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THE PARADIGM SHIFT

There are some things that are changeless. When the earth rocks and reels around us, we must know that our feet are planted on the Solid Rock. God's Word is straightforward, clear and "forever settled in the heavens." The only way to salvation is at the foot of the Old Rugged Cross. There is only one gospel. Those who preach any other gospel are under a curse. (Galatians 1:6-9)

According to the New Age, we are entering a Paradigm Shift. Our "worldview" is undergoing a change. The buzzwords are: "wholeness, networking, globalism and integration."

A recent MINISTRIES TODAY article states: "Most churches in America are going through (or getting ready to go through) a paradigm shift. Our culture has already gone through it - it's just taking the church awhile to catch on."

The Paradigm Shift means that our thinking processes have shifted into another gear. We have been reprogrammed and are now responding accordingly. The reprogramming has been going on for a number of years. It has gained tremendous impetus in recent times specifically through the use of psychology in the church. For instance: The right brain/left brain "theory" has been accepted as fact by many. The brain being the metaphor for the "world" or "globe". The left brain is supposedly the factual, rationalistic, predictable and analytical side. The right brain is considered to be the mystical, emotional, experiential, sensual, subjective and imaginative side. Since as a western culture we are told we deal more with the left side of our brain, we must learn to activate the right side (as the eastern culture). To promote "globalism" we must bring the two together. Worked out on the human level, when both sides of the brain are aligned, we are centered, enlightened, harmonized and have the new "worldview".

Collective consciousness or a Universal Mind is brought into being. A new dimension is now reached that it might be fulfilled as spoken by John the Revelator on the Isle of Patmos:

"These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast." (Revelation 17:13)

When this "lie" is bought - the Paradigm Shift has taken place. We now have a "whole" man who can identify with the new "worldview". In the new "world - view", doctrine does not matter. We must all join together to evangelize the world. However, how do we evangelize with no doctrine? What gospel do we preach?

After the Brighton '91 Ecumenical Charismatic Conference in England the following conclusions were drawn from interviews by some of the keynote speakers:

"The Evangelicals are confused and have moved their theology towards the Roman position, the Roman Catholics are keeping to their foundations whilst being full of love, enthusiasm and commitment. By attending the Roman Catholic sessions it soon became apparent that there was no confusion in their camp. Their doctrine has not changed and routes for evangelism were given as the Sacraments (mass, confession), the Sacramental (incense, candles) and the Virgin Mary. Whilst conceding that other denominations possess some of the truth, it was affirmed that completeness can only be found in the Roman Catholic Church." (OUR INHERITANCE, W.P.U. (Inc.) 130 South Coast Road, Peacehaven Sussex BN 1 085P).

It is very interesting to note that those who preach the pure and simple Word are given labels such as: "legalistic, troublemakers, and divisive." Is this because the Paradigm Shift has already taken place in some? Whenever the true Gospel is preached - it is a sharp two edged sword.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the heart. 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." (Hebrews 4:12-13)

The Church today is talking about wholeness, networking, unity, globalism, and integration.

The Word of God speaks to us of holiness and separation from this world unto God.

The Church today is talking about finding your full potential, developing self love and looking in the mirror and singing, "How Great Thou Art".

The Word of God speaks to us of suffering reproach for His name, humility, even death and looking at the cross and singing "How Great Thou Art".

The Church today talks about Reformation, reforming society, reforming the church and reforming the individual.

The Word of God speaks to us of Transformation - by the washing of the water of the Word. The way is narrow, the path is steep and you may hear the SOUND OF CROSS NAILS.

It isn't an easy subject to address. However, teachings that we hold dear are being threatened. Those who believe in the soon return of Jesus Christ are being degraded as second class Christians who have not been enlightened with the NEW WORLD VIEW. We are told that we are "escapists", "breed disintegrated missionary programs" and if we do not adopt the "Dominion world view" it is better that we stay home.

This WORLDVIEW is being laid out to us by those who will not tolerate our teaching on the "Rapture" of the church. Yet they want unity - at any price. We are expected to fit into their program while our teachings are held in contempt.

