



Issue# 9 Volume# 2 March/April 1998

The Last Days

Matthew 24

Message given by Travers van der Merwe
May 15, 1988 – Holly, Michigan

In the religious world we are experiencing deception. However, there are still men of God who are founded on the Word of God. In the name of truth, they are preaching an uncompromised Gospel. They realize that there is a cost involved, but are still determined to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are not prepared to minister a “grey” undefined Gospel. Thank God for the watchmen! It is a privilege to stand firm and say to the world, “Thus saith the Word of God”. However, I realize that, sooner than I think, I’ll have to pay a price. If you are a Christian and are on the side of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then be assured that it is only a matter of time and your circumstances will put you on trial. As preachers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the problem we face is that when we expose deception, be it political, economical or religious, we provoke the enemy. Needless to say, when the enemy is provoked, we will experience trials. However, by the Grace of God, we will preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, come what may. We are determined to “stand tall” for Jesus Christ and give forth the Gospel irrevocably in a way that the world cannot misinterpret. It is important as ministers of the Gospel to count our words. We must present the Word in simplicity and by the Grace of God it will make the impact that God has ordained it to make in the hearts of the hearers.

In the last days the Word of God tells us that we will experience some perilous situations. Violence will become rampant. In spite of advanced sciences, humanity is being plagued by pestilences and diseases. Earthquakes and other disasters are escalating at an incredible rate.

We are going to be hated by the world. If you take a stand on the side of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, you are going to be persecuted. There are Christians anticipating a great revival. Yet, the Word of God clearly indicates that in the last days we are going to experience persecution. Only a remnant shall survive. We are now living in a time of testing. It won’t be long and you will experience adversity on a scale you never anticipated. The church of Jesus Christ is lethargic and quite indifferent to her circumstances. She has become complacent and unfortunately in the

meantime the overall situation is worsening. Suddenly it is going to crack at the seams. When it breaks we are going to find ourselves in a flood of persecution.

Betrayal. Matthew 24:10 “Then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, . . . “When these things come upon the face of the earth, not only will our faith be tried, as by fire, but also we will actually find that our associates – even brothers and sisters, will betray us. It is strange, whenever a crisis comes, people will go to all means to secure their own position. It happened during the Second World War. People were betraying each other. When Germany took occupation of Norway there was betrayal on an unprecedented scale – Norwegians betraying Norwegians. They didn’t know whom to trust. It happened in Holland, and throughout Europe.

We must be careful whom we confide in today. If you have a problem, learn to look to the Lord. Many whom you think are dependable will disappoint you. You have to learn to stand on your own. You cannot lean on the arm of the flesh. If you do, you will be disillusioned. It is important to become grounded thoroughly in the Word of God. Too many have drifted away from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Churches are falling apart. Few are standing firm today. We are living in the last days. It is time we gravitate to the Lord Jesus Christ. We can not gravitate to the Lord Jesus Christ without His Word.

Another Christ. There is a “Christ” who will deceive many in the last days. The mentality of many today is as follow: If a man came shouting from the rooftop, and if he had access to television and he shouted loud enough, “Christ is in the desert”, “Christ is in the desert” – I believe most would go to the desert. Their grounds for going to the desert wouldn’t be, “the Spirit is leading us”. The Word of God says, “Don’t go”! Matthew 24 is a prophetic chapter and we must take this chapter seriously. Some believe Jesus was only addressing the Jews. Whatever happens to the Jews finds its parallel in the church. If the Jews are going to have a tribulation – the church also will suffer. The anti-Christ is determined to exterminate the Jews and the true church of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is warning his followers of the events that are going to come. There is a spirit that will pervade humanity in the last days. There will be a hatred that will divide the church.

