but a little bit, but eventually it builds to an excruciating loud roar because the Devil's music goes about roaring seeking churches that it may devour. The Devil's music is both born and borne of the spirit of Antichrist. The Devil's music makes the feet move before it gets to the heart. We have many churches in America whose services rival even the loudest and most vile rock concerts. Many churches have sensuously deep smoke and light performances before the shallow preaching gets underway. That music is PERFORMED by musicians that look like, dress like, and act like whores and whoremongers. The music is hellbent on producing a sensuous carnal response from its listeners. Most of it is raucous and lewd. It is UNHOLY, UNGODLY, and UNCHRISTIAN! **It is a vile assault on the holy ears of the Holy Ghost.** You cannot please God with the world's putridly vile music. The music of a church is of utmost importance to God. Contemporary Christian Music is not God's vehicle for worship.

One of the huge problems with Contemporary Christian Music is many of what I call "bridge songs" that they produce. "Bridge songs" are like using honey to draw a bear when you have no defense against the bear when he shows up. That bear will destroy you just like the "bridge songs" will destroy your churches. "Bridge songs" are kind of like antifreeze to a dog. The dogs cannot resist it just like carnal Christians cannot resist corrupt Christian music. The antifreeze tastes good to the dog, but it is deadly. A "bridge song" is an absolutely beautiful song with Godly lyrics, holy melodies, and the Godly use of instruments to accompany it. The problem with the "bridge song" is that it is sung by a Contemporary Christian Music musicians who also produces other so-called Christian music that

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is corrupt to its very core. When people buy their music for that good song, then that good song becomes the BRIDGE between it and the rest of their corrupt music. Some bridge songs would include "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" by Stuart Townend and "In Christ Alone" by Townend and Keith Getty. Another "bridge song" would include the beautiful song "Before The Throne Of God Above" by the Gettys. Another would include the beautiful song "I Know My Redeemer Lives" by Nicole Mullen. Another popular "bridge song" is the song "Redeemed" by Big Daddy Weave. The groups name should tell you a lot. Nicole Mullen, Stuart Townend, and the Gettys are full blown Christian rock and rollers. Pastors and music leaders must be very careful about what music they bring into their churches. The members of Big Daddy Weave are opposed to Biblical separation. Any music that is used in a church must be evaluated doctrinally and by the musician's theology and whether the musician is a Contemporary Christian musician. If church leaders shirk their responsibility to protect their churches from corrupt music, they are inviting the Devil in. Allowing Contemporary Christian Music into a fundamentalist church is like throwing your congregants into a den of vipers! Pastors should require their song leaders and themselves to study and know issue related to corrupt Christian music. There are yet other issues with these corrupt musicians.

There is much corruption among Contemporary Christian Music and their musicians and song writers. Many of those who write, compose, sing, and play Contemporary Christian Music have the vilest of rock musicians as their musical heroes. They openly praise them. They use their techniques in formulating and playing their music. There is also a very heavy influence and promotion of sodomy amongst many Contemporary Christian musicians and those who finance and promote them. God still says that sodomy is an abomination. The world uses the purely clinical term homosexual to refer to what God calls a sodomite. God will not honour or bless the Satanic ministry of any "gospel" singer that either participates in or promotes sodomy. Here is a list of Contemporary Christian Music musicians who have publicly proclaimed themselves to be sodomites: Douglas Harrison, Marsha Stevens, James Cleveland, Ray Boltz, Kirk Talley, Anthony Williams, Clay Aiken, Jennifer Knapp, Doug Pinnock, Ty Herndon, Amy Ray, Emily Saliers, and Vicky Beeching. There are many others. It is not just the sodomy folks. There is a spirit of antichrist within Contemporary Christian Music that promotes and/or fellowships with EVERY major heresy you can think up.