The strategy is deceptive catching the unaware in its sinister net of deceit. Pastors are being called together to pray to "Take Their Cities For God". Yet the Agenda for many of these meetings is the Agenda of the Kingdom Builders who are intent on setting up the Kingdom of God here and now on the earth. It is interesting to note that all the scriptures that pertain to the millennial reign of Christ on the earth are transferred to the "Kingdom Now". The Kingdom that Christ, our King of Kings, is going to usher in is being replaced by the Church. If the Church establishes a Kingdom here on this earth, when a "Christ" comes he will be lauded as the "Anointed One". Since the Kingdom Builders do not believe in a literal Anti-Christ, they will obviously not know the difference.

There is a Sound going throughout the land. Do you hear the call coming forth for UNITY? Do not be deceived. As the Church we are not disunited. We have been made ONE by the Blood of Christ. He has called us a Holy People Unto His Name! We have been called to be separate from this world and wholly yielded unto Christ.

However, The Sound that we hear is about a Unity going forth that will bring about a Global Church. Many large churches are harking to the siren call for unity. Robert Schuller was recently on TBN talking about a new coalition called Churches Uniting in Global Mission ("CUGM"). This has been set up to be a broad base of a true ecumenical movement. He happily reported that instead of a "General Council for a certain denomination, we will have the General Council of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ." He sincerely believes that CUGM can accomplish this.

The "Hour of Power" has been adopted as the international television voice. The immediate goals of CUGM are to: (i) interpret the church to the secular world, (ii) feed the hungry, (iii) relieve suffering, (iv) address problems of crime and drugs, and (v) other demanding issues. At the present time there is a membership of 100 pastors (of large churches) which represents more than 500,000 church members. Congregations will be added upon invitation of present members. Their symbol is the Cross made out of strands which represent all the churches - woven together. Paul Crouch seemed to be in full favor. He kept on repeating, "that Jesus' prayer of John 17 might be answered - that we might be one".

According to the Word of God - we are made one by the Blood of Christ and the Church of Jesus Christ is manifest when two or three are gathered in His Name! Paul Crouch also seems to feel that we need a New Doctrine that is a tactical military thrust. He basically is

forming this "doctrine" from General Douglas MacArthur who formed a Doctrine of Hot Pursuit. He is pulling God, his attorneys and partners into this vile unscriptural attack on those he deems his enemies. He says, "We will pray and command the wrath of Almighty God upon them... We will pursue the enemy back into his territory - into every cave and hole in the ground - under every flat rock, until he is totally destroyed."

NEWSWEEK, March 30, 1992 has an article on page 60 entitled: The T Stands for Trouble. 'TBN, the big religious network, is under fire". This is no doubt to what Paul is referring.

However, what is the spirit behind his militant call? Many have tried to warn Paul Crouch of impending problems. If you study what those he calls "heresy hunters" have to say, you may find a genuine concern for the Body of Christ. Indeed, there just may be a love for the Church that constrains these unpopular servants of God to speak out at a great price. Every one I know who has dared to speak the truth has paid a dear price. It has not been done to sell books or become a "star". Quite the contrary, they have spoken out at great expense. Family and dear friends have forsaken those that dare speak the truth. Reputations and security has been laid down by these followers of the Lamb. They believe the words of Christ, "Those who will be my disciple must be willing to take up their cross and follow me."

Many pastors are afraid to speak the truth. They do not want to rock the boat. They know the price will be great. However, the price will be far greater if they say nothing!

The apostate church is fast moving into place, marching in step by another drumbeat!

The Way of the Cross does not appeal to those who are bent on Dominion. The banging of Cross nails is not a pleasing sound to the senses. The orchestrated sound of "Kingdom Now" and "Dominion" at any cost is filling the land and is far more appealing to the sensual appetite.

"As the orchestra grows, The Sound becomes more audible to those who are listening. The players are diverse, from every kindred and tribe, yet The Sound is harmonious and unified. The instruments differ greatly, but The Sound is synchronized, proclaiming Jubilee. The orchestra is assembled by families and located in the field, rather than coliseums and cathedrals as in the past, so that The Sound may be heard by all.

