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Articles
(1-4 Pages Long)

Becoming a Blessing to Others
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In Matthew 14:19, we see the three steps to becoming a blessing to others:

- (1) Jesus took ALL the loaves and fish;
- (2) He blessed them; and
- (3) He broke them.

"It is only as you also allow the Holy Spirit to break the strength of your own will that you will become spiritual."

Then the multitude was fed. This is how the Lord wants to make you a blessing to others too. You have to *give* Him everything first, as the little lad there did. Then He will *bless* you with the power of the Holy Spirit. Then He will *break* you through many trials, frustrations, disappointed hopes, failures, sicknesses, betrayals, etc., humble you, and reduce you to nothing in the eyes of men. Then, He will *bless others* through you. So, submit to His breaking. The Bible says that Jesus was first crushed and then the Father's work prospered in His hand (See Isa.53:10-12).

Jesus allowed His human self-will to be broken in the different situations in His life. Only thus was He able to offer Himself without spot to His Father. It was for this purpose that the Spirit strengthened Him (Heb.9:14). It is only as you also allow the Holy Spirit to break the strength of your own will that you will become spiritual. Your self-will must be broken at the times when you are tempted to do what your own strong self-life would like to do, instead of doing what God wants you to do.

Your cross will be found in those places where the will of God crosses your self-will. There your own will must be crucified. There the Spirit will tell you to die. If you obey the Spirit's voice consistently, you will remain constantly broken; and God has promised to give continuous revival to those who remain continuously broken in spirit. The Lord says, "*I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite*" (Isa.57:15).

It is good to remain at all times with a sense of *your own need* - "*poor in spirit*". But you must also believe that God mightily rewards all who diligently seek Him. All the value of being poor in spirit will be worthless, if you don't also believe that God will bless you and fill you with His power.

Seek fellowship with the poor and the weak, in every church, and encourage them. Talk to the children and encourage them because most people neglect the children. Always seek for the low, unnoticed place, and for the unseen ministries in a church. Don't ever seek prominence in any church, and don't seek to impress anyone in any way, with your gifts or your talents. But be bold always to testify in every meeting, and to serve in every way possible in the church - whether cleaning the floor or playing the piano. Don't ever get into any competition with anyone, for any ministry. God Himself will open up the ministry that He has planned for you, at the right time, if you are faithful.

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Word for the Week
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Holy Days 2022

Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022

Pentecost – June 5, 2022
Trumpets - September 26, 2022
Atonement – October 5, 2022
Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022
Last Great Day – October 17, 2022

What About Armageddon – Who Will Fight and When? **(Copyright) by Rhoda Foust (Lehigh Acres, Florida)**

When the word Armageddon is spoken, people automatically think of war between nations. Most do not fully understand when, where, or how it will take place. Many fear it could happen at any time, especially now that Israel is fighting for survival, and many assume that the middle east problems will lead to this event and that it will spread into other nations. We hear religious people talking about armies surrounding Jerusalem, and "sudden destruction coming upon the land", and we think could this be "Armageddon"? Because it conjures up fear many choose to disbelieve it will ever happen. This study is to show how we may understand and see the many events to take place before the battle of Armageddon. We find this topic mentioned in the widely misunderstood book of Revelation.

Re 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants' things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

6 ¶ And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

The book of Revelation is a message, from Yeshua to His people, to unveil events that are to happen during our age, from the time of John the Baptist to the millennium (the next age). Regardless of how difficult it is to understand, if we respect and reverence our heavenly Father, Yahweh, and are of His church (have an earnest of His holy spirit), and keep his commandments, we should have a strong desire to "have a good understanding" of this valuable message Yeshua has sent especially to us. He tells us who can understand these prophecies. Within this message He tells us of certain events that take place before the battle of Armageddon

Ps. 111:10 The fear (St.Conc.#3374 = reverence, respect) of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

112:1 ¶ Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

Pr 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Pr 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

These are but a few scriptures showing that one must reverence and respect Yahweh, keep and delight greatly in His commandments, that he may have good understanding, and wisdom. Another scripture tells us that the wise shall understand.

