

# **An Overview of Today's Apostasy and its Roots**

**by**

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## **A biblical appraisal of God's people**

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways as a nation that did righteousness and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God” (Isa. 58:1-2)

“Behold the LORD’S hand is too shortened, that it cannot save: neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity: your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calleth for justice nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity and speak lies, they conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men. We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but is far off from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them; in transgressing and lying against the LORD and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment. Isa.59:1-15

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed’s seed, saith the LORD, for henceforth and for ever. Arise, shine; for thy light is come and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. For behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. Isa.59:18-21; 60: 1,2

- A glimpse at yesterday's roots of today's apostasy Babylon's curse ravages God's spurned people

Note: the spiritual influences that conspired to erect the Tower of Babel have maintained their control over the world down through the ages through...*Mystery Babylon (Esoteric Occultism) and Babylon City (Multinational Finance and Commerce)*... as exemplified by the Whore. *Mystery Babylon*, seated on the 7-headed beast and the City of Babylon of Revelation 17, 18. Their influence over Christendom is also quite strong and is noted below.

- Subjugated to *Mystery Babylon* serious consequences for minor offences

The predecessors of vast sectors of the Evangelical Church World long ago were turned over to spiritual captivity. They were placed under many of the influences for the same Babylonian spirits of Religiosity that made the Roman Catholic Church a major Enemy stronghold and a mighty instrument in his hands.

### 1. The early Church under siege

The Babylonian/Roman spirits' assault was launched near the outset of the Early Church. Their subversions were unleashed on various fronts:

- a) The judaizers (whose roots went back to the Babylonian Talmud) were used to negate the efficacy of faith in Christ's full provision for sinful man... replacing it with a legalistic bondage to the O.T. commandments
- b) The Nicolaitans fostered the separation of clergy and laity with its ecclesiastical, hierarchic structuring -an intermediary ministerial body to officiate between the Godhead and the members. The use of administered "sacraments" to justify their superior status and the passive, paying, spectator-devotees
- c) False apostles, "Jezebels", dabblers in the depths of Satan and other proficient in simulated gifts, fostered their way into influential church niches
- d) The "Balaam merchants" peddled whatever messages they could make a living off of (whatever would sell) among the churches.

2. Negligence - Ignoring Christ's admonition to the Asian churches, and those of Jude and Peter, God's people did not purge from their midst, nor close their doors to, the adherents of ...Corrosive teachings...Seductive gifts...Carnal lifestyles

3 Undermined - within decades, in an orchestrated subversion, the Babylonian/Roman spirits had burrowed their way into the Church through the agency of ambitious instrumentalities.

4 Turned **over to captivity** - In following centuries they overthrew Christianity and gained authoritarian control over her.

5 Repercussions - Over a millennium later, as the Reformation movement gathered momentum, the Protesters against Catholicism sought to reform Paganized Christianity rather than replace it with an entirely biblical and Spirit-filled model.

- a) Their primary focus was not that of dealing with the sin and carnality that lurked in the hearts of the church and un-church, to see them effectively removed by Christ's full provision.
- b) They retained numerous non-biblical doctrines, traditions, and practices
- c) Consequently, they permitted a bridge over which many Babylonian/Roman spirits would cross from Catholicism into Protestantism and subvert it.

6 **Self-perpetuating curses** neither the Protestant Reformers nor their Evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic descendants have ever fully repudiated, severed or annulled the Babylonian/Roman spirits' access, influence, and control over them... Nor the entirety of the religious system those spirits propagate while clothed in the sheep's clothing of Christianity. They have reformed Paganized Christianity to more biblical dimensions.

- a) Much as had occurred when Israel occupied Canaan but failed to annihilate all of the Canaanite nations. She merely subjugated them only to have them later gain ascendancy, and eventually overthrow her spiritually
- b) Likewise, Protestantism's Reformation merely occupied some of the Babylonian/Roman spirits' domain and contained them. They later corrupted Christ's followers, gained ascendancy, and spiritually overthrew them.

7 **Babylon's adopted daughters** Also, most movements, which at one time had begun outside the Protestant Religious establishments - In a sincere return to Scriptural practices and beliefs and in "Revival" Eventually succumbed to the Religious System they once protested

- a) They lost their spiritual distinctiveness and glory
- b) They were absorbed into the Harlot's vast family...much as what happened to the early church after the first century
- c) Having once begun in the spirit they later continued in the flesh through legalism and the dead letter. Falling into the same dangers and consequences from which Paul had sought to protect the Galatian church.

## **The reviving of the old Roman Spiritual Empire and the church's unwitting participation**

An objective appraisal of Today's trends in churches and ministries demonstrates that those same Babylonian/Roman spirits continue working. It is interesting to note that certain trends seen in the reviving of the Old Roman Empire in the political sphere (as preparation for the Antichrist's advent are being made) their spiritual religious parallels, not only in liberal Protestantism, but now among many Charismatic clusterings and more conservative Evangelical groupings. Consider the following . . . :

- A. Toes of Iron and Clay – Man-made Unity - There is an accelerating ecumenism, under the banner of 'unity', apostleship, city-wide churches, networking, denominational stability, etc . . . Giving little or no heed to "contending for the faith once delivered unto the saints."
  - a. The man-made amalgamation of Christianity's 'streams' by their leaders' networking – networks is following the geopolitical drift towards One-World unity.
  - b. Humanly contrived, supported by 'back-room' agreements, and implemented through trial and error, these sincere (?) efforts will prove themselves to be spiritually futile, and fraught with many disillusionments.
  - c. The Antichrist's interests will find effective means to further compromise Amalgamated Christianity, and manipulate it in ways that will benefit his interests.
  
2. Peter's Proverbs Among Protestants. Among growing numbers, there is a drift towards more Romish liturgical forms of 'worship', and their corresponding 'Nicolaitan' ecclesiastical structures. Consider . . . II Pet. 2: 11-19-20-21-22.
  
3. "Silver and Gold Have We Much." Today's Christianity possesses an increasing abundance of material resources, finances, and economic clout. She is becoming adept at the generation of, and a reliance on, profit margins. She is making use of lucre to strengthen her footing within this world system, as a necessary and well justified means to gain more followers.
  
4. Propagandists Brainwashing the Church – Spirits of Error Everywhere. Not unlike the media's barrage on Western society, using blatant propaganda techniques, disseminating misinformation, opinion manipulation, and, values clarification . . . is the enemy's successful assault on the Church.
  - a. The Spirit of Truth, once given to the Church, has long been supplanted by Spirits of Error.
  - b. They are bringing an accelerating erosion of Truth's standards by credible but ruinous distortions and compromises of the Full Gospel's promises and requirements.
  - c. The deceptions of the seducing spirits (through their "every wind of doctrine" and "doctrines of demons") are bearing fruit almost everywhere among Christendom.

- Indeed, they have effectually brought very convincing and widely accepted strong delusions over God's people everywhere.
- d. The New Age tolerance for everything except for the intolerant has dissipated throughout the Church . . . sweeping away the Gospel's Absolutes and the proclaimers thereof.
  - e. Consider . . . : I John 4:6; I Timothy 4:1-2; Eph. 4:14; John 8:47.
5. Spiritual Subversion Made Easy – Believing Every Spirit. The Babylonian/Roman spirits accomplished occult simulations of the gifts and ministries, attributed to the Holy Spirit's anointing, have pervasively infiltrated the Church and deceived multitudes that bear Christ's Name. The Church has not tested every spirit, but rather has allowed almost anything supernatural that is not overtly occult into the church and behind the pulpit, not examining their fruits, to discern their spiritual source of inspiration.
6. Inadvertent Accomplices – The Sightless Parade. Sincere but deceived ministries trust and naively follow those they perceive to be their spiritual seniors.
- a. Not hearing from Heaven for themselves . . .
  - b. Nor gleaning from the Scriptures for themselves . . .
  - c. They blindly mislead others . . . while they themselves are being misled.
  - d. They recycle and repackage what others purport to have received from the Lord and marketed abroad in their cassettes, videos, books, magazine articles, and seminars. Consider . . . Jer. 23:30.
  - e. They ignore the admonition to the Last Days Church, which warns that, “. . . There were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily (secretly) shall bring in (introduce) damnable heresies, even denying the Lord bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of which the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.” (II Peter 2:1-2.) Also consider the remainder of the chapter . . . II Pet. 2:3-22.
7. Key Truths Compromised. Even Carnality's hold on the soul and the condoning of sin among the general church membership can be traced indirectly to the doctrines tampered with by the Babylonian/Roman spirits.
8. Oh, For Opened Eyes!! The Babylonian/Roman spirits can be seen in their deceptive and manipulative work over many churches and ministries by some gifting of the Holy Spirit's discernment, empowered to peer into the spiritual dimension.
9. Soon To Be Courted By The Anti-Messiah. With the continuing successes of the Babylonian/Roman spirits at eroding the beliefs and practices of general Christendom, unless there is a total reversal in the established trends, it is quite conceivable that one day soon she will be duped into receiving the False Messiah.

### C. Betrayal by the Judas Iscariot Company – Brother Against Brother.

Many times, not only is the Enemy successful in orchestrating the downfall of God's people, and luring them into such deception, sin, and rebellion that God must eventually forsake them . . . He later abducts them and forges them into an unwitting, but formidable force against those who truly continue to pursue the Lord and His purposes.

1. Consider . . . : Mt. 10: 21-22; John 15: 25-16:3.
2. Earthly Amalgamated Christianity may fall prey to the Enemy's manipulations as an instrument against Heavenly Christianity, much the same way that . . .
  - a. Judas Iscariot betrayed the Lord Himself for personal interests.
  - b. Judaism, whose Pharisaism was forged in Babylon (where the Babylonian Talmud was written) was used against Christ and the Early Church; and . . .
  - c. Paganized Christianity's world-wide clout effectually hampered God's designs for well over a millennium, except in isolated pockets.

- **Earmarks of today's apostasy - A famine of the hearing of the full and true quickening word of God.**

A. The Age of Apostasy Contemporary Christianity constitutes the last days' apostate church which Paul prophesied. It comprises the Laodicean Church, if unrepentant, would be spewed out of the Lord's mouth. This is the ear prophesied by Paul "...when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." 2 Tim. 4:3

1. **Reciprocity** Both the flocks for harboring their lusts and their ministries who indulge them are to blame. Spiritually prodigal "Christians" and apostate ministries reciprocally gravitate to each other and reinforce each other's delusions.
2. **Itching ears and of Godliness.** The convincing deception to which the Lord gives them over bears some relationship to the ruling desires and inclinations of their heart. "This know in the latter times perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boaster, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady high minded, lover of pleasures more than lovers of God: having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." I Tim 3:105
3. **The true frame of reference** The only things that can offer effectual protection from persuasive spiritual deceptions are...A breadth of revelation-insight given to persistent inquirers by the Holy Spirit, and a comprehensive faith in the Word, as regard the full Gospel's provision: with a biblical and experiential "putting off of the old man with his deceiving desire and mindset, replacing him with the corresponding Holy Spirit's sanctification/ cleansing/ baptism/ filling/sealing/ adoption/second-birthing

**B The apostate gospel - The preaching of paraphrased version** - The focus and emphasis of Contemporary churches (Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Charismatic included) are considerably divergent from that which Christ came to preach and establish.

1. **The true credentials** Christ and His apostles preached...Repentance, faith, obedience, holiness, love as necessary qualifications and evidences for the possession of eternal life.
2. **Bringing in false hopes** to their ranks, and deceiving multitudes. Those basic elements are making a decision for Christ, invited him into one's heart, responded to a salvation altar call, said "The sinners prayer" made a profession of faith etc. (as if the saying of certain "magic" words were sufficient). Believing (giving mental assent to) the basic orthodox evangelical doctrines. Conforming to an acceptable standard of outward behavior, free from unseemly demeanor. Attending certain church meetings and activities with some regularity. These 4 basic elements do not conform to the above-mentioned N.T. standards. The inner life and heart-condition of Today's Christians are ignored altogether. The misrepresentations of the true Gospel's requirements and promises foster a false hope and counterfeit conversion leading the unwary traveler to a surprise destination, Hell!! When they plummet off the end of life's road.
3. **Doing what is right in their own eyes.** The apostate churches feed various combinations of the 4 following trendsetters in direction their congregations: Traditions of men, Celebrity ministries; every wind of doctrine: Today's Elder and the Sanhedrin (Man's board, committees, consultants, councils,) Almost no church anywhere corporately seeks to hear and obey "what the Spirit is saying to the churches" The congregation hears what the pulpiteers say to the churches and at times even hear God "getting a word in edgewise" However, there is no congregation-level follow-through. To hear is not enough. They each do what is right in their own eyes.
4. **Majoring on minors** - The ministers preach and promote to the public what is important to them. Whatever the public is in the market for, that is fix bad circumstances, bless finances, enable for success, heal emotional wounds, answer prayer, give joy and peace, baptize with tongues are promoted intensely. However the means of applying is power to break sin's chains of ...Lack of self control, intemperance, addictions, inner obsessions and compulsions, gluttony, lusts, perversions, fornication, homosexuality, contentions, drunkenness, resentments, gate, greed, materialism, criticism, complaining, murmuring, impatience, foolishness, anger, worldliness, marital estrangement, irreconcilable differences, envy, covetousness, jealousy, pride, vanity, dishonesty, lying, deception, hypocrisy, religiosity, idolatry, occultism, rebellion, ungratefulness, selfishness, etc...are virtually ignored. Overlooked is His power to completely deliver His children from the curse of Adam's inherited nature...through the Spirit sanctification/cleansing /baptism filling, sealing adoption second-birthing. The ministers cannot lead others into what they themselves do not possess.

5. **Deceived and seduced by their own desires (lusts)** the public flocks to the apostate ministers in droves to hear echoed the fleshly values and aspirations of their own selfish hearts. They seek spiritual help from them to attain their self-centered goals, while appeasing their conscience.
6. **Religiously incorrect** - It is now improper to call sin by its name. The religiously incorrectness of addressing the negative issues and traits in the spiritual life of the church, the ministers and of the members for fear of ...Offending parties, damaging their self-image, being disparaged by the "affirmationists" Has neutralized the Gospel's power. The hue and cry of "lack of love" is raised against it everywhere!! The true full Gospel is personally meaningless and powerless in the lives where there has been no prior conviction of sin. There can be no conviction of sin without the accusatory proclamation of the moral law's immutable standards and the damnation their violation incurs. Good news is not good news unless one has been overwhelmed with the bad which the good has come to remedy. Christ's new law's even more stringent than the Mosaic law, its habitual violators (Christians and non Christians alike) will be eternally damned. Consider Mt.5:17-18: Heb 2:1-4 1Cor. 6:9 It is the law aided by the Spirit's conviction of sin which has been appointed to be "the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. Gal. 3:24
7. **Band-aids** Today's salaried flock-herders shroud *Corpus Christi's* inner *rigor mortis* with *Religiously Correct* (and culturally approved) vocabulary . . . making its diagnosis more palatable, though misleading . . . while avoiding the alarm, required for implementing the essential radical lifesaving measures.
8. **Fatal Mistake** The failure to address the Sin Issue properly results in the grieving of the Spirit of Life and permits Spiritual Death's cold breath to disable the hearts of most.
9. **A Tough Pill To Swallow** Also neglected has been Christ's Full Provision for victory over sin and sinfulness by means of denying one's self, being a true disciple of Christ, having one's carnal, sinful nature replaced with Christ's nature by the Spirit's Sanctification filling, and active faith.
10. **Falsifying The Gospel** Any Christian doctrine which licenses the adamic carnal nature in the life of a Christian and provides for alternative remedies for its ills, is a False Gospel.
  - a. The true Gospel message as taught by Paul, and confirmed to him by Peter, James, and John, includes a thorough dealing with sin and its source in one's carnal/adamic nature, and the regrettable consequences of consenting to their ongoing presence and work in the heart.
  - b. In addition to Paul's writing, the Epistles of Peter, James, John, Jude and the Letter to the Hebrews each addresses the flesh/carnality issue from its unique perspective, attesting to the same.

- c. In God's eyes, the corollary may be valid as well: The minister which proclaims the Gospel falsely is a False Minister.

C. **The Apostate Belief System – Based on the Letter That Killeth** Modern Christianity's Bible-based beliefs, teachings, and gifts are but the skeletal remains of the pulsating realities "*IN Christ Jesus,*" once enjoyed by the Infant Church.

1. **Cherished Heirlooms – Relics From the Past** The Church today has been left with the mere doctrinal descriptions of what the First Believers once experienced. It has the words, but not the realities, or even a revelatory understanding, of what they were meant to portray.
2. **Bible Homonyms** The original meaning of many key Scriptural terms and words have mutated from its intended initial usage.
  - a. Many biblical words and terms, though still used widely, do not convey their original meaning.
  - b. Some of the more glaring examples of mutated terminology are . . .
    - 'Christian' (in its usage, both as a noun, and as an adjective),
    - 'Spirit-filled,'
    - 'Spirit-baptized,'
    - 'Gospel,'
    - 'Worship',
    - 'Repentance,'
    - 'Holy Hands,'
    - 'Anointing,'
    - 'Sin,'
    - 'Gifts,'
    - 'Healing,'
    - 'Carnal,'
    - 'Talents,'
    - 'Miracle,'
    - 'Faith,'

- ‘Offering,’
- ‘Inspiration,’
- ‘Believe,’
- ‘Edify,’
- ‘Blessing,’
- ‘Church,’ etc.

c. Their misuse contributes to the Christian’s dilemma of . . . empty confessions, erroneous beliefs, misdirected faith, and . . . not truly possessing Christ’s provisions. God’s covenant commitment does not extend to contemporary usages of His original utterances.