As the conductor approaches the orchestra and podium, The Sound breaks forth and fills the earth as an expression of praise. The season of harvest will finally come, after a bitter winter of pruning and a spring and summer of sowing, weeding and waiting. The work of the harvest is preceded by The Sound, which is now filling the whole earth. Can you hear The Sound?"
(David Bradshaw, CROSSWINDS The Reformation Digest Vol. I, No.1)

This has a strangely familiar ring:

"Their script is now written, subject only to last minute editing and stage-directions. The stage itself, albeit as yet in darkness, is almost ready. Down in the pit, the subterranean orchestra is already tuning up. The last-minute, walk-on parts are even now being filled. Most of the main actors, one suspects, have already taken up their roles. Soon it will be time for them to come on stage, ready for the curtain to rise. The time for action will have come."

(From THE ARMAGEDDON SCRIPT, by Peter LeMesurier, St. Martin's Press, 1982; New York, p. 252). Quoted from Chapter 1 of A PLANNED DECEPTION - The Staging of a New Age Messiah by Constance E. Cumbe.

What the world needs is a New World View - the Cross is not enough.

What the world needs is self-esteem the inner child is hurting.

What the world needs is the Reformation of man preparing to take Dominion.

What the world needs is warfare So, misguided warriors arise!

Swing your magic swords, stomp your "holy" feet.

Turn around three times, blink your eyes and

ZAP

You've undergone the PARADIGM SHIFT!

Blow the trumpets, wave the banners, sound the fanfare!

LO HE COMES!!!!!! THE Anti-Christ in full regalia- riding on the back of an APOSTATE CHURCH.

The following letter is from a minister of the Gospel in Zimbabwe. He is also an artist who was commissioned by the government to do the paintings for the Zimbabwean postage stamps for 1992.

Warm greetings. Thank you for your letters which you send and are most welcome. We get so little news from America so yours is important for us. Reading your last letter made me think how much you need to trust in the Lord. As soon as one starts to point out possible error one will be attacked from all angles, both spiritually and through people. So you need to brace yourselves for that.

Over one week last year the Zimbabwe dollar was devalued by about 50-60%. This is causing a great hardship here. I believe we are near the end of the age and judgement has started which will not end until the Day of The Lord. My conviction is that the church is in terrible need of awakening. The midnight hour is almost upon us.

I feel a need for teaching on certain aspects. There is a great need for a voice (in the wilderness) declaring certain truths. The church seems to have gone off on a tangent (New Age emphasis) placing the focus on man instead of Christ. The cross is hardly mentioned or presented in its glorious, awful, fullness - real worship is rare, the wonderful hymns have been thrown out as well as the Lord's table, praise seems to have replaced prayer, prolonged singing replaces Bible reading, teaching is replaced by tuppence-halfpenny prophecies (all in the direct tense for God) visions have replaced the Word - where are we going?

At the moment of writing we are experiencing the most devastating drought ever recorded in history. The crops are an almost total write-off (80%) although some small yields may be salvaged. Even more frightening, most of the dams are already empty or nearly so - they should be full for this time of year. Many towns and cities are on water rationing and only have a few weeks left. If we do not get some massive downpours in the near future we are in great trouble. Hundreds of thousands of cattle are dying already as well as many wild animals. It has apocalyptic aspects.

The dairy industry is in deep trouble with herds being slaughtered. It will take decades to recover. There is very little seed for crops next year because of the crop failure. The stockfeeds are already finished and there is no meal left in the country. From surplus stockpiles a few years ago we now have no reserves. The sugar industry has been adversely affected because of the drought. During the last six months the Zimbabwe stock market has fallen to half. Many workers are being signed off. There is no paper for postage stamps. Power is being cut because the power stations have no water and the Kafue [River] in Zambia is running at reduced level. Bear in mind that some people estimate that up to 35% of the population is infected with HIV - a dismal projection. Many people are dying from AIDS and it could be that up to half the population is infected. There are already thousands of orphans in the country. This year promises to be one of great stress - with no food, no water, no money, no power, and many deaths. People have already begun to die of starvation. Whether it is possible to handle the vast amount of food needed to feed the people (1.5 million tons) remains to be seen but predictions are bleak - the country does not have the resources, railway trucks, etc. or the admin. necessary to handle so great a task.