You should hear what some of the rock singers and voodoo practitioners have to say about drums. They are literally used to put people in touch with devils and evil spirits. My wife and I support a missionary and national pastor in Kenya. Some years ago, he and I had a discussion concerning Christian music and the instruments that should not be used in a church service. He told me that he would not allow drums in any of his services. When I asked him why, he pointed directly to their Satanic influences in African cultures. It is the same in western cultures. The western cultures have their smoke filled mosh pits with their head banging music and drums. The drums establish a sensuous mood and paint a picture that leads to an increased likelihood of Satanic activity. While the drums are a primary vehicle for Satanic influences, Satan can use any musical instrument to corrupt what should be Christian music. It is all about how an instrument is played and where the emphasis is put on beat and rhythm. Beat and rhythm are yet another study in and of themselves. Take heed."Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed". Will you fight for Godly music in your church?

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MUSIC IS NOT NEUTRAL FOLKS. Many times when you challenge an individual about how the musical instruments are played when singing so-called Christian music you will hear them say that it is not the music, but the lyrics that matter in Christian music. Folks, that is a lie of the Devil. How the musical instruments are played is much more powerful than the lyrics. Corrupt music can completely destroy a song's message. Many folks that are addicted to the Devil's music will go to war with you over that. In music, there is a thing called "text painting" that is used to convey in music what the lyrics are supposed to be saying in words. In other words, the music should help convey the message that the lyrics should be presenting. Godly musicians have used those techniques for centuries to help convey the message of the lyrics. They have **painted** their lyrics with Godly music. That is not what happens with most Contemporary Christian Music. How they use the instruments totally destroys any Godly message that the lyrics were written to convey. If the musical instruments contradict the lyrics, it results in mass confusion. There is a spirit that is associated with any music piece. It is that spirit that will drive and carry the playing of the instruments and the resultant message that is conveyed. You cannot play the Devil's music to God's lyrics. It will grieve the Holy Ghost. It is the Holy Ghost that is the Spirit of any music that honours God. Does the Holy Ghost anoint the music that you use in your church? Or, is it pushed along by the spirit of Antichrist? Our next topic is counterfeit preachers, pastors, and teachers. It will be an extended topic.

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COUNTERFEIT PREACHERS, PASTORS, AND TEACHERS

When I start to preach and teach on counterfeit preachers and teachers, I can get into a lot of trouble and make a lot of people mad because I want to follow the scriptural examples of folks like the Lord Jesus Christ; the apostles Peter, Paul, and John; and the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. I also believe that there are times when individuals must be called out by name. Once again, I base that belief on scriptural examples. You cannot handle a serpent or a wolf with gentle hands just as you cannot put a babe in a viper's pit or a lion's den. In *Ezekiel 22:23-31*, *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*; *Matthew 7:15-20*; *Acts 20:29*; *2 Peter 2:1,2* we are given the following warnings:

²³ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ²⁴ Son of man, say unto her, Thou *art* the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. ²⁵ *There is* a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. ²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. ²⁷ Her princes in the midst thereof *are* like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, *and* to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. ²⁸ And her prophets have daubed them with untempered *mortar*, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken. ²⁹ The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. ³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. ³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 22:23-31*

¹³ For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

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Matthew 7:15-20

²⁹ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. *Acts 20:29*

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. *2 Peter 2:1-2*

Notice that Ezekiel said that the false prophets were like roaring lions ravaging the prey. Just as the prophet Ezekiel had to deal with the false prophets so did the prophet Zephaniah in *Zephaniah 3:1-4*:

¹ Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city! ² She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God. ³ Her princes within her *are* roaring lions; her judges *are* evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow. ⁴ Her prophets *are* light *and* treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law. *Zephaniah 3:1-4*

Notice that the princes, prophets, and priests are all likened unto roaring lions and ravaging wolves. Why are they likened to roaring lions and ravaging wolves? It is because they are servants of Satan. Peter said: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (*1 Peter 5:8*). **Can we say that there certainly is a conspiracy of her prophets??** Absolutely, and it is not a conspiracy theory! Men and women are wilfully deceiving and being deceived. Conspiracy develops and thrives in hotbeds of deception, heresy, and apostasy. All of it is based upon a willful rejection and hatred of the word of God. When men and women will not stand for the truth, they will fall for every wind of false doctrine that blows by in every tempest of deception. The Holy Ghost said in *2 Timothy 4:2-4*:

² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:2-4*

God is not opposed to teachers. God is opposed to teachers with itching ears. False prophets and false teachers are birthed in perverting and/or rejecting the Word Of God. False prophets and false teachers grow up into apostates and heretics. Apostates and heretics lead churches that have pews mostly full

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of unbelieving professors who have been made two fold more children of hell by being led in unbelieving sinner's prayers. A saving gospel is not being preached in most of our churches. **During at least the last 60 years, false professions have become the leprosy of Bible believing churches.** Unbelieving sinner's prayers have become the vehicles of false professions. They are the religious objects that have become the Nehustans at the altars of Bible believing churches. When we say that a saving gospel is not being preached in most of our churches, what we mean by that is that there is no emphasis on repentance. If you have not repented, then you have not put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. A claimed salvation without repentance is a faked and feigned salvation. A claimed salvation without faith is a Satanic counterfeit. **Faith is the father of salvation and repentance is the mother of salvation. Faith and repentance come together in holy matrimony to conceive and produce a born again child of God: a babe in Christ, if you will.** If either faith or repentance is absent in a claim of salvation, then you have an illegitimate child of the "GREAT PRETENDER", Satan himself. Repentance is not a work of the human will, or of the human flesh. Repentance is both the gift and the work of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is our teacher. He gives us the discernment to rightly divide the word of truth when we are reading and being taught the word of God. Absent the presence of the Holy Ghost, the natural, unsaved man cannot understand the things of God. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned." *1 Corinthians 2:14*. Absent the presence of the Holy Ghost you cannot get saved. If the Holy Ghost is not present in you, then you are not saved. *Romans 8:9* states:

⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

The Holy Ghost is your assurance of salvation. You can be saved and you will know it:

¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. *1 John 5:13*

The rot and heresy that is being taught in most American churches is proof that the Holy Ghost is not in the false professors or in their churches. The prophet Jeremiah could look the apostates and heretics in American churches straight in the eye and say "ye have perverted the words of the living God" (*Jeremiah 23:36*). Most of our churches are graveyard dead because they will not teach and abide by the words and precepts of the Bible. Ichabod has been written above their doors because the glory has departed their churches. The movement of the Holy Ghost is a manifestation of the presence and glory of God.

The Bible is not being taught doctrinally in most of our so called fundamentalist churches. At least 90% of the people in our churches are Biblically illiterate. They cannot distinguish between heresy and Bible truth. They have heaped to themselves teachers having itching ears. There has never been

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a time in American history like today when the Word of God is openly scorned, mocked, and held in contempt. Biblical illiteracy among Bible believing Christians has led them to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, to stand in the way of sinners, and to sit in the seats of the scornful. The Bible gives the following warning in ***Psalm 1:1-6***:

Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.
Psalm 1:1-6

Because we have men walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the way of sinners, and sitting in the seats of the scornful we are being blown about by every wind of doctrine. We are not to use the world's methods in running the church of the living God. That is walking in the counsel of the ungodly. We are not to bring the world's dress standards and music into the church. That would be standing in the way of sinners. We are not to fellowship with so called Christian denominations that hold doctrines that are opposed to sound Biblical doctrine. That would be sitting in the seats of the scornful. **With things being the way they are today, you are either going to have to have a limited message or a limited fellowship.** If you are preaching and teaching the word of God under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, Satan will make sure you have plenty of enemies in the religious and political world. Some of the greatest enemies of Bible believing Christianity have been compromised "great men of God" who wanted to be liked by everyone including lost people. Job said: "Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment"(Job 32:9). The Lord Jesus Christ said: **"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets"**. When the praise and love of all men becomes one of the identifying marks of a ministry, you can be sure that the seeds of false doctrine and false prophecy have been sewn by Satan into that ministry. When men start doing that which is right in their own eyes, then you have the same spirit of apostasy and wickedness that seized control in Israel during the dark period of the book of Judges. One of the great sins of American religious leaders since the 1850s has been that of prideful men seeking after glory and titles. Those who would aspire to be Godly "religious" and Godly political leaders would do well to listen to the advice of *Job 32:21-22* and *Jeremiah 9:23-24*:

²¹ Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. ²² For I know not to give flattering titles; *in so doing* my maker would soon take me away. *Job 32:21-22*