Deception Abounds. Verse 12 – “Many false prophets shall arise and deceive many and because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” What a situation! Many shall depart from the faith. Do you see the kind of revival here that the charismatics are spelling out? On the contrary, it is a time of trouble. We are expecting a time of trouble. The real revival that the scriptures speak of is the revival of the remnant. The remnant shall revive and survive the trouble that will come. This is the revival that I am interested in. Today millions are accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but also millions are being driven away from Christ. No sooner do they come to Christ by simple faith, then deceivers come and deceive them into accepting another gospel. The deceivers use the Gospel of Christ to proselytize people. They know that when they preach the Gospel initially they will win souls. When they have won these souls they then manipulate them. They are taught to receive Christ by faith, then afterward they are taught “experience”. So new Christians are being established on another foundation. This is where the Church has strayed from the truth. Everybody is hoping to move on to perfection, but instead of building on the first principles, they are building on their own works.

Verse 13. He that shall endure until the end – shall be saved. The time of revival is when the Christian shall survive.

Revival. Verse 14. This Gospel shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all the nations, then shall the end come. The Gospel is being preached. The saving Gospel is the Gospel of righteousness. It was this Gospel that Noah preached in his day. Noah in his day experienced revival. Noah didn't define his revival numerically. Revival is not numbers. The revival came into the world in Noah's day by the preaching of the Gospel of Righteousness. The Bible says, "Noah preached righteousness." So, it was a time of revival. But the people rejected revival. Today we have people praying, "Lord, send revival". Then, when God sends revival through the preaching of the Gospel of Righteousness, it is not recognized. That is revival – whenever the gospel of righteousness is being preached. That is true revival. People do not want the Gospel; they want a 'revival' that will titillate their feelings. They want a revival that will cater to their concepts. Revival is preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Noah preached it, it was revival. The people rejected it. Don't let anyone lead you on into thinking that revival comes when you see signs and wonders. Signs and wonders are not indication of revival. When you see numbers, it is not an indication. When the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His righteousness is being preached – that is revival. Noah preached a great message – only eight including him received this Gospel of righteousness.

Vs. 37 – As the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. . . Yes, praise God throughout the world there is revival because the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being preached. But as the masses in Noah's day resisted the Gospel of Righteousness, so many people today are going to resist the truth. When the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ is presented to you, you experience revival. If you are involved in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then you are in revival. Revival is not determined by the fruit you bear; it is determined by your obedience to the Word of God. That is the bottom line. The world in Noah's day was eating, drinking – partying – having a good time. The deception in Noah's day was so strong that violence was predominant. Whenever you have deception, you will experience violence. Deception gives rise to reaction – violence – retaliation – murder – hate. While Noah preached righteousness, the world of his day gave way to the deception and they were oblivious to the truth. That is where we find ourselves today. People are indifferent and oblivious. They are too preoccupied with the world and with all the pleasures in the world. They have no time for Christ.

Are you walking in revival? If so, you are proclaiming the Gospel of Righteousness. You are building your life on the Solid Rock that stands. That is revival. Whether the world receives it or not – is not the point. But are you walking in revival?

The Word of God says that Christ died for you. Christ is real. When the truth is ministered, you are experiencing true revival. You must repent; you must surrender your life to Christ. If you receive Jesus and accept this Gospel of Righteousness, the Word of God will render you righteous in the sight of God.

(This tape entitled MATTHEW 24 is available for ordering)

Another Spirit

Johan Malan

The motivating force behind the widespread propagation of **another Jesus is another spirit** which comes directly from the devil and deceives people to bring them under the power of

delusion. Because of this very real danger we are warned not to naively believe every spirit that works through preachers and prophets in churches, but to test the spirits:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets have gone out into the world [We] know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error” (I John 4:1, 6).

The spirit of error is intent on deceiving the people with sensational signs and wonders. It is the same spirit that will work through the Antichrist with all power and lying wonders. The New Age Movement and its associated false religions is at present focusing attention on the discovery and use of miracle working psychic powers of self-healing and the promotion of supernatural manifestations.

Even in many Christian meetings strange phenomena are the order of the day, *e.g. falling (or slaying) in the spirit*. Various manifestations such as laughing in the spirit, prophesying in the spirit, and dancing in the spirit emerge from this experience. In this way, the work of the Holy Spirit is imitated and many people blindly accept these phenomena without testing the spirits that are at work.

