

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - Prophecy in current events

Preparations for the Antichrist, Well Under Way!

When considering the signs of the end times we normally consider the incredible rise in natural disasters from earthquakes, the weather, signs in the skies, wars, and rumors of wars. But there is another indication of our being in the last days that we are seeing in the news media every day. It is an earthquake in the moral realm. These are the issues surrounding same-gender marriage. With the United States Supreme Court considering the legality of California's Proposition Eight which prohibits marriage in that state from being recognized as anything other than a lifelong relationship between one man and one woman, all are holding their breath to hear the latest ruling by man.

Yet man cannot change what the Lord has already declared six thousand years ago in the historical setting of the Garden of Eden to our very first parents in Genesis 2:24: ***"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh."*** In the Old Testament men attempted to add to the arrangement of marriage such as the practice of having multiple wives as well as concubines. These practices have always added to the heartache of men and women who violated God's intention in marriage. Yet God's revealed will has always been one man joined in marriage with one woman. This Divine declaration delineating both the purpose and the participants of those qualified to unite in the lifelong union and fellowship of marriage was reaffirmed by the Lord Jesus Christ: ***"And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matthew 19:5)***

Again, we find the consistent confirmation of God's intention in the marriage union in the inspired writings of the Apostle Paul. For church leaders he declared through the leading of the Holy Spirit, God's intent for church leaders, as well as church male church members, if they are married, to be the ***"husbands of one wife"*** (***1 Timothy 3:2, 3:12; Titus 1:6***). In reference to the church's ministry to widows, among the policies that verified their true qualifications for assistance and participation in special ministry in the church was that they were to be the ***"wife of one man"*** (***1 Timothy 5:9***). The design of marriage was given to form the family as a society in miniature. The family is a building block for a great and stable national culture. It begins with marriage between a man and a woman to commit



Police in Paris used tear gas to disperse hundreds of thousands of protesters demonstrating against gay marriage on the Champs-Elysees.

SAMSON/AFP/Getty Images

before God to a lifelong union for mutual cooperation, fellowship, friendship, labor, worship and, as God wills, the producing of children, to raise up new generations to know and serve the Lord. Concerning this purpose in marriage, of raising up godly children.

God said: ***"Didn't God make you one? Your flesh and spirit belong to him. And what does the same God look for but godly descendants? So be careful not to be unfaithful to the wife of your youth"*** (Malachi 2:15, God's Word Translation). Hebrews declares this serious warning to believers who would violate God's design in marriage in any way when He declares: ***"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge"*** (Hebrews 13:4). How sobering is this clear warning in light of the vile abuses that the institution of marriage is suffering today. Notice here, that the Holy Spirit, who is God, plainly warrants the judgment, or condemnation of those who modify or change the Divine design and definition of marriage, as being ***"whoremongers and adulterers."***

In ancient times, idolatrous practices at the temples of false gods involved temple prostitutes, both male and female. These practices, under the influence of Satan, were thought to win favor with the gods. These were practices which were strictly forbidden by God. The Lord said in Leviticus 18:22, ***"Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable."*** (NIV) And God also warned in Deuteronomy 23:18, ***"You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute into the house of the LORD your God to pay any vow, because the LORD your God detests them both."*** (NIV)

Idolatry and homosexuality are intrinsically tied together in the Word of God. In Romans 1, Paul explains how the result of denying God is idolatry and ultimately the sin of homosexuality arises. This is what is happening in America today. There is no way to explain away this connection without somehow twisting the plain intention of the text. Alternate interpretations have often been attempted by those who wish to legitimize homosexuality apart from the Bible's clear teaching. For the purpose of clarity I will quote the entire passage

in Romans 1 relative to this issue. This is a section of Scripture that all Christians should get familiar with in these last days in order to better defend faith and marriage during this time when these are under such grievous Satanic attack!



The demonstrators lined a three-mile route from the Paris business district of La Defense to the roundabout where the Arc de Triomphe is located.

"For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse."

For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.

Therefore God delivered them over in the cravings of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

This is why God delivered them over to degrading passions. For even their females exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. The males in the same way also left natural relations with females and were inflamed in their lust for one another. Males committed shameless acts with males and received in their own persons the appropriate penalty of their error.