South Africa is also experiencing the same devastating weather with massive crop failure. This country will not be able to import food from them this year. Mocambique is in a terrible condition as well as drought in Botswana and Zambia. The whole region is the same.

As a student of Biblical Prophecy I like to keep an eye on world events. I have just finished a new book which I hope to have published soon. Many things that I have been teaching about for years are now coming about in an unmistakable way. The uniting of Europe, the rise of the Islamic coalition of nations, the financial collapse in Russia and elsewhere, the pressure on Israel, apostasy - all these are clear signs of impending judgement upon the nations. I do not yet know how or where I will manage to get it printed - I pray the Lord knows.

The Day of the LORD is upon us - judgement has already started. It will not end now until Jesus comes in glory.

In the midst of so great difficulties many farmers are threatened with having their farms taken away. Government says up to half the commercial farms will be acquired. Large areas are designated for take over with little compensation or consultation with the land owners, many of whom are second and third generation farmers. These farms will never be productive again! Thousands will be out of work and have no homes.

The church seems unable to speak the truth concerning these times or about key issues such as AIDS, evolution, the misuse of the gifts [of the Spirit], the need to repent, coming judgement, the return of Jesus, the role of Israel. It seems that Pastors stay clear of these subjects and will not warn the people. The emphasis is upon quick revivals. Very few churchgoers are aware of the times in which we live. Because of replacement theology and lack of teaching the church is not aware of its Jewish roots and the prophetic events in Israel and the world. Because the church has discarded Israel they have also thrown out the message of the prophets. Judgement is not even heard of. The Second Coming is not taught but rather a new age slant which claims there will be a universal revival and time of peace. I am appalled at the lack of clear direction.

In this country we are faced with a massive disaster, a tragedy is taking place before our eyes. As a Bible believer, I believe it is judgement. Throughout Scripture, droughts, famines, and pestilence are seen as God's disfavour. We ourselves face severe shortages and quite frankly must consider the possibility of having to leave if things get as bad as we think they could.

We do what we can to inform the church about God's purposes for His true people. We get no support from any church group and it is difficult to try and meet the requirements of ministry and keep the work up. We will wait on the Lord for future direction and consider any avenues that open for us.

We esteem you both and value your communications. May your strength be in the Lord for all the present trials. Maranatha - Even so COME LORD JESUS. May God bless you all,

Roland & Doreen

GNOSTIC GOSPEL IV

The Exaltation of Man

According to the "Christian Gnostic", Scripture is basically concerned with the theology of man. To his way of thinking, man is the center of attraction on earth. He believes that God's supreme purpose on earth is to glorify man by exalting "the Christ" in every man. Therefore, man is to be reverenced and hallowed. When Christ appears in man, this is supposedly the consummation and manifestation of God's glory. The conclusion drawn is that man is

essentially divine, equal to Jesus Christ and is ascending to the very authority and dominion of God Himself.

When this thinking takes over, Scriptures which are normally considered to refer to the person of Jesus Christ are instead applied to the "Corporate Body of Christ", or "Manifest Sons of God" equal to Jesus Christ. The prophecies that speak of the glorious personal revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven now apply to the creature (man) taking dominion.

The creature instead of the Creator receives honor, glory and worship. *"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator; who is blessed forever. Amen."* (Romans 1:25)

The "Christian Gnostic" has no desire to see the glory of God in the PERSON of Jesus Christ as foretold by the prophet of old. Their prayer is to be exalted into an EXPERIENCE that will center all of God's glory on them. While the TRUE CHURCH looks forward to the personal glorious appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, the "Christian Gnostics" are preoccupied with their narcissistic (excessive love or admiration of oneself) theology. Their lives are a hive of activity as they join forces to restore the earth and take dominion with a view to establish the ultimate divine glory of man.

