



# Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing

An email newsletter

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## *Preparations for the Rise of Antichrist: Part 3*

### *Spiritual Confusion And Doctrinal Denial in the Last Days*

***Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us (2 John 2:18-19).***

The Bible tells us that there will be a great deal of spiritual confusion and doctrinal denial in the last days. The reference in 2 John 2:18-19 that we read above brings out the latter days reality of people who, under the influence of false teachers, leave the truth of biblical Christianity for false and counterfeit Christianity. Coming under the demonic influence of sin and satanically influenced immorality and doctrine they begin to affirm and live unscriptural and unholy life styles and attach themselves to self-focused philosophies. This departure from the faith is called in Scripture, the "apostasy," and is more and more common today as the coming of the Lord draws nearer. And it is not as though John's words: "***They went out from us,***" means they necessarily stopped going to church. Today we see some parking lots filled with hundreds of cars at churches not teaching biblical doctrine and whose attendees may well be, at the same time, members in good standing at other churches. Today we can also see individuals, churches, and even Christian denominations departing from the biblical truth and congratulating themselves for it while experiencing a surge of members who have cast aside sound teaching for a new "worship experience" and "a caring community of faith."

This departure is predicted in Scripture: "***Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils***" (1 Timothy 4:1). They do so because the spirit of Satan has sown the seeds of unbelief among those who are rebellious and susceptible to his subtle wiles. The powers behind false teachers and the growing attraction to them in the last days is shown here to be those of "seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." "Devils" is the Greek word: *daimonia*. The demons, under the direction of Satan and with the cooperation of both Emerging (post-modern) church teachers and hearers, are "departing from the faith." As Paul wrote: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires" (2 Timothy 4:3, NASB). While many would react to this idea, they often forget that the enemy of our souls is very subtle and the pull of deception in the latter days is predicted to be very strong. Satan is extremely capable of influencing spiritually vulnerable people to be attracted and drawn to false teachers and even to prefer them. Often, subtle currents are strong in the sea near the shore

and pull off swimmers while they are having an enjoyable time in the water. Young people are particularly susceptible to this, both the literal sea currents and theological currents. The more mature Christians need to be diligent to warn others and make them aware of the dangers in these trends. It is so unfortunate that many of the young Christians are not being warned by the older believers as they should be.

It seems that growing numbers of preachers and Christian leaders are teaching that some parts of the Bible are unimportant for today and are literally making up new teachings and methods for Christians to believe and follow. Spiritual confusion exists because these leaders and writers lead more by personality and clever imagination than they do by seeking to win the lost to Christ and seeking to spiritually mature Christians through sound teaching of the Bible. Of course, teaching sound doctrine is much more difficult and takes more study and prayerful effort. Many are simply downloading sermons and methods of other "successful" pastors in order to achieve the same result of growth in numbers.

This apostasy, through the subtle but powerful influence of demons, is preparatory to the rising of the Antichrist after the rapture. In anticipation of the coming of Christ and the sudden removal of all born-again saints from the earth to heaven, "***the mystery of iniquity doth already work***" (***2 Thessalonians 2:7***). This means that Satan is now working to deceive the world and even Christians through spiritual confusion and doctrinal denial in these last days. Satan will use false and misleading teachers and teachings, as well as shocking and dismaying events, as we have seen in recent days, to draw away as many as possible from trusting in Jesus Christ and the Bible and to detour Christians from living holy lives.

Satan sows spiritual confusion and doctrinal denial in churches in many ways. Franklin Graham just reported on "so-called faith leaders" who are gathering to pronounce a "blessing" on an abortion clinic in Columbus, OH!! Those gathering for this "blessing" said, "Anti-Abortion advocates do not have the monopoly on faith or God. Many faith leaders and people of faith hold that accessing and providing abortions are good and godly decisions." Franklin Graham said, "In reality, they are 'blessing' murder. They are blessing actions that are against the laws of God...The Bible is very clear that life begins at conception." And yet, "faith leaders" are at the helm of this apostasy.

With the Christian churches being weakened doctrinally and morally, and Christians living inconsistent lives, Satan has a much freer hand to corrupt the nation. A big part of Satan's plan is to sow as much confusion in our national life in America as possible. As I have pointed out, historically, God has used strong Christians and churches to support the United States because, I believe, God has used the US as a strong supporter and protector of Israel.

Even as Satan sows spiritual confusion and doctrinal denial in churches in many ways, we can witness Satan's systematic sowing of spiritual confusion into the nation through the threat of invasion of thousands of illegal aliens slowly heading to our Southern border. This is accompanied by much leftist rhetoric on the part of those who seek to do away with US borders to secure votes, and to promote a new one world order with a new government which many of us believe will be the future Antichrist himself. Do not be deceived by the left, they follow the doctrines and precepts of Secular Humanism and Marxism which absolutely denies the Bible and God. They deny the uniqueness of America as a nation whom God desires to use for Israel's protection and support.

There is no sacred belief in the sanctity of human life, holiness of marriage between one man and one woman, nor the integrity of men and women to believe in the Bible as the Word of God, that the left will not seek somehow to degrade, disrespect or overthrow. The left loves to attach the suffixes of "phob," or "ist" to their descriptives of conservatives and Christians in order to degrade their high moral view of God, the Bible, humanity, marriage and country. The Secular Humanist-Marxist Left desperately needs to dismantle these views and beliefs to form their new Socialistic world order.

