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They Are Rather Like An Ostrich

We lived in Rhodesia during a very interesting time in the history of that country. It wouldn't be long and the name would become Zimbabwe. It was already referred to in that way by most of the population. Yet, during this time of turbulence, there were many in the white population who would not accept that change was soon coming. They did not want change. The Prime Minister stated, "Never in a thousand years would the blacks be in power in Rhodesia." However, the winds of change were blowing and it was much less than a thousand days when there was a black government.

During the time we lived in this beautiful country, we made frequent trips to South Africa. On one occasion I was speaking to a gentleman from England who worked in a mall outside Johannesburg. He was questioning me in depth about the situation in Rhodesia. When I expressed my thoughts of how the people were not ready to accept change, his reply never left me. He thoughtfully scratched his chin, looked at me directly and in his brisk accent clipped, "they are rather like an ostrich, you know." When this simile is used, one thinks of someone who attempts to avoid danger by refusing to see it. Is this what the Church is doing?

It is the time of year when, as Assembly of God ministers, we fill out a form to renew our credentials. There are questions that are very important on this application: (1) Do you fully subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths? and (2) Do you publicly proclaim these statements of Fundamental Doctrine? Then the questions become more specific. "If your present viewpoint differs from that of the General Council in any of the following areas, please check:" One of these areas is the premillennial and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many of our ministers happily check off these points, sign their name at the bottom, peel a check out of their checkbook and mail it in by the deadline. As I am discerning the church of Jesus Christ, I believe that many do sincerely believe the basics. They have in all honesty signed their name to do their yearly duty, but unwittingly are part of an overall picture that

threatens to undermine the credentials they place in their pocket. The Assemblies of God is under threat as is the Church of God, The Foursquare and every other organized church. The threats are very real and extremely blatant. Are we going to be ostriches or are we going to pull our head out of the sand, stand straight and tall and rather DRAW A LINE IN THE SAND!

Satan has a manifesto for these days. He is rubbing his hands in delight as it looks like his plan for the ages is finally being fulfilled. The New Agers have fallen in line, the politicians are playing the game, the schools have taken the bait and now the church is smiling in acquiescence **a.** this evil Conductor lifts his bow. How is Satan's plan laid out for the showdown? Naturally, he arrives as an Angel of Light. His garments are glimmering with promises of hope and renewal for the AGE that is now dawning.

SATAN'S MANIFESTO~GLOBAL DECEPTION

I. Religious Unity. According to certain archaeological accounts and the Biblical record in Genesis 11:1-4, we have reason to believe that the first endeavor by Satan to unite the peoples of the world was through a religious culture, characterized and symbolized by the tower of Babel in the land of Shinar (Babylon). (see a good Bible encyclopedia).

Revelation 17 as well as other scriptures intimate that in the last days a new form of religion will prevail (symbolized by mystery Babylon) and, like Babylon of old under Nimrod the Great, unite the peoples of the world - the fulfillment of yet another major phase in Satan's strategy against God and His people. A local paper stated this week that, "An era in church history had come to an end. A NEW AGE OF ECUMENISM among all Christians had begun."

"UNITY at any cost" is an idea growing rapidly amongst many church leaders. The cost includes "sound doctrine" as well as any judgment. between what is and is not scriptural. Here is a path that inevitably will lead to corruption and a new brand of religion the world has never known. Pastors today are afraid to take a stand. Everyone wants to accommodate and show the world the face of "unity". The movement is towards ecumenicalism in every aspect of the church. In an article entitled, IS RECONSTRUCTIONISM MERGING WITH KINGDOM NOW? the following startling statements are made. "The August issue of CHARISMA Magazine (1988) contained a full-page advertisement inviting 200 pastors and church leaders to the symposium. Pictured in the ad, along with the question, 'What will these spokesmen for the kingdom of God be doing September 15-17?' were Earl Paulk, Dennis Peacocke, Gary DeMar, David Chilton, George Grant, Don Meares, Charles Nestor, and Ern Baxter. 'It was an attempt to merge Reconstructionism with 'Kingdom Now' theology, and it was successful.' said Baird, a former Assemblies of God minister turned Reconstructionist, in a telephone interview. 'The result is still yet to emerge, but will become clear in the next couple of years,' he added."

"'Kingdom Now' is a movement spearheaded by Paulk, Bishop John Meares, and others who believe that the church, as a manifestation of the kingdom of God, will eventually take over society. Only when the church is in a position of power will Christ return to rule, Paulk and other leaders teach. . . Reconstructionism is a post-millennial movement which originated within the Reformed or Calvinistic tradition in America. Reconstructionists speaking at the symposium were Gary North, DeMar, Chilton, and Grant."