"To man be the glory great things he hath done"

Knowing God

The "Gnostic" teaches that knowing of God and His Presence is experienced in a mystic or intuitive sense rather than through faith in the person Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. The Gnostic builds his faith on subjective experiences, whereas the true Christian builds his faith on the written Word of God, the only God-given premise of the true faith.

Like the eastern religions, the perception of God is sought subjectively rather than in God Himself through the written Word. There is a desire to know God through feelings, mystic thoughts, voices, visions and dreams. A "sense" of the "presence of God" is believed on as long as spiritual experiences last. When these experiences subside or cease, spiritual fervor wears down to rise again when a spurt of vain and endless fantasy starts a new "spiritual" cycle. Gnostic prophets are known to have a form of godliness based on a spiritual roller coaster experience. Their philosophy of knowing God depends on their touching God experientially. Faith is produced subjectively through experiences and then turned inward on self until a feeling of "knowing God" or "possessing God" comes about. The Word of God and the commandments are not believed on as the final voice of God, or as the only source by which He is known. One of the characteristics of a false prophet, howbeit sometimes hard to detect, is the lack of love toward the commandments of God. (I John 4:6; John 3:23, 24; John 14:15).

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." (I John 5:2, 3)

Warning: If a prophet tries to draw one to God either by mystic or subjective experiences without reference to the Scriptures as the only authentic way of knowing God, he is false and must be avoided! To impress the ignorant or naive Christians that they (the Gnostic prophets) have profound knowledge and spirituality, they manifest certain quirks thought to be spiritual traits, spiritualize the Scriptures, and eloquently express fantastic ideas to reveal how deeply they "feel" and "think" about God. It is appropriate to say that spiritual experiences are not necessarily wrong, however, if they conflict with the Holy Scriptures or substitute the Word of God they are devilish.

"Gnostic" prophets send out a subliminal message that their insight of God exceeds that of the written Word of God. They appear as if they know something about God that others need to search through them. It is as if they have the keys which unlock the secrets of divine life. Christians are told to look inward to find God. The danger in this pagan belief makes Christians subject to mystic thoughts beyond God's written Word. Claiming to know God in any way other than through the Gospel of Jesus Christ is religious speculation and leads to doctrines of devils. God in His wisdom gave man the Bible. Through this precious Book he can come to know God without man's religious wisdom. Anything short of the Scriptures stops short of the redemptive knowledge of God. All the sought-after experiences to know God deeper lead to both carnal and demonic activities. How do you know God? The answer is so simple. You know Him through His Written Word! The Holy Spirit leads and teaches no other way!

A Deep Relationship

The Gnostic teaches: Through a Gnostic "new-birth" a man becomes a Son of God or a god. As such he has an experiential relationship with God and access to deeper knowledge of God. The "Gnostic new birth" is the start of a divine journey into the deep. It bypasses the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and The Word.

The Gnostic believes that he is the Son of God, filled with the Spirit and therefore has a God-given right to the knowledge of God stored in himself. By simply turning his thoughts inward to the spirit, he receives revelation knowledge. When he meditates, his thoughts dwell on the spirit with little or no reference to the Scriptures. In meditation he is always expecting a mystic revelation or a personal experience. To his mind, the reality of the new birth, as well as real spiritual depth, lies in a subjective experience. Without a passive or emotional experience, he has a real problem receiving the knowledge of the Scriptures. He cannot settle for the written revelation of the Bible. He prefers a deeper and better revelation that comes through inward thoughts of the spirit.

