



I present this material in the hope that it will be read. If you want to understand Sarah Palin, John McCain's Vice Presidential running mate, you have to understand her religious beliefs. When I was young and attending school in the early 1960's, I was taught that, "... to be a good American you had to vote. In order to vote, you had to examine the issues. After a careful examination of the issues, you make a decision." The issue at hand is why would John McCain (or the people running his campaign) decide to pick this "hockey mom" from Alaska? The only reason given is that she will help the Republican Party capture the 2008 election. How can she do that? We have been told she is a maverik, just like McCain. We are told she will carry the women's vote now that Hilary Clinton is out of the race. This all sounds nice, but it doesn't wash. The following information sheds a brighter light on the WHY ... Take it with a grain of salt. Take this information and dig further, ponder deeper, and pray that tomorrow brings a better day. I am creating this .PDF on September 17, 2008. Can things get any worse?

---

## Christian Fundamentalism Permeates the Republican Party: Sarah Palin's links to the Christian Right

by F. William Engdahl

Some days ago, most Americans had never heard of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. Now, following her Vice Presidential acceptance speech, viewed live by more than 40 million people, Palin is viewed favorably by 58% of American voters according to the latest Rasmussen Reports survey. The self-described 'hockey mom's poll ratings, if they are to be believed, are that of a rock superstar who is rated now higher than either McCain or Democrat Obama. The same Bush-Cheney propaganda apparatus that made the nation believe that Saddam Hussein was the new Hitler and that Georgia was a helpless victim of ruthless Russian aggression after 8.8.08 in Georgia is clearly behind one of the most impressive media propaganda efforts in recent history—the effort to package Republican Vice Presidential candidate, Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska for less than 19 months, to be the American dream candidate. Her religious roots are something she has been deliberately vague about. It's worth a closer look.

As I discuss in some detail in my soon-to-be-released book, **Full Spectrum Dominance: Totalitarian Democracy in the New World Order**, one of the most significant transformations of American domestic politics over the past three decades since the early 1970's, when George H.W. Bush was head of the CIA, has been the deliberate manipulation of significant segments of the population, most of them undoubtedly sincere believing people, around the ideology of 'born-again' evangelical Christian Fundamentalism to create something known as the Christian Right. Within the broad spectrum of fundamentalist denominations there are some currents which are particularly alarming. Sarah Palin comes out of such a milieu.

The phenomenon of the rapid spread within the United States since the 1980's of evangelical Pentecostalism is a political phenomenon which has become so influential that the two elections of George W. Bush as well as countless races for Senate or Congress often depend on the backing or lack of it from the organized Religious Right.

The spawning of some Christian Right sects also creates an ideology to drive the shock troops willing to literally 'die for Christ' in places such as Iraq or Afghanistan, Iran or elsewhere that the Pentagon needs their services. That ideology has been used to build a fanatical activist base within the Republican Party which backs a right-wing domestic agenda and a military foreign policy that sees Islam or other suitable opponents of the US power elite as Satanism incarnate. How does Sarah Palin fit into this?

### **The CNP: manipulating religion to political ends**

Many of the religious evangelical groups in America are coordinated top-down by a secretive organization called the Committee on National Policy. Former close Bush adviser, Rev. Ted Haggard, was a member of the Committee on National Policy until a sex and drugs scandal forced him out in late 2006.

Haggard was Pastor of the New Life Church in Colorado Springs described as the 'evangelical Vatican,' and was head of the National Association of Evangelicals. Ted Haggard was also a member of a highly significant and little-understood sect known as Joel's Army or the Manifest Sons of God, the same circles which spawned Sarah Palin.

Another noteworthy member of the CNP as was Grover Nyquist, the man once described as the 'Field Marshall of the Bush Plan.'

The CNP, created in the early 1980's during the Reagan era, is the nexus for several odd and quite powerful organizations. It was described by *ABC's* Marc J.

Ambinder as 'the conservative version of the Council on Foreign Relations.' CNP Members include names such as General John Singlaub, shipping magnate J. Peter Grace, Texas billionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt, Edwin J. Feulner Jr of the right-wing Heritage Foundation, Rev. Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network, Jerry Falwell, Tim LaHaye and most of the prominent names in the Christian Right around Bush. It has included prominent politicians including Senator Trent Lott, Senator Don Nickles, former Attorney General Ed Meese, Col. Oliver North of Iran-Contra fame, and Right-wing philanthropist Else Prince, mother of Erik Prince, the founder of Blackwater the controversial private security firm.<sup>1</sup>

CNP members have also included not only the Rev. Sun Myung Moon Unification Church, definitely a bizarre formation whose founder openly states that he is superior to Christ. The CNP as well reportedly includes the Church of Scientology.<sup>2</sup>

CNP member and GOP strategist, Gary Bauer, links both. Bauer's Family Research Council was a signatory of the Scientology Pledge to remove psychology from California schools and replace it with L. Ron Hubbard's Dianetics. Bauer was also a speaker at Sun Myung Moon's Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Conference in 1996.

Religious researchers Paul and Phillip Collins describe the CNP as follows: 'The CNP appears to be a creation of factions of the power elite designed to mobilize well-meaning Christians to unwittingly support elite initiatives. The CNP could also be considered a project in religious engineering that empties Christianity of its metaphysical substance and re-conceptualizes many of its principles and concepts according to the socially and politically expedient designs of the elite. These contentions are supported by the fact that many CNP members are also members of other organizations and/or criminal enterprises that are tied directly to the power elite.'<sup>3</sup>

In order to shape public debate over the course of national military and foreign as well as domestic policy, the US establishment had to create mass-based organizations to manipulate public opinion in ways contrary to the self-interest of the majority of the American people. The Committee on National Policy was formed to be a central part of this mass manipulation.

The Committee on National Policy is a vital link between multi-billion dollar defense contractors, Washington lobbyists like the convicted felon and Republican fundraiser, Jack Abramoff, and the Christian Right. It's at the heart of a new axis between right-wing military politics, support for the Pentagon war agenda globally

and the neo-conservative political control of much of US foreign and defense policy.

The CNP has been at the center of Karl Rove's carefully-constructed Bush political machine. Tom Delay and dozens of top Bush Administration Republicans are or had been members of the CNP. Few details about the organization are leaked to the public. As secretive as the Bilderberg Group if not more so, the CNP releases no press statements, meets in secret and never reveals names of its members willingly.

The elite circles behind the Bush Presidency have crafted an extremely powerful political machine using the forces and energies of the Christian Right and millions of American Christians unaware of the darker manipulations. Is Sarah Palin a part of such darker manipulations?

### **Sarah Palin and Dominionism**

Sarah Palin it appears now, was chosen very carefully as she comes out of the very fundamentalist evangelical circles that the CNP uses to mobilize and shape America's political agenda.

Palin reportedly drew early attention from state GOP leadership when, during her first mayoral campaign, she ran on an anti-abortion platform. Normally, political parties do not get involved in Alaskan municipal elections because they are nonpartisan. But once word of her evangelical views made its way to Juneau, the state capitol, state Republicans put money behind her campaign. According to researcher, Charley James, "Once in office, Palin set out to build a machine that chewed up anyone who got in her way. The good, Godly Christian turns out to be anything but."

The religious background of Sarah Palin is not unrelated to her bid to take the nation's second highest office. She herself has been extremely vague about that background. Given the details, it becomes clearer perhaps why.

Sarah Palin has spent more than two and a half decades of her life as a member of an Alaska church which is part of a fanatical Christian-named cult project that is sweeping across America. Palin comes out of the most radical stream of US Born-Again Evangelism known as 'Joel's Army,' an offshoot of what is called Dominionism and sometimes also called the Latter Rain cult or Manifest Sons of God. The movement deliberately attempts to remain below the radar screen.

### **A Dominionist soldier in McCain's Army**

Sarah Palin is a product of an extreme fringe of the American Evangelical movement known variously as the Third Wave Movement, also known as the New Apostolic Reformation, or as Joel's Army, a part of what is called Dominionism. Until 2002 according to their own website, Palin was a member of Wasilla Assembly of God with Senior Pastor Ed Kalnins. Online video clips of Palin speaking from the pulpit of this church are revealing. Curiously, between the time this article was begun on September 9<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup>, the video was removed without explanation:

(<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article20712.htm>).

As one researcher familiar with the history of the Third Wave Movement or Dominionism describes, 'The Third Wave is a revival of the theology of the Latter Rain tent revivals of the 1950s and 1960s led by William Branham and others. It is based on the idea that in the end times there will be an outpouring of supernatural powers on a group of Christians that will take authority over the existing church and the world. The believing Christians of the world will be reorganized under the Fivefold Ministry and the church restructured under the authority of Prophets and Apostles and others anointed by God. The young generation will form 'Joel's Army' to rise up and battle evil and retake the earth for God.'<sup>4</sup>

The excesses of this movement were declared a heresy in 1949 by the General Council of the Assemblies of God, and again condemned through Resolution 16 in 2000.

Sarah H. Leslie, a former Christian Right leader, describes the ideology of Dominionism:

*'The Gospel of Salvation is achieved by setting up the 'Kingdom of God' as a literal and physical kingdom to be 'advanced' on Earth in the present age. Some dominionists liken the New Testament Kingdom to the Old Testament Israel in ways that justify taking up the sword, or other methods of punitive judgment, to war against enemies of their kingdom.*

*'Dominionists teach that men can be coerced or compelled to enter the kingdom. They assign to the Church duties and rights that belong Scripturally only to Jesus Christ. This includes the esoteric belief that believers can 'incarnate' Christ and function as His body on Earth to establish His kingdom rule. An inordinate emphasis is placed on man's efforts; the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is diminished.'*<sup>5</sup>

Leslie quotes from Al Dager's *Vengeance Is Ours: The Church In Dominion*: Dominion theology is predicated upon three basic beliefs: 1) Satan usurped man's dominion over the earth through the temptation of Adam and Eve; 2) The

Church is God's instrument to take dominion back from Satan; 3) Jesus cannot or will not return until the Church has taken dominion by gaining control of the earth's governmental and social institutions.'<sup>6</sup>

Sarah Leslie pinpoints to the central deception behind the current spread of Dominionism among various Protestant denominations across America today:

*'Dominion theology is a heresy. As such it is rarely presented as openly as the definitions above may indicate. Outside of the Reconstructionist camp, evangelical dominionism has wrapped itself in slick packages – one piece at a time – for mass-media consumption. This has been a slow process, taking several decades. Few evangelicals would recognize the word 'dominionism' or know what it means. This is because other terminologies have been developed which soft-sell dominionism, concealing the full scope of the agenda. Many evangelicals (and even their more conservative counterparts, the fundamentalists) may adhere to tidbits of dominionism without recognizing the error...'*

*'To most effectively propagate their agenda, dominionist leaders first developed new ecclesiologies, eschatologies and soteriologies for targeted audiences along the major denominational fault lines of evangelical Christianity. Then the 1990s Promise Keepers men's movement was used as a vehicle to 'break down the walls', i.e., cross denominational barriers for the purpose of exporting dominionism to the wider evangelical subculture. This strategy was so effective that it reached into the mainline Protestant denominations. Dominionists have carefully selected leaders to be trained as 'change agents' for 'transformation' (dominion) in an erudite manner that belies the media stereotype of southern-talking, Bible-thumping, fundamentalist half-wits.'*<sup>7</sup>

## **Wasilla Assembly of God**

Sarah Palin comes out of the circles of such Dominionist networks. Sarah Palin was reportedly re-baptized at age twelve at the Wasilla Assembly of God church. Palin attended the church from the time she was ten until 2002, over twenty-eight years. Palin's association with the Wasilla Assembly of God has continued nearly up to the day she was picked by Senator John McCain as running mate.

Palin is now under investigation for possible improper use of state travel funds for a trip she made on June 8 to Wasilla. Her trip in turns out was to attend a Wasilla Assembly of God 'Masters Commission' graduation ceremony, and a multi-church Wasilla event known as 'One Lord Sunday.' At the latter, Palin and Alaska LT Governor Scott Parnell were publicly blessed, onstage before an estimated crowd of 6,000, through the "laying on of hands" by Wasilla Assembly of God's Head Pastor Ed Kalnins, her former pastor.

The pastor, Ed Kalnins, and Masters Commission students have traveled to South Carolina to participate in a 'prophetic conference' at Morningstar Ministries, one of the major ministries of the Third Wave movement. The head of prophecy at Morningstar, Steve Thompson, is currently scheduled to do a prophecy seminar at the Wasilla Assembly of God. Other major leaders in the movement have also traveled to Wasilla to visit and speak at the church.

In his sermons, Kalnins promotes such exotic theological concepts as the possession of geographic territories by demonic spirits and the inter-generational transmission of family 'curses.' Palin has also been 'anointed,' by an African cleric, Bishop Thomas Muthee, prominent in the Joel's Army movement, who has repeatedly visited the Wasilla Assembly of God and claims to have effected positive, dramatic social change in a Kenyan town by driving out a 'spirit of witchcraft.'<sup>8</sup>

As Governor in Juneau, six hundred miles from Wasilla, Palin attends the Juneau Christian Church of Pastor Mike Rose, an Assembly of God Third Wave church.

Sarah Leslie describes the movement which has supported Sarah Palin for most of her life:

*'New Apostolic Reformation. This dominionist sect is a direct offshoot of the Latter Rain cult (also known as Joel's Army or Manifest Sons of God). Chief architect of this movement for the past two decades is C. Peter Wagner, President of Global Harvest Ministries and Chancellor of the Wagner Leadership Institute. His spiritual warfare teachings have been widely disseminated through mission networks such as AD 2000, which was closely associated with the Lausanne Movement. A prominent individual connected to this sect is Ted Haggard, current head of the National Association of Evangelicals.'*<sup>9</sup>

C. Peter Wagner is quoted by Leslie defining his view of what he calls 'The New Apostolic Reformation,':

*'Since 2001, the body of Christ has been in the Second Apostolic Age. The apostolic/prophetic government of the church is now in place. . . . We began to build our base by locating and identifying with the intercessory prayer movements. This time, however, we feel that God wants us to start governmentally, connecting with the apostles of the region. God has already raised up for us a key apostle in one of the strategic nations of the Middle East and other apostles are already coming on board. Once we have the apostles in place, we will then bring the intercessors and the prophets into the inner circle, and we will end up with the spiritual core we need to move ahead for retaking the dominion that is rightfully ours.'*-- C. Peter Wagner



Wagner, who took over Haggard's Colorado Springs center when the latter was forced to resign in disgrace, claims that there are as many New Apostolic Reformation churches in the US as Southern Baptist churches. The movement worldwide is estimated as high as 100 million people. And yet its impact is completely under the radar of most researchers outside of those in the movement itself.

### **An 'end-time soldier in God's army'?**

All evidence suggests Palin was carefully selected by the leadership of the Bush-Cheney-McCain Republican party to galvanize the Party's activist Evangelical base, something McCain had been unable to do.

Some theological and political background to the Joel's Army or Third Wave movement as it is also known, is instructive. It teaches a radical fundamentalist creed that its adherents must actively engage in politics, to become what they term, 'soldiers in God's Army.'

The Joel's Army movement focuses on recruiting young people to sessions of writhing on the floor in uncontrollable ecstasy, calling it a sign of the 'Holy Spirit.' Children as young as five speak of having 'gotten saved.' The movement is extremely authoritarian according to those conservative Christian churches who have studied and openly oppose the sect as heretical. It teaches a dogma that echoes the infamous Manichean line of George Bush following the shock of September 11, 2001: 'There are two kinds of people in the World: Those who love Jesus, and those who don't.'

Until recently a 'general' in Joel's Army was a 32-year old Canadian, Todd Bentley. In one case, on YouTube, clips of his most dramatic healings have been condensed into a three-minute highlight reel. Bentley describes God ordering him to kick an elderly lady in the face. A report published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a watchdog group, describes the Joel's Army mass recruiting techniques of Bentley:

*"Todd Bentley has a long night ahead of him, resurrecting the dead, healing the blind, and exploding cancerous tumors. Since April 3, the 32-year-old, heavily tattooed, body-pierced, shaved-head Canadian preacher has been leading a continuous "supernatural healing revival" in central Florida. To contain the 10,000-plus crowds flocking from around the globe, Bentley has rented baseball stadiums, arenas and airport hangars at a cost of up to \$15,000 a day. Many in attendance are church pastors themselves who believe Bentley to be a prophet and don't bat an eye when he tells them he's seen King David and spoken with the Apostle Paul in heaven...Tattooed across his sternum are military dog tags that read "Joel's Army." They're evidence of Bentley's generalship in a*

*rapidly growing apocalyptic movement that's gone largely unnoticed by watchdogs of the theocratic right. According to Bentley and a handful of other "hyper-charismatic" preachers advancing the same agenda, Joel's Army is prophesied to become an Armageddon-ready military force of young people with a divine mandate to physically impose Christian "dominion" on non-believers.'* 10

Their name comes from their special focus on the Old Testament Book of Joel, Chapter Two. On his website, Bentley declares,

*'An end-time army has one common purpose -- to aggressively take ground for the kingdom of God under the authority of Jesus Christ, the Dread Champion... The trumpet is sounding, calling on-fire, revolutionary believers to enlist in Joel's Army. ... Many are now ready to be mobilized to establish and advance God's kingdom on earth.'*

This past March, at a 'Passion for Jesus' conference in Kansas City sponsored by the International House of Prayer, or IHOP, a ministry for teenagers from the heavy metal, punk and goth scenes, one Joel's Army pastor, Lou Engle, called on his audience for vengeance:

*'I believe we're headed to an Elijah/Jezebel showdown on the Earth, not just in America but all over the globe, and the main warriors will be the prophets of Baal versus the prophets of God, and there will be no middle ground," said Engle. He was referring to the Baal of the Old Testament, a pagan idol whose followers were slaughtered under orders from the prophet Elijah.*

*'There's an Elijah generation that's going to be the forerunners for the coming of Jesus, a generation marked not by their niceness but by the intensity of their passion," Engle continued. 'The kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force. Such force demands an equal response, and Jesus is going to make war on everything that hinders love, with his eyes blazing fire.'*

Joel's Army believers are hard-core Christian 'dominionists,' meaning they believe that America, along with the rest of the world, should be governed by conservative Christians and a conservative Christian interpretation of biblical law. There is no room in their doctrine for democracy or pluralism. To paraphrase George W. Bush, 'You're either with us or you are against us.'

Joel's Army followers are most often labile teenagers and young adults. They are taught to believe they're members of the final generation to come of age before the end of the world. Sarah Palin was twelve when she first came into these circles.

Palin recently told interviewer Charles Gibson of *ABC News* that Georgia should be granted membership of NATO. When pressed on whether this would mean that the US would be obliged to defend Georgia if Russian troops went into the country again, she replied, 'Perhaps so. I mean, that is the agreement when you are a NATO ally, is if another country is attacked, you're going to be expected to be called upon and help... We have got to show the support, in this case, for Georgia.' Is this Sarah Palin a stateswoman with foreign policy experience, or is it Sarah Palin the Dominionist who sees a potential war with Russia as part of an 'Elijah/Jezebel showdown on the Earth'?

