



Background
to the Revivals

"THE NEW THING" : Contents Page & PDF Download Page

(Global Revival as the Key Element In Deception in Twentieth Century Pentecostalism)



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Background
to the Revivals

"THE NEW THING" Part One: THE GNOSTIC KEY

(Global Revival as the Key Element In Deception in Twentieth Century Pentecostalism)

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INTRODUCTION: The Need to Grasp the Overall Picture

We have a situation today where most of the world and much of the Church is heading straight into the antichrist delusion. That is a bold statement, as well as a BALD statement, and it will need much fleshing out before you can see it as true. But starting from that premise, my task as a watchman is not only to alert you to what is happening, but also to give you the tools for understanding the apostasy, so that you can avoid falling into the devil's snare yourself.

The task of any watchman is to alert to danger; but unless you can grasp the fact sufficiently to arm yourself against harm, you will not benefit from any warning. God wants you to survive. He does not want you to fall - that is why he appoints watchmen to sound the trumpet of alarm, and also why he offers you the tools for understanding the danger.

There are so many different aspects of this deception that we can only focus on one or two at a time. But in writing here, I want to make you see how wide this antichrist agenda is, and what it involves. I want the scales to fall from your eyes, and for you to say, "I SEE it now"

I want you to see the foundational errors that lead to all these things - to thus to have the keys to understanding what is to come.

THE KEY IS THAT THE ANTICHRIST DOCTRINE IS BASICALLY A GNOSTIC ONE:

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist [2 Jn 1:7]

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. [1 Jn 4:2-3]

At first sight, these verses look so familiar that we ignore them. But God has taken the trouble to tell us plainly in His Word just WHAT is the spirit of antichrist. This is what we need to know. In what sort of spirit will the antichrist come, and how will he appear, and what will be his doctrine? If we know this, we can avoid it.

I believe John - or the Holy Spirit speaking through John - was identifying for us the spirit, the essential nature and being, of antichrist both at that time and eventually when he is embodied in a human body in the future. So this is a valuable verse because it tells us what is the spirit of antichrist.

John says - it is already in the world. What was he talking about? What was this antichrist that he could already identify? John was referring to a heresy known as Gnosticism.

Gnosticism

The "Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church" defines gnosticism thus:

A religious movement in which central importance was attached to the gnosis, or revelation knowledge, of God and of the origin and destiny of mankind. The source of this special gnosis or knowledge was held to be either the Apostles from whom it was derived by a secret tradition, or by a direct revelation.

GNOSIS is a Greek work that means knowledge, in particular, "Revelation knowledge", hidden truths that are revealed supernaturally to the initiate. The Gnostics of old had certain central beliefs and these are now coming to the surface again today.

- The goal was to attain self-awareness as a spiritual being, and god-consciousness.
- The true world is spirit, and the material realm is a snare from which we must escape.
- All men possess a divine spark, a part of the divine being, which fell from the transcendent realm into the material universe, and was imprisoned in human bodies.
- Reawakened by knowledge, the divine element in humanity can return to its proper home in the transcendent spiritual realm. Gnostics knew nothing of the redemption of the body. Their hope was in the transformation of the soul!

Characteristic of the gnostic teaching was that the material creation was antagonistic to what is truly spiritual, but that each man had a spark or seed of the divine substance within. Through the secret doctrines and the rites associated with them, this divine spark might be rescued from its evil material environment and be reunited with the divine.

- Hymns and magic formulas were recited to help achieve a vision of God.
- Wine and drugs were used to open up the mind to the spirit realm.

Gnosticism existed before the time of Christ's birth, but afterwards there were Christian Gnostics. They explained the phenomenon of Jesus Christ in this way:

The christ spirit simply inhabited the body of the man Jesus. The christ spirit had come to teach man the gnosis whereby he could free himself from bondage to the evil material world. Some even taught that Jesus did not actually have a body of flesh, but was pure spirit. Thus the ideas of physical death and resurrection were denied by the gnostics.

Now we see what John was speaking of in his letter. It is the antichrist spirit who denies that Jesus is come in the flesh. The antichrist and his followers seek redemption (that is, spiritual transformation) by means of a spirit-being and by becoming a spirit-being!

Bible-believing Christians do not look to a mere spirit-being for salvation. We look to a Man who bled and died, in reality, in agony, upon a wooden cross. We do not receive redemption from a spiritual emanation that infuses us with "revelation" from some unknowable Supreme Being out there! We have a Saviour, the sacrificed Lamb of God, who died in our place, rose again as a flesh and bones person, who ever lives to intercede for us! Jesus is very REAL! If you met him today you could place your finger in the nail scars of His hand, just as Thomas did years ago. He is no "it", he's not a spirit, but a real (but divine) Man.

How did so-called "christian" Gnostics deal with scripture, and the reality of God Almighty?

- Gnostics rejected the literal and traditional interpretations of the Gospels

- Gnostics rejected the God of the Old Testament as a despot trying to keep us in bondage to this world. The Creator God, to the Gnostics, was not the Supreme Being, but a secondary being who had fallen from the pure spiritual realm of the Supreme Being. This creator god (the demiurge, or craftsman) was the architect of the universe but his mistake was to imprison men in earth-bound bodies and apply to them the bondage of Law. Gnostics sought to escape, through superior wisdom, the rule of this god, and rise to spiritual intimacy with the Supreme Being, the centre of all being. Thus, they did not accept the Law of God. They were in essence lawless.

Links With Masonry

It may already have dawned on some reading this that Masonry enshrines a lot of the old Gnostic teaching. Their god is also called the Architect of the Universe, at least in the lower orders. Those who "progress" by initiation into the darker secrets discover that the TRUE Masonic god is the light-bringer, or Lucifer, who (they believe) enlightens all with divine knowledge. The word that the Greeks used to describe the fallen creator-god was DEMI-URGOS, which meant a craftsman, a maker, an author, and since this being had made the universe he was the maker or architect of the physical creation. Lower Masonic orders are allowed to worship this Being and obey his laws, but the higher initiates purge themselves of such ignorant notions and come into relationship with a spiritual being in a spiritual reality. This is where the supernatural takes over!

However, as we shall see, today we have a new gnostic awakening that is taking place all over the Christian Church!! It is being called "renewal" and even "transformation" and it is as far from scriptural redemption as the gnostic doctrine of old. Once you grasp the enormity of this, you will never be the same. You will also be prepared to withstand the antichrist deception that will overtake the entire world shortly.

How Gnostics Dealt with The Material World:

Gnostics had a problem in that they were undeniably living in fleshy bodies, and on a physical earth! This did not fit with their ideals of spiritual transformation. They had to subdue the flesh, and they did this in one of two ways:

(1) Asceticism - Some would renounce all things of the flesh, such as marriage and procreation. They adopted ultra strict diets, embraced very harsh regimes of living, and denied themselves every earthly comfort. Like the later Catholic monks and nuns, they mortified the flesh in all kinds of unpleasant and extreme ways. They did so in order to liberate their divine spark, and rise to the spiritual level.

The Bible speaks of this sort of self-mortification, condemning it:

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.[1 Tim 4:1-3]

(2) Licentiousness (or, Libertinism) - Other Gnostics held that because the world is evil and their bodies were fallen, it did not matter what they did. They considered the Old Testament law as the fallen god's snare to entrap them in this world, so they were a-moral- they accepted no laws. While the former group became the "saints" of Christian mythology, the latter lawless group has evolved into satanists who break the law deliberately. Satanists openly worship Lucifer and believe, like the Gnostics, that the God of the Old Testament is repressive and despotic.

Of course the Bible condemns both groups, and it speaks of the lawless in this way:

Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.[2 Pet 2:13, 18-19]

TWO WAYS OF ACHIEVING LIBERATION INTO THE SPIRIT REALM

The essence of Gnosticism is that the inner spirit of humanity must be liberated from a world that is basically deceptive, oppressive, and evil. How this could be achieved was a bit of a problem, but eventually two main ways of attaining spiritual transformation were developed. They were (a) MYSTICISM and (b) ILLUMINISM.

(1) Mysticism:

In which knowledge of the true self and the true secret doctrines is attained by a mystical experience of the divine. The scriptures refer to this in Colossians:

"Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind...These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh". [Col 2:18-23]

EXAMPLES OF MYSTICAL RITES:

- Catholic mysticism, with trances states, levitation and visions of angels.
- New Age mysticism, meditation, trances, sleep and sensory deprivation, etc etc
- Yoga, chanting, dancing, - tribal rites
-

Rock music, other forms of trance-inducing music, disco-dancing, head-banging, shaking,

-

Drugs, especially hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD

-

Apparitions, visions, encounters with aliens from UFO's

-

Prolonged fasting and prayer, with meditation

-

And now by the Toronto Blessing. - TB uses many of these techniques! In churches where the Toronto blessing and its offshoots are practised, people are led to the very same type of hypnotic trance states, catalepsy, and other physiological conditions that would be familiar to those studying tribal rituals. They are (whether they know it or not) copying the gnostics in seeking spiritual transformation by mystical rituals. And the result is the same as it was for the Gnostics! They do achieve communication in the spirit realm with various beings ranging from demons, angels, to (supposedly) Jesus himself: vivid visions are seen and words are heard, physical sensations are experienced that open up a new vision of the spiritual realm, and give a sense of unity with the divine.

(2) Illuminism

in which "enlightenment" is sought, where those who have moved on to higher levels pass on the secret doctrines to lower initiates.

"O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babble and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge--by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith." [1 Tim 6:20-21]

Illuminism proposes that man, and ultimately mankind, can free himself from the curse of the Fall by gaining revelation knowledge, secret wisdom, known only to higher, or ascended masters who can teach this to you. Disciples often have to undergo initiation in order to become worthy to receive this.

EXAMPLES OF ILLUMINISM:

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Mystery cults such as the Egyptian, (the worship of Isis, the veiled goddess)

-

And also Greek Mystery religions

-

Freemasonry and suchlike orders. EG Templars, Rosicrucians, Priory of Zion

-

Alchemy and the search for the Grail:

In the book, "A Dictionary of Alchemy" by Mark Haeffner, he says this:

"The old view of alchemists as seeking after the elixir of life, or touchstone for transmuting metals into gold is totally inadequate. Alchemical roots go back to primitive mythology; and its adepts treated alchemy as both a scientific, experimental tradition and a mystic wisdom tradition in which there was a confluence of gnostic ideas about man and nature. Alchemy always has a strong element of magic and of mysticism. The experimental physical aspect seems to be an introduction to mystic, magical secrets about the transformation of the spirit."

-

Also in New Age Theosophy, based on Mdme Blavatsky and Alice Bailey

-

Later, found in the doctrines of "New Thought" which led to Christian Science and Word of Faith doctrines:

WORD OF FAITH TEACHINGS

This latter statement, about Word of Faith teaching, may startle and worry some readers who are not altogether familiar with the doctrine. However, although there is no space for a full analysis, it can be shown that Word of Faith does hold to gnosticism in some degree:

-

the true man is spirit, not flesh

-

we can rise above sin, sickness and even death, to a life of the spirit

-

we can overcome this fallen world - not by the life of Jesus, the Tree of Life, but by the Tree of hidden Wisdom, through the possession and use of words - which have creative power to release us from the material world

-

ultimately we become so glorified that we are transformed into spiritual-beings

THE NEW AGE DOCTRINES

It is easy to see where new-agers get their beliefs, because all the doctrines of Gnosticism are there. Gnosticism of old is basically the same as the modern New-Age Movement, and teaches spiritual evolution and god consciousness in the same way.

TORONTO IS A SYNTHESIS OF BOTH ILLUMINISM AND MYSTICISM!

- Mystic cults offered inner revelation that came by an encounter with the divine, such as the yoga and meditation of Buddhism.
- Illuministic cults such as Rosicrucianism offered study of the hidden doctrines that led to enlightenment

BUT NOW, for the first time, we have a movement that combines both elements of Gnosticism! The Toronto experience utilises both the doctrine and the mystical experiences of the gnostics.

WHY DO THEY ASK FOR 'MORE'?

Jesus Christ came to SATISFY. He offered the water that, once tasted, would leave the disciple completely sated, no longer thirsty and hungry for "more". Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:13-14)

And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

It's a pity people don't sing the old songs. In days gone by we really knew how to proclaim our satisfaction in our all-sufficient Lord. For instance, who remembers...

*"I'm feeding on the Living Bread
I'm drinking at the Fountain Head
And whoso drinketh, Jesus said
Shall never never thirst again
What! Never thirst again? - No, never thirst again!
What! Never thirst again? - No never thirst again!
For whoso drinketh Jesus said
Shall never never thirst again"*

Knowing Jesus is in fact the ONLY way on earth to know contentment, and spiritual satisfaction.

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness" (Ps 107:8-9)

Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. (Isa 55:2)

Illuministic, gnostic religion preaches a never-ending journey wherein the initiate has to attain higher and higher levels of spiritual knowledge and perfection, ever straining to achieve transformation and renewal, but somehow always falling just short of the goal.

Gnostic religion, like the Toronto Blessing, is at best a temporary spiritual "high", but is just one step on a long ladder that never reaches an end. Jesus Christ said, "never thirst again" but the Toronto leadership says "More! More!"

TORONTO AND BROWNSVILLE - A COMBINATION OF GNOSTIC DOCTRINES

It has now been firmly established that many of the teachings and practises of the Toronto movement have the Latter Rain movement as their foundation. However, there are differences. Whereas the Latter Rain pioneers taught that fullness and transformation was achieved as an eschatological event, Rodney Howard Browne and others teach that it can be attained by both illuminism and mysticism:

Rodney-Howard-Browne, initiator of the Toronto Blessing, and a Word-of-Faith believer, writes this in his booklet (The Coming Revival, pg. 23)

"The power of God is not going to flow through those that have a theory; it's going to flow through those who have revelation" (ILLUMINISM)

In a video tape aired on TBN in May 1994, Rodney Howard-Browne laid hands on a woman and encouraged her to

"Step over, step over, step over, step over into the realm of the supernatural. Step over out of the realm of reason into the realm of glory." (MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE)

The hallmark of the Toronto Blessing has become:

(A) ILLUMINISM - That the written word is for the old age and we must pass on into a spiritual age, in which our knowledge comes by prophecies, dreams, visions, trances, etc. This seeking after the hidden wisdom, the inner light that transforms, is gnosticism.

The leaders of the Latter-Rain revival soon discovered that illuminism brought new revelations that went beyond the scriptures of old: A letter in the archives of the Assembly of God written by George Hawtin, says this:

"Soon we found that the familiar doctrines previously taught and the subjects studied had a strange sense of being removed from us, as though they had become past truth instead of present truth."

The cry of the Toronto leadership is "God is bigger than his Word". They say:"Don't put God in a box; don't limit him to his revealed will for mankind; God can do anything he wants, even contradict his own written word".

The eldership of one British church justified their adopting the Toronto blessing by saying: "We must have church growth - we must have revival - the Bible has failed us; so now we must have the Spirit, the new anointing to do the work".

If you dare to look at your Bible to check out Toronto, you are derided and rebuked - you are just a book person, you don't have the new revelation.

This is also how the teachings of the Latter Rain came about -through prophecies, visions, revelations, words that people heard inwardly and that were elevated to a higher place than the written word of God.

(B) MYSTICISM - At the same time it is taught that mystical encounter is needed. Devotees must get the anointing that opens the inner eye. Doubters are encouraged not to analyse the Blessing in advance but simply receive the anointing regardless, and when they do so it will open them up to the inner meaning it contains. They will be "converted" to the new thinking by the anointing.

So by means of ecstatic trance states and the power of spiritual encounters, a mystical union with the divine, you can rise above this mortal realm into an altered state; - this is true whether you are a Christian or not -the anointing 'works' whether you are saved or not saved.Whether Buddhist, Hindu, Catholic, Pentecostal - it doesn't matter, this power will zap you and open your mind to the new paradigm. You will be changed! You will see things differently!

DISCARDING THE OLD PARADIGM

There are so-called prophecies and words from God that call for a radical change in thinking, a new way, a new thing - a break from the old paradigm and a new thinking for a new paradigm:

This prophecy was sent From: "Barry C. Linville" to the New Wine Vineyard Bulletin Board:

"Change...change...change! Your ways are old ways, your thoughts are old thoughts, your prayers are old prayers, your cries are old cries, your worship is old worship, your way of doing church is an old way of doing church. Renewal is not pouring new energy into old ways; it is bringing new ways. Let Me change you...let Me change you inside and out. Let go of yourself! Let me have you! I don't want a little bit at a time, I want all of you, NOW!Desire change! Desire it because it is what I am doing in you! Hunger and thirst for my changing in you. You must change! I cannot equip you unless you change. Remember, this is a wholesale, not a partial, change. Don't focus on equipping...it is not time for equipping...it is time for change! You will not be used in the harvest unless you change."

Thus, the present revival, involving the powers of Toronto, Pensacola and similar experiences, is basically a gnostic one. But if you recall the point at which we

started, it was shown from scripture that the ANTICHRIST doctrine is basically GNOSTIC in nature. We could therefore conclude, as many already have, that the spirit of antichrist is the one behind the supernatural experience loosed at Toronto!

THE ASCENDING PATH: The Ladder That Leads to Heaven

Gnostic illumination achieved by esoteric knowledge is often portrayed as an ascending path up the mountain of enlightenment: It is called in many religions, the ladder. Disciples rise step by step through higher revelations, discarding the inferior teachings of the lower initiates along the way.

- In the works of St. John of the Cross, a Roman Catholic mystic, we find an elaborate drawing of Mount Carmel, the Mount of Perfection that symbolises the ascent to mystical union with God on the top of the mount.
- Eastern mysticism often portrays spiritual life as an arduous ascent of the mountain - Hinduism for example.
- The pyramids of Egypt, and the Aztec temples were artificial mountains in and on which the gods were worshipped.
- Glastonbury, a pagan site in the British Isles, is a high mound with an ascending path. To this day pilgrims of all kinds - including some Christian groups - go out to ascend the path to the summit of Glastonbury, symbolising their ascending path to the divine.

THE HORDES OF HELL ARE MARCHING: Rick Joyner's Mountain

Despite the obviously unscriptural nature of this esoteric ascent up the symbolic mountain, Rick Joyner has presented a vision of his own ascent in his (now) four-part vision printed in successive issues of his Journal: The Morning Star. The entire vision was published in a book called "The Final Quest".

In this vision he says he ascends different levels of a huge mountain accompanied by an army of warriors warring against evil. On the way he discovers treasures, and doors leading to secrets that will revolutionise his Christian life. It is a masterpiece of gnostic teaching.

He even meets an angel called WISDOM, who teaches him to rise to the third heaven. To personify "wisdom" as a god or goddess has ever been the forte of the gnostic religions. Christians, too, are not blameless. "Sophia" the Greek word for wisdom was adored by some, and the church of Santa Sophia (Holy Wisdom) was built in Constantinople in the 6th century. Remembering that the gnostic ascent is to discover the christ-spirit within, read this quote from the vision. Wisdom tells him:

"You are still lacking something very important. You must yet have a great revelation of the King. Even though you have climbed to the top of the mountain, and received from every truth along the way, and even though you have stood in the Garden of God, tasted of His unconditional love, and have seen His Son many times now, you still only understand a part of the whole counsel of God, and that only superficially."

Yet the Word of God tells us another story. It says that, with the Holy Spirit as our Guide, we know all things. We do not need to discover inner wisdom by some esoteric route.

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. I Jn 2:20-21

*His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
2 Pet 1:3*

This supposed angel of God goes on to tell Rick Joyner that Christ dwells within him, like the divine spark of the gnostics.

"The Lord dwells within you. You have taught this many times, but now you must live it, for you have eaten of the Tree of Life." The angel then began to lead me back to the gate [out of the Garden of Paradise]. I protested that I did not want to leave. Looking surprised, the angel took me by the shoulders and looked me in the eyes. That is when I recognized him as the angel, Wisdom. "You never have to leave this garden. This garden is in your heart because the Creator Himself is within you" (The inner christ)

Yet when we look in occult literature, we find the self-same teachings. This extract from "The Secret of the Illuminati" by Elizabeth Van Buren, a famous occultist, illustrates the point:

"The Mystery Religion is the One from which all the great religions of the world have obtained their basis, though not the dogmas which were added later. More important than any other teaching is the one that states that only by his own efforts can man attain to Paradise, for this holy place is within himself."

RESTORING THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS

Rick Joyner later sees a great cloud of white eagles. These turn out to be a great company of prophets that comes to support and teach the warriors. They began landing on the mountain, taking their place on every level beside the companies of warriors. Later on his special eagle gives him objects that make him more spiritual. Joyner asks who the eagles are:

"You want to know who we are. We are the hidden prophets who have been kept for this hour. We are the eyes of those who have been given the divinely powerful weapons. We have been shown all that the Lord is doing, and all that the enemy is planning against you. We have scoured the earth and together we know all that needs to be known for the battle."

But again, from "The Secret of the Illuminati" by Elizabeth Van Buren, occultist:

"Shamash (a Semitic god) was Captain of the Eagles, so was Shu (his Egyptian counterpart) Commander of the Eagles. Shu, like Shamash, was consciousness, pure thought which can soar higher than any eagle or hawk into the far reaches of space".

ASCENDED MASTERS: The Apostles And Prophets Of The Latter Rain

The doctrines of gnosticism are taught by a ruling caste, an elite who have ascended above the mere mental realm and who possess the wisdom of the ancients - new agers calls them Ascended Masters.

The Latter Rain calls them the Apostles and Prophets, but they have the same end in view - a teaching of the hidden secrets of God, the revelations that will lead us to liberation. In the case of the Latter Rain and Toronto teachings, these "masters" are the conduits through which the anointing flows, as well as the verbal mouthpieces of the hidden wisdom. Thus they become both guru and shaman at once.