False Prophets

The ministry of a "Gnostic prophet" is always characterized by mystic experiences said to be of God but the focus on self. It is difficult for them to exercise a ministry within the confines of scriptural revelations. The Gnostic Revelator has a freedom to minister whatever he likes, whether or not it is scriptural. As we hear their words we shake our heads in bewilderment and disbelief wondering how they can possibly get away with such statements as "...we had the odor of incense fill a meeting for about fifteen minutes, it was so intense that you couldn't help but smell it. I mean, it was not one of those instances where you 'think you get a whiff,' but He gave it as a witness that He was receiving the intercession from these people - the prayers and

their intercession, He had said He would come with a sign: that we would smell the incense, it came so powerfully faith was hardly needed." FULNESS, The Unfolding of a Prophet, Rick Joyner, p. 13. God can fill a place with sweet smelling incense. Nothing is impossible with God. However, the presumption to say that faith was hardly needed shows that these "new" dimensions are indeed in "another realm". A realm of deception. Yet the Bible says, "Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God." Nevertheless, this prophet and others like him are applauded and their messages carried in leading Christian periodicals.

Quite a number of Gnostic ministers are masquerading as true prophets of God and assuming to have a special anointing and relationship with the Spirit. Their ministries are widely recognized, respected and feared. Personal prophecies and predictions of future events are given with some measure of accuracy. They get people to believe they have great power with God and that in them dwells a quality that makes them "god-like." Control of minds and lives is gained by their feigning spirituality and assuming a "god-like" authority. To gain power, whether they twist scriptures and abuse authority is of no consequence. One cruel method used is to instill fear in the hearts of those who dare to criticize or question their ministries by making harsh judgments against them. Sometimes those judgments even contain a death threat. They definitely are not prophets of the Word, nor can they be, because they put no confidence in the Written Word and its judgments.

The New Breed of arrogant apostles and prophets are known to usurp and abuse judgment over God's people. They are reported to make the Church pass under what they call the "Shepherds rod of judgment". It is another divisive technique to control God's people. They say the "Shepherd's Rod" is the judgment seat of Christ on the earth by which the so-called prophets judge the Church. The idea is borrowed from Old Testament scripture where reference is made to "The Shepherds Rod" and "Judgments", However, the way the text is applied to the church is false, It cries out against the true interpretation of God's precious Word, This is one of the bizarre directions gnosticism is taking the church. The following unedited quote from one of the so-called "fallen" national prophets speaks for itself:

"So when he [the prophet] went under that Shepherd Rod, we saw more people leave here than we saw anointed. They were rejected from leadership 'cause they had flaws in them. See that which is going to be holy unto the Lord must not have any flaw in it...It's all in Scripture. When you go under it He just turns you upside down and He looks every place on your body. And if you be found all right, He marks you to be sacrificed as a living, holy sacrifice unto Him. One out of ten is marked totally unto the Lord. That's a Shepherd Rod...He evaluates everyone that knows the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior...when I went under at this time He said, 'There's a couple of things that's still wrong in you. There's going to be a seven month delay in your anointing.'" The Shepherd's Rod, Bob Jones tape from Grace Ministries, October 1989

The Bible Warned Against False Prophets

'There were FALSE PROPHETS also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers AMONG YOU. " (II Peter 2:1)

"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." (I Timothy 4:1)

"For I know this, that after my departing shall GRIEVOUS WOL VES enter in among you, not sparing the flock:" (Acts 20:29)

Many False Prophets

"Many will say to me in that day; Lord; Lord HAVE WE NOT PROPHESED IN THY NAME? and in thy name cast out devils and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me." (Matthew 7:22.23)

We Must Challenge the False Prophets Ezekiel 13

"Son of man, PROPHESY AGAINST THE PROPHETS that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the Lord "(v. 3)

"Woe unto the foolish prophets that follow their own spirit and have seen nothing...Mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity; and that divine lies; they shall not be in the assembly of my people..."(v. 9)

"Set thy face against the daughters of thy people, which prophesy out of their own heart and prophesy thou against them..."(v. 17)

"Therefore ye shall see no more vanity; nor divine divinations; for I will deliver my people out of your hand;' and ye shall know that I am the Lord "(y. 23)

Jeremiah 23

Jeremiah speaks for the Lord:

"In the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly; I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran; I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.. "(v. 20, 21)

"I have heard what the prophets said; that prophesy lies in my name, saying; I have dreamed; I have dreamed.. "(v. 25)

