

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An email newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in Current Events*

Jesus Reveals the Future Part 3

⁹*Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. ¹⁰And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. ¹¹And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. ¹²And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. ¹³But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. ¹⁴And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matthew 24:9-14)*

It is truly remarkable how relevant these prophecies are for us today! I have followed this passage for the past several editions of *Prophecy in Perspective* to make clear the straightforward predictions that Jesus gave to his disciples. The Lord is now referring to the growing persecution of believers that will take place on the earth as the return of the Lord draws near. In our present day we are looking for the coming of the Lord Jesus to rapture the church to heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). As we have already studied, the seven year Great Tribulation will follow the rapture event (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12). At the rapture, Jesus will come FOR His saints, and then, after the Great Tribulation He will return to the earth WITH His saints at the close of the Tribulation period to establish His thousand year Kingdom from Jerusalem (Revelation chapters 4-19).

The Great Tribulation will be a time of world-wide judgment when God will bring the world under His hand of righteous punishment for sin and rebellion. I fully believe that we are right at the very door of this time of judgment and that the rapture will be soon. Judgment has already begun upon the earth and upon America



for sin and rebellion against God. In these verses, Jesus speaks of the growing persecution that will arise in the latter days upon believers, especially in the Great Tribulation. I believe persecution is growing now in preparation for those times! An example of how this persecution is rapidly arising is found in the example of a couple who own a bakery and who cater to all people who come in. Except, when a lesbian couple wanted them to make a cake for their upcoming "wedding," they could not do this because they felt they would then be participating in their sin. And they were correct in this. Here is where the persecution for their faith began as the following article shows:

GRESHAM, Ore. — The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries has issued a gag order against the Christian owners of a bakery in the state, banning them from speaking about their convictions not to participate in same-sex ceremonies by baking, decorating and delivering a cake for the event.

"The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries hereby orders [Aaron and Melissa Klein] to cease and desist from publishing, circulating, issuing or displaying, or causing to be published ... any communication to the effect that any of the accommodations ... will be refused, withheld from or denied to, or that any discrimination be made against, any person on account of their sexual orientation," the order, written by Commissioner Brad Avakian, reads.



"... Aaron has been charged with advertising. (Basically talking about not wanting to participate in same-sex weddings). This effectively strips us of all our First Amendment rights," the couple posted to their business Facebook page following the order. "According to the state of Oregon, we neither have freedom of religion or freedom of speech. We will not give up this fight, and we will not be silenced."

Reports state that the order came as a result of comments made to the media that they would stand by their faith and not participate in future homosexual events.

As previously reported, Aaron and Melissa Klein operate Sweet Cakes by Melissa in Gresham, which is now operated from the couple's home after the Kleins' shut their doors due to harassment. In January 2013, Aaron was approached by a mother and her daughter as the two were interested in a cake for the daughter's upcoming wedding—to her lesbian partner.

"My first question was what's the wedding date," Klein told television station KTW in Portland. "My next question was [the] bride and groom's name. ... The girl giggled a little bit and said, 'It's two brides.'"

He then informed the women that the bakery does not make cakes for homosexual events.

"I apologized for wasting their time and said that, unfortunately, we do not do same-sex marriages," Klein explained.

The women left Sweet Cakes upset about the incident, and later, one of them filed a complaint with the state. The Oregon attorney general's office soon launched an investigation against the Klein's as the state's non-discrimination laws prevent public accommodations from being denied to any individual on the basis of "race, color, religion, sex [or] sexual orientation."

But Klein states that he regularly serves homosexuals. He believes that there is a difference between serving homosexuals in general and having to personally facilitate same-sex ceremonies, which is an act of participation.

"I have customers come in almost on a weekly basis that are homosexual," he said. "They can buy my stuff. I sell stuff. I talk with them. That's fine. ... This was not the first time we've served these girls."

"We were being asked to participate in something that we could not participate in," Klein's wife, Melissa, noted.



Some Christians believe that being a part of a same-sex event violates the biblical command in 1 Timothy 5:22 not to be "partakers in other men's sins," as well as the command in Ephesians 5:7, "Be not ye therefore partakers with them."