And because they did not think it worthwhile to acknowledge God, God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do what is morally wrong. They are filled with all unrighteousness, evil, greed, and wickedness. They are full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful. Although they know full well God's just sentence—that those who practice such things deserve to die (through God's judgment)—they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32)(HCSB)

Notice that God calls homosexual activity, "**degrading passions**," and that this inclination has as its underlying cause, the willful exchanging of the "**truth of God for a lie**." Paul, in the book of Ephesians actually so affirms the importance of God's design for marriage that he says that our marriages are patterns of the marriage of the Church, as the Bride of Christ, to Jesus Christ Himself. (Ephesians 5:31-32) The picture of Jesus Christ coming for His Church at the Rapture is actually that of Christ coming for His Bride to take her to His Father's house, where He has prepared a mansion for her (1 Thessalonians 3:13-18; John 14:1-3).

Therefore, plainly stated, marriage in the Scriptures always refers to the lifelong union of one man with one woman. The biblical basis for marriage is hardly ever mentioned even by conservative politicians in our day. This is sad and wrong! The premise for arguing for traditional marriage is the Bible itself with its clear statements and teachings. In the past the supporters of homosexuality would use the Bible to support their views by making general statements about God's love. Yet, now they are not doing this. One reason is they know that their arguments cannot be sustained by the Bible. Another reason is that many of them simply have a deep hatred and seething resentment for the Bible and for those of a Judeo-Christian worldview who take the Scriptures as God's inerrant Word. They seek to discredit them with terms like "homo-phobic." They disrespect their preaching by using the loaded term "hate-speech." Yet, the "phobia" and "hate-speech" is really with them, as many of their radicals exhibit a clear "biblio-phobia" and "Christo-phobia." This is so unfortunate, yet it is to be expected in these latter days. Under liberal politicians such as we have in the White House now, and through compromising preachers and theologians which are plaguing the church today, the pressures for Bible preaching churches and ministries will only increase. But, no fear, Jesus is coming soon, so we need to preach the Word!

The Anti-Biblical Marriage Movement and the Antichrist Connection

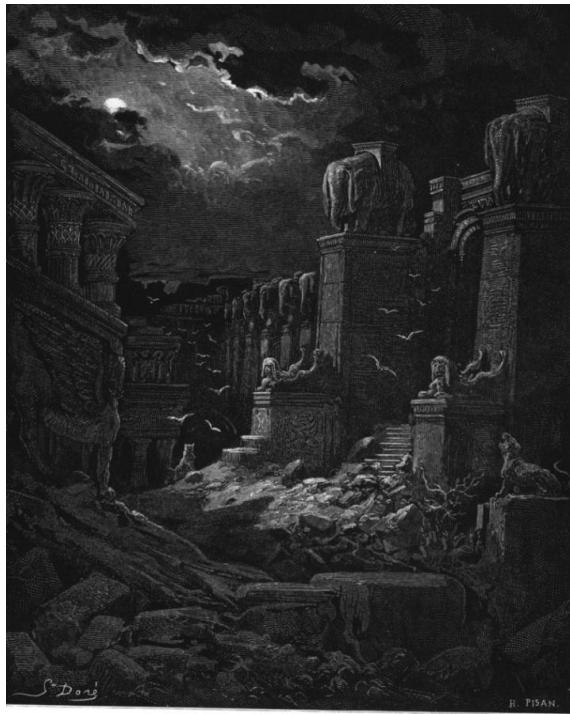
The attempts at redefining marriage today are really efforts to destroy the institution of marriage because Satan hates it. He has sought to corrupt marriage from the beginning. Because marriage is the basis of society as an individual and independent society in miniature, the wicked servants of Satan of the latter days are conspiring to weaken and destroy it. His plan is to destroy America at its roots, by destroying the family! We read in 1 Timothy 4:1-2 that the latter days will see a strong movement, energized by demons, that will have, as its resolute goal, the destruction of marriage.