"Behold; I am against them the prophets, saith the Lord; that use their tongues, and say; HE SAITH. Behold I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord; and DO TELL THEM... YE HAVE PERVERTED THE WORDS OF THE LIVING GOD "(v. 31, 32, 36)

THE INSPIRATION AND TEST OF A PROPHET

A false prophet usually draws his inspiration from intuition, imagination and psychic thoughts. Sometimes the inspiration comes from apocryphal or Gnostic writings. Unlike the musicians, artists and writers who take inspiration from natural innate qualities (not to be confused with the inspiration of God), the false prophet derives inspiration from demonic sources or a corrupt nature. It is a gross error to attribute God's inspiration to a subjective experience (be it passive or emotional) or to writings outside the Holy Scripture. Divine authority or inspiration does not emanate from (i) the natural or unnatural, (ii) the higher-self

or lower-self, (iii) the conscious or unconscious. It comes from the infallible Word of God. "The Word" remains God's eternal inspiration. God-given inspiration must have as its source the Word of God. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit comes through the Holy Scriptures - "The Sword of the Spirit". The true message and inspiration of a prophet of God is always undergirded with, "Thus saith the Lord", for "it is written".

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof; for correction, for instruction in righteousness;" (II Tim. 3:16)

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. "(II Peter 1:20, 21)

Some of the so-called "prophets" promoted by national Christian magazines and the broadcasting media are being acclaimed Prophets of God. They cite their extraordinary gifts to foretell events, reveal situations, perform signs and wonders, and blameless lives as proof of their God-ordained prophetic ministries. Because these prophets claim to have heard angels singing, smell the odor of incense fill a meeting and see the wind of the Spirit blow so that they could see people's hair blowing, many have taken it to mean God has approved their ministries with signs and wonders and that God is speaking a message and trying to say something to the church. Another practice seen by many church leaders as a sign of a "true" modern prophet is his ability to allegorize current events and thereby determine what God is specifically saying to the church today. This new trend is both demonic and a delusion to seduce people away from God and His Word.

THE PROPHETS AND THEIR NEW WAVE OF SIGNS AND WONDERS

"There will also be some new wonders coming to the church. We had some of these just recently, where Bob Jones and I [Rick Joyner] heard angels singing twice in a meeting. This didn't even take any faith, it was so loud and so clear; it was like the choir singing. 'Another time we had the odor of incense fill a meeting for about fifteen minutes. It was so intense that you couldn't help but smell it. I mean, it was not one of those instances where you 'think you get a whiff, but He gave it as a witness that He was receiving the intercession from these people - the prayers and their intercession. He had said He would come with a sign; that we would smell the incense. It came so powerfully faith was hardly needed.'

And we saw the wind of the Spirit blow so hard at a meeting you could see people's hair blowing!

So He is coming a whole lot more dramatically. As one brother said, 'This hardly takes any faith, it is so obvious.' But when He comes in ways like that, it is always to give a message. He is not just trying to tickle our curiosity or our interest in supernatural things, He is trying to say something to us.

For example, the sign of being slain in the Spirit is to get us to totally rest in Him. And the miracle of leg lengthenings that went through the body for so many years defined our imbalanced stand upon the two legs of grace and truth. There needed to be a readjustment in the body." FULNESS, January-February, 1990, The Unfolding of a Prophet, Rick Joyner, page 13.

From the above quote, two messages come clear and loud: (1) The Church hardly needs the Holy Scriptures to perfect a man of God and thoroughly furnish him unto good works, (2) Christians hardly need faith in this day and age.

The position taken by the prophets as well as by their followers is that a prophet must not be judged by what he says, but rather by his fruit. In other words, what a prophet says doesn't really matter. This position is both incomprehensible and satanic to say the least. What if the prophet denies that Jesus is come in the flesh (His incarnation at birth)? What if he does not speak according to God's written Word? Does that qualify him as a false prophet or a true prophet? God's answer is clearly written, "He is Anti-Christ!" Notwithstanding the ostensibly godly life, or the signs and wonders wrought, the Word of God sternly warns that one who influences the hearts of people away from God and His written Word to the voice of another god is a false prophet in the sight of God.