The Whistler Mountain Meetings

Rick Joyner's mountain trek took the form of a vision, but recently, Christians have literally been going up mountains to wait on the power of God for this inner revelation to come to pass that will take them to a higher spiritual level - or as they say - "take them beyond the veil".

From June 28th to July 2nd 1995 there was a "Gathering of the Nations In His Holy Presence" at Whistler Mountain Resort, BC. and the organisers announced that it would be used by the Lord to "kickoff the second stage of the awakening."

Whistler notorious for its eagles

Bob Jones, notorious leader of the Kansas City Prophets, and at one time removed from the public platform because of his sexual indiscretions and bizarre sayings, is one of the key participants in the Whistler Gatherings. Before the event, Jones said that "this will be a gathering of the eagles in the Kingdom" Interestingly, within a week, over 4000 eagles were gathered at an airport close to Whistler (so many that there were concerns about aircraft operational safety). This was such an extremely unusual event that the CBC and CTV networks in Canada featured it in their newscasts. It was seen as a confirmation in the natural of the significance of the Gathering in the spirit.

Some quotes from promotional literature:

It is believed that the Lord will release the Apostolic and Prophetic Mantles upon those gathered. This will take the Awakening into the Prophetic stage

Our bold confidence is that the Holy Spirit will remove the veil from our minds so that: "We all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord..." (II Cor. 3:18)

Notice that the promoters did not dare to finish off this scripture quote, perhaps because it too blatantly displayed the organiser's belief in the glorification of Christians

on earth, before the Second Coming of Christ. (A latter-rain belief.) The entire quote is:

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord".

EDEN: THE ROOT OF GNOSTIC DOCTRINE

THE TWO TREES

In the Garden were not one but two trees. These can be described as Jesus, the Tree of Life, and Satan the Tree of False Wisdom.

Jesus is the Tree of Life, for He is the Truth, He is the Life. The Life is IN THE SON. Eternal life is not in Man. Therefore we need to be united to the Son in order to know true life.

The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil represents Satan, the enemy of God and Man. Satan preaches that you can know wisdom and life in yourself, apart from God. Satan possesses a kind of wisdom - the hidden knowledge, or gnosis, that enlightens mankind to his own divinity, that gives man power to rule over his own life, over other's lives, over his planet and eventually over the universe. The life of Jesus submits to God the Father, and therefore also defers to other people. The life of satan is selfish life. It is rebellion and domination.

GOD AND HIS SON ARE WISDOM PERSONIFIED:

- Prov 8:1-36 - reading esp. 22-23 and 35-36
- 1 Cor 1:23-25

MAN CANNOT "KNOW", EXCEPT BY UNION AND SUBMISSION TO GOD:

- Job 11:4-8
- Job 28:12-28, esp 13
- Ps 111:10

WISDOM = SATAN, THE DECEIVER, SOPHIA.

-

Ezek 28:1-26 Satan in his original perfection, perverted by his pride in his own wisdom, wanted to achieve godhood by his own devices.

Lucifer, the light-bringer, offers illumination to open the eyes of the soul and give inner light, enlightenment

"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.(Gen 3:5)

Looking at scripture, we can see that, indeed, the eyes of Adam and Eve WERE opened, but at what price!

Gen 3:7 -And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Their eyes WERE opened (satan can tell the truth!!) and they DID have knowledge - he was correct! But Adam and Eve knew they were naked. They were living in guilt, ashamed, sin-conscious and fearful. Then came lies, hypocrisy, pretense, loss of relationship with God, and judgement, and death. However, Adam and Eve DID eat the fruit,- so secret wisdom is still available to Man.

The Results of Knowledge

Just as the Lord had warned, tasting the hidden wisdom of Lucifer meant spiritual death. The light of God in man's spirit died out, and left an empty and bitter darkness in its place. Communion with God, that brought satisfaction, was ended. Now man has a soul that is seeking for meaning and life, but without God. Man is still trying to mend the damage that Luciferic wisdom brought to himself and the world, but the methods are doomed to failure, because they are not according to God's will. The Fall has brought a universal sense of division, rejection, loss, and insecurity. Thus mankind is chasing after a remedy that will bring the perfection of Eden back into his life.

Transformation for both man and his world is the aim of many or most religions today. Especially in 20th century religion, the main effort is to "Heal the World" and achieve universal love, harmony and peace with justice for all. These are the conditions that we knew in Edenic perfection - they can NEVER be known again, outside God. Even so, new-agers, and even some Christians, chase this elusive dream.

In order to overcome our sense of loss, and the loneliness of life on this planet without God, religions try to end wars and bring down personal and national barriers. They promote forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation between nations and cultures - all good things, but unobtainable. Man is fallen and under judgement. He can do nothing to save himself.

The only practical way to achieve a transformation is by domination. Dictators like Hitler control the masses by indoctrination, subjugation, or threats. In Hitler's case, he hoped to bring about a thousand years of peace. Alternatively, schemes like the Babel tower project attempt to unite the world through false religion and a common purpose. This is what the New Age is all about.

The Spiritual Fallout from Eden

True spiritual life is knowing Jesus Christ as Saviour and being born again. Our spirits are alive to truth and wisdom only through Jesus Christ - for in him is life. Satan on the other hand promises spiritual energy and power, and the means to rule others, and ourselves, a method of achieving spiritual transformation without submission to God. Satan's way proposes that you can "know yourself" in such a way that you can set yourself free and experience the bliss of 'nirvana'- union with the sublime, the eternal.

Becoming one with the "whole" is what satan offers us in order to heal the longing we have, because of our separation. However the downside is that, given a substitute, people will no longer seek after God. I would suggest that Toronto seekers are being sold short. They are being offered a quick-fix solution to their problems without a true, lasting, sound, sincere and scriptural relationship with God.

THE Gnostic Doctrines in Later History

CATHOLIC MYSTICISM

During the long years of Roman Catholic domination, things became progressively less biblical and more mystical, with the common people sunk into either traditions or superstitions. Without the plain teaching of the Bible to keep them straight, religious people sought ways to find God that conformed to the Church's dogma but introduced at least some form of personal release from sin and shame. It was a situation absolutely wide open for gnosticism, for firstly the hermits, then the monks and nuns of the middle ages spent hours in meditation seeking enlightenment. They practised mortification of the flesh, trying to spiritualise their existence by retreating from the world.

Teresa of Avila (1515-82)

This well-known and now rediscovered lady was the Spanish founder of the religious order of the Barefoot Carmelites. In 1555, after many years marked by serious illness and increasingly rigorous religious exercises, she experienced a profound awakening, involving visions of Jesus Christ, hell, angels, and demons. This eventually involved a "mystic Sacred Marriage" in which Teresa experienced divine union with Jesus, (as she believed) with blissful sensations, manifestations, levitation, and trances. Teresa of Avila is now being promoted through the Toronto movement as an example of one who experienced manifestations of the Spirit, though it is much more likely that she fell in love with a deceiving spirit. Teresa never abandoned the teachings of the Catholic Church.

John of The Cross, (1542-91)

St. John was a Spanish mystic and poet. He experienced what he felt was an awakening of the spirit by renunciation of the world and flesh. He, like Teresa, thought he had achieved "Union with the Divine". The themes of his poetry concentrate on the reconciliation of human beings with God through a series of mystical steps that begin with self-communion, and renunciation of the distractions of the world. One of his books was called: "Living Flame of Love".

The French Prophets or Camisards of 17th and 18th Centuries

The Camisards (from the French dialect word camisa, "shirt"), was a name applied to the French Huguenot (Protestant) peasants of the Cévennes mountain region of France who rose in rebellion in 1702 against King Louis 14th. The Camisards, so called because of the black smocks they wore during night raids, had sought refuge in the Cévennes after Louis 14th in 1685 had revoked the religious freedom granted to them by the Edict of Nantes. Though not all were violent, a portion of the Camisards conducted guerrilla warfare from mountain strongholds against the royal troops. Roman Catholic churches were burned, and their priests were killed or forced to flee.

However, they saw themselves as a prophetic group, a millennial manifestation, bringing in the kingdom of God on earth. They experienced many spiritual manifestations similar to the Toronto believers. Here is a description of their prophetic power:

"The first occurrence [of revolt] grew out of the prophetic utterance of a ten year old girl...she called for repentance...soon children all over the Cevennes were seized by the spirit and prophesied. Children as young as three were known to have exhorted the people in religious discourses. Adults, too, were seized by the spirit and spoke in tongues - their physical actions were quite excessive. They fell backwards with the body extended at full length on the ground, their bodies went through contortions including heaving of the chest and inflation of the stomach - afterwards they would prophesy, exhorting the people to repent and denounce the RC Church" (Quotes from various historical sources)

This sounds familiar to us. The manifestations are identical to those seen under the Toronto spirit. Was this of God? Plainly not. For all the exhortations to denounce the Catholic Church, the result was to stir up rebellion, armed warfare and bloodshed. Hardly the work of the true Spirit of God.

The book "Occult Theocracy" by Lady Queenborough quotes sources who call the Camisards "theomaniacs" and says:

"It is certain that all the armed troops never took to the field except at the instance of some inspired celebrity. And it is certain that the words of the prophets were listened to as if they had emanated from the mouth of the Holy Spirit; that the inspirations from them habitually decided either the life or death of the Catholics who fell into their power"

This means, the spirit motivating the inspired prophets decided your fate according to prophecy! If you were a Catholic, this spirit could inspire somebody to kill you!

The above account goes on to state that the same person would be both a prophet and an army commander.

The Camisards were early "Restorationists". They believed the Church would be triumphant over the world system and would reign in power in the endtimes. They were calling in their prophecies for Christians to rise up like a mighty man and to defeat their enemies, in their case by killing the priests and burning down their churches! They felt they had a right to do that. They believed God have given them the authority to defeat their enemies! This is a sort of Liberation Theology that you see in Africa today. It's OK to kill people as long as it's in a good cause.

SHAKERS (1774)

The group known to us as the Shakers was influenced both by the Quakers and the Camisards. They give us a good example of a group who had plenty of physical and spiritual manifestations, but entirely the wrong doctrine! They were led by Mother Ann Lee, who believed she was the second coming of Christ as a female principle.

The Shakers began as a sect first heard of about 1750 in Great Britain. They were then called the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Coming. The first leaders were ex-Quakers James Wardley (or Wardlaw), a tailor, and Jane his wife, dropouts from the Society of Friends who had come under the influence of the "French Prophets." (The Camisards)

In 1774, Ann Lee of Manchester, England, introduced the sect in the United States, having been influenced by both the Quakers and the Camisards. She was known as Mother Ann Lee to her followers. She taught that the Church was in the endtimes; the gifts of the Spirit were being restored; and she had been sent by God to set up a millennial rule, which would lead to Christian perfection.

The group organised themselves into close communities that held property in common, practised asceticism, and honoured celibacy above marriage. (Gnostic beliefs)

They experienced tongues, healing, visions, prophecies, and all sort of manifestations. However, as can be seen from their beliefs, they were heretical. (It is interesting to note how many times throughout history a deceiving spirit has tried to introduce the ideas of restoration to an earthly millennial perfectionism.)

QUAKERISM

The Friends were the followers of George Fox, an English lay preacher who in about 1647 began to preach the doctrine of "Christ within"; this concept later developed as the idea of the "inner light." (It was not just Christ!). Quakers thought that the Divine Spark of God exists in everyone. Thus all persons may receive revelation if they try.

Quaker meetings are intended to help members to feel God's presence as a guiding spirit in their lives, not to read the Word. Early Quakers also experienced spiritual manifestations, which is how they got their name. They shook as the spirit of revelation hit them. Quakers like many other gnostic cults practised withdrawal from this evil world (asceticism) and they emphasised simplicity in dress, manners, and speech.

WIMBER, AND SPIRIT VERSUS WORD:

John Wimber came from Quakerism. Is this why he has traces of the belief in the supremacy of the inner revelation over and above the written word? In his book, "Power Evangelism", Wimber explains:

"God uses our experiences to show us more fully what He teaches us in scripture, many times toppling or altering elements of our theology and world view".

From "Testing The Fruit Of The Vineyard" By John Goodwin, Former Pastor of Calvary Chapel San Jose [1990], who travelled extensively with John Wimber:

It is a common statement of Wimber's that "God is greater than His word" This means two things. First, that there is essential truth in extra-biblical sources, and secondly that the phenomena experienced by attendees of Vineyard seminars and church services do not need to be validated by Scripture. They could, according to Wimber, contradict God's Word and still be "from the Lord"(3).

A fact sheet on the Vineyard, published by Christian Research Institute (CRI) states:

"There appears to be little emphasis on teaching the Bible per se. This lack stands in contrast to the very strong Bible teaching at Calvary Chapel, a church with which The Vineyard was once associated . . . While Bible teaching is not emphasized enough, the role of experience in the Christian life appears to be somewhat over-emphasized. People in the Vineyard frequently seem to be willing to allow their spiritual experiences be self-authenticating".

THE NEW THING IS THE KEY

One of the common strands holding together all these sects, cults and movements is their belief that God has initiated a NEW THING through them. A "new wave" or a "new teaching" has been launched following gnostic revelations. The Latter Rain Movement was just the same. It was launched on supposed revelations from the Spirit that introduced new doctrine, and sought to overthrow the old order with a "New Order" leading to perfection and fulness on earth, with dominion for the Church.

Toronto is not a new phenomenon! Most of these sects believed God was doing a new thing through them. In Part Two we will develop this theme and show just how Toronto is using hidden wisdom and mystical experiences to set up the Church for their New Order. People are changing, just as the prophecy demanded. People are undergoing a "paradigm shift" in their beliefs. The old views are now hackneyed, and the "new thing" is what we must all adopt.

John Wimber wrote in the introduction to "Signs and Wonders & Church Growth", (1985, published by the Vineyard Ministries International) : "at this date, January 1985, we have had in excess of 700 students take the course at Fuller Seminary school of world missions. The results have been astounding. Better than 90 percent of these students have indicated a paradigm shift in which they are now ministering in an altered world view."

GO TO PART TWO: "The Latter Rain Roots of the Present Revival"

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Background
to the Revivals

"THE NEW THING" Part Two: The Latter Rain Roots

(Global Revival as the Key Element In Deception in Twentieth Century Pentecostalism)

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INTRODUCTION

Let me begin with these two statements referring to the present renewal:

"This move of the Spirit in 1994 is not just a charismatic and pentecostal experience, concerning power or gifting. It is one thing to be clothed with power; it is another to be indwelt with the Person of God."(1)

The First Pentecost caused individual believers to be "clothed with power from on high". The Second Pentecost, as this present renewal is called, seems to be all about the incarnation of Christ into His Body as a whole. The evidence for this can be found in many documents, letters, articles and books coming from the renewal leadership. The important thing in understanding what is happening in the Church today, is to grasp at a deeper level the theological background, and historical roots of this movement. Once that is done, the rest is easy - everything falls into place. Here is the second quote:

"Restoration is the work of the Spirit to bring us personally, the Church corporately, and finally the world universally back to its original purity (Eden); Revival is the derelict Temple quickly swept clean, speedily built up and dramatically filled with glory - from the revived church will come displays of glory, works of power, fruit for the world and salvation for the nations."(2)

These are claims being made for the present outpouring. Clearly there is an agenda. This is not just a "refreshing", but the events now taking place have a goal, a purpose. Why do the leaders talk about the Temple being filled, and Christ returning to the Church as the glory-cloud to indwell his Body corporately? These concepts are not biblical, and have never been part of traditional Church doctrine. The teachings have come into the charismatic Church - especially the Restoration Movement - from the Latter Rain Revival of the 1940's. They can also be traced back earlier to awakenings in the 19th century.

THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT - AN EXPANSION OF THE LATTER RAIN MOVEMENT

Firstly, how has the Latter Rain revival come to influence Pentecostals and Charismatics today? Most Christians think that particular movement died out in the 1950's when it was banished from the Pentecostal denominations. However, the Latter Rain doctrines did not die - they just went underground, as this quote from Bill Hamon's book, "The Eternal Church" illustrates. Bill Hamon traces spiritual movements that he believes restored the Church progressively from its dark ages. He comes to the "Fourth Doctrine" restored, that of the "laying-on-of-hands", not for healing but for the transference of the anointing and gifts:

"The Laying on of Hands produced another major movement. This movement started in the late 1940's and infiltrated into EVERY PENTECOSTAL GROUP in the 1950's. During this time, it was known as the Latter Rain and Revival Movement. In the early 1960's, very few Christians were knowledgeable of the movement except Pentecostal churches which had been affected by it. However, in the mid 1960's, the Holy Spirit had spread the truths and spiritual experiences of the restoration doctrine into every church groups within Christendom. The move of the Spirit which took the four restoration doctrines of Hebrews 6:1-2 and made them known to all Church denominations and independent groups became known as the Charismatic Movement".

Notice how Bill Hamon names the Latter Rain revelations, such as the transference of the Spirit and gifts, as a part of the "restoration" doctrines and he says these continued to operate within the Charismatic Movement right up to present times. It was the Charismatic Movement that provided a home for Latter Rain teachings, according to its own proponents. What we are dealing with in the Vineyard movement, in the Toronto blessing, in the Kansas City Prophets and to a very large extent

in the Kingdom-Dominion or Restoration movement is a resurgence of the old Latter-Rain heresies.

Although it appears to some that the Charismatic Movement spawned a teaching called "restoration", in fact this doctrine was alive and well long before - and simply transplanted itself into the fertile soil of the Charismatic Renewal of the 60's. Later we shall see precisely how that happened and what effect it had.

LATTER RAIN BELIEFS

The Latter Rain teachings cover a very wide spectrum of doctrines, and different ministers teach different aspects- some are more extreme than others. Also, leaders are not open about holding to these teachings because they are afraid of losing support; and they believe these new revelations are only for the elite. So it is difficult to find out who believes what. Paul Van Der Elst, in an e-mail to Richard's Riss, (who had circulated a robust defense of the LR revival) made this revealing statement:

"I consider it one of the most important events in the history of God's restorative plan. It is the least understood but has had a profound effect on many of the present ministry involved in what God is doing today. The word of the Lord that came out of that revival continues to reverberate and influence Christians worldwide. It seems like the streams that flowed out from that divine encounter i.e.- Restoration, Sonship, Kingdom Life and Immortality messages, etc, have remained on the fringes of the mainstream Church. However, many leaders have been profoundly influenced by this revival but have not endorsed it, nor have they made explicit references to it because of the controversies and misunderstanding of what God actually did during those times." (3)

After the Latter Rain became somewhat of a scandal within Pentecostal churches in the 50's, ministers were wary of admitting to their beliefs. They hunkered down and got on with their lives, while secretly holding to the new revelations and passing them on to others. Many of those involved in the original LR revival ended up as leading figures in the Charismatic world, and remain there to this day. Thus the teachings survived - and now have re-emerged with fresh vigour. We can sum up the Latter Rain or Dominion teaching this way:

- the Church must be restored and equipped to rule by the five-fold ministries.
- it must come to perfection and complete visible UNITY.
- out of the purified church will come a spiritual elite corps, a Corporate Christ who possess the Spirit without measure
- they will purge the earth of all wickedness and rebellion
- they will judge the apostate Church

- they will redeem all creation, and restore the earth
- they will eventually overcome death itself in a counterfeit of the Rapture
- the Church will thus inherit the earth, and rule over it from the Throne of Christ.

Looking at these teachings, it is obvious that what we call "dominionism" or "restoration" doctrine is actually the Latter-Rain doctrines warmed over. Let's look now at the route these teachings took to enter the mainline churches.

"NEW THINGOLOGY"

In part one of this study we looked at the Gnostic heresy that produced certain results in Church doctrines over the ages, notably the search for new revelations to reveal hidden spiritual meaning that would unlock a deeper life for Christians. The Gnostic doctrine is ever seeking for a new thing - a new revelation that will give power and release from the fallen material world. Bear this in mind, as it provides a key to understanding the Toronto and Brownsville teachings. When the Apostle Paul was in Athens he came up against certain philosophers:

Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbling man want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.
Acts 17:18-21

It was the desire of pagan (and later, Christian) philosophers and mystics to seek out a "new thing". The revelation given once-for-all in Jesus Christ was somehow not enough for these seekers and they ever looked for "more, more". However, scripture tells us very plainly that there is no hidden new thing to come to light:

That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, "See, this is new"? It has already been in ancient times before us. Eccl 1:9-10

God has provided the revelation of the Truth to mankind in and through His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus IS the Truth, God incarnate. Searching for some additional key to understanding the universe is fruitless. In any case, God does not deal in secret wisdom but all that He does is open and available to all. Seek and ye shall find.

NEW THING SCRIPTURES MISQUOTED

Here is the new thing as defined by Clayt Sonmore (Thy Kingdom Come Ministries) in his book "Beyond Pentecost":

"This new thing God is bringing forth is the MERGING OF GOD AND MAN, not seen in fulness since the separation of man from God in the Garden of Eden, with the possible exception of Enoch and Elijah." (5)

For many years, scriptures referring to a "new thing" have undergirded the belief in an endtimes global revival, a latter-rain outpouring, that will bring the corporate Church to fulness, glory and rulership. However, when we examine these scriptures it becomes apparent that the "new-thing" spoken of in scripture is actually the astounding birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God become human:

"How long will you gad about, O you backsliding daughter? For the LORD has created a new thing in the earth-- a woman shall encompass a man". Jer 31:22

The totally unprecedented and new event that only God could create, was the birth by a Virgin of the Son of God. A human woman encompassed in her womb the divinity. Who could have invented such a thing? This was so new that those who were told it - the Old Testament people of God - did not understand it!