This is the background of the woman who might well become Vice President to a 72-year old President John McCain, a man reported to have severe skin cancer and other major health problems. According to the US Constitutional succession, should McCain be incapacitated or die in office, she would become President.

*F. William Engdahl is author of A Century of War: Anglo-American Oil Politics and the New World Order (Pluto Press), and Seeds of Destruction: The Hidden Agenda of Genetic Manipulation ([www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca)). His newest book, Full Spectrum Dominance: Totalitarian Democracy in the New World Order, is due out later this fall. He may be reached through his website, [www.engdahl.oilgeopolitics.net](http://www.engdahl.oilgeopolitics.net).*

## Notes

1 *Selected CNP Member Biographies* in <http://www.seekgod.ca/topiccnp.htm>.

2 Paul Collins & Phillip Collins, *The Deep Politics of God: The CNP, Dominionism, and the Ted Haggard Scandal*, Feb. 19th, 2007.

3 Ibid.

4 Bruce Wilson, *Sarah Palin's Churches and the New Wave Apostolic Reformation*, in <http://endtimespropheticwords.wordpress.com/2008/09/09/sarah-palins-churches-and-the-third-wave/>.

5 Sarah H. Leslie, *Dominionism and the Rise of Christian Imperialism*, accessed in <http://www.discernment-ministries.org/ChristianImperialism.htm>.

6 Ibid.

7 Ibid.

8 Bruce Wilson, Ibid.

9 Sarah H. Leslie, Op. Cit.

10 Casey Sanchez, *Theocratic Sect Prays for Real Armageddon*, Southern Poverty Law Center. August 30, 2008, accessed in [http://www.alternet.org/story/96945/theocratic\\_sect\\_prays\\_for\\_real\\_armageddon/?page=entire](http://www.alternet.org/story/96945/theocratic_sect_prays_for_real_armageddon/?page=entire).

---

# Dominionism and the Rise of Christian Imperialism

By Sarah Leslie

Conspiracy theorizing about the Christian Right's supposedly "secret" agenda involves highlighting the hate-mongering and bizarre ideas of a handful of Christian Right players while neglecting the broad popularity of dominion theology.

Sara Diamond, "Dominion Theology:  
The Truth About the Christian Right's Bid for Power,"<sup>1</sup>

American churches are to a large degree defined by what they choose to rebel against. The Christian right has set itself in opposition to liberal, secular government and, as a political consequence, declared itself a buddy of big business."

Russ Rymer, *Mother Jones*, Dec. 2005<sup>2</sup>

The ambassador's words seemed prophetic a couple of weeks later, when a Dream for Africa draft plan found its way into Swazi newspapers, turning public opinion sharply against Mr. Wilkinson. Under the headline "British Colony or Dr Bruce Colony?" one op-ed writer in the Swazi News wrote, "Why can't he simply tell us that he wants to be given the whole country so that he can gloat to his friends overseas that he owns a modern day colony in Africa called Swaziland?"

Michael M. Phillips, "Mr. Wilkinson Hits Wall Trying To Push 'Orphan Village'",  
*Wall Street Journal*, 12/19/05<sup>3</sup>

**F**or the past several decades the political Left has focused attention on the Christian Right's political activism in America. Particularly, the Left has been highly critical of a select group of dominionists called Reconstructionists, whose aggressive verbiage, extreme Calvinist theologies, and religious political agendas have made it an ideal target for outrage. But, as Leftist researcher Sara Diamond has astutely observed, "the Reconstructionists' religion of Calvinism. . . makes them unlikely to appeal to most evangelicals."<sup>4</sup> Indeed, few Reconstructionists would consider themselves to be evangelicals. Nevertheless, their influence has been considerable over the much larger group of patriotic evangelicals.

There are two *other* dominionist sects within evangelicalism that have escaped in-depth scrutiny from the Left. These dominionists have been able to function virtually incognito for several reasons: 1) They have been deeply embedded within the evangelical subculture; 2) They cloaked their dominionism with new terminologies and doctrines over a period of thirty years; and 3) They figured out

how to package dominionism using sophisticated mass marketing techniques. Also noteworthy: these two other dominionist camps have been operating in a dialectical fashion – while one group appealed to the TBN charismatics with all of its emotional excesses, the other group carefully managed its more intellectual public image to conform to traditional evangelical standards.

This paper is a brief overview of the three main dominionist movements operating inside evangelicaldom and examines how all three of these sects are now converging around a global “kingdom” agenda. This paper is not a treatise on doctrine, nor is it an historical record, nor is it a thorough analysis of the multifarious streams of evangelical dominionism. This paper does not cover the broader issue of dominionist sects within other world religions, except for a few brief noteworthy mentions. To examine the totality of the individuals, the organizations, and their cross-linkages would require an exhaustive study which is beyond the scope of this brief synopsis. Even so, every point made in this paper could be validated by dozens, sometimes hundreds, of pieces of documentation. The inquiring reader may check out the footnotes and references.

Only a small handful of Christian discernment and apologetics ministries, of which this writer is a part, have been paying attention to the intersection of the dominionist streams. The apologetic ministries fulfill a Scriptural role to examine and expose false doctrines and teachers, and to warn other believers of heresies (Jude 3, 2 Peter 2:1). Increasingly, over the past two decades, many apologists have become seduced by dominionism, blunting their ability to critically examine the roots and fruits of this rapidly rising new church era.

## **Dominionism in brief**

Throughout the 2000 year history of Christianity there has always been a vein of dominionism embedded in the strata of doctrines. This seam has ebbed and flowed for 20 centuries, sometimes submerged, sometimes exposed. Whenever out in the open, it has given rise to horrible abuses done in the name of Christ. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, once again this vein is now showing and active. Keep in mind:

- ☐ Dominionism is ***always*** an aberration of true Christian theology .
- ☐ A remnant of believers has always opposed it, often suffering a martyr’s fate at the hands of intolerant dominionists .

## **Traditional Christianity teaches:**

The Gospel of Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and His shed blood on the cross. The emphasis is placed upon repentance and conversion of individual souls. The Kingdom of God in this age is ***spiritual*** and grows through efforts of evangelism based on teaching the Bible. It is “not of this world” (John 18:36), but a spiritual rule in the hearts of men (Luke 17:20 -21). Furthermore, the Kingdom of God is only finally realized upon Christ’s second return to Earth, whereby He Himself establishes His literal and physical reign.

## **The evangelism mandate by Word and Spirit**

Christ never intended that His gospel should be propagated by fire and sword or His righteousness wrought by the wrath of man. When the high praises of God are in our mouth with them we should have an olive-branch of peace in our hands. Christ's victories are by the **power of His gospel and grace** over spiritual enemies, in which all believers are more than conquerors. The **word** of God is the two-edged sword (Heb. 4:12), the sword of the **Spirit** (Eph. 6:17).<sup>5</sup> [emphasis added]

Matthew Henry, circa 1700

## **Dominionism teaches:**

The Gospel of Salvation is achieved by setting up the "Kingdom of God" as a **literal and physical kingdom** to be "advanced" on Earth in the present age. Some dominionists liken the New Testament Kingdom to the Old Testament Israel in ways that justify taking up the sword, or other methods of punitive judgment, to war against enemies of their kingdom. Dominionists teach that men can be coerced or compelled to enter the kingdom. They assign to the Church duties and rights that belong Scripturally only to Jesus Christ. This includes the esoteric belief that believers can "incarnate" Christ and function as His body on Earth to establish His kingdom rule. An inordinate emphasis is placed on man's efforts; the doctrine of the sovereignty of God is diminished.

## **The new dominion mandate by control**

Dominion theology is predicated upon three basic beliefs: 1) Satan usurped man's dominion over the earth through the temptation of Adam and Eve; 2) The Church is God's instrument to take dominion back from Satan; 3) Jesus cannot or will not return until **the Church** has taken dominion by **gaining control of the earth's governmental and social institutions**.<sup>6</sup> [emphasis added]

Al Dager, *Vengeance Is Ours: The Church In Dominion*

Dominion theology is a **heresy**. As such it is rarely presented as openly as the definitions above may indicate. Outside of the Reconstructionist camp, evangelical dominionism has wrapped itself in slick packages – one piece at a time – for mass-media consumption. This has been a slow process, taking several decades. Few evangelicals would recognize the word "dominionism" or know what it means. This is because other terminologies have been developed which soft-sell dominionism, concealing the full scope of the agenda. Many evangelicals (and even their more conservative counterparts, the fundamentalists) may adhere to tidbits of dominionism without recognizing the error. This is because dominionism has "crept in unawares" (Jude 4) to seduce an undiscerning generation.

To most effectively propagate their agenda, dominionist leaders *first* developed new ecclesiologies, eschatologies and soteriologies for targeted audiences along the major denominational fault lines of evangelical Christianity. *Then* the 1990s Promise Keepers men's movement was used as a vehicle to "break down the walls", i.e., cross denominational barriers for the purpose of exporting dominionism to the wider evangelical subculture.<sup>7</sup> This strategy was so effective that it reached into the

mainline Protestant denominations. Dominionists have carefully selected leaders to be trained as “change agents” for “transformation” (dominion) in an erudite manner that belies the media stereotype of southern -talking, Bible-thumping, fundamentalist half-wits.

## The 3 sects of evangelical dominionism

There are three predominant sects (or movements) that propagate dominion theology which hold considerable influence over evangelicaldom.

1. **SPIRITUAL WARFARE PRAYER movement:** The Kingdom of God must be advanced on Earth through hyper-spiritual “warfare” activities against the devil. A veritable supermarket of verbal and physical prayer techniques such as chanting, walks, and marches are employed in this effort. Believers are told their prayer power creates spiritual “canopies” over regions, preparing the way for “revival.” In this sense, prayer warfare is seen as preparatory work so that the other two movements can build the kingdom. Recently the contemplative prayer movement – which includes meditation, fasting, and labyrinths – has been brought into the spiritual warfare prayer “arsenal.” Prayer serves as a convenient decoy for covert operations. All three sects are utilizing massive statistic al databanking resources (e.g., the World Prayer Center in Colorado Springs) and sophisticated psycho-social group manipulations to forge kingdom “transformation.” One key leader of this sect is Cindy Jacobs, who is closely associated with C. Peter Wagner (see below). Her website <http://www.generals.org> epitomizes the militant doctrines and practices of the spiritual warfare sect.

### Prayer before fighting

Our calling is to be worshippers, warriors, and workers. We must first offer our lives as a living sacrifice in worship to God. From our worship will flow our intercession and warfare as we fight with weapons of righteousness in our right hand and in our left. Only **after** we have worshipped our God and fought the fight in the **Spirit** will we proceed to **work** in the harvest fields, **advancing the Kingdom** of God.<sup>8</sup> [emphasis added]

Promoting these prayer warfare activities are hyper-charismatics from the “signs and wonders” movement, which include self-anointed, self-appointed “apostles” and “prophets” who are preparing to govern the world through their “New Apostolic Reformation.” This dominionist sect is a direct offshoot of the Latter Rain cult (also known as Joel’s Army or Manifest Sons of God).<sup>9</sup> Chief architect of this movement for the past two decades is C. Peter Wagner, President of Global Harvest Ministries and Chancellor of the Wagner Leadership Institute. His spiritual warfare teachings have been widely disseminated through mission networks such as AD 2000, which was closely associated with the Lausanne Movement. A prominent individual connected to this sect is Ted Haggard, current head of the National Association of Evangelicals.<sup>10</sup>

### The New Apostolic Reformation

Since 2001, the body of Christ has been in the Second Apostolic Age. The apostolic/prophetic **government** of the church is now in place. . . . [W]e began to build our base by locating and identifying with the intercessory prayer movements. This time, however, we feel that God wants us to start **governmentally, connecting with the apostles of the region**. God has already raised up for us a key apostle in one of the strategic nations of the Middle East, and other apostles are already coming on board. Once we have the apostles in place, we will then bring the intercessors and the prophets into the inner circle, and we will end up with the spiritual core we need to move ahead **for retaking the dominion that is rightfully ours**.<sup>11</sup> [emphasis added]

C. Peter Wagner

2. **MISSION AS TRANSFORMATION movement:** The words "revival," "reformation" and "transformation" now carry embedded dominionist connotations. "Fulfilling the Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18 -20) no longer means spreading the Gospel message by speaking the Word of salvation from the Bible. The dominionist focus is placed upon the phrase **making disciples**, with an incorrect exegesis that is disconcertingly compulsory. Traditional mission evangelism, done one-on-one using the Bible, is being replaced with a slew of "kingdom building" **corporate** activities for cities, regions and nations. The disingenuous phrase "bless the nations" is often used to conceal dominionism. Dr. Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ International and Ralph Winter, founder of the U.S. Center for World Mission and editor of the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* curriculum (which has taught dominionism to an entire generation of missionaries), have been among the chief architects of this movement.<sup>12</sup>

### **Dominionism supplants biblical evangelism**

**"The Church must grow past the 'Gospel of Salvation' message** and understand that it is only when we begin to implement the principles of the **'Gospel of the kingdom'** that we will really begin to see change in lives and cities and nations. The Church has no understanding of this realm. . . . **The Church must grow up**. . . ."<sup>13</sup> [emphasis added]

Dale Neill, president of ICC

### **Beyond Salvation**

". . . God's concern goes **beyond the salvation of individual people**. His redemptive plan encompasses the healing and transformation of **entire nations** . . . . **Nations are disciplined** as the church makes the invisible Kingdom **visible** by faithful obedience to God's Word throughout culture--in every area of life, and every realm of society including the family, the community, the arts, sciences, media, law, government, schools, or business. . . ."<sup>14</sup> [emphasis added]

Disciple the Nations



3. **PATRIOTIC AMERICAN movement:** Patriotic dominionists, most of whom are *not* Reconstructionists, teach that political action will advance the kingdom of God in America. Using the vehicle of Christian media, they have taught evangelicals for the past three decades that America is a Christian nation and needs to return to its roots. Almost every evangelical in the pew has been influenced in one way or another by this sect. Patriotic dominionist leaders and their organizations have been closely interlocked financially and politically with the conservatives from the political Right. The secular conservatives purport to uphold morality, which appeals to evangelicals. The combined force of conservatives and evangelicals flexes its political muscles in Washington. One of its most powerful leaders is James Dobson of Focus on the Family. Patriotic dominionism was widely disseminated through the activities of Jay Grimstead, founder of Coalition on Revival (COR). From its earliest inception COR managed to successfully bring together key leaders from all three dominionist sects, including the Reconstructionists, to promote the most ruthless doctrines of dominionism.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Grimstead's COR Steering Council letter, dated May 1993**

1. The Kingdom of God was inaugurated and the King was installed and seated in the First Century A.D. and we need not wait for the King's second coming to get the Kingdom started here on earth.
4. At this moment of history, **all** humans on earth, whether Jew or Gentile, believer or unbeliever, private person or public official, are **obligated to bow their knees to this King Jesus**, confess Him as Lord of the universe with their tongues, and **submit to His lordship** over every aspect of their lives in thought, word and deed.
5. Biblical evangelism according to the Great Commission of Matt. 28:18-20 is not truly accomplished unless that message of Christ's lordship from point #4 above is given to the person being evangelized so that they know that **an attempt at personal neutrality before King Jesus is sin and treason** in this universe.<sup>16</sup> [emphases added]

## **Dominionism goes global**

Since the latter half of the 1990s the three major dominionist sects have openly converged into an ecumenical force. These three branches of dominionism are linked historically at many levels, and there is solid documentation to support the idea that the current convergence was planned and intentional.<sup>17</sup>

While Leftists focused their attentions on political dominionists in American politics and what was going on in Iraq, the three movements went global. This new confederation of dominionists has been rapidly advancing its kingdom across the globe through "economic, social, political and spiritual transformation."<sup>18</sup> To achieve this paradigm shift, the global dominionists have employed sophisticated psycho-social methodologies, statistical research, socio-economic development tools, marketing research, strategic planning, assessments, databanking and monitoring, and technical assistance. They are also aggressively forming alliances with national and international governments, corporations, individuals, private agencies, philanthropic groups and other entities. Below are some key examples of this rapid convergence around a global kingdom worldview.

**1. Global “spheres.”** Observers from the Left were infuriated when the Coalition on Revival political domin ionists cranked out documents during the 1980s addressing a Christian worldview in seventeen “spheres” of life and ministry – education, health care, the family, the arts, sciences, law, media, government, business, etc. This is because COR didn’t just write a philosophical statement. COR “determined that it is mandatory for all Christians to implement that worldview in society, particularly as it applies to the dominionist interpretation of the Great Commission.”<sup>19</sup> These spheres didn’t disappear when COR began to fade off the radar screen. They have a new life. The worldview sphere documents have now gone global by becoming incorporated into mission agendas. Mission groups are now partnering with national and international governments, business corporations , NGOs, humanitarian entities and others to build their kingdom in the cultural spheres of selected nations around the globe.

### **Mission incorporates COR’s spheres**

The seven spheres of influence described below will help us shape societies for Christ. God gave us these handles to use in carrying out Matthew 28 and discipling nations for Him. We believe He is wanting all His people to see the importance of these seven areas and work in them to extend Christ's reign throughout the earth. The Family & Health Care; Commerce, Science and Technology; The Church; Government; Education; The Media; The Arts, Entertainment and Sports<sup>20</sup>

Disciple the Nations

**2. The 3-legged stool.** The dominionist’s kingdom must be advanced on Earth by gaining control of governments ( **State**), utilizing business ( **Corporations**) and partnering with social sector ( **Church**) institutions. New bridges are being built based on triangular relationship between all three sectors of society. The Church is forming partnerships (or collaborations) with State and/or Corporate interests in order to implement dominion. Peter Drucker, the management guru, was instrumental in overseeing the implementation of this agenda – to create a three-legged “healthy society” globally – via Rick Warren of purpose-driven fame. Warren was mentored by Drucker, as were a number of other evangelical leaders such as Bob Buford of Leadership Network. Buford trained an entire generation of aspiring megachurch pastors in Drucker’s social philosophies. The megachurches are based on the Drucker corporate business model. Drucker’s ideas also undergird the faith - based (Church-State) movement which has been politically championed by the neoconservatives in Washington.<sup>21</sup> Dominionism is significantly breaking down the walls between Church and Corporations (see point 4 below). In brief, the three - legged stool of dominionism looks like this:

**CORPORATE + STATE = Fascism**

**STATE + CHURCH = Faith-based**

**CHURCH + CORPORATE = Fusion –  
the Merchant Church**

**Drucker’s 3-legged stool model**

. . . [The Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management], created ten years ago to honor Peter Drucker's contributions to management and leadership, believes that a healthy society requires three vital sectors: a public sector of effective governments; a private sector of effective businesses; and a social sector of effective community organizations, including faith-based organizations. It furthers its mission to lead social sector organizations toward excellence in performance by providing educational opportunities and resources.<sup>22</sup>

Leadership Network

**3. The phenomenon of Rick Warren.** Rick Warren has single-handedly accomplished more to bring about a public convergence between the three sects of dominionism than any other individual. Warren received his doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary under the tutelage of his advisor, C. Peter Wagner of the spiritual warfare dominionists.<sup>23</sup> Dubbed "America's Pastor" by the media, he is now embarking on an aggressive marketing campaign to set up a model of Peter Drucker's "healthy society" in Rwanda, ostensibly under the banner of missionary and charitable endeavors. Warren has launched a grandiose plan to "transform" Africa – to "cure AIDS," "end poverty" and "fulfill the Great Commission." Warren transcends evangelicalism. He easily moves in internationalist circles (Aspen Institute) and aligns himself with rock stars (Bono). Warren has audaciously called for a "Second Reformation" based upon his global P.E.A.C.E. Plan, which is a study in dominionism.<sup>24</sup> Leftists who fret over Warren's foray into AIDS<sup>25</sup> may miss the more serious dominionist ramifications of his overall global plan. Warren intends to amass the world's largest volunteer "army" of "one billion foot soldiers" to implement his global P.E.A.C.E. Plan.<sup>26</sup>

### **The global P.E.A.C.E. plan to *make* disciples**

In addition to its message of compassion, the [Saddleback Church AIDS] conference sought to impart several other points emerging from **Warren's global P.E.A.C.E. plan**.