Da 12:10 Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Having said that, we will go to Rev. 16 where we find the mention of Armageddon.

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1 ¶ And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.

We must first find the time setting for these Vials. We start with the seven Seals which gives the overall view of our entire age, starting in Rev. 6:1-17. The first six Seals pictures events to occur up until the seven Trumpets are introduced. By studying these Seals, we can see that the first three seals are being fulfilled and makes us wonder that we may presently be entering the fourth Seal. When we come to the last Seal, we see that within it are seven trumpets (Rev.8). The first four trumpets describes horrendous diasters to our earth. The fifth trumpet introduces the first of the three Woes. Woe one happens in the fifth trumpet (Rev.9:1-11). Woe two in the sixth trumpet (Rev. 9:12-14), and the last, Woe three, takes place at the end of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 12:1-17, 13:1-18,14:1-20). The seven vials of Yahweh’s wrath culumates in the last Woe. To reach the sequencial time flow the reader should read these verses from the Bible before starting this study.

The first verse (Rev. 16:1) gives the time slot showing that this is the beginning of the seven Vials of Yahweh’s wrath located in the third Woe.

2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

Verse two shows that Satan’s beast power (world government) has already been in power for some time, long enough for many to have already taken his mark and have worshipped his image.

3 And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea.

Each vial, as did the previous events, flows into the next event, compounding each vial’s events.

4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood.

8 ¶ And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,

11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

This is getting very close to the end of Satan’s world ruling power. The seventh Trumpet which is in the 7th Seal (and the 6th vial of God’s wrath) is where we find the great battle of Armageddon.

12 ¶ And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Each vial is added onto the next, showing how each event progresses into the next event. These “vials” are time periods which show how Yahweh is venting His wrath against a wicked world, giving them an opportunity to repent. We are not told how much time each event occupies. Verse 13 and 14 shows demons influencing the nations to war by miracles. Notice who these nations will battle against; “the battle of that great day of God Almighty”. They have no intention of fighting each other. They agree to meet in Armageddon combining their power against Yeshua and his army.

13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), and out of the mouth of the beast (Satan’s world government), and out of the mouth of the false prophet (Satan’s world religion).

14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world,

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to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

These remaining wicked Gentile nations have murdered Yahweh’s people, and now they think to destroy the army of Yahweh. He has had his fill of their wickedness and makes the decision to end this age with His last, 7th Vial. This is “The Great Day of Yahweh Almighty”. He says, “It is done”! He will end this age as we know it.

17 ¶ And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done.

18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nation’s fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent (65 lbs.): and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Does this study not show that there is no need for anyone in our generation to fear being alive when the great battle of Armageddon takes place? Chapters 17 and 18 gives vivid descriptions of Satan’s world powers, and how they are dealt with. In Chapter nineteen we see the second coming of Yeshua. He comes with His angelic army for the final victory of destruction to an evil world.

Rev. 19:11 ¶ And I saw heaven opened and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived

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them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

21 And the remnant (rest of them) were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

17:12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast (who is still in control of the world).

13 These have one mind and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

At this point in time another age begins, one without the influence of Satan for one thousand years, one that the resurrected saints' rules with Yeshua. Together they will restore the earth back to the beauty it once knew.

20:1 ¶ And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.

In conclusion: The war at Armageddon is not a war between nations. These nations think to war against Christ. However, Christ is the one who wins this war. By this time the wicked have killed the righteous, who refused to take the mark of the beast, and at the end God destroys the wicked. So, the fear that "Armageddon" is a war that mankind can expect soon will not happen until all the "seven last plagues" of the third woe have been fulfilled. That doesn't mean that anyone should be unprepared to meet God with a clear conscious because regardless of how long it may be until all these prophesies are fulfilled, anyone of us could die at any time, and the next instant of awareness we will be judged by our works (acts). Instead of fearing the war of Armageddon we need to fear to disobey Yehweh.

A New Beginning, An Inauguration!