"Baxter and Peacocke were leaders of the controversial 'shepherding movement' which taught that individual believers must submit themselves to a 'covering' or chain of command before making many decisions. Although the movement has fragmented in recent years, many of its teachers and teachings have merged into the 'Kingdom Now' or dominion movement. Baird said Baxter worked hard behind "the scenes to pull together the two camps. . . . Reconstructionists have some difficulties with some of Paulk's theological positions . . . but on the other hand, Reconstructionists would agree with the five-fold ministry. . . A merger of the two camps has long been predicted - sought after by some." (Christian Research Journal, Fall 1988).

In SEDUCTION?? A BIBLICAL RESPONSE, Worldview: The Coming Reformation by Thomas Reid, the same ideas are coming forth. "The problem is this: many evangelicals and Pentecostals have not developed an adequate world view David Chilton in PARADISE RESTORED notes that those who successfully colonized the New World 'were expecting the New World would be Christianized. . . They knew that Christians are destined for dominion.'" "

"...the greatest - single cultural force in American life today is the evangelical/neo-Pentecostal community. . . A fatalistic view of the world has been shaped by an emphasis on the escape of the church from earth's problems through a 'rapture' - without a constant balancing of the responsibility of the church to sociological reformation. . . . independents are beginning to network. . to bring the millions of charismatics together. . . within networking there is room for a variety of theological and philosophical opinions. . . Can the thinking of denominations be reshaped to embrace the huge reformation that is about to take place? If not, my fear is that Pentecostal denominations will be seriously affected in the move toward networking now taking place. "" We are the king's delegated authority to reclaim the planet for our king. . . one of the great purposes of the church is to infiltrate the fabric of our society and bring a witness of Christ's kingdom to the kingdoms of this world. This is what Jesus meant by 'occupy (or take territory) till I come.'"

This Unity is working to bring about setting up the Kingdom of God. A task which can only be accomplished by the King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

II. Super Government. A one-world "theocratic order" will use the reign of terror and force to rule. (Dan. 7:6, 7, 19-21, 23-25; Rev. 13:1-8; 17:8-13). The dream of a Super Theocratic Government has always been foremost in the thinking of the church ever since the 3rd century A.D. Now the prospect of such an idea is clearly in sight.

Those that have adopted the New Worldview have also set out THE GAMEPLAN FOR THE CHURCH. It is all coming in the name of love and unity. However, any rule brought in by any other than Jesus Christ Himself will end in disaster. THE GAMEPLAN laid out has four phases. In the Master Plan, Phase 1 mobilizes the pastors and leaders through prayer and unity, disciples all leaders in each participating church, evangelism of every household within the major city in 5 years and the "cap" is the creation of a regional political machine for local control of cities and counties. Phase 2 creates a new political party nationally, creation of an alternative court system, tax reform, create a local newspaper, radio and T.V. outreach, an artists network and production studios. Phase 3 includes an educational plan, training in Creation Science and American History, developing Kingdom College and Reformation

Seminary and mobilization of the ethnic groups. Phase 4 deals with Banks and investment associations, Chamber of Commerce and employment agencies, medical clinics and counseling centers. (See Coalition On Revival (MCORM) papers entitled The Gameplan For the Church").

From all accounts it is quite clear that the broad political agenda shared by COR and the Reconstructionists (also subscribed to by many Charismatics and Pentecostals) are as follows:

(1) Establish control over all institutions such as: The Church, education, business, social, economics, legal, medical, etc., thus leaving very little, if any, freedom of speech;

(2) Brainwash the Church by all conceivable means to think politically in their missions by redefining the Gospel;

(3) Establish a religious euphoria to umbrella political goals or embody political objectives in "& form of godliness";

(4) Form a militant army [Joel's Army?] to wield force and dominance over political and religious dissidents, yet another form of their "spiritual warfare";

(5) Form a slick propaganda machine to mobilize the youth and different races into a departmentalized structure conclusive to a legalistic "Kingdom of God" mentality and a sophisticated hierarchal form of rule [apartheid?] based on theonomy, i.e., "God" and "Law" (Old Testament laws enforced on social and civic life). This is a frightening propaganda offensive to penetrate every segment of society, both the religious and secular, and form a nationalistic government by the "elite" and for the "elite";

(6) Establish a Theocratic Government (Government by "God" without Jesus Christ) at the expense of democracy; and

(7) Establish God's Kingdom without the preaching of the Gospel of Grace and without the Second Coming of the Messiah, who alone shall usher in God's literal Kingdom on earth.