Most of the Word of Faith preachers create strong expectations of powerful manifestations of the Holy Spirit. In his article, *Preparing for Power – how to get ready for the end time move of God*, Kenneth Copeland says:

“I want you to know, it’s exciting to go to church these days. The more God pours out His glory, the more unusual things we’ll see. One of these days, you may just be talking to somebody, asking them how things went at Church last Sunday, and they may say, ‘Oh, it was great! The glory of God was so strong it healed ten cripples, opened the ears of thirty deaf people, cured seven cases of cancer and killed Brother Big-mouth and Sister Strife.”

Copeland says that the Spirit of glory will work in such a powerful way that it will sweep away and destroy those who are deliberately living in sin. As an example of actions of this nature he refers to the death of Ananias and Sapphira in biblical times (Acts 5:1-11).

The express purpose of deceiving spirits is to destroy the faith of believers and to overshadow and control them with the power of deception:

“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” (I Timothy 4:1).

To be able to clearly distinguish between the Holy Spirit and another spirit that imitates the Holy Spirit, the following comparison may be helpful.

The Holy Spirit	Another Spirit
The Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself but reminds us of the words of Jesus and makes Him a reality in our lives.	The presence, power and gifts of this spirit are an overwhelming reality while Jesus is subtly moved to the background.
He convinces you of your sin so that you may understand the real causes of your problems.	He instills nice and relaxed feelings in you so that you may be able to forget your problems.
He convinces you of God’s righteousness as revealed through the perfect life and atonement of the Lord Jesus on the cross.	He convinces you through gifts and also supernatural experiences such as falling in the spirit that God is with you.

He convicts you in your spirit and reveals the condition of your heart and life to you in the way in which God sees it.	He uses people to instill ideas and suggestions in you that are supposedly from God, but are in effect not from Him.
He speaks to you through the Word of God which is spirit and life, and reveals eternal truths to you. The Bible, as the Word of God, becomes more precious to you as you grow in grace.	He uses prophets as human mediators to convey messages to you about what God wants you to do. He also specializes in extrabiblical revelations of God through dreams and visions.
He is primarily working on the level of your spirit to quicken your spirit in a quiet way that you may awake spiritually to hear the calling of God and put your trust in Him for salvation.	He manifests his presence by way of sensual experiences such as thrills of joy, shivers on your body, a tingling on your skin, or a power that causes you to levitate or to be pushed down on the floor.
He leads you to Calvary where your burdens are lifted and where you are cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. He always leads you to Jesus who is your Saviour.	He dispels darkness in his own right and removes guilt complexes from you so that you may feel relieved and surrounded by light and joy. You are dependent upon the spirit to carry you through.
If you act upon the Spirit's conviction of sin and on the basis of Christ's work of grace to settle your case with God, the Spirit regenerates you into a new person who is reconciled to God.	He takes you through the same outward process of being born again, but he doesn't regenerate your heart. He only manipulates your feelings and creates false impressions in your heart.
He keeps on convicting you of sin that you may be cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, live a holy life, walk in the light of God's presence, and be very sensitive to sin and deception.	He does not convict of sin, and has no problem to live with lies, deceit, distorted versions of the truth, and fornication. He gives to people the false hope that they are saved and will go to heaven.
He can easily be grieved by unfaithful Christians who deliberately compromise and yield to the lust of the flesh. He will convict you of these sins that you may confess and forsake them, and make a new commitment to the Lord.	He is not concerned about your sins. He will ignore it and instead make you feel guilty about things that are not sins. If you are a fundamental believer with strong views, he will charge you of being uncompromising, critical of other believers, and devoid of love.
He leads you to search your heart, confess and abandon all evil, and to trust God for a pure heart. Cleansing by the blood of the Lamb and being filled with the Holy Spirit is God's way to enable us to a life of victory.	He guides you through a process of inner healing to a spiritual reprogramming of your life in which the scars of the past, and even from before your birth, are put right by self-healing and positive confession.
He makes you conscious of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the only One who can guide your life. The Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of Christ who makes Him a reality in your life.	He makes you conscious of himself and induces you to only plead to him in your prayers. You are primarily guided and empowered by him. He is a greater reality in your life than Jesus.
When He fills somebody, that person becomes holy, humble, and prepared to serve the Lord. He is available to God and gets involved with evangelization by reaching the lost world for Jesus Christ. He never exalts himself by advancing his own interests, but lives and gives	He gives a person an entirely new self-image which borders on pride and arrogance. Such a person's main purpose in life is a quest for new and more powerful spiritual gifts, and attending of highly emotional worship services where signs, miracles, visions and new revelations