(Copyright) by John Jewell (London, England)

From January 23, 2009

Naturally, the big news at the moment is the election of Mr. Barack Obama as president of the United States. The TV footage and radio interviews showed what a great deal of hope the American citizens, and also citizens in other nations, have in Mr. Obama. Indeed, many have shown a considerable faith in him, yet no one really knows a lot about him. As we said in a recent Letter from London he was born in Hawaii of an American mother from Kansas and a father who is a Kenyan economist. He, Mr. Obama, has a number of relatives living in Kenya, some of whom were in Washington for the inauguration. As a young person a lot of his upbringing took place in Indonesia, very little has been said about those years. Indonesia is very much a Moslem nation. Back in Hawaii, as far as we know, it was his maternal grandparents who financed his education in one of the largest private preparatory schools in the country. His three years in Harvard Law School seems to have been financed by them as well. I broke off writing this letter at this point as it is Tuesday, 20th January, as I write, Inauguration Day with 2 hours of full coverage of events and the ceremony on BBC television. Did you hear his inauguration speech? I made sure I did! I would be interested to know your reactions to it. But I will give you mine now.

Following his taking of the oath of acceptance of the position of president of the United States he, as is customary, gave the speech of acceptance. Speaking for a full twenty minutes he was in full control and presented himself as speaking from the heart and of reaching out to the average American of whatever color. Not only that, but he presented himself as reaching out to the average citizen of the world of whatever nationality. He would, however, have made few friends among the bankers of New York by his comments. He stressed that there needed to be a change of attitude among everyone of whatever color, race, creed, occupation, age, or nationality. He tried to reach all nations around the world, saying how everyone needed to co-operate, to work together. He stressed the need to do something about climate change - that would have been received with relief by many in other parts of the world. His speech was very much a clarion call to America and the world at large to put differences aside and to work together for the benefit of all. And one could not complain about that.

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Looking back into recent history to see any parallels to the speech Mr. Obama gave was not too difficult. One was reminded very much of John F. Kennedy but with a little of Tony Blair. I think President Kennedy was 44 or 43 at the time he became president, Mr. Obama is 47. It was interesting to hear Mr. Obama not too far into his speech, and unlike most American presidents, and certainly no British politicians, quote scripture. He quoted exactly the same one we did in the last Letter from London. He didn't mention the chapter and verse which was 1 Corinthians 13 and verse 11, and he didn't quote all of it. He quoted the part where it spoke of putting away childish things. It was in the context of telling America and the world, to grow up! And frankly I couldn't argue with that. Fundamentally, Mr. Obama gave an excellent speech, he said the right things, made the right call to action, he would have reached the average person in America very well indeed. He might even reach some in other parts of the world. As I said a moment ago, I doubt he would have reached the offices in Wall St, New York. Or if he did, he would not have been received very positively.

The following day is a day when everyone who still has a job, gets back to their desks, back to the check-out, the factory bench, or the endless round of trying to make sales. And it's when new American presidents sit down for the first time at the big desk in the Oval Office and try to figure out what issues are they to address first of all. The Daily Mail cartoonist Mac said it all in his cartoon in today's issue. The cartoon was divided into 4 windows. Each one shows Mr. Obama at his acceptance speech. The first window had the caption "My fellow Americans, when I reflect on the great honor you have given me," then it moves to the second, "and your trust in asking me to tackle unemployment, the financial crisis and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, then window No.3 " my feelings can be summed up with just one word 4th window a big, heartfelt, shout of "Help!" Mr. Obama's speech, as the Heineken advertisement might have put it, reached those people other speeches do not. The issues facing America, let alone the rest of the world are now just too big for one man anymore. There were certain subjects he either deliberately did not address or sent misleading signals. For example, he invited minister Rick Warren to give the invocation at the beginning of the inauguration. Pastor Rick Warren is against both abortion and same-sex marriage and presumably homosexuality. However, we understand that Mr. Obama is on record as favoring the legalizing of these things, apparently regardless of the fact they are all against the law of God. This would seem to reveal another side to Mr. Obama's character