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Is 42:9

"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Is 43:18-19

This is the passage often quoted by those who believe in the new thingology. They read this allegorically to mean that God will send an unprecedented global outpouring of His Spirit in the endtimes, to bring the Church to glory and the world to salvation. But if you look at the passage as a whole, you'll find it's not about the Church - it's about the Jews and the Messiah! Reading verse 19 in context we can see that the subject is the former deliverance of the Jews from Egypt, overshadowed by the latter deliverance from the exile in Babylon. One Commentator says of this passage:

"God reminds them of the great things he did for their fathers when he brought them out of the land of Egypt. He that did this can, if he please, make a way in the sea when they return out of Babylon. The best exposition of this is from Jer. 16:14-15; 23:7-8. It shall no more be said, The Lord liveth that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; that is an old thing, the remembrance of which will be in a manner lost in the new thing, in the new proof that the Lord liveth, for he brought up the children of Israel out of the land of the north." (4)

The passage looks forward prophetically to an even greater restoration of Israel in the 20th Century. And, spiritually, it refers to the deliverance of mankind from captivity to sin and the devil, by the birth and death of Jesus Christ, where the "new thing" is the New Covenant in His Blood. Nothing in the passage is prophetic of a latter-rain revival! New-thing-ology is the bedrock of revival teaching - yet it falls at the first fence.

LATTER RAIN DEFINITION OF NEW THING:

Here's another quote, from a book entitled "Doing A New Thing" by Brian Hewitt. This book contains articles by seven leaders of the charismatic church reflecting on the past, present and future of the house church movement: Speaking of the origins of the house-church or shepherding movement, he says:

"The leaders of the new churches all shared the same goal: the rebuilding or restoring of the present-day church to its New Testament splendour. And they shared the same conviction that God was actively at work in the last days to bring this to pass. Those Christians who had come to believe that a period of lukewarmness and backsliding in the church would be a sign of the nearness of Christ's return WERE WRONG - the era of the apostle, not the era of apostasy was at hand."

Here we see new-thing-ology at its worst. Because of a false triumphalist interpretation of scripture, those who correctly foresee the great last-days Apostasy and Tribulation are pronounced WRONG (deluded) and a new idea is introduced - that a new breed of master apostles and prophets are to reappear in order to bring the revelations that will lead us on to purity, perfection and dominion.

PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS NEW THING:

The new-thing-ology began in the Pentecostal holiness camp meetings of the 19th century. Pentecostal preachers like Maria Woodworth-Etter taught that God would send the Latter Rain of Joel 2 to restore the church with signs and wonders before Jesus came. They expected a mighty revival before the Rapture. But at that time, Pentecostals still believed in conventional doctrine - the Rapture, the Antichrist, the Tribulation and the pre-millennial coming of Jesus Christ.

The new thing was that, as the above quote says, they now expected God to send an spiritual outpouring, a new Pentecost, a revival that would rock the world. This idea has been floating around for centuries, and periodically rears its head, usually when Christians become so desperate for spiritual renewal that they end up accepting a deceiving spirit instead of the Holy Spirit. I recently read evidence of all the false doctrine and Toronto-style manifestations taking place as early as 1886.

This astounded me! But what was interesting was the chain of events leading up to this particular diversion from scripture. It was almost identical to today. Firstly the desire for revival. Then the disappointment when God could not be forced to convert the world according to their understanding. Next the descent into occultism in seeking an alternative power-source for the "revival". This passage will illustrate my point. It is taken from a **booklet written by G. H. Lang** about the Azusa Street Pentecostal Renewal.

Though sympathetic to Pentecostalism, Lang points out errors and abuses that arose at that time, many of them identical to today. He writes of the Church of God community in Tennessee that arose in 1886 from poor farming folk:

"A Baptist pastor became distressed in soul about the spiritual deadness prevailing. He devoted himself to prayer and study of the Bible. A few joined him. In 1886 these saw that no general awakening of the churches was to be expected, so nine persons formed themselves into a Christian Union, with

the laudable but in part scripturally unwarranted objective "to restore primitive Christianity and bring about the Union of all denominations". (5)

Having noted that the group was biblically illiterate, and that they did not abide by the biblical prophecies of endtimes apostasy that mitigated against worldwide revival, Lang goes on to say that their influence and numbers grew, and they began to have manifestations at their meetings. He lists:

"leaping, shouting, dancing, talking in tongues, and dancing in a spiritual trance or ecstasy. While the meetings were in progress, one after the other fell under the power of God."(5)

Next, Lang writes deploring the carrying-on at the Indian version of Azuza Street , at Coonoor on the Nilgir Hills. He records damaging false prophecies that misled the entire group, and also a "terrific noise" during the meetings of animal and bird noises, wild animal sounds, roaring, people grovelling and rolling on the ground with the ladies having to be covered by shawls to keep decent as they lay prostrate on the floor. Let me at once bring this totally up to date. Part of the Toronto scene, well-documented and much-recorded, is the roaring manifestation, and the travailing as in birth-throes. Have you ever wondered where this fits into the revival? Well, we need look no further than the "new-thing" passage of Isaiah that we have just been examining! Yes, new-thing-ology strikes again, giving credence to bizarre manifestations that actually have no place in the Church. Read for yourself Is 42:1-16, especially verses 13-14:

"The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies. I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once."

1906 AZUZA STREET

The Pentecostal pioneers involved in the Azuza Street revivals also believed and taught this new thing. They believed another Pentecost had to come to empower believers to go out and win the world for God.

Because they believed the time had come for the latter-rain outpouring (the new thing) they were caught up in missionary zeal to bring the nations to God, and fulfill the prophecies. The place of tongues was central to their missionary efforts because it was believed that foreign languages were necessary to reach the pagan nations for God. If God would provide supernatural languages for preaching to the nations, then the gospel would be heard and understood by all. This was their belief, and the impetus for seeking after the gift of tongues. (The fact that they succeeded in restoring the spiritual gift of tongues to the Church is pretty much beside the point, nowadays.)

However, the promised revival never happened. Just as with the present outpouring, the great revival never comes. When people are desperate for revival, power, signs and wonders, they'll do or believe almost anything. They'll even justify the bizarre manifestations caused by the spirit of Toronto as the fulfillment of the new thing teachings:

LATTER RAIN REVIVAL AT NORTH BATTLEFORD

The Latter Rain revival (at the time called the New Order of the Latter Rain) did not just spring fully formed out of Canada without any previous teaching. No, it was the product of long years of muddled thinking and false revelations given to various individuals. To save going into the history of the movement at this point, I have appended it in a separate document - [See the Appendix](#).

In brief, the three greatest influences that led up to the 1940's LR outpouring were:

(a) **Franklin Hall** - *fasting and prayer for power and glory, immortality*

(b) **William Branham** - *laying on of hands and words of knowledge*

(c) **New Thing teaching** - *the Latter Rain revival of Joel 2 and the restoration of the Church through the apostles and prophets (compare Zion City and Apostolic Church of the UK, in Appendix).*

A) FRANKLIN HALL

After Azusa Street, the gifts had died out again, and people were feeling dry. Two world wars had passed without sight of revival or the nations turning to Christ. Denominational Pentecostalism had settled into a routine and had lost its original spark of excitement. Then in 1946, a man by the name of Franklin Hall (b.1907) started a series of fasting and prayer sessions for revival. Hall had involved himself in the healing revival of the 1940's in which ministers like Oral Roberts, T.L.Osborn, Gordon Lindsay and A.A. Allen rose to prominence.

At the same time, a new evangelical awakening was bringing people like Bill Bright and Billy Graham into the circles of power and influence. William Branham was also holding revival meetings, which in 1947 in Vancouver stirred the Canadian renewal movement that was to bring the Latter Rain to birth. Franklin Hall, therefore, existed at a time when many were looking for a route to renewed power and spiritual anointing.

However, Hall's teaching, while offering a supposed easy route to power through prolonged fasting, had within in the seeds of heresy, and those seeds took root in many a young evangelist's heart. Hall's book on obtaining "Atomic Power With God Through Fasting & Prayer" influenced many in the late 40's.

Al Dager points out in "*Vengeance Is Ours*", that Hall's book was publicly acknowledged as having a major influence on many of the Faith Healers. I have a copy of this book, and reading it makes one wonder about the scripture knowledge of Christians of that day. It is full of the most strange and heretical statements and reads more like an occult tract than a Christian book. Hall believed that by fasting for long periods, Christians received a powerful anointing that led them to sinless perfection and immortality by stages of spiritual transformation.

Some more of his teachings were:

- that perfected believers would experience power over the forces of gravity
- that they could teleport to wherever they wished
- their clothes would not wear out, they would have no body odour, never need to wash
- they would never be sick
- that an immortal substance from Christ would come upon their bodies, a golden substance visible to all, that would glorify them and people would see and feel the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- that all must pray with open eyes
- that BODY-FELT salvation - the fire of God, the glory, had to be applied to the body for thirty days and would purge out all sickness, tiredness and weakness of the flesh
- the doctrine of the corporate Manchild was also in the first edition of the book

All the healing evangelists, amongst them William Branham and Kathryn Kuhlman, were influenced by Franklin Hall, and set out to look for "atomic power with God through prayer and fasting". In fact, Ernest Hawtin, George's brother later said that "the [LR] revival would never have been possible but for Brother Hall's teaching on prolonged fasting." Amongst those seeking for the new thing, accompanied by the power through prolonged fasting, was a group of missionaries at the Sharon Orphanage, North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

They had also been fired into a search for revival by William Branham whom they witnessed ministering in Vancouver in 1947. Rev Herrick Holt at North Battleford was one of those desperately seeking and preaching a "new-thing" according to Is 43.

B) WILLIAM BRANHAM

Branham was part of the healing revival of the 1940's and from the beginning had an unusual style, depending on revelations from his guardian angel to instruct him in healing. He taught on the Latter Rain of Joel 2, and believed it meant the Pentecostal and healing revival of his day. Thus he, too, expected an endtimes

revival. Branham was right in the line of descent from the old Apostolic groups, for he believed firmly that denominations were not of God, in fact he labelled them "Babylon" and he taught that the Church must be restored to its original unity and purity before the Lord returned.

Later Branham developed a non-trinitarian doctrine, saying that the doctrine of the Trinity was the Babylonian hallmark of the denominations. As for his influence and connections, there were many. Ern Baxter, later to become one of the founders of the Shepherding Movement, was Branham's Secretary - from 1947 to 53. We have already seen how Branham's meetings sparked off the Latter Rain revival in Canada; after it had begun both he and Baxter attended the Latter Rain meetings at North Battleford. Paul Cain - later to re-emerge as head of the Kansas City prophets in 1989 and to become one of the guiding lights of the present renewal - also travelled with William Branham and called him "the greatest prophet that ever lived".

NORTH BATTLEFORD MEETINGS

It was because of the teachings of Franklin Hall and the healing meetings of William Branham that three men gathered for revival meetings at North Battleford in Canada. They were GEORGE HAWTIN, PERCY HUNT and HERRICK HOLT.

George Hawtin set up the Bethel Bible Institute of Saskatchewan in 1935 but was asked to resign in 1947; Percy Hunt resigned from Bethel at the same time in sympathy with George Hawtin. In 1947, George and his brother Ernie, and Percy Hunt joined Herrick Holt who owned a plot of land and had set up the Sharon School and Orphanage in North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Here is a fascinating fact. The first Latter Rain meetings for revival were held in a little building on the Airport at North Battleford, in Canada. The renewed revival has also, in public at least, gained a reputation for starting in the Toronto Airport Vineyard, a little building by the airport. Perhaps it is pure coincidence, or perhaps not.

Herrick Holt was already praying for the "new thing" and was expecting revival. The year before, he had read Franklin Hall's book and was fasting, as recommended, for the "atomic power". Joined by the Hawthins and Percy Hunt, and by the Bible School students, they fasted and prayed (some for over a month) for revival to break out. Then, in February 1948, the power fell.

Prophecies were given that a great unstoppable new move of revival was about to begin, and would lead to God's endtime harvest. One unique factor in the LR move was the impartation of the Holy Spirit, and gifts, through the laying on of hands.

Previously, Pentecostals had taught (in line with the Holiness groups) that soul-searching, repentance and a time of preparation ("tarrying") was necessary before anyone received the Holy Spirit. Now however, at Battleford, (as at Toronto) the power was being passed from one to another without a pause. People from all over the country started travelling to Canada to get the power, which was passed on through laying on of hands. Rather than healing, prophecy became the most prominent feature, and prophecy laid down the new revelations governing the revival.

For instance, it was promised that "If my people reverence my name, my presence and my house, I will begin to restore that which has been lost to the Church..." The

group came to believe (as others before them had done) that the restoration of the Church would be accomplished through latter-day apostles and prophets, through laying on of hands for the gift of the Spirit, and through the revelations given in prophecy. J. Preston Eby later summed up the teachings of the Latter Rain as:

"the outpouring of the Holy Spiritwhich shall bring the FULNESS, a company of overcoming - Sons of God who have come to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, to actually dethrone satan, casting him out of the heavenlies, and finally binding him in the earthlies, bringing hope of deliverance and life to all the families of the earth."

This great work of the Spirit shall usher a people into full redemption - free from the curse, sin sickness, death and carnality. These new revelations that became the doctrines of the new order were established BY PROPHECIES. And the choice of apostles and other ministers was made THROUGH PROPHECIES.

This recalls the Gnostic teachings discussed in Part One. Once again, prophecies, visions and words were accepted as foundational for this move. Eventually the prophecies were exalted above the word of God. Also, personal prophecies were given over people's lives, and ministries were destroyed as a result of accepting these. All of this, and more, led to the Latter Rain Movement falling into disrepute and ultimately being rejected by the Pentecostal denominations.

The Heresy Rejected

Not surprisingly, the classic Pentecostal denominations recognised the Latter Rain teachings as heresy and eventually in 1949 they officially banned Latter Rain teachers from their pulpits. The reasons they gave were:

- these teachings were causing division and confusion in the Body.
- there is an over emphasis on laying on of hands for impartation of the gifts and power of the spirit.
- the erroneous teaching that the Church is restored by present-day apostles and prophets.
- New Order teaching about confession of sin to man, deliverance of demons, claiming to have powers and rights that belong only to Christ.
- erroneous teaching concerning the impartation of a gift of languages as special equipment for missionary work.
- extreme and unbiblical practice of imparting personal leadings by means of personal prophecy.
- other heretical doctrines and distortions of scripture.

However, despite this setback the Latter Rain teachings continued to be popular amongst certain groups and several breakaway movements began from the 50's, including "the Walk" in California, led by John Robert Stevens. Others affected by Latter-Rain teachings were Bill Britton, James Beall, David Ebaugh, J. Preston Eby, Ralph Mahoney, Gerald Derstine, Carlton Spencer, and also John Poole (once part of the Fort Lauderdale Shepherding group). But apart from Sonship groups (offshoots of the LR revival) there were many more individuals who simply moved on into the Charismatic movement and became bit players there.

This is really how the heresies became legitimised within the Restoration groups of the UK, at least. Restoration churches are now the most numerically strong, and

the most influential of any Christian group in the UK.

George Warnock

One man who was hugely impressed by the Latter Rain teachings went on to provide a book that stands alongside Franklin Hall's "Atomic Power" as seminal to the Movement. The man was George Warnock and the book was "The Feast of Tabernacles". It was written in the late 1940's and reprinted in 1951 by Bill Britton. The book proposes that the three major feasts of Israel are the stages of development of the Church.

- Passover - was deliverance from sin
- Pentecost - was the former rain, or individual empowering
- Feast of Tabernacles - will be when God indwells his people spiritually and causes them to rule.

This book lays out all the major doctrines of the Corporate Christ, the glorified Body, Unity, the Second Pentecost, Restoration - everything. It is sobering, therefore, to read this book and discover that many of the doctrines have been adopted by the Charismatic Movement, by the Restoration churches, and by the current Renewal leadership. Just before the LR revival broke out, George Warnock was acting as Ern Baxter's Personal Secretary and right-hand man. So Ern Baxter was doubly involved. Ern Baxter said in 1975:

We are talking of man coming into the fullness of his self realization, into his ultimate destiny as the image of God. This beloved One came to become the Pattern Son to become the Ideal Man after which he would pattern a whole community of redeemed ones. What he was in his incarnate power and life, they become in their corporate power and life.

God's purpose is not to redeem a bunch of people to sit at a bus stop and wait for the bus to come along and get them out of the world's mess. He came as King so that under their authority the redeemed community might become the means whereby he would establish God's sovereign right in his own redeemed earth. We have individual salvation - but in the nation we have corporate salvation...God's people are going to start to exercise rule and they're going to take dominion over the power of Satan. As the rod of his strength goes out of Zion, he will change legislation, he will chase the devil off the face of God's earth and God's people will bring about God's purposes and God's reign. (8)

Ern Baxter and John Poole (the son of Fred Poole, an early LR believer) joined the Fort Lauderdale group who introduced shepherding to the UK. Their magazine "New Wine" was THE charismatic magazine of the 1970's. Charles Simpson was another of that group. He said of himself:

he denied the Rapture of the Church in 1972

-

he affirms the dominion mandate

-

he quotes Psalm 110 about Christ not returning until the Church has put all enemies under his feet, including death

-

and says: in 1972 I received a revelation of the Lordship of Christ and the Kingdom of God as a current reality. I saw Christ reigning now and teaching us to do so as well. I have thoroughly embraced this truth.

UK RESTORATION

In the UK, the Latter Rain teachings were being encouraged by such as David Lillie, Arthur Wallis and Cecil Cousen.

They taught the Restoration of the Church, the restoration of apostles and prophets for perfecting of the saints, growth into full maturity of the One New Man in Christ, and many other LR doctrines. This triumphalism was alien to the classic Pentecostal denominations, most of whom were pre-millennial.

The Latter Rain, however, saw the Millennium as the reign of the perfected church. The input of Ern Baxter and others led to a rejection of pre-millennialism, and Restoration adopted discipling as the means to perfect the church. They set up the five-fold ministries to rule the church, appointed apostles over towns and areas, and elected prophets to teach the new revelation. Since the Latter Rain teachings so successfully infiltrated the Restoration churches, let us now examine their foundational beliefs and see how they match up.

THE FOUNDATIONAL TEACHINGS OF THE LATTER RAIN & MANIFESTED SONS MOVEMENTS AND THEIR INFILTRATION INTO MODERN-DAY RESTORATIONISM

- 1.

THE DOMINION MANDATE-the Church as Ruler

- 2.

AN EARTHLY INHERITANCE -Heaven is not their goal

- 3.

THE RAPTURE OF THE WICKED -not the Christian Church

- 4.

THE CHURCH IS ISRAEL -Replacement Theology

5.

APOSTLES AND PROPHETS RESTORED -as Ascended Masters

6.

UNITY OF THE BODY -essential to the ongoing incarnation of Christ into His Body

7.

THE RELIGIOUS ARE BABYLON - the New Order of the Latter Rain must overtake the Old Order saints

8.

JESUS THE PATTERN SON -not Divinity, but a Man with an Anointing

9.

THE TWO WITNESSES -Moses And Elijah's miracle ministry of the Last Days

10.

THE RAPTURE -the Transformation of Man into Spirit

11.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE - replacing the heavenly powers with Church Rulers

12.

ALL ENEMIES DESTROYED -even death must be defeated

1. THE DOMINION MANDATE:

The most basic building brick of the movement is that Adam lost his dominion over the earth in the Garden of Eden, and the Great Commission and task and destiny of the Church is therefore to recover dominion, over sin, over disease, over demons, over the whole created order, and even over death.

"God had intended to rule all creation through man - that was Plan A. Now that man was in rebellion what was God's Plan B? He HAD no plan B. God's original and only intention was in Psalm 8 - you made man ruler over the works of your hands, you put everything under his feet." (9)

(He then goes on to speak of God calling to himself a covenant people in order to re-establish his rule through man.) Personal salvation is seen as only one step in the task to redeem the earth and bring back the dominion of man - just to be saved is not enough.

1. Brothers and sisters, we give ourselves to the perfecting of this Zion. Personal salvation, yes! But with it is the gospel of a new kingdom. Leaders like Ern Baxter and Arthur Wallis are now proclaiming this. (1975) You see the church is to inherit the promises. She is to herald the ultimate kingdom. We are prophesying a new order - Zion is the foretaste of the new earth." (10)

2. We Christians have been brought up on personal salvation, personal baptism in the Spirit and an individual walk with God. But that's only half the

story...the kingdom in its fulness will be given only to a nation bringing forth the fruits of it. Individual salvation may well be the start, but CORPORATE SALVATION is the end (11)

Leaders believe this present outpouring is a work of Restoration, or Renewal, preparing those believers who are willing to accept it, to go on to the final stage of development, which is the Birth of the Manchild.

2. EARTHLY INHERITANCE:

Going to Heaven is not the goal of Latter Rain teachers! They sneer at people who have a heavenly hope. Their realm of dominion is the earth - the earth is to be restored, renewed, cleansed and purged, and they will bring heaven down to earth. Heaven is on this earth! Heaven is the kingdom within our hearts.

Many who thank God today for their deliverance from spiritual Egypt have no concept of God's purpose to bring them into Canaan. Unfortunately, many people today think of Canaan in terms of "going to heaven when they die". In Moses understanding, what lay beyond Jordan was the land, the city and the temple - a land to be possessed, Zion to be populated, and a temple where God's presence could be enjoyed and his praise expressed! Out of this Zion would go light to the world!

The idea of going to heaven is unhelpful and unbiblical. Seeking the kingdom means bringing heaven to earth. (13)

3. RAPTURE DENIED: (Wicked Raptured)

Obviously then, if earth is your focus, and you are not going to heaven, there is no need for a Rapture. The Church is destined to be triumphant and victorious and to rule over the earth, so the Rapture teaching they believe is false - a doom and gloom, defeatist attitude. Restorationists believe it is the WICKED who will be taken out, in judgement - that God will cleanse the earth by removing all those who rebel against this great plan of redemption. Only those who submit to the rule of God will be allowed to remain.