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²³ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: ²⁴ But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD. *Jeremiah 9:23-24*

We have to many men behind our pulpits and lecterns that are seeking after the titles and accolades that come with seminary (cemetery) degrees from “prestigious” religious institutions that are busy teaching them to vainly correct and deny the word of God. The majority of the graduates from these prestigious religious institutions cannot teach and preach the word of God line upon line and precept upon precept with the unction of the Holy Ghost because they have grieved the Holy Ghost with their Bible correcting and Bible denying attitudes and lifestyles. Speaking in general, the graduates of most of these Bible colleges and seminaries have embraced every false way. Note the commentary of the psalmist in *Psalms 119*:

¹⁰⁴ Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. *Psalms 119:104*

¹²⁶ *It is* time for *thee*, LORD, to work: *for* they have made void thy law. ¹²⁷ Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. ¹²⁸ Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things* to be right; and I hate every false way. *Psalms 119:126-128*

If you truly love God and his word you are going to hate every false way. In today's churches, most men and women that should hate every false way have the backbones of jellyfish. They love the praise of men more than they love the praise of God. If you are going to do anything that will be pleasing to God, you are going to have to love God more than you love men or the praise of men. I repeat, according to the Lord Jesus Christ, seeking and receiving the praise of all men is the mark of a false prophet. *Luke 6:26* says: “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets”. ***Psalms 36:1*** (quoted in *Romans 3:18*) says: “The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, *that there is* no fear of God before his eyes”. The reason that we have so many false prophets today is that there is no fear of God.

There is no fear of God today in the United States of America. We want God to bless America and yet we deny, scorn, and mock every precept that God has given us to live by. We want our sin and our prosperity too. We want a God of love and not a God of judgement. We want a God that we can call on, but not a God that can call on us. We are a country full of hell bound sinners that are on the broad pathway to destruction. We mock God in our arrogance and self esteem while murdering his unborn babies. We are a nation of filthy dreamers that parade sodomy before God as if it were some kind of puppet show. These filthy dreamers have not the Spirit of God. We are a country that is full devils and their reprobates. We are deserving of the judgement and condemnation of God. Why are we constantly at war? ***Isaiah 26:1-4*** says:

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In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will *God* appoint *for* walls and bulwarks. 2 Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. 3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on thee*: because he trusteth in thee. 4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength: *Isaiah 26:1-4*

We are a country full of ungodly religious people in churches that hold to ungodly doctrines that are an abomination before God and an affront to sound Biblical doctrine. In America, what should be the church of the living GOD has been poisoned by religious leaders that are doing what is right in their own eyes. Our churches in America are full of unbelieving professors that have a form of Godliness, but deny the power thereof and have not known the way of truth. Much of the responsibility for the downfall of the church lies in the pulpits of American churches. The Bible says in **Hosea 4:6** :

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. *Hosea 4:6*

We are not talking about knowledge that has been gained at the feet of unbelieving seminary professors that are gathered around the tree of knowledge. We are talking about Godly knowledge that has been gained from the teaching and leadership of the indwelling Holy Ghost. True wisdom is knowledge that has been enlightened by God the Holy Ghost.

Deuteronomy chapters 13 and 18 tell us how to distinguish between a true prophet and a false prophet. **Deuteronomy 13:1-3** says:

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. *Deuteronomy 13:1-3*

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 says:

20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. 21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, *but* the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him. *Deuteronomy 18:20-22*

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We are living in an age when church leaders will not take a stand for sound Bible doctrine. The pulpits in American churches are full of heretics, apostates, and unbelievers. We have churches that are calling and ordaining sodomites to serve in the pulpits of American churches. It seems that the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Methodist Church, and the Church of Christ are the leaders in this movement that includes Episcopalians and yes even some Baptists including American Baptists and Southern Baptists. There is a denomination that was organized strictly for sodomites. It is called the Metropolitan Community Church. **Leviticus 18:22** says: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination". **Leviticus 20:13** says "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them". The last time I checked *Romans 1:26-28*, *1 Corinthians 6:9*, and *1 Timothy 1:10* were still in the Bible. These passages state:

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; *Romans 1:26-28*

⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, *1 Corinthians 6:9*

¹⁰ For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; *1 Timothy 1:10*

I am not advocating violence against the sexual perverts that the King James Bible calls sodomites. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ done away with the death penalty for sexual sins in *John 8:3-11* and *Matthew 19:3-12*.