Regarding the major issues, how, for example, do you resolve the Arab/Israeli confrontation. One has got to get back to the basics. And the basics are those of what did God give Israel in the first place. The scripture and the archaeological records clearly tell us. The Jews are well aware of what the scripture says. But no one else takes any notice of that. We also have the record of recent history, again this is patently ignored. Ignored by the Arab nations. And ignored by the western politicians; why? Because of oil! This is just one problem. How is it ever to be resolved? It can't be! So, the war will continue. The best one can hope for is a temporary cessation of hostilities. Try another problem! That of President Mugabe and the situation Zimbabwe is in with an inflation rate of several million per cent! As a new American president what would you do? What would you advise Mr. Obama? And, by the way, the outbreak of cholera in Zimbabwe is not getting any better. At the present rate it won't be long before the entire population of Zimbabwe has died.

Mr. Obama in his speech spoke confidently regarding Afghanistan. He gave the indication that with a positive approach to the Afghan citizens it should be possible to stabilize the whole country and that everyone will then be able to live in peace. Oh, if that were only possible. The reality is that first of all, Afghanistan is in a very strategic location, so from a political point of view it's a target for several nations. Secondly, its farmers find it more profitable to grow poppies. These can then be turned into opium etc., for the drug trade. Or they can be sold to the medical industry of the west. Either way the farmers and the citizens of Afghanistan don't want the poppy trade to cease, and it doesn't matter how much America objects. Then it is the target of the Taliban who want to export to the entire world their own view of Islam, which isn't exactly that of the Koran. Not one nation, powerful or otherwise, has ever succeeded in bringing order to Afghanistan. Mr. Obama is not going to be able to achieve it. Russia couldn't! Britain has tried more than once over the centuries and failed miserably each time. Coming back to home, this being the United States for the moment, Mr. Obama addressed some local problems, not in great detail as this speech was not intended to go into any one specific situation or issue in great detail.

He was obviously speaking in general terms. He was trying to give people an idea of what he felt about the problems America and the world faced, and how he viewed what was needed to address them. But what about the problems America faces and which trouble people? The problems! A couple of them come immediately to mind and which, in fact, he did briefly mention. One was the lack of a proper healthcare system. A program on BBC television a few days earlier had focused on this subject. It is unbelievable that in America, the apparent leader of the western world, that 47 million people are not only without any health or medical care, but there is also no way at all that they can possibly pay for it.

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One after the other of American citizens interviewed told of the medical problems they have, and are suffering from, but because of the enormous cost of treatment have to continue with unrelieved agony and pain. To give them credit, the Clintons, when Mr. Clinton was inaugurated president, did all they could to get Congress to approve a State provided system of medical care for all citizens. However, the Republican party put all the obstacles possible in the way of an approval of such a system. So, it didn't happen. It won't matter how hard Mr. Obama tries to get a State funded and organized health care system, it won't get past the Republican party in Congress. And it probably is now far too expensive for America to afford - especially as the nation has spent so much money bailing out the banks.

The other problem Mr. Obama mentioned very briefly. Although not so briefly that I missed his comment and his raising the subject. But it's the problem of housing. The way, because of the sheer greed and incompetence of the banks, that so many people are losing their homes and are being made homeless. Homeless in the United States! Maybe in Zimbabwe! But in America? But just how could America afford to relieve the distress of so many citizens now. This has also been addressed on BBC television and the situation is an absolute disgrace.

Some of these problems are to be found in Britain as well and we do address those issues from time to time, but we are speaking here of Mr. Obama and how is he to solve the problems that face America, and the rest of the world. With the best will in the world and determined to make a difference, or to put it in his words, change things, how is he to make those changes? We assume that he really does want to raise the standards of living for the American people and that he has no other agenda, so we do appreciate his intentions, but are sorry to say that this world and the world system has reached a point when it is impossible to make any changes other than the purely superficial, to improve the lot of the average person on this planet. That awaits another man born of a woman who does have the power to make a change. A real change! His inauguration speech has been given; you probably have a copy of it. It won't be long now before he takes up the position for which mankind has been waiting for a very long time. And may God please speed that day.