3. **Tidbits**: But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept: line upon line: here a little, and there a little: that they might . . . fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.” (Isa. 28:13) Employing a vast variety of divers and sundry *Minimal Dosage* biblical truths, the Modern Church has proven herself to be powerless in bringing her adherents into more than a trivial, consistent possession of those realities portrayed doctrinally.

- a. Witness the ‘fruit’ of the (spiritually) pre-school-level sermonettes and Sunday School ‘lessons’, disseminated month after month, year after year, decade after decade in churches everywhere.
- b. Today’s preaching is nearly as powerless as the ministry of the Law, the ‘types and shadows’, the prophecies, and the visions of O.T. . . . which provided only verbal and symbolic depictions of vibrant spiritual realities. They did not furnish to their hearers the means to access them or to partake of and enjoy them.

4. **Imaginary Christianity** Mere words (even anointed at times), and not the realities they were meant to portray, are the essence of Today’s Christianity. The *knowledge* of the doctrine has been mistaken for the possession of its *reality* and *experience*. Likewise, the *mental endorsement* of doctrines has replaced true *living faith* in the Word they portray.

5. **Substitutions Not Accepted** The Lord indicted His own people of Jeremiah’s day for the same substitutionary practices that prevail today. Consider . . . : Jer. 7:22-26; 2:13.

D. **Apostate Infidelity – Harlotry With the Golden Calf of Their Imagined God**

1. **Historians, Not Eyewitnesses** Almost none in ministry today has had a true revelation of Jesus Christ. They have not had an up-close encounter with Him, much less *known* Him face to face.
  - a. Accepting His forgiveness, hearing His call, receiving His commissioning, and having insights into the Scriptures, are not to be confused with a revelation of His Person and heart.
  - b. Consequently, Today's ministers are powerless to be agents through whom He can be revealed to those under their charge.
  
2. Today, people's 'faith' is founded more on their leader's doctrinal eloquence . . . Than on the "power of God" by "the power and the demonstration of the Holy Spirit." Consider . . . : 1Cor. 2:1-5
  
3. **More Homonyms – Hazardous Foundations** Universally, the terminologies *to receive Christ*, and *to know Christ* are used inappropriately as synonyms for . . .
  - a. One's initial (though largely ineffectual) invocation of Christ into his heart, and for . . .
  - b. His ongoing commitment to the Christian persuasion, via a fancied devotion to . . .
    - Its Head,
    - His doctrines,
    - His behavioral requirements, and
    - Regular attendance of church meetings.
  - c. Very, very few have truly *received Christ*, or really *know Jesus Christ* in the true and full sense of the terms, as used in the Scriptures . . . Because of not yet having thoroughly dealt with sin. Appropriated the death of their Old Man in Christ, after which . . . they would be empowered to "abide in Him."
  - d. To their eternal detriment, *knowing* the Father and the Son, with the evidences expressed in John's First Epistle is not the experience of most of Today's Christians. Very few display John's proofs of possessing true Eternal Life!!
  
4. **Conceptual Idolatry & Christianity's Golden Calf** Not having had a true revelation of the Lord, originating in the Spirit of God . . . well crafted simulations have been fashioned . . .
  - a. **After Their Own Hearts** Today's Christians have fashioned custom-made, Bible-based, mental representations of the Godhead . . . According to their own preferential concepts and doctrinal upbringing, or orientation . . . Accommodating their lusts, and providing themselves with a relative 'peace of mind' therein.

- 1) Their *Conceptual Idolatry* is partially based on Biblical descriptions of divine attributes . . . supplemented by modifications of their own innovation . . . in keeping with the standards they feel they can adhere to.
- 2) Their carnal hearts have deluded them into thinking God in quite sympathetic and tolerant to their besetting weaknesses and sins.
  - “After all, He knows we’re just human.”
  - “His love covers a multitude of sins.”
  - “Where sin abounds, grace abounds much more (and covers our ongoing sinning.)”
- 3) To their imaginary god they project their prayers knowing no real communion that would hold them in its grip for hours at a time.
- 4) They have deluded themselves into thinking that they *know* Him.
  - b. **Word Games** They have substituted the theological and intuitive definition of their reprobate human mind and authorities for a true experiential knowledge and revelation of the Godhead.
  - c. **Angel of Light** The ‘God’, the ‘Christ’, and the ‘Holy Spirit’ that many serve today are not the members of the Godhead they imagine them to be . . . but master imposters . . .
    - 1) They serve an invisible, abstract, ‘Golden Calf’. A ‘Father’, a ‘Savior’, and a ‘Holy Spirit’ fashioned in their own likeness, to which they ascribe the names of the Godhead.
    - 2) Theirs is not an Idolatry of statues or icons. It is an Idolatry of *mental images* or *concepts* to which they ascribe the names of Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit, when, in fact they are not . . . much as painting (an icon) or a statue is a representation of the idolater’s object of worship.
    - 3) One’s *idea* of who God is has supplanted the place of God Himself!! A subtle but crucial distinction!!
  - d. **Utterly Deceived** Behind many of the *Conceptual Idols* and *Evangelical Icons* are deceiving demonic entities . . .
    - 1) Receiving the misdirected prayers and worship,
    - 2) Selectively giving blessings and answers to prayer,

- 3) Inspiring false gifting,
- 4) Personifying the Godhead, and . . .
- 5) Deceiving unwary multitudes who are made vulnerable by . . .
  - a) Their lack of a true Biblical Covenant-Commitment
  - b) Jesus Christ, according to His stipulated terms.
  - c) Their selective belief systems.
  - d) Their “lack of Knowledge.”

c. **Graven Images** In direct violation of the First and Second Commandments, representative images of the Godhead of various types are prominently displayed most everywhere in Christendom . . .

- 1) The dove, depicting the Holy Spirit, is used universally. It happens to be a pre-Christian symbol of the pagan version of the Holy Spirit. It also represents a pre-Catholic incarnation of the Madonna (later, Mary, Guadalupe, and others).
- 2) Also, images of the Lamb, the Lion, the Fish, a Tongue of Fire (and now the Horse of Revelation), and others are found throughout Christendom. Coincidentally, these are also part of the religions derived from Nimrod’s Tower.
- 3) Christendom justifies the violation of His First Two Commandments, and other practices, with the arguments, that . . .
  - a) The Enemy counterfeits that which is God’s.
  - b) The same symbols were employed by the Christian of the first centuries.
  - c) Everybody today, except fanatics, uses them.

E. **The Apostate Worship – Sounding Brass and Tinkling Cymbals** Today’s worship is well orchestrated, but empty: and deprived of true anointing.

1. **Flesh’s Worship** Today’s ‘worshippers’ worship the worship experience . . . not the Lord Himself.
2. **Human Orchestration**
  - a. ‘Whipped up’ praise and worship . . . with the song leader’s adept motivation techniques, and . . . the musicians’ rehearsed, orchestrated, crescendos . . . sometimes brings an air of excitement to the proceedings, assumed to the Holy Spirit’s presence (finally) descending.

- b. Regardless of how long the Holy Spirit might have been present blessing the ‘worshippers’ . . . at the prescribed time, He is summarily cut off, that the proceedings may continue as scheduled.
3. **Excellence in Simulation – Filling in for the Holy Spirit** A full, intense, true, presence and anointing of the Lord are absent from nearly all ‘worship’, both in meetings and on recordings.
- a. Substituting for the Holy Spirit is human *Excellence* in . . .
- Gifted song service leaders.
  - Talented vocalists.
  - Master musicians.
  - Inspired Biblical lyrics.
  - And last, but not least, superb sound and recording systems.
- b. So proficient is the *Excellence* that most people do not seem to mind (or notice) the Holy Spirit’s absence.
4. **Hypocrisy** Though each participant frequently feels his expression of worship to be empty, he exerts himself with the simulated joy of fulfillment . . . thinking that he is the only one having difficulty . . . when, in fact, nearly the entire congregation feels the same emptiness.
5. **True and False Worship**
- a. True worship is love’s spontaneous, profound response to the Revealed Lord.
- b. True worship requires a revelation of the Lord, of His holiness, of His worthiness, and of His love, etc, and a heart that *highly* values those traits.
- c. Without the above, it is False Worship. It is merely a hollow exercise of “Honoring Him with their lips, but their hearts is far from Him.” The worship is false because of . . .
- 1) Singing and saying things that have no bearing on the realities held in the hearts of the ‘worshippers’.
- 2) Employing “vain repetitions,” ascribing to the Lord holiness or worthiness, without even having a small realistic notion of what they may be.

- 3) Singing hypocrisies and lies, expressing one's love for Him, when the daily lifestyle, values, and choices exhibit a love for one's self.

F. **The Apostate Curse – Smitten with Blindness** Because of not having persisted in their 'First Love,' even while continuing to send them His Word and His wonders, He has permitted a 'spirit of slumber' to be given to His people. "His table has been made unto them a stumbling" and, they have been given "eyes, ears, and a heart that perceive not." Consider . . . : Isa. 29:10-11; Rom. 11:7-11; Ezek. 3:27; 12:2; Dt. 29:2-4; Isa. 6:9-10; 28:11-13.

1. **The Apostate Witness** The ministries of the 'anointed Word' and the 'flowing gifts' do not imply God's approval, either of the instruments He uses, or of the recipients of the ministry.
  - a. They are but tokens of His mercy and power, as a testimony to His Name and to His loving heart, by which He rescues a few from among the many to participate in His true purposes. Many misconstrue these tokens to be signs of His approval and favor, as they do a liberal cash flow.
  - b. Consider: During the 40-year sojourn of the rebellious Israelites in the desert God's blessings, supernatural provision, and miracles were showered on them (but were also mingled with severe judgments and a 'thinning of the ranks').

2. **The Apostate Anointing On God's Word** Not uncommonly, bearing a faithful witness to Himself, He provides anointing and inspiration for the preaching of His Word in pulpits everywhere (and some places He blesses with certain 'supernatural' giftings).

- a. However, the Word is perennially infantile in its spiritual content . . . "Precept upon precept, precept upon precept: line upon line: here a little, and there a little."
- b. Neither in the heart of the hearers. Nor, many times, in the heart of the speakers . . . is it accompanied by the word of . . . the "Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of Christ Jesus, to illumine the eyes of their understanding" . . . His conviction of Sin, or . . . the Fear of the Lord . . .
- c. The Word's effect on the hearers is not unlike the hearing of the O.T. Law . . . it imparts some knowledge of the Divine Standard and promises, while . . . neither removing 'the veil' placed over their understanding, nor . . . providing the enablement to attain them.

3. **Buried Treasures** The Lord generally keeps certain *ingredients*, necessary for the full appropriation of His provisions *IN Christ*, hidden . . . those that make the N.T. standard and promises attainable . . . (though they remain *there* in His Word) . . . Consider . . . : Mt. 13:11-15.

- a. They remain undisclosed because of the permissive attitude among His people towards sin and sinfulness, and its corresponding lukewarmness.

- b. The *Missing Ingredients* are:
- 1) An understanding of the full provisions of Christ's Gospel and grace that bring the Spirit's true fullness, power, and enablement into the church and until one's life, and . . .
  - 2) The capability to exercise a focused, applied faith therein.
- c. They have been displaced by the belief in a Partial Gospel that produces only a powerless Babylonian/Roman "form of godliness."
- d. Multiplied preaching, teaching, seminars, and conventions will not remedy the deficiencies of the hidden *Missing Ingredients*.
4. **God's True Servants Among the Apostates** The Lord does not leave the Apostates without a message.
- a. As He sent His true prophets as a witness to each generation of Apostate Israel . . . so today, He sends forth His True Preachers of True Righteousness.
  - b. The instrumentalities used to proclaim the **Missing Ingredients** to the wayward Christians frequently come wrapped in offensive packaging . . .
    - Obscuring the very message they proclaim, from those of a reprobate mind, which include . . .
    - The self-righteous,
    - The willful,
    - The proud,
    - The insincere, and,
    - The content in their carnality,
    - Those content with religious Christian placebo.
  - c. Reprobate churches will not receive the message of the former because of certain offensive peculiarities present in their ministries.
  - d. In a sense, one involuntary aspect of the ministry of the True Preachers of True Righteousness is that of being as climinary stumbling block. So it was with Ezekiel, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, Paul, etc.
  - e. Those with a heart after righteousness and after God are given a capability of spiritual perception to see through the offensive packaging, and discern the heart of the true message and of the true messenger. Consider . . . : Mt. 13:11-12, 16.

5. **'Revival' – and Apostate Conventions & Seminars** The continued teaching and preaching of manifold doctrines will not hasten the expected End Time 'Revivals' . . .

- a. Neither will increasing 'expertise' on eschatology or on the prophetic symbolisms portrayed by the O.T.'s 'types and shadows' . . .
- b. Nor will 'Revival' Conferences.
- c. If the Scribes and Pharisees of Christ's day, 'missed it' totally . . . with all their dedication, study and expertise, Today's teachers ('types and shadows' and eschatology experts not excluded) have no guarantee of possessing a sufficiently accurate assessment of the Last Days' scenario to prepare their disciples to be active participants in the Lord's Last Day purposes. Most likely, they all will 'miss it,' given the Church's current state.

G. **The Tower of Babel and the Apostate Church – A Kingdom Divided Against Itself** Because of being *Outside of Christ* (or not being experientially *IN Christ*), the Tower of Babel's Curse reaches even into the heart of the Church.

1. **Babel & Society** God's Curse of the Tower of Babel, which divided mankind into many diverse languages, cultures, and religions, doesn't seem to stop at the ethnic groupings, but reaches to even smaller groupings.
2. **Babel & Protestantism** The Confusion of Tongues can be noticed even within Christianity, as noted by Protestantism's many doctrinal dialects, customs and ethnocentricity.
  - a. It is seen to affect even the various Christian 'sub-culture' groupings, or movements.
  - b. All denominations have been plagued by its effects . . .
  - c. As has the Body of Christ at the local church level, in a majority of churches, in virtually every city, town, and village around the world.
3. **Babel & the Local Church – a House Divided Against Itself** Gene Edwards has observed in his book *In the Face of a Church Split – What is OUR MISSION?* the extensiveness of this tragedy. He estimates that . . .
  - a. Both the typical Christian worker and the general churchgoer will most likely pass through at least three major cataclysmic church schisms by his fiftieth birthday . . .
  - b. His chance of surviving even one church split, spiritually in one piece, is less than 50%, and . . .
  - c. Of the 250,000 Protestant congregations in the United States, a twelve month period is likely to see a minimum of 5,000 to 10,000 of them undergo splits.

H. **The Prodigal Church – From the Banquet Table to the Trough** Leaving the Lord and striking out on her own, Christianity dissipates her inheritance and misplaces her affections on worldly values.

1. **How She Sized Up – The Discrepancy Between Image and Substance** All too often, the image projected from the pulpit, the programs, and the building facilities . . . and the condition of those in the pew . . . are poles apart.
  - a. The measure of a church is not the stature of her pulpit ministry . . . though illustrious personalities and premier pulpit performances give the illusion of stellar churches.
  - b. Nor is it her doctrinal purity, administrative finesse, or comprehensive outreach programs.
  - c. In spite of their flaunted supposed-abundance, the churches in reality are poverty-stricken . . . over-indulged with the endless teachings of self-affirmation, how to get what you want, and of ‘how to bring down the glory’ . . . yet staggering from heart-malnutrition, hoping that the next seminar or retreat, big conference, or the new mega ministry speaker will end the famine.
  - d. It is by what is in the pew, and not by what is in the pulpit, that the Body can be truly assayed.
  
2. **Misplaced Confidence in Laodicean Riches**
  - a. Abundant power, gifts, worship, anointing, ministry of the Word, doctrine, skills and talent, prestige, financial and material resources, real estate, and buildings, etc., have blinded the Church to true riches.
  - b. Testimonies to widespread conversions, financial blessings, physical healings, visions, prophecies, supernatural signs and wonders, words of knowledge, *ad infinitum* . . . only serve to reinforce the simulation of Abundant Life among the many that stalk the candlestick-less assemblies.
  - c. Her ministers enjoy the lavish luxuries of Five-Star hotels as they minister from place to place . . . but have no “eternal weight of glory,” occasioned by the “light momentary afflictions,” of tribulations, persecutions, jailing, etc.
  
3. **“Thou Hast a Name That Thou Livest, and Art Dead.”** The Church’s appearance of *Life*, ministry, and fruitfulness offers ‘something for everyone,’ but is of minimal spiritual consequence in their daily lives.
  - a. She caters to people’s emotional, mental, and religious needs . . . but provides them with no spiritual impact.
  - b. Symptomatic are the church youth groups . . . providing many attractive activities geared to aid the youth spiritually, and to protect them from worldly alternatives . . . but with negligible fruit.