I believe this present day rush to redefine marriage is a clear indicator that we are in the last days, just prior to the rapture and the revealing of the Antichrist. As we will see, the Antichrist will be in full support of this redefining of marriage and of the worship of God Himself and will utilize these efforts to secure more demonic support to establish and energize his evil kingdom during the Great Tribulation. The preparation for this is well underway today!

Some Important Prophetic Background

Many wonderful verses in the Bible assure us that God is certainly overseeing the world, and will faithfully bring His promises to pass for His people Israel, and through the Church. God told Daniel that 70 weeks, or 490 years have been determined for Israel and that the Gentiles would be in control of much of the life of the Jews for this period of time (Daniel 9:24). Of this time period, 483 years have elapsed. This prophetic time countdown for Israel stopped at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ (Daniel 9:26). A time gap is implied between the cutting off of the Messiah which include the destruction of Jerusalem (70 A.D.) and the completion of the Church Age. Then there will be one more "week" of seven years yet to be fulfilled for Israel. This will be when the Antichrist will make a peace agreement with Israel (Daniel 9:26-27). This will actually be a set up for an act of treachery when he will turn against Israel at the mid-point of the Tribulation (Matthew 24:15; Revelation 13).

Even now, Israel's prophetic clock as related to this time period of Israel being under the control of the Gentile nations is on hold until the "***fullness of the Gentiles be come in, and thus all Israel will be saved***" (***Romans 11:25***). This will conclude the Church Age. Then will come the rapture and the start of the rise of the Antichrist. As a part of His diabolical rise to world power, mid-way through the 70th "week" he shall "***speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.***" In order to better secure his evil kingdom, the mindsets of the people will need to be changed. This process is well under way even today. No longer will loyalty to any one besides him be tolerated, not even love toward father, mother, children, husband or wife. The entire set up for the Antichrist's kingdom is described in sobering detail in Revelation 13 right down to the worship of the Beast and the taking of His mark: 666. This will firmly establish the new, global "family" of the Antichrist.



I believe that things are rapidly shaping up through the current Islamic/leftist/Humanist leadership now reigning in America and in many parts of the European Union. This is in preparation for the rise and reign of the cruel and deceptive Antichrist. He will be accepted by many Jews and Gentiles as a great diplomatic problem solver. He will arise after the rapture of the church. Then there will likely be the occurrence of the battle of Gog and Magog which will bring the defeat of Russia and the Islamic nations who seek Israel's destruction (Ezekiel 37-38). But the apparent peace that will come after this will give the Antichrist an opportunity to convince Israel and the world that he should rule. He, along with his ten nation confederation and the global church, which will be the harlot church called Babylon the great (Revelation 17), and will win the trust of most of the nations. He will convince, or otherwise pressure, Israel into accepting his protection for seven years. Limiting his time of rule in this way will be an additional inducement for Israel to trust him.

The hurried effort today to redefine marriage is showing us how events are shaping up in preparation for the Antichrist's arrival.

He is very likely alive today and ready to be revealed. The mindset of Babylon and Sodom will be implemented through his rule which will greatly speed up the destruction of America and other formerly Christian cultures.

For example, today we are seeing an incredible rush to push homosexual issues before the public eye. The Schools of Massachusetts are now forbidden from preventing a boy student to use a girl's bathroom if he feels like a girl on the inside. Bullying laws are now being used to protect such children who wish to re-think their gender identity. The schools are not permitted to inform the parents of this activity on the part of their children if the children do not want them too.

One recent article by Melissa Barnhart of the *Christian Post* (2/27/2013) states the frightful facts of this law:

"The Massachusetts Department of Education has issued a directive to the state's public schools mandating that they allow boys to cheer on girls-only cheerleading squads, and allow boys to use girls' restrooms if the male student identifies as a female to comply with the state's anti-discrimination law."

In November 2011, the Massachusetts legislature passed a law, "An Act Relative to Gender Identity," that went into effect on July 1, 2012. This law adds "gender identity" to the state's non-discrimination code and defines gender identity as "a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth."

The 11-page directive issued on Feb. 15 is titled, "Guidance for Massachusetts Public Schools, Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity," and requires school administrators, as well as teachers and staff at elementary and secondary education schools, to implement new gender identity policies and procedures in the classroom and for extra-curricular activities.