Based on the **Great Commission to make disciples** (Matthew 28:18-20) and the Great Commandments to love God and to love our neighbors (Mark 12:28-34), the plan is Warren's approach to **attack** what he calls the five "global giants" -- spiritual emptiness, egocentric leadership, extreme poverty, pandemic diseases and illiteracy and poor education, by Planting churches, Equipping servant leaders, Assisting the poor, Caring for the sick and Educating the next generation. [emphasis added]<sup>27</sup>

"Involvement in AIDS crisis urged at Saddleback conference," Baptist Press

**4. Marketplace ministries.** Corporate business ventures are cloaking themselves in missionary garb to enter a nation and effect change. Creating an outpost for new corporate markets in undeveloped Third World countries, particularly those rich in natural resources, is being done in the name of "kingdom -building." In order to establish a spiritual aura for these activities, a high-tech Global Day of Prayer was established in May 2005 by the Spiritual Warfare sect working together

with Rick Warren.<sup>28</sup> This annual event is designed to promote the dominionist agenda worldwide. Corporate “marketplace ministry” expansion is being done with claims of sustainable development, free-trade, and other community development activities that could screen the dominionist agenda. An influential marketplace mission organization is Transform World, which is one of the most patent examples of dominionism.<sup>29</sup> Mission groups are taking up the quest for corporate expansion and financial gain by linking with business corporations, who are taking up the “mission” to expand their markets in the name of kingdom -building. Meanwhile, C. Peter Wagner has cooked up a new definition of *ekklesia* (Gk. church) to fuse the Church with the Corporate workplace.<sup>30</sup>

### Marketplace Dominionism

What is required is a change of heart. The heart of the nation is the marketplace—the combination of **business, education and government**, the **three arteries** through which its life flows. **If we take God’s power and presence to the marketplace we will see nations changed . . . .**

To change a man you must first change his heart. This approach, of course, is typical of missionary organizations. Silvos’s idea, though, is far more radical. Cities can be changed in nature. **Countries can be redeemed. Entire cultures can be brought to “salvation.” The land itself, in fact, can be healed.**

And such a miraculous change is brought about through **one primary avenue**: God working through the **marketplace**. . . .

The primary means to true revival, though, takes place **first** in the **marketplace**.<sup>31</sup> [emphases added]

*Business Reform* interview with Ed Silvos of Harvest Evangelism

### The “business mission company”

To achieve its purpose, the business mission company must develop and invest in **Great Commission efforts** that are synergistic with and leveraged by the company’s presence in **strategically selected markets**. It must **set standards for evangelism and discipleship, measure results, and evaluate results per dollar invested** for every **sphere** of influence identified in the market analysis. Company **spheres** of influence and the **spheres** of influence of each team member are **specific market segments targeted for impact**.... Any parts of the company that do not produce to standards are **pruned. An axe is laid to the root** of those that do not produce at all.<sup>32</sup> [emphasis added]

John Cragin, *On Kingdom Business: Transforming Missions Through Entrepreneurial Strategie*

**5. Militant rhetoric.** There is a notable increase in the stridency and urgency of “strategic level” prayer warfare rhetoric which is linked to global “transformation” (dominionism).<sup>33</sup> False prophets regularly pump out new “prophecies” and “decrees” to shore up the kingdom mandate. These “prophecies” function like oracles – they are a major avenue for communicating “God’s plan” for the next step in kingdom -building. False apostles have been anointed, appointed as leaders of regions around the globe, and charged with wielding the king’s authority. The doctrines of the New Apostolic Reformation have been promulgated throughout the mission movement by C. Peter Wagner, Cindy Jacobs, Chuck Pierce, Bill Hamon, a group known as the “Kansas City Prophets,” the Vineyard Fellowship, and many others. At the highest

echelons these organizations all have interlocking boards of directors. Two noteworthy internal organs for disseminating false prophecies and new doctrines include The Elijah List and Joel News.

### **A militant false prophecy**

We are coming to the times when passive Christianity and passive Christians will cease to exist. There is a maturity, a discipline, and a divine militancy coming upon the people of God. Those who have succumbed to humanistic and idealistic theologies may have a hard time with this, but we must understand that God is a military God. The title that He uses ten times more than any other in Scripture is "the Lord of hosts," or "Lord of armies." There is a martial aspect to His character that we must understand and embrace for the times and the job to which we are now coming.<sup>34</sup>

Rick Joyner, "TAKING THE LAND"

**6. Neoevangelical and neoconservative allies.** The December 2005 issue of *Mother Jones* magazine was devoted to examining the Patriotic dominionists. It included an article about the National Christian Foundation, a philanthropic group linked to neoconservative organizations. This brief article called attention to a vast network of interlocking boards of directors and financial ties between neoconservatives and neoevangelicals.<sup>35</sup> The website [www.mediatransparency.org](http://www.mediatransparency.org) explores Patriotic dominionist financial ties to neoconservative groups,<sup>36</sup> but it does not delve into the considerable linkages between the other two sects and the neoconservatives. Some of the bonds between these individuals and organizations go back over half a century, and some connections are alarmingly anti-semitic.<sup>37</sup> Corporate acts of charity, especially through the influence of the philanthropic groups, are supplanting the traditional doctrine of "let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth" (Matthew 6:3). Marketplace transformation is also forging many new political alliances. Dennis Peacocke of COR is an influential marketplace transformation leader who is also a member of the International Coalition of Apostles (the spiritual warfare dominionists).<sup>38</sup> Peacocke, who easily moves in all three sects, has suggested changing global economic structures.<sup>39</sup>

### **The new "Apostles" move into governments**

**Apostle** Jim Hodges took the stage on Wednesday evening to introduce an exciting new venture for FMCI: a permanent presence in Washington, D.C. called the International Leadership Embassy (I.L.E.). The I.L.E. will position FMCI more directly to affect our government, our nation, and world nations by establishing contacts with government officials, D.C. citizens, and international diplomats. The ILE will, further, facilitate on site intercession efforts in D.C., host visiting prayer teams, sponsor **Kingdom oriented teaching for government officials**, employees and interns, and Christian leaders.<sup>40</sup> [emphasis added]

Federation of Ministers and Churches International

**7. Whose kingdom come?** There has been a significant rise of cross-pollination between evangelical dominionists and New Age Theosophists.<sup>41</sup> Since the late 1970s there has been a closeted fraternization between dominionists and Theosophists for the purpose of finding common ground for the future. Both groups seek to bring in a "Christ" figure to solve the world's problems. Both groups have grand utopian plans to create "peace" on earth. During the past decade, the two groups began borrowing doctrinal terminologies from one another and working on common theologies. The events of 9/11 gave a new impetus to this effort.<sup>42</sup> Jay Gary, who has been a leader within all three sects of dominionism has had close ties with the Theosophists<sup>43</sup> and is adopting new theologies, including a hybrid of preterism called "transmillennialism."<sup>44</sup> Bob Buford of Leadership Network (mentioned in point 2 above) has been working since the mid-1990s to create a youth culture based on "emergent" theologies called the Emergent Church – a mixture of New Age paganism, eastern mysticism and evangelical dominionism.<sup>45</sup> And Patriotic Dominionist leaders have long-standing, close ties with the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who has his own messianic kingdom ambitions.<sup>46</sup>

### **"Christ's" Law**

The crime of separation, of division, of lawlessness must go from the world. All that hinders the manifestation of man's divinity must be driven from our planet. My Law will take the place of separation.<sup>47</sup>

Maitreya the "Christ"

**8. The stewardship deception.** The "Transformational Covenant"<sup>48</sup> by Luis Bush is a key document which outlines the new theology of stewardship dominion. Bush has held very influential positions in the mission movement as a leader in AD2000, World Inquiry, and the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. He now serves as the international facilitator of Transform World. By linking a reinterpreted Genesis 1 "stewardship of the earth" mandate to the reinterpreted Great Commission doctrine, there is a volatile new doctrine of dominionism doctrine rising. This "stewardship" mandate was actually first proposed as a deceptive strategy in the late 1970s by Jeremy Rifkin in his book *The Emerging Order*.<sup>49</sup> Rick Warren and others have now picked up the theme.<sup>50</sup> George Otis of the Sentinel Group (spiritual warfare dominionist), suggests that by taking dominion of the Earth (he calls it "transformation"), paradise can be restored (as in Genesis 1 before the Fall) – an old Latter Rain cult heresy that presents an alternative eschatology of dominion.<sup>51</sup>

### **"Cultivating the Great Commission Ecosystem"**

EFMA exists to cultivate the Great Commission Ecosystem so that it bears good and abundant fruit and God is glorified among all people. To this end the Fellowship works in depth with members to enhance mutual effectiveness and increase capacity as we work to **extend Christ's Kingdom**. EFMA works broadly within the mission community who share a commitment to Christ, the Scriptures, and obedience to God's command to **disciple the nations**.<sup>52</sup>

## **The Genesis 1 stewardship mandate**

. . . [W]hen God created man, he gave man dominion over the earth. Adam relinquished man's dominion by disobedience. Redemption and **restoration of man's dominion over the earth**, as well as his reconciliation with God, was made possible by Jesus.<sup>53</sup>

International Christian Chamber of Commerce

**9. Leftist dominionists.** Evangelical Leftists (Tom Sine, Ron Sider, Jim Wallis and others) have always hobnobbed with the dominionists.<sup>54</sup> Many of the key Leftist dominionists have been coalescing around an agenda to eradicate world poverty, laboring with Rick Warren to implement the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals. Micah Challenge is one of the key organizations operating in this realm. A number of international mission networking agencies have formed alliances around these mutual kingdom aspirations. Working to end poverty may seem laudable on the surface. But scratch the surface and dominionism appears.<sup>55</sup> Charity is not what it seems. Charity is a vehicle to maneuver dominionism into the best possible international publicity spotlight. And altruistic appeals for charitable sacrifice are a mechanism to sign up recruits in the billion man army.

### **WEA, Micah Challenge and Wolfowitz**

The Church is "God's primary instrument of transformation within the local community," says Tunncliffe, chair of [Micah Challenge Canada](#) and international director of the [World Evangelical Alliance](#) (WEA). Canadian churches and Christian organizations must evaluate what they're doing to serve the poor. They must keep themselves informed about issues surrounding poverty, and strive to find meaningful, practical outlets for people to respond. . . .

While in Washington, the group also met with the new president of the [World Bank](#), Paul Wolfowitz, who reportedly told the Christian leaders that the Church could become a more significant player in the role of responding to global poverty.

The World Bank, a source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world, has traditionally worked with governments. But Tunncliffe says they want to evaluate the possible role that could be played by the faith-based community in such work. A small body has been set up by the faith-based community to advise the World Bank in setting policy. The WEA has been asked to participate.<sup>56</sup>

**10. The church militant.** Since 9/11, patriotic fervor has combined with the neoconservative goals, and there is a disturbing rise of actual military activity for "kingdom-building" purposes. This activity is especially alarming because it encompasses all three major dominionist sects. Dominionist cult leader Bill Gothard has set up paramilitary training camps for evangelical children.<sup>57</sup> Christian Right leader Michael Farris, connected with Coalition on Revival (COR),<sup>58</sup> is recruiting homeschoolers for CIA-type training at his Patrick Henry College.<sup>59</sup> At

<http://www.goarmy.com/hslida/> one can see how the Army is recruiting homeschoolers, many of whom are active in the patriotic dominionist sect.

Campus Crusade, an international mission organization, asks for prayer "that we will accomplish our Military Ministry goal to change continents for Christ."<sup>60</sup>

Dr. Hope Taylor, ministry director of International Leadership Embassy, Washington, D.C. (see quotation for point 6 above), recently wrote "The church has the mantle to execute the will of the King concerning the war in Iraq and the war on terrorism. This assignment must not be abrogated or left solely to the military. . . ."<sup>61</sup>

Dr. Richard Kirby, of the World Network for Religious Futurists, a hybrid of neoevangelicals and Theosophists has written, "We want to train up a school of prophets who will be able to listen to the fresh word of God and deliver it to the people. Perhaps one example of this is the work of the Religious Futurists group with the military and with NASA the space authority."<sup>62</sup>

### **"The Shepherd's Rod" false prophecy**

From this posture we will be strengthened as a mighty warrior and equipped to encounter the plots of the adversary set against this generation. The Lord is a Warrior and we are to be clothed in His militant attributes as it relates to the enemy who dwells in heavenly places. . . .

There will be times and seasons to hide ourselves in Christ and other times to be aggressive and militant in our posture. The seasons that we isolate ourselves with Christ is not for dormancy but to wait upon Him and minister to Him to gain His insight and blueprint for victory. . . .

There will be a marked escalation in the angelic activity surrounding the Church. Furthermore, this activity will carry a militant characteristic as Michael and the warring angels of Heaven are released to establish the design of Heaven in the earth. As in the days of Israel, the giants of the adversary are occupying the land of promise and must be displaced in order to access our inheritance. . . .

To experience the governmental release related to the dominion associated with His Kingdom design, we must also allow the Holy Spirit to equip us as "overcomers" clothed in garments of righteousness.<sup>63</sup>

## **Emerging Global Ethics**

Fulfilling the kingdom mandate is seen as so critical that the "end justifies the means." Rick Warren has advocated for a philosophy of "do whatever it takes" to achieve his global P.E.A.C.E. Plan.<sup>64</sup> Putting forth the global hunger and AIDS crises as a rationale to further the dominion kingdom has proven to be a brilliant strategy. The new gospel of pragmatism, combined with emotive pleas for compassion, is superseding any ethical or doctrinal concerns about the legitimacy of the emerging Church-State-Corporate partnerships.

### **Pragmatic priorities**



Eradicating global poverty for all is a key priority for Christians, but specific attention also needs to be paid to the scandal of inequality and deprivation within the world-wide Christian community, says Mennonite World Conference (MWC) executive secretary Larry Miller.

Mr Miller, writing in the latest issue of *Courier*, a multilingual MWC publication, supports the 'Agape Call' of the World Council of Churches and the 'Micah Challenge' of the World Evangelical Alliance, stating the biblical and theological case for involvement in the UN Millennium goals to halve world poverty by 2015.

"What must be added to these calls – and cried out loudly – is a plea to overcome the disaster of poverty in the church", he adds. . . .<sup>65</sup>

Evangelicals have traditionally adhered to the Gospel directive to function as "salt" (Matthew 5:13) and "light" (Matthew 5:14) in the world. This Scripture was not traditionally laden with dominionist connotations. What it means is that Christians, by their individual or church-based acts of compassion, can make a difference in the lives of people. And by a holy and righteous lifestyle that matches a biblical profession of faith, Christians can make a positive difference within their culture. Being "salt and light" also means that there is a duty to do good in the face of evil (Romans 16:19).

The Scripture speaks of a type of separation between Church and State that forbids unholy coalitions. When a financial Church-State question was posed by the chief priests and scribes to the Lord Jesus Christ, He answered, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things that be God's" (Luke 20:25) While believers have a responsibility to obey the laws and rulers of the land (Romans 13), they are also required to "obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29), especially when the truth of the Gospel message is at stake.

By engaging in this vast new dominionist alliance, the Christian witness has been compromised. The ability to function independently as directly accountable to God, while adhering to Biblical truth alone, has been sharply curtailed. The biblical charge to boldly speak the truth (e.g., Philippians 1:14, 1 Thessalonians 2:2) has been subrogated to the "never speak critically" mantras of the Rick Warren's purpose-driven church covenants.<sup>66</sup>

The dominionist collaborations effectually function as a conspiracy against Scriptural truth (Jeremiah 11:9-10; Ezekiel 22:25-30).

### **The old doctrine**

The kingdom of Christ is not a kingdom of this world, otherwise would his servants fight! It rests on a *spiritual* basis and is to be advanced by *spiritual* means. Yet Christ's servants gradually slipped down into the notion that His kingdom *was* of this world and could be upheld by *human* power.<sup>67</sup>

Rev. Charles Spurgeon, circa 1880

### **Making merchandise**

*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, . . . And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you:*

(2 Peter 2:1a, 3a)

## The Merchant Church

This kingdom being built is not *of* Jesus Christ *OF* the Bible. It is not *FOR* the Jesus of the Bible. It has nothing to do with Him, but everything to do with an antichrist *zeitgeist* that is frightening, appalling and massive in its build -up.

At the present time it is still possible for seekers after truth to access the old doctrines and old sermons in books and on the Internet. The time has nearly come when these traditional Gospel doctrines will be declared heretical and a threat to the false king and kingdom that are being set up.