- 1) Most of their young people are only slightly less worldly than the North American un-churched pagan youth.
- 2) Only a few continue on in the church as married adults . . . the majority is absorbed back into the world.
4. **Babylon's Use of Concrete and Steel** True to its cultural values, the larger her following, the more successful and fulfilled Today's Church feels . . . mistaking volume for caliber . . . Expending much effort in the quest of numerical growth.
  - a. Many churches design, package, and market their message and ministry according to the tastes of the populace, with effective results.
  - b. Before long, their sanctuaries become packed.
  - c. Building programs, then, must be undertaken . . . for more luxurious and more spacious sanctuaries and Christian education facilities . . . placing incredible strain on the pastor and congregation alike . . . many times to the spiritual detriment of all concerned.
  - d. Once completed, the new edifice must be filled to pay for itself (and to reach the lost, of course).
  - e. Evangelism, to fill the pew and the coffers, not to mention Heaven, is undertaken.
  - f. In the course of a few years, the expanded auditorium bursts at the seams. The larger crowds require bigger buildings . . . which, in turn, require a larger cash flow for the increased operations.
  - g. The enterprise explodes exponentially . . . requiring far more personnel than are spiritually qualified . . . and so outside staff must be *hired*.
  - h. The visionary idealism of its founders succumbs to institutional pragmatism.
    - 1) In deference to pragmatism, the operation becomes even more tithe-dependent, and consequently . . .
    - 2) It must do nothing to alienate the contributors.
      - i. Repentance and holiness (offensive and unreasonable to many of the current and potential givers) are replaced by cheap simulations. As a result, like proliferating termites, Sin burrows throughout the very foundation of the church.
      - j. Cultivating and preserving holiness, once a major aspiration, now receives only token verbal recognition when the protocol calls for it.
      - k. The presence of Sin and Carnality has become an everyday (but ignored) reality in that which at one time aspired to be "glorious, pure, spotless, and without wrinkle".
      - l. The church becomes a place of spiritual Death, not Life.

m. *Concrete & Steel* is a veritable millstone around the neck of *Wood, Hay, & Stubble*, whose weight sets her plummeting on a collision course with the *Sea's Bottom*.

5. **Holy Wars & Carnal Weapons** Today's Church fights the wrong battles with the wrong armaments.

- a. Crusading for governmental justice and social morality, she mobilizes her ranks and wields 'fleshly arms' in an attempt to stem . . .
  - Sin's cumulative momentum within society;
  - Her decadence;
  - The aggressive and persistent efforts of Esoteric Occultism to further Satan's designs;
  - The presence and work of Hell's Hordes throughout society; and . . .
  - The ubiquitous New Age and One-World conspirators.
- b. Resorting primarily to various human means of protest, resistance, legislation, and arbitration . . . the Church's weapons are neither mighty against the Enemy's strongholds, nor effective in stemming the tide of decadence.
- c. She engages in the 'cause of the hour,' ignoring that . . . a number of Yesterday's battles for social/spiritual causes were lost and forgotten. Those battles served to divert the Church's attention from Christ and His Heavenly strategies, and, that . . . they depleted her strength, spiritual vitality, and financial reserves . . .
- d. One of yesterday's battles was 'Temperance.'
- e. Today it is abortion, public prayer, Christian's rights, the nation of Israel, etc.
- f. Though admirable, her misdirected zeal and efforts will prove to be futile.

6. **The Whitewash Brigade** With most local churches, care is given primarily to the outward appearance of the members . . . while within lurk some of the most putrid forms of rotteness and "dead man's bones."

- a. Ignoring and/or covering up the loathsome sight, the ministry applies generous amounts of whitewash: the whitewash includes *Religiosity's*: Good preaching, good music, good worship, Sunday morning platform productions, aggressive evangelism, admirable relief efforts, compassionate generosity, commendable behavior, and good works. Consider Mt. 23.
- b. Using another analogy, to cover up her nakedness, Today's Christianity dons grimy used clothes. Consider Isa. 64:6a.

7. **Ecclesiastic Delinquency – Prodigal & Adulterous** Much as children without the discipline of firm standards and ‘the rod’ from wise, caring, and discerning parents, become willful, rebellious, and delinquent . . .

- a. The local assembly becomes a spiritually prodigal church . . . without absolute holiness, faith, and doctrinal standards . . . enforced by prayer, counsel, and church discipline.
- b. She is given to indulging her lusts.
- c. Having willfully strayed from the Lord to strike out on her own . . . she wantonly dissipates her spiritual inheritance . . . and now subsists on a starvation diet.

**I. God’s Response to the Apostate Church – Divorce, Abandonment, and Banishment to Captivity** Spiritual infidelity lead to an estrangement of the heart from the Lord. His Word, communion with Him in Intimate prayer, and His abiding presence . . . once held by the Church in the highest esteem and affection . . . were compromised with other ‘lovers’ admitted to her heart . . . causing her to lose her fervor. Consider . . . : Jas. 4:4; Lk. 16:13-15; Col. 3:5.

I. **Testimony From the Past** O.T. & N.T. Scriptures and History demonstrate that the Lord eventually abandons those who persist in abandoning His full Word, and turns them over to increasingly severe judgments. Consider . . . : Neh. 9:26-31; Judg. 2:11-23; Ezra 8:22c.

II. **With No Respect to Persons** Neither lineage, heritage, or even a history blessed by God – spiritual or natural – provide any assurance of God’s ongoing favor, blessing, or election. Consider . . . : Jn. 8:33-47; I Cor. 9:23-27.

3. **His Covenant People Not Excluded** He not only allowed Judaism to die for not having persisted in the way He had established . . . He fully rejected Abraham’s descendants as His people, and repudiated His covenant with them (until the future repentance of a surviving remnant at Armageddon), though continuing to send them prophets (and now missionaries) to call out a remnant from among them. Consider . . . : Dt. 29:18-29; 28:15-68; Ezra 5:12; Hos. 2:1-13; Jer. 3:8; Isa. 50:1; 54:4, 7-9, 5.

III. **Even His ‘Habitation’ People** He withdrew His grace and blessing from Infant Christianity, as the Early Church abandoned the Gospel fundamentals and evolved into Catholicism, giving it over to the forces of Babylonian Darkness.

- a. He threatened to withdraw His Holy Spirit from the Ephesian church, ‘just’ for allowing her love for Him to cool down. (Rev. 2:4-5)
- b. He threatened to come against the Sardis church like a thief in the night, unless they repented of her deadness. (Rev. 3:1-3)
- c. He found Himself locked outside of the Laodicean church and would not come inside, unless they truly heard Him and obeyed in the matters that would lead

- them into intimacy with Him . . . otherwise, He would spew them out of His mouth. (Rev. 3:16-17, 20)
- d. Paul warned and pronounced, “If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be *Anathema* (accursed).” (I Cor. 16:22)
5. **Our Age Not Exempted** The aforementioned precedents testify to the plausibility of His forsaking Today those who claim to be His people, while no longer truly walking in His ways . . .
- a. For He is no respecter of persons, people, churches, ministries, movements, or denominations.
- b. He has no double standards, and has no ‘favorites’ to which He gives special considerations.
6. **‘Ichabod’ – Church Status Revoked & Diplomatic Relations Severed** Upon forsaking His people, *Ichabod* occurs . . .
- a. The Presence of His active leadership and participation is withdrawn from His Church.
- b. Without the Holy Spirit’s active leadership and participation, in Christ’s eyes church ceases to be a church, and lapses into being merely a religious fraternity.
- c. With the withdrawal of the ‘candlestick,’ the local church forfeits Heaven’s recognition of it as *Ecclesia*.
7. Consider . . . : II Pet. 2: 4-10, Jude 5, Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Judges, and Jeremiah.

#### IV. **The Vast Array of Apostate Ministries Coping With the Absence of His Glory – ‘Making Do’ With What’s At Hand – Unskilled Laborers Doing It Their Way**

- A. **‘Ichabod’ – Yesterday & Today** The departure of the Lord’s Glory and of His participating presence does not occur merely because of incidental provocations against the Lord and His standards.

1. **Slow To Anger** The *Curse of Ichabod* comes over His people in the face of persistent rebellion only after many calls to repentance and numerous warnings . . . though usually not discerned and/or unheeded.
2. **Serious Errors in Judgment** As in ancient times, when the people and their leaders misplaced their confidence in that which once housed His presence . . . (i.e. the Ark of the Covenant of Eli's day; the Temple of Jeremiah's day, etc.) Rather than in the terms of the Covenant by which His presence is committed to the people . . . so Today, Christians unwittingly put their trust in the *Institutional Incarnation* of what was once a true 'Move of God,' as well as in its ceremonies, activities, and doctrines . . . rather than the 'secrets' that led up to its 'coming down.' Consider . . . : I Sam. 4; Jer. 7.
3. **Collapse** Once implemented, *Ichabod* generally remains undetected until the consequent destruction occurs. The major ongoing crises for those of the abandoned infrastructure, created by the Lord's absence, generally do not divulge their cause to the unwary leadership.
4. **Managing – To Get By Without the Holy Spirit – Compensating For the Holy Spirit's Absence** The Apostate ministries attempt to continue on as previously, but now having to buttress that which had been self-sustaining.
  - a. They do not stop even long enough to discern the withdrawal of God's glory and presence . . . Much less, to inquire as to the cause of His departed blessing . . . or how to recover it.
  - b. They substitute significant human effort, resources, management skills, promotional and marketing techniques, and other mechanisms, to bolster what the Lord now refrains from doing . . . and seem to get along quite well without Him.
  - c. The *Religiosity* which it must employ, to maintain a pretense of vitality, is as much of an abomination to God as that which occasioned His absence. Consider Isa. 1:10-15.

**B. Unskilled Labor Dominates the Market – Gold & Gem 'Smithing' Obsolete**

One of *Ichabod's* effects is that Christ's Master Artisans . . . His competent ministers of the Spirit and of the Full Gospel, skilled in working with "gold, silver, and precious stones" . . . seem to be near extinction. They have been replaced by unskilled laborers – untrained and inexperienced in Heaven's crafts.

1. '*Precious Stone-&-Metals-Smiths Guild*' **Nearly Vanished** Almost no one today has been up into the Mount, to behold the Tabernacle/Temple realities of Heaven that are to be reproduced here on earth in miniature, in the lives of each believer and each local church.
  - a. Both the Father and Jesus is the Temple of Heaven, after Whom we are to be patterned.

- b. Consider . . . : Ex. 24:13-25; 9; I Chr. 28:19-20; Gal. 1:11-12, 15-16; II Cor. 12:2-4; Rev. 21:22; Eph. 2:20-22.
- c. In matters related to building the Church, the unskilled laborers speak whereof they know not.

2. **Sub-Standards** The requirements for ministry, stipulated in I Timothy 3, Titus 1, and Acts 6, are waived altogether. Ability, charisma, doctrinal knowledge, seminary diplomas, gifting, ‘business sense,’ management skills, and ‘experience’ are far preferred above Christ-like character.

3. **Third World Construction – Recycled Rubble & Stubble** The earthly *Carpenters & Masons Guild* has revised the Third Heaven’s building code . . . once used by the ‘*Precious Stones-&Metals-Smiths Guild*’ . . . To one of Third World Standards.

- a. The Church’s construction crew is largely unqualified for the heavenly task of building the Church . . . The Lord’s home away from Home.
- b. They are ignorant of where to obtain, and how to work with, ‘precious metals’ and ‘precious stones.’ The *Carpenters’ & Masons’ Guild* knows nothing of Heaven’s crafts.
- c. Instead, they work with new used ‘wood, hay, and stubble’ and Yesterday’s recycled ruins . . . As they are readily available to them, and easier to work with.

4. The Apostate *Carpenters’ & Masons’ Guild* can be grouped into various overlapping ministerial categories. (A listing is found further below.)

C. **The Masons’ Guild To the Rescue!! – Today’s Incarnation of False Apostles** Denominational Powers-That-Be, Empire Builders, Congregation Collectors, Charismatic Bishops, Convention King-makers, Movement Manipulators, and those commissioned and recognized to be Apostles, but not by the Lord Jesus Christ . . . Have placed themselves as leaders in front of the meandering parades of Christendom.

- 1. **No Apostolic Credentials** They are without a revelation of Jesus Christ by which they could . . .
  - Make Him *known* to the converted . . .
  - Aid in their being fashioned into His image, and . . .
  - Truthfully say, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”
  - Consider . . . : I Cor. 9:1; Gal. 1:15-16.

- a. They are inept in holiness, love, Abrahamic faith, spiritual wisdom, power (other than the miracle variety), and true authority over the Enemy's strongholds.
- b. They are unable to bring the Church into Heaven's graces.
- c. They are ineffectual in molding the churches, or even some of their membership, into Christ's likeness (which is what ministry is all about). (Perhaps the primary requirement for Early Church apostleship was that of having had a revelation of Jesus, from which the early apostles derived their power, authority, understanding, and their apostolic grace.)

2. **Under-Qualified** With the breadth of experience and success, management skills, and doctrinal expertise, giftings, charisma, social dexterity, friends in high places, popularity ratings, financial supporters, and commissioning visions . . . These leaders of leaders offer their services to the fragmenting Church.

3. **Short-Term Results** Many are temporarily successful in reversing several negative trends in the Church (as gauged by *Religiosity's*, not Heaven's standards).

D. **The Greed-Breed & Their Greed-Creed – Babylon's Economics at Work.** Ministering for profit, the *Balaamite Hirelings* adulterate the Word, prostitute their gifting, and market their ministry to gain the following and support of their Consumer-Disciples.

1. **Ministry-For-Remuneration** Employing one's expertise in the Lord's work, his gifting, and talents, etc . . . With a view to the compensations derived . . . Is practised by countless ministers of the Word. Salaries, honorariums, offering commissions or percentages, 'road money,' outright fees, royalties travel expenses, and hotel accommodations and meals play a determining role in many ministries' verbal and contractual speaking engagement agreements.

2. **Looking Our For 'Number One'** Many ministers subscribe to the Greed-Creed for 'justifiable' reasons:

- To receive what they are entitled to.
- To avoid unfairness and corrupt money management which result in many places, if financial remunerations are not agreed upon with the hosting churches.
- To 'make a living.'
- To broaden their financial base for increased ministry.
- Because everybody else (who is successful) is doing it.
- Etc.

3. **Tapping Into the Vast Market** The Greed-Breed includes many categories of ministry that prostitute the Word and their gifts, not only in the Word ministered in the congregational setting . . . but also with the profitable merchandising for their books, cassettes, videos, and CDs . . . by mail, in bookstores, on the table in the auditorium foyer, etc. They include: pastors, teachers, evangelists, prophets, apostles, and artists.

4. **Booked or Sent? – Mega-Bucks from Mega-Flocks for Mega-Ministers** The ‘best’ ministries circulate among the most lucrative markets . . .

- a. They are frequently found in the mega-church, the super-churches, the large churches, and the national and the regional conventions.
- b. Somehow, the Lord just doesn’t lead to provide ongoing ‘super-ministry’ among the small, the poor, and the ‘widow’s mite’ churches!?!?
- c. Advanced booking is universally required to optimize the ministry availability and assure each Word Merchant his opportunity.
- d. Only by the inconveniences of engagement cancellations can the Lord extemporaneously direct His servants to local churches with a fresh ‘rhema’ from Heaven. God’s servants are no longer ‘sent’ to the places of ministry. They must book themselves months in advance, taking what openings they can find. They are only able to stay the predetermined amount of time, regardless of what the Lord’s purposes might be.

5. **Wolf Packs** Some ministers are brazen ‘Christian’ con-artists (confidence men).

- a. To gain a following, a power base, and the financial resources necessary for a fulfilling career in Christianity . . . wolves, from within and from without, teach, preach, and prophesy whatever the market will bear, to produce their objectives.
- b. They roam freely, unchecked, and do much damage.
- c. Consider . . . : Acts 20:29-30; II Pet. 3:15-17

6. **Pulpit Promotionals – Shearing the Sheep** Project-plugging performances (*Tonite Show* style) are scheduled throughout the churches . . . not for the edification of the flocks, but for blatant promotion and fund-raising.

7. **Getting the Word Out ‘For a Cut of the Take’ – New Meaning Given to “Living of the Gospel”** Many merchandise Christ’s free Gospel, and even compete in the arena of the Gospel’s merchandise.

- a. ‘Love gifts’ in exchange for *free* ‘Jesus junk,’ royalties, and profits, if not the real ‘bottom line’ in making the ministry available, play an important role.
- 1) “How marketable is it?” Salability, and not true spiritual merit, is the underlying determining factor of most things that are marketed.

2) How profitable is it? “Can it generate enough remuneration to carry more than its own weight?”

b. ‘State of the art’ marketing and fund-raising techniques maximize appeal to many Christian consumer groups . . . appealing to vast audiences, and . . . positioning their image to as ‘middle of the road’ as possible, within their targeted market.

c. They include:

- Special *Balaam Edition* Bible and Scripture portions.
- Multiplied versions and editions of the Bible by profiteering publishers.
- Christian books.
- Christian magazines.
- Christian bookstores.
- Christian television networks and stations.
- Christian radio station and programming.
- Christian concerts.
- Christian Holy Land and Asia Minor tours.
- Christian vacation and recreation facilities.
- Christian videos.
- Christian artists’ CDs and cassettes.
- Christian Christmas catalogues and gifts.
- Even Christian worship choruses for overheads.
- Etc., etc.

8. **From ‘Den of Thieves’ to ‘Gospel Cartel’** The original incarnation of the Temple Merchants of Sacrifice of Christ’s day has now grown to a vast cartel serving multifaceted markets, and turning healthy profits by marketing derivatives of Christ’s free Gift. They ignore His guidelines, “Freely you have received; freely give.”

9. **Fleece Dealers – False Pastors Are Beholden to Their Flocks for Their Wool** Their covetousness, their economic insecurities, and their fear of man, rule many

shepherds instead of the Fear of the Lord and faith in Him, instilling them with a well developed sense of self-preservation.

- a. They must cater to their fickle flocks (many of them being goats in sheep's clothing), to not alienate them, discourage their wool output, or be disposed by them.
- b. Lest they lose any adherents, their message cannot be too concentrated with the pure *pasture grass* of the Word.
  - 1) Many of the flock have a preference for hallucinatory weeds over true pasture grasses.
  - 2) To encourage grazing under their pastoral oversight, the shepherds 'enrich' or alternate the *pasture grass* with verdant hallucinogenic supplements and tasty junk food.
    - a) Then, antidotes must be administered, to offset the side-effects of the non-foods the flock is grazing on.
    - b) And so the vicious cycle is created, alternating between feeding the flock what it craves, and the antidote of good grass needed to calm the adverse reactions.
  - 3) Should it be given normal and regular 'feedings' on the 'true grass' of the Word, the flock would feed more nauseous than it is accustomed to, and raise quite a bleating.
- c. The Dealers-in-Fleece cowardice is also exhibited at times in dealing with the 'wolves in sheep's clothing' that circulate among the flock...