The left uses agitation to incite anger and emotion to stir protest and dissension. The rebellious tone and belligerent attitude of the Secular Humanist Left has served to rouse violent action by those who are mentally unstable and prone to extreme reactions. The left have been adept and quick at accusing conservative Christians of causing strife in America for years. It is high time for the actual case to be made that rebellion, resistance and riots have been the "three r's" of the left for decades and that the blame for unrest being put upon conservatives and Christians by the left news media has been their usual camouflage that hides them from real accountability. Satan will use similar techniques in the future Great Tribulation to deceive people through false reporting and shocking demonstrations that will advance his agenda of deadly domination through a new global and satanic world order (Revelation 13:11-18).

As we have seen recently, the devil further seeks to sow discord through such threats of violence that would bring further division into an already divided nation of America by means of a demonized man sending pipe bombs around the country to intimidate leftist politicians. Further showing how Satan has a plan to sow confusion and fear today, this pipe bomb mailer was immediately followed by another demonized man massacring Jewish worshippers while shouting "death to all Jews," in a Pittsburg Pennsylvania conservative synagogue during their Friday Sabbath services. We need to keep these families in prayer who have been traumatized through the deaths and injuries of their loved ones. Remember that Zechariah said **"for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye" (Zechariah 2:8).**

This rising spiritual confusion should not take us by surprise but should affirm to us that the Word of God is true and that we are living in the last days. Paul warns about just such times as these in which we live today: **"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, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..." (2 Timothy 3:1-4).** Satan, being the subtle deceiver that he is, enjoys creating havoc in society through violent, evil and wicked activities while pointing his crooked finger of blame on the Bible believing Christians as well as on conservative Jews!

Unfortunately, spiritual confusion also comes from many of our own church members because of their voter support of leftist and humanistic candidates. This adds, of course, to a great deal of counterfeiting of the true work of the Holy Spirit in the world today. Church pews may be filled with those who sing loud during service but who also applaud and praise pro-abortion candidates who agree with homosexual and adulterous lifestyles. This double-minded behavior is hypocritical of who we are called to be as Christians and gives a false impression of the true holiness of God to the culture before whom we are to **"appear as lights in the world"** (Philippians 2:15). How can anyone explain such spiritual schizophrenia accept for the influence of demons? The Scripture excludes the possibility of Christians supporting or affirming any who promote sinful and unholy behavior. Paul even teaches that such support defrauds other Christians in the church: **"On the contrary, you**

***yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren. Or do you not know that the unrighteous ones will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:8-10).***

Little wonder why there is also a rising tide of doctrinal denial in the churches. The true gospel is under attack today by teachers who deny the doctrinal facts of Jesus Christ that underlie the gospel itself. This is again often supported by experience-oriented church members basing their Christian lives on emotional feelings over biblical facts. Such facts as the virgin birth of Christ, His Deity, His sinless life, substitutionary atonement, bodily resurrection and literal return are realities that underlie our solid faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior. And in a practical way, a sound and fruitful faith that comes through knowing who Jesus Christ is in truth will be seen in that church member's consistent action as a Christian voting citizen. Being well grounded in the Scriptural truths of Jesus Christ, his or her desire will be to exhibit the righteousness of God in Christ to a culture that seeks to use political power to deny Him and to darken people's lives with immorality and spiritual confusion.

Consistent Christians well-taught in the truths of Scripture will consistently promote biblical marriage, preservation of life from conception, affirm judges and political leaders who will uphold established constitutional laws and clear national borders without which there is no real country, but only anarchy. This kind of Christian will understand that a strong America, morally and spiritually, will be a strong protector of Israel, which is the key nation through which God has blessed and will bless the earth in future days.

Remember that Satan's intention is to weaken America, and all nations, morally, and especially in the case of America, to weaken our resolve to support the nation of Israel. Destruction of Israel is Satan's great goal in these days. Keeping the imminent return of the Lord before us as well as the importance of Israel in prophecy is the Christian's safe guard to maintaining a vigilant walk. This kind of walk promotes a strong nation that will consistently support Israel. Therefore, strong Bible teaching churches, followed by strong Christians, results in a strong and convicted nation that seeks to stand for Israel, protect life, liberty and morality for the well being of its people.

Dr. Robert R. Congdon, in his important book, The European Union and the Supra-Religion, writes on the importance of supporting Israel and how Satan seeks its destruction:

"It is reasonable to conclude that Satan's persistent attempts to annihilate Israel and the Jewish people will be intensified as the time of Christ's second appearing approaches because he knows that they play a prominent role in God's plan. Satan desires to replace Israel and true Christians with his own citizens and fallen angels. This certainly explains why both Jews and Christians are increasingly persecuted and vilified today. His plan is an imitation of God's plan...In all ways, Satan's plan is in opposition to God's plan." (Robert R. Congdon, The European Union and the Supra-Religion, p. 224)

As we anticipate the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, we need to seek to know and to please Him in every way based not on our feelings about Him, but based on who the Bible says He is in truth. This will bring a sound and fruitful faith that will make a difference in the lives of the lost. It will make a difference in how we live and work as citizens of heaven as well as Christian citizens in America today. So much confusion and denial of truth in the church and even in America today can be answered in a powerful way through our lives and

witness for Christ in truth. We must not be among those who call themselves Christians while we are in church, but who actually live and even vote like godless unbelievers by supporting godless leaders. We must take seriously our call to be holy even as God is holy. As the Lord said to His people in the Old Testament, He says to us as Christians today: ***"Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy"*** (Leviticus 19:2). Today, in the midst of growing spiritual confusion and doctrinal denial, it is time to walk and work as God's holy people, believing in every word of Scripture and obeying God while we watch for the coming of the Lord.

## *Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ*

*Titus 2:13*

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