"The Rapture idea is ridiculous...One has to conclude that the secret rapture theory may be evangelical, but is nonetheless unbiblical. It is a grotesque idea - the rapture may be a most agreeable doctrine for cowards, but it is nothing better than wishful thinking and must be relegated to the area of myth and fantasy." (14)

The rapture spoken of in scripture is allegorised into either a rapturous feeling of joy when seeing Jesus appear, or else a spiritual transformation whilst still on earth. In this case, the Rapture would represent the saints being caught up into a spiritual third dimension. Bill Britton explains this using types like John of Revelation and Paul caught up to the third heaven; he says their bodies remained on earth, but they had a spiritual experience. Heaven therefore is not somewhere you go, but a transformation into a spiritual realm, on earth. Richard Riss - author of book on Latter Rain and avid Toronto supporter - answering questions on the Vineyard New Wine Bulletin Board, say this:

"For those who are prepared for His coming, it will be a time of unmitigated joy. He has given us a foretaste of this heavenly bliss in those moments when He has visited us with His presence during times of "revival" or spiritual awakening. If you have ever experienced the presence of God, or an infilling of His Spirit, then you have been given a hint, or intimation, of the ecstasy awaiting those who eagerly await His appearing.

"As far as the rapture is concerned, throughout the history of the church, there has been a wide spectrum of views concerning the events at the end of the age, but as far as I know, few, if any of them taught a bodily removal of the saints until 1830, when John Nelson Darby started promulgating views of this kind.

"To be caught up in the clouds of glory to meet the Lord in this atmosphere of spiritual authority does not necessarily entail a literal bodily removal from the earth. In fact, if it did entail our removal from the earth, it would be a permanent removal: "and thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:17). But the entire thrust of Scripture is that we will have a resurrected body on earth, and that the heavens and the earth will both be regenerated, or renewed (Acts 3:21, Matt. 19:28). If there is to be a bodily removal of the saints at all, it can only be temporary.

"The statement "and thus we shall always be with the Lord" tends to suggest, at least to me, that we will always be in the "caught up" state, i.e., we will be in heavenly places with Him from this point onward, and forever more. To my way of thinking, we can be in heavenly places while we're still on the earth." (15)

But some people are removed - the wicked are taken in judgement.

"It will be as in the days of Noah. How was it in Noah's day? The flood of judgement came and took all the wicked away, and the righteous were left to inherit the earth. The wicked had been taken away - yet man has devised a theology in which it is just the opposite; they claim the righteous will be taken away. The Bible, my friend does not teach any such thing. Proverbs 3:26 - for the Lord shall be thy confidence and shall keep thy foot from being taken. - it is plain here that the righteous are not taken. Well, if someone is to be taken, who is it? Proverbs 11:6 says - the transgressors shall be taken. Think of it - the transgressors shall be taken. That is not what man has taught us, is it?" (16)

This idea, of the removal of the wicked in a rapture taking them to judgement, is one that is spreading amongst TB supporters. Richard Riss again:

"Often, the rapture is thought to involve a bodily removal of the saints. However, the Bible refers to a removal, not of the saints from among the wicked, but of the wicked from among the saints at the time of Christ's coming...

"In Matthew 24:39 it says that "they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away." Who was taken away, the wicked or the righteous? If it was the wicked who were removed in the flood, then it is the wicked and the disobedient who will be removed at Christ's coming."

4. THE CHURCH IS ISRAEL

Following on from the above points, it is obvious - since the church is to inherit the earth and reign with Christ - there is no role for Israel as a nation. Restoration believers generally claim that the Church is spiritual Israel, who will inherit the promises. This again comes from the Latter Rain teachings:

"The saints of God are the true Israel - unless we understand that the Bible was written for US (gentile Christians) we are bound to deny ourselves the glory which God intended we should derive from the Word...Therefore, we have no hesitancy whatever in quoting profusely from the Old Testament and the New by way of establishing these glorious Church truths." (17)

In order to exclude Israel from prophecy, the prophetic scriptures are spiritualised in order to apply them to the Church. For example, the valley of dry bones scripture in Ezekiel is used to describe the present restoration and revival of the Church! (It is Israel that is dead, dry, and in need of revival, not the Church.) Similarly, the Latter Rain of Joel 2 is applied to the Church, not to the spiritual restoration of Israel. Indeed, I should say that several scriptures give the lie to the entire "latter-rain" revival. What the Bible means by the Latter Rain is the coming of the Messiah in power and glory!

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Hosea 6:1-3

This is speaking of the two comings of the Lord - Jesus as the Messiah who comes to us as the Suffering Servant to sow the seed and the Glorious King to reap the harvest. James 5:7-8 says the same thing: It is the coming of the Lord that brings refreshment, relief, blessing and the Harvest.

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and Latter Rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh." James 5:7-8

A Minor Diversion - This is where allegorising the scriptures will lead you:

I want you to read all of this next passage and then I can show you how Restoration leaders deal with it, and where they go dangerously wrong: Zech 10:1-5

Ask rain from the LORD at the time of the spring rain (Latter Rain) -- the LORD who makes the storm clouds; and He will give them showers of rain, vegetation in the field to {each} man. For the teraphim speak iniquity, and the diviners see lying visions, and tell false dreams; they comfort in vain. Therefore {the people} wander like sheep, they are afflicted, because there is no shepherd." My anger is kindled against the shepherds, and I will punish the male goats; for the LORD of hosts has visited His flock, the house of Judah, and will make them like His majestic horse in battle." From them will come the cornerstone, from them the tent peg, from them the bow of battle, from them every ruler, {all} of them together." And they will be as mighty men, treading down {the enemy} in the mire of the streets in battle; and they will fight, for the LORD {will be} with them; and the riders on horses will be put to shame.(NAS)

THE WRONG INTERPRETATION OF THIS PASSAGE:

Terry Virgo, in "Restoration in the Church" says this is about God visiting the Church! It is treated as the coming of the GLORY of Christ, in the Latter Rain visitation, not the physical coming.

And "the result of that visitation is that the poor misguided flock is UNITED and transformed into a majestic war-horse - a great vehicle of power and energy, a fearsome, awe-inspiring, effective tool of WAR. The sheep become "mighty men treading down the enemy in battle" .and the flock is TRANSFORMED CORPORATELY (ie. they become the Corporate Christ).

Individual ministries emerge - the CORNERSTONE he says is the Apostle, the TENT PEG is the Prophet, the BOW OF BATTLE is the Evangelist, and the RULERS are the shepherds.

Terry Virgo then claims, from this passage, that these ministries are given to the Church in order to build them up into the full stature of Christ - One Mature Man. He is speaking of the Corporate Christ.

5. APOSTLES AND PROPHETS RESTORED

The Five-fold Priesthood is supposed to emerge in the endtimes to restore the Church to perfection; Apostles, Prophets and Teachers must prepare the way, like John the Baptist, for a new appearance of the Christ. The restoration of the gifts and ministries to the Church is designed to bring it to "fullness". These authoritarian leaders will judge and purge the Church until it is one undivided Body in the earth. Thus the Restoration churches have adopted a teaching more familiar to us as the Ascended Masters of the New Age, who come to lead us to spiritual transformation.

- the New Age teaches that it is the Ascended Masters who have higher consciousness and inner light who need to teach us to evolve beyond our present experience.
- The Gnostics taught we have to have new revelation, and we need special Spiritual Adepts to open up to us the inner wisdom that would release us from this earthly bondage.
- LR and Restoration teach much the same thing - we need Apostles, and Prophets to open our inner eyes.

"God has established a sure and certain means by which this inexpressible UNITY is going to be brought into being, even the ministries of apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors and teachers. These are given, we are told, for the perfecting of the saints... Will they bring this unity of the Body to pass? To doubt it is to doubt God's Word. To reject the God-ordained ministry is to reject God who gave them... to refuse the ministries is to say to Christ, I prefer to be perfected some other way." (18)

"Christ will raise up apostles and prophets who will prepare and equip the church for service. This will demand a maturity beyond anything we have seen in recent years, and will result in a greater unity of faith and "the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" being visible in the Church. Only such a Church with the whole Christ released within her, is properly equipped to give opportunity for the whole world to believe." (19)

SUBMISSION NEEDED:

In order for this system to work, we are required to submit to the rule of the eldership and humbly accept the new revelations. "How does one get saved? By submitting to the rule of God - through the elders." says one Restoration leader. (20) Discussion is not allowed - THEY are the Anointed Ones! They are on a higher spiritual plane! Colin Urquart is one in the UK who believes himself to be an Apostle - and not just the ordinary Restoration kind, which is simply a church planter with authority over a certain area of the country.

Colin Urquart sees a much more important role for the Apostle: "Apostles make decisions that affect the whole Church (worldwide)". One of his team members then comments that "For example his (Urquart's) willingness to accept a new impartation of the Spirit is beginning to and was intended to affect the whole church." This is as much as to say that, because the apostle gets the Toronto Blessing, it impacts the whole Church in Britain if not throughout the world. However, this leads to a major problem for the Church. If a heretical apostle is in charge, and he insists on his teaching being accepted (as Colin Urquart does) then that teaching infects the whole body from top to bottom.

6. UNITY

Perfect unity of the Body is seen as absolutely essential. The Prayer of John 17, that they might be One, has not yet been fulfilled according to many today. For the world will not truly "see" Christ until the Body is united around the world, and manifesting Christ corporately.

What is proposed, therefore, is not just a spiritual unity with each other and with Jesus, but a perfection, all thinking and believing alike, one organic whole. But is this prayer of Jesus unanswered? We DO have unity with each other in the Spirit. The union of Jesus with his father was spiritual, based on love and submission. Jesus, at the time that he prayed for unity amongst His followers, also prayed that the Father would keep us, sanctify us and protect us from the evil of this world - is that still unfulfilled? If the Father answered the prayers of Jesus, then He answered them all - in full!

7. THE RELIGIOUS ARE BABYLON

Those who question the Toronto experience are being called "religious". This also comes straight out of the Latter Rain teachings! Denominations and anti-restoration believers are "part of the old order"; they are the Harlot Babylon, religious legalists, and new order believers must leave if they want to be part of the Latter Rain revival. The Old Order is also those who are still clinging to the old revelation and haven't moved on into the higher light. They have not passed beyond the veil. Those of the Old Order are compared to the religious hypocrites of Jesus' day - they resist the new move of God. They cannot let go of the old doctrines, such as the

personal Antichrist and the Rapture, and the literal Millennium for Israel, etc. These people are seen as the "antichrist" that opposes the new anointing. They must be removed from the Church and the world before perfection can come. The old generation will "die out in the wilderness" and they do not enter into "fullness" or the Promised Land.

"The old generation who disbelieved God perished in the wilderness - they did not want to go in and possess the land... they did not want to hear any talk about Christ appearing in the saints and Christ being formed in you; and as for the manifestation of the sons of God, that is definitely not for this day and age, they say.... (21)

"Do you not see then how subtly the enemy will work and how easy it is going to be for Christians to become entangled in an idolatrous religious system ... The day of reckoning is at hand, and judgement must begin at the House of God - this idolatrous ecclesiastical system is doomed!" (22)

"We are the ones who will choose if the next move of God will be a day of salvation or a day of judgement - for those who reject it... will have a more severe judgement - This next wave (of the Spirit) will not be stopped, and the opposition will soon be forgotten... the past no longer exists and those who try to live in it cease to be a part of what God is doing today." (23)

8. JESUS THE PATTERN SON

In many ministries today, Jesus Christ has been demoted. He has become simply a signpost, a pattern, and a prototype of the perfected believer, a Way-Shower.

It is taught that the Church must grow as he did to full maturity, until it can take dominion and have all power and authority as he has. The Church must follow the pattern of his life and ministry. Believers must learn to use the anointing, for it is said that Jesus was (like us) just a man with an anointing! So, rather than know salvation because of Jesus, by being incorporated into His obedience and righteousness; we have to learn to grow up into corporate salvation by following the lead that he gave. This teaching is prominent in the Word of Faith Movement. Kenneth Copeland often speaks of Jesus as the Pattern Son. We model our lives on Him, and receive the same anointing of power to do miracles; use the same creative power in our words, etc.

"Because of his sinless life, Jesus walked in perfect dominion. God did whatever he asked, NOT because he was God's son, but because he held the position of a righteous man. But that was Jesus, you say. But the Bible says that through our believing on Him, we have been given the same position of righteousness with God that Jesus has." (24)

9. THE ELIJAH COMPANY

In Latter Rain thinking, there are not one, but two bodies we have to deal with - the Bride of Christ, and the Body of Christ. The Body must grow to perfection within the womb of the global church (The Bride), be brought to birth, and only then be manifested to the world as its rulers.

The type often used is that of the Virgin and Christ-Child. Just as Mary brought forth Jesus into the world, so the woman, the Bride of Christ has to bring the Corporate Christ into the world through her travail. (Here's the reason for all that "travailing" going on at Toronto meetings.) Before the manifestation of the Manchild Company, however, a special number of perfected saints will receive the Christ anointing - just as Christ was anointed by the Spirit in His Baptism, BEFORE his ministry. They are like John the Baptist heralding the emergence of Christ, and like Elijah before him, a prophetic ministry to prepare the way. The Elijah ministry is to cause The Woman to travail to bring forth the Son.

This Group variously called:

- The Two Witnesses of Revelation
- The Elijah Company
- The Joseph Company
- Gideon's Army

"From within the womb of the church, there is being birthed a prophetic generation." (25)

Since it is believed that this group is the Lord's Anointed (for they have the Spirit without measure) their task is to judge and purify the Church; to oppose them is to die like Ananias and Sapphira. When the leaders say, touch not the Lord's anointed, they mean that those who have the Christ anointing to do this work are literally standing in the place of Christ, and to oppose them is to oppose Christ. Paul Cain and Rick Joyner recently discussed this topic in Rick Joyner's Morning Star Journal. There they called the Elijah Ministry the "Spiritual Fathers". The idea of having a Spiritual Director, by the way, is coming back into fashion and is helpful in leading the Church into unity with Rome, for it is more a Catholic idea than a Protestant one. It sets up again mediators between man and God.

"The best is yet to come. What we are about to see can be credited to no man--no amount of money or promotions could make it happen. The Lord is going to anoint the people in these last days with the spirit of Elijah. We will see the kind of power that Elijah walked in revealed again.

"When the full apostolic power comes it will either heal or kill, build or destroy. The power that brought such glory to the first century church brought death to Ananias and Sapphira.... What we may get away with during times of a lower level anointing will carry a most terrible penalty during the time of the Lord's visitation.

"The foolishness on Ananias and Sapphira was that they failed to recognise what authority was working in Peter. Peter was no longer just a fisherman--

he was a vessel for the Holy Spirit and by lying to Peter they lied to the Holy Spirit.

"In Malachi 4:5-6 we read: "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD. And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

"Apostolic power and life will be restored to the church, but it first requires a restoration of the spiritual fathers to the children and the children to the spiritual fathers--in God's continuum. There is a spiritual principle that we are changed into that which we behold (see II Corinthians 3:18). As we start esteeming our spiritual fathers we will start to become spiritual fathers, and our sons will want to become spiritual fathers."

This proposes a priesthood to lead us into the new order. Elijah was the last of the old order, for he passed his message on to prepare for the new order. The Elijah ministry is thus the means by which the Body steps into the new order. In true Gnostic fashion, Rick Joyner is saying we can't make it, we can't develop into this Corporate Christ, the spiritual House of God, if we don't get the teaching of the apostles and the new revelations of the prophets. He says we need mediators to lead us in. We need spiritual fathers!

But Jesus said, "call no man father - you have one Father in Heaven". It is the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth, not Priests and Apostles. This Elijah Ministry is supposedly a miracle ministry. It will lead to the greatest revival mankind has ever seen, and it lasts the same length of time as the ministry of Jesus - three and a half years! The Elijah Company possesses human bodies, but they are invincible; nobody can kill them until their work is done.

"Jesus was the Christ, which means the Anointed of God...The SAME anointing with the same power and authority (is given) to the Two Witnesses of Revelation (the Moses and Elijah ministry). There must needs be judgement upon the earth to cleanse the earth of its corrupt and rotten sin - who is to judge the earth? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world - and hear me, beloved, this judgement must begin at the house of God,...for the Holy City, the Woman, the Virgin Bride of Christ must be trodden under foot for forty-two months...until she travails in birth and brings forth the Deliverer, the many-membered Body of Christ." (26)

"The anointing of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a glorious experience, it is the firstfruits of what comes upon the Body. But it is only the firstfruits - (the twelve spies) brought back "a sample" (from the promised land) but it was only a sample, a firstfruits. God never intended for them to subsist for the rest of their lives on these samples...they were to go in and possess the land. Jesus our High Priest was anointed of the Spirit without measure - this same divine anointing of the fulness of the Spirit that came upon Jesus shall come upon the entire Body, until every enemy shall become his footstool. This anointing does not come upon babes in Christ as does the Baptism of the Spirit. This anointing comes at the time of the Adoption." (27)

"But you say that we have already received that anointing when we received the glorious infilling or Baptism of the Holy Ghost. No, my friend, we only get the earnest of our inheritance. The anointing of the Two Witnesses is when the glory of God (Jesus) fills the entire Temple of God (Body of Christ, the Overcomer) ...suddenly he appears"! Not to everyone but to those who are looking for him. And he appears unto full salvation...to anoint us and fill

us with His glory and power and the fulness of his spirit. And by the act of his appearance this group of people are made into one body". (28)

NB: At the time that the two prophets Paul Cain and Bob Jones appeared, I believe they were seen as the physical representation of the Two Witnesses referred to above.

10. THE RAPTURE = THE BIRTH OF THE MANCHILD

Since Jesus is the Pattern, it is believed that the Manchild, the Corporate Christ, follows the pattern of the ministry of Jesus.

This group thus receives a baptism of fire, then has a signs and wonder ministry for for three and a half years in increasing persecution from the religious "old order", for the perfect New Order has not yet come. Finally, they are "raptured" to become spiritually transformed - while still on earth! This follows the pattern of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ whereby He received His resurrection body. It is taught that prepared believers will also share this experience, not necessarily through death but in a parody of the biblical "rapture". Afterwards they will be immortal, invincible, all-knowing and able to perform such miracles that the whole world will be converted. Those who do not bow to their rule will be destroyed.

The whole world sees that these "Overcomers" have been "raised up to the heavenlies" though they remain on earth. They have become perfected spiritual beings in human bodies. They take the place of the evil principalities and powers, and begin to rule and reign over the earth as The Christ - the One Perfect Man, with ALL his power and authority.

"Pentecost opened the fifth day of history...At last we are coming to the final working [prophetic] day of God's week and he makes man - this is a full-grown man established in every respect. God's creation which appears during this sixth day will be fashioned in the image of The Man, Christ Jesus. This new man, whose destiny is to occupy the New Jerusalem, God's city coming down from heaven to earth, is a CORPORATE MAN. He is the whole body of Christ who will wield the iron rod of God's judgement over Babylon, the present world system. He will usher in the seventh day, a thousand years of rest and peace. This final period will establish his rule and reign with Jesus prior to the last great judgement of all flesh before the throne of God." (29)

"It is important that we do not stop at the "harvest" aspect of revival, but look beyond to God's ultimate purpose. This involves more than saving souls from hell, more even than bringing individuals into a renewal experience; it involves a work amongst God's people that is corporate - the Body of Christ has to come to full maturity, and so become the Bride for her husband...Before this age closes the world is again to see a man (like Jesus) striding the earth, having come to the fulness of his manhood. Not the individual Christ, but the corporate Christ, the spiritual body in union with the unseen head, having come to the mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fulness of Christ, and displaying throughout the earth the power and glory of God, just as Jesus did at the beginning. This is God's supreme purpose for this age." (30)

11. SPIRITUAL WARFARE

This Corporate Christ has power over all demons and will wage war in the heavenlies and pull down the satanic strongholds. They will take their place as the world's spiritual rulers.

"The very unseen powers of the heavenlies must be toppled from their thrones; yea, even now they are beginning to feel the impact of heaven-tremors as the sons of God begin to mount up with wings of an eagle to take to themselves their God-given authority in the Spirit. It is this wrestling with the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenlies that shall cause the very heavens to shake and satan and his hosts to relinquish their kingdom into the hands of the Sons of God. Everything that can be shaken is going to quake and fall before the sons of God. And then into the very heavenlies they shall ascend, first of all in the Spirit, to take possession of the kingdom left vacant by the casting out of Satan and his evil hosts. Then they shall be in a position to administer peace and life and blessing to a Church and a world that are in bondage and under oppression." (31)

"Hebrews 2:5 reveals to us that the world to come will no longer be under subjection to angels but will be under subjection to redeemed men and women who will reign with Christ. We are at present in training for reigning. The structures (of the satanic strongholds in the heavenlies) will be refurbished with a whole new personnel... I believe with all my heart, that the rediscovery of territorial spirits is part of God's desire and design to get his people into the full knowledge of the Son of God so that we can grow to the full stature, geographically and territorially as well as powerfully and inwardly, and that this will enable us to fulfil the world mission of the Church." (32)

12. ALL ENEMIES DESTROYED: Church and World Judged by Manchild

The final phase, following the manifestation to the world of the Sons of God, the Manchild Company, are that they rule and reign in the heavenlies (ie by virtue of their spiritual transformation).

"Could Jesus come today? No - certain things have to be fulfilled before Jesus can return..." He quotes Psalm 110 "The Lord says to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. This is the most quoted OT verse in the NT. Not until that is true will Jesus leave his Father's right hand to return to earth. He must reign (through the church) until he has put all his enemies under his feet; the last enemy to be destroyed is death." (33)

[Commenting on the same verse] "The Church is the feet of Jesus. God promised Jesus 'I will train your feet, and use them to tread down and crush your enemies.'" (34)

This glorified, christ-empowered company that have come to spiritual transformation see themselves as powerful enough to cast satan and his hosts out of the heavenlies. However, as Revelation tells us, what follows is a terrible Tribulation. Because satan and his hosts are cast out of the heavenlies, they make war against the Woman. There is a terrible persecution against the Woman, and she is driven into the wilderness.