The old adage "you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time" is not irrelevant to our gullible age. While it is true that many Christians are being hoodwinked by various politically orientated Christian networks into believing 20th century New Age philosophy, the heartening news is that concerned Christians are beginning to speak out against what they see to be spiritual nonsense, i.e., every wind of spiritual/political doctrine. Troubled clergy and laity alike are beginning to examine the new trends and doctrines purported to be Biblical. Great concern is being expressed at the methodology used when interpreting the Holy Scriptures.

The same question keeps on coming back. How can anyone continue to allegorize the literal meaning of Scripture without fear of adding to the Scriptures and defying the Holy Spirit's last warning to offenders?

"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." (Rev. 22:19)

Praise God! Not all have buried their heads in the sand! Because of aberrant teachings, research is underway and strict hermeneutical rules are being emphasized and followed to determine what is of God and what is not. Although the literal method of interpreting the scriptures is sadly lacking in churches, the bright news is that not all members are falling for the New Age allegorical version of God's Word.

III. Universal Peace. Satan's most artful form of deception comes in the guise of light and peace. (II Cor. 11:14). The Scriptures characterize him as a shrewd negotiator and pretentious peacemaker who will cause deception to prosper. "Sudden destruction" will follow close on the heels of his peace initiatives. (Dan. 8: 25; I Thess. 5:3). .

Peace is an euphoric term effectively used in politics and war. Political theologians know this. Kingdom/Dominion protagonists waste no time exploiting the term and its shades of meaning to motivate audience. It is the concept of "peace" in our sin-battered world that inspires the political drive rumbling through our churches. In the name of "peace" and "unity" leaders are networking and holding conferences in all the major cities to recruit and excite Christians from all the churches with the idea of world-peace and "order". The incessant cry is for universal peace through a one-world church and government.

Each time the term "peace" is used in a Kingdom/Dominion sense, the real peace that comes only from the Prince of Peace is misrepresented and substituted with a quality of peace that has beguiled the world ever since the Garden of Eden. That Pope John Paul II was chosen by dominion charismatics to receive the "Prince of Peace" award as a token of peace and unity comes as no surprise. Everything possible is being done through the television media, radio and conferences to present a united peaceful front as a sign the Church is coming together and taking dominion of the world.

Christianity is not against tranquility and order achieved by political means on the part of Christians. Nor is it adverse to any endeavor to improve the quality of life on earth. However, it is opposed and incensed at the abuse of Scripture, making a political idea sound as though it is scriptural and ordained of God, while in fact it is not. Regretfully, this scenario is very much a part of the Church today. Peace on earth is being sought by political means believed to be both scriptural and spiritual. God's bid for peace in the world will be won through political conquest, is believed by many Reconstructionists. That this belief exists within the Church means something is wrong - some one is prophesying or teaching falsehood! Any prophet or teacher that either prophesies or teaches Scripture to point others to a peaceful reign on earth without the physical presence of Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace, is false and needs to be corrected, rebuked and if need be - exposed!

Unfortunately, the kind of peace now being offered the Church, falls far short of the peace the Prince of Peace gives. Scripture leaves no doubt that peace comes through Jesus Christ, His Cross and the preaching of the Gospel. But, in spite of Scripture, we are now being told that peace comes through the Church within the Church, i.e. "Alternative Society", "Remnant", "Manifest Sons of God", "Coalition on Revival", "New Order" etc. The Church of Jesus Christ is not a fragmented body. No part of the body of Christ monopolizes the gift of peace. Peace dwells in the heart of every believer by the Holy Ghost, and will reign in the Church until Jesus Christ comes from heaven to establish His Peace throughout the world. Any other source or quality of peace will suffer destruction in its wake.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. . . .(John 14:27).

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation. . . ." (John 16:33).

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Ph. 4:7).

" . . . and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and his name shall be called. . . The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end. . . ." (Is. 9:6, 7).

The question often arises whether or not it is wrong for Christians to be involved in politics. My answer is, it depends! Providing the politics and the cause do not blatantly conflict with the Bible and the Spirit of the Word, the question remains a personal choice and a matter of conscience. However, when a political concept, activity or aim abuses the Scriptures, discredits the faith and the doctrines of Christ, then a Christian should have no part of it.

IV. Prosperity. Ever since the Garden of Eden, prosperity was and is the "good life" Satan promises his followers. As always, the temptation of a spoil down the road is the bait he uses. The insatiable material greed in the world he preys on and uses to deceive. For Satan to fulfill his life-long plan for supremacy, the terms "peace" and "prosperity" will always prominently feature in his vocabulary. Commerce is one of the oldest means Satan will use in the last days to force people to their knees in obeisance to him. (Rev. 13:16-17).