**Lessons from a Prophetic Movement
that Shipwrecked the Faith**
(Copyright) by Eddie Hyatt (Tulsa, Oklahoma)



Winston Churchill once said, “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” This is true of the church, which seems to repeat the same mistakes generation after generation, especially in the area of the prophetic. Much of the turmoil surrounding the failed Trump prophecies could have been avoided if the modern charismatic church had learned, not only from Scripture, but also from history. There have been numerous prophetic movements in history whose experiences offer invaluable lessons for the church today.

One of those movements is Mormonism, which emerged out of the Second Great Awakening. This is made clear by Peter Cartwright (1785-1872), a circuit-riding Methodist preacher and one of the most remarkable revivalists of that era. He tells

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of Mormons attending his campmeetings and speaking tongues and falling under the power.

He also tells of conversations he had with Joseph Smith and Smith’s claims of prophetic gifts and experiences.

The Mormons Speak in Tongues and Prophecy

Cartwright tells about a large interdenominational campmeeting he was conducting with hundreds in attendance, including Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Quakers, and others. On Saturday morning, he said, “There came some twenty or thirty Mormons to the meeting.”

He tells how, at the end of the service, the Mormons remained behind, singing, and praising God. They were excellent singers, and many began coming back under the tabernacle to hear them. As people finished their noon meal they returned to the tabernacle and there was soon a large crowd gathered around them.

Eventually one of the Mormon women in this group began to shout and then swooned away and fell into the arms of her husband. Her husband then announced that she was in a trance and that when she came out of it, she would speak in an unknown tongue, and he would interpret. This was obviously not something new for them. Cartwright, by this time, decided to break up their meeting, as he believed they were purposely seeking to draw attention to themselves. As he walked into the midst of the group, the woman in the trance began speaking in tongues. When Cartwright told her to “hush,” she opened her eyes, laid her hand on his arm, and said, “Dear friend, I have a message directly from God to you.”

Cartwright, who was a gruff sort of personality, said, “I stopped her short and said, ‘I will have none of your message.’” The woman’s husband, who was to interpret the message in tongues, angrily replied, “Sir this is my wife, and I will defend her at the risk of my life.” Cartwright retorted, “Sir, this is my campmeeting and I will maintain the good order of it at the risk of my life” (Hyatt, *Prophets and Prophecy*, 89-90).

After an exchange of emotionally charged words, the group finally left. Cartwright identified them as Mormons, followers of a “Joe Smith” with whom he had had several conversations.

Cartwright Meets “Joe” Smith

Cartwright had several meetings with the founder of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, whom he called “Joe Smith.” Smith shared with him his vision for the restoration of the church of the New Testament.

According to Smith, during a time of revival in upper state New York he had prayed about which church was the right one. Smith said that during this time of prayer, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me. When the light rested upon me, I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air (Hyatt, *Prophets and Prophecy*, 90).

According to Smith, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit appeared in this vision and told him not to join any of the churches, for none was the true church. Those of the modern prophetic movement, if there, would probably have designated Smith to be a seer or prophet.

Cartwright says that Smith told him that, of all the churches then in existence, the Methodist church was the closest to the church of the New Testament. According to Smith, however, the Methodists had stopped short by not claiming the gift of tongues, of prophecy, and of miracles. He went on to tell Cartwright.

If you will go with me to Nauvoo (a Mormon community), I will show you many living witnesses that will testify that they were, by the saints, cured of blindness, lameness, deafness, dumbness, and all the diseases that human flesh is heir to. And I will show you that we have the gift of tongues, and can speak in unknown languages, and that the saints can drink any deadly poison and it will not hurt them (Hyatt, *Prophets and Prophecy*, 91).

Smith Proves to be Angry and Unteachable

Cartwright began questioning Smith about his doctrine and it soon became obvious that Smith had left behind Biblical truth and was following sensational teachings based on prophecies, visions, and supposed angelic visitations.

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As Cartwright continued pointing out his error from Scripture, he said that Smith’s anger boiled over and “he cursed me in the name of his God.” Smith angrily retorted.

I will show you, sir, that I will raise up a government in these United States which will overturn the present government, and I will raise up a new religion that will overturn every other form of religion in this country (Hyatt, [*Prophets and Prophecy*](#), 92).

Visions & Angelic Visitations

Joseph Smith and his early followers based their beliefs almost solely on their subjective experiences with prophecies, visions, and angels. On one occasion an angel named Moroni supposedly appeared to Smith and told him where to find the plates on which were inscribed the Book of Mormon, written in an ancient Egyptian text.

Smith claimed that while he and an associate, Oliver Cowdery, were translating the book, John the Baptist as well as Peter, James, and John appeared to them and ordained them to the priesthood of Melchizedek.

How impressive! Demons will always play on human credulity and pride, telling one how important they will be if they accept this revelation.

In 1831, based on a supposed revelation from God, Smith and many of his followers migrated to Kirkland, Ohio. There they built, and in 1836, dedicated the first Mormon temple. According to one Mormon historian, there was a spiritual outpouring almost unmatched in ecclesiastical history. Smith himself wrote a detailed description, saying.

A noise was heard like the sound of a rushing mighty wind, which filled the Temple, and all the congregation simultaneously arose, being moved upon by an invisible power; many began to speak in tongues and prophesy; others saw glorious visions; and I beheld the Temple filled with angels, which fact I declared to the congregation.

The people of the neighborhood came running (hearing an unusual sound within and seeing a bright light like a pillar of fire resting on the Temple), and were astonished at what was taking place. This continued until the meeting closed at eleven P.M. (Hyatt, [*Prophets and Prophecy*](#), 92-93).

What We Can Learn from Mormonism

Out of this group that based its beliefs on prophecies, visions, and angelic visitations, has grown a movement that today claims millions of followers around the world. While many of their beliefs are obviously Christian in origin, they also hold to many beliefs that have no basis in Scripture and are at odds with Biblical Christianity.

For example, Mormons teach a form of polytheism, claiming that the planets of the universe are ruled by different gods and that Elohim—the God of the Old Testament—is the god of this planet. They also teach that Elohim had a wife who, as the Eternal Mother, bore his offspring. According to Mormon doctrine, Jesus is merely the oldest of the offspring produced by the Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother, and we are all his spirit brothers and sisters (Hyatt, [*Prophets and Prophecy*](#), 93).

Their strange doctrines, and practices such as baptizing for the dead and polygamous marriage, came forth because they exalted their spiritual experiences to equal status with, and even above, the Bible. This happened because they failed to “test the spirits” and “judge” the prophecies and visions in their midst as Scripture commands. Cartwright, regarded the Mormons as a living example of Satan’s ability to transform himself into an “angel of light.”

Here are some suggestions that can help us avoid repeating the same mistakes as this movement.

1. **Measure everything by the Word of God.** Let the Bereans of Acts 17:11 be our guide. They were commended because, instead of naively accepting what Paul and Silas preached, *they searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether those things were so*. When strange prophecies and unusual manifestations began to appear in the early Methodist revival, John Wesley exhorted the people, “Try all things by the written word and let all bow down before it. You’re in danger of enthusiasm every hour, if you depart ever so little from the Scripture: yea; from that plain, literal meaning of any text, taken with the context” (Hyatt, [*Prophets and Prophecy*](#), 45).

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2. **Keep Christ Front and Center.** Many prophetic movements have gone awry because of losing their focus on Jesus and becoming preoccupied with their own spirituality and exotic experiences. In the January 1907 issue of the *Apostolic Faith*, the leaders of the Azusa Street revival wrote, "We do not have time to preach anything else but Christ. The Holy Spirit has not time to magnify anything but the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are simply a voice shouting, 'Behold the Lamb of God!' When we commence shouting something else, then Christ will die in us."
3. **Avoid pride. Walk in humility.** Peter Cartwright said that Smith told him that if he [Cartwright] would join him [Smith], "We could sweep, not only the Methodist church, but all the churches, and you would be looked up to as one of the Lord's greatest prophets." Do you hear the pride in that statement? Remember that *God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble* (1 Peter 5:5b).
4. **Avoid an elitist mindset.** Smith claimed that he and his followers were the true restored church of the New Testament and that all other churches were false churches (the Mormons still believe this). This too was based in pride and an unhealthy lust for importance and power.
5. **Stop chasing the sensational.** Let the supernatural happen; do not try to make it happen. We are not to follow signs; signs are to follow us as we follow the Lord and proclaim His word. We open ourselves to deception when we become enamored with the supernatural and began chasing everything sensational.

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**Cognitive disconnects:
Outlandish "stuff" D-voters claim to believe**
(Copyright) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"Only a nation on its knees can stand up to its enemies." – author unknown

NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE, said a man in the early 1700s. Nothing new to see *here*, is there? I've been making a list of outlandish statements by unrepentant Biden voters, such as:

- "The border is not open. People still have to go through the process" [When you can wade across the Rio Grande, not row, and there is no border, it's an open border; many just skip the "process.]"
- "There is no connection between a bonus to stay on unemployment and the unfilled jobs situation." [even Governor Evers has said.]
- "Connecting Joe Biden to a 50 percent increase in gas prices is a conspiracy theory" [People who say that got Fs in economics 101.]
- "Your friendly local public school is not teaching Critical Race Theory" [we now call it "Keeping 'em on the Plantation.]"
- "The Democrats are trying to save 'democracy'!" [Only just not the democracy John Kennedy would recognize today.]
- "There was enough fraud to affect the 2020 election." [So next time we'll make *sure* there's a lot more of it.]
- "The January 6th Committee is only trying to find out the facts." [So, they can hide them.]

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- "The months-on-end BLM riots were 'understandable'; Jan 6 was Pearl Harbor on steroids" [Milk it for all it's worth, Uncle Joe.]
- "Holding Jan 6 protestors for a year without trials is the new normal for policing in America" [Amerika, the USSA?]

AND FINALLY, FROM FACEBOOK"

- "Unapproved covid medicines can be harmful to your health" [If you survive the Establishment's protocols.]
- "It is a conspiracy theory if you say that there may be something conspiratorial about the origin, treatments, and lockdowns re the virus" [huh?]

P.S. You can probably think of other "white lies" and red herrings by the Establishment [the people who told us not to trust the Establishment in the 1960s and 70s.]

PPS: Only a nation on its knees before the Establishment is truly sane [Orwell paraphrased.]

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Articles – A Blast from the Past
(1-4 Pages Long)

Empty

Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions, Ads etc.)

Something to Think About
(Copyright) by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)

Just something to think about. First, ALL OF the prophecies presented by the Sabbath churches (and some Sunday churches) have failed. The question is why? When they were sure they were right? I have mentioned to you, I think, that they likely failed, because it was not The Almighty's time. Which his time is soon approaching and has been advancing. Put all of the failed prophecies before you, and then consider what The Almighty has to say. He says in one verse. "Behold, I work a work in your days which you will not believe, though it be told you." (Hab. 1:5) This is speaking of said work going out to the Gentiles. Which I pointed out to you are those that will be in control in a few years. Paul spoke in the synagogue of the Gentiles in Antioch, basically the above same words. Acts 13:41. "For I work a work in your days [or, when the Gentiles are in power.], which you shall in no wise believe. Though man declare it to you." I ask you. Do you feel we are "almost" in the last days? If so, then the above message is soon to go out. Quite likely by the 144,000, who will witness to all the peoples on earth.

Editor's Note: Does anyone have a few minutes to answer Ray's concerns? Laura Lee

Other Items - A Blast from the Past
(Poems, Jokes, Questions, Ads etc.)

Empty

Have a Great Sabbath!