But in Latter Rain doctrine the Woman is the worldwide Church, the denominations and traditional Christians (some genuine, some not). It is therefore not ISRAEL but the CHURCH that is persecuted by satan during the endtimes, according to this view. It is the perfected, ruling, glorified Manchild Company who cares for the woman in her hour of need. It is the glorified Manchild, who woos her and reveals truth to her. So it is that, in Latter Rain thinking, the Manchild is the Head of the Woman.

Where in all this doctrine (you may be thinking) is the Lord Jesus? It seems as if the Church does all the revealing, the warfare, the teaching, the judging. No doubt, for the Church is seen as God's Body on earth. So it is that when three and a half years of persecution are completed, the Woman emerges purified in order to join her spouse, the Manchild company, to inherit the restored earth. Has Jesus Christ come back physically by this time? No, not even now is Christ the Lord expected to return, for "he" (in his Body) "must reign" until ALL his enemies, including death itself, are put under "his feet" - the CHURCH!

" When the Government is clearly seen to be on his shoulders in the Church, we shall become a light and testimony to a totally new order which finds its source and strength coming from the Throne of God. The river of life will support trees whose fruit will be for the healing of the nations." (35)

The Woman emerges as the purified Bride of Christ without spot or wrinkle; and joins in a marriage union with the Corporate Christ. A spiritual wedding of the Manchild and the Woman takes place. Thus the LR teachers are proposing that the Church represents the New Eve of the New Age, while the Overcomers who precede her purification are the New Adam of the New Age.

Events following the victory over satan, and the purification of the world and global Church are:

- The wicked are taken out, and all sin and rebellion is removed from earth.
- creation is restored and the earth is cleansed.
- The kingdom is set up - but the kingdom is the rule of God expressed and exercised through his people
- There will be a long period of rulership over the earth, possibly the 1,000 years.

During this time, all God's enemies must be destroyed, including the last enemy of death. Although the Manchild company have already demonstrated their power over death, and have received eternal life and immortality in resurrection bodies, this power over death must be extended to all the earth before the Kingdom can be offered to Jesus Christ.

All of this work is supposed to be accomplished by the Manchild Company on earth, before the physical return of Jesus. (That is, if He returns physically at ALL! Some are now teaching that the glorification of the Manchild is actually the "return" of Jesus into His Body.)

WHERE IS THIS TEACHING LEADING US?

The concepts of the new revelations, the inner light, spiritual evolution, and especially the setting up of a powerful ruling elite in a kingdom on earth, are opening us up for the reign of Antichrist. There is little in the above teaching that could not be mistaken for the doctrine of the New Age. Indeed, I believe it comes from the same spirit, and is producing not release but delusion for the many thousands who adopt it. Will the Antichrist, when he is revealed, be seen by some as the "christ-spirit" who is to glorify the Body? Will he come with a powerful "anointing" that appears to fulfil the twisted prophecies of the Latter Rain movement?

What will happen to true believers in this scenario? To look into your possible future, go on to [Part Three, "The Ezekiel 47 Model: Onwards to Glory"](#).

FOOTNOTES

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2. David Mansell, in "Times of Refreshing" supplement to Covenant News
3. P. Van Der Elst, Internet, Thurs 23rd Feb 1995.
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7. Ibid., p.65
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9. Restoration Magazine Jan/Feb 1986 - probably Bryn Jones
10. Noel Stanton "Fire In Our Hearts" P.110 - speech delivered at Ashburnham 1975
11. John Noble, "House Churches - Will They Survive?" Page 121-122.
12. Terry Virgo, "Restoration In The Church"
13. Chris Seaton in "Your Mind Matters" (Chris Seaton is an elder in Revelation Pioneer fellowship. and head of the Restoration environment program, Whose Earth)
14. Gerald Coates "What On Earth Is This Kingdom" page 36

- Summary of two separate messages, "The Divine Unveiling of the Church" by Rob Wheeler of Auckland, New Zealand, and "Old Testament Promises" by Bill Britton
16. Bill Britton, "A Closer Look At the Rapture", 1986
 17. George Warnock, "Feast of Tabernacles" 1951
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 23. Paul Cain speaking at the Word and the Spirit conference in London October 1992
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 27. Ibid. Pge 23
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 29. John Noble, "House Churches - Will They Survive?" P.118 f. The chapter, 'Our New Day', follows Bill Britton's outline of the Days of Creation in Genesis linked with the Feasts of Israel.)
 30. Arthur Wallis, "Rain From Heaven" 1979.
 31. Warnock, "Feast of Tabernacles" page 97.
 32. Roger Forster, introduction to "Territorial Spirits", pages x and xiii
 33. Stephen Matthew in Restoration magazine, Jan 1992
 34. Francis Frangipane, in Charisma magazine July 1993
 35. John Noble, "House Churches - Will They Survive?" P.96

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Background
to the Revivals

"THE NEW THING" Part Three (a)

(Global Revival as the Key Element In Deception in Twentieth Century Pentecostalism)

THE EZEK 47 MODEL & THE 'AGE OF THE SPIRIT'

CONTENTS:

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In parts One and Two of this study, we have looked at the history and aims of gnostic illuminism, and discovered that a modern form of gnostic belief is inspiring the Church to seek after the "new thing", the secret revelation that will transport her beyond the revealed word of God into "realms of glory".

We have seen, historically, how Christians who opened themselves to "higher knowledge" consistently received the same message: that the Body of Christ, corporately, in the endtimes, would come to a place of such unity, such holiness, such power and anointing that it would arise in the fulness of the Spirit as the One New Man - it would complete the ongoing incarnation of Christ in the Body of his Eve, his Bride, and would manifest to the world a new heavenly and earthly ruler - the manchild of Revelation 12.

The past is clear; the present-day is full of illustrations of the folly of these teachings - but what of the future? What is the Big Plan?

The new-agers have their 'Plan'. It is a path of spiritual evolution, the transformation of mankind, and the cleansing of the earth from all that is of the old order. Alarmingly, the Christian plan is very similar - only the Church is doing it in the Name of Jesus!

I can best illustrate the Plan by looking at a passage of scripture that is being used everywhere today. Whenever people talk about the Toronto phenomenon, they use this scripture. I cannot believe that these leaders all spontaneously get led to the same passage of scripture, and even if they did, they could not spontaneously come up with the same spiritual allegorical meaning to it. Oh no - this has been planted by the leadership, and they in their turn are being driven by forces, the power and intent of which they can hardly imagine.

The passage I want to examine in some depth is from **Ezekiel chapter 47**. Please read the following carefully:

1 Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar

2 Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

3 And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ancles.

4 Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me

through; the waters were to the loins.

5 Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

6 And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river.

7 Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other.

8 Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

9 And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

11 But the miry places thereof and the marshes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

12 And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.(Ezek 47:1-12)

[Please see [Appendix](#) for notes on the Temple in Ezekiel.]**

THE SETTING FOR THIS PASSAGE:

To understand what I am about to suggest, you must put yourself into the mindset of a Restoration or Latter-Rain believer. Generally speaking, the Toronto leaders allegorise the scriptures. They do not read Ezekiel and see prophecies about the natural land of Israel or the spiritual restoration of the Jews. No, they believe that the Church is the "Israel" of OT prophecy (this is called replacement theology). Thus they read these chapters as an allegory of endtime revival for the CHURCH.

In the previous chapters of Ezekiel, we can see how the prophet is called to prophesy to the dry bones in the wilderness, and the bones arise as a mighty army. So, Toronto believers see their revival as the fulfilment of this prophecy. They see the Church as dry and dead, just bones, and they see the Spirit of Toronto coming upon the Church and bringing it to life, and forming a great Army.

Afterwards, Ezekiel is taken up in the Spirit and is shown the Restored Temple. In the usual interpretation of scripture, Ezekiel's vision is of the restored temple of the Millennium (1) - a real building. If you used these building plans you could go out and build it - it's perfectly feasible as an architect's plan! However, in the allegorical viewpoint, this "Temple" would represent the Church.

The House of God "is the Church"

The belief amongst many today is that this Temple of Ezekiel is the glorified, perfected Church. It is a "spiritual house", the house of God on earth. This belief is not new. It was being promoted by the Latter Rain, Manifested Sons groups many years before the present renewal movement. The classic sonship/manifested sons belief is that the House of God is the completed, perfected Church.

CLAYT SONMORE

One sonship believer, Clayt Sonmore, wrote a whole series of books based on Ezek 43:10:

Thou son of man, shew the house to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities: and let them measure the pattern.

Clayt Sonmore's byword, was "Show the House to the House". He believed his mission was to show the Church what their perfected, restored House should be when it reached the fulness of glory, with God dwelling within them.

And by the way, he believed the Abomination that Ezekiel saw defiling the Temple was the ecumenical, charismatic renewal movement! The old Latter Rain teachers had expected their revival to lead the true believers out of "Babylon", the denominations. They sought to transform the church, not renew the denominations. So, when the 1960's renewal movement became a vehicle for restoring the historic denominations, the old-timers denounced it, and still do to this day.

But Clayt Sonmore was not the only one preaching that the Church was the House of God, and that the House had to be completed and filled with the Glory of God, the Shekinah. This was standard teaching for the Latter Rain groups.

PAUL CAIN

Paul Cain was big on this House-of-God teaching. In one audio tape in my possession, called "The Father's House", he preaches that when Jesus said "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2) it did not refer to the Rapture, nor the believers going to be "ever with the Lord" but it meant the glory of Christ coming down to earth to incarnate into his Temple, the Church!

The following extracts will help illustrate the aberrant teaching associated with the Temple as the Church. It will also be a primer for understanding the message of this article. For the leaders now believe that the Church must move on into deeper and deeper revelation until she is lost in the divine, and God is dwelling with Man.

Reading these extracts, hold in your mind what Paul Cain says about the Outer Court and the Holy Place, because there is a progression, an evolution, that the Church is supposed to undergo and it will be further illustrated as we study the Ezekiel 47 passage. Paul Cain says:

It's really important, that you listen to this, that you hear this part, Please listen! It's not important that you be glorified in God, it's important that God is glorified in you because God says I have moved on many but I have rested in few. And God has said a lot of things to many people but oh, how he'd

like to live in you and find his home in you and reside in you until you become so much like him that you would be the house of God.

Turn please to Jn 14:1..., I don't want to take heaven away from any of you coz I kinda think it's is a wonderful idea myself, but I believe that the idea of the mansion next door to Jesus, is a little unscriptural, ...we're not going to be sitting up there in a little house next door to Jesus watching Christian TV 24 hours a day, we are going to be the house of God long, I mean LONG before we leave this place, because I believe that Heaven is going to be the dwelling place of God, and I'm not even going to associate this [passage of scripture] with heaven but I'm going to tell you what "the father's house" is by the Holy Ghost tonight.

God wants to live in his house TONIGHT. We are the many houses of God, we are the many dwelling houses of God, many abodes of God. "I cannot rest until I find my home in man",the Lord said to me, and that really transformed my life. And so I believe that the Lord's given me a vision of the Outer Court, and the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies as being so significant; especially that part of the, uh, having identification and association with the Son.

And the Outer Court - we all enjoy that Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, all of us should know we were in that - but then the Lord said "Think not that I came to bring peace but rather division",so he divides some of us out of the Outer Court and puts us in the Holy Place, gives us the baptism of the Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit are there, and all these supernatural things are there, so that brings a distinction, a division between the Outer Court and the Holy Place.

So now we have thousands and even millions of charismatics... why did God pour out his Spirit on all these charismatics, and all these Catholics and priests and nuns and Episcopalians and the Methodist and Baptist, why did he do that? Well, he took these out of the Outer Court and he baptised millions of them and now through a process of sifting and through certain works of God he's hoping to gather enough together that will reflect his image that he can live in.

[My note] Paul Cain is talking about three distinct revelations of the mystery of God to His people -

A: THE OUTER COURT which is the denominations, the religious people, the "book people" as the Toronto leaders call you if you don't accept the new anointing.

B: THE HOLY PLACE of ministry, which is those baptised in the Spirit.

C: THE HOLY OF HOLIES. His talk presupposes there is a further transformation into the Holiest of Holies, where the Ark of God's Presence is, a third place to go, beyond Pentecost, It is the experience of God "Beyond the Veil"! The Church is supposed to be at that place right now, about to pass through the curtain that divides the Holy Place and the sacred Dwelling Place of God. When she enters into the Holiest, the Church will see God face to face, and be spiritually transformed.

He continues:

Remember that every stone is a living stone and my fathers house is really not heaven, as we have been led to believe for these many years. God's people all over the earth tonight are having this revelation that the fathers' house is not really heaven. I tell you there is one greater than us [John] that had an open vision of heaven, and he saw no temple there.

Oh, let me tell you my friends, WE are the temple, we are the house, we are the dwelling place of God and wherever that is we can call it heaven. We can really say, we are the father's house and we can count on it, whether it's here or whether it's there, or whether it's somewhere else, it's the father house - not heaven we are really talking about!

Not just Paul Cain, but many other leaders in the Church today are preaching that the Body of Christ must EVOLVE into a higher revelation and come into perfect co-habitation with God, in the Holy of Holies as it were.

One advertisement for a Vineyard Conference held in Minneapolis with the Arnotts from the Airport Vineyard, Paul Cain, and Bob Mumford as a featured speaker (ex-Shepherding) said they were "planning to move on from an occasional visitation to an ongoing habitation in the Spirit according to Ephesians 2:22."

Well, if you look at Eph 2:22 you will find the verse is about the Temple, the living Temple, the Church. They are expecting the madness of Toronto to evolve into the descent of the glory, the return of the Ark to the Temple, which they say will lead to a permanent habitation of the Spirit within His Body. (As if He did not already dwell there!!).

Our Resurrection Bodies Received ON EARTH

So what is the Plan for the future of the Church - is it to go and be with the Lord? Is it to receive our resurrection bodies at his coming in the air? No, according to this new revelation, we receive our resurrection bodies here and now, on earth, by an initiation into new doctrines and by receiving the empowering of the anointing of God.

According to this teaching, the glory comes down to the Church! We don't go to God!

Remember that Paul Cain spoke about the spiritual Temple as having three compartments representing stages of Christian growth. This is absolutely central to the message of this article, and also central to much "revivalist" teaching today. It is not just renewal or revival that is being taught, but a wholesale, global, corporate experience of glorification, on earth, by the Glory of God.

Let us look now at the way Bill Britton, a Manifested Sons of God teacher, handles this teaching. I will also extrapolate from his teaching and present the almost inevitable outcome of what he teaches.

BILL BRITTON'S TEMPLE (Taken from his book, "Sons of God Awake" Page 24.)

Here I show the three stages as Bill Britton has them. But I have also added the fourth column.

This is because the progression, or evolution, to fulness that Britton shows is incomplete. The fourth stage about which so many of these leaders are secretive and guarded, because of its controversial nature, is the transformation into resurrection bodies (they call this the Rapture) and the government of the earth as spiritual rulers in the heavenlies.

This fourth step to glory is implicit in all the teaching, but often is not covered in detail because it is a divine "revelation" that the teachers hope will be imparted to the higher initiates.

OUTER COURT	HOLY PLACE	THE HOLIEST	HEAVENLY TEMPLE
Jesus, the SAVIOUR	Jesus, the ANOINTED	Jesus the LORD	Jesus the KING OF KINGS, ENTHRONED
Jesus, a BABY	Jesus a YOUTH	Jesus a MAN	Jesus GLORIFIED, RESURRECTED
PASSOVER Lamb Slain	PENTECOST Firstfruits	TRUMPETS Day of Atonement	TABERNACLES New Heavens and Earth, God dwelling with Man
OUTER GATE Leads to Brazen Altar of Sacrifice (Salvation)	DOOR OF THE TABERNACLE Leads into the Sanctuary of Ministry	INNER VEIL Leads to the Holiest, His Presence	DOOR OPENED IN HEAVEN (Rapture) Leads to Transformation
Baptised in SEA	Baptised in CLOUD	Baptised in JORDAN	Baptised into CHRIST
Escape From Egypt (death)	Divine Leadership	Conflict for the Land, Warfare	Entrance into the Promised Land, Rest
Out of Egypt - Deliverance	Through the Wilderness - Training	Into the Promised Land - Inheritance	Raised to the Heavenly Places - Rulership
The 30-fold	The 60-fold	The 100-fold	The Crown of Glory
SALVATION	ANOINTING	ADOPTION	MANIFESTATION as sons, Transformed into spiritual rulers

Tabernacles - The Feast of Fulness

To bring this teaching right into the present time, read this Internet message about the Feast of Tabernacles. It was sent to Richard Riss (Author of the book, "The Latter Rain") in June 1994. The subject matter was: The Toronto Meetings.

"The actual feast of tabernacles was a time of great celebration and a time of ingathering. It is also a time when God tabernacles among His people and His glory fills the church. We may now be in the dawning days of this great season in God's plan for the church!"

The Abuse of Ezekiel 47

Many of the leaders involved in promoting the Toronto Experience, and other revivalist phenomena, claim a connection to the prophecies of Ezekiel, and they especially use Chapter 47 to describe the current renewal. One who does so is Mark Stibbe, an English author and church elder. Mark Stibbe has extensively used Ezekiel 47 in relation to the Toronto Experience in his book on Toronto called "Times of Refreshing".

The first chapter of Mark Stibbe's book is entirely given over to what he calls the "four waves" of revival as prophesied in Ezekiel 47. This is fairly typical of the way the Toronto leadership handles this passage of scripture.

However, as we shall see, much more than just revival and the current "waters of renewal" is predicted using this passage in Ezekiel. There is an entire agenda in which events like the transformation of man and the establishment of his rule over the earth are predicted.

Extracts from Mark Stibbe's book:

Firstly, Stibbe claims that Ezekiel saw the rebuilding of God's Temple and Renewal flowing out of that Temple. He says this Renewal is seen as four successive waves flooding out from the Temple. I guess his Bible must be a different one to mine. I don't see any waves in my reading of Ezek 47 - do you?

He goes on to claim that these four waves are symbolic, and that they represent movements and outpourings of the Spirit. (So now he has Ezekiel seeing the Church in the endtimes and successive waves of spiritual renewal.)

Then, to support this teaching, he quotes John 7:37f. which describes Jesus pouring out the water at the Feast of Tabernacles. In the light of the Internet message just quoted, this is interesting.

There appears, then, to be a link between Ezek 47, the renewal, and the dwelling of God with mankind as represented in the biblical Feast of Tabernacles! Remember that the Feast of Tabernacles is taken symbolically as the time of completion, when God's manifest presence comes to dwell permanently within the Church.

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit,...)"

See how very cleverly Mark Stibbe compares the River of Life that flows from the Temple [for the healing of the nations] to the Holy Spirit flowing from within believers in the Body of Christ. (1)

Four Prophetic Waves of Renewal

Back to the four waves, then. Stibbe sees four successive waves flowing from the Temple. He says this establishes a pattern for renewal, and that the fourth and final wave completes the cycle.

(1) The first wave, he says is Pentecostalism, starting with Azusa Street

(2) The second Wave is the Charismatic Movement - which as we know was seeded by the Latter Rain doctrines

(3) The third wave - the Signs and Wonders movement of John Wimber, and Church Growth by Peter Wagner - is when the charismatic movement went ecumenical and reached the Traditional Churches

(4) and the fourth wave, he says, is global revival - the glory of God filling the earth, and this began in Toronto with the laughing revival of Rodney Howard Browne and Randy Clark.

This last wave he calls the first few splashes on our faces of a mighty tidal wave, because the last wave of Ezekial's vision is of a river too wide to cross. It is uncontrollable. We are supposed to let go and submit to the power, not even trying to retain our discipline and order, for everything is swept away on the flood.

These days, you are not fully spiritual unless you are out of control, swimming in the river of Toronto, "going with the flow" as they say.

One correspondent who didn't like what I was saying about the Toronto fiasco, accused me of being just a lower initiate, paddling in the ankle deep water of Ezekiel, whereas he was swimming in the river than could not be crossed. He certainly was off the deep end!

Four Levels Of Initiation

These four successive waves rising higher and higher to spiritual fulfilment remind me of the levels of initiation of the new age or the esoteric cults.

1. Aspirants - who are those who have decided to seek out the path to wisdom

2. Probationers - lower initiates who had received the initiation and were growing into it
3. Disciples - who are higher initiates and act as leaders and teachers of the disciples
4. Adepts - receiving teachings directly from the Ascended Masters.

Actually, in hard-core new-age circles, it is then possible to transcend this earth and go on to higher levels of "spirituality".

5. Ascended Masters - transformed, (raptured), gone beyond the material world

6. Solar Logos, in three aspects, including the christ, Maitreya

7. Planetary Logos.

Mark Stibbe continues with his teaching from Ezek 47. He allegorises about the other aspects of the passage:

The trees that provide healing are people who have deep revelation of the Word, (the gnosis if you will), to allow them to fuel this renewal. What they receive will not be plain Bible teaching, but spiritually imparted new interpretations for a new age. He describes this as:

"A charismatic hermeneutic... that will greatly facilitate the whole process of biblical integration..."

And what is the result of this river flowing from the Temple? Well, through astonishing miracles and supernatural signs, and a tremendous upsurge in spiritual power, the nations and even the land will be healed. Even the dry places of the desert will be flooded. The dead seas of the evangelical denominations will be flooded with the Spirit.

There will be huge numbers of fish, fish of every kind. Stibbe interprets this to mean there will be a mighty harvest round the world of all nationalities. Millions will be saved, he predicts.