New guidelines include lengthy definitions for the terms: "gender expression," "gender identity," "gender nonconforming" and "transgender," and advises that transgender students be provided with alternative restroom, locker room, and changing facility – such as a unisex bathroom or the school nurse's restroom – if the student is uncomfortable using that of his/her gender identity.

The document also suggests that school administrators and teachers should "foster understanding of gender identity," for the students who are uncomfortable with male students having the right to use a girls-only bathroom or locker room.

"The School Commissioner's first duty is to protect all students, from kindergarten to grade 12, not endanger them," said Kris Mineau, president of Massachusetts Family Institute, which is working with pro-family legislators to pass "An Act Relative to Privacy and Safety in Public Accommodations" that would require people to use restrooms and locker room facilities that are consistent with their anatomical sex. "The overriding issue with this new policy is that opening girls' bathrooms to boys is an invasion of privacy and a threat to all students' safety."

Can you imagine your precious daughter suddenly seeing a boy coming into her restroom or locker room at school? This is child abuse of the most sinister sort. The goal of those behind these laws, I believe, is to obliterate all real distinction between male and female. It is all a part of Satan's plan for the latter days to ***"call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20.)***

Satan, as a deceiving and "***roaring loin***" (***1 Peter 5:8***) is seeking to "***devour***" Christians, families, children, churches, and even the nation by changing biblical morality and setting up new standards of right and wrong. Again, I believe we are seeing this in the current hasty effort to legalize marriage for homosexuals. Why the hurry? I believe it is getting the world prepared to more easily accept the Antichrist and to be completely loyal to him alone.

There is an amazing statement which helps us to understand the mindset of the Antichrist, and thus of Satan as related to these issues in Daniel 11:37. Daniel predicts that the future Antichrist will not have any "*regard*" for "***the God of his fathers...nor regard any god, for he shall magnify himself above all.***" In this context we find the statement that he will not have "*regard*" for "the desire of women." **This may indicate that he will apply demonically energized pressure to obliterate any real distinction between men and women in their particular affections or the normal understanding of their distinct role in the created order.** As the Antichrist's system of rule is established He will require "***all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,***" and certainly, both male and female, "***to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads, that no man (person) might buy or sell,***" unless he has this identifying mark of 666 (Revelation 13:16-18). This means there will not be any area of social, cultural or religious life that will not be affected and changed by this law. There are efforts today to criminalize as "hate speech" the preaching of Bible passages or topics that view homosexuality in a negative way. We might not be far from the time when churches are shut down for preaching truth!

If society rejects the special regard of women for protection, then there is naturally no real distinction between sexes in the mindset of that culture. Already we are seeing this reflected in America's laws allowing for abortion, women in combat, no fault divorce, etc. Certainly, to this future world leader, homosexuality will not be a problem with him. It will likely be an advantage in his efforts to turn people away from God and His moral teachings by establishing laws to redefine their moral standards. Therefore, it is no surprise that the latter days will see increased efforts to change the definition of marriage and the biblical nature of the family.

To conclude this very long, edition of *Prophecy in Perspective*, I'm including an article about how the Starbucks company is supporting homosexual marriage. You might be encouraged to see that this article is written by a believer who is an ex-homosexual.

Ex-Gay Evangelist Boycotts Starbucks Following CEO's Comments

REUTERS/Bobby Yip

By Jeff Schapiro, Christian Post Reporter

March 28, 2013 / 7:34 pm



Robert Breaud, a Wisconsin evangelist who lived a homosexual lifestyle until 1994, says he will no longer purchase Starbucks products following controversial comments by the company's CEO.

Breaud told *Christian News Network* that for the last half decade or so he drank Starbucks beverages as much as two to three times each day, but all that changed when he learned how Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz responded to a shareholder who expressed concerns over the company's support of gay marriage at an annual meeting.