The "Kingdom Lifestyle" is offered on a platter by many teachers today. Rev. Reid lays this out also in the same book quoted already, "I submit that kingdom lifestyle is available to God's people today. It involves the following:

First, a throne, Jesus our king indicated that the one who serves is the one who rules. The throne of His kingdom is therefore a servant's throne. .. Any true successful businessman knows that only by serving customer, supplier and employee can you truly succeed.

Second, kingdom lifestyle includes a cross. When Jesus said to take up our cross and follow Him, He was not referring to Calvary but rather to purpose in life. . . . Therefore, our cross in His kingdom is the purpose for which we were born.

Third, if we rule from a throne of servanthood, and we have a purpose in life, we will be productive. . .

Fourth, a kingdom lifestyle involves creativity. A person who relies on the power of the Holy Spirit will have creative ideas. . .

Finally, if a person is a servant, has a purpose and is productive and creative, he will prosper.

These five ingredients of a kingdom lifestyle will not only affect our but will enable us to be a creative force of change in our society.”

In the Old Testament there were also prophets who delighted their hearers. Prophets who would prophesy blessing and hope. Their coffers would fill as they made merchandise of serious matters and proclaimed, “thus saith the Lord.” In pleasing tones they would tell the people exactly what the people wanted to hear. "Something good is going to happen to you! You are going to experience great blessing . Everything you set out to do will be blessed!" Leonard Ravenhill brought out this thought in a message in Fort Worth, Texas in December. "... we've got lots of prophets in the country today... you know the condition of America today would drive prophets up the wall. If we had prophets, you know what they would be doing? They would be walking down the street with sackcloth and bare feet. They would be hollering against the sin of the generation. . . the prophets now get little rooms where they tell you to come to their hotel and sit around and give you some prophecy that they have - forget it. All they want to do is get you on their mailing list. " I tend to agree with this observation and to inject a question. Can you imagine the prophets of old holding conferences and charging admittance to come and hear them? Today you can go to school and learn how to be a "prophet", dance in the "spirit" and even learn how to cry on cue on national television.

As a young child I attended many evangelist's crusades. As the years passed, the appeals for money became more and more drawn out. On one occasion I remember an evangelist sobbing, "I see Jesus walking down the aisle." He proceeded to call the ushers to gather this precious sawdust into buckets. Then, for \$5.00 a sample was available. Many of these evangelists live in a world of furs, gold jewelry, fine cars and every luxury possible. That is their portion!

As I grew older, I traveled to my grandparents home to find as shutins they were being “milked” by the television “evangelists”. They had souvenirs all over the house as evidence of their “support”. Grandpa's old-fashioned rolldown desk had pigeon-holes stuffed with requests for even more money. He would sit there painstakingly in the evenings and make out checks to the various pleas, which in return, brought more pleas. Obviously the ploy still works. The tactics are still work - even on a grander scale. With the emphasis on blessings and prosperity, God's favor is somehow equated with materialistic gains. An opulent lifestyle, somehow is what is owing to a "King's Kid”.

By the Word of God, Let Us Draw The Line in the Sand

The literal interpretation of the Word of God is not popular today. According to the Old Testament - every Scripture that pronounced Christ's coming as Babe in Bethlehem was literally fulfilled in minute detail. Why should the Scripture referring to His Coming for His Saints be any different? Why should, "The dead in Christ shall rise first and they which are alive shall arise to meet the Lord in th air" not mean just what it says? The dead are the dead, the alive are the alive and the air is the air!

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Rev. 113)