The healing of the nations will be a tremendous program of feeding the hungry and healing the sick, with social action to liberate the oppressed peoples of the world.

Divine Judgement

Under this heading, Stibbe says that some places will however be left out of the divine flow. These symbolically are the marshes and swamps.

The marshes are churches which have become bogged down in rigid, lifeless traditions, where the leadership "exercises doctrinal control over congregations and where the doctrine is hostile to the experience of the Spirit". So he says that these verses "contains a frightful warning" of judgement to those places. (We'll see more

about divine judgement later on.)

Stibbe finishes the chapter by quoting our old favourite, Isaiah 43:19, the new thing!

So, as we can see from this example (just one of many) the leadership of the new paradigm sees successive renewal movements sweeping over the world, and leading to a tremendous climax of glory and transformation.

Streams Feeding Into The River

And this river is seen pouring out of the Temple right now - it's not in the future, it's real, it's now. According to the leaders here are some of the streams that they believe are part of the River of Life that is going to heal the nations:

- Toronto blessing
- Pensacola Revival (Brownsville)
- Promise Keepers
- The Campus Revivals
- The March for Jesus
- The search for historical roots (Celtic, Hebraic, etc)
- Cultural diversity movements - Maori worship, Native American etc.
- Prophetic Intercession/Spiritual Warfare networks
- 40-day fasting and prayer projects
- New music and new sounds in worship
- The "Experiencing God" study/The Alpha Course
- The Youth Movement - (things like Love Waits)
- The global Movement for Reconciliation, with confession of corporate sin
- Ecumenism, bringing denominations together.
- 10/40 Window prayer for the nations
- Global Prayer projects (World Prayer Centre, etc)

These and many more activities permeating the World Church are seen as small streams feeding into this one river of life. But where is all this activity heading? What is the goal? Where does the River meet the Sea?

The perceived goal today is "revival" but few stop to think what this really means, or how the word revival has been perverted and twisted out of its true meaning.

Revival now means getting most of the world's population to approve of and join the harmonisation process that will (they hope) lead to a social and political climax of transformation.

As far as dates go, the cut off point for most groups is the year 2000, even if their goals are impossible to achieve by that time. Some kind of tremendous watershed event is supposed to occur to propel the world into a new age after that date. Let's examine this thinking for a while:

Anniversaries for Jesus and Jerusalem

I was puzzled in 1995. I kept hearing about anniversaries, and the two that were being promoted in our Christian magazines were the 2000th birthday of the Lord Jesus, and the 3000th anniversary of the founding of Jerusalem.

But it felt odd to me. Something smelt fishy. I couldn't see why there was such an emphasis - indeed, a panic - to celebrate these anniversaries, especially as the promoters didn't seem certain they were really anniversaries at all.

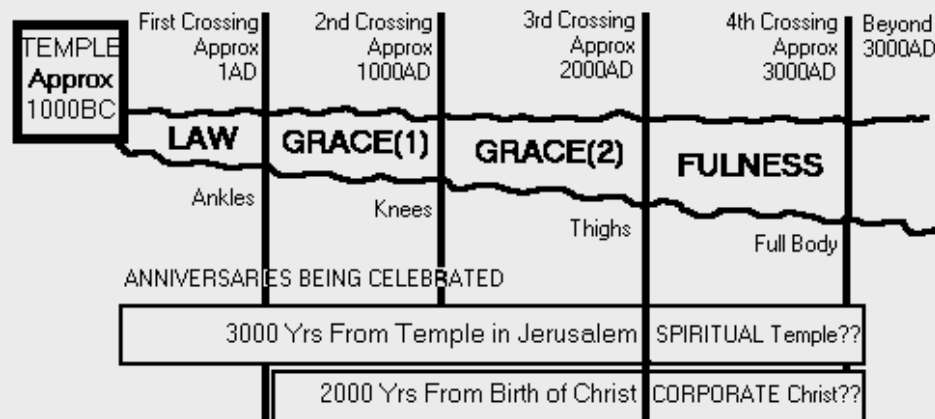
Logically, who can really be sure that it's exactly 3000 years since the founding of the City of Jerusalem, or that Jesus was celebrating his 2000th birthday in 1996? Nobody really knows the historical dates that accurately, so why all the fuss?

I don't like loose ends. I wanted to understand what was going on, what these anniversaries meant in the larger scheme of things.

Then I put together the anniversaries idea with the emphasis on Ezekiel 47, and one day, it clicked. I saw it! THERE IS A PROPHETIC AGENDA! Let me show you:

Go back to your reading of Ezekiel 47. There you will notice something about the progression down the river. There are STEPS OF ONE THOUSAND:

- *And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.*
- *Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins*
- *Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. (Ezek 47:3-5)*



Here we can see a progression by thousands. From the door to the first crossing, ankle deep; to the second crossing, knee-deep; to the third crossing, thigh deep; to the fourth crossing, a river too deep to cross, an uncontrollable flood. (Remember that most of the TB followers are speaking of the "flood" that they expect to come. This is the next, and the final, stage of the revival.)

Let's now translate this passage symbolically, as the leaders do, and turn it into a calendar. Each step of a thousand paces becomes a thousand years. Obviously, we must have a starting point. In Ezekiel, the starting point was the door of the Temple, so historically the leaders choose to begin with the building of Solomon's Temple (around 1000BC)

1000BC to 1AD	1AD to 1000AD	1000AD to 2000AD	2000AD to 3000AD	Eternity
Crossing = Birth of Christ	Crossing = Reform Movement	Crossing = Jubilee	Crossing = End of Millennial rule	Onwards to the Sea
The Law	Grace (1)	Grace (2)	Empowerment	Transformation
The Father	The Son (1)	The Son (2)	The Spirit	Perfect Unity; Three-in-One
The Jewish Era	Christian Era (1)	Christian Era (2)	Restoration of all things; Overcomers Ruling in the Heavens	"Tabernacles" - Eternal Presence of God with Man; Perfection
The Temple "Door"	Church Era (decline)	Church Era (reform)	Nations changed - Flow of "life" unchallenged	The Seas Cleansed; The Nations healed

If you will refer back to Bill Britton's chart of the ongoing Restoration of the Church, you will notice the same kind of progression as here. That is, three distinct phases leading to a fourth and final stage. These stages roughly relate to -

1. The Law: THE AGE OF THE FATHER
2. The Era of Grace: THE AGE OF THE SON

3. Illumination, Empowerment and Renewal: THE AGE OF THE SPIRIT

4. Spiritual Transformation/Resurrection: THE TRINITY

JOACHIM OF FIORE

Bill Britton and his Latter-Rain buddies were not the first, however, to propose such a scheme. Back in the 12th century, nearly all doctrine was Augustinian a-millennialism. Then along came a monk who overturned this idea and introduced a startling "new" theory that he had received by "divine illumination".

This monk was Joachim of Fiore, an Italian, born in 1130. He became a monk, then an abbot of a Cistercian Abbey, and eventually he founded his own order of monks.

The important thing about Joachim was that he overturned the Augustinian view of prophecy. Up to then the Church had adopted Augustine's beliefs that the interpretation of bible prophecy was allegorical, not literal. It did not refer to history, nor to the future. Nothing else was going to happen, according to Augustine.

Joachim changed all that, and from his time onwards there was a new understanding. He saw prophecy as relating to historical events, and also to the future. He could be seen as the father of futurism, except that his views were very different to our understanding of endtimes prophecy today.

What Joachim proposed was basically the same scheme that we have now in the Latter Rain movement and Toronto! Joachim believed in the Three Ages of mankind. See the chart below outlining his view of history.

1. From Abraham to John The Baptist was the first age, the Age of the Father, the Old Testament.
2. From John The Baptist to the Fulness of the Gentiles was the Second age, of the Son, the age of the new Testament.
3. Joachim proposed a new age, the Age of the Spirit, when the Church would be transformed, and receive the knowledge of all things by direct revelation. After "the fulness" of time, the elect would enter the Consumation of All Things, an Age of the Spirit, an age of spiritual transformation and spiritual revelation of the Word of God.

Joachim of Fiore's Three Ages

THE FATHER	THE SON	THE SPIRIT
The Body	The Soul	The Spirit
Jewish Era	Church Era	New Era of Fulness

The First Age = The Old Testament	The Second Age = The New Testament	The Third Age = Revelation by the Spirit
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Joachim saw the Age of the Father as carnal, the Age of the Son as partly carnal and partly spiritual (a soulish age), but the Third Age would be pure spirit; people everywhere would have inner light and wisdom.

At that time, the world would be converted, the perfected Body of Christ would be revealed, and the saints would be given the dominion over the earth. But only those who had been preparing themselves with this new revelation would participate, not all the Christians! This sounds very familiar to anyone versed in Latter-Rain doctrine.

Living In The Overlap

Joachim also believed each age had an overlap when the things of the coming age intruded into the old order. That ties in neatly with the Restoration belief that we are "living in the overlap". The new-agers also believe in the overlap theory, when the old order dominates, but certain enlightened people begin to wake up to the new order and move on ahead of the rest of mankind. The spiritual pioneers go ahead to prepare the new age. In Restoration terms, this elite company would be "Joseph Company" who go ahead and prepare the way.

What Joachim predicted was a new order. New spiritual forms of worship would arise, and there would be no need for church rituals and rites and formalities. Everything would be known and achieved "in the Spirit".

The Gnostic Source of Joachim's Revelations

Joachim received his new vision for the future through deep spiritual meditation, and from the inner revelations given to him during periods of contemplation.

"The mystics claimed to see divine truth through the inner vision of the soul, by reflecting, brooding, and waiting for the light. Joachim and the school he followed the trail he blazed, exemplified mysticism, believing that the world was growing old and that the time of her change was at hand."

"The third age would be a new age. This new era would set in, supported by a new monastic society, which would raise life to a new spiritual basis...A new form of life and a new society would spring up. Joachim's call was not so much Repent, turn back to the old source, but to change and become new, to reach a higher goal. He said: It is fitting that the life be changed, since it is necessary that the state of the world be changed. (Prophetic Faith by L. E. Froom. Volume One, page 689).

The Call for 'Change' Today

Let's link this old vision of Joachim to Toronto and see if the same spirit is motivating these men:

Toronto Prophecy demanding Change:

"Change...change...change! Your ways are old ways, your thoughts are old thoughts, your prayers are old prayers, your cries are old cries, your worship is old worship, your way of doing church is an old way of doing church.

Renewal is not pouring new energy into old ways, it is bringing new ways. Let Me change you...let Me change you inside and out. Let go of yourself! Let me have you! I don't want a little bit at a time, I want all of you, NOW!

Desire change! Desire it because it is what I am doing in you! Hunger and thirst for my changing in you. You must change! I cannot equip you unless you change. Remember, this is a wholesale, not a partial, change. Don't focus on equipping...it is not time for equipping...it is time for change! ... You will not be used in the harvest unless you change." (Barry Linville to the New Wine Vineyard Bulletin Board).

You Have Only TWO Choices

It's not restoring the old truths these people want, it's moving on to the new thing - something totally changed, a new era, with a new paradigm. And if you cling to the old order, you'll get left behind, or even worse, purged out.

Here are some recent examples of "new-thing" preaching, with the prophets of the new order preparing their followers to receive a deeper revelation, and a new paradigm of church government. Note that alongside these things is the antagonism and rejection of the "old" ways:

"The Sword of The Lord" (Tony Black)

"At a conference in Birmingham attended by people from the UK, Ireland, USA and Brazil, and during a time of prayer for the healing of the Nations, I was blessed with this vision: I saw a very large sword (a Claymore - as in Braveheart) which was laid upon the top of an altar. This was THE SWORD OF THE LORD. I asked our Father what was the significance, and then I was shown many small swords being tossed into an open furnace, melted down to make this one new larger sword. I believe He said this to me:

"I am bringing My Church to a place at the end of her own understanding and devices, so that they have begun turning to one another, seeking strength through unity. Those who are relying upon the old ways must now learn that the old swords are useless for the battles which are ahead. Behold ! I am doing a new thing. If my people will forget their former ways, and allow my Spirit to melt them as one, then will I command such a blessing as has not been seen before..... And this I will do: I will take up My Sword, and will ride upon My White Horse. But now you must wait, pray and prepare. The day is soon coming when you will hear my trumpet sound as I ride throughout the earth, causing great consternation amongst the

Nations. After this, you will follow, armed in the knowledge of mercy, not sacrifice, and with a new Sword. Thus, when you give your battle cry of 'FREEDOM....' they shall be free indeed. For none shall be able to stand against the authority of my Word."

"In Toronto, during the same month, Randy Clark gave a sermon entitled "The Making of a Warrior." The Spirit fell powerfully on many people and especially on Carol Arnott. For about twenty minutes, while on the floor, she was slashing violently with a two handed sword in her hands (her hands together as if holding a sword). She then gave the following prophecy:

TORONTO AIRPORT CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

3rd Anniversary Meeting - Monday, January 20, 1997 - Prophecy by Carol Arnott

"This is My sword, this is not man's sword, this is My golden sword. The ways you have been using My weapons, the methods that you have been using in the past, you are to throw them away because I am giving you My sword now and the old ways of doing things will not do. The old methods will not be acceptable to Me anymore because I am doing a new thing. Do not look to the yesterdays but look to the future because I am doing a new thing and this new way is not the old. This new way is new and you must throw away the old ways of doing things and take up My sword because My sword is made of pure gold and is purer and is mighty."

"Behold I am doing a new thing" (Marc Dupont)

"I have told you that I would do a new thing in your time. Not a new thing from what you have known in the past, but a new thing that you have not seen before. ... I am pouring out a new wine. This is a deeply intoxicating wine... Many today, although I love them dearly are set on their ways of doing My things, and are operating out of their head knowledge of what I can do and how I can do it. Many say that we have been there and done that when it comes to ministering in My Spirit. again I say to you the former things have come to pass, behold I am doing a new thing.... If you will be hungry, and wait on Me I will speak to you, I will give you new visions, dreams, and prophesies. I will show you things you have not seen before. Behold the former things have come to pass. The ways in which you have prepared and carried the wine are coming to a close. I am going to be moving so suddenly in your midst you will know My mighty rushing breath of life in a way you have not before.... The whole earth is mine and all that it contains. You have heard my roar but now you are going to witness my bite. I am going forth with a shout against My enemies. And you My children, you shall be called the sons and daughters of God for you shall be My Peacemakers.I say to you the veil is being torn. Up until this time you have only seen a little. You have seen what is coming with a mist. But now I am tearing the veil, I will, just as I said I would speak to you of the things yet to come by My Spirit...Again, I say the veil is being torn. If you will seek me as a friend seeks another, as a lover seeks her bridegroom, with a passion, with a longing, I will speak to you and show you the things I have prepared for you from the foundations of the world."

"But concerning the old-guard you must be aware: Some, like Moses, have longed to see the things that you will see. Be patient and full of grace with these old and faithful servants. They lived in the light which I gave them. Cloaked with the pride of respectability and the false religion of old they are neither hot nor cold in my sight. They have succumbed to the fear of man and to the ways of the world. These I will vomit out of my presence, but do not rejoice, rather mourn what might have been...". You have only two choices, according to the modern-day prophets. Either you "go with the flow" of the new anointing or cling on to the old ways and die out with the old generation".

Here is an illustration of the choice as seen by Sid Roth in his "Messianic Vision" magazine:

"This world is not going to get better and better. It is self-destructing. The love of most will grow cold without this fresh anointing. But God's glory will grow brighter and brighter on His people. The lines are drawn - which side of the fence will you be on? Will you be a lukewarm, deceived, 20th century Laodicean Christian, or a HOT, biblical follower of Jesus. Hot is the only option - it's time for the world to see the Real Thing."

OPPONENTS WILL DIE.

Rodney Howard Browne, the man linked with the outbreak of the laughter revival, actually warned that churches that refuse to submit to the "new wine" of the Spirit will dwindle and fail and those who oppose the movement will die: He is reported to have "sternly warned not to "touch the glory" or else you will drop dead." (source: George Robison at the Rodney Howard Browne (RHB) Camp Meeting January 9th-13th 1995 at Carpenters Home Church in Lakeland Florida.)

Another TB leader, Colin Dye of Kensington Temple, writing in the official magazine of the Elim Pentecostal Church in the UK said this:

"A great but painful transition is occurring, represented prophetically by the lives of Saul and David. God is doing a new thing, raising up believers who will move under the anointing of David to challenge the goliaths of our day. This fresh move threatens the powerless backslidden body of Christ represented by Saul. The Saul spirit must die, in order to make room for the David generation...The Saul church has lost the anointing; this backslidden Saul Spirit in the Church must die if the fresh powerful move of God's Spirit is to flow untapped" ("When The Spirit Comes - Ready to Face The Giants")

People take this revival seriously - they are deadly serious! Even if the leadership are only speaking metaphorically at present about their opponents dying, some of the rank and file may take them literally. Here's one example:

Anonymous Death Threat

Somebody who objected to the Toronto blessing being brought into his church was treated to an anonymous death threat posted through his letterbox. This "prophet" claimed the Vicar in charge of his church had ---

"--- laid hands on me and anointed me as the sword of God to strike down and cast into hell devils such as you. I have been given the power of prophetic speaking against opponents of the new move - (this actually means making curses against opponents)...and so if you will not repent you will soon die on the roads in a car accident."

A Continuity of Thought Throughout the Ages

What possible connection could there be between Joachim of Fiore, 13th century mystic, and the Toronto Blessing in the Church today? The link is the continuity of thought behind the "new thing", the gnostic revelation throughout all ages. That spirit of wisdom, the serpent in the garden, has been preparing the apostate church for his new thing for centuries.

Once the church as a whole abandoned the literal interpretation of scripture - the literal return of the Jews to their land, the literal antichrist, the literal millennium and so forth - once started interpreting scripture allegorically, they were wide open for deception. Anything goes if you treat the Bible as a book of symbols and metaphors!

Then along came a mystic (Joachim) who planted new thoughts about a coming age of the spirit, and the church fell for it. This new thinking was triumphalistic and hopeful. It pierced the grim every-day boredom of Church life and gave Christians something to hope for, a glorious vision of the future! Christians eagerly believed they could be glorified and perfected and turned into world rulers. This was new and exciting!

Things don't change. People are the same today. After the War, when people began to give up the literal pre-millennial understanding of prophecy, they left themselves wide open to strange esoteric doctrines. The Latter Rain revival cashed in on that trend. Each time the message is the same: people can become spiritually transformed and rule the world. Satan's plan has not changed in essence since the beginning. "Ye shall be as God..."

Continue to 3b (the second section)

FOOTNOTES

(1) There is some ambiguity here, in this scripture. Theologians are divided as to whether Jesus was speaking of Himself or believers. Mark Stibbe leaves it open to interpretation, so that River of Life could be flowing from Jesus or His Body - or both! But, whatever is intended, he does see the Church as the Temple and the healing waters flowing from her.

APPENDIX:

Differing Ideas about the Temple seen by Ezekiel

(a) Some claim that this was the restored Temple that Zerubbabel should have built, but he didn't build it, so this is not what Ezekiel sees.

(b) It is not Herod's Temple, for that was entirely different in design.

(c) Could it be the perfected Temple of the new heavens and Earth? Not so - for scripture says that there is now no Temple in the city. (Rev 21:22/23 and 22:1-5)

(d) Other commentators (in an a-millennialist setting) see these passages as symbolic of the final perfect and eternal "Temple" of God - God and man dwelling in perfect peace and unity. However, it is plain from these chapters that in this particular situation there is -

- still sin, (Ezek 44:9),
- death, (Ezek 44:25/31)
- human weakness, (Ezek 44:10-11)
- and the need for sacrifice (Ezek 46:4/ 44:27)

- none of which would be true of a recreated "new heavens and new earth".

I believe Ezekiel's Temple is the millennial Temple. The prophecies are specific to the time of the Lord's return, and state that the presence of God will never more depart the Temple. (Ezek 37:26-28) (Ezek 43:7) The glory of God and the king have returned. Ezekiel sees the Glory of God returning to this Temple, by the way of the east, (Ezek 43:1-4). However, God's Presence did not return in this way to dwell in the restored Temple of Zerubbabel after the exile. Also see Ezek 44:1-2. It is difficult to imagine a symbolic interpretation of such passages, or to suggest that they refer to an invisible Spirit inhabiting a Christian Church!

Go to 3b (the second section) to learn about the "third day" in scripture, the descent of the Shekinah "glory" cloud to earth in the last days, and how you will be labelled the antichrist in days to come!



Background
to the Revivals

"THE NEW THING" Part Three (b)

(Global Revival as the Key Element In Deception in Twentieth Century Pentecostalism)

ONWARDS TO GLORY THE 'AGE OF THE SPIRIT' (SECOND SECTION)

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An Intriguing Letter

My interest in the concept of the "third age" was further aroused when I had a letter from a supporter. She told me about something she didn't understand; something that had happened to her that did not make sense. It may not have meant much to this lady, but BOY did it interest me!

She wrote that a Christian minister of her acquaintance had been out to Israel to learn about Israel's feasts and special holydays, and he'd come back preaching - "it was Jesus' 2000th birthday on May 14th 1994 (1) and that date began the third year". What did it mean, she said.

This confused lady said her pastor had come back from Israel teaching something about John chapter two, [the wedding at Cana, when Jesus turned the water into wine], and now he says that is what the Spirit is doing, and the Spirit will be poured out on all flesh alike, whether believer or non-believer.

This was all nonsensical to her, but my antennae were twitching, I can tell you! Here we are, centuries away from Joachim's theory of the Third Age of the Spirit, and suddenly it's being taught by followers of the Toronto renewal movement. There is a consistency in false teaching throughout the ages.