In Deuteronomy the situation is viewed in a very serious light.

"If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or wonder; 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; 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. Ye shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him; and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him; and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee. " (Deuteronomy 13:1-5)

False Prophets Come As The Apostles of Light

"For such are FALSE APOSTLES; deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness. " (II Corinthians 11:13)

Judge Prophets

"Unto the church at Ephesus write:....thou hast tried them that SAY THEY ARE APOSTLES and are not, and hast found them liars. "(Revelation 2:2)

"Beloved; believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many FALSE PROPHETS are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come In the flesh is not of God: and this is that Spirit of anti-christ whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it In the world Ye are of God; little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you; than he that is in the world" (I John 4:1-3)

True Apostolic and Prophetic Ministry

"There are those in the church who have true apostolic and prophetic ministries. These have always been recognized, although seldom have they been credentialed as such. When a person claims to be a prophet and:

- If they ignore or are ignorant of Bible prophecy I am CONCERNED.
- If they say Bible prophecy is UNIMPORTANT and SUBSTITUTE their own revelations for guidance in the churches, I am SUSPICIOUS.
- If they REJECT prophetic concepts of the Bible (ridicule the rapture, millennium, etc.) then it would seem POS- SIBLE that the individual is a FALSE PROPHET." David Lewis, David Lewis Ministries, Springfield, MO.

False prophets have a subtle way of catching sincere ignorant Christians in the web of their religious thoughts about God. They use the same ploy Satan used on Eve in the garden of Eden - the BIG LIE, "*Ye shall be as gods.*" The essence of their appeal, although ostensibly to glorify Christ, is always self-centered. The gist of their Gnostic spirited ministries contains the following New Wave seed thoughts plaguing the church:

"Some of the suggestions made to the believer by deceiving spirits at this time may be: (1) 'You are a special instrument for God', working to feed self-love; (2) 'You are more advanced than others', working to blind the soul to sober knowledge of itself; (3) 'You are different from others', working to make him think he needs special dealing by God; (4) 'You must take a separate path', a suggestion made to feed the independent spirit; (5) 'You must give up your occupation, and live by faith', aiming at causing the believer to launch out on false guidance, which may result in the ruin of his home, and sometimes the work for God in which he is engaged". WAR ON THE SAINTS, Jessie Penn-Lewis, The Christian Literature Crusade, 1977, p.73

God help the church to expose these false prophets before innocent souls and good Christian assemblies of God's people are caught in the web of the deception of the beguiling foe.

Assurance of Salvation

With reference to man's redemption, the Gnostic maintains the Holy Scriptures are not God's total revelation. He contends that real redemption can only be fully known through inner gnosis (self-knowledge) experienced in the self-consciousness of a man. The real knowledge that matters in redemption comes from within. Reason, faith, grace and God's blood covenant (free gift) is not sufficient to save without some form of an inner illumination. The experience is seen as a first installment to a great manifestation of the divine in self. This is basically their concept of salvation.

The inner revelation knowledge of redemption assures a "Christian Gnostic" of the following: A Christian (i) is a little god, (ii) is a Manifest Son of God on par with Christ, (iii) is a member of the Melchezedek order, i.e. a priest after the order of Jesus Christ, and (iv) is a member of the elite (Aryan) breed of people. In essence, the Christian Gnostic is saying, "God

is in you, discover Him and you will experience His Presence and know you are saved and that you too are a little god." Basically, this Gnostic concept is rapidly possessing a great part of Christian thinking and preaching.

According to the contents of much preaching today, salvation is perceived in terms of a subjective experience. This is stressed to such an extent that a significant number of Christians have come to think that the real knowledge of salvation lies in a personal, spiritual experience, instead of in the sole authority of God's Written Word. For precisely this reason, many Christians are being subjected to Gnostic thought. Multitudes are leaving "sound doctrine" and "sound mind" for experiential knowledge of present day Gnosticism.

----Jewel van der Merwe----