The Bible speaks of a latter day heresy called "mystery Babylon" which is a merger of Commerce and Church. This unholy dominionist mixture – a modern-day alchemy – is what appears to be forming before our very eyes:

### The global merchants

*And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the **merchants** of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies . . .*

*And the **merchants** of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble. And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots and **slaves, and souls of men**. (Revelation 18:2-3; 11-13)*

## Endnotes:

1. "Dominion Theology," Sara Diamond, article posted at <http://zena.secureforum.com/Znet/zmag/articles/feb95diamond.htm>). Sara Diamond authored *Spiritual Warfare: The Politics of the Christian Right* (South End Press, 1989) which provides some history of the rise of modern evangelical dominionism. Her perspective comes from the political Left.
2. "Editor's Note," special issue "God and Country: Where the Christian Right Is Leading Us," Dec. 2005 p. 5.
3. Michael M. Phillips, "In Swaziland, U.S. Preacher Sees His Dream Vanish," *Wall Street Journal*, 12/19/05. Bruce Wilkinson, author of *The Prayer of Jabez*, is closely associated with Rick Warren; see *Deceived on Purpose* by Warren Smith, (Mountain Stream Press, 2004). Their efforts in Africa were connected with the other dominionist movements mentioned in this article. See also articles posted at [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune_2005.htm) and [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust_2005.htm)
4. Sara Diamond, Ibid, Internet article.
5. *Matthew Henry Study Bible*, A. Kenneth Abraham, Ed., (Tyndale House, 1986), p. 1207. Henry is commenting on Psalms 149:6 "Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand" which has been given a new dominion connotation.
6. Al Dager, *Vengeance Is Ours: The Church In Dominion* (Sword Pub., 1990), p. 87. This book is a historical "encyclopedia" of the history of modern dominionism, clearly demarking the various sects. Dager approaches the subject from a Christian perspective. His book is available through <http://www.discernment-ministries.org>.
7. Lynn & Sarah Leslie, "Resurrecting Pagan Rites," <http://www.discernment-ministries.org/ResurrectingPaganRights.pdf>. This article series examines the roots and rise of the Promise Keepers' movement.
8. <http://www.tribeissachar.com/>. The mixture of contemplative spirituality with the spiritual warfare sect is coming in through the Emergent church, mainline denominations and purpose - driven. See <http://www.whitedoveministries.org/content/NewsItem.phtml?art=254&c=0&id=30&style=1>; or <http://tinyurl.com/87b4v>.
9. Sandy Simpson, "The New Apostolic Reformation: What is it and where is it going?" <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/nardvd.html>. See also, *Strange Fire: The Rise of Gnosticism in the Church* by Traverse & Jewel van der Merwe (Conscience Press, 1995) <http://www.discernment-ministries.org/StrangeFire1.htm>
10. See documentation at <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/addendum-haggard.html> and <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/haggardelected.html> for the history of Haggard's entanglement with this sect of dominionism.
11. 11/01/05, *Global Link* newsletter Global Harvest Ministries.
12. Al Dager, *The World Christian Movement*, (Sword Publ., 2001). This book reads like a sequel to *Vengeance Is Ours* by the same author (see footnote 5). It is a cursory look at the rise of the modern mission movement, its roots and doctrines, from a Christian apologetics perspective. Available at <http://www.discernment-ministries.org> website.
13. President of the International Christian Chamber of Commerce, speech given at an International Coalition of Workplace Ministries banquet, Oct. 2004 <http://tinyurl.com/bnqcn> or use

- <http://www.tinyurl.com/a9db2>. For more information about ICCC see <http://www.iccreg.net/pages.asp?pageid=20404>. This organization appears to be wielding tremendous influence in the marketplace transformation movement that believes "it is possible to operate in God's Kingdom rule on earth here and now."
14. Disciple Nations Alliance (DNA) "Online Course" summary at <http://tinyurl.com/afdkj>. This quotation is an example of the "spheres" mentioned in point 1 below in the text entitled "Global "spheres."
  15. *Vengeance Is Ours*, pp. 235-258.
  16. The author has a copy of this letter. A subsequent COR conference was attended by Cynthia Weatherly and reported upon in *The Christian Conscience* magazine, "From SPIRITUALIST and Spiritual TWIST?" Nov. 1996, pp. 64 -65.
  17. *Vengeance Is Ours* documents the rise of the dominionists and their interconnections. At <http://www.discernment-ministries.org> there is an archive of past newsletters that focuses on the Latter Rain dominionists. *The World Christian Movement* documents the history of the mission dominionists. Also see <http://www.herescope.blogspot.com> which frequently posts historical material.
  18. [http://www.transform-world.net/article\\_read.asp?id=7](http://www.transform-world.net/article_read.asp?id=7) or use <http://tinyurl.com/bynew>
  19. *Vengeance Is Ours*, p. 235-236.
  20. Disciple the Nations, <http://disciplethenations.org/LMEMNVision.html#Discipling>.
  21. See *The Pied Pipers of Purpose: Human Capital Systems and Church Performance*, a monograph by Lynn & Sarah Leslie and Susan Conway. This monograph details the influence of Peter Drucker over Rick Warren, including a look at his political, social and economic philosophies. Monograph posted at [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/Purpose\\_Driven.pdf](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/Purpose_Driven.pdf)
  22. *Explorer*, No. 23, 11/06/00, [http://www.leadnet.org/epubarchive.asp?id=41&db=archive\\_explorer](http://www.leadnet.org/epubarchive.asp?id=41&db=archive_explorer). The Leadership Network has been a pivotal organization to turn Christian pastors into "change agents" through its leadership training.
  23. This point is documented at [www.deceptioninthechurch.com/ditc12-10.html](http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/ditc12-10.html).
  24. See article posted at [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune_2005.htm), "The Global Day of Prayer" and its sequel, "The Second Reformation" at [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust_2005.htm), both authored by Sarah Leslie. These two articles present the current history of Rick Warren's connection to the Global Day of Prayer, and his Africa project.
  25. Wayne Besen, "Purpose-driven lies," 12/09/05, <http://www.washblade.com/2005/12-9/view/columns/lies.cfm>
  26. <http://www.christianpost.com/article/ministries/1615/section/purpose.driven.network.opens.new.aids.conference.to.address.church/1.htm> is a news account. The transcript of Rick Warren's interview with *Larry King Live* at <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0512/02/lkl.01.html>. And a critical review of this from an African perspective at <http://www.bibleguidance.co.za/Engarticles/Africanvision.htm>
  27. "Involvement in AIDS crisis urged at Saddleback conference," Shannon Baker, Baptist Press, 12/07/05, <http://www.sbcbaptistpress.org/bpnews.asp?ID=22230>
  28. See [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune_2005.htm) and its sequel [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust_2005.htm) (see footnote 22).

29. <http://tinyurl.com/dyv8w> or <http://www.transform-world.com/focusgroupall.asp?id=2>. Also see "A Call to Transformation," Australian Prayer Network, <http://tinyurl.com/b5v5y>
30. See a transcript of Wagner's speech posted at <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/arise.html>. Also see [http://www.marketplaceleaders.org/articles\\_view.asp?articleid=5682&columnid=743](http://www.marketplaceleaders.org/articles_view.asp?articleid=5682&columnid=743), C. Peter Wagner's Foreword to *Faith@Work Movement* book by Os Hillman. Os Hillman is a key player in marketplace transformation.
31. *Business Reform* interview with Ed Silvoso of Harvest Evangelism, "The Heart of A Nation," (01/07/05) at <http://tinyurl.com/akwd2>. Ed Silvoso, from both mission and spiritual warfare sects, is one of the architects of global marketplace reform.
32. John Cragin, Chapter 15, "The Business of Missions -- The Missions of Business," *On Kingdom Business: Transforming Missions Through Entrepreneurial Strategies* (Crossway, 2003), edited by Tetsunao Yamamori and Kenneth A. Eldred. The quote is a perfect example of the influence of Peter Drucker's ideology.
33. See [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune_2005.htm) and its sequel [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust_2005.htm) (see footnote 22).
34. Rick Joyner, "TAKING THE LAND --We Are Establishing Our Eternal Place And Position Here On Earth" 11/29/05, [http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display\\_word.html?ID=3617](http://www.elijahlist.com/words/display_word.html?ID=3617). Rick Joyner was one of the "Kansas City Prophets" who now wields considerable influence through his "prophecies" about a coming militant church.
35. Michael Reynolds, "Rendering Unto God," *Mother Jones*, Dec. 2005, p. 43. [http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2005/12/rendering\\_onto\\_god.html](http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2005/12/rendering_onto_god.html). For other articles see: [http://www.motherjones.com/search/category\\_religion.html](http://www.motherjones.com/search/category_religion.html)
36. Eric Alterman, "Neoconning the Media: A Very Short History of Neoconservatism," 04/22/05 at <http://www.mediatransparency.org/story.php?storyID=2>.
37. *Vengeance Is Ours* documents the ties with Identity, e.g., p. 67. Also see Russ Bellant's three books: *Old Nazis, the New Right and the Republican Party* (South End Press, 1988); *The Coors Connection: How Coors Family Philanthropy Undermines Democratic Pluralism* (South End Press, 1988) and *The Religious Right in Michigan Politics* (Americans for Religious Liberty, 1996). Bellant approaches the subject from the political Left perspective. His historical research goes back over sixty years.
38. International Coalition of Apostles website at <http://www.apostlesnet.net/index.asp?action=+introduction>. "ICA is designed for Apostolic Leaders who are kingdom builders. . . ."
39. Strategic Christian Services (Dennis Peacocke), "Co-Managing the Earth: The Foundational Work of the Christian Marketplace Ministry," <http://www.strategicchristianservices.org/0903article.asp>
40. Federation of Ministers and Churches International, Spring 2005, FMCI's November '04 Leadership Conference, [http://www.fmcapostolicnetwork.com/articles\\_view.asp?articleid=10858&columnid=1727](http://www.fmcapostolicnetwork.com/articles_view.asp?articleid=10858&columnid=1727)
41. Warren Smith, "Evangelicals and New Agers Together," article posted at <http://www.erwm.com/EvangelicalsandNewAgers.htm>. It must be noted that there is a common Gnostic link between Theosophists and the Latter Rain cult. See *Strange Fire* (footnote 8) for more information.
42. Warren Smith, *Reinventing Jesus Christ*, book posted on-line at <http://www.reinventingjesuschrist.com>. This book chronicles the recent connections between Theosophists and leading evangelicals. A second edition with updated information will come out this Spring.

43. Warren Smith, "Evangelicals and New Agers Together," Ibid.
44. <http://www.presence.tv> is an example of an entire ministry built around a new doctrine. Jay Gary has been a significant player, cloaking his dominionism in the rhetoric of "futurism." He openly networks with the Theosophists. He is part of the World Network of Religious Futurists, an influential organization with theosophical underpinnings. See <http://www.wnrf.org/cms/associates.shtml> and <http://www.wnrf.org/cms/faq.shtml>.
45. See postings at <http://www.herescope.blogspot.com> for historical documentation.
46. In addition to the information on this topic which could be found at <http://www.mediatransparency.org> website, this author has personal experience in this realm and was an eyewitness during the 1980s to the Christian Right's close financial and organizational ties to Moon.
47. Maitreya, *Messages from Maitreya the Christ*, (Share International Foundation, 2001), p. 248.
48. [http://www.transform-world.net/article\\_read.asp?id=7](http://www.transform-world.net/article_read.asp?id=7)
49. Rifkin, Jeremy with Ted Howard. *The Emerging Order: God in the Age of Scarcity* (G.P. Putnam's Sons: New York, 1979), "See introduction," pp. ix -xii. The book is a blueprint on how to network charismatics and transform their theology.
50. Lynn & Sarah Leslie, "What Is Transformation?" article posted at <http://newswithviews.com/Leslie/sarah.htm>.
51. George Otis is part of a new group called FUSION, which exemplifies many points made in this paper. See <http://www.prayerbydesign.com/transformation.php>
52. Evangelical Fellowship of Missionary Agencies, a key networking mission group with very dominionist goals <http://community.gospelcom.net/Brix?pageID=7115>
53. "The Vision: THE KINGDOM FOCUS," International Christian Chamber of Commerce, <http://www.icccreg.net/pages.asp?pageid=20404>. See footnote 12.
54. For example, see a series of posts on <http://www.herescope.blogspot.com> (Sept/Oct. 2005) pertaining to Evangelical Consultations about the future held in the late 1970s. These Consultations not only linked Leftist evangelicals to the emerging dominionist mandate, but also brought in leading Theosophist Willis Harman to help create new theologies for the future.
55. See [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLMayJune_2005.htm) and its sequel [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust_2005.htm) (see footnote 22)
56. Patricia Paddy, "Christian leaders propose partnering with UN to fight poverty," <http://www.canadianchristianity.com/cgi-bin/na.cgi?nationalupdates/051027poverty>
57. See <http://www.alertacademy.com> for starters. Gothard, who revivifies many Old Testament doctrines, appeals to a wide spectrum of evangelicals for varying reasons. His organizations function in a secretive cult-like manner.
58. *Vengeance Is Ours*, p. 252.
59. <http://www.phc.edu/teencamps/>. Note: homeschoolers are an extremely diverse group and cannot be lumped into the dominionist camps solely on the basis of the free choice they exercise in educating their children at home. Michael Farris and his organization, Home School Legal Defense Association, attempt to represent home educators politically in Washington, to the chagrin of the non-dominionist homeschoolers.

60. "Goal to Change Continents for Christ, 9/15/ -5, Global Prayer Movement, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International,  
[http://globalprayermovement.org/prayerrequests.asp?offset=23&AOA\\_Id=3404](http://globalprayermovement.org/prayerrequests.asp?offset=23&AOA_Id=3404)
61. "DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, PRESIDENT BUSH AND IRAQ" post at [http://www.ile-dc.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=2](http://www.ile-dc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=27&Itemid=2) or see <http://tinyurl.com/a7431>
62. "WNRF Marks 25 Years of Religious Futurism," by Dr. Rev. Richard Kirby, World Network of Religious Futurists, 7/20/05, [http://www.wnrf.org/cms/print\\_religious\\_futurism\\_25years.shtml](http://www.wnrf.org/cms/print_religious_futurism_25years.shtml). See footnote 42.
63. Bob Jones & Paul Keith Davis, *Shepherd's Rod 2004*, October 7, 2003, <http://www.whitedoveministries.org/content/ArchivesItem.phtml?art=163&c=0&id=11&style=2> . Bob Jones is a Latter Rain sect leader.
64. [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust\\_2005.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLJulyAugust_2005.htm) (See footnote 22). For an example of how this "urgency" manifests, see footnote 3. The *WSJ* article cited states, "Mr. Wilkinson felt the situation was so urgent that the time for cautious measures had passed."
65. "End scandal of poverty in churches, says Mennonite leader," 05/12/05, [http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/content/news\\_syndication/article\\_05125menno.shtml](http://www.ekklesia.co.uk/content/news_syndication/article_05125menno.shtml). This quotation is an example of the widespread diffusion of dominionist ideas. Mennonites are Anabaptists who traditionally do not hold to these doctrines.
66. The author was an eyewitness to the compromises of the faith that occur when political and financial coalitions take precedence biblical truth. See "How Can There Be Revival Without Repentance," by Lynn and Sarah Leslie posted at [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/2001\\_SeptemberOctober.pdf](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/2001_SeptemberOctober.pdf). See also Lynn D. & Sarah Leslie, "The Shepherding Movement Comes of Age," [http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLjanfeb\\_2003.htm](http://www.discernment-ministries.org/NLjanfeb_2003.htm). This article explores the content of the covenants that must be signed in the purpose-driven church movement.
67. Rev. Charles Spurgeon, "Christ's Universal Kingdom and How it Comes," <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols25-27/chs1535.pdf>. Spurgeon's sermons are a good source of old-time doctrines, which provide a stark contrast to modern dominionism.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to independent researcher Susan J. Conway and Steve Muse of Eastern Regional Watch Ministries (<http://www.erwm.com>) for their invaluable research assistance in this project.

Sarah H. Leslie is a former Christian Right leader in homeschooling and right to life. She has authored many articles on education reform and Christian apologetic issues. She and her husband Lynn published *The Christian Conscience* magazine and several books. They currently sit on the board of directors of Discernment Ministries, Inc.



Canadian Todd Bentley, who preached for months on end this year in Florida, is a general in Joel's Army.

LAKELAND, Fla. — Todd Bentley has a long night ahead of him, resurrecting the dead, healing the blind, and exploding cancerous tumors. Since April 3, the 32-year-old, heavily tattooed, body-pierced, shaved-head Canadian preacher has been leading a continuous "supernatural healing revival" in central Florida. To contain the 10,000-plus crowds flocking from around the globe, Bentley has rented baseball stadiums, arenas and airport hangars at a cost of up to \$15,000 a day. Many in attendance are church pastors themselves who believe Bentley to be a prophet and don't bat an eye when he tells them he's seen King David and spoken with the Apostle Paul in heaven. "He was looking very Jewish," Bentley notes.

Tattooed across his sternum are military dog tags that read "Joel's Army." They're evidence of Bentley's generalship in a rapidly growing apocalyptic movement that's gone largely unnoticed by watchdogs of the theocratic right. According to Bentley and a handful of other "hyper-charismatic" preachers advancing the same agenda, Joel's Army is prophesied to become an Armageddon-ready military force of young people with a divine mandate to physically impose Christian "dominion" on non-believers.



"An end-time army has one common purpose — to aggressively take ground for the kingdom of God under the authority of Jesus Christ, the Dread Champion," Bentley declares on the website for his ministry school in British Columbia, Canada. "The trumpet is sounding, calling on-fire, revolutionary believers to enlist in Joel's Army. ... Many are now ready to be mobilized to establish and advance God's kingdom on earth."



Joel's Army followers, many of them teenagers and young adults who believe they're members of the final generation to come of age before the end of the world, are breaking away in droves from mainline Pentecostal churches. Numbering in the tens of thousands, they base their beliefs on an esoteric reading of the second chapter of the Old Testament Book of Joel, in which an avenging swarm of locusts attacks Israel. In their view, the locusts are a metaphor for Joel's Army.

Despite their overt militancy, there's no evidence Joel's Army followers have committed any acts of violence. But critics warn that actual bloodletting may only be a matter of time for a movement that casts itself as God's avenging army.

Those sounding the alarm about Joel's Army are not secular foes of the Christian Right, few of whom are even aware of the movement or how widespread it's become in the past decade. Instead, Joel's Army critics are mostly conservative Christians, either neo-Pentecostals who left the movement in disgust or evangelical Christians who fear that Joel's Army preachers are stealing their flocks, even sending spies to infiltrate their own congregations and sway their young people to heresy. And they say the movement is becoming frightening.

"The pitch and intensity of the military rhetoric of this branch of the global Dominionist movement has substantially increased since the beginning of 2008," writes The Discernment Research Group, a Christian watchdog group that tracks what they call heresies or cults within Christianity. "One can only wonder how long before this transforms into real warfare with actual warriors."

### **'Snorting Religion'**

Joel's Army believers are hard-core Christian dominionists, meaning they believe that America, along with the rest of the world, should be governed by conservative Christians and a conservative Christian interpretation of biblical law. There is no room in their doctrine for democracy or pluralism.

Dominionism's original branch is Christian Reconstructionism, a grim, Calvinist call to theocracy that, as Reconstructionist writer Gary North describes, wants to "get busy in constructing a Bible-based social, political and religious order which finally denies the religious liberty of the enemies of God."

Notorious for endorsing the public execution by stoning of homosexuals and adulterers, the Christian Reconstructionist movement is far better known in secular America than Joel's Army. That's largely because Reconstructionists have made several serious forays into mainstream politics and received a fair amount of negative publicity as a result. Joel's Army followers eschew the political system, believing the path to world domination lies in taking over churches, not election to public office.

Another key difference between the two branches of dominionism, which maintain a testy, arms-length relationship with one another, is Christian Reconstructionism's buttoned-down image and heavy emphasis on Bible study, which contrasts sharply with Joel's Army anti-intellectual distrust of biblical scholars and its unruly style.

"Some people snort cocaine, others snort religions," Joel's Army Pastor Roy said while ministering a morning program at Todd Bentley's Lakeland, Fla., revival in late May.

As this article went to press, Bentley's "Florida Outpouring" had been running for more than 100 days straight. Many attendees came in search of spontaneous physical healing and a desire to be part of a mystical community marked by dancing, shouting, gyrating, speaking in tongues and other forms of ecstatic release.