The Third Day in Scripture

I did understand what this pastor had been saying because I'd been studying the concept of the Third Day. If you treat scripture allegorically (as they do) it's possible to work up a whole theology surrounding the Third Day that relates to the coming forth of the new age of spiritual transformation. Here are some instances of the third day (or period of time) in scripture. There is a TRUE understanding of this concept and a FALSE understanding which is prevalent in the revival movement. Below are some scriptures associated with the third-day/third-period teaching. As you read them, you can perhaps imagine what a latter-rain symbolic interpretation would make of them!

Gen 1:12

On the third day of creation, God commanded the earth to bring forth seed-bearing fruit. Jesus, the "Seed" was also brought forth unto glory "on the third day". Thus on the third "day" of the world, God will command the "seed", the New Man to appear.

Gen 42:16-20

Joseph put his brothers in prison for three days, and on the third day he revealed himself to them. Verses 18-19 say "And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God: If ye be true men, let one of your brethren be bound in the house of your prison: go ye, carry corn for the famine of your houses" Thus, in allegory, the Church is confined in ignorance and tribulation three "days" but on the "third day" Jesus (Joseph) will reveal himself to the Church and command that

"corn" (teaching) be carried forth to the world to end the famine.

Exod 19:1-3

"In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai." Then, God commanded three days of preparation, and on the third day God descended to man, and Moses "went up to God".

And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. (Exod 19:11/16-20)

This is a VERY useful passage for the Latter-Rain teaching on the Third Day, because it describes so perfectly the descending glory of God on the third day, and the ascent of the specially-prepared elders of Israel. It also mirrors the description of the Rapture in 1Thes 4:15-17. (Notice that the "people" did not share this honour! So, the teaching is that only specially chosen elders will be raised up to glory in order to rule the world church.)

Num 19:11-13

He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days. He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean. Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

The "dead body" is taken as an allegory of the unrenewed Church. Whoever does not cleanse himself of this dead Body on the third day, will not survive the seven-year Tribulation. He will be judged and cast out.

Josh 1:1-11

After Moses (typical of the Law) died, Joshua (typical of Jesus Christ) led the people over the Jordan into the Promised Land, to "possess the land". This took place, again, after three days of preparation. (see verse 11) It is therefore taught that the people of God must rise up to "possess the land" which is spiritually their inheritance of resurrection and new life, and physically the ownership of all the lands of the world. This will happen "on the third day".

I King 18:1

The drought in Israel ended in the third year, when Elijah called down the fire from Heaven onto the prepared sacrifice. Here we have the ideas again of the three

years of trial and preparation followed by the climax of the fire (glory) descending from heaven.

Matt 12:40

Jonah was confined until the third day in the belly of the great fish, but was "resurrected" unto new life on the third day, and preached to the fallen world. "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." This is also applied to the Church.

Esth 5:1-2

On the third day of preparation, Esther put on "royal apparel" and entered the king's House; and obtained favour in his sight, so that the golden sceptre (of rule) was extended to her. Another allegory of the prepared Bride being raised to glory and rulership on the third day.

Hosea 6:1-3

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth." Taken allegorically, this means that the Church will be renewed and raised to life on the third day, and this is specifically linked with the latter and former rains falling on the earth.

John 2:1-9

"And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee" This event is often referred to by the leadership because it seems to predict a symbolic renewal on the third day where the common "water" is transformed into mystical "wine", and the event at which this takes place is a marriage - symbolic on the union of Christ with His Body.

Matt 15:32-36

The miracle of provision (seven loaves and three fishes) took place on the third day, when Jesus had compassion on the crowds following him, for they had not eaten for three days (famine ended after three days.) Matt 17:23

Jesus was resurrected on the third day. In Luke 13:32-33 Jesus refers to this as being "perfected" on the third day. "Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected". If his words are applied symbolically to the Body of Christ, then they predict the "perfection" of the prepared Body on the third day.

John 2:19-21

Jesus spoke symbolically of the Temple, his Body being raised up in three days: "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.... But he spake of the temple of his body." This is taken to mean the Body, the Church, raised up on the third day.

Acts 2:14-17

The Spirit fell onto the prepared disciples "as fire" during the Feast of Pentecost, at the third hour. Acts 2:1-4

Paul was three days without sight, and "and neither did eat nor drink" but on the third day his sight was restored and he was baptised in the Spirit.

Rev 12:1-6

After the first three and a half days of the Tribulation, the Woman gives birth to the Manchild. This is said to be the Woman of the worldwide Church giving birth to the prepared overcomers who are immediately raised up to rulership (God's Throne).

Rev 11:11-12

The Two Witnesses of Revelation are killed, but raised to life in the sight of their enemies after three and a half days. "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." This passage is not read literally by the leadership, but yet again is presented as an allegory of the raising up, or transformation, of the Overcomers of the church.

The Genuine Third Day

What is the true, biblical "third day?" Remember I said that there was both a true and a false understanding to the above scriptures. Actually, there IS a symbolic meaning (a midrashic interpretation) to these passages, but it is far from teaching about the glorification of the Body of Christ on earth.

The Jews and the Early Church believed in the "days of the world" doctrine, that there would be seven thousand-year "days" to complete the present cycle of human history under God. 2 Peter 3:8 says that a day with the Lord is as a thousand years. These "days" began with the creation of Adam, and will end with a final thousand-year reign of Christ on earth in power and glory (the "Day of the Lord"). Thereafter, eternity will be restored.

- Day One, from 4000BC Creation to Noah
- Day Two, from 3000BC Noah to Abraham
- Day Three, from 2000BC Abraham to David
- Day Four from 1000BC David to Christ
- Day Five from 1AD Church Era (1) [Church under bondage to dominion]
- Day Six from 1000AD Church Era (2) [Restoration begins]
- Day Seven from 2000AD Coming of the Lord, Millennial Rule

Jewish history, rather than human history, started with the Promise to Abraham, and his entry into the Promised Land (Canaan). This took place around 2000BC. (2) Thus there have been two "days" for the Jews, (2000BC to 1AD) in which they were in various kinds of bondage, and these two days ended with the birth of Christ. Hosea 6 promises to the Jews that "after two days he shall revive us". Jesus brought eternal life at that time "On the third day he shall raise us up", so within that third

"day" the life was offered to the Jews and the Church was formed out of repentant Jews, the Remnant who carried the life to the world.

However, God's full purpose was not complete, for the majority of the nation of Israel rejected their king-messiah and in God's mercy a further fulfilment is planned. Another two "days" have nearly passed and once again Israel is to be offered new life and restoration in the Lord Jesus.

Just as before, after two "days" of Church history (two thousand years more or less, but only God can calculate this precisely for only He knows the exact dates involved) he will come again as king-Messiah to deliver his Remnant, whether Jewish or Gentile. And on the third day (the beginning of the thousand-year reign of peace and righteousness) he will raise the dead and they will LIVE and reign with Christ, just as the Bible promised. So the sequence will have repeated itself, to bring it to a final end.

So what the Toronto teachers and others are saying is actually a perversion of this precious biblical truth. Instead of supporting and teaching the mercy of God on Israel, and the coming deliverance in the Messiah for all who love Him, they teach that an elite company alone will experience spiritual transformation and be set up as world rulers over the remainder of mankind.

| A Virgin Pregnant with the Seed

We have seen how the passage in John Chapter Two, the marriage at Cana, is twisted to mean a spiritual marriage of God and the Church. Here's a quote from the Destiny Image magazine on this spiritual marriage, the descent of the ray of glory into the Bride, the spiritual penetration that brings forth the Seed:

Two women are described in the Book of Revelation. One is a harlot and the other is a Bride. One is called Babylon and the other is the City of God. She is married to One who has overshadowed her with His Glory and has placed a royal diadem on her head - she has been endowed in her mind with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God. This woman, the true church, is pregnant. Her lover will produce in her His Seed. This Woman is dressed in readiness for she knows that the Bridegroom has come forth out of his chambers to be joined to her, the power of the Most High overshadowing her - this virgin is in travail and labour, and is about to give birth, for the holy seed within her is the Son of God - her seed is destined to rule the nations, and when this seed is brought forth, all powers must bow down and worship him." [Destiny Image, September/October 1994 Mark Chironna, pastor of Higher Call Christian Centre in North Carolina.]

| When The Third Day Dawns

What do those who believe in a symbolic third-day scenario expect to happen at the dawning of that day, or the third age? What events will then take place?

If you think of the three sections of the Tabernacle, then the third, innermost, chamber is of course the Holiest, where the Ark (Presence of God) dwelt. Between the second and third chambers was a covering veil. Therefore, passing into the third age, on the third "day" will entail (they say) passing through that Veil into the full manifestation of God.

They believe they have to come into the Manifest Presence of God and worship him in the Shekinah Glory. Attempts are therefore being made to manifest "the glory" and reports are being circulated of meetings where the "glory cloud" actually managed to materialise. These are heralded as the first signs that the Shekinah Glory of God is coming to dwell permanently with His People.

A series of meetings to achieve this aim was arranged at the Whistler Mountain Resort, British Columbia. The first meeting was entitled "Gathering of the Nations In His Holy Presence" (3) and was supposed to "kick-off the second stage of the awakening". They write "The Scripture God gave for this gathering is Isa. 66:18 - The time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall see my glory"

From the brochure we learn that the purpose was: "that the Holy Spirit will remove the veil from our minds so that: "We all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord" (II Cor. 3:18)"

Astute Bible-loving believers will realise that the verse above has been shortened to avoid giving the biblical context, [which see below]. Further statements from the brochure emphasise this belief in passing through the spiritual veil to encounter the glory, and thus experience transformation:

"While we don't know what God is going to do, there is a very strong prophetic sense that He is going to reveal His glory; that He will fulfil Isa. 25:6,7 - 'The Lord of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain...On this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations.'"

Afterwards, it was reported that:

"Whistler was also a time for the body of Christ to draw together to bless the Lord - to honour Him - to establish Him on the throne - to come into His presence - to pass through the outer courts and to see Him face to face. There was a strong sense of a new thing happening, a new day. Bob Jones has said that 'this will be a gathering of the eagles in the Kingdom'"

Bill Britton's Veil Teaching

The Latter Rain has been teaching this "removal of the veil" for decades. Bill Britton writes of the event in his book "Eagle Saints Arise", linking it to the emergence of the "spiritual" man:

"The Image of the heavenly - the first man is earthly, but the second man is spiritual - the second man bears the heavenly image (1 Cor 15) and "We all with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed (transformed, transfigured) into the same image..."2 Cor 3:17-18 [Note: Britton is using the same scripture used for the Whistler Gathering].

From these scriptures we can readily see that our calling is a heavenly calling...notice the place in the heavenlies which we are to inherit is now

occupied by demons, principalities and powers, a place they usurped from Adam...but God has purposed to bring forth a people that will ascend or be caught up to this place and cast satan and his army down...Notice that these heavenly places where we are to dwell are not in some geological location a few billion miles from earth...the powers of darkness are right here on earth..." (4)

Note, this is referring here to transformation of the body, on earth, NOT to death or Heaven!!

So just what is being preached here?

What is this veil that we are told must be removed? One thing is for sure - it can't be the veil of blindness that hides the truth from unbelievers, for that is removed when we are saved. The scripture is quite plain on that:

"... their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."(2 Cor 3:14-18)

According to the above scripture, the veil of blindness IS ALREADY REMOVED! We do not need a conference, a worship session, a cloud of glory or any other endtime manifestation to remove something that the Bible tells us is already removed in Christ Jesus.

The physical type of the veil separating man and God was the curtain that hung across the Temple between the holy Place, and the Holiest of Holies, making the passage to God's presence covert and forbidden. Under Jewish Law, only one specially chosen individual passed through this veil, once a year. However, at the death of Jesus on the Cross, that veil was torn from top to bottom, and a new and living Way was opened up for man to know and have fellowship with the Father.

To suggest that we need to cut through or remove yet another "veil" is both contrary to scripture and damaging to the faith of Christians. It would put born-again believers back into bondage.

However, the plain truth of the Bible does not seem to stop the leaders preaching about the need to pass through, or remove, the veil. The same scriptures are given different meanings. Today the implication is that Christians have to pass some kind of initiation into the new revelation, get the gnosis, have some kind of experience, or spiritual mystical encounter that enables them to see the glory, to see God face to face. Plain faith in the Lord Jesus is not enough for these guys! They have to climb the spiritual mountain to find a higher revelation of Truth, that will allow them to fellowship with the Divine. This is Manifested Sons doctrine, pure and simple!

Doctrine of the Entrance Into Glory

Here is an explanation of the teaching from a Gnostic believer, Lionel Cabral:

Prior to the crucifixion death of Jesus Christ, only the High Priest himself, a type of Jesus Christ, entered into the Most Holy Place. After the death of Jesus Christ, ALL children of God, priests and congregation, may enter into not only the Holy Place, but also the Most Holy Place. [so far so good! But now read on...] Entry has been made possible into the One Place of God through the prophetic rending, or "dividing asunder" (Heb 4:12), of the veil of flesh from the spirit; in effect, revealing the spirit, by freeing the spirit from an earthy prison (5)

We have a new twist on scripture here. He's saying that the way to God is by releasing the spirit within each man from its prison of the flesh. Instead of Jesus being the Living Way, through the veil of his flesh, now the way is by releasing the spirit. He continues:

At the conclusion of this second advent of our Lord Christ Jesus, we shall be made completely dead to the fleshly soulical self, completely rendered, separated soulical flesh from Spirit, that the revealed spirit may return to God who gave it, above the ark of the covenant. Praise God.

Faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has been abandoned here, in favour of a life-long process of "releasing the spirit" from its bondage to the flesh. Those who teach such things "deny the Lord who bought them".

"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, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." 2 Pet 2:1-2

Lionel Cabral, again, teaches that believers are to enter into the full anointing, at the symbolic Feast of Tabernacles, and thus be transformed:

The Feast of Tabernacles is the seventh feast, ushering in the 1000 year millennium. The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates the beginning of man's reinstatement into the paradise of the garden of Eden. The natural soulical beast man reigns in this present world order.[Note: compare this with Joachim of Fiore's scheme].

However, a change is coming. His name is Jesus. This change is happening now and soon shall become a completed transformation, a completed transfiguration. During the 1000 year millennial Kingdom of Heaven on this earth, the spiritual man shall reign. Jesus was initially born with an earnest of the Holy Spirit, and received the fullness of the holy spirit when He was born again. [???] We too are growing into and shall receive this fullness that He received, at the crest of the next stage of our evolution. The corporate body of Christ must inexorably follow the Head to which it is connected.

The Anointing that Christs a Man

Lest you think that Lionel Cabral is such an off-the-wall rank outsider to the Church that his teaching will never receive popular acceptance, I will now compare it with the teaching of the Word-of-Faith Movement, which has a huge following.

Ken Copeland, famous Word-of-Faith preacher, has long taught that Jesus was born a (divine) mortal who needed to receive the Holy Spirit at Baptism in order to do His miracles. (Just as above.) He also teaches, like Cabral, that we are growing into a fuller anointing - and Copeland says this anointing is the same "christing" that Jesus the Lord received.

One of his latest and most pernicious ideas is that the word "Christ" in the New Testament simply means "anointed" and thus can be applied both to Jesus and to believers, regardless. He teaches his followers to replace the word "Christ" with "anointed" in the Bible and thus see themselves in the place of Jesus Christ, having his power and authority. The Toronto Blessing is seen as a handy source for receiving this "anointing", and Copeland expects things to escalate until the glory "covers the earth".

Copeland: the Christ is the Anointing

"Jesus isn't the only one anointed anymore! It was never God's intention to simply anoint Jesus with his power and leave it at that. God on one man was not enough!- that's why he sent Jesus to the cross and then raised him from the dead. He wanted to open the way for us to get born again and become a whole race of anointed men and women. He sent Jesus to be the anointed head over an anointed body of people who would take God's devil-busting, yoke-annihilating power to every corner of the earth.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of the Anointing: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of the anointing(verses 7, 11-13).

According to this scripture, we're headed toward a time when we'll be walking in the anointing to its fullest expression! I want to see that, don't you? I want to see the whole Body of Christ flowing in the anointing so powerfully that the whole earth is filled with God's glory. I believe with all my heart, we're the generation who will see that! But before we do, we must lay aside the things that block that anointing. We must rid ourselves of religious traditions that cause us to take offense at the idea that ordinary believers like us, or the fellow across the street, or the pastor of our little church can operate in the anointing of Almighty God.

We may consider such teaching as a mere aberration that we can safely ignore. However, there are serious implications. In the word of God we see that the apostles "preached Christ" to the unbelievers, and when they "received Christ" they were saved. If we replace this word, as Copeland suggests, then salvation becomes a matter of "preaching the anointing", and getting people to "receive the anointing" or in other words, offering people the Toronto Blessing.

There is a second and even more dangerous implication in this teaching, which I shall consider in the final section below.

Things have undergone a change. Once the goal of salvation was being taken to be with the Lord in Heaven. Once the expectation and hope of the Church was the physical Coming of Jesus in power and glory. Now, however, the goal of believers is mystical enlightenment and supernatural empowerment that will transport them into an altered state of consciousness beyond this mortal world. And, likewise, the physical coming is now overshadowed (or even replaced) by the spiritual coming of "the glory" - when the Church enters into "fulness" and God in spirit inhabits his earthly Temple, the Church.

The Scripture says: "The Spirit and the Bride say, Come Lord Jesus" but the Church is now saying "Come Holy Spirit". Jesus is perceived as a Spirit, is coming spiritually, and they believe he will eventually come in fulness to incarnate into his Bride.

Songs that once looked forward to the glorious day when Jesus would return bodily in power to overthrow all his enemies, now focus on a fulness of anointing that will release the glory over the earth. Here is one Vineyard song as an example:

"raise up a generation that will march through the land. All of creation is longing for your unveiling of power; [Rom 8:19-23] Would you release your anointing, Oh God let this be the hour....Ruler of the nations the world has yet to see: the full release of your promise, the Church in victory....Let your kingdom come...let us see on earth the Glory of your Son."

The Unveiling of Christ as the Glory

Francis Frangipane, writing in River of Life ministry newsletter about Signs and Wonders (August 1995) says:

"the most awesome unfolding of glory yet awaits the church...the name and the word are preparing the church to reveal the glory of Jesus (John 17:22).

...then he quotes another verse: John 14:23

" - my father will love him and we will come to him and make our abode with him". I am just completing a book entitled 'The Days of His Presence' which chronicles what I believe will be the greatest manifestation of all, the unveiling of Christ, the Word THROUGH HIS PEOPLE.

In the advert for this book by Frangipane, it says.

"Prior to Jesus Christ's physical return, his living presence will companion the Church in ever-increasing power. During this time, the visible glory of the Lord will rise and appear upon God's people. This unique event will be known as the Days of His Presence."

Now I ask a simple question, because I think simply.

How **can** Jesus return as a spirit? When he returned to heaven, he was a man of flesh and bones that you could feel, touch. He had a body. He sits at the right hand of the Father as a glorified man in a resurrection body. He and the Father sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who believed in him (the true meaning of John 14:23) so he did come and make his abode in them that loved him. But what then can Jesus do to return spiritually, as a glory, as a power?.

Does that not suggest to you that behind the latter rain idea of the spiritual return of Jesus, the glory cloud that transforms the church, there is the old gnostic belief that Christ is a Spirit, an anointing, that he did not have a body of flesh, but that he was A SPIRIT.

So now, instead of "Come Lord Jesus", we have "Come Holy Spirit" Some believe the two are synonymous and let me tell you, they are not. If you invoke a spirit who is not present in and within his church, a spiritual power outside of your salvation experience, you will get just that - a spirit, a power, but not of God!

The Rapture: Transformation of Man

Another change has taken place. Now, instead of believers being taken up in the Rapture to be with the Lord, the Rapture is an experience of transformation whereby Christians become glorified and receive resurrection bodies right here on earth! In the Rapture, they say, believers do not GO anywhere, but they are simply transferred into a spiritual third dimension.

Bill Britton describes the Rapture using biblical types like John of Revelation and Paul caught up to the third heaven. He argues from these that the bodies remained on earth, but that they had a spiritual experience. He says therefore, heaven is not somewhere you go, but a transformation into a spiritual realm, on earth.

Richard Riss - author of book on Latter Rain and avid Toronto supporter - in answering questions on the Vineyard new Wine Bulletin Board reiterates the same belief:

"For those who are prepared for His coming, it will be a time of unmitigated joy. He has given us a foretaste of this heavenly bliss in those moments when He has visited us with His presence during times of "revival" or spiritual awakening. If you have ever experienced the presence of God, or an infilling of His Spirit, then you have been given a hint, or intimation, of the ecstasy awaiting those who eagerly await His appearing.

"As far as the rapture is concerned, throughout the history of the church, there has been a wide spectrum of views concerning the events at the end of the age, but as far as I know, few, if any of them taught a bodily removal of the saints until 1830, when John Nelson Darby started promulgating views of this kind.

"To be caught up in the clouds of glory to meet the Lord in this atmosphere of spiritual authority does not necessarily entail a literal bodily removal from the earth. In fact, if it did entail our removal from the earth, it would be a permanent removal: "and thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:17). But the entire thrust of Scripture is that we will have a resurrected body on earth, and that the heavens and the earth will both be regenerated, or renewed (Acts 3:21, Matt. 19:28). If there is to be a bodily removal of the saints at all, it can only be temporary.

"The statement "and thus we shall always be with the Lord" tends to suggest, at least to me, that we will always be in the "caught up" state, i.e., we will be in heavenly places with Him from this point onward, and forever more. To my way of thinking, we can be in heavenly places while we're still on the earth."

The Return of the Glory

Summarising two separate messages, "The Divine Unveiling of the Church" by Rob Wheeler of Auckland, New Zealand, and "Old Testament Promises" by Bill Britton, we can see clearly that the expectation is for the Shekinah Glory of God to return to its spiritual "ark" in the Living Temple of the Church in the last days.

"In Ezekiel 44 we read of the Sons of Zadok who ministered in the Most Holy Place. So shall it be for those who inherit the promises; they shall see God face to face and be the habitation of the living God."

In II Cor 6:16 we read, "For we are the temple of the living God; just as God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them and I shall be their God and they shall be my people.

" Thus, we have the promise that God will dwell in us, and the Holy Spirit is given us as the pledge, or firstfruits of that fulness. It is Christ in you that is the hope of glory (Col. 1:25-27). We are approaching the climax--the time at which God will dwell in us that we might be the vehicle of His manifest presence.

The latter-rain sequence has the return of the Shekinah to the Temple (Church) producing the Corporate Christ which then harvests the world by a signs and wonder revival, while simultaneously bringing judgement on the Harlot (disobedient Christians).

The Glory, in their understanding, is the visible manifestation of the Spirit. Now, in light of the satanic nature of this deception, it is not surprising that deceived Christians are being led to expect a manifested SPIRIT and not the visible return of the Lord Jesus.

I believe the way we are headed is into teaching about the return of the "lord" to his church, in glory, BEFORE (or perhaps even instead of?) the physical return of Jesus.

Bible translations that encourage the wrong interpretation

Unfortunately, modern translations of the Bible help in this deception. The Authorised Version has the blessed hope as the appearing of our great God in glory. Many other translations have the return OF THE GLORY!!

KING JAMES: Titus 2:13 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (KJV)

NEW ENGLISH BIBLE: Looking forward to the happy fulfilment of our hopes when the splendour of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus will appear...

REVISED STANDARD VERSION: Awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ....

JERUSALEM BIBLE: while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Jesus Christ....

GOOD NEWS BIBLE: as we wait for the blessed day we hope for, when the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ will appear....

Is it any wonder that new Christians are confused on this issue, when the very scriptures they read seem to confirm that we are awaiting the "return of the glory" instead of the return of the Lord Jesus in a physical Body.

False Prophecy of the Return of the Glory

"The Glory of God, my Glory, says the Lord, after a sacrifice had been prepared and offered up, shook the very foundations of Hell as I defeated Death, Hell, and the Grave, I shall bring my Glory once again back into my dwelling place, the heart of a sinless man. Such as this you have become...Haven't I said If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, a new type of man who has never before existed? And this existence, says the Lord, is as my dwelling place and my home. For the Glory of God, my Glory, says the Lord, the Heavy Presence that shook the very foundations of the earth as I proclaimed Goodness and Mercy, has come once again to dwell in a tabernacle of flesh..."

"You are temples, you are vessels, you are receptacles, you are containers of the very Fires of Heaven, measured into you as you will receive it. Some taking much, moving from Glory to Glory, changed by the nearness of my Glory, ever growing, ever changing, ever allowing Me more of you.

"Do not be afraid of my Glory, of my Heavy Presence says God, the God of Glory, for a time when I could not allow you to come near Me has passed. No longer must I hide you in the parting of the Rock as Moses was hidden, but today I bring you face to face with my Glory... For the Glory of God, my Glory says the Lord, is soon to come in His fullness, and where once men were shielded as I proclaimed Mercy and Grace, finally I will proclaim righteous judgement.

"Wait..... do you say `rejoice'? NO NO NO...weep and cry out, for then the souls of all who would not hear Me will be devastated, their lives destroyed, for every mans life, every mans work shall be judged by Fire, and only what has been straked and splattered by the Blood of Redemption will stand as a testimony to my Righteousness, and what is wicked, what is sinful, yes, even all that is not of Faith will burn in the very presence of my Glory in you, in you, in you, in you, in you, in you, IN YOU! [Carl Killingsworth on the Vineyard's New Wine BBS.January 1995:]

When Richard Riss wrote to explain his views on the Rapture (an earthly spiritual transformation) Bill Benninghoff replied to comment: (6)

"So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more. I believe that this refers to the church, the Israel of God (Galatians 6) which will be purified by the Lord and indwelt by the Glory and Presence of Jesus....The Lord will dwell in His church in a marked and noticeable way as a result of the great outpouring of the Spirit, and the nations will know that Jesus Christ is God Almighty!

The feast of Passover is experienced by the believer at the moment he or she is born again. The individual is brought out of Egypt (the world) and into the Kingdom of God and into covenant relationship with God through Christ. The feast of unleavened bread and the feast of firstfruits are also fulfilled at this time as the new Christian is cleansed of all his/her sins. The feast of Pentecost is experienced by the believer when they are baptized into the power of the Holy Spirit.

The feast of Tabernacles (which actually has three parts: trumpets, day of atonement and tabernacles) is something that to my knowledge has not yet been experienced by individual believers or by the church corporately. Some leaders in the Body of Christ have taught that trumpets will be experienced by the church as the rapture, the day of atonement is the pouring out of God's wrath on the earth while the church is in heaven and that tabernacles represents the return of the church with the Lord to earth to begin the Millenium. I don't believe that the Scriptures teach this at all I believe that the feast of trumpets represents the prophetic flow of God among His people. This is something that the church really began to walk in as a result of the 1948 latter rain revival

The Day of Atonement was a time in which the sins of the covenant nation were cleansed and in which in the year of Jubilee (every 50th year) debts were cancelled, slaves were set free and land was returned to its original owners. It seems that this present move of God is one in which men and women who are already members of the covenant nation of God are being delivered from their sins, healed of their woundings and strengthened by the Spirit of the Lord. It seems to be a time of corporate cleansing and restoration in the Body of Christ.

(So today is the time of the Day of Atonement) I believe that all seven feasts must be experienced by the church on earth before the work is completed and the Lord returns for His bride. He will not return for her until she has completed her mission to become the expression of the Glory of God in the earth and until disciples have been made of all the nations.

YOU are the Antichrist!

I promised to reveal a dangerous aspect to the teaching of Ken Copeland, that the "christ" is the "anointing" upon all believers. This leads him to the belief that all who rebel against the anointing, or the anointed ones, are THE ANTI-CHRIST! Scripture identifies the antichrist as those who deny that Christ "is come in the flesh". If an anointing, or a glory cloud, is believed to be the coming of Christ into a Body of Flesh (his church) then anyone who denies the reality of such a thing could be labelled, scripturally, an antichrist.

Because we deny that Christ has come invisibly into this Body of people - thus we are the antichrist and we must be destroyed. Far-fetched? Unlikely ever to be applied to us? Well, this reasoning has already been applied: Earl Paulk writes in "The Wounded Body of Christ"

"Every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard was coming and is now already in the world. (1 John 4:3) When John dealt with identifying the antichrist, he said the spirit of antichrist was already at work. This spirit was identifiable by the fact that it...does not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is the area in which we must test the spirits. The greatest test of the antichrist is its attitude towards the church - Jesus Christ himself is not a threat to any community unless there is a living thriving church in that community. Therefore, the spirit of antichrist refuses to recognise that GOD IS HERE IN THE FLESH. Attacking such figures as Oral Roberts, Jim Bakker and Kenneth Copeland are attacking the Church of Jesus Christ - such mockery and criticism are the means by which the spirit of antichrist operates."

Ken Copeland makes the same application. He goes to great lengths to try to prove that the word christ means anointing, so every time you come to the word christ in the Bible you should retranslate it, the anointing. Jesus was a man who was christed, he had the anointing. Now that same anointing is coming upon the Church, and if you oppose it you are anti-anointing, and that makes you an anti-christ!

"Once you start re-translating the word christ, as anointing you'll realize how the message of the anointing permeates the entire new testament. Even in those early days, the devil sent people in to steal that message,----- people with the spirit of anti-christ (anti-anointing). For if you reTranslate the word anti-christ you'll realize it's referring to someone who is opposed to the anointing."(7)

Now we have to consider what this all means for us, and what it means in terms of the events of the endtimes.

Similarities to the Reign of Antichrist

If this were just another heresy it would be doomed to wither and die, like all the others. BUT, this is more than just a heresy by a few isolated groups. It is so widespread that almost every large group and ministry today has been infected by at least a part of the latter rain teachings, We cannot deny that we DO have an outpouring at the moment - this is not just fantasy but fact. So whatever the human thoughts and beliefs behind this, there is a spiritual power that fuels it - a power so great that it is able to influence the entire Church and bring about signs and wonders.

I want you to consider the latter rain teachings in the light of the book of revelation. You will notice some similarities.

1. THE WHITE HORSE: (Rev 6:2)

THEY CLAIM:

That the White Horse is the victorious church going out to conquer the world, at the beginning of the renewal, the beginning of the latter rain revival. (Bob Jones claims he saw a vision of a white horse in 1982, ready to ride - he believed this was the start of the revival.)

WE KNOW:

The white horse is clearly no Jesus Christ, but the spirit of antichrist! It closely resembles the Lord Jesus, but the Lord Jesus doesn't come at the start of the seven years, but at the end! The white horse is one of the four judgements sent out by God - it is the great apostasy that must come before the end.

THUS THEY HAIL THE ANTICHRIST APOSTASY AS THE VICTORIOUS CHURCH.

2. THE RETURN OF THE GLORY TO THE TEMPLE

THEY CLAIM:

that the Spirit of Christ will incarnate into a Body - his church (and maybe one representative of that church, its new head - see [Appendix](#) and this is seen as the entrance of the christ spirit into the Temple. And it is also seen as the spiritual marriage of the Bridegroom and his perfected bride.

WE KNOW:

Antichrist comes to a Temple, as God! "he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God".(2 Thess 2:4)He will also have a counterfeit bride - the Harlot, Mystery Babylon.

THUS THE CHURCH IS BEING PREPARED TO ACCEPT ANTICHRIST AS HER LORD AND CHRIST

3.THE TRIBULATION

THEY CLAIM:

The second half of the last seven years will be the reign of the manchild as the corporate christ, ruling over the rest of the Church and the world. It will be a time of purging for the Church and the world of anyone who refuses to bow and worship the glorious Manchild, the corporate christ. They say God will be cleansing out the tares from his church! AND WHILE THIS IS HAPPENING, the manchild company will be ruling over the world, meting out God's judgement, immune to all this suffering and disaster, using their powers to produce signs and wonders to bring the world to christ.

WE KNOW:

On the contrary the last three and a half-years are the reign of antichrist - not of Christ. The Tribulation is a result of satan and his demons coming down to earth, and the Tribulation is not primarily God at work removing wickedness, it is satan at work removing those who are righteous. Anyone who refuses to worship satan will be killed. And his False Prophet will be producing lying signs and wonders to deceive if possible even the very elect.

THUS THE CHURCH IS BEING PREPARED TO WORK ALONGSIDE ANTICHRIST IN SLAUGHTERING THE RIGHTEOUS.

[Also see [Appendix](#)]

4. SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THEY CLAIM:

that the manchild company have to cleanse the heavens - they have to be raised spiritually so they can war with the evil heavenly powers and cast them out, so they can take their place and rule over the earth territorially. All this teaching about territorial spirits is leading to that moment, which they call the war in heaven (Rev 12:7)

WE KNOW:

that the war in heaven is not conducted by the saints, but by the Archangel Michael and his angelic hosts. And the result is that satan and his fallen angels are cast out onto the earth to create havok there - Notice also they say the spiritual elite, the manchild company will be transformed into spiritual beings with resurrection bodies. So I do wonder if some of these people will so open themselves to the demonic before the end that the fallen angels actually possess them, as in the days of Noah - and you will have spirit beings walking the earth again.

THUS THEY WILL HELP IN THE SET UP OF THE SATANIC KINGDOM AND ACTUALLY PLAY HOST TO THE DEMONS.

CONCLUSION

My intention in writing these articles is not to criticise individuals associated with Toronto or the false revival - for they answer to God. Nor do I intend to tar everyone with the same brush, for many people get involved because they have a zeal for God - they want to see the world and the church changed and improved. They have no idea where these teachings are coming from. (Yet they fail to respond when they are told it is not biblical.

)We do have a responsibility to alert believers to the true nature of these teachings. If God chooses to reveal to us the roots of heresy and the possible outcome of deception, we have the task of exposing these things in order to SAVE PEOPLE FROM A HORRIBLE FATE.

If you saw a kitten about to stumble blindly across a busy main road, would you stand by and do nothing, telling people that it would be unloving to scare the kitten into fleeing to safety? Or would you turn aside, hoping somebody else would go to its rescue? If you would have compassion on a kitten in danger, how much more so

should we seek to "rescue the perishing" - in this case, those who are at risk of perishing from the antichrist deception now running rampant in the Church and world.

All who love the truth have a responsibility to denounce these teachings and to avoid all those who teach them - even part of them.

A Little Leaven Leavens the Lump

Once you accept part of the teaching, the rest becomes necessary and inevitable. If this is an antichrist doctrine, it is the doctrine of demons and we should have nothing to do with it. We MUST remain true to the light of scripture - to the basics:

- SALVATION BY FAITH
- THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS ON THE CROSS FOR OUR REDEMPTION
- INDIVIDUAL CONVERSION AND SALVATION
- THE GREAT COMMISSION TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY MAN
- THE EVENTS OF THE END - THE APOSTASY, THE TRIBULATION THE RAPTURE, HEAVEN AS A LOCATION, HELL AS JUDGEMENT FOR THE WICKED
- THE KINGDOM AS THE LITERAL RETURN OF JESUS TO ESTABLISH RIGHTEOUSNESS;
- THE ROLE OF ISRAEL AS A NATION
- THE MILLENNIAL RULE OF CHRIST, NOT THE CHURCH
- THE CHURCH AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, ALREADY UNITED, ONE WITH CHRIST, TO WITNESS, TO ENDURE AND IF NECESSARY TO SUFFER AND DIE - ALWAYS HATED AND REJECTED AND ULTIMATELY TRIUMPHANT IN HER ALLEGIANCE TO CHRIST.
- THE CHRISTIAN HOPE IS THE RETURN OF JESUS PERSONALLY IN GLORY AND OUR INHERITANCE IN HIM ALONE.

We must continue to preach the great truths of the Bible, undeterred, believing that God is with us and will support, inspire and help us - and protect us. He will honour his word, honour those who hold to his word.

1. We must call on anyone involved in these teachings to abandon them and repent of them.
2. We must remain open, patient, kind, helpful and forgiving - not become hateful, proud and elitist.
3. We must remember that we can all be deceived - by all means save some; if they will not hear you, move on.

2 Tim 4:2 I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word, be instant in season and out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine - for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts will heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

And may God bless you in your understanding of these things!

FOOTNOTES

(1) The dates of these predictions change all the time. False teachers adjust their prophetic clock to suit events. The teaching on the beginning of the third age and the time for the "next wave" of global revival has been dated to 1994, 95, 96, 97, 98 and so forth, as the predicted "revival" fails to occur. Now some teachers are warning people "do not date the revival" as it is becoming an embarrassment to the whole movement.

(2) See Gal 3 where Paul argues that the promise of redemption was made before the Law, to Abraham, and therefore pre-dates and transcends the legal requirements of Judaism.

(3) The Whistler Gathering brochure states: It is safeguarded by four spiritual "fathers" - Pastor Bob Birch, Pastor Jim Watt, Dr. John White, and Peter Jordan of YWAM. The leadership of this gathering includes Dr. Mohsen Demian and Pastor Gideon Chiu, and worship leaders David Garrett, David Ruis and Brian Doerksen. Others involved include Bob Jones, Reuven Doren, Andy and Melody Green Severight, Alistair Petrie and John Dawson. There are 1,700 registered participants, over 1,000 have been turned down due to space limitations. This gathering is truly multi-national and multi-cultural. At a leadership pre-gathering in February, there were representatives from Canada, USA, Africa, China, Australia, South America, and others I probably don't know about.

(4) Britton "Eagle Saints Arise" Pp8-9(5) from a message on the Religion forum of Compuserve.

(6) from an Internet report on the Shekinah Ministers Conference, Jun 94(7) Ken Copeland, writing in Voice of Victory: Vol 2ULo 4, April1995



Background
to the Revivals

"THE NEW THING" Appendices

(Global Revival as the Key Element In Deception in Twentieth Century Pentecostalism)

If you are looking for the "New Thing" article itself, please begin [HERE](#)

APPENDIX ONE:

Brief History of Restorationism

John Alexander DOWIE (1847-1907)

"Full Restoration To Apostolic Christianity"

Dowie, an early faith healer, was very influenced by the Irvingites and their Apostolic Church. Around 1900 he set up a utopian city called Zion near Chicago on the banks of Lake Michigan. It was run strictly according to his ideas of how Christian should live, and around six thousand Christians lived there under Dowie's authoritarian rule.

Dowie became more and more eccentric, believing that he was the Elijah who was to come to herald the Restoration and the Millennium. He was, he said, the first apostle of the new order. Once again, the emphasis is on the apostles who are needed to restore the Church to perfection. After he died and the city declined many of his followers joined the various Pentecostal groups and contributed to the Pentecostal revivals.

Charles Fox PARHAM (1873-1929)

The Apostolic Faith Movement

Parham, one of the prime movers in the Pentecostal revival of the 1900's, believed fervently in the "new thing", ie, the return of the Holy Spirit in a new Pentecostal outpouring to purify the Church and win the world to God.

This teaching was in fact developed out of the Holiness teachings of the 19th century and their emphasis on the "new thing", the Latter Rain outpouring of Joel 2, expected to bring a worldwide revival.

Added to this, and in conjunction with it, was the need to raise up apostles, and return to apostolic faith. To the early Pentecostal pioneers, the sign of the return of the Spirit to the Church, to restore her to purity and power for her mission, would be the speaking of tongues. The importance of supernatural languages was to save the lost in other lands which they believed was the pre-requisite to bringing the Lord back to earth. Only worldwide revival and the bringing in of the last great harvest would fulfil the requirements for the Lord's return, thus they were desperate to produce the latter-rain that would create the harvest. This error has led so many astray. For example, the Swedish pastor, Ulf Ekman said, "we must have a revival or Christianity will fail."

Charles Parham set up a group called the Apostolic Faith Church, which had the two-fold function of restoration of the Church and full Christian unity. In 1901, the sign of tongues duly appeared in one of the Parham meetings. Later, William Seymour attended the tongues meetings and went on to be formative in the Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles in 1906. At this time Parham was at the height of his influence, with between eight and ten thousand followers. However, after the death of Dowie, Parham tried to establish the troubled Zion City as his Capital and in the process missed the Azusa Street outpouring. Other problems followed, and Parham eventually sank into the pages of history without accomplishing his dream of world revival.

Apostolic Church in the UK

One of the founders of the British Apostolic Church was the father of Cecil Cousen. This Church, like Irving's fellowships, also believed in the restoration of the Church through apostles and prophets. Cecil Cousen was a member until he was forced to resign because of his Latter Rain beliefs.

Cecil Cousen went to Ontario and worked with Fred Poole who'd emigrated during the Second World War. There they attended meetings led by Ivan Spencer, (1949-51) where they picked up Latter Rain teachings and brought them back to the UK, in particular the impartation of gifts by the laying on of hands, which was one of the major points of difference between the Latter Rain and Pentecostals.

In 1951, Fred Poole and some other Latter Rain leaders came to the Apostolic Church with a proposal for adopting Latter Rain beliefs. They held a council meeting in Bradford and said "the people accepted the Latter Rain ministry with open hearts" Later, however, the Church officials publicly disassociated themselves from Latter Rain beliefs, and excommunicated Cecil Cousen. He went on to set up his own Fellowship in Bradford and to become one of the forces behind the Charismatic Movement in the UK.

John Poole, the son of Fred Poole, later took LR teachings into the heart of the shepherding movement, becoming the editor of "New Wine", at one time the most influential charismatic magazine available to the renewal groups.

(The development of the Renewal in Britain is covered in a [separate article](#) on this site.)

Ivan Spencer and the Elim Bible Institute

Ivan Spencer (1888-1970) received Baptism in Spirit in 1913, and joined the AoG in 1920. In 1924 he opened the Elim Bible Institute, New York.

Spencer was another leader who depended on the guidance of the inner light, rather than scripture. He accepted questionable prophecies and "words" and feelings, without testing the spirits. He also taught that certain perfected believers would attain immortality and be born as the Manchild company.

Many at the Elim Institute were fanatical, and drew criticism for their extremes. After visiting Myrtle Beall's Bethesda Temple (from 1947) in Detroit, Spencer adopted the Latter Rain teaching, and it was later also promoted by Ivan's son, Carlton Spencer, (born in 1914).

Carlton Spencer was much involved in the Shepherding and Restoration Movements, and was on the planning committee of the first Conference on Charismatic Renewal (1977) in Kansas City.

A Special Footnote

Was there secret Roman Catholic input into both the Latter Rain and Charismatic revivals? This is difficult to prove, yet certain evidence exists. For the sake of brevity I would just point out the known facts, that the Roman Catholic leaders Ralph Martin and Steve Clark joined with the Fort Lauderdale Shepherding group, and set up in 1974 a Council to work together for world revival.

Thereafter, Charismatic events were ecumenical. Also in 1974 (probably not a coincidence) a split appeared in the British leadership. Those who still believed that the historical denominations should not and could not be restored parted company with the group who decided to work for ecumenical unity.

During a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1977, the Council met and agreed to work with Cardinal Suenens. They drafted a statement, which said:

"We, the Council, are committing ourselves to work together with the Cardinal for the restoration and unity of Christian people and world evangelisation in projects to be mutually agreed upon."

Shepherding, whatever else it became, was a form of the Roman Priesthood. Thus the method adopted for restoring the churches - submission to a pyramid structure of elders - and also a-millennialism could have been introduced by the Catholics.

APPENDIX TWO:

A new 'King David' for the New Temple?

In the time of the first Jerusalem and Temple, the people had David as king over them. Now that the Ark (the Shekinah glory) is about to return to New Jerusalem and endtimes Temple, it would seem there