- Notwithstanding or combating them, but letting them wreak the damage they are inclined to.

## E. PROPHECY SOPHISTRY

### - THE HANANIAH COMPANY

[Sophistry – Unsound or misleading but clever, plausible, and subtle argument or reasoning. Webster's New World Dictionary]

1. NEGLECTING CHRIST'S WARNING. The False Prophets are heralded and followed by multitudes for their gifting and 'positive ministry...

- Not for their fruit.

2. PLUGGED INTO THE WRONG SOURCE. They make use of their wit, their intuitive faculties, and their spirits of divination to gain a following, leading the multitudes astray from being 'IN CHRIST.'

3. WITHSTANDING GOD'S TRUE PROPHETIC WORD. Just as Hananiah, "the son of Azur the prophet, which was of Gibeon," spoke in the Temple prophetic utterances directly contrary to what God's word was through Jeremiah...

- Assuring the priesthood and the people that the Babylonian Captivity would soon be broken off, as a yoke would be, and that the sacred vessels and those taken captive would be shortly returned from Babylon...

Causing the people to "trust in a lie" ...

- So today's *Hananiah Company* speaks soothing words, devoid of truth, to the people...

- "That they are free, victorious, with nothing to worry about *regarding Judgment or Captivity*, and,

- "That they are either now in Revival, or soon will be."...

And the people believe it.

- (Consider Jer. 28.)

4. SOOTHING RELIEF FOR ITCHING EARS. Ministers with real anointing and supernatural gifting, but of demonic inspiration, preach, teach, and prophesy...

- "Peace, peace," when there is to be none.

- Also, "Blessing, blessing," "Success, success," "Prosperity, prosperity," "Victory, victory," "Growth, growth," and even, "Revival, revival."

5. PROPHETICALLY CORRECT. Many of today's prophets subscribe to the *Religious Correctness* of not saying anything too negative.

- Their message is almost never, "Sin, sin," "Judgment, judgment," "Repent, repent," or even "Jesus, Jesus!"

a. Sins, ('Christian') sinners, and their corrupt heart are not challenged or exhorted.

b. They "raise up their adobe walls covering them with untempered mortar," when, in fact, the Lord does not want them raised, and will send His judgments to level them.

c. Their message discourages the righteous, while ‘affirming’ those bound in carnality’s grasp, “promising them life.”

- Consider Ezek. 13.

6. HAMPERED. Some prophets operate with true gifts of the Holy Ghost, but without opening themselves up to hear the ‘whole counsel of God,’ or to give it.

a. Jesus, Who is the overseeing Spirit of the prophets, is not revealed through them.

b. “The Spirit that is subject to the spirit of the prophet” (the source of anointing) will not utter things that are divergent from the personal convictions of the instrument, and so cannot deal with His people’s sins.

c. Even when the prophets are out of the Lord’s will, or do not really know Him, the gifts will operate.

d. Because of not being truly in tune with the heart-purposes of God, their authentic gifts can be misunderstood.

e. Their ministry produces no spiritual growth into the likeness of Jesus.

f. Their disobedience eventually opens them up to a deceiving spirit of divination (the demons responsible for false prophecies, visions, etc.) purporting to be the Holy Spirit.

- Consider Num. 22:12-22; Josh. 13:22.

#### E. THE SHOWMEN OF CHRISTIAN BOX OFFICE EXTRAVAGANZAS.

False Evangelists and Artists packaged image and gifts assure them the greatest following possible.

1. SELF-ADULATION. Adept at today’s promotional techniques, the best showmen attract the most followers.

a. They are billed as...

- God’s chosen

- Empowered to give anointed recitation of Scripture portions, accounts and truths.

- Accompanied by their amazing gifts.

- Producing thrilling testimonials.
- Attested to by thousands in each city around the nation.
- “Come and be blessed (and bring your wallet!!)”

b. Their gifts, eloquence, wit, and publicity draw the multitudes...

- But the Spirit’s Conviction of Sin stays away.

2. TOMORROW’S HAS-BEENS.’ Their popularity is short-lived.

- Yesterday’s superstar conference speakers today are broken and in oblivion.

3. UNSKILLED IN SPIRITUAL AGRICULTURE

- PREMATURE HARVESTING. The heart of most of those drawn to the evangelistic campaigns has not been prepared for true repentance, full self-denial total obedience, or a life filled with the HOLY Spirit.

a. They are only prepared for healings, ‘words,’ and an easygoing ‘salvation’ experience.

b. Without an adequate preparation-of-heart of the masses ministered to, Today’s One-Man Combines churn up green field after green field.

4. FALSE EVANGELISTIC MESSAGE. Sin is not seriously addressed as a whole, in presenting Christ to be believed in...

- Sinfulness
- Sins explicitly described and condemned, and
- Their consequences...
- Are not elaborated on...

- Lest the potential converts become uncomfortable or offended, and reject the call.

- “Just believe, just ask a quick blanket forgiveness of all your sins, just repeat the sinner’s prayer after me, and “Presto! You become a child of God.”

In so doing, he remains a child of Hell, only now more greatly deceived.

5, AS IT WAS IN CHRIST'S DAY. It is the evil and adulterous generations that pursue signs, wonders, healings, miracles, multiplied bread and fish, resurrections...

- And now Christian celebrities and artists.

6. Consider ...: Mt. 12:39, 16:4; Jn. 12:9-18; Jas. 4:2-4

### G. THE WORD-BENDERS.

Tapping a growing Christian market, scholars and publishers tamper with the Holy Writ.

1. TONGUE TWISTERS. In many of this century's Bible translations, more care is given to make the Scriptures more palatable and understandable to the Christian and non-Christian public...

- Whose level of literacy and comprehension is plummeting in concert with the rest of Western society...?

- Than for integrity and accuracy.

a. Poetic, or literary, license is indulged in, making the translations inaccurate and spiritually unreliable.

b. the most accurate manuscripts are not closely adhered to. Others have a broader appeal.

c. God will not honor His people's belief in translation inaccuracies...

- As He is only obligated to the Word that came forth from His mouth...

- Nor will He give faith to believe what He never had said nor meant in the first place, but that somehow found itself within the covers of a book marketed as "The Bible."

2. USER-FRIENDLY. In using the recommending Bible Translations, indiscriminating ministers consider 'user-friendliness' more important than 'author-authenticated'...

- As do indiscriminating believers.

3. AUTHOR-FRIENDLY. Contemporising the Biblical contents, the O.T. and N.T. prohibitions of adding to or taking from the words of the inspired Holy Writ are disregarded.

a. The consent to such by the indiscriminating ministry and believers endangers them to the same consequences their perpetrators are sentenced to.

b. “Some men’s sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after? 1 Tim. 5:24

c. Consider Dt. 4:2; Pr. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19

## V. APOSTATE MINISTRIES DOUBLY CURSED!

### - SEVERE PENALTIES FOR TAMPERING WITH THE GOSPEL’S STANDARDS.

#### A. PAUL’S TWO-FOLD ANATHEMA

“But there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ, but though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” (Gal. 1:7b-9)

#### B. HUSHED REALITIES

### - THE EVIDENCES OF JUDGMENT ARE THERE TO BE SEEN BY THOSE WITH A DISCERNING EYE AND A SPIRITUAL VALUE SYSTEM.

1. UNMASKING. Peering behind the veneer of ‘success’ and ‘anointing’ hints of the ravages of Paul’s twofold anathema can be seen in the ministries (and their churches)

2. BY THEIR FRUITS - Any objective analysis, random or systematic, of churches and ministries.

- which brings to light their daily ‘behind the scenes’ realities in such areas as

a. the intemperate personality, attitude, and mood aberrations of the church leaders and ministries...

- and their effect on their co-laborers

b. the nature and intensity of their secret compulsions...

- and their indulgence therein;

c. the nature, frequency, and intensity of the crises their churches and ministries have passed through in the last few months, and ...

d. the level of true spirituality (or lack thereof) of the ministry and church staff...

- Could well confirm that, in fact, God has withdrawn His presence, blessing, grace, and protection from Today's Church, and abandoned it to the Enemy's destructive fury.

(Note: Those who practice poll-taking and surveys would expose a veritable 'can of worms,' were they to practise objective and penetrating research regarding the above Hushed Realities.)

### C. SOWING AND REAPING

God has done the same with the Evangelical Religion of Today's Apostate Christianity as He did with His previous peoples that became adulterous.

- He has consigned them to a spiritual captivity under Babylon's deception and tyranny.

## VI. TO THE CAPTIVE CHRISTIAN NATION – "CAPTIVITY IS NOT MEANT TO BE FOREVER"

### A. CAPTIVITY'S BEGINNINGS

The road toward captivity for God's Chosen People began by their breaking the First and the Second Commandments and making room for other gods (while not yet blatantly rejecting God) . . .

- In their hearts;
  - Then, in their homes;
  - Later, on their high places;
  - And finally . . .
  - In their very Temple.
  - As a result, God could not remain among them. (II Cor. 6:14-18!!)
1. TWO MASTERS It is the (attempted) 'serving of two Masters' that sets in motion the chain of events that eventually leads to the most deceptive and deplorable forms of captivity. Serving God, *and* whatever or whoever else, to Him, is idolatry.
  2. THE LAW & THE PROPHETS The most that could be done for such a people was a stop-gap measure of powerless Mosaic ceremonial legalism and an ongoing, but ineffectual, follow-up by His watchmen, the prophets.

### B. THE TEN COMMANDMENTS' FIRST CURSE

Generational curses that affect even innocent family members and their posterity are set in motion by “having other gods before Him.”

1. **THE SELF-PERPETUATING CURSE** Each generation’s curse, active for three or four successive generations, compounding with that of its descendants, make a self-perpetuating family curse that reaches down through history and can only be broken by Christ.
2. **BONDAGE TO DEMONIC FORCES** What is a curse, but being given over as a captive to the Enemy and his control?
3. **SERVING THE OTHER MASTER** Israel’s punishment was to be given over to the promulgators of idolatry, the descendants of the Babel Tower builders.
4. Consider . . . : Ex. 20:3-5; Lk. 16:13; Rom. 6:16; Col. 3:5

C. AFTER THE SENTENCES EXPIRATION – THEN & NOW

In their call to abandon the land of their captivity, a parallel can be seen between the Israelites who had been consigned to the disciplinary judgments of Babylonian captivity, and the Christian peoples under the reign of *Mystery Babylon’s Religiosity*.

1. “COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE” – ANCIENT ISRAEL’S CALL TO RESTORATION

- a. After the determined period of Babylonian captivity was completed, the Lord’s call to those under their captor’s reign was to, “come out from among them.”
- b. Invited to participate in the re-activation of His purposes after the disciplinary disruption, they were to abandon Babylon, return to Jerusalem, and rebuild the ancient ruins.
- c. In so doing, they would avert the devastating judgments to be poured out on Babylon.
- d. His call to them was not to ‘convert’ her, nor to call down God’s blessings on her. No promises of reforming, blessing, or ‘reviving’ Babylon were given.

2. PREFERRING CAPTIVITY – ANCIENT ISRAEL’S RESPONSE TO HER CALL TO RESTORATION . . .

- a. Only a few complied with the call to leave Babylon and return to Jerusalem to rebuild her walls and temple.
- b. The vast remainder chose to remain in Babylon . . .
  - Knowing not the earlier way of life;

- Indisposed to relinquish their lifelong attainments in Babylon;
  - Not desiring to be inconvenienced by leaving behind their hard-earned acquisitions, business relationships, dear friendships, or, family;
  - Unwilling to pioneer against overwhelming odds . . .
  - Nor believing the prophecies or the promises.
- c. Similarly, virtually all the Israelites born in Egyptian captivity resisted leaving the land of their captivity and repeatedly considered returning.
- All but two died in the desert, without inheriting the promise, having fallen prey to a variety of sins and rebellion.

3. MANY ARE CALLED – FEW ARE CHOSEN As it was with the Israelites born in Babylonian captivity, so it is today . . .

- Though many hear the call to, “Come out,” only a few respond.
- Consider . . . : Jer. 50:8; 51:6, 45; II Cor. 6:17; Rev. 18:4

4. THE PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT - What occurred prior to the 1920’s in reference to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Pentecostal Outpouring . . .

- That might have generated the sentence extension of an additional 70 years more of captivity that Christianity has been under?
- (There was a concerted effort on the part of God’s Spirit to bring Christianity out of bondage through that ‘Visitation.’)
- Why are so few hearing Today the call to “come out”?

#### D. THE REMNANT – LANGUISHING & NOWHERE TO TURN

Within the Captive Christian Nation is a Remnant that has not fully succumbed to the Babylonian Curse.

1. A survey of the more spiritually inclined, the spiritually-minded, and the spiritually hungry of churches everywhere will reveal . . .
  - a. Their painful disillusionment and discontentment with their local church to aid them in their spiritual aspirations, and . . .

- b. Their overwhelming sense of hopelessness of ever finding a church somewhere in their area that can do so.
2. The great void felt by this dejected Remnant most clearly confirms that the Holy Spirit is no longer present in Today's Church to meet their deeper spiritual longings . . .
    - Though the others' 'needs' are being addressed on levels in which His involvement is not critical.
  3. Most of the Remnant sighs at the plight of their ministers and their beloved brothers and sisters, and at that of their church.
  4. A number of them maintain a strong, vital prayer life, interceding for their brethren around them.
  5. With some, their sense of loyalty obligates them to remain.
  6. Other will heed the call to "come out from among her" and return 'home' to help "rebuild the ancient ruins."
  7. Consider . . . : Ezek. 9:1-4-6

E. GOD'S CHOICEST TARGETED BY MISS BABYLON

*Babylonian Christianity* can always use a good Man or Woman of God who is totally 'sold out.'

1. RECRUITING FOR CREDIBILITY – THE ENTICEMENT OF THE CHASTE  
 The presence of true Men and Women of God among the Babylonian Roman ministries and enterprise lends credence to them. "For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and *the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.*" (Prov. 6:26)
  - a. *Miss Babylon* makes persistent efforts to lure and recruit those with spiritual integrity, sold Biblical convictions, true anointing, spiritual wisdom, talent, managerial skills, and other qualities, for various reasons.
  - b. She offers them security, recognition, and approval, many opportunities, benefits, and privileges . . .
    - Though she never places them as C.E.O.'s . . .
    - As they would do 'hatchet jobs' on that which she is endeared to.
  - c. Her attractiveness and her insistence mark some of the greatest dangers to the downfall of the true Man or Woman of God.

- It happened to Solomon. Though he had received two visions of the Lord, and the wisdom and inspiration to pen Proverbs, Solomon's disobedience to the repeated warnings of avoiding the snares tended by alluring 'strange women' turned his heart away from the Lord.
  - Their influence later used him to strengthen Babylon's grip over Israel, and accelerate the downward spiral of God's people, towards the Bottomless Pit.
- d. The lust and physical adultery, that ministry everywhere falls prey to, is but symptomatic of the Spiritual Adultery indulged in.
  - e. *Spiritual* and ministerial adultery are perhaps the greatest and most persistent dangers that the true Man or Woman of God must overcome.
2. SPIRITUAL CHASTITY To retain their 'Nazarite Vow,' the Men/Women of God must discern and resist *Babylonian Christianity's* enticements, and not capitulate to her overtures.
- a. They must retain their purity of dedication to the Lord and to the vision for His work He once gave them . . . without being overwhelmed by the magnitude of the defection to the Seductress' enticements.
  - b. They must 'hold out' for the fulfillment of their heart's vision . . . waiting and believing, as Abraham did, for its fulfillment. Waiting for God to join them with others of like heart and mind.
3. Consider . . . : 1 Kings 3:3-15; 9:2-9; 11:1-11; Prov. 2:12-19; 5; 6: 23-35; 7:6-27; 9:13-18.

## VII. A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT – SUMMING IT UP

### A. ILLCIT RELATIONSHIPS

1. God's people call it . . .
  - Love, unity, brotherhood.
  - Not judging, not rejecting, and being open-minded, tolerant.
  - Being affirming, sensitive, inoffensive.
  - Breaking down barriers; coming together on what they agree on.
  - Using what works; appealing to the masses.
  - Getting the Word out; drawing the net in.

- Endorsement of the Word by the world's celebrities, authorities, and sciences.
- Getting their share of "the wealth of the wicked" to build up the kingdom of the righteous.
- Omitting the more disagreeable and offensive parts of the message to gain a greater hearing and following. (Reasoning, "They can read and find out for themselves what they were not told. After all, it's there in the Word.")
- Eating the meat and spitting out the bones;
- Taking the good and leaving out the bad. (Reasoning, "if it is the Word it must be O.K.")
- Having good fun. Taking some much-needed R&R.
- Etc., etc.

## 2. God calls it . . .

- Friendship with the world.
- Adultery.
- Whoredoms.
- Believers being unequally yoked with unbelievers.
- Righteousness having fellowship with unrighteousness.
- Light having communion with darkness.
- Christ having concord with Belial.
- He that believes having part with an infidel.
- The temple of God having agreement with idols.
- His people being among them: not being separate.
- His people touching the unclean thing.
- Consider . . . : James 4:4; II Cor. 6:14-17; Num. 14:33; Deut. 31:16; Jer. 2 – 11; Ezek. 16; 23; Hos. 1 – 5.