In February, a judge with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries ruled that the Christian bakers are guilty of discrimination for declining to make the cake, thus moving the matter into

the sentencing phase. The Kleins had expressed concern prior to the ruling that if they were forced to pay a fine for declining the cake over their Christian convictions, the penalty would "definitely" bankrupt the family.

The two women, who have been identified as Rachel Cryer and Laurel Bowman, submitted individual lists of just under 100 aspects of suffering in order to receive damages. They included "acute loss of confidence," "doubt," "distrust of men," "distrust of former friends," "excessive sleep," "discomfort," "high blood pressure," "impaired digestion," "loss of appetite," "migraine headaches," "loss of pride," "mental rape," "resumption of smoking habit," "shock" "stunned," "surprise," "uncertainty," "weight gain" and "worry."

But the Kleins told the court that they too had suffered because of the attacks that they received over their desire to live out their Christian faith in the workplace. They stated that they endured "mafia tactics" as their car was vandalized and broken into on two occasions, their vendors were harassed by homosexual advocates resulting in some businesses breaking ties with them, and they received threatening emails wishing rape, death and Hell upon the family. As a result, they had to close their business and move it into their private home.

In April, Alan McCullough, an administrative judge with the bureau, recommended a fine of \$135,000, with one of the women receiving \$75,000 and the other \$60,000. Prosecutors had sought damages of \$75,000 each. Last week, the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries accepted McCullough's recommendation and ordered the Kleins to pay \$135,000 to the women.

The Kleins plan on fighting the ruling in court and are refusing to pay the damages.

"We stand for God's truth, God's word and freedom for ALL Americans," the couple wrote on Facebook. "We are here to obey God, not man, and we will not conform to this world. If we were to lose everything it would be totally worth it for our Lord who gave His one and only son, Jesus, for us! God will win this fight!" (Christian News Network, July 6, 2015)

This is a time of growing persecution of Christians who believe, and like the Kleins, actually LIVE LIKE the Bible is true! The reason for this persecution is that the Devil is preparing the world for the Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:7; 1 John 4:1-4). Jesus stated clearly: "**And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold**" (**Matthew 24:10-12**). People are getting offended by righteousness and sound biblical doctrine. Hatred for Christians is increasing and there are growing numbers of false prophets proclaiming that gay marriage is a good thing. The iniquity that is abounding in our days is resulting in many growing very cold hearted and hard hearted. This is what sin will do!



Along with the homosexuals advancing their own agenda in the area of marriage, there is even a movement to change the very Word of God to get the Bible to agree with their views. Have you ever heard of the King James Bible? Well, get ready for the "gay" version, or per-version, of the Bible called: The Queen James Bible! Here are a couple of examples of how the "Queen James Version," changes the meaning of God's Word in order to sanction homosexuality.

I Corinthians 6:9 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, <u>nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,</u> (KJV)	I Corinthians 6:9 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, <u>nor morally weak, nor promiscuous,</u> (QJV)
1 Timothy 1:10 "For whoremongers, for them <u>that defile themselves with mankind,</u> for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; (KJV)	1 Timothy 1:10 "For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves, with mankind (text is removed in QJV) for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine." (QJV)

(see <https://carm.org/queen-james-bible>)

The obvious design of the QJV is to root out any idea that God disapproves of homosexual lifestyles. The Lord is very clear that those who change God's Word will be condemned as liars: "**Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar**" (**Proverbs 30:6**). There are eternal consequences for willfully changing the Bible to support sin: "**But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable (Leviticus 20:13), and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death**" (**Revelation 20:13**)

I suspect that it will not be long before only "approved" versions of the Bible such as the "Queen James Version will be allowed by law. Make sure that you have a good supply of King James Bibles around! Other translations such as the NASB, NKJB, HCSB are also good in their translations of the key passages dealing with homosexuality and God's warnings against it.

President Obama is all for remaking (transforming) America into a "gay" nation! The lighting of the Whitehouse in the "rainbow pride" colors of the homosexual movement is a deliberate mockery of God, the Bible and of the principles of America's founding fathers. Without a doubt, the traditional and biblical family is under assault in America! It is quite obvious that America is being deliberately "transformed" to weaken our ability to defend Israel and the nations of the world that are subject to attack and infiltration through the agents of militant Islam. Only those who are willfully naive will fail to see the connection.