Churches have heaped to themselves teachers having itching ears. The Bible says in **2 Timothy 4:3-4**:

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:3-4*

How is that Satan tears down sound Biblical churches? Satan does it in the same way men of God are supposed to build those churches up. The Bible says in **Isaiah 28:10-13**:

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon

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line; here a little, *and* there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing: yet they would not hear. 13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. *Isaiah 28:10-13*

Satan almost never attacks directly. As in the Garden of Eden, Satan's prime objective was to cast doubt on the word of God. Satan attacks the doctrines here a little and there a little. He adds a little leaven here and a little leaven there until the whole lump is leavened. Satan is very subtil. Church members who refuse to hear and receive sound doctrine will fall backward and be broken in the snare of Satan's false doctrine.

I believe there is another reason that so many professing Christians are holding to false doctrines. Because most churches have rejected the truth, I believe that God has also sent them strong delusion that they would and do believe a lie.

I have already said that much of the responsibility for the great falling away in America's churches lies at the feet of those in the pulpits. Much of the responsibility for this great falling away lies at the feet of the congregations also. Since pastors, preachers and evangelists are called and ordained by churches, we as members of those churches are under an obligation to God to make sure that those that occupy our pulpits are preaching and teaching sound doctrine. God builds his church upon sound doctrine through the teaching ministry of God the Holy Ghost and the precious holy Word Of God. WE MUST REST IN the word of God. *Acts 17:11* says: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so". *2 Timothy 2:15* says: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." *Hebrews 5:12-14* says:

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. *Hebrews 5:12-14*

Today, our churches are being murdered by congregations who make enemies of the preachers and teachers who tell them the truth. The apostle Paul said, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (*Galatians 4:16*).

Today, we are living in the most Biblically illiterate time in American church history. That is why we are unable to stand fast in the faith. As Paul said in *Ephesians 4:14*: "That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive". That is why a lot of our Independent

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Baptist churches sound like nurseries. We have many church members that should have matured in the faith that are still babes in Christ because they simply will not read and study the Bible. They refuse to receive sound doctrine.

We must be very careful who we allow in the pulpits of our churches. We must put men in our pulpits who will stand for the truth. Men who will: "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine". The religious sharks, wolves, and roaring lions have gathered around the living bodies of Bible believing churches seeking whom they may devour. And believe me they are having a feeding frenzy. They are literally devouring the Life's Blood of Bible believing churches. They say: "We don't want any of that bloody religion". They have gone in the way of Cain. Like Cain, they don't want any of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and they have murder in the hearts. There is a conspiracy in Satan's heart to replace Bible believing preachers with false prophets. *Ezekiel 22:23-32* says:

²³ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ²⁴ Son of man, say unto her, Thou *art* the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. ²⁵ *There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.* ²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. ²⁷ Her princes in the midst thereof *are* like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, *and* to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. ²⁸ And her prophets have daubed them with untempered *mortar*, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken. ²⁹ The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. ³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. ³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 22:23-32*

We are living in a time when people just will not hear the word of God. 2 Timothy chapter 4 has its parallel in the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. *Isaiah 30:9-11* says:

9 That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD: 10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: 11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. *Isaiah 30:9-11*

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The prophet Amos also said in *Amos 8:11-12*:

11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:
12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find *it*. *Amos 8:11-12*

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GOD'S REBUKE OF AND WARNINGS TO WICKED PASTORS AND FALSE PROPHETS

Jeremiah chapter 23 is a rebuke to wicked pastors and false prophets. Today's false prophets would do well to heed the lessons of this chapter. *Jeremiah 23* says:

¹ Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. ² Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. ³ And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴ And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD. ⁵ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ⁷ Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; ⁸ But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

⁹ Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness. ¹⁰ For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force *is* not right. ¹¹ For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD. ¹² Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery *ways* in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, *even* the year of their visitation, saith the LORD. ¹³ And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err. ¹⁴ I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah. ¹⁵ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land. ¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, *and* not out of the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷ They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall

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have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. ¹⁸ For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard *it*? ¹⁹ Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly. ²¹ I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. ²³ *Am* I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴ Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. ²⁶ How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, *they are* prophets of the deceit of their own heart; ²⁷ Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal. ²⁸ The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. ²⁹ *Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces? ³⁰ Therefore, behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. ³¹ Behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. ³² Behold, I *am* against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD. ³³ And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What *is* the burden of the LORD? thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD. ³⁴ And *as for* the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house. ³⁵ Thus shall ye say every one to his neighbour, and every one to his brother, What hath the LORD answered? and, What hath the LORD spoken? ³⁶ And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God. ³⁷ Thus shalt thou say to the prophet, What hath the LORD answered thee? and, What hath the LORD spoken? ³⁸ But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD; ³⁹ Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, *and cast you* out of my presence: ⁴⁰ And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten. *Jeremiah 23:1-40*

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Ezekiel 13:2-9 says:

2 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; 3 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! 4 O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. 5 Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. 6 They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made *others* to hope that they would confirm the word. 7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith *it*; albeit I have not spoken? 8 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I *am* against you, saith the Lord GOD. 9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I *am* the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 13:2-9*

We are warned time and again of false prophets. The Lord Jesus Christ said in *Matthew 7:15-16*:

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? *Matthew 7:15-16*

And in *Matthew 24:24*:

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. *Matthew 24:24*

Notice that signs and wonders are associated with the false prophets in the end times. The apostate American church has much emphasis on signs and wonders in the Charismatic movement that has crossed all denominational lines. It is a mark that identifies the fulfillment of end times Bible prophecy. *2 Thessalonians 2:9* says: "*Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders". *Revelation 13:13-14* says:

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. *Revelation 13:13-14*

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Paul said in *Acts 20:29-30*:

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. *Acts 20:29-30*

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 says:

13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

1 John 4:1-3 says:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. *1 John 4:1-3*

2 Peter 2:1-2 says:

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. *2 Peter 2:1-2*

If there ever was a day when the church is evil spoken of, it is today. Because of false prophets and Christians who will not live holy lives, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is profaned among the heathen. Many will not take a stand for Biblical separation from false prophets and false doctrine because they are afraid of being accused of being unloving, of being judgmental, of being legalistic, or of being a Pharisee. Many are afraid of contention, but you must contend for the faith whether you want to or not. It is a Bible commandment. Our Bible says in *Jude 3*:

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. *Jude 3*

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Not only must we contend for the faith, but we must also realize that there is a call that goes forth unto to God's people to be separate. Separation is for our protection and for the protection of the church. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 says:

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?
15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?
16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,
18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. *7:1* Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1*

Ephesians 5:11 says: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*".

Romans 16:17-19 says:

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. 19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. *Romans 16:17-19*

Philippians 3:17-19 says:

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* *their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.) *Philippians 3:17-19*

Revelation 18:4 says: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues".

What is the price to be paid if we will not be separated from false doctrine, worldly lusts, and false prophets? Jeremiah 6:10-19 says:

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¹⁰ **To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear *is* uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.** ¹¹ Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with *him that is* full of days. ¹² And their houses shall be turned unto others, *with their* fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD. ¹³ For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. ¹⁴ They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter* of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace. ¹⁵ **Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time *that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.*** ¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*. ¹⁷ Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. ¹⁸ Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what *is* among them. ¹⁹ Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, *even* the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it. *Jeremiah 6:10-19*

Again Jeremiah the prophet said in *Jeremiah 8:4-13*:

⁴ Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; Shall they fall, and not arise? shall he turn away, and not return? ⁵ Why *then* is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. ⁶ I hearkened and heard, *but* they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle. ⁷ Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD. ⁸ How do ye say, We *are* wise, and the law of the LORD *is* with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he *it*; the pen of the scribes *is* in vain. ⁹ The wise *men* are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom *is* in them? ¹⁰ Therefore will I give their wives unto others, *and* their fields to them that shall inherit *them*: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. ¹¹ For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace. ¹² **Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all**

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ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. ¹³ I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: *there shall be* no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and *the things that* I have given them shall pass away from them. *Jeremiah 8:4-13*