sacrificially for the great cause of the gospel.	regularly occur. Others are invited to these meetings.
He teaches you to pray. He helps our infirmities and intercedes for us. He gives us enlightened eyes of the mind that we may understand the things of God, and be able to pray intelligently. He helps us to gird up the loins of our mind and to be alert, sober and vigilant.	He teaches people to meditate. The switch over to their 'right-brain' to have mystical experiences and to hear obscure voices. They thing about nothing and withdraw themselves from reality to descend to the deeper levels of their subconscious mind which is 'the world of the spirit'.
He controls the emotions and decisions of believers by enabling and empowering their regenerated heart and spirit. The center of control of a person's life changes from the previously self-centered mind and soul to his quickened spirit.	A foreign spirit manipulates the emotions of people and they act like hypnotized captives. They would laugh, cry, roar, bleat, howl or bark without knowing why they do it. The spirit of delusion gains authority over them if they open themselves up to it.
He guides you through the Bible and through your conscience that warns you when you do something wrong. He gives you insight to know the will of God and the power to do it.	He commands you and demands certain actions through prophecies uttered by other people. Driven by the fear of disobedience to God's will (not by inner conviction) you obey these commanding voices.
The Spirit of the Lord Jesus is the One who guides you. You are faithful to Him and make yourself available to Him.	The leader of your worship group (or church) becomes a cult leader who prescribes your decisions and actions. You must obey him.
Spiritual gifts are given to you to increase your usefulness in the service of the Lord. Through the power of the Holy Spirit you can be a witness for Jesus and also prevail in the struggle against the forces of darkness.	You receive gifts such as prophesying, self-healing, warm (healing) hands and clairvoyance. You think that in yourself you have power over the enemy, being a god who can command them. You are a servant but a king.
You are commanded to lead people to Christ where they can obtain mercy and the forgiveness of all their sins. It doesn't matter by which evil forces they are bound, Jesus is the Saviour of their Souls and He is able to completely set them free from their bondage. Through the blood of the Lamb the hearts of sinners are cleansed and the power of the devil is broken. They don't need human mediators.	He leads you to start a specialized ministry of deliverance in which you talk with the demons and command them to leave a person. Every sin is associated with a demon e.g. the devil of lust, and then exorcised. The sinner remains passive in the process and you act on his behalf. He never really confesses his sins to Jesus and must always return to you with his spiritual problems. You are his mediator or saviour.
The Holy Spirit makes you a servant of Christ, a soldier of the cross and a stranger in a world that lies in the sway of the Evil One. The authority for your actions is vested in God. After the coming of Jesus, you will reign with Him in His kingdom.	He declares you a king who already has dominion on earth, and who can claim and demand anything he likes. You don't have to suffer poverty, disease, or other afflictions and can change anything through positive confession. You are in command.
The presence of the Holy Spirit can clearly be discerned where He is working and Jesus Christ is exalted. It occurs on a spiritual level and induces people to humble and submit themselves to the Lord. The peace and joy of	A foreign spirit gives a show of power to influence people and create the impression that they are in the presence of the Lord. Because people want to experience this power in their lives, they readily open themselves up to it.

the Lord fills their hearts.	Without it, they feel empty.
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The great concern of the Bible about the danger of deception is the lack of spiritual discernment among many members of Christian churches. Because of their ignorance they are naively undiscerning when dangerous, counterfeit practices are offered to them as something good that allegedly comes from God. “*if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received....ye might well bear with him*” (2 Cor. 11:4). Such people are personally to be blamed for the deception to which they have fallen prey.