Mr. Obama plans to visit Kenya latter this month. Already, anti-gay activists in Nairobi, Kenya, are warning President Obama against advocating tolerance for homosexuality when he visits Kenya in August. Bishop Mark Kariuki, chairman of the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, led a demonstration this week in Nairobi to protest against Mr. Obama's likely intention to promote homosexuality there. Bishop Kariuki stated: "So when Obama comes, we are asking him to respect the morals of Kenyans, to respect the faith of Kenyans, he is coming for a commercial visit, let him talk about the conference but he should not talk about gayness because he is a world leader and our young people will start thinking that is a way of life."

Returning now to our examination of Matthew 24:9-14, Jesus continues teaching His disciples about the end times. Jesus' statement: ***"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved," (Matthew 24:10)*** is referring to those who are alive after the rapture and during the Great Tribulation. At that time, the true church will be in heaven and the false church, which is forming even now, will be upon the earth. Jesus words are a warning to those during that time not to take the mark of the Beast described in Revelation 13:16-18. ***"The same shall be saved,"*** is a reference to those who are alive to see the Lord return to the earth with His saints at the close of the Tribulation period. Many of these will have heeded the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom by the 144,000 Jewish preachers and by the two witnesses. Many others of these will believe in the Messiah upon His return when they see Him. In other words, the ***"saved"*** in this context refers to those who have survived to see His return. Meanwhile, during the length of the seven year Tribulation, and in particular, during the last three and one half years, the Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached around the world.

"And this gospel of the kingdom (Jesus' earthly Kingdom which He will set up upon His return to Jerusalem) shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" Matthew 24:14. Again, this preaching will predominately be accomplished by the 144,000 Jews who are sealed as God's preachers (Revelation 7) along with the dynamic testimony of the Two Witnesses (Revelation 11). The ***"end"*** is the end of the Tribulation period when the Lord returns to the Holy Land to establish His thousand year Kingdom reign from Jerusalem.

It is important for Christians to understand that the persecution of believers has already commenced in America. While we still look forward to the rapture, we will have to decide whether we are going to stand strong against



the increase of darkness and sin in our times. It is time for Christians to separate from churches, false teachers, and ministries that will not take a stand against the sin of our times (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). I anticipate new and smaller fellowships forming in America that stand upon God's Word and that will gather in the true name of Jesus Christ (Matthew 18:20). Paul warned the Body of Christ: ***"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholly, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these"*** (2 Timothy 3:1-5, NASB). If you lose your job for your stand for righteousness, or if as a pastor or church member, you are shunned by your church or denomination for your convictions, God will direct you and supply your every need. Trials of faith are good to make us strong in our witness to the faithfulness of God (1 Peter 1:5-9). You will personally witness His faithfulness in these "difficult times" (See Hebrews 11).

We are indeed seeing "difficult times," when peoples' ***"love"*** is growing ice ***"cold"*** toward God, the family, the church, and the religious and moral principles upon which America was founded. After the Supreme Court rebelliously ruled that the sin of homosexual marriage was a right and when President Obama shamefully bathed the White House in the rainbow colors of the homosexual movement in America, he was actually prompting God to judge this nation. While it is certainly true that judgment has already begun in America, there is still greater judgment yet to come. However, I believe this judgment will come sooner rather than later. It is high time for the righteous to pray for repentance and revival in the church and in America (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Stay faithful to God's Word, pray for revival in the church and in America, and speak boldly against the sins of these days. Call for the lost to repent and to believe the gospel. Be unstoppable for Jesus Christ, He is coming soon!

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

(Revelation 22:12)

As usual, if you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your name and email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his books: "Good News From a Far Country", A study in the book of Daniel [\$15- SORRY - THIS BOOK IS SOLD OUT - Reprints coming soon]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10]; and "Fearless Faith" [\$10] by contacting him.

(Please note a change! WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE CHANGES WE HAVE MADE TO prophecyinperspective.com!! You can access ANY of Dr. Downing's prior Newsletters under the "Newsletter" tab! You can also contact him via this site to order books, ask a question, or book him to speak on Prophecy at your event under the "Contact" tab! You can also view the NEW VIDEOS of Dr. Downing teaching on different topics and books of the Bible.