Snide jabs at traditional church services are fairly common at Bentley's revivals. In fact, what takes place onstage at the Florida Outpouring looks more like a pro wrestling extravaganza than church. On stage, Bentley and his team of pastors, yell, chant, and scream "Fire!" and "Bam!" while anointing followers.

The audience members behave as if they are at a psychedelic counterculture festival. One couple jumps up and down twirling red and silver metallic flags. Dyed-haired teenagers pulled in by the revival's presence on Facebook and MySpace wander around looking dazed. Women lay facedown on the floor, convulsing and howling. Fathers wail in tongues as their confused children look on.

Strangers lay hands on those who fail to produce tongues or gyrate wildly enough, pressuring them to "let it out."

Bentley is considered a prophet both by his followers and by other leaders of the Joel's Army movement, whose adherents claim to be reviving a "five-fold ministry" of prophets, apostles, elders, pastors and teachers, as outlined in the Book of Ephesians. Not every five-fold ministry is connected to the Joel's Army movement, but the movement has spurred an interest in modern-day apostles and prophets that's troubling to the Assemblies of God, the world's largest Pentecostal church, which has officially disavowed the Joel's Army movement.

In a 2001 position paper, Assemblies of God leaders wrote that they do not recognize modern-day apostles or prophets and worried that "such leaders prefer more authoritarian structures where their own word or decrees are unchallenged." They are right to worry. Joel's Army followers believe that once democratic institutions are overthrown, their hierarchy of apostles and prophets will rule over the earth, with one church per city.

### **Warrior Nation**

According to Joel's Army doctrine, the enforcers of the five-fold ministry will be members of the final generation, for whom the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* constituted a new Passover.

"Everyone born after abortion's legalization can consider their birth a personal invitation to take part in this great army," writes John Crowder, another prominent Joel's Army pastor, who bills his 2006 book, *The New Mystics: How to Become Part of the Supernatural Generation*, as a literal how-to guide for joining Joel's Army.

Both Bentley and Crowder are enormously popular on Elijah's List, an online watering hole for a broad spectrum of Joel's Army enlistees, from lightweight believers who merely share an affection for military rhetoric and pastors who dress in army camouflage (several Joel's Army pastors are addressed by their



"The Call," a 12-hour revival of up to 20,000 young people held in a different city each year, is led by Joel's Army pastor Lou Engle.

congregants as "commandant" or "commander") to hardliners who believe the church is called to have an active military role in end-times that have already begun. Elijah's List currently has more than 125,000 subscribers on its electronic mailing list.

Rick Joyner, a pastor whose books, *The Harvest* and *The Call*, helped popularize Joel's Army theology by selling more than a million copies each, goes the furthest on Elijah's List in pushing the hardliner approach. In 2006, he posted a sermon called "The Warrior Nation — The New Sound of the Church," in which he claimed that a last-day army is now gathering and called believers "freedom fighters."

"As the church begins to take on this resolve, they [Joel's Army churches] will start to be thought of more as military bases, and they will begin to take on the characteristics of military bases for training, equipping, and deploying effective spiritual forces," Joyner wrote. "In time, the church will actually be organized more as a military force with an army, navy, air force, etc."

In a sort of disclaimer, Joyner writes at one point that God's army "will bring love, peace and stability wherever they go." But several of his books narrate with glee what he describes as "a coming civil war within the church." In his 1997 book *The Harvest* he writes: "Some pastors and leaders who continue to resist this tide of unity will be removed from their place. Some will become so hardened they will become opposers and resist God to the end."

Two years later, in his book *The Final Quest*, Joyner described a vision (taken as prophecy in the Joel's Army world, where Joyner is considered an "apostle") of the coming Christian Civil War in which demon-possessed Christian soldiers enslave other, weaker Christians who resist them. He also describes how the hero of the novel — himself — ascends a "Holy Mountain" in order to learn new truths and to acquire new, magic weapons.

### **Kids on Fire**

Bentley, who claims to be a supernatural healer, is no less over the top, playing his biker-punk appearance and heavy metal theatrics to the hilt. On YouTube, where clips of his most dramatic healings have been condensed into a three-minute highlight reel, Bentley describes God ordering him to kick an elderly lady in the face: "I am thinking, 'God, why is the power of God not moving?' And He said, 'It is because you haven't kicked that women in the face.' And there was, like, this older lady worshipping right in front of the platform and the Holy Spirit spoke to me and the gift of faith came on me. He said, 'Kick her in the face ... with your biker boot.' I inched closer and I went like this [makes kicking motion]: Bam! And just as my boot made contact with her nose, she fell under the power of God."

The atmosphere is less charged with violence at "The Call," a 12-hour revival of up to 20,000 youths led by Joel's Army pastor Lou Engle and held every summer in a major American city (this year's event was scheduled for Washington, D.C. in August).

Attendees are called upon to fast and pray for 40 days and take up culture-war pledges to lead abstinent lives, reject pornography and fight abortion. They're further asked to perform "identificational repentance," lugging along family trees and genealogies to see where one of their ancestors may have enslaved or oppressed another so that they can make amends. (Many in the Joel's Army movement believe in generational curses that must be broken by the current generation).

As even his critics note, Engle is a sweet, humble and gentle man whose persona is difficult to reconcile with his belief in an end-time army of invincible young Christian warriors. Yet while Engle is careful to avoid deploying explicit Joel's Army rhetoric at high-profile events like The Call, when he's speaking in smaller hyper-charismatic circles to avowed Joel's Army followers, he can venture into bloodlust.

This March, at a "Passion for Jesus" conference in Kansas City sponsored by the International House of Prayer, or IHOP, a ministry for teenagers from the heavy metal, punk and goth scenes, Engle called on his audience for vengeance.

"I believe we're headed to an Elijah/Jezebel showdown on the Earth, not just in America but all over the globe, and the main warriors will be the prophets of Baal versus the prophets of God, and there will be no middle ground," said Engle. He was referring to the Baal of the Old Testament, a pagan idol whose followers were slaughtered under orders from the prophet Elijah.

"There's an Elijah generation that's going to be the forerunners for the coming of Jesus, a generation marked not by their niceness but by the intensity of their passion," Engle continued. "The kingdom of heaven suffers violence and the violent take it by force. Such force demands an equal response, and Jesus is going to make war on everything that hinders love, with his eyes blazing fire."

Although Joel's Army theology is mainly directed at people in their teens and early 20s via events like The Call and ministries like IHOP, sometimes the target audience is even younger. In some of the most arresting images in "Jesus Camp," a 2006 documentary about the Kids on Fire bible camp in North Dakota, grade school-aged kids dressed in army fatigues wield swords and conduct military field maneuvers. "A lot of people die for God and they're not afraid," one camper told ABC News reporters in a follow-up segment.

"We're kinda being trained to be warriors," added another, "only in a funner way."

### **Cain and the Intellectuals**

Both Christian and secular critics assailed the makers of "Jesus Camp" for referring to the camp's extremist, militant Christianity as "evangelical." There is a name, however, that describes Kids on Fire's agenda, if you're familiar with their theology: Joel's Army. Pastor Becky Fischer, who runs the camp, said that a third of the kids at her camp were under 6 years old because they are "more in touch in the supernatural" and proclaimed them to be "soldiers for God's Army." Her camp's blend of end-times militancy and supernaturalism is perfectly emblematic of the Joel's Army movement, whose adherents believe their cause is prophesied in the Old Testament chapter titled "An Army of Locusts."

The stark, evocative passages of that chapter describe a locust swarm that lays waste to Israel (to this day, the region suffers periodic locust invasions): "Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come." As remarkable as the language is, most biblical scholars agree that it is a literal description of a locust invasion and resulting famine that occurred sometime between the 9th and 5th centuries B.C.E.

In the Book of Joel, the locust invasion is described as an omen that an Assyrian army to the north may attack Israel if it fails to repent as a nation. But nowhere is the invasion described as an army of God. According to an Assemblies of God position paper: "It is a complete misinterpretation of Scripture to find in Joel's army of locusts a militant, victorious force attacking society and a non-cooperating Church to prepare the earth for Christ's millennial reign."

The story of how an ancient insect invasion came to be a rallying flag for 21st-century dominionists begins just after World War II in Canada. Out of a small town in Saskatchewan, a Pentecostal preacher named William Branham spearheaded a 1948 revival in which he claimed that his followers lived in a new biblical time of "Latter Rain."

The most sinless and ardent of his flock would be called "Manifest Sons of God." By the next year, the movement was so strong — and seemed so subversive to some — that the Assemblies of God banned it as a heretic cult. But Branham remained a controversial figure with a loyal following; many of his followers believed him to be the end-times prophet Elijah.

Michael Barkun, a leading scholar of radical religion, notes that in 1958, Branham began teaching "Serpent Seed" doctrine, the belief that Satan had sex with Eve, resulting in Cain and his descendants. "Through Cain came all the smart, educated

people down to the antediluvian flood — the intellectuals, bible colleges," Branham wrote in the kind of anti-mainstream religion, anti-intellectual spirit that pervades the Joel's Army movement to this day. "They know all their creeds but know nothing about God."

### **The Gates of Hell**

Branham was killed in a car accident in 1965, but his Manifest Sons of God movement, the direct predecessor of Joel's Army, lived on within a cluster of hyper-charismatic churches. In the 1980s, Branham's teachings took on new life at the Kansas City Fellowship (KCF), a group of popular self-styled apostles and prophets who used the Missouri church as a launching pad for national careers promoting outright Joel's Army theology.

Ernie Gruen, a local pastor who initially promoted and gave citywide credibility to KCF pastors in the early 1980s, cut his connections in 1990. Concerned about KCF's plans to push its teachings worldwide, Gruen published a 132-page insider's account, based on taped sermons and conversations and interviews with parents who had enrolled their kids in KCF's Dominion school.

According to Gruen's report, students at the school were taught that they were a "super-race" of the "elected seed" of all the best bloodlines of all generations — foreknown, predestined, and hand-selected from billions of others to be part of the "end-time Omega generation."

Though he'd once promoted these doctrines himself, Gruen became convinced that the movement was turning into an end-times cult, marked by what he summarized as "spiritual threats, fears, and warnings of death," "warning followers to beware of other Christians" and exhibiting "a 'super-race' mentality toward the training of their children."

When contacted by the *Intelligence Report*, Gruen's spokesman said that Gruen stands by everything he published in the report but no longer grants media interviews.

The Kansas City Fellowship remains in operation and has served as a farm team for many of the all-stars of the Joel's Army movement. Those larger-than-life figures include John Wimber, the founder of a California megachurch, The



The Joel's Army movement began with the 1940s preaching of William Branham, whose group was banned as heretical by the Assemblies of God.

Vineyard, who, before his death in 1997, proclaimed that Joel's Army would not only conquer the earth but defeat death itself. Lou Engle founded The Call based on the Joel's Army visions that KCF "prophet" Bob Jones (not to be confused with Bob Jones III of Bob Jones University) received while at KCF. Mike Bickle, another KCF member, stayed in Kansas City to form the International House of Prayer.

IHOP members and other Joel's Army adherents are well aware of how their movement is perceived by other conservative Christians.

"Today, you can type 'Joel's Army' into a search engine and a thousand heresy hunter websites pop up, decrying the very mention of it," writes John Crowder in *The New Mystics*. Crowder doesn't exactly allay critic's fears. "This is truly warfare," he writes. "This battle is not a game. They [Joel's Army warriors] will not be on the defense; they will be on the offense — and the gates of hell will not be able to hold up against them."

So far, few members of the secular media have taken notice of Joel's Army, even as they report on Protestant dominionists like Pat Robertson or the more outrageous calls for the stoning of gays and lesbians emanating from Reconstructionist circles. There are exceptions, however. On the DailyKos, a well-read, politically liberal blog, a diarist has been blogging for two years about her experiences as a walkaway from a Joel's Army church. She writes under a pseudonym out of fear of physical reprisals.

She may have real cause for concern. As Wimber, the late founder of The Vineyard, put it in one of his most famous and fiery sermons, one that is still frequently cited by Joel's Army followers: "Those in this army will have His kind of power. ... Anyone who wants to harm them must die."

---

## Joel's Army

Jewel Grewe

### PREFACE

This book is a snapshot in time. Originally published in 1991, it was a helpful



sketch of the Latter Rain doctrines coming forth from the “Kansas City Prophets” and entering the Charismatic and Pentecostal churches. This movement had existed on the fringes of the Pentecostal community, and there was little reason to worry that these aberrant teachings would affect the mainstream evangelicalism.

In retrospect, this book is so much more important than anyone ever realized. We now know that what was then called the “New Wave Theology” movement has now tremendously grown to become the New Apostolic Reformation.

This book is a still photo, capturing a pivotal moment in history. The new doctrines of the New Apostolic Reformation were still “emerging” fifteen years ago. As such, these new doctrines were much more blatant. None of the church growth movement experts had come in to “tweak” them so that they would be marketable to the greater evangelical community. Nobody had come in to scale them down yet, in order to gradually introduce them as “progressive revelation.” In this book, you read the actual doctrines in their most pure, unadulterated form. And it is quite chilling!

The New Order of the Latter Rain, a cult that began in the late 1940s, taught a number of heresies, including 1) an overemphasis on “imparting” spiritual gifts and 2) the erroneous teaching that the Church must be built on a foundation of present-day apostles and prophets. Leaders at that time included William Branham, George Warnock, Ern Baxter, and George Hawtin. This cult eventually developed connections with the Shepherding and Charismatic Renewal movements, and the “Kansas City Prophets.”

This self-proclaimed group of modern-day “prophets,” at the Kansas City Fellowship perpetuated the doctrines of Latter Rain through the teachings of Mike Bickle, Paul Cain and others. It is here that this booklet picks up the story, for many of the quoted excerpts come from leaders at the Kansas City Fellowship prophecy conferences.

Just at this moment in history, a confluence was beginning which was to have massive repercussions throughout the rest of evangelicalism: John Wimber of the Vineyard Movement connected with the Kansas City Prophets. John Wimber had previously been picked up as an “experiment” by C. Peter Wagner at Fuller Theological Seminary for “signs and wonders” classes. For several decades Fuller had been laying considerable groundwork for the formation of new doctrines – ecclesiology, eschatology, missiology, soteriology, etc. Wimber’s connection to KCF proved to be the catalyst for the beginnings of what C. Peter Wagner was to later call the “New Apostolic Reformation.” The esoteric doctrines of the Latter Rain movement became an integral part of his post-modern evangelical canon.

And because of Wagner's influence, KCF leaders who would have been obscure in 1991, such as Mike Bickle, are now widely known throughout evangelicalism.

What you are about to read exposes some of the most pure forms of the New Apostolic Reformation doctrines – unadulterated – that can be found. They are wholly heretical and deeply disturbing. As this book goes to press as a second edition, these teachings are rapidly gaining impact and influence in the wider Christian world. What would have shocked fifteen years ago is now easily accepted.

May the Lord use this book to lead many back to His Word.

Sarah Leslie

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.” (2 Timothy 3:24-26)

## Introduction

There are many new revelations and new winds of doctrine sweeping the Church today. Sensationalism seems to be the guiding light leading souls into extremes that are very far from the Truth that is laid out clearly in the Word of God.

“Joel's Army” is one term among many that are all being used to describe the same teaching. We hear much about the “New Breed,” “New Wave,” etc. All of the terms cited below represent basically the same teaching.

Where does it come from? Where is it going? This booklet attempts to lay out a clear basis of understanding so that you can further your study.

If you are not willing to have your pet teaching questioned, is it because it will not stand in the Light of God's Word? Beware! The purpose of this writing is to warn the Church – be prepared at all times to give a reason for the hope that is within you! Be willing to stand straight and tall and say, “But, it is written.” In other words, back up your stand with Scripture. God has given us His Word for the

final authority. His Word is relevant for today.

Joel's Army

New Breed

Overcomers

First-Fruits

Elijah Company

The Bride

Manifested Sons of God

Phineas Priesthood

New Wineskin

New Wave

Latter Rain

## Joel's Army

BLOW THE TRUMPET! Hear the noise of the chariots! The chariots are leaping across the mountains! The army of the Lord is approaching! The earth will quake before them; the heavens shall tremble.... A great people and a strange; there hath not been ever the like.

Utterly awesome, this army is mentioned in Joel. This is the verse used by teachers and “prophets” to declare that God is raising up an army in these days. The Endtime army. Do you want to be a part of it? Just think – you will supposedly be able to climb the wall like men of war. Even when you fall on the sword you will not be wounded. Crowds clap and cheer as they visualize the wondrous feats they will be able to perform in the Name of the Lord! No one wants to miss God and not be a part of what He is doing! It all has such a “spiritual” ring to it. Tears well in the eyes of hungry seekers as they wait for a new experience. Perhaps, they

imagine, even tonight the heavens will open and that Endtime “anointing” will be poured out. There is always an expectancy that perhaps this is the time “it” will happen.

The imminence of such a supernatural manifestation was shared with Charismatic Christians overseas. Latter Rain “prophets” from the Vineyard Ministries International visited England as part of their world outreach. Their “prophetic” message was that God is raising an army in these last days to execute judgment and dominion throughout the Earth. They declared that the time is at hand for God to pour out His Spirit (the Latter Rain) on the Church in an unprecedented scale, in fulfillment of Joel 2:28, marking the beginning of the great “new thing” God is doing on the earth.

Vineyard Ministries have held conferences overseas and throughout the U.S.A. Churches and denominations have been proselytized and preyed on with a “gospel” that leaders claim is ordained to bring forth:

1. the greatest revival the church has ever known;
2. the greatest baptism of the Spirit the Church has ever experienced;
3. the greatest Army (Joel's Army) distinguished by invincibility, immortality and divinity;
4. the greatest purging (inquisition) in the history of the Church;
5. the greatest ministry – the Prize of all Ages; and
6. the greatest miracles, supernatural signs and wonders, far exceeding that of the Apostles and Prophets of old.

This false gospel shows no regard for:

1. Israel as an everlasting chosen nation of God and their national repentance and restoration, both physically and spiritually, in one day at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ (their Messiah). (Gen. 17:7,13,19; Is. 66:7-8; Jer. 31:35-37; Zech. 12-14; Rom. 11:1-2,25-27);
2. The great outpouring of the Spirit on Israel (the Jewish nation) and on all flesh, Jesus Christ returns from heaven with His saints (the Church) at the end of the tribulation period. (Zech. 12:10-13; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:16-21);

3. The Rapture – the catching away of both the dead and the living saints to meet the Lord in the air (I Th. 4:23-18; 2 Th. 2:1; John 14:11-3; Cor. 15:51-56);
4. The Judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12);
5. The Seven-year tribulation (Dan. 9:24-27; Matt. 24:21-22; Jer. 30:4-7; Dan. 12:1; Rev. 6-19); and
6. The descent of Christ from heaven with His saints (His TRUE army) at the Battle of Armageddon. (Zech 14:5; Jude 14; Rev. 29:14)

According to this false gospel, the great out-pouring of the Spirit mentioned in Joel 2:28-29 is to have its complete fulfillment in these days (this generation) when God will pour out His Spirit in full measure on an unprecedented scale – even exceeding that of the Disciples and Apostles on the Day of Pentecost. In fact, they believe that this baptism will empower a “New Breed” of people (“Joel’s Army”) with supernatural qualities. Their entire Last Days scenario contradicts orthodox dispensational views. Even more serious, this view undermines the Gospel of the Deity of Christ. Anything that even remotely undermines the Deity of Christ, or ascribes deity to man (or an army of men) is an antichrist doctrine.