Isaiah the prophet fought his own battles with those who would not receive the word of God. Isaiah said this in *Isaiah 5:20-24*:

²⁰ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ²¹ Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! ²² Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: ²³ Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! ²⁴ **Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.** *Isaiah 5:20-24*

Exhorting for the application side of the word of God the prophet Elijah said in *1 Kings 18:21*:

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word. *1 Kings 18:21*

Joshua 24:15-16 says:

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. 16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; *Joshua 24:15-16*

Let me state this in the strongest possible terms. If you do not have a spiritual backbone, then either God has not called you to preach or teach the word of God, or, your heart is not right with God and his word. Sadly, we have come to a time in American churches where God knows most men today for what they will NOT preach on. The prophet Elijah could come to the average preacher's meeting today and legitimately state:

How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if

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Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word (*1 Kings 18:21*).

There is not a penny's worth difference between the prophets of Baal and today's average preacher. With very few exceptions, there is no sure word of prophecy in the land. So, what is God's response to those teachers and preachers who are tempted to compromise the word of God. That is our next topic.

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**GOD'S COMMANDS TO THE PREACHERS AND TEACHERS WHO WOULD
COMPROMISE BECAUSE OF THEIR FEAR OF THEIR LISTENERS**

Most preachers today are scared to death of their congregations. Any preacher that claims he has been called to preach would do well to heed the instructions of God to the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel and to Pastor Timothy. Turn in your Bible to Jeremiah chapter 1 where we read:

⁶Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. ⁷But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. ⁸Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. ⁹Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. ¹⁰See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant. *Jeremiah 1:6-10*

¹⁷Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. ¹⁸For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. ¹⁹And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee. *Jeremiah 1:17-19*

Now turn in your Bibles to Ezekiel chapter 3 where it states:

¹Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. ²So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. ³And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. ⁴And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. ⁵For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; ⁶Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. ⁷But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted. ⁸Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. ⁹As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. ¹⁰Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears.

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¹¹ And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. ¹² Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place. *Ezekiel 3:1-12*

The Holy Ghost stated the following in *2 Timothy 2:1-4* and *2 Timothy 4:1-5*:

¹ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. ³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. *2 Timothy 2:1-4*

¹ I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. *2 Timothy 4:1-5*

The message from these passages to those who have been called to the ministry is that they must openly and boldly declare the Word of God regardless of the people's reaction and opposition to it. God even warns them that there will be a fight. We are told to earnestly contend for the faith. That means there will be contention. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." (*1 Corinthians 16:13*)

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CLOSING COMMENTS

We will close with a few comments and some admonishments. First, we quote *Ephesians 4:11-15*:

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ: *Ephesians 4:11-15*

Ephesians 4:13 speaks of a unity of the faith. Biblical unity cannot exist in diversity of doctrine. We are commanded to separate from false teachers and false doctrines. It is not our choice. It is a commandment of God. The overriding theme of this series has been that our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ is in vain if we are teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Again, the Lord Jesus Christ said:

⁷ *Ye* hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, ⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. *Matthew 15:7-9*

Obedying Christ's command concerning doctrine is not a matter of our love for mankind. It is a matter of our love for the truth. He is THE TRUTH. If you compromise the word of God, and you say that you are a Christian, that makes you a hypocrite. We must always teach and preach the truth in love. That does not mean that we accept compromise. There comes a time when we must publickly name names and call out false doctrine. Many times we will have to instruct those who oppose themselves (*2 Timothy 2:25*). That must be done through a discerning spirit. You cannot beat an unbeliever into conforming to the word of God. If the Holy Ghost is not in them, or, in what you are trying to do, you are beating your head against the Devil's wall. Any person temporarily convinced against their will is of the same opinion still. Only the Holy Ghost can change the will or the want to of an individual. That applies to both the saved and the unsaved. I have watched pastors over the years attempt to conform unsaved people to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ and its end is usually resentment and rebellion. People must first be brought to Christ before they can be conformed to the image of Christ. You cannot use *1 Corinthians 5:17* to scrub up a whited sepulchre that is full of dead men's bones. What I am saying is that not everyone that claims to be saved is saved. By their fruits ye shall know them!

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