GOD'S REVEALED ORDER AND PLAN

- I. Jesus Christ is the "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending" of God's eternal purpose (Rev. 1:8) and the central subject of all Scripture. (Gen. 3:15; John 5:39).
- II. The Lord Jesus Christ reigns in the midst of His Church. (Matt. 18:20; Rev. 1:13; Eph. 1:22; 5:27). For He who was dead is alive (Rev. 1:18). Therefore, when He shall return from glory, we (the Church) shall reign with Him on earth. (II Ti. 2:12; Rev. 5:10; 20:6).
- III. The Lord Jesus shall come, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump", and resurrect and glorify His saints. (Rom. 8:21-25; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51-55; Rev. 20:4-6).
- IV. Jesus Christ shall come with His saints to judge the nations and their NEW ORDER. (Dan. 2:40-45; 7:23-27; Zech. 14:1-5; Joel 3:1, 2, 12, 14-16; Matt. 25:31-34; Jude 14,15; Rev. 16:13-16).
- V. God shall imprison Satan in the bottomless pit and at the appointed time cast him "into the lake of fire and brimstone". (Rev. 20:1-3 & 10).
- VI. God, by Jesus Christ, shall deliver His people (the Jewish nation) from the great tribulation as promised. (Deut. 4:29-31; Jer. 30:3-7; Dan. 12:1; Rom. 11:1-17; Rev. 12:14).
- VII. The Almighty appearance and presence of Jesus Christ at Armageddon shall slay the Antichrist and false prophet. (Dan. 7:11; Is. 11:4, II Thess. 2:1-8; Rev. 19:19-21).
- VIII. The Lord Jesus Christ shall physically come to set up His literal kingdom on earth, also known as the "millennial reign of Christ". This event marks:
 - a. The beginning of God's NEW AGE or NEW WORLD ORDER. (Rev. 19:11 - 20:15).
 - b. The kingdom of the Messiah over Israel. (Is. 11:1-16; Acts 1:6; Rev. 20:4-7).
 - c. His reign throughout the earth. (Is. 9:6-7; 11:9; Ps. 72:8; 97:9; Dan. 7:13-14; Micah 4:1-3; Zech. 9:10, 14:1-21, Rev. 11:15)
 - d. Christ's Kingdom on earth beginning at the return of the King from glory. (Is. 9:6-1; Dan. 2:44-45; Dan. 7:13-14; Zech. 14; Matt. 25:31-46; II Thess. 1:7; Jude 14; Rev. 17:14; 19:12 - 20:7).

God's sovereign order of "things which must shortly come to pass" are clearly written, and His eternal will and purpose accurately recorded. What is written is written and nothing can be changed, neither added to nor taken from, for "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God". (II Ti. 3:16).

"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." (Rev. 22:18).

Jewel van der Merwe

Dear Readers:

Needless to say, these newsletters are not easy to write. When sluice gates open wide, it is very difficult to try and swim against the tide. I remember seeing the "Poseidon Adventure" many years ago. The great ship had turned over in a raging storm at sea. The heroes of the story had found the direction the passengers were taking would lead them to certain death. They tried earnestly to get the people to turn around, but to no avail. The faces of the passengers were set like "zombies" as they continued on their way to their death.

The situation today seems the same! The deception is flooding the Church. The water has been luke-warm for so long that when the heat is turned up - the frog who has become accustomed to the water doesn't even try to jump out. It just "feels" so good. The Church is so accustomed to having their ears tickled that the truth has become unpalatable.

Letters that I have received have been such a blessing. To excerpt a few:

- from England, a leader writes: ". . . I do think that some of the concepts which are being expressed now 'in the name of the Lord' are almost beyond belief. But we need to highlight them for the sake of the spiritual sanity of the body."

- The General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God writes: ". . . We are concerned about the extremes which come on the scene from time to time. This latest move concerning the restoration of prophets and apostles is really not a new thing. I saw it in the New Order of the Latter Rain in the late 40's and early 50's. Before that, it made its presence felt in the early days of the century among early Pentecostals. . . . Unfortunately, doctrinal aberrations frequently raise their heads. It is sad when people in our circles become like the Athenians, "spending their time. . . either to tell, or to hear some new thing." The admonitions of the Holy Spirit again and again the New Testament Epistles counsel us to 'earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.' There is no new revelation for which to contend. If revelatory truth goes beyond the bounds of Scripture, where is the standard? . . . "

- The Assistant Superintendent from West Florida writes: "I pray that God will continue to strengthen you and add richly to your voice 'crying in the wilderness.' Thank you for your words. It is an encouragement to know that there are others who see the dilemma we face and are willing to cry out against the prevailing religious stream. . . . "

North Central Bible College now has a program (The Carlson Institute) that collects and studies materials on contemporary issues. These materials are made available to students, faculty and ministers in the Assemblies of God. It was established to especially help pastors and churches in these difficult days. Dr. Gordon L. Anderson is the Director of this program. Information may be obtained by writing: 910 Elliott Ave, S., Minneapolis, MN 55404.

Sometimes it may be tedious to read through all these newsletters. Many don't want to wade through all the Scriptures. However, it is of utmost importance. Without the foundation being laid solidly, we can not withstand the fiery darts of the enemy and discern what is happening around us. People say to me: "I just don't understand what 'Manifest Sons' doctrine means exactly." I have prepared a recommended reading list of Manifested Sons of God materials, and how to obtain them, which I will gladly send you if you write me.

Jewel van der Merwe