References in the book of Joel pertaining to Israel and the “Day of the Lord” are spiritualized to apply to the Church. Literal Israel becomes “the Church” and the “Day of the Lord” is seen as the manifestation or “incarnation of God” in this Joel’s Army. This is antithetical to the dispensational view which holds that the “Day of the Lord” refers to the literal Second Coming of Christ with His saints. The proponents of the “Joel’s Army” heresy are notorious for reading between the lines and spiritualizing Scripture. They are even spiritualizing global events to parallel their outlandish prophetic views. It seems to give them a deep feeling of being spiritually perceptive. In researching their materials, we see this time and again. By all accounts this belief system is “Gnosticism” to the core.

In the New Wave (New Apostolic Reformation) theology, we find that whatever God says or promises Israel is dogmatically applied to the Church; and in some cases this done to such extremes that the Church is deified. The danger is that spiritualizing God’s Word in this way can result in idolatry and fanaticism. Because they rely upon the old Gnostic 2nd-century allegorical method of interpreting the Scriptures, the modern “prophets” have come to believe that the Church is the exclusive beneficiary of all God has promised to Israel. The Latter Rain false prophets and teachers are so bent on spiritualizing Scripture that even the “sun turning dark,” the “moon turning to blood” and the “earthquakes” in Joel are spiritualized to apply to the Church. It is absurd, if not outright blasphemous, the

way these leaders spiritualize God's Word. This Gnostic approach to the Bible diffuses into the Church to the point where some groups have lost the literal meaning of Scripture completely.

## SYMBOLISM FREELY USED

The following quote from a message on Joel's Army was delivered at a Vineyard conference in Anaheim, California, a number of years ago. It clearly illustrates how absurd spiritualizing the literal meaning of the text can become:

...And here's what I think that the sun and the moon mean on a symbolic level. I think this is a horrible thing He's talking about in verse 31 when He says The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood... because in the Old Testament, the sun frequently stands for the Lord or for the Son, S-O-N. See, it's a perfect symbol for Him, because it brings light to the whole world and it has light of its own that radiates out from its being... It's a more powerful source of light than anything in the world. The sun frequently stands for the Lord Himself and what I think He's saying here is that the Lord Himself will cover Himself with darkness during this time. Psalm 18:11 says that, it says that the Lord can and at times will hide Himself with darkness. And so I think that what the Lord is saying is that there's coming a time during the last day ministry when the Son of God will hide Himself from the earth and especially from the rebellious. So there'll be a time when the rebellious will call out and they'll want to come to the Lord, but they won't see Him. They won't be able to come to Him. (Jack Deere, "Joel's Army," Vineyard Ministry International, audio cassette, 1990)

Question: Is there ever a time that the Lord quits knocking at the door? What happened to the verse, "Whosoever cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out"? The above quotation from Deere is implying there will be a time when salvation will not be offered. Then why have a Last Days ministry? What is the purpose of this ministry? To what then are they called? Answers to these questions will become clear to you as you read on. Deere continues:

The second thing He says is that the moon will be turned to blood. Now, the moon, I believe, is a symbol of occult power, the powers of evil. The moon is first of all the light of the night... and there is revelation in the darkness. There is light in the powers of darkness. The powers of darkness, occult powers, do have revelation or do have light, but only it's a light that is characterized by darkness and used for evil, and it's ultimately deceptive. The moon is only a reflector. It has no light in and of itself. Satan has no light in him at all. The moon makes a perfect symbol of occult powers. And the moon is also beautiful. And there is a beautiful side of the darkness and the evil and that's why it's so alluring. So, He speaks of the Lord as the sun and He says, "There's coming a time when I will not be easily found, when I will cloak myself with darkness," but there's also coming a time

when the occult powers, the moon—when they'll be turned to blood. Now this could mean two things. It could mean when it says the moon is turned to blood, it could mean the occult powers are put to death, because blood is the sign of two things in the Bible: death or it's a sign of grace and life. And I think He means here the moon is going to be turned into a sign of grace or life. It's the ultimate deception, so that people on the earth will turn to the occult power and they'll look upon it as a source of grace and life just like the blood of Jesus. It will be a counterfeit. (Jack Deere, *ibid.*)

The application is most confusing, to say the least. Does the moon really mean life or death? And is God turning His back on us so all is lost? These are seriously confusing and irresponsible statements. Has this “Joel's Army” now become our salvation?

We are told that we should just accept these radical differences in theology, but not use these differences as an excuse for breaking fellowship. However, strangely enough, it is not us who have broken fellowship. Rather, the testimony I receive over and over is that when someone questions the “new teaching” they are called divisive and asked to leave the church – sometimes even thrown out physically.

#### ENDTIME WITNESSES?

To add insult to injury, the Church is being told that some of these literal signs do occur in the Last Days (such as: the sun turning dark, the moon turning to blood and earthquakes), but that they do not come as a result of a sovereign act of God's wrath towards wicked men at the end of the Great Tribulation known as the cataclysmic phase of the DAY OF THE LORD (The Second Advent of Christ). On the contrary, we are led to believe that these cataclysmic events are caused by the Last Day “Prophets,” two of whom are thought to be “Endtime Witnesses” – namely “Prophet” Paul Cain and “Prophet” Bob Jones. We are told that these false prophets will manifest these supernatural signs and much more by their “incarnate” powers. Their powers will supposedly be so great that they will call forth Joel's Army by their prophetic word.

Jack Deere brings out this teaching aptly in his “Joel's Army” message: You see, everybody, every scholar I know, every commentator I know, knows that these passages in Ezekiel 37; 38, and 39 are all talking about the Last Day ministry. They all know it's the Last Day move of the Holy Spirit – and how is it going to be? What's going to happen to this lifeless church? How is it going to start? Well God could just speak a word from heaven. He could just cause a revival to start among us. He could just put the conviction of sin in our heart supernaturally by His Spirit. But that's not how He's going to do it. He's going to raise up the

prophetic. What brings the bones to life here? It is the prophetic word inspired by God. "Prophecy son of man;" and then it happens. At each stage of the way prophecy, and then life, comes. And then what's the result of that prophetic? A vast army. (Jack Deere, *ibid.*) [emphasis added]

Jack Deere continues by proclaiming the "prophets" are now on the scene: You see, that really is how He's going to end the last day ministry. You see why we're excited about someone like Paul Cain or Bob Jones coming on the scene? Or others that we've met? We're excited because that's how He's going to end. It's a signal that the Last Days are very close at hand and this is New Testament also. Revelation 11:3 – you know those two powerful witnesses in Revelation? You know what they are, first and foremost? They are prophets. He said they will prophesy for 1,260 days. He's going to end the last days just before His Son returns with a prophetic movement that will sweep the entire face of the earth and will eclipse anything we have ever seen before... the significance of these signs and wonders. They just happen on the earth. But they don't just happen on the earth. They come because they are prayed for and they are predicted by God's people. (Jack Deere, *ibid.*) [emphasis added]

## SIGNS

Jack Deere continues:

Prophets will predict it. It's already happening. It's like the first time Paul Cain came here. Remember? John told us this story. I was talking to Paul Cain on the phone and I said, "Paul, when are coming to visit John? We've been talking about it for two months." And Paul said, "I don't know, but the Lord told me on the day I come, there'll be an earthquake." ... You know at 3:38 in the morning, the morning of the day he arrived here on Saturday morning, that earthquake came centered in Pasadena and then the day after he left, that earthquake came in Armenia that took all of those thousands of lives. You see, that's not unusual anymore. That's going to be normal for prophetic people that God wants to endorse. He's done that through Bob Jones four or five times – given cosmic signs in the heavens that could not be contradicted. He's done that through Bob Jones. He will do that regularly now.... (Jack Deere, *ibid.*)

Question: Can we build on these signs? Do they prove the authenticity of the prophets? Our Lord Jesus Christ warned, "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign" (Matt. 16:4).

Why do thousands of devotees flock yearly to a small poor Yugoslavian village? The apparitions of Medjugorje give the pilgrims the sense of their own miracles. The pilgrims are enthralled that they can look directly into the sun for several minutes without being blinded. Others say they see the sun pulsating. Some even report physical healing. A seminarian said he saw a red glow emanating from the



sun and saw it start to beat. He asked, “What does that mean?” and he heard the words, “Jesus in the Eucharist and spreading his peace around the earth.”

What did this sign in the heavens do for him? It caused him to go out to try and increase devotion to the Eucharist. Needless to say, at the heart of the Eucharist is the doctrine of transubstantiation (the belief that the communion is the actual body and actual blood of the Lord).

Malachi Martin, a Catholic priest who authored many books including *The Jesuits* and *The Keys of This Blood*, said in a radio interview a few years ago that the Pope had a special revelation. This revelation told him that within his lifetime he would be authenticated as a moral and religious leader by a sign in the heaven. This sign would be such a clear happening that all men (from New York, Denver, Tasmanian Jungle, Singapore and Beijing) would know he had this role!

Signs and wonders are not limited to the Vineyard “prophets.”

“...An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.” (Matt. 12:39)

## SUPERNATURAL BEINGS

The “Day of the Lord” is re-interpreted by the false prophets to mean that Christ will come to His Church and incarnate (become God in flesh) an army of believers – thus giving them supernatural qualities to execute judgment on the Church. The “Day of the Lord” is also misconstrued to mean a time of judgment, starting with the Church. The key text they love to quote is from I Peter 4:17: “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the House of God.” The common orthodox interpretation of the text is that God will punish the righteous when they sin, and punish the ungodly at the coming judgment. This is quite adequate and clear. Ever since the inception of the Church, the Holy Spirit has been in the business of judging and purging the Church. God's sovereign judgment will continue to chasten, cleanse and purge the Church until the judgment seat of Christ when the saints will receive their rewards and the records of service are set straight.

The “Day of the Lord” as seen through the eyes of the New Wave “prophets” will be a time when Joel's Army, led by these “prophets,” will pour out God's wrath on the church! Then, they claim, for the first time in two thousand years the “pure church” will come forth. In other words, the blood of Christ did not avail, nor will it, in the last days because this Joel's Army and the “prophets” will do what Jesus Christ's blood could not; i.e., “cleanse” the Church. If indeed it takes this Joel's

Army to purify the Church, then all the preaching of the Cross from the early Church to the present was in vain. And rather than the Cross of Christ being God's final answer to “walking in newness of life,” we should look for another.

This Joel's Army heresy, as it is applied to the Church and the world, is not only in total conflict with the true Gospel of Christ, but represents a radical new rendition of the doctrines of redemption and purification. By all analyses it is “another gospel.” It poses a real threat to unstable churches because it is yet another great deception beguiling the Church.

## CLEANSING ACTION

The following is a further account of Jack Deere's “bloody slaughter on the church by Joel's Army” that will turn the scene of the Church to blood and darkness before perfection.

The Scripture never encourages us to warn the unbeliever of the wrath that is to come. When the prophets speak to God's people, they warn God's people about what's to come. And then he says to God's people, not to the unbelievers, but he says to God's people, “let the land, those who live in the land of Palestine, let them tremble” – now how could that be? Our Lord Jesus is coming back, we all believe that. But why should God's people tremble? ...He's going to come TO the Church. He's going to come TO the Church before He comes FOR the Church. 1 Peter 4:17 says that judgment is near and that it's going to begin with the House of God... The Lord Jesus, before He comes and visits judgment upon the earth, He's going to come and visit it upon His Church. And no one, no one, in His Church is going to escape that judgment....

You really want the Day of the Lord to come? Woe to you, woe to you who long for the Day of the Lord. That Day will be darkness, not light... He's coming in judgment. He's coming to purify His Church. He will not come back for that Bride. He will come to purify that Church and make it His Bride and that's why judgment is going to come....

How is God going to bring judgment upon His Church, and then judgment upon the land after His Church? He's going to do it with a large and mighty army. Now what is this army like? He says, first off in verse 3, well, first of all He said that this army is totally unique. This army, there's never been one like it, and there never will be one like it in ages to come... When this army comes, He says it's large and it's mighty. It's so mighty that there's never been anything like it before... “Begin the slaughter and begin it in the temple and begin it with the elders, the leaders of my people.” And they walk through the land and they start and they begin to slaughter and, you know God has already started that? He has already started with

the biggest names in His household? He has already started the slaughter... and it is coming now among the Church. He'll start with the leaders, but He'll move out into the Church. That's why, when He says in verse 2, "It's a day not of rejoicing and happiness, it's a day of darkness and gloom. It's a day of clouds and blackness, like dawn spreading across the mountains." You really want the Day of the Lord to come? Woe to you, woe to you who long for the Day of the Lord. That Day will be darkness, not light. (Jack Deere, *ibid.*) [emphases added]

This sounds like the mother of all battles!

Reading and listening to the kind of war this Joel's Army is supposed to wage against the Church in the last days, we learn that not only is it totally unscriptural, but it reflects an ominous spirit. Far from being redemptive, it is destructive and even sadistic. It is a spirit that denies Jesus Christ is come in the flesh and that the Church was purchased with His precious blood.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 5:25-27)

The Joel's Army "prophets" manifest a bigoted, belligerent and vindictive spirit. "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of" (Luke 9:54, 55). This spirit is identified in the following statement of Rick Joyner when he uses Phinehas as an example. Phinehas executed judgment with a javelin for the Lord.

The Lord's purpose in preparing for the harvest is to JOIN, not to separate. The dismantling of organizations and disbanding of some works will be a positive and exhilarating experience for the Lord's faithful servants. They will not be just leaving something behind, they will be going on to a much greater work.... Those serving in leadership must trust their discernment and REMOVE the stumbling blocks.

To be distinguished from the "stumbling blocks," the Lord will raise up a great company of prophets, teachers, pastors and apostles that will be of the spirit of Phinehas. Just as the son of Eleazar could not tolerate iniquity in the camp of the Lord, this "ministry of Phinehas" will save congregations, and at times, even whole nations, from the plagues that will be sweeping the earth.... (The Harvest Trilogy, The Morning Star Publications, 1989, p. 10)

Repeated and regular reference is made to the death Ananias and Sapphira suffered as a result of lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5). Christians are reminded that if they resist or rebel against what God is doing through the "prophets and apostles" they too could suffer the same fate. The Church is being told that the

ministry that judged Ananias and Sapphira is being revived and restored to the Church by the “prophets.” Fear of this happening is growing widely. Members are afraid to speak out against the errors and abuse. Out of fear, many submit to the “prophets.”

Not only is this a very dangerous position, but is tantamount to sinning against the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit. We dare not substitute these false “prophets” for the true ministry of the Holy Spirit – God forbid! We wish that these “prophets” would settle for the Spirit of Jesus Christ – full of Grace and Truth.

## JOEL'S ARMY/LATTER RAIN

Joel's Army shares the same mindset as the Latter Rain Movement and they are indeed “birds of a feather.” Their bizarre claims of new revelation and deep insight conspicuously lack substance, other than expressing subjective feelings (passive or emotional). The ingredients that hold their religious beliefs together are: 1) personal experiences; 2) mysticism – understood only by the elite; 3) allegorizing Scriptures; and 4) preaching based on intuition, feelings or perception (as opposed to the criteria of Biblical Truth). These subjective ingredients appeal to Christians who are unstable in the Word of God.

The quotation below is a good example of how the Scriptures are allegorized, taken out of context and applied in a typical cultish manner. Note how the term “Joel's Army” is presumptuously and conveniently applied to the Church with no regard to: 1) the literal interpretation or meaning; 2) the context; and 3) the fundamental principles of hermeneutics (science of interpretation). Throughout the quote an allegorical and mystical meaning is in evidence. False prophet Paul Cain brought this teaching in through his Latter Rain roots. This comes out very clearly in his “Joel's Army” message:

This army is also in the New Testament. It's referred to as the Manchild. I know some of you are going to disagree with this. Don't you even stop to disagree. Revelation 12:25... If you disagree, just file it in miscellaneous and check it out. And don't bother with it. When we get to heaven we'll check it out and you'll find out I'm right. Here it is, this great army in the New Testament is the Manchild, Revelation 12:5; the Overcomers, Revelation 2 and 3; the 144,000 Servants, Revelation 7:3; the Bride or the Lamb's Wife, Revelation 19:7 and 21:9; and the White Horse, Revelation 6:2; the Firstfruits, Revelation 14:4; the Precious Fruits, James 5:7; the Wise Virgins, Matthew 25:1-13; the Manifested Sons of God, Romans 8:19-23. And it's certainly a remarkable fact that none of these names are expressions applied to the saints of God or at any other time in history. But all of them are in their context and promises showing undeniably that they belong to the end of time... to this present generation; Matthew 24:34. You know, it's always

today. Of course today the Lord says today, today, today... And God wants us to realize once again in closing that there's going to be a great Company of Overcomers prepared for this mighty ministry which I call the Prize of All Ages. And again, God's offering to the believers of this generation a greater privilege than was ever offered to any people of any generation at any time from Adam clear down through the end of the millennium. (Paul Cain, "Joel's Army," Kansas City Fellowship, Southside Meeting) [emphases added]

## MANIFEST SONS OF GOD

These "prophets" disregard dispensational truth and claim that Joel's Army is God's Word incarnated, which makes them "Manifest Sons of God." Essentially, this is Gnosticism. As Charismatics they owe their beginnings to the "Latter Rain Movement" – the mother of present day Manifest Sons of God teaching. History recalls that this mysterious "New Age Army" concept, with all its spiritual trimmings, found its way into the classic Pentecostal sphere through the Latter Rain movement in 1948. At that time the Assemblies of God, as well as others, noted the unsavory nature of it and its potential adverse effect on sound biblical truth. No time was wasted on the part of the Assemblies of God and others to confront it head on. Since that time, relative stability and great progress has been enjoyed. But, once again this "strange fire" has flared up – history repeating itself.

The Gnostic aspect of the "Manifest Sons of God" heresy can readily be identified in four ways:

1. The claim to perfection through progressive revelations beyond the Scriptures;
2. The written Word of God is held in low esteem and experiential knowledge very high;
3. The Word of God is perceived as a symbolic book;
4. The claim that the "god-man" dwells in every member and is waiting to be discovered and manifest by the believers.

There are very strong traces of these characteristics in the Joel's Army and Manifest Sons of God teachings.

Sam Fife was one of the original Manifest Sons of God "apostles" who came out of the Latter Rain movement. He was a leader of the group referred to as "The Move of God" or "The Body." One of his teachings was that "Concerning the miracles that Jesus did while He was on earth, these were done by the soul power

that is inherent in all of the sons of Adam; i.e., that Jesus perfected the best of man's nature and later, after the resurrection He perfected the God nature." He later claimed to be "I AM." An analysis of Sam Fife's teachings was done in the 1970s:

The first premise held is that both the Old and the New Testaments have first a letter (or literal) meaning and then a spirit (or spiritual) meaning. This brings us to progressive revelation of the Scriptures, as they don't claim to have all the spirit mysteries of the Word yet revealed, but it is being revealed precept upon precept.