## B. REHEARSING TO DECEIVE GOD'S VERY ELECT

Satan has effectively undermined God's original designs in each of His 'fresh starts' down through history (though God always has the last Word).

1. **LIKE DOMINOES IN SLOW MOTION – HISTORY REPEATED** - The descendants of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, David, and even Pentecost all fell prey to Satan's strategies, eventually compelling God to abandon His chosen people. He has successfully tempted, deceived, and seduced them with alternative sources of fulfillment, many of them religious in nature.
2. **VANQUISHED AGAIN – WITH THE ANTI-CHRIST AT THE DOOR** And now Protestantism, including its more recent Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Charismatic persuasions, is fallen also. Surely, the Contemporary Church is not the glorious Sun-Clothed Woman, whose glory and strength held the 7 Headed Scarlet Dragon at bay while pregnant with the Man-child!!
3. **A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT** - Satan truly has deceived the whole world!! (Rev. 12:9) And almost the whole Church!!

## C. DRINKING WHOREDOME'S DREGS – GOD'S BILL OF DIVORCEMENT TO HIS ADULTEROUS PEOPLE

1. **MAN-MADE & MAN-DEPENDENT** Today's Christianity is mostly a Bible-based, but man-made Religion, significantly dependent on human expertise and effort for its survival and perpetuation. It is without the active supernatural participation of the Head of the True Church, Jesus Christ, and is deprived of the energizing dynamic of the Holy Spirit that brings Christ's life and nature to full Body manifestation.
2. **SPIRITUAL MONOGAMY OUTMODED** As many times previously, God's people have not been careful to walk in strict monogamous faithfulness. They have fallen prey to many expressions of whoredoms . . . presuming on His mercies and grace.
3. **SOWING & REAPING – IN SPIRIT AND IN FLESH** The prevalent moral scandals and the inordinate divorce rate in the ministry and in the pew . . . and everybody's acquiescence to them . . . are but symptomatic of the Church's spiritual adultery and God's consequent estrangement from His people. The divorce rate condoned in and by the ministry is a grievous symptom of prevalent Apostate adultery and values.
4. **DIVORCED BY GOD** Indeed, general Christendom today (Evangelicals, Pentecostals, and Charismatics included) are . . .

- Spiritually backslidden,

- Apostate, and reprobate, and . . .
  - Given over to the spiritual captivity of the Enemy's deceiving, oppressing, and destructive hordes;
  - Today's Christians are seemingly ignorant of their plight and unable to resist their downward plunge.
5. **THIRD WORLD STANDARDS** Those once entitled to the privileges of Third Heaven citizenship and the benefits of the Third Heaven 'standard of living' generally live no better spiritually than those of the Third World social and economic order. Those of the Third World community generally know they are poor, miserable, and naked . . . the Laodiceans do not.

#### D. CONFRONTING AND ADMITTING REALITY

Discovering and coming to grips with the reality of having been born into a Babylonian captivity that was not meant to be is most disagreeable indeed. But it is essential . . . if we are to save our souls, *receive Him into our midst*, and . . . partake of the *Promised Land's* bounties.

E. SKELETON VALLEY Will the vast graveyard of Christendom's "dry bones" come to life once again?

1. Are the principles contained in Ezekiel's prophecy regarding Israel's Bone Yard applicable to Christianity's Tombstone City? Perhaps so. Certainly we can have anything (within the scope of His permissive will) we ask for.
2. However, if the Resurrection is to occur, it will not be to a reconstituted body of mortal *Religiosity* and Christian carnality. As with Israel, who will only be spiritually resurrected when she *receives Christ* and steps *INTO Christ* according to the N.T. Gospel.
3. Christendom's rising from the dead can only occur to the degree that she experientially takes her place *IN Christ*.

#### E. THE ELIJAH COMPANY – THOSE WHO STAND BEFORE THE LORD WITH HIS ZEAL IN THEIR HEARTS

1. Only those of the 'Elijah Company' caliber . . . those that bear the same Spirit passed onto John the Baptist. Along with the Remnant-7,000 . . . can call down the Holy Spirit's fire from Heaven . . .
  - a. Upon presenting Him the sacrifice according to His Word.
  - b. Challenging Baal's followers to a life-and-religion-changing decision.

2. **LIKE MT. CARMEL'S UNSUCCESSFUL PROPHETS OF BAAL – HUMPTY DUMPTY** All of Babylonian Christianity's combined best doctrines, efforts and ministry, in varying sequences and concentrations, adapted to the endless

ecclesiastical and doctrinal configurations of Christendom can never restore Christianity to its original condition, or 'bring down the fire.' Among them are:

- Divine order and N.T. church government.
- Networking and city-wide churches.
- Submission and 'coverings.'
- National conferences and local lock-ins.
- Prophetic input and apostolic office.
- 5-fold ministry and manifest sons of God.
- New superstar ministries with a 'fresh' Word and old superstars repackaged.
- Body-ministry and Holy Spirit gifts.
- Spiritual warfare and intercession.
- Christian psychology and healing of the memories.
- Worship teams and choreographed dancing.
- Liturgy and vestments.
- Super faith and kingdom dominion.
- Prosperity and health.
- Evangelism and outreach ministries.
- Membership classes and ministry training courses.
- Programs and fund-raising.
- Home discipleship groups and church growth principles.
- Missions support and missionary outreach.
- Cutting-edge doctrines and revelation knowledge.
- Types-&-shadows and end-time truth.
- *Institutionalization* and business management principles.

- *Ad infinitum.*

### 3. CHRIST'S ASIAN PROMISES NOT FOR EVERYBODY

Christ's promises articulated to Asia's Seven Churches were given *only* to the Overcomers. Not to the non-overcomers.

4. Those of the 'Elijah Company' caliber include others, among which are the 'Moses Company' and the 'David Company' . . . To whom was revealed the Heavenly Tabernacle/Temple they replicated on earth among God's people, into which His Shekinah Glory descended. Consider . . . : I Kings 18; Ex. 24:13-25; 9; I Chr. 28:19-20

### G. ANNULLING THE WRIT OF DIVORCE

Only a 'full-blown' true 'Revival' can restore His people to their calling and standing in Christ Jesus. However, they must first 'flee Babylon'!!

***PART III: UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF TRUE 'REVIVAL' – Rending the Heavens, He Comes Down to Dwell in His People.***

[Note: Though fewer pages are dedicated to PART III & IV, this is the most important of the three. The Scriptures listed under headings "B," and "C," in particular, contain the essence of the 'Revival' that awaits us.]

### I. GREAT EXPECTATIONS

A. UNLIKE ANYTHING ENVISIONED – "HIS WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS."

1. REMOVING POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS His *SUPREME PURPOSE* is not that of manifesting 'Revival's' Secondary Effects, sought after by *Babylonian Christianity*, some of which are:
  - a. Intense conviction of sin over a community of people.
  - b. Healings, miracles, and deliverance from demonic bondage.
  - c. The manifestation of other supernatural wonders and spiritual gifts.
  - d. The kingdom of the enemy overthrown regionally, deposing key Principalities and Powers, and stripping their high priests (and priestesses) of their power, bringing some of them to Christ.
  - e. The conversion of the multitudes.
  - f. The closing down of centers of vice and worldly amusements.
  - g. The vacating of the jails and hospitals.
  - h. The return of a strong healthy moral climate to society, business, and government.
  - i. A rapid and significant proliferation of churches and local body membership.
  - j. The averting of national judgments.
  - k. The removal of the reproach given to His Name by His backslidden people.
  - l. Glorifying Himself.

2. REMOVING FALSE HOPES. Nor is His *SUPREME PURPOSE* in bringing 'Revival' that of refurbishing, revitalizing, and blessing her spiritually obsolete or reprobate church structures, traditions, and methodology. He will not clothe with Himself that which is clothed with a 'Babylonish garment.'

B. HAVING "TAKEN AWAY THE FORMER."

He will take away that which is traditional, long established, corrupted, and obsolete from along those who unreservedly seek 'Revival,' to replace it with something of infinitely greater value and power.

- a. "THAT WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN." He will do something quite different and unexpected (from the contemporary perspective), as alluded to in the following principle: ". . . He taketh away the first that he may establish the second." (Heb. 10:8-9)
  - a. He will *rend the heavens, come down*, and bring unimagined blessing. (Isa. 64:1-4; I Cor. 2:9)
  - b. He will do a New Thing. (Isa. 43:19)
  - c. He will make New Wineskins for New Wine. (Mt. 9:16-17)
  - d. He will restore to His Little Flock the purity, power, and love of the Early Church, adding a far-surpassing glory. Consider . . . : Hag. 2:9; Gal. 4:24-31 (taken from Isa. 54)

2. A PEOPLE AFTER HIS HEART The Lord's 'Visitation' will come to a people who corporately seek to fully align their lives to the Lord's Word and Will . . .

- a. Not to those who remain in Laodicean lukewarmness, with many deceptions, contaminants, and abominations . . . too corrupted spiritually to want to pay the cost necessary.
- b. In it, He will use a few of the surviving Remnant from among those He must abandon . . . those who "came out" (in which no restricting attachments to the Old Order remain) . . .
- c. He will seek out another people or generation (mostly un-churched) whose heart will fully turn to Him.

3. REBUILDING THE ANCIENT RUINS There will be great changes that will make the 'New Church' unrecognizable when compared with even the best for Contemporary Christianity's churches.

- a. Those who seek 'Revival' in earnest will relinquish even the best and most cherished of the contemporary, earthly expressions of Christianity.
  - 1) All of their attachments to *Religiosity* in all her manifestations will be repudiated from among them. (Phil. 3:4-10)

- 2) They will become so pliable in His hands that any new arrangements or fundamental changes brought by the Lord will be thoughtfully considered and readily obeyed.
- b. Some of those fundamental changes will be seen in . . .
- 1) The role given to the Holy Spirit and to Jesus Christ in the meetings, the work, and the ministry.
  - 2) The spiritual life of those who exercise ministry and leadership.
  - 3) The focus of the work and ministry.
  - 4) The role of the ministers and ministries in the meetings and in the work.
  - 5) The structure of the local churches.
  - 6) The format of meetings and activities in the local church setting.
  - 7) The spiritual life of the church body.
  - 8) The requirements for church membership and for meeting attendance.
  - 9) The understanding and use of the Scriptures and the Gospel message.
  - 10) The music, praise, and worship.
  - 11) The physical structures and equipment used to facilitate gatherings.
  - 12) The role of finances.
  - 13) The visibility of those gifted with natural talents.
  - 14) Etc., etc.
4. INCLUDED IN THE 'AGREEMENT.' Though not His "*SUPREME PURPOSE*" for sending 'Revival', the aforementioned Secondary Effects will readily occur (as prayer for them is offered).
5. CAST ON THE LORD Just as there are no precedents for living in the unique setting of the Last Days. In terms of the extensiveness and the depth of depravity, delusions, dangers, judgments, and persecutions that are coming upon His people. So there are none for being part of the Last Days' overcoming Bride and Last Days' overcoming Man-child.

- a. History and Scriptures convey certain impressions to us, but are quite inadequate in communicating the future realities.
- b. Only Jesus Christ Himself, *dwelling in the midst of His own*, can lead His people into them.

## II. INCOMPREHENSIBLE

*The Lord's SUPREME PURPOSE in sending 'Revival' is to Come Himself to DWELL among those that are His in a Fullness which, as of yet, we have not comprehended.*

[NOTE: As the following points (under Roman Numeral "II," heading) seek to define true 'Revival' in its highest expression, the reader is encouraged to give studious and prayerful attention to principles contained in EACH of the following Scriptures, asking the Lord with great insistence and faith, "that a spirit of wisdom and revelation' be given him to open his eyes more, and to instill the faith necessary for the pursuit of becoming *His Dwelling Place*..]

### A. RENT HEAVENS

*'Renting the heavens,'* the Lord will come down from His throne in Heaven to a given geographical region. (Isa. 64:1-4) What *'Rent heavens'* might imply:

1. SATAN'S DOMAIN The Enemy rules mankind from the 'heavenlies' or 'heavenly places,' . . . The invisible spiritual dimension filled with Satan's rulers and minions - superimposed over the earth's physical heavens.

- a. He rules through . . .
  - An elaborate hierarchy of fallen angels and demons ('Principalities', 'Powers', 'Hosts of Wickedness', etc.), and . . .
  - Their occult counterparts . . .
  - The high priests and priestesses of the 'deities' (and their secretive practices designed to control and manipulate mankind and his affairs)
  - As represented by *Mystery Babylon* of Rev. 17.
- b. His legal/spiritual right to rule regionally was established by the previous generations' sins, affirmed by their occult practitioners and representatives through certain epochal ceremonies, sacrifices and pacts, and ratified generationally by the self-perpetuating curses and sins.
- c. The deceptions and sins which are caused to prevail among God's people are the means by which Satan establishes His regional corrupting influences and governing control over vast sectors of Today's Church. Now greatly neutralized,

- his potential enemy, the Church, can no longer effectively thwart his designs for total world rule. (So he thinks!)
- d. Their comprehensive dominion offers persistent and effective hindrances to God's kingdom and related angelic activity. (Dan. 10)
2. 'REVIVAL' OVERTHROW Led by Jesus Christ, Heaven's armies will topple the Enemy's regional kingdom headquarters and dominance.
    - a. Christ's legal victory, obtained on the cross, will be specifically applied to, and enforced in, the given geographic area . . . because of some of its people having fulfilled certain conditions.
    - b. Certain key angelic 'Authorities' will be bound and/or deposed and their human counter-parts will become powerless.
    - c. Babylon's rule over those truly seeking Him for 'Revival' will be broken to the degree that she and her ways are repudiated by God's people regionally. Her deceptions will be exposed. Her chains of oppression will be broken.
    - d. To the degree that His people comply with His conditions, God's angelic garrisons will then fill the created 'power vacuum', 'secure' the region, and perpetuate His governmental control.
  3. ESTABLISHING THE BEACHHEAD '*Rent heavens*' occurs to the cleansed unified people, who knowingly, persistently, and full of faith, pray daily . . . "Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Mt. 6:9-10)

[NOTE: For further elaboration, please refer to PART IV.]

4. HEAVEN'S INVASION The Kind and Commander, Jesus Christ Himself, will come down through the *Rent heavens* to the 'Revival' region, to continue the counter-insurgent operation *in the hearts of mankind* . . .
  - a. Accompanied by the focused working of the Omnipresent Holy Spirit in conviction of Sin and in revealing Jesus Christ to sinner and redeemed alike . . .
  - b. In concert with the prayers of the redeemed.
  - c. Seeking to set up His kingdom there.
  - d. Removing sin and rebellion . . . by the Gospel's grace or by judgment, depending on the given responses.
  - e. Bringing into the lives of the converts the combined provision of . . .
    - (Water/faith) Baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, and . . .
    - The Holy Spirit's Sanctification/Baptism . . .

- Replacing the fallen Adamic carnal nature (through which Satan manipulates and rules mankind) with the Life and nature of Christ Jesus . . .
- 1) Thereby breaking off the Enemy's immediate access to, and control of, his ex-subjects.
  - 2) Bringing them under the full control of His own kingdom through the Spirit's lordship.
  - 3) Without the true Sanctification experience, obtained by the exercise of a robust faith, the undealt-with aspects of their carnality will reassert themselves. By those carnal aspects, in most cases, the Enemy eventually regains some or most of His forfeited avenues of access and influence. The (spiritually) uncircumcised Christians will eventually succumb to the Enemy's overtures, and bring upon themselves the pall of spiritual death, declension, and perhaps apostasy.
  - 4) Consider . . . : Eph. 2:1-5; Rom. 6-7-8; I Cor. 2:7-8)
- f. Spiritual warfare against the 'Principalities' and 'Powers' of geographic regions, without '*Rent heavens*,' in many cases could result in a state 7 (or 8) times worse. Consider . . . : Mt. 12: 43-45
- g. It is *His coming to DWELL amongst His people* that will accelerate the events that will lead up to the end of this Age of Babylon's rule.

[NOTE: For further elaboration, please refer to PART IV, Roman Numeral "III" (LIVELY STONES: *Praying in the Context of a Group for Him to Establish His Dwelling Place*), heading "B" and "C".]

## B. A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

*Rending the heavens*, He will come to DWELL corporately in His people.

1. His O.T. *Dwelling Places* of the Tabernacles and the Temple were but a shadow and a foretaste of His purpose to DWELL in and among His people through the provisions of Christ's grace and the Full Gospel. Consider . . . : Ex. 15:7; 25:8-9; 29:42-46; Dt. 12:1-5-11; Num. 35:34; 5:2-4; 9:15-17-23; Ex. 40:31-38; II Cr. 7:1-3; Ps. 132:13-14.
2. *He Himself will come in Person*. Consider . . . : Zech. 2:7, 10-11; 2 Cor. 6:16b; Hos. 2:19-20; Isa. 54:4-5, 7.
3. He will make of His people His Tabernacle/Temple, *His Dwelling Place*. Consider . . . : Mal. 3:1-5; Isa. 4:2-5-6; Ezek. 37:26-28; Eph. 2:20-22.

4. He will fully establish them in the relationship of God/His People. Consider . . . : Ezek. 11:18-20. A study of the contexts of the numerous passages where this singular relationship is referred to is quite interesting.
5. He will fully be to them *Emmanuel* – ‘God With Us’. Consider . . . : t. 1:23; Isa. 7:14.
6. He will bring them into the fullness of His ‘Mystery’ – “Christ in us”. Consider . . . : Col. 1:25-27; Eph. 3:3-8; Col. 2:2-3.
7. The *initial* N.T. fulfillment of *His coming to DWELL* in His people occurred Pentecost. Consider . . . : Acts 2:1-4; 17-18, 38-39, 41-44.

**C. NOT JUST IN GESTATION – FULLY BORN AGAIN AS A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST**

Upon His coming to DWELL in His people corporately – simultaneously and subsequently – *He will come to DWELL individually* in His obedient children, bringing to them the fullness of heart-transformation, as expressed by the following biblical terms and passages.

1. The Promise of the Father. Consider . . . : Ezek. 36:25-27.
2. The gift/baptism/filling sealing of the Holy Spirit. Consider . . . : Mt. 3:11c; Acts 1:5; 2:38-39; Eph. 1:13-14.
3. The Comforter Spirit-of-Truth. Consider . . . : Jn. 14:15-23, 26; 16:7-10, 13-15; 15:1-10, 26.
4. Circumcision of the heart. Consider . . . : Dt. 30:6.
5. The Sanctification experience. Consider . . . : Heb. 10:9-10, 14; II Thes. 2:13; Jn. 17:17, 19, 21-23a; I Pet. 1:2; I Thes. 5:23; Rom. 15:16; I Cor. 6:11; Acts 15:8-9.
6. Jesus Christ’s *coming to dwell* in one’s heart. Consider . . . : Mal. 3:1-3, Isa. 33:10-17; Eph. 3:17.
7. “*Christ in me, I in Christ.*” Consider . . . : Jn. 14:15-18, 20-21, 23b; 17:20-23; Gal. 2:20.
8. “The love of God shed abroad in one’s heart.” Consider . . . : Rom. 5:5; Eph. 3:14-19.

9. Fully born again. Consider . . . : Jn. 3:5-8; I Jn. 2:-29; 3:1-3,9,10; 4:7-8; 5:1, 4; 2:16; 5:18; Gal. 4:4-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Heb. 2:11; Eph. 1:3-11; Gal 27b-28, 30-31.

#### D. ANANIAS AND SAPHIRA

There is an inevitable adverse consequence that accompanies the Lord's *rending the heavens and coming down to DWELL among His people* that must be clearly understood and prepared for.

1. "THUNDERS AND LIGHTNINGS, A THICK CLOUD, FIRE, AND THE SMOKE AS OF A FURNACE." Severe and irreversible judgments are unleashed . . .
  - a. On some of those, who, having a clear understanding of what the Lord requires of them, but harden their hearts in disobedience and rebellion, to willfully continue in their sins.
  - b. On certain staunch enemies of the 'Outpouring' who effectively impede others from drawing near and bring transformed – (especially as prayer is offered for the hindrances to be bound or removed).
  - c. Sudden dramatic deaths among the above-mentioned are not uncommon.
2. Consider . . . : Mal. 3:1-5; Ex. 32:33-34; 3; Isa. 64-65; Acts 5:1-11; Num. 20:8-13; Ezek. 9:3-6; I Pet. 4:17; II Cor. 10:5-6.

#### E. TRUE 'REVIVAL' & FALSE 'REVIVAL' – KNOWING THEM BY THEIR FRUITS

- Any 'Revival' that brings large numbers of people into the Church, or that excites the church-goers . . .
- But without effectively dealing with the sin in their hearts . . .
- Is a false 'Revival.'
- Any 'Revival' that does not bring a blazing Conviction of Sin over its people and cleanses them from their sins and carnality . . .
- Replacing these with Christ's nature, love, and holiness, through the Spirit's Baptism Sanctification . . .
- Is not a true 'Revival.'

*Part IV: SOME BLUEPRINTS WITH WHICH TO GET STARTED – Making Preparations to Become HIS DWELLING PLACE.*

I. UNINHABITABLE – GIVING DUE ATTENTION TO THE PRIMARY  
CONDITION HE REQUIRES OF HIS PEOPLE BEFORE HE COMES TO DWELL  
FULLY IN HIS PEOPLE AND GIVE THEM OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT

A. SIN’S SQUALOR

It is primarily accumulated sin in the hearts of His people, perpetuated by their sinful carnal condition that impedes *His coming* to establish *His Habitation* in the midst of His people.

1. SPIRITUAL SANITATION His people are disqualified from *receiving Him* in His Fullness until they unequivocally remove and correct ALL that He considers offensive – dealing thoroughly with . . .

- a. Outright sin.
- b. Disobedience.
- c. Partial obedience.
- d. Hidden and besetting sins.
- e. Carnality and selfishness.
- f. Religiosity.
- g. Unbelief at the gamut of His requirements and at the abundance of the promised provisions contained in His Word.
- h. Etc.
- i. Consider . . . : Dt. 23:12-14; 30:1-8

2. INEFFECTUAL REPETITIONS Their sins are not removed by . . .

- Their frequent recitations of ‘the Lord’s Prayer,’

- Their own trite prayers for forgiveness, devoid of true repentance, or by . . .

- Merely practicing contemporary Christianity’s 4 Basic Elements (referred to Page 4).

3. PURCHASING FREEDOM FROM BABYLON’S TYRANNY Our Laodicean Age is exhorted to “buy gold refined by fire, white raiment, and eye salve” from the Lord (or suffer the dire consequences). (Rev. 3:18)

- a. His people have not yet complied with the conditions He requires to be *His Habitation* . . . and need to discover in their own various contexts of life WHAT they are and HOW they apply.
- b. As the Revelation Churches were called upon to repent and correct their sins and condition (or else . . .!) . . .
- c. Likewise today, to have the stupor, slumber, blindness, and deafness removed that they might truly understand, be converted, and receive His Fullness from on high. His people, too, must repent individually and, especially, corporately.

## B. COMING CLEAN

His people are called on to eliminate and rectify everything that is offensive to Him.

### 1. BY A THOROUGH REPENTANCE

- Discontinuing the practice of ALL sins, large and small.

### 2. BY PRACTICING THE CONFESSION OF SIN (as prompted by the Holy Spirit).

- In private, to someone of some spiritual stature.
- In public, when the damage and offences made have been public in their effect.
- Because God gives grace to the humble.
- Because the Scriptures stipulate it.
- It is an aid in dying to 'self' each time.

### 3. BY DEALING WITH THE ROOT OF EACH SIN

- Not overlooking its first childhood or teenage occurrences that later became habitual.

### 4. BY REMOVING EVERY EXPRESSION OF UNFORGIVENESS from the heart's inner recesses including any sense of rejection of others due to . . .

- Festering wounds attributed to them.
- Resentments.
- Judgmental criticism of others.

- Disapproval of others, their personality, actions, idiosyncrasies, etc.

- Prejudice.
- Complaining, murmuring.
- Gossiping.
- Impatience.
- ANY other barriers sensed.

### 5. BY SEEKING REPARATION AND RECONCILIATION OF PAST OFFENCES

- Of improprieties and harm done to others in each of the following areas:

- Physical.
- Material.
- Financial.

- Emotional.
  - Spiritual.
- b. With all those who have been adversely affected by one's behavior . . .
- That can be located with reasonable effort.
  - Not overlooking suppressed incidents of considerable vintage.
- c. Beginning with those close by:
- Family members.
  - Relatives.
  - Friends.
  - 'Enemies'.
  - Work and business colleagues.
  - Etc.
  - Endeavoring to develop true family unity where it is possible, without compromising that which the Lord requires.
- d. Seeking and following the Lord's guidance with considerable prayer . . .
- That He prepare the hearts of the group members one will be speaking to . . .
  - That they, too, might come under His conviction and find repentance.
- e. Asking their forgiveness . . .
- Without imputing to them any blame for the incidents in question . . .
  - In person, where possible.
  - Otherwise, by the most effective means of communication available.
- f. According to the means or resources available, make restitution of . . .
- 1) Dishonest gains . . .

- a) In personal matters.
- b) In business matters.
- 2) Delinquent debts.
- 3) Unreturned borrowed goods.
- 4) Damage occasioned to other's possessions.
- 5) Etc.

6. BY DEALING A DEATHBLOW TO THE HOLD OF COVETOUSNESS, AVARICE, AFFLUENCE, AND MATERIALISM IN ONE'S LIFE

- a. Consecrate in prayer all material belongings and possessions (perhaps room by room), and financial obligations, to the Lord.
- b. Relinquish ultimate control of all material and financial aspects of one's life, placing them at His disposal, and becoming a mere steward thereof.
- c. Discontinue nonessential possessions, properties, business, investments, etc., (as the Lord would indicate). Also, discharging unnecessary financial commitments.

7. BY DEALING WITH EACH AREA AND DETAIL OF LIFE THAT OCCASIONS *UNEASINESS* OF HEART OR CONSCIENCE

- Until a full, deep peace and joy fill the heart.

8. BY UNDERGOING A TRUE AND FULL CHANGE OF HEART (a true conversion) . . .

- One that will provoke changes that are even outwardly observable.

9. BY HAVING A FULL FAITH regarding the forgiveness and cleansing that Christ provides through His sacrifice.

C. PRESENT TO THE LORD A HUMBLE HEART

Give Him a heart well-pleasing unto Him. Consider . . . : Hos. 5:15-6:3.

- It will not only be . . .

1. A heart convicted by the Holy Spirit, truly acknowledging, "I am a sinner." Consider . . . : Lk. 18:9-14.

- It will also be . . .

2. A distressed heart – from which the heart’s *cry* increasingly comes forth.  
Consider . . . : Ps. 88:77; Joel 1:1-12-14; 2:12-17.
3. A broken heart. Consider . . . : Isa. 57:15.
4. A yearning heart. Consider . . . : Ps. 6:1-2.

D. OFFER HIM A SUBMITTED HEART

Becoming established in a FULL OBEDIENCE in one’s daily life.

1. Giving heed to the Word – as it reveals each thing lurking in the heart.
2. Obey the Lord’s dealings and guidance(over and above a legalistic keeping of “the law”)
3. Respond to the “pricks” (God speaking through adverse circumstances- as happened with Paul)

D. Develop a loving heart

1. As one would live and look out for himself.
2. As Christ loves him
3. with a growing humility of heart - before God and before others
4. With practical and helpful gestures
5. Speaking only seasoned words of grace and edification...consider Tit. 3:2; Eph.4:29-13; 5:4; Col.4:6 Phil.2:14-15; Mt 5:37
6. Actively serving others in many ways large and small
7. Requesting the fullness of Christ’s love for those around us
8. Laying one’s life down for others and pouring it out on their behalf.
9. Assuming one’s proper place (fulfilling his role) in his family and social relations.
10. Bringing the ministry of the challenging Word to others.
11. Preaching the Gospel to those who were “partners in sin” then fleeing
12. Consider... Mt 22:37-40; Jn. 13:34; Cor.12:31, 13:1-3. 4-8a.

E. THE SENIOR MINISTER (AND MINISTRY TEAM) FACTOR – DEALING WITH THE SINS OF THE MINISTRY

1. BEFORE BLAMING OTHERS His (their) personal and ministerial sins have been of greater consequence in hindering the Spirit’s full blessing and ‘Outpouring’ than those of others . . .
  - a. Because of the channel and instrument he is called to be.
  - b. Because it is one’s life and not one’s words, actions, or functions that are the real conduit of true ministerial graces.
2. SOME OPIATES - Several things can easily desensitize him to his sinful condition . . .
  - a. His not complying with the entire scope of the calling.

- b. His grieving the Holy Spirit's earlier dealings.
- c. His quenching the gifts especially those of an exhortative 'negative' nature.
- d. His compromises with *Babylonian Christianity's* enticements and expectations.
- e. His deficient prayer life due to busy-ness.
- f. His dealing so repeatedly with others' problems and sins.
- g. His high profile.
- h. His privileged position among God's people.
- i. His not praying daily to be kept from temptation or from the Evil One.
- j. His not discerning or counteracting the occult attacks sent against him.
- k. The stupefying subtleties of pride, lust, greed, power, etc.
- l. The numbers and dedication of his followers.
- m. The delayed reaping of the effects of the sins indulged in.
- n. The anointing and ministry that continue to flow to some degree.
- o. Etc., etc.

### 3. THE SENIOR MINSITER AS A CATALYST If 'Revival' is to fall among his flock . . .

- a. He must come to recognize himself as the principal hindrance to the Spirit's 'Outpouring.'
- b. He, too, must and will humble himself and put things right. Privately and publicly, where each is due.
- c. Once his conviction and repentance are thorough the Holy Spirit can use him more effectively and powerfully with his group (and with others) to secure their own conviction and repentance, and bring the Day of the 'Visitation' much nearer.

### G. MORE TO COME

Having thoroughly done what one knows to do, and having made every sincere effort in true repentance, reparation, seeking sanctification, obedience, and love . . .

1. Increased attention can be given to corporately petition the probing power of the Spirit's Conviction of Sin and the Fear of the Lord to reveal and deal with that which is yet hidden from one's view. Consider . . . : Jer. 17:9-10; Ps. 19:12-13.
2. A concerted prayer effort follows repentance.

[NOTE: For further elaboration, please refer to Roman Numeral "VI." *The Work of Christ's Forerunner: Receiving the Precursor to His Rending the Heavens and Coming Down to DWELL Among His People – The Holy Spirit's Conviction of Sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment* further below.]

## II. EXTENDING THE INVITATION – THE ROLE OF PRAYER IN BECOMING HIS DWELLING PLACE

### A. THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Without adequate prayer there can be no 'Revival.'

1. CORPORATE SOWING In numerous Biblical occurrences of captivity, deliverance never came until a continual 'cry' arose to God from His oppressed people for deliverance. Consider . . . : Ex. 3:7-9; Judg. 2:12-18; 3:3-10, etc.; Dan. 9; Dt. 30:1-5.
2. CAUSE & EFFECT His people receive not that which they ask not for. Consider . . . : (Jas. 4:2)
3. REAPING What is received from God's hand bears a direct correlation to what is requisitioned in persistent, faith-believing prayer.
  - a. Consider . . . : Jas. 4:2-4; Mk. 11:23-24; Jn. 14:13; 15:16b; 16:23-24; Eph. 3:14-20.
  - b. Iniquity, incredulity, indolence, indifference, and spiritual ignorance limit the scope of what is prayed for, and correspondingly, what is received.
  - c. In many cases some from partaking of the greater blessings (such as those made available to those of *Upper-Room-120* caliber).
4. NO MERIT POINTS. Prayer is not a means by which to 'earn' or 'deserve' a 'Revival.' The Lord disavows any obligation on His part to the 'works' side of prayer. No flesh shall have anything on which to stand before Him of its own merit; nor to glory in.
5. LOOKING UNTO JESUS "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass with the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Properly undertaken, extensive prayer before the presence of God subjects the petitioners to a process that will culminate in their transformation and in their being made a *Dwelling Place* for the Lord. Consider . . . : II Cor. 3:18.

- a. The heart is conditioned and readied to receive what it asks for through the demands and dealings of prayer and of its Object.
- b. 'Conviction of Sin' and the 'Fear of the Lord' eventually come upon those in prayer for 'Revival,' and produce a humble, broken, contrite, and repentant heart.
- c. Thus, sin, and the principal hindrance to prayer, will be removed, and answers will come quickly, for exceeding 'what is asked or thought'.
- d. A fully repentant heart and one full of faith, will become the recipient of Grace's full blessings.

1) His Promise of the Holy Spirit's full *Dwelling* is eventually given.

2) Consider . . . ; Isa. 59:1-2; I Jn. 3:22; Pr. 28:9; Ps 66:18.

6. **IMPORTANT TENACITY** to receive, it is necessary . . .

- To ask,
- To seek, and
- To knock . . .
- Night and day . . .
- Until the answer is given.
- Consider . . . : Lk. 11:5-13; 18:1-8.

7. **EXPLICITNESS & EXPECTANCY** It is pleasing to the Father for His children to implore Him, in a specific and detailed manner, to release *each* and all of the manifold blessings of their full inheritance in Christ Jesus, alluded to in seemingly innumerable Scriptures and promises, not limiting themselves to, or preferring, a few blessings more, easily acquired and enjoyed in their temporal circumstances.

- a. May those who seek to become His *Dwelling Place* do so in a manner consistent with the bounty available to them only for the asking, taking the time to explicitly and repeatedly requisition *each* of the blessings and provisions made available to them *IN Jesus Christ*, with a heart full of faith and expectancy.
- b. Consider . . . : Rom. 8:32; II Pet. 1:3-4; Eph. 1:3-23; 3:14-20; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:-9-12; Jn. 7:37-39; 10:10b; Ezek. 36:25-29; Jer. 29: 12-14; 31:33-34; Etc., etc.

B. NOT ENOUGH

Even though an abundance of the persevering prayer of faith offered by a united group committed to truly seeking Him is indispensable, by itself it is most insufficient!!

### C. 'REVIVAL' PRAYER'S PREREQUISITE

Of equal importance to prayer is Obedience - complete, continuous, and diligent (even in the 'small' matters) to His Word and to His Spirit.

- a. Those truly seeking His favor will:
  - a. Repent, be converted, and obey with their whole heart. (A careful study of Dt. 30 is suggested.)
  - b. Seek Him with their whole heart. Consider . . . : Jer. 29:10-14a.
  - c. Truly love Him above all else (which implies full obedience). Consider . . . : Mt. 22:37-38.
  - d. Avail themselves to be used in the doing of His will and in the fulfillment of His purposes above that of their own pursuits . . .
- 1) Seeking first His kingdom (its establishment and extension). Consider . . . : Mt. 6:10, 25-33.
- 2) Actively participating in the edification of His true Church.

2. Hence, the necessity of the detailed and thorough repentance elaborated on the Roman Numeral "I," (Uninhabitable) of PART IV. The forerunner of true obedience is a thorough repentance. The one cannot be had without the other.

### III. LIVELY STONES – PRAYING IN THE CONTEXT OF A GROUP FOR HIM TO ESTABLISH HIS DWELLING PLACE

#### A. "SEEK YE FIRST . . ."

Inferred from –

- Part II. (*GRASPING THE MAGNITUDE OF TODAY'S NEED FOR TRUE 'REVIVAL' – An overview of Today's Apostasy and Its Roots*),
- Part III. (*UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF TRUE 'REVIVAL' – Rending the Heavens, He Comes Down to DWELL in His People.*), and,
- Part IV. (*SOME BLUEPRINTS WITH WHICH TO GET STARTED – Making Preparations to Become HIS DWELLING PLACE*),
- Roman Numeral "I," (Uninhabitable) . . .

Is the PRECEDENCE that seeking 'Revival' should take above ALL other activities, Christian or secular. Consider . . . : Mt. 6:25-33.

1. *RENT HEAVENS* HERE. A new 'Pentecost' is needed in each regional setting.
  - a. Though the Holy Spirit was indeed given to the Infant Church at Pentecost, History has borne out the need for, and the fact of, fresh 'Outpourings'.
  - b. The theological concept of a 'Once Only' Pentecostal 'Outpouring,' whose full benefits were henceforth and forevermore released to the Church, only favors the Enemy's interests, and facilitates the work of the Babylonian/Roman spirits of *Religiosity*.

2. ENOUGH OF SIMULATED GODLINESS!! A drastic restructuring of priorities is warranted by . . .

- The powerlessness,
- The 'abiding-lessness' of the Lord in their midst, and . . .
- Only in a token manifestation of mercy and love are His presence and power with His people today.
- His abiding Fullness is virtually unheard of.

3. NOT YET WORTHY TO ESCAPE - The testimony and admonitions of the Scriptures regarding the Church of the Last Days, and the impending judgments soon to be released on the earth, also require a stringent reordering of commitments. Consider . . . : Lk. 21:34-36.

#### 4. THE QUALIFYING *INDISPENSABLE STIPULATION*

Though the Lord's parting words to His followers comprised a strong call to evangelism, missionary outreach, and edifying the converts, He qualified His Commission with an *INDISPENSABLE STIPULATION*, that of FIRST *receiving the Holy Spirit in all of His fullness, provision, power, and presence*.

- a. As compelling as the needs of the House of Israel were 'round about Him, the Lord Jesus Himself did not launch out into His own earthly ministry until actually commissioned to do so by the Father's call and the Holy Spirit's enduement.
- b. So it was with the Infant Church and her apostles and evangelists.
- c. Moses and other prophets were not released into the full orb of their calling until having their own 'supernatural' encounter with God.
- d. The limited Pentecostal Charismatic tongues experience is not the Baptism Gift of the Holy Spirit Christ referred to as the qualifying *INDISPENSABLE STIPULATION*.

e. Consider . . . : Mt. 28:19-20a; Lk. 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; Joel 1-2; Mt. 3:16-17; Lk 4:1-2, 14-22.

5. ETERNITY'S DISAPPOINTMENTS - To endeavor to corroborate in the building of His Church, without fulfilling the above INDISPENSABLE STIPULATION is to give years 'to the wind,' and to arrive before Christ's Judgment Seat empty-handed. Consider . . . : I Cor. 3:12-15

a. Without His *rending the heavens and coming down*, most Christian efforts and ministry will prove to be spiritually and eternally futile as years unfold.

1) Immediate, impressive, and immense results are readily obtained by many who have disregarded the *Indispensable Stipulation*. Though substandard and transitory, they are subscribed to in the *Carpenters' & Masons' Guild* building code referred to earlier.

2) To the detriment of many unsuspecting devotees, even the most magnificent structures of "wood, hay, and stubble" will be put to the test of fire, and will be burned.

3) The 'Ishmaels' . . .

- The products of misguided sincerity, zeal, and human effort to build what only God's supernatural intervention can produce . . .

- Will be denied participation in the Promise and in the Inheritance given only to the seed of the Promise.

- They will be "cast out."

- Consider Gal. 4:22-30.

4) Eternity will demonstrate the futility of following the Commission's Call without having fulfilled the qualifying INDISPENSABLE STIPULATION and its corollary of doing nothing apart from "abiding in Him and He in us." How sad to contemplate the extensiveness and persistence of eternally ineffectual ministry and church efforts, and the regrets their promulgators will suffer upon arriving at Heaven's Gate empty-handed.

b. Reiterating, it is not the first or the biggest 'house on the block' erected that is important; but rather it is the one left standing after the tests of fire, wind, and flooding have abated.

1) Being 'hearers' of the Word, or even '*parrots*' of the Word, can never replace being a 'doer' of Christ's teachings and commandments.

- 2) Building ‘judgment-proof’ *Dwelling Places* can ONLY be done in full compliance with ALL of Christ’s stipulations.
- 3) “Apart from Me (*fully and continually abiding in Me*) you can do nothing (*of truly spiritual and eternal merit and fruitfulness*).” Jn. 15:5b. Consider . . . : Jn 15:26, 1-16.
- c. Consider . . . : I Cor. 3:13-15; Mt. 7:21-23.

## 6. BUILDING TOWERS TO REACH UNTO HEAVEN

Contemporary Christianity’s ubiquitous conferences are most limited in their potential of contributing to ‘Revival’ preparations.

- a. ‘Talking about it’ more will never be an adequate substitute for ‘doing it’.
- b. The diverse backgrounds and orientation of those in attendance prove to introduce many hidden hindrances. Too many are drawn who will neither benefit from the effort, nor contribute appropriately to it.
- c. The speakers invited to most conferences generally are not the ideal catalysts for igniting ‘Revival’. What many bring with them runs directly counter to the focus and attitudes necessary for ‘Revival’ dynamics:
  - 1) The self-aggrandizement and competitive spirit in the hearts and minds of the celebrity pulpiteers.
  - 2) Their discordant doctrinal convictions, etc.
  - 3) Their restricted availability, due to their pre-booked participation in many varied arenas of growing ministry opportunities.
  - 4) The need for them to be featured, thereby attracting their followers, and thus, enhancing the overall attendance.
  - 5) The adulation fostered in their credulous admirers.
- d. They are pre-planned and regimented in such a way that the Holy Spirit’s only participation in their midst is the little opportunity He is conceded (if any).

The ‘*Revival*’ *dynamic* is usually only generated within a truly cohesive grouping of a spiritually homogenous people (elaborated on further below).

7. REMNANT INITIATIVE Even if only a few do so, *some* must take it upon themselves to do WHATEVER IS NECESSARY to become His *Dwelling Place* . . .

Searching out for others of like mind, irrespective of their church affiliation, etc., with whom to gather and seek.

## B. DISCERNING DISCRIMINATION – SELECTING THE FIRST BUILDING STONES

For fruitful intercession, it is important to carefully select those who will form the *Building Stones Prayer Group* that together will seek to become the Lord's *Dwelling Place*.

1. DISQUALIFIED – CONSIDERING *THE ACHAN FACTOR!!* It should be noted that a great hindrance, both to the prayers offered and to their answers, will be caused by participants who permit and practise sin in their lives.
  - a. As occurred with Achan, in looking upon His children as a body, the sins of the few (or even the 'one') are viewed by the Lord as the sins of the (whole) flock.
  - b. As a consequence, the ongoing sins of 'the one' or 'the few' grieve the Lord to the extent that, from the flock as a whole – innocent and guilty alike – He withdraws certain corporate blessings, crucial and needful to the ongoing success of His purposes.
  - c. Also, collectively the flock (the innocent not excluded) receives the appropriate disciplinary measures and judgments He determines.
  - d. Consider . . . : Josh. 7; I Cor. 5:7-13; Rom. 16:17-18; II Thes. 3:14-15; I Tim. 6:3-5; Tit. 3:10-11; Rev. 2:5; 2:14-16; 3:3; 3:15-19.
2. SELECTION CRITERIA Those selected to form the *Building Stones Prayer Group* should evidence a thorough commitment to obey the Lord, as regards . . .
  - a. The forsaking of EACH and ALL of his sins.
  - b. Bearing 'fruits unto righteousness,' readily seen by those who surround him.
  - c. Renouncing the values and claims to which those in this world (family members included) would subject him.
  - d. Rectifying his marital status to that of Biblical requirements. Consider . . . : Mt. 19:9; Ezra 9:1-2; 10:3.
  - e. Denying himself, in all that regards his carnal nature and selfishness, in his quest for his own sanctification.
  - f. Displaying the fruits of meekness and submission in all of his relationships . . . with special care taken regarding leadership and authority figures.
  - g. Being transparent and humble-minded with respect to . . .
    - 1) His spiritual state.

- 2) His willingness to seek help from the Prayer Group's leadership in his internal struggles.
  - 3) His commitment to others of the Prayer Group, to seek together with them, to become the *Dwelling Place* of the Lord.
  - 4) His relationships with the others.
- h. His "seeking first" the things related to the coming of "the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," above his own personal concerns, commitments, and material pursuits . . .
- Noted, in part, by . . .
  - His being too 'clock-conscious' during meetings, nor . . .
  - His being involved in unwarranted 'extra-curricular' commitments, as well as by . . .
  - His job and career involvement,
  - The nature, quality, and time of his leisure amusements, and . . .
  - His spending habits.
- i. A strong prayer life, reflected by the time given to daily intercession, as well as by the scope, faith, and perseverance of his prayers.
- j. The quality (not the quantity) of the group members of great importance!!
- k. Good intentions and spiritual aspirations, however well verbalized, of themselves, are insufficient.
- l. These above QUALIFICATIONS must be the part of the daily life of each of the *Building Stones* if they are to be 'heard on high' and 'answered with fire.'
- m. Consider . . . : Ezra 1:2; 2:62, 64; 9:1-4, 6-15; 10:1-6.
3. RESOLUTE FIRMNESS Care and courage must be taken to decline the participation of those who lack a thorough surrender and a corresponding obedience to the Lord, His Word, and His dealings as they would grieve the Holy Spirit, and alter significantly the outcome of the concerted prayer effort.
  4. LATE QUALIFIERS At future times, others . . .

- Those who have since begun to walk according to the established precepts, and persevered therein over the weeks (or months) . . .
- Can be added to the group . . .
- With a view to raise up a powerful and growing army of intercessors.
- Consider . . . : Ezra 10:7-19.

5. CAUTION – DANGER AHEAD Though ‘exclusiveness’ and ‘cultism’ are serious dangers that the Enemy may attempt to foment in the heart of the *Building Stones Prayer Group*, there are precedents in both the O.T. and the N.T. where selectivity was employed. Christ Himself deemed it necessary for certain purposes.

C. BRINGING THE FIRST STONES TOGETHER – GENERATING PRE-REVIVAL DYNAMICS’

Working with the prayer group, so that its prayers are unhindered, requires ongoing attention.

1. ONE ACCORD The members must be of one mind (having the same vision and prayer burdens) in key areas:
  - a. The seriousness and commitment before the Lord with which the Holy Spirit’s ‘Outpouring’ is being sought.
  - b. The prayer meetings . . .
    - The need for them.
    - Their purpose.
    - Their frequency.
    - The petitions, and,
    - The manner in which they are conducted.
  - c. The Lord will not come to *Dwell* in a divided house.
  - d. Consider . . . : Mt. 18:19.
2. BOND OF UNITY – AARON’S ANOINTING - A cohesive sense of unity needs to be built among the members . . .
  - a. By sharing, caring, serving, and praying from the heart for the personal needs, struggles, blessings and victories of each one.

- b. Permitting no barriers to remain.
- c. It is upon a unified people, who have donned their priestly garments that the Holy Spirit will descend.
- d. The Lord will feel estranged from a disassociated people, and will resist coming.
- e. Consider . . . : I Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:1-4; Col. 3:12-14; Mk. 11:24-26; Ps. 133.

3. **HARNESSING THE TONGUE** Great care regarding the usage of the tongue is most important . . .

- a. Speaking only seasoned words of grace and edification.
- b. Refraining **TOTALLY** from releasing the tongue's venom, wounding others, and grieving the Holy Spirit.
- c. Words not fitly spoken, and unretracted with a repentant heart to the hearing of all concerned, will grieve the Holy Spirit awfully as would adultery.
- d. Consider . . . : Tit. 3:2; Eph. 4:29-31; 5:4; Col. 4:6; Phil. 2:14-15; Mt. 5:37; Jas. 3:2-12.

4. **OVERFLOWING THANKFULNESS** Developing a heart broken with thankfulness to the Lord is another key to unlocking God's heart . . .

- a. Because of His blessings, great and small, recent and past.
- b. No longer being ungrateful or indifferent regarding His many mercies and blessings which "are new every morning."
- c. Offsetting ingratitude and carnal discontentment for not yet possessing all that is aspired to.
- d. New blessings of greater transcendence will never be given until those already given are endearingly appreciated, and thankfully acknowledged.
- e. Consider . . . : Col. 3:15; I Thes. 5:18; Phil. 4:6-7.

5. **UNITED PRAYER** Offering prayer "in one accord," as one man, not so much verbally, as in the heart's yearnings, must be attained . . .

- a. As a body fused into one; not as a collection of individuals.
- b. He will come to a people whose heart and cry are that of 'One Man' and not to a collection of self-centered, individualistic, and disjointed intercessors.
- c. Consider . . . : II Chr. 7:12-14; Jer. 29; 10-14a; Mt. 18:19; Acts 2:1.

6. **PERSEVERANCE** The dedication to persevere as many months and years as is required without re-structuring the priorities until the Lord answers should be cultivated in their hearts.

a. Had Abraham desisted, he never would have received his Promise.

b. Consider . . . : Rom. 4:17-22; Heb. 11:13-16.

7. **CONVICTION** Allowing and honoring the Holy Spirit's Conviction to settle over the group, and responding in each of His dealings, will prevent His being grieved.

8. **CONFESSION** Permitting confession of sins, when necessary, will bring cleansing, release, further Conviction of Sin, and a drawing nearer of the day of the 'Outpouring.' Consider . . . : Mt. 3:5-6.

9. **CONTINUING** Upon receiving the Spirit's 'Outpouring' (their 'Pentecost'), the *Building Stones Prayer Group* should continue daily in prayer in spite of the overwhelming work load that will come.

a. On-going group-prayer is one of the keys to perpetuating 'Revival'.

b. Revival's demise is usually foreshadowed by negligence in prayer.

c. Consider . . . : Acts 3:1; 6:3-4.

**D. EVICTION NOTICE – CUTTING OFF THE BABYLONIAN/ROMAN SPIRITS' CLAIMS AND AVENUES OF ACCESS.**

Upon establishing the above thoroughly, the *Building Stones Prayer Group* should deal with the spiritual dimension . . .

1. **REPENTANCE OF INFIDELITY** Repentance before the Lord, for having partaken of true Christianity's *Impostor*, and her errors, is very fitting.

2. **PRUNING BACK** Under God's leading and confirmation, shut down ALL activities and ministries whose lifeblood is derived from *Babylonian Christianity*.

a. Place all the 'inherited' customs, formats, and mentalities up for review before the Scriptures and the Lord's own leading - with care to avoid falling into fanaticism or grosser deceptions.

b. Do the same with all tenets of belief.

c. Examine the group's financial footings and infrastructure, and cut off that which is defiled by the Greed Creed, looking to the Lord Himself, in prayer and faith, for guidance and for His provision.

d. Using Paul's allegory, "CAST OUT the bondwoman AND her son; for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

- 1) That which was engendered and nurtured by the flesh's (sincere, but mistaken) efforts will not inherit of the Promise of the Spirit's Fullness of blessing and 'Revival.'
- 2) Consider . . . : Gal. 4:22-31.
  - e. For 'Revival' to come, the *Building Stones* must be as thorough and as ruthless as the Israelites were commanded to be with all Anathemas not even "touching the unclean thing."
3. PURIFY THAT WHICH IS UNCLEAN Cleanse that which does not have to be discarded and which is 'only' slightly tainted by *Babylonian Christianity*.
4. TAKING UP THE SWORD Addressing the Enemy's forces . . .
  - Corporately renounce any claims and influences that the Babylonian/Roman spirits of *Religiosity* believe to possess. Also -
  - Renounce every *Religious/Babylonian* spirit assigned by the Enemy to the *Building Stones Prayer Group*.
  - Ask for His protection from every 'spirit of error,' spirit of divination, and religious spirit.
5. NOT A 'MAGIC FORMULA' - These procedures, unaccompanied by the other components of seeking to become *His Dwelling Place*, will prove to be futile.

IV. PRACTICALITIES – SOME SUGGESTIONS - *How* the meetings are conducted will have a significant bearing on their outcome.

- A. GETTING STARTED Schedule the prayer meeting according to the willingness, desire, and availability of the group's members.
  1. Beginning with a minimum of 3 times weekly to avoid losing momentum, a sense of continuity, and growth to the cares and distractions of this world. Much is lost by praying together less frequently.
  2. Prior to the prayer time, a brief time of praise and worship, and for prayerful self-examination, is beneficial.
  3. From time to time, so is the brief sharing of prayer burdens, and Spirit's Conviction, other experiences, and/or Scripture passages.
  4. With one heart, follow the guidelines and suggestions of the designated prayer meeting leader.

**B. DISCOVERING THIRD HEAVEN'S BUILDING CODE – ONE OTHER MEETING WEEKLY (OR MORE) FOR THE STUDY OF SCRIPTURAL GUIDELINES**

Studies in the Word can also be combined with the prayer meetings, as necessary . . .

- To develop . . .
- A greater longing for the Lord.
- Prayer burdens.
- Vision.
- Faith.
- Anointing.
- Conviction and Fear of the Lord.
- Repentance.

**C. TIMELY CONSIDERATIONS**

Avoid constraining the meetings to a prescribed time limit.

1. **ORDERING PRIORITIES** By prior arrangement, have each one attend to those matters that otherwise would put a time restriction on one's participation, even in prolonged meetings, when these should unexpectedly occur (and they will).
2. **UNHURRIED** In determining the meeting's length, do not give preference to 'the clock', to people's impatience, or to their conflicting commitments, grieving the Holy Spirit by honoring things of lesser importance.
3. **PATIENCE** The more that 'the cares of this world' accumulate in hearts, the more unhurried time is needed for them to dissolve away in His presence and under His dealing . . .
  - a. To allow the Holy Spirit the necessary time to work in the hearts present, and . . .
  - b. To allow the participants sufficient opportunity to fully discharge the burdens of their hearts in prayer before the Lord.
4. **HONORING THE HOLY SPIRIT** - The Holy Spirit will not operate in the confines of the North American penchant for rigid scheduling and quick meetings which impose on Him a 'shut down' time, regardless of what He wants to do.

- a. To Him it is of extreme disrespect, arrogance, and insult to ‘hurry up’ the proceedings and ‘be done’ (or ‘outta here’), because of other pressing things that need tending to.
- b. It is *His people* that need to learn sufficient flexibility, sensitivity, and humility, to adapt to His leadings and moving, and not vice versa.
- c. ‘Revival’ will not come on their timetable, or at their convenience. It will come as they give Him full sway, and obey Him fully, even in His unorthodox use of time.

#### D. LIFTING ONE VOICE TO HEAVEN

The on-going active participation of all members enhances the Prayer Group’s effectiveness.

1. One stronger voice at a time may lead in spontaneous prayers of substance (not ‘sentence prayers’) as the remaining members add their own audible prayers with their own words all blending into ‘one voice.’
2. Grow in the cry of the heart (mentioned frequently by the psalmists). Not settling for insipid, lukewarm, ‘dry’, formal, and unction-less prayers. As the burden grows in many, a broken heart and flowing tears will become part of their prayer.
3. Give liberty to the ‘Spirit of Prayer’ in the heart-rending travail that He will bring, as the ‘Day of Visitation’ draws nearer.

#### E. “PROVING ALL THINGS”

Test and prove the leadings, burdens, revelations, visions, and other supernatural occurrences, experienced by the group members in and out of the meetings, credited to the Holy Spirit!!

1. Against a balanced interpretation of the Scriptures.
2. Against the general witness and consensus of the more spiritually mature (whether ‘gifted’ or not).
3. Against the track record of the gift’s recipient (as to his general accuracy and reliability).
4. Against the ‘fruit of the Spirit’ in his overall life, attitudes, and motivations.
5. Safeguarding against the gifts and the ‘gifted’ from altering the purpose and focus of the meetings and the group, or usurping their direction, or bringing dissension by appealing to their supporters.

6. Deal kindly but firmly with the problem of gifts and manipulative channels at their outset to avoid the greater damage of disillusionment, division, and deviation at later stages!!

#### E. GETTING SERIOUS

Increase the frequency of the group prayer meetings to 7 days a weekly (considering even praying twice daily) as the need to do so is felt by the group.

1. DRAWING NEARER The more the Lord works in the group, in their lives, and in their prayers, more days of prayer will be called for.
2. ON THE VERGE Certain 'Revival' histories seem to demonstrate that, sometimes after beginning to meet on a once-daily or twice-daily basis for *an hour or more of concerted prayer*, 'things begin to happen' . . .
  - a. Where the group is spiritually homogeneous in their vision, their petition, and in their pursuit of an obedient walk with the Lord.
  - b. The increased frequency of prayer allows for decreased distractions and interruptions by temporal concerns. The focus on 'things above' becomes easier, conditioning the heart for Heaven's Treasures.
  - c. Conviction of Sin, as needed, deepens its work in their lives.
  - d. A spirit of intercessory travail is poured out on them.
  - e. Unusually intense and awesome manifestations of His presence transpire among them touching and transforming them in ways whose effects are permanent and noticeable by all.
  - f. Extraordinary answers to prayer readily produce the working of God's Spirit in others – (among the Christians and the non-Christians alike).
  - g. The 'Outbreak' of 'Revival' in the full force is witnessed soon thereafter.
  - h. Nothing of *perceptible* significance seems to happen until this stage (of meeting 7 days weekly) is reached.
  - i. As with many other things, the above principles have had (and will have) their exceptions.
  - j. Consider . . . : Joel 1:13-14; 2:15-17; Acts 1:14.

#### G. AVOID BECOMING SIDETRACKED

Keep clear focus as to the purpose of the meetings.

1. THOROUGHNESS IN PETITIONS PRESENTED Pray specifically and expectantly for the fulfillment of each of the provisions contained in the Scriptures referred to in this outline especially those of Part "III."  
(*UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF TRUE 'REVIVAL' – Rending the Heavens, He Comes Down to DWELL in His People. "B" A HOME AWAY FROM HOME. "C" NOT JUST IN GESTATION – FULLY BORN AGAIN AS A NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST.*) (When studied, quite an extensive list can be compiled.) (II Pet. 1:3-4)

2. **SECONDARY EFFECTS** Prayer should also be made for 'Revival's' Secondary Effects. But always stipulating that first His SUPREME PURPOSE of *Coming to DWELL* among His people be fulfilled.
3. **MATURING PRAYER** Pray according to the sense of need, burden, and vision that deepens within the group, as their understanding grows – (which it will, as they become more familiarized with the great needs of their heart, the Church, the world, and with all that the Lord wants to do).
4. **SECONDARY NEEDS** Petitions of a personal nature, and for individuals, can be taken up briefly at the conclusion of the time of intercession. As each member exercises his own personal prayer life, most of these petitions will be discharged in his own prayer closet.

## V. A CLOSER LOOK AT THIRD HEAVEN'S CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES

Fire came down from Heaven, when the Tabernacle and Temple had been erected and the sacrifices offered, *according to the Divine Instructions*. If our construction does not adhere to the Heavenly Pattern, the Holy Spirit's fire will not fall!! Consider . . . : Ex. 40:34-35; Lev. 9:24; II Chr. 7:1-2.

### A. EMBRACING THE FULL WORD OF GOD AND EACH OF ITS COMPONENTS – LAYING ASIDE DOCTRINAL PRIEST POSITIONS AND PREJUDICES.

1. **IMMUTABLE** God's Truth remains forever unchangeable, though it slowly grows more glorious to our perception.
  - a. It does not change with each generation, as do history textbooks, edited to manipulate the minds of the students to predetermined objectives.
  - b. Yesterday's 'Revival' revelations never become antiquated, and should not be discarded . . .
    - 1) Instead, they should be studied and incorporated as a necessary ingredient to seeking Today's 'Visitation.'
    - 2) They are not to be confused with aspects of prevailing doctrinal error and residual *Religiosity*.
2. **ONE INTEGRATED WHOLE** The Gospel provision for man's condition, and its message to the inquiring sinner, though diverse in its presentations, in one interdependent totality.
  - a. To segregate its components - ignoring or discarding one or more of its interdependent provisions – is to settle for an adulterated message, and therefore a False Gospel.

- b. Prejudices, fomented by previous exposures of Movement Belief Systems, and to other false or unbalanced teachings, must be corrected.
- c. The entire Gospel message, with all of its promises, provisions, and conditions must be embraced if “Revival” is to fall in Fullness, and remain.

3. **CONSCIOUS APPROPRIATION** The exercise of an active faith in each of the Full Gospel’s provisions, commandments, and promises is an indispensable aspect of a true embracing of His Word.

4. Consider . . . : Ezra 7:10.

**B. PREPARING THE ALTAR FOR THE FIRE TO FALL – THE SANCTIFICATION CLEANSING/FILLING**

1. **THE SANCTIFICATION INGREDIENT** The Gospel’s Sanctification provision of permanent and total victory over the Flesh is an integral part of the Gospel.

2. **SATAN’S AVENUE OF ACCESS** In one fashion or another, the Enemy has maintained a concerted and effectual opposition to Sanctification’s truth by fomenting and inciting disbelief, detraction, controversy, and compromise regarding its capabilities. His interest in suppressing its revelation and acceptance is to assure himself a perpetual access to the lives of God’s people, to . . .

- Manipulate them according to his designs,
- Use them in grieving God’s Spirit, thereby thwarting God’s will,
- Keep them spiritually and morally defeated.
- Advance his own plans and purposes, without serious opposition.

3. “**ABIDING IN HIM**” One of the secrets of becoming and remaining *His Dwelling Place* corporately, there must be a corresponding quest for total personal sanctification. He will not come to dwell among the squalor of recurring carnality’s ills. Some suggestions for getting started:

- a. Comprehend the need for sanctification in one’s own life by an honest appraisal of his inner condition.
- b. Become familiar with Sanctification’s potential and promises.
  - Consider . . . : Mt. 5:48; I Pet. 1:15-16; Gen. 17: 1b-2; II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14; Mt. 5-8; I Jn. 3:3; Ezek. 36:26-29; Eph. 5:25b-27; Acts 20:32; 26:18b; 15:8-9; Rom. 6-7-8; Col. 2:11-12, 20a; 3:1-4a; 1:25-27; Heb. 2:11; II Thes. 2:13; Jn. 15:21, 23; Eph. 3:16-19; II Pet. 1:3-4; Gal. 1:15-16; 4:19; Phil. 1:21; Heb. 4:9-11; I Jn. 3:6, 8, 10, 9; 5:18; Eph. 1:3-4; Heb. 10:9-10, 14; 6:1, Col. 1:28; Jude 24-

25; Jn. 14:15-17, 20-21, 23b, 26; 17:17, 19, 21-23a; Rom. 15:16; Acts 5:32b; Lk. 11: 8b-10, 13b; Rom. 5:5; Mt. 25:2; Heb. 10:35-37; Etc., etc.

- c. Work on identifying ALL of the “Old Man’s dominion and influence . . . – (his sins, his selfishness, his attitudes, his mentality, etc . . . ) – in one’s life.
- d. Work diligently on a thorough self-denial of the Old Nature’s ways and demands. Consider . . . : Phil. 2:5-8; Mt. 10:38-39; 16:21, 24b, 25; Mk. 8:31, 34b-35; Lk. 9:22-24; 14:26-34, 33; Mt. 5:29-30; Dt. 10:16; 30:6; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:5a, 8a, 9b; Mt. 23:26; Heb. 12:1; Rom. 13:12b-14; I Cor. 6:13b, 15, 19-20; I Cor. 3:16-17; Heb. 12:13; Mt. 7:13-14; Lk. 13:24; Phil. 2:12b; Jn. 12:24b-26a; Ii Tim. 2:21.
- e. Begin seeking Sanctification in prayer consider Lk11:5-13; 18:1-8 Heb. 10:35-37
- f. Begin believing for Sanctification as a robust faith is one of its keys and grow in faith with regard to His provision for one’s deep need
- g. As obedience and faith are established, develop a sense of expectancy, that at any moment He can come

### C. Beginning to offer Acceptable sacrifice

#### Aspiring to worship in spirit and in truth

1. Humility In selecting participants for the building stones prayer group, musicians should not be selected for their talent or even their anointing.

- a) The same guidelines must be applied to them as to the remainder of the group.
- b) Extra care should be taken to assure that any musicians selected are not unduly enamored with or vain about their talents...As their pride can easily grieve that One they purport to be worshipping and produce the “Achan Effect” over the group

Glorying in the Flesh Rehearsed worship service productions, talent exhibition, and showmanship all run counter to true worship and to the correct heart-attitudes that are conducive to His coming...and must be averted.

Priorities It is better to have poorly accompanied worship than to mar the whole quest (of seeking to have Him come down to Dwell among His people) having musical excellence profaned by vanity.

Worship leaders Worshipers of the Lord those who get lost in His presence readily with all their heart) irrespective of the musical abilities they may or may not possess are best suited as worship leaders.

Valuing what His coming will provide

1. Learning to love the Father and the Lord Jesus with all of one's heart, soul, mind and strength
2. Forgetting all that lies behind
3. Relinquishing all advantages, benefits, and privileges that are one's in his life and in this world... Suffering joyfully all of the losses necessary. Counting even the best of one's life as dung. Treasuring nothing other than an intimate knowledge, revelation and communion with the Lord
4. Gaining Christ
5. Being found in Him
6. Having his righteousness, which is by faith
7. The Excellency of knowing Christ
8. Knowing the power of His resurrection
9. Knowing the fellowship of his sufferings
10. Being made conformable unto his death
11. Seeking to become perfect
12. Seeking to attain unto the resurrection of the dead
13. Seeking to apprehend that for which also one is apprehended of Christ Jesus
14. Reaching forth unto those things which are before
15. Pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus
16. Not questing primarily after Revival's secondary Effects
17. consider...Phil 3:7-15

The work of Christ's Forerunner ... receiving the precursor to his rending the heavens and coming down to dwell among His people, The Holy Spirit's conviction of Sin of Righteousness, and judgment to come. (Jn. 16:7-11)

**ONLY YOU CAN CHANGE OUR HEARTS** - Setting the stage for the convicting work of the Holy Spirit in the group that seeks to become His Dwelling Place:

1. Exhortation & encouragement. A call to respond to the Lord with all of the preparatory measures necessary through the appropriate ministry of the Word must be boldly sounded...
  - As conviction of sin works along with the ministry of the word. A clear forthright expounding of the Word should be made, applied directly to those in the group itself, as regards....
  - Enumerated sins.
  - The carnal nature
  - The righteous standards of the Law and of the life exemplified by Jesus Christ
  - Judgment and eternal punishment
  - The exceedingly great and precious promises (2 Pet.1:3,4)
  - A call to exercise active, focused faith in each prayer and in each promise employed.

2. Calling Out together. Call out persistently in corporate and individual prayer for the Holy Spirit's conviction to come in full power and to thoroughly search the recesses of each heart. Jer. 17:9-10; Ps 19:12,13
  3. Not giving up - Press through until... A full cleansing is experienced and the peace that passes all understanding and joy unspeakable and full of glory is obtained.
- A. WOE IS ME I AM UNDONE Defining the Holy Spirit's conviction of sin
1. The beginning of wisdom. The Holy Spirit's conviction of sin and *The fear of the Lord... two sides of the same coin*
  2. If the spirit of Wisdom is to be coveted and pursued above all earthly riches, and His people are still without it (or Him) in their lives... with all due resolve, they must seek to truly have *the fear of the Lord* come into their lives.
  3. By the work of the *fear of the Lord* and His fruit in one's life, the way is prepared for the Spirit of Wisdom (the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit) to be poured out on him and bring him unto an entirely different plane of life and blessing.
  4. Consider...Pr. 1:7: 9:19; Ps 111:10
  5. May blessing of a truly Spirit-filled life (and the likely pitfalls along the way) are specified in Proverbs 1:9. The study of these chapters is highly recommended to the student of sanctification and revival.
- B. "*Knowing therefore the fear of the Lord*" - The Holy Spirit's conviction of Sin/*fear of the Lord* arrives with the manifest, awesome awful presence of the Lord in the midst of those whom He seeds to convert from their carnal and sinful lifestyles. As the heaven is being rent. His awesome, holy, righteous, manifest presence comes and exposes the remaining sinfulness of each heart... By bringing the acute contrast of His own holy nature against that of their corrupt heart. Consider...Mal.3:1-5 2 Cor.5:11
- C. *Revelation of Sin* - reveals the utter depravity and wretchedness of one's condition. The vileness of sin...the willfulness with which they are practised. The righteous standard by which he is being judged (as exemplified by Christ's life and righteousness) to the "churched" the inadequacy of their Religiosity or personal Christianity... Dissatisfaction observed in their daily life...to avert God's judgment. His utterly defenseless posture as a convicted (and still unrepentant) sinner. The reality of Hell and eternal punishment. The fairness and appropriateness of the condemnation to eternal punishment he deserves.
- D. One hundred and Eighty degrees - getting it right
- a) *Fully admit and repent of each sin as it is highlighted*
  - b) *Renouncing and repudiating it...*
  - c) *With care to not justify, or to adhere to anything brought to light under any pretense...lest the conviction of the Holy Spirit be irreversibly grieved.*

- E. Transformation at last!! The fruit of conviction of sin in the non-rebellious will produce
- a) An excruciating agony of heart, upon seeing his own wretchedness... Producing also grief, brokenness, weeping, travail
  - b) An abhorrence of his sins
  - c) A sense of being deeply disheartened regarding his eternal destiny...Due to confronting the reality of his current inner condition
  - d) A heart truly prepared for the "Good News"
  - e) A disregard for and a divesting of one's hypocritical and religious appearances, previously maintained
  - f) A public, almost compulsive confession of sins
  - g) A deep, thorough and permanent repentance.
  - h) A true believing faith, upon hearing the full Gospel's provisions
  - i) Certain graphic, physical manifestations (at times)
  - j) Deliverance from demonic bondage as the refuges of sin are exposed and repented of
  - k) A great and abiding love for the Savior and the Father
  - l) A life truly Filled with the Holy Spirit
  - m) A continual communion with the Lord
  - n) An unfolding revelation of Jesus Christ
  - o) A growing wisdom, revelation, and spiritual understanding regarding what is the hope of his calling, and ...what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and...what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places. Consider...Eph 1:18-19
  - p) A deepening worship life
  - q) An evangelistic fervor and grace

- r) *An abiding anointing for service and ministry*
- s) *A heart and life of joy, praise, and worship*
- t) A “spirit of prayer”
- u) A lifestyle of heart obedience.