The above article is extracted from a booklet from South Africa called Religious Deception – Delusion in churches and theological seminaries by Johan Malan. This is the first book in the series.

The Laodicean Church

Jewel van der Merwe

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:

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

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.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.
Revelation 3:14-19

After being away from the United States for seven months, it is easy to see how the church in America fits the description so clearly laid out in Revelation concerning the Laodicean Church. The church today is rich and increased with goods.

. . for truth is fallen in the street. . . .Isaiah 59:14

Seducing spirits and doctrines of devils have lulled America into a complacency that blinds the eye to the invasion of the occult that has hit her shores. In the short time I was away, instead of an abatement of the deception, it has become more common place and acceptable.

Our children are being swept into the Laodicean spirit as if it were the norm. The sin question becomes irrelevant as the new morality based on “self” supersedes what the truth of God’s Word faithfully proclaims. The god of this world (mammon) holds the scepter in his hand. “Serve me, I will cause you to be wealthy, popular, successful. I will improve your self-image, give you confidence, make all your dreams come true.” He hands the unwary a glass of sparkling

wine and gleefully chuckles, “Drink on, my child and you will soon forget what your narrow-minded parents taught you. After all, they don’t understand the times.”

As the starry-eyed, immortal young chase after their own self-conceived pot of gold at the end of the proverbial rainbow, they quickly block out that which the truly IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE CREATOR has proclaimed:

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth Eccl. 12:1

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. Psalm 119:9

Man/Woman are intent on following their own path – even though that path is to destruction. The prosperity of the day is all that seems to matter. God’s laws and statutes are cast asunder.

The examples of church leaders gathering their gold, stardom and status have reached gigantic proportions. Lear jets stand ever ready for the use of the Laodicean pastors to flit to and fro, pleasing the senses and tickling the ears of the multitude. The spectator church is poised to applaud after each performance and ask for more.

Our example, the Lord Jesus Christ came as a servant to all. He made himself of NO reputation. He said, “he who saves his life, will lose it”. He called us all to take up our cross and follow Him.

The precious Holy Spirit is present in the earth to lead us to this wonderful Jesus. He is not present to take glory and honor to Himself – or to be worshipped.

After the message was given to the Laodicean church we read:

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come to him, and sup with him, and he with me.

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.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Revelation 3:20-22

Lord Jesus Christ, I invite you into my life. I open the doors of my heart – the seat of my affections. Take all my foolish desires for the trappings of this world. Take my pride, take my dreams. I lay them all at your feet. I surrender all to you Jesus. I know that if I can’t pray this prayer, there are things in my life that need to be cleansed. Wash me in thy precious blood and I shall be whiter than snow. I repent, my precious Lord. I only want to please you. Help me keep my eyes fastened on thy lovely face. In thy precious Name I ask this, and for your sake. Amen

OCCULT INVASION

Excerpts from Dave Hunt's latest book

The secular world is seeking not only political and military power but spiritual or psychic power. Sadly, the same could be said of much of the evangelical church. John Wimber's book *Power Evangelism* set the tone for a movement that is sweeping the world called the "Third Wave." A new vocabulary was invented for what has more recently come to be known as "the postdenominational church."

In his new book *Confronting the Powers*, Fuller Theological Seminary professor C. Peter Wagner seeks to explain and justify this movement. Wagner calls Wimber "my mentor." He introduced terms that were unknown only a few years ago: territorial spirits, spiritual mapping, Spiritual Warfare Network, A.D. 2000 Movement, ground-level spiritual warfare, occult-level spiritual warfare, strategic-level spiritual warfare, cosmic-level spiritual warfare, praise marches, prayer walking, prayer journeys, praying through windows, etc. Wagner says that these new concepts and practices (of which Jesus, Paul, and the early church said nothing) hold the key to spiritual breakthrough and worldwide revival pg. 13

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