The next point concerning the Scriptures is that the Bible is not the final authority for Truth. Rather, the "spirit" is their final authority, followed by the witness of the corporate ministry. The Bible becomes secondary to this "spirit" and corporate ministry.

Just to illustrate this point, Sam Fife has said that in these last days that whatever the corporate spirit in them leads them to do – whether or not they have scripture to stand on – that is what they will do. In a private conversation, I asked him if he felt the spirit leading him to kill someone, would he do it? His answer was in the affirmative...

...Sam makes it clear that since Jesus went into oblivion and does not now exist as an individual entity apart from his spiritual body (the Church), that we should not expect to see him come again at the second advent. When Sam speaks of the Lord's coming again, he is referring to the appearing of Christ IN a group of people, God's elect. (Raymond Yenkana, "Report on Sam Fife", June 12, 1978)

A lady called me, gasping in horror. A noted evangelist had just come on a Christian television program, held up his Bible and said that he held it in no more esteem than the Readers Digest. This is being done more and more as the "new" revelations take precedence over the written Word of God. Are you gasping in horror, or are you cooing out the soothing words, "Touch thou not the anointed"? As the Church apathetically sits by, the pastors stand in line at The Old Country Buffet or McDonalds. Meanwhile the teaching on Joel's Army is taking root in one form or another in many ministries.

Below are a few quotes from other ministries in which the same teaching is emerging loud and clear.

#### MORRIS CERULLO

Morris Cerullo is also a self-proclaimed "prophet." He had a program in early

1991 entitled “Manifested Sons of God.” He couldn't have been more blatant! However, the teachings were indeed more blatant than even the title could have possibly suggested. Yet, the listeners looked very sincere as they chanted out blasphemy on his command.

Jesus, being the brightness of all that God has and is. He was the reflection, image and manifestation visibly of all that God has and is. What is God's purpose and plan and objectivity? Sons and daughters who will manifest all that God has and is. Can you imagine the power in your being when you face the devil? You represent all that God is and all that God has!

Stretch out your hands and say, “God is going to have a people. I’m a part of god’s Endtime Plan.”

“...The disciples were able to see the literal glory radiating... change taking place. They saw Jesus as He really is... Jesus was the visible expression of God. Jesus was the Son of the Living God. Now, who are you? Sons of God! ...Everyone say it. What is working inside of us is the manifestation. When you look at me, you are looking at Jesus.

To see Jesus was to see God. To see me is to see Jesus.

Jesus knew who He was. Don't you think it is about time we know who we are?  
[emphases added]

At this juncture Morris Cerullo questioned three ministers about what God is doing on the Earth. Their replies were exuberant and followed the same trend.

1. God is duplicating Himself in the earth;
2. God is releasing His life through the Body; and
3. the whole of creation is waiting for the Manifestation of the Sons of God.

The excitement of the people indicated that they believed it was indeed Joel’s Army that had finally arrived. Morris Cerullo continued:

Today I am a Son of the all powerful almighty God of the Universe. His life flows through me. God has birthed the life of Christ. The fullness of the Godhead dwells. I am a partaker of the Divine Nature. I am a joint heir with Jesus. I have inherited all things... Everything Christ has belongs to me... Jesus didn't come to teach you how to defend yourself. He came to lead you in an attack. Jesus went into Satan's territory. The strategy of Christ was not to wait until the enemy came. He taught us how to march out, go into his territory... We are not on the

defensive. We declare war... “I and the Father are ONE.” How's that for taking the offensive! [emphases added]

## BENNY HINN

Have we become so used to cartoon characters that do such unusual things that we don't even notice the same type of deception abounding in the Church? Children wake up on Saturday morning to see turtles that have had a “magic potion” or “ooze” thrown over them that transforms them into Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Benny Hinn blows on his audience and supposedly it is the breath of God that transforms them into “Super Beings.” Benny Hinn, on October 20, 1990, aired a sermon on TBN entitled “God's Super Being.” Below is an excerpt: When you were born again God gave you this brand new being. This brand new being was created before the foundation of the... Your spirit, ladies and gentleman, is God-like. He's God-like in every way. Say after me, “Within me is a God-man.” Say it again, “Within me is a God-man.” Now let's say even better than that. Let's say, “I am a God-man.” When you say, “I am a God-man,” you're not talking about your flesh or your soul. You're talking about your spirit-man. “This spirit-man within me is a God-man.” Say after me, “He's born of heaven, he's a super being.” Say, “I'm born of heaven – God-man. I'm a God-man. I'm a sample of Jesus. I'm a super being.” Say it! Say it! Who's a super being? “I walk in the realm of the supernatural.” Say it! Who walks in the realm of the supernatural? Get the spirit-man renewed. When he's strong, he'll hold off sickness. You want to prosper? Money will be falling on you from left, right and center. God will begin to prosper you, for money always follows righteousness. Say after me, “I hold my destiny.” The reason many of us ask and never get is because our spirit-man isn't strong enough to give it to us. Say after me, “Everything I want is in me already.”

## JELLO THEOLOGY

So many of the false prophets and teachers today get very upset when told they are teaching “Manifest Sons of God” doctrine. They deny it vehemently. Yet, they go on teaching it! If you hear someone teaching that God is raising up “Joel's Army” or “Super Beings,” you are hearing Manifest Sons of God teaching in its purest form.

The theology behind Manifest Sons of God is rather like jello. It just changes its shape depending on the mold you put it into. Yet it is still jello. It comes as “Dominion Theology” or “Kingdom Now” teaching. It even can be called “The Bride.” Next time you hear it, it may not be called Joel's Army, but the “Phineas Priesthood” (those who executed judgment in the name of the Lord in Numbers



25).

## JOEL'S ARMY CALL-UP

The visitation of the “Joel’s Army” false prophets in England (mentioned earlier) was initiated with the following prophecy purported to be of God: “Revival will break out, and then spread through the whole of England and into Europe.” This prophecy was also used to advertise the importance of the prophetic conference, thereby raising the level of expectancy to a high pitch. However, Barry Killick, in *Prophecy Today* (1990), with reference to the prophets in England, reported: Vineyard Ministries international came to Britain. People were blessed, but the promised October revival did not take place.

[John Wimber] testified to God having spoken to him concerning “the Church.” The word came, “tell them I have need of it.” The issue, he said, “is proprietorship or ownership. We don't own the church, Jesus does, and He wants it back. [When did He lose it? ed.] As Jesus went into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, so he will return on the back of a victorious church. One in the eye for any dispensationalists among us!” [Here we have a typical example of allegorical preaching as opposed to the truth, ed.]

John Wimber had brought his four children to the conference, believing that something very significant was going to happen and he didn't want them to miss it. If outpouring had equaled expectation, the promised revival would have swept over us, but I think it fair to say that nothing outwardly remarkable happened during the four days of the Docklands meetings.

Many would view revival as meaning thousands of conversions with the Spirit of conviction sweeping among the people in meeting-places, streets and houses. We didn't see that. There were healings, deliverances, words of knowledge, prophetic predictions, but no apparent sign of revival. One of the organizers observed that “revival” is a very subjective thing. In other words, everyone can interpret it according to their own feelings – rather than objective truth.

Following Wimber's last sermon, there was silence, almost as if he had allocated time for a significant outpouring. Instead, there were a few utterances from the congregation which no one could hear, and the meeting was closed half an hour earlier than expected. Whether anything more happened than at an average Spring Harvest gathering, only time will tell. (Barry Killick, “John Wimber at Docklands,” *Prophecy Today*, Vol. 7, No. 1, 1990))

## PARADIGM SHIFT

That the Church is experiencing a paradigm shift, there is no doubt. The “gospel” we are hearing coming from the lips of the new popular ministries certainly is not the pure Gospel of Christ nor does it even closely resemble the old-time orthodox Gospel. The unchanging Gospel of Christ was clearly distinguished and defined by the Apostles of Christ. By their definition, the current prophetic “gospel” of Joel’s Army with its admixture of error and truth is not only unholy and deceptive, but is accursed. It is what the Scriptures call “another gospel.”

The Church is both the heir and guardian of God's precious Word – the Defender of the Faith. Therefore it is not ashamed to say, “Thus saith the Word of the Lord.” The true Church believes the Word of God is “Yea and Amen,” absolute, pre-eminent and final! Any beliefs to the contrary cannot represent the true Church. Be careful! Biblical truth is the staple diet the Church subsists on; anything else will cause death! The fundamental doctrines of the Bible are in the foundation of the Church and are the basis on which the orthodox faith rests. Whatever therefore threatens Bible doctrine, the faithful will resist, resent and expose. At least several basic orthodox doctrines determine whether or not a movement or an individual is a true witness to the Gospel of Christ. These doctrines are: 1) The Deity of Christ; 2) Redemption through the Cross of Christ; 3) Salvation by faith according to grace; 4) The resurrection and ascension of Christ; 5) The Rapture (the catching away of the saints out of the earth); and 6) The Second Advent of Christ with His saints.

Over and against these orthodox beliefs, a new gospel with definite “New Age” overtones is emerging within the Church. It is in direct conflict with Scripture and orthodox views. Hence the vociferous outcry within the Church. Some of the erroneous teachings of the “new gospel” are as follows: 1) the deification of man - denying the exclusive Deity of the Son of Man (Christ); 2) the perfection, immortality and glorification of the elect (Joel’s Army, Manifest Sons of God, etc.) in the absence of the literal presence of Christ; i.e., denying the Rapture of the saints; 3) Scripture is not the only source of redemptive truth, thereby denying the Written Word; 4) doctrine does not really matter as to the true unity of the Church; i.e., denying the foundation of the Apostles' doctrine; 5) the new ministries, that of the so-called prophets and apostles are not to be judged according to the Scriptures, but rather subjectively according to the fruit of their lives, to the extent of totally denying the criterion of the Word of God. Here we have a seed-bed for a hybrid mixture of truth and error.

Does God ever approve the mixture of truth and error? Is it alright to mix truth and error if one is sincere, or if this mixing is done to accomplish Scriptural goals? Of course not! God's Word always demands the separation of truth and error and believers who disregard God's commands in this respect will eventually pay a terrible price even though such a violation of Scriptural principles might at first

appear to produce beneficial results, (FOUNDATION, Nov./Dec., 1990, Vol. XI, Issue 6, Fundamental Evangelistic Association)

## DOMINION/KINGDOM NOW TIES

If you do not believe in a literal “catching away” or “rapture,” a literal anti-Christ, a literal tribulation, a literal Armageddon, etc., then you will get caught up in the words of today's “prophets” who are telling you a very different gospel that has come from allegorizing and spiritualizing the Word of God. Their agenda is political, with a view to take over the Earth. Naturally, they claim to take it over for Jesus. Those recently attending the Docklands conference in England were promised by John Wimber, “There is something higher than being Baptist and that is to be in this Endtime Army and involved in this greater prize of bringing everything on the Earth and above the Earth and below the Earth to the feet of Jesus.” Clifford Hill in his publication *Prophecy Today* summed it up:

The opportunity of joining the “new breed,” an elite group of believers endowed with supernatural power that would enable them to be part of the army of “dread warriors” that God was said to be raising up in our generation. According to John Wimber this is a type of “Joel's Army” who will overcome all opposition to the gospel and eventually subdue the nations. This teaching is part of what is known as “dominion theology” which teaches that an elite army of “overcomers” will either destroy or subdue all the enemies of Christ until they eventually gain power and authority throughout the world. The government of the nations will be upon their shoulders and when all the secular authorities, governments, princes and kings have finally submitted to them, Christ will return and they will present the kingdom to him. (*Prophecy Today*, Vol. 7, No. 1, England)

## EARL PAULK

Earl Paulk has been teaching along these lines for some time. In *The Wounded Body of Christ* he says:

We have been foreordained of God to become that people who will be so glorified that we can bring Christ back to the earth. This glorified Church must make the earth God's footstool before Jesus can come again... Let me describe the glorified Church. The glorified Church will be approved of the Father... it may be only a nucleus of people, a firstfruit. Somewhere on the face of this earth, God will find a people – how large or small numerically I do not know. But those people will adequately become a witness of God to the nations of the earth.

The glorified Church will be a mature Church. She will be a Church that is no longer splintered... a Church unified in faith -not in doctrine, mode, practice or organization. She will represent the Spirit of unity in Christ... the Holy Spirit will

gather people from around the earth whom the Spirit of God will unite to become the Bride of Christ. They will be mature and able to transcend all doctrinal or organizational differences.

...In the light of that, we must understand that the Church must gain such unity of faith that it will have a profound impact on the world. The Church must speak so that the whole world will listen... When the Pope speaks, Catholics listen in the parts of the world where Catholics are predominant. Before Christ can come again, the Church must take such a strong stand that the whole world will say, "That is the voice of God speaking to us."

...The last enemy to be conquered is death. Who will conquer it? A mature Church will come forth with the kind of authority and power that will be able to stand in the very face of Satan ["Joel's Army," ed.]. When the Church reaches that state of maturity, God will be able to say, "This generation of the Church does not need to die. She has reached a place of maturity. I will translate her because her maturity pleases me." What was the testimony about Enoch? He pleased God. When the Church becomes so mature that as a Body we achieve the unity of faith, God will find her pleasing and say, "She is mature enough now. She doesn't have to die..." ["Manifest Sons of God," ed.]

...The greatest test of the spirit of the antichrist is its attitude toward the church. The attitude isn't directed toward Jesus. Jesus is not personally a threat to any community unless there is a living, thriving church functioning in that community. Therefore, the spirit of the antichrist refuses to recognize that God is here in the flesh. (Earl Paulk, *The Wounded Body of Christ*, Dimension Publishers, 1985) Does that hit you? Here the true Church is being called the spirit of the antichrist! The ones who do not have their eyes opened to see that the Church is proclaimed as GOD HERE IN THE FLESH Now! Manifested Sons of God! Are you willing to accept that "we are to look for another"? Can you accept the heresy that the Church now coming forth and being manifest is the coming of Christ we've been looking forward to since He ascended into heaven?! And that it is what the two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this SAME JESUS WHICH IS TAKEN UP FROM YOU INTO HEAVEN, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN"?!

BILL HAMON

Bill Hamon has been teaching along these lines for an even longer time. In *The Eternal Church* (Christian International Publishers, 1981) he states: Each restorational advancement of the Army of the Lord has established denominational forts that are given responsibility to maintain the purity and power

of that truth... New recruits are now being drafted and trained and older soldiers and generals are being put through intensified training for the next advancement of the Church Army. They are being purified by the Baptism of Fire... Are you ready? Where do you start? What will you do? A new government must be established, a new way of life for those millions of people. You are now ready to rule and reign on your overcomer's throne! (pg. 374)

So, what is ahead? The Manifested Sons of God! Bill Hamon, on page 385 of the same book, lays it out.

The Earth and all of creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God, the time when they will come into their maturity and immortalization.... When the Church receives its full inheritance and redemption then creation will be redeemed from its cursed condition of decay, change and death.... the Church has a responsibility and ministry to the rest of creation. Earth and its natural creation is anxiously waiting for the Church to reach full maturity and come to full sonship. When the Church realizes its full sonship, its bodily redemption will cause a redemptive chain reaction throughout all of creation. ["Paradigm Shift," ed.]

Again, who is glorified? The Church, the Manifested Sons of God! The cry of our hearts should be "THAT I MIGHT KNOW HIM IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BEING MADE CONFORMABLE UNTO HIS DEATH."

Many of the terms that are being twisted sound so Scriptural. Hence, the deception. This teaching is also heavily promoted in the video called The Bride. On viewing this video my seventeen-year-old son was distressed at the distortion of Scripture. The video is full of inaccuracies and completely based on the Kingdom Now/Dominion viewpoint. Pastors must be warned to not allow this video to be shown to their congregation unless they are showing it with disclaimers to teach their congregants how to discern false doctrine. The line-up of commentary in their advertising tells the story:

"...a message of hope and victory for today's broken and wounded Church." – Vinson Synan

"For too long the Church has been crippled by an escapist mentality. [The Rapture, ed.]. The Bride confronts us with the fact that, through His people, Christ is presently overthrowing the powers of darkness and establishing His kingdom on earth." – Malcolm Smith

The Church of Jesus Christ is not feeble! By saying this, the Cross of Christ is made of none effect! God does have a people. He has those who will not bow their knee to Baal! The Church is alive and well. The blood of Christ has never lost its power!

## THE GOSPEL BEING CHANGED

Have we been hearing a distortion of Scripture for so long that we do not recognize error any more? Is the church going to sit complacently by and allow the written Word of God to be corrupted? The “Christ” that is being preached today is a “bloodless” Christ. In fact the basic Gospel is continually and subtly being changed. Jack Deere's theology has also become jello, for he says, “The Scripture never encourages us to warn the unbeliever of the wrath that is to come. When the prophets speak to God's people, they warn God's people about what's to come.” (Jack Deere, *ibid.*)

There is a serious problem here. This view is leading people to believe that the simple message of the Gospel is inadequate. The power of the cross of Jesus Christ is being reduced. According to *Biblical Perspective*, (Vol. 111, No.4, July/August 1990), Robert Dean notes that the chorus book at the Vineyard has 83 choruses, but 82 fail to mention the cross. The question is: Is there a departure from the simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which is the Power of God unto salvation?

We must all be cautioned that the Word of God has very strong things to say about those who do not abide in the Doctrine of Christ.

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.” (2 John 9-11)

Sadly enough, those who are duped by this heresy say doctrine doesn't matter. When faced with the evidence, they will shrug their shoulders and say, “Well, that isn't what they meant.” Another excuse will be, “You took the quotations out of context.” The truth is that the quotations in their full context offer an even more frightening glimpse of what is awaiting these souls who refuse to allow their sound mind to discern according to the Word to God. They will brush aside the realities with, “Oh, you know God does weird things. He did weird things in the Bible and people just don't understand when He does weird things today.” Honestly, how weird do you have to get before you wake up? Will it take jello diluted into koolaid in a steaming jungle to bring the church to her senses (e.g., Jim Jones)?