The shareholder, Tom Strohbar of the Corporate Morality Action Center, complained that the company's support of gay marriage led to a boycott that adversely affected earnings last year, *Forbes* reports. "Not every decision is an economic decision ... The lens in which we are making that decision is through the lens of our people. We employ over 200,000 people in this company, and we want to embrace diversity. Of all kinds," Schultz said in response. He added, "If you feel, respectfully, that you can get a higher

Starbucks Chief Executive Howard Schultz tastes a cup of coffee as he attends a ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the opening of the first Hong Kong Starbucks in Hong Kong. Starbucks sees the potential for thousands of stores in Greater China, where it currently has around 700, and is also keen on expanding in India and Vietnam, the head of the world's largest coffee retailer said.

April 15, 2010

return than the 38% you got last year, it's a free country. You can sell your shares in Starbucks and buy shares in another company. Thank you very much."

Braud said he knew of the company's stance on gay marriage before reading Schultz's comments, but didn't cease buying its products until afterward. He decided to boycott the company when, in response to the issue, his pastor posed the question, "Who do you love more, Christ or your coffee?"

"There's really no good reason not to join the boycott," the evangelist told Christian News. "There's only excuses." Braud, who was born in New Orleans, said he lived a homosexual lifestyle until his 30s, and before his conversion to Christianity he struggled with alcoholism and even occasionally enlisted the services of male prostitutes in the city's French Quarter.

He surrendered his life to Christ in 1994, however, and left his old way of living behind. Later, when Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005, Braud began sharing his testimony and the Gospel message in public forums.

Given the opportunity, Braud said he would warn Schultz of the long-term effects of supporting gay marriage. "[I would tell him,] if you want God to bless your business, run it in accordance with His law ... with His revealed will in Scripture," said Braud. "You're promoting sin. You're helping to destroy young people's lives. ... God will not bless your business in the long run if you consistently thumb your nose at Him and support things He calls sinful."

In 2012, the National Organization for Marriage started the "Dump Starbucks" campaign after the company's leaders declared their stance in favor of allowing same-sex marriages. Nearly 59,000 people have pledged through the campaign's website to stop purchasing Starbucks products until the company changes its position on the issue, though not everyone agrees with this approach.

Where Do You Stand?

There are many companies that are supporting same-sex marriage (Martha Stewart, Expedia, Target, HBO, Kenneth Cole, Oreo cookies, Microsoft, Amazon, Levi's, Nordstrom, JC Penney, Burger King, Pepsi Cola, Coca-Cola, Best Buy, and many, many more!) It is up to each Christian and church to discern how to respond. Some will simply not do business with them. Some will divest themselves of stock holdings. Others who are employed by them will pray to be bold witnesses in their midst as true Christians. Others will seek to be witnesses as they continue to trade with them, perhaps in some modified way as they are led by the Lord (Romans 14:5,23; Colossians 2:16). Unfortunately, there are many Christians, and preachers who, because of compromise, will not take a stand at all! Some pastors are even supportive of these trends, but then, I believe there is a real question if they are really even saved!

But, now, plainly, it is more important than ever for Christians to read their Bibles with greater fervency with the full expectation of the Lord's return at any moment! Jesus will return at any time to take us out of the world, but it is important that we continue being "salt" and "light" in the world for our Lord! It is also vital that we, as believers in Jesus Christ who gave all for us on the cross at Calvary and who rose from the dead so we can have life, live for Him in every area of our lives.

I believe there are readers of this *Prophecy in Perspective* newsletter who are in need of repentance of their sins of immorality or impure thoughts. It is time for us to take a stand on truth! Hebrews asks: "***How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?***" (Hebrews 2:3) We do not have the calling to ignore the realities

around us. The Lord shows us through His prophetic Word how things are unfolding so that we can be warned and to warn others that Jesus Christ is going to return at any time. We are to encourage the world to be ready. ***"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15).***

As we celebrate the Lord's resurrection this season, and as Israel celebrates the Passover, which also pictures our Lord's death and resurrection, remember that the redeeming work that the Lord accomplished for you and for me was not so that we can sit passively and silently awaiting heaven, but for us to actively, victoriously and dynamically be Spirit filled witnesses to all the world. We are called to do this with full conviction and without compromise!!

Happy Resurrection Morning!!!



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(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at prophecyinperspective.com. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; or his latest book, "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him.)