Both the Biblical writers and the early Church Fathers felt it vital to contend for the faith. They did not think it unspiritual or a form of pharisaical religion to stand up for fundamental Biblical truths found in scripture. (Viola Larsen, “The Manifest Sons of God,” Apologetics Resource Center)

And I'm certain they would not maintain the attitude that "immediate and heavy discipline will fall on those who take it upon themselves to publicly criticize and attack others' ministries. The world will know God has sent Jesus when they see us acting in love towards one another..." (Paula Sanford, Elijah House NEWS, Jan, 1991)

It is love that is the motivating force to warn the Church of the errors. I know that many of the teachers are dear men of God. My own father loved the Lord with all of his heart, mind and being! Yet, I remember even he enjoying the idea of "entering immortality" when he heard it taught. It can be exciting to hear a message like Kansas City Fellowship's Mike Bickle proclaiming, "We'll have the power to raise people from the dead, that even death won't stand before the power of the Church. We'll see those four days Lazarus kind of deals. The Lord's going to begin to give those in the days to come." (School of Prophecy, Session 7, Vineyard Ministries, 1989)

## FACE REALITY

As Pentecostals we love the moving of the Holy Spirit in our midst. We rejoice when the sick are healed and deliverances wrought, and we pray for revival. However, we look for a revival that changes lives and brings souls to their knees in repentance before God. There are so many non-Gospel ideas and heresies intermingled with the Charismatic message these days that the true Gospel of Christ is losing its effect. The unholy admixture is not only watering down the Gospel, it's also converting Christian thought to New Age. To enhance the effectiveness of certain ministries, spiritual demonstrations and experiences are being sought outside of the Gospel of Christ. As a result of this paradigm shift in the thinking of Christians, the term "repentance" has lost its biblical meaning and the old fashioned altar-call is fading into insignificance. Nowadays, whatever idea, novelty or gimmick attracts a following is latched onto and exploited to the fullest extent. Another ill effect on the Gospel comes when strange doctrines are ministered by popular TV, radio or conference speakers. The euphoria of their charisma and popularity seems to make whatever they say seem like sound doctrine.

If we have been in the evangelical world any time at all, we have all at one time or another expounded doctrine that was merely mimicking some famous evangelist. After further study, we have had to acknowledge that we were merely on a bandwagon, swallow our pride and go on! I must admit to some pretty dumb things myself. But, I must be willing at this point to allow everything I write and say to come under the scrutiny of the Word of God. Every truth and doctrine must be judged according to the written Word of God. This is the only way that

we can properly judge the visions and revelations that are pouring forth today.

## DON'T BE DECEIVED BY TERMINOLOGY

Another subtle deception currently abounding comes through the use of terminology to lure Christians into thinking that a very high form of godliness will earn them a distinctive place in Joel's Army as a potentate. There is a great emphasis on praying and becoming holy before the Lord. It sounds so good – so attainable. Yet when Bob Jones and Mike Bickle discuss intercession, a perfectly scriptural term, they are meaning something quite unscriptural.

Bob Jones: "Intercession releases revelation and revelation will release proclamation - so get on your knees and get what God's wisdom is and then blow the trumpet – and it'll work."

Mike Bickle: "Okay, let's get that... Intercession releases revelation... revelation releases the proclamation under the anointing to bring it to pass." ("Visions and Revelations," KCF) [emphasis added]

On the surface, the above discussion sounds as though Bob Jones and Mike Bickle are exhorting Christians to pray for grace, understanding and power to preach the Gospel of Christ with boldness. But, that is not what is being shared. Far from that! The meaning behind this is that Christians should pray to become "Manifest Sons of God" in "Joel's Army," thus becoming the oracle of God and the executioner of God's wrath on those that fail to comply or conform to the "New Order" of the "Manifest Sons."

George Warnock, who was directly involved in the Latter Rain revival of 1948 in Canada, wrote what was called the "bible" of the Latter Rain. It is important to note that George Warnock was Ern Baxter's (one of the leading shepherds of the Shepherding Movement) personal secretary for 2-3 years.

By faith all things are and shall be possible. The very dispensations themselves are but weak barriers and obstacles if men of faith are enabled by the Spirit to reach out and leap beyond them. Enoch did it. So did Elijah. And so shall the Sons of God. The Word of faith shall grip their hearts, and they shall reach out and appropriate the Resurrection and the Life ["Manifest Sons of God," ed.] even now in this life. If they do not, Christ never will return to earth. For God hath said "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." (Ps. 110:1) And the last enemy is Death. (George Warnock, *The Feast of Tabernacles*, 1951, self-published, Canada)

So accordingly, "Joel's Army" would arise to overcome the enemies of both man and Christ. This is also brought about by a "secret inner coming of Christ" to some Christians, which would "transform" them:



Christ should visit the saints in the last great Feast and minister His life “in secret” before He is openly manifested! Christians think it is a horrible thing that Christ's second Coming should be spoken of in this manner... When a Christian comes to that place where he really appreciates and understands and enjoys Spiritual things, then he can truly rejoice in the fact that Christ is coming back again to be manifested within. (Ibid, p. 109) [emphasis added]

It is no secret that Warnock believes that Christ's second coming involves “the Church. He wrote,

But a great secret in God's counsels was this: Christ was to appear twice, first in Incarnation, and secondly at the ends of the ages. Now we are awaiting Christ's second Appearing, this time in power and glory in the saints, in the fullness of His Body... Christ's first Appearing was in the Head only, in one Man... Now Christ will appear in His Church the Body. (Ibid, p. 107) [emphasis added]

This is what is behind the doctrine you hear today that Christ must come TO His Church before He can come FOR His Church. It has a very spiritual ring to it. The ring speaks of holiness and righteousness before God. We all long for His Righteousness and His Holiness to be manifest in our lives.

However, using Christian terminology does not make the doctrine correct. Bob Jones, a prophet from Kansas City says that

“...the Church is in no condition for the Lord to come today... He's going to come for a church that is mature in righteousness... progressively going in this righteousness until you take on the very divine nature of Christ Himself and you begin to see Christ in the Church. Christ won't come for The Church until you see Christ in The Church. Until the Church looks like Jesus. Papa [God, ed.] planted Jesus, He sowed Him down here in this earth to have a whole nation of brothers and sisters that looked just like Jesus and he will have it. His Son was Alpha Son, your children are the Omega sons and daughters.”

Mike Bickle interjects here, “Jesus was the beginning, but our children and us, we're included in this... we're the end of this thing. [“Manifest Sons of God,” ed.] Jones continues:

The Church is asleep, but when she gets woke up, there's not any power... when she gets woke up and joins together in an army, there's not any power anyplace that can stop her, for she'll know nothing but victory when she joins hands and becomes one in purpose and that's to reveal the kingdom on the face of the earth. (“School of Prophecy,” ibid.) [emphasis added]

In these serious days we need more than a jello theology that is always in a state of flux. The deception is so widespread, and has been infiltrating the Church for so long, it is most difficult to get a handle on. The Word of God is very clear in teaching us how to avoid error.

The most important single principle in determining the true meaning of any

doctrine of our faith is that we start with the clear statements of the Scriptures that specifically apply to it and use those to interpret the parables, allegories, and obscure passages. This allows Scripture to interpret Scripture. The Dominionists frequently reverse this order, seeking to interpret the clear passages by using obscure passages, parables, and allegories.

The second most important principle is to consistently interpret by the literal, grammatical, historical method. This means the following:

1. Each word should be interpreted in the light of its normal ordinary usage that was accepted in the times in which it was written.
2. Each sentence should be interpreted according to the rules of grammar and syntax normally accepted when the document was written.
3. Each passage should also be interpreted in the light of its historical and cultural environment.

Most false doctrine and heresy of Church history can be traced to a failure to adhere to these principles. Church is filled with examples of disaster and wrecked lives wrought by men failing to base their doctrine, faith, and practice upon these two principles." (Hal Lindsey, *The Road to the Holocaust*, Bantam Books, 1989)

Let us look at it as simply as possible and point out the "Endtime revival" error and compare it with the truth of the Word of God.

## THE FALSE JOEL'S ARMY: AN ELITE COMPANY

In order to have a clear understanding of how this Joel's Army teaching is coming forth, let us go over the background of the teaching. The teaching does not have its roots in the Word of God. The roots are in "revelations" that then find Scriptures to try to back them up.

According to Paul Cain, when he was 19-years-old he saw the Angel of the Lord. The Angel was standing in his majesty like a warrior and he had a bright and shining sword in his hand. With that sword he pointed up to a billboard that had a sign on it that said JOEL'S ARMY NOW IN TRAINING. He asked the Lord what it meant and the Lord took him by the hand and walked him through the book of Joel.

Bob Jones, a "seer" from Kansas City also has "seen" this Army. In talking about the Army he says:

They will move into things of the supernatural that no one has ever moved in before. Every miracle, sign and wonder that has ever been in the Bible – they'll move in it consistently. They'll move in the power that Christ did. Every sign and

wonder that's ever been will be many times in the last days. They themselves will be that generation that's raised up to put death itself underneath their feet and to glorify Christ in every way... and the Church that is raising up in the government will be the head and the covering for them. So that that glorious Church might be revealed in the last days because the Lord Jesus is worthy to be lifted up by a Church that has reached the full maturity of the god-man! ("Visions & Revelations," Fall 1988).

John Wimber says this Army is

Those that are humble of heart and those who have entered into the apostolic suffering of the End Times... There will be a time where even as in Acts 2 suddenly, as they were gathered, in the midst of them, the Lord came and with an anointing beyond anything; that has ever been given to man before. Something so astounding, something so marvelous, that God has kept it as a mystery, as it were, behind His back; and He is about to reveal it to the ages. He is about to reveal it. With the judgment of all mankind will come this incredible incarnational enduement of God's Spirit and we will see the Elijahs.... This Endtime Army will be made of the Elijahs of the Lord God and the characteristic of that ministry is the turning of the hearts of the fathers to the sons and the sons to the fathers... getting our hearts ready that these that are being prepared by the spirit of God – they are going to receive a visitation. They are going to receive a great light and they are going to be turned to the Church... Soon He will build the temple... There will be a filling of the temple. That is why we are prophesying and saying to you that it is coming soon. While in the midst of our gatherings, while in the midst of our intercessions, while we are praying, while we are doing the things that Jesus talked about – these things – the Greater Things will come. Suddenly, immediately right-away a change – in a moment – without notice – the twinkling of an eye the Lord will fill His temple and the anointing of God, the power of God will come. (John Wimber, Docklands) [emphasis added]

Jack Deere states that

...this army is totally unique. This army, there's never been one like it and there never will be one like it in ages to come.... It's so mighty that there's never been anything like it before. Not even Moses, not even David, not even Paul. What's going to happen now will transcend what Paul did, what David did... what Moses did, even though Moses parted the Red Sea... there'll be a numerous company... Revelation hints at this when it talks about the 144,000 that follow the Lamb wherever He goes and no one, no one can harm that 144,000. See, that's a multiple of 12. What's 12? Twelve is the number of the Apostles, 12 is Apostolic government. And when you take an important number in the Bible and you multiply it, it means you intensify it. So, 12,000 times 12,000 – 144,000. [Wrong math, ed.]. That is the ultimate in Apostolic government. Revelation talks about

that. Well here Joel is talking about it now in different words, a powerful, a Mighty Army with many Pauls, many Moseses, many Davids. ("Joel's Army," Ibid) [emphasis added]

This is portraying an "elite" special group which is exactly what the Jehovah Witnesses teach. The Jehovah Witnesses claim that they are the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 16.

Mike Bickle also brings this thought across.

There's Apostles, there's Imminent Apostles and there's Most Imminent Apostles... There's various levels of Apostles and the Lord was showing that... out of this movement there would be 35 apostles... that will be of the highest level of apostolic ministry... the whole government of this movement in it's highest level in all places it goes... the government rests on Apostles and Prophets... Though I believe there will be hundreds apostles in this movement and every movement will have its apostles and prophets, I believe God. He's merging apostles in a number of movements now, and He's going to add prophets to the prophets that are already there, and He's going to bring us to higher statures. ("Visions & Revelations," Ibid) [emphasis added]

## THE TRUE ARMY

It is hard to fathom how this cheap imitation, that does not even take an expert to discern, is being mistaken for the wonderful, glorious Army that Joel is talking about. In the book of Malachi the Word of God says, "But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth?..." There is no flesh that will be able to stand in His Presence. This Army spoken of by the Prophet Joel is the TRUE ENDTIME ARMY that will return at the DAY OF THE LORD. This happens when Christ returns with HIS SAINTS (His real Endtime Army) at the end of the tribulation. (Joel 2:10-11; Zech. 14:5; Jude 14; Rev. 19:11-21; II Thess. 1:7-10). When our King of Kings sets His feet on the Mount of Olives. When Israel repents and is saved as a Nation in one day. When all the forces of Hell are let loose at the battle of Armageddon. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered the heart of man the things that God has prepared for them that love him." This marvelous, terrible Day of the Lord will cause every other day in history to dim in comparison. This all happens after the Church has been raptured (or "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air) out of the Earth and glorified in His physical Presence (1 Thess. 4:16-17; Rom. 8:22-25). After the Antichrist has wrought his deadly havoc. After the remnant (144,000 of the Jewish nation) have ministered throughout the time of the tribulation and been translated as the "manchild" to heaven. (Isaiah 66:7-8; Rev. 7:3-8; 12:1-5; 14:1-5).

## MESSIANIC JEWS BEING DECEIVED

It is also hard to understand how even Messianic Jews are being deceived by this teaching today. Yet, in Scripture the Antichrist does make a pact with Israel (Dan. 9:27), so obviously he is able to deceive the nation as a whole. Therefore we shouldn't be too surprised at the way this deceptive teaching is taking the Messianic Jews and Church as a whole into an unprecedented apostasy.

Apostate teachings such as “Joel's Army,” “New Breed,” “Manifest Sons,” “Latter Rain,” “Elijah Company,” “Son of Man Company,” etc., all have three basic traits in common.

### 1. Discredit the Word of God.

- a. Wrest the fundamental doctrines “as they do also the other Scriptures” (II Pet. 3:16)
- b. Allegorize the truth away.
- c. Deny the literal meaning of Scripture.
- d. Compare the Bible to other books and irreverence the written Word.
- e. Place their revelations on a par with Scriptures.
- f. Emphasize their thoughts and ideas above Scriptures.
- g. Esteem the authority of the Church over the Scriptures.

### 2. Deify Man.

- a. “Change the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped... the creature more than the Creator.”
- b. The Church (man) is the ongoing incarnation of Jesus Christ, in other words, the Church IS Jesus Christ come in the flesh.
- c. The believer is a god-man, i.e. a supernatural being.
- d. The focus of the “gospel” centers on MAN – his self love, esteem, glorification and dominion.

3. Disregard Israel (the Wife of God). Israel is an outcast and has been replaced by the Church.

a. “Ethnic Israel's” rebirth depends on the “Son of Man Company” (The Endtime “prophets”) and not the Messiah (Jesus Christ) at His Second Advent.

b. “Ethnic Israel's” only hope of ever being restored is contingent on the prophetic word of the prophets and being birthed into the “One New Man Company” of the Church.

Subtlety and deception have always been part of Satan's strategy in “spiritual warfare,” but the latest doctrinal maneuver – the Church giving birth to Israel – is a master deception. It is postured to kill two birds with one stone. Kill the belief that Israel is an everlasting people of God, and that Israel is to be saved and reborn spiritually in one day through the advent of their MESSIAH – Jesus Christ. Satan knows his time is short, that this age is drawing to a close and the advent of the Messiah is at hand. Therefore, he is wasting no time doing everything in his power to cause the demise of the nation of Israel. As in the past, he will go to all extremes to estrange and frustrate Israel's Messianic faith and hope. And what better means can he use than the apostate Church?

The following is an example of yet another distortion of Scripture, the Church and the Messianic message:

"The very nation [Israel] that once gave birth – now is in need to be birthed by another. Who will provide it?... This premise of spiritual revival still hinges upon the rising and completion of the ministry of the prophetic “Son of Man” who is to prophecy the life-giving Word of God. Today the Lord is calling forth a Son of Man Company to corporately prophecy and speak to Israel's lifeless, hopeless white bones until the vision is completed. The church is birthing Israel [He used the illustration of Ruth coming back with Naomi Ruth 4:13, ed.] Who was this son? Who was this male child of whom the neighbor women said, “a son has been born to Naomi.” How could it be that old lifeless and bitter Naomi is now given credit for the birth of this child? Boaz was not Naomi's husband, nor was it her womb that brought forth the child, yet the prophetic declaration was that the child was born to Naomi. Young and loving Ruth offered her vibrant womb so that old and wrinkled Naomi could bear a male child one last time. There is a young and loving church whom God is calling forth to lend her womb as a chamber of travail and tears to old and hopeless Israel that she might bear a son. Who is this Son? And what name did they give Him but Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Obed means a worker, a servant, one who perfectly does the will of Him who sent him. [Only Jesus was perfect, ed.] Indeed such shall be the virtue and quality of

character which will be evident in Israel's last son ["Manifest Sons of God," ed], Israel is destined to give birth [through the Church, ed.] one last time at the end of the age. And, as that which she birthed at the first century transformed the world so shall it be in the last. Isaiah 26:1,8. (Reuven Doron, THE MYSTERY OF ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH, An Overview of End-time Dynamics Between Jew and Gentile, "The One New Man," 1991, self-published)

If history is anything to go by, it would be fair to say that should Israel fail to fulfill the so-called prophetic view of the Church giving birth to Israel, Israel will be blamed and accused of continued stubbornness and indifference. She could again become the scapegoat for reckless and irresponsible theological views.

Israel's only Hope is her Messiah. If all the Church would accept that Israel's national salvation comes through their Messiah (Jesus Christ at His Second Advent) we would know how to pray for the Peace of Jerusalem and how to preach the Gospel of Christ.

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Matt. 24:29)

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Math. 24:30)

"the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels" (2 Thess. 1:7)

"Behold 'the day' of the Lord cometh... and his feet shall stand in that day upon Mount Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east... And the Lord my God shall come and all the saints with thee." (Zech. 14:1,4,5)

"...Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." (Jude 14)

"Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him; and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him" (Rev. 1:7)

"And one shall say unto him, what are the wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, These with which I was wounded in the house of my friends" (Zech. 13:6)

"...Prophets shall be ashamed every one of his vision when he hath prophesied; neither shall they wear rough garments to deceive" (Zech. 13:4)

“And the Lord shall be King over all the earth: in ‘that day’ shall there be one Lord, and his name one” (Zech. 14:9)

“Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children” (Isaiah 66:8)

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, THERE SHALL COME OUT OF ZION THE DELIVERER, AND SHALL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB” (Rom. 11:26)

Israel is an integral part of God’s plans and purposes. Even though the 38th printing came out in 1920 – long before the State of Israel existed – Clarence Larkin set out his incredible work, “that it may be of untold blessing to thousands of God’s dear children who love the Lord’s Appearing, and be an instrument in the hands of the Holy Spirit for the conversion of the unsaved, and of those who ‘deceitfully handle the Word of God.’”

The miracle of the preservation of the Jews during the long night of their persecutions cannot be accounted for, only on the supposition that they have been preserved for a purpose. The secret of their endurance is twofold.

1. Their National Law.

It preserved them from disease, controlled and regulated their passions, checked the baser impulses of their nature, and secured the vigor of their offspring.

2. Their National Hope.

Amid all the vicissitudes of their history the Jewish people have been upheld by their “National Hope,” A “Hope” so radiant, and “Faith” so beautiful, that the world has never seen its like. The “Hope of a COMING MESSIAH.”

The “Hope” of the coming of this “Messiah” has flamed like a “Morning Star” through the darkness of Israel's long night, and has turned their thoughts toward the dawning of that day when the SON OF RIGHTEOUSNESS shall arise and dispel the gloom and usher in that bright “Millennial Day” when Righteousness and Peace shall cover the earth as the waters cover the deep. (Clarence Larkin, Dispensational Truth or God’s Plan and Purpose in the Ages, 1920)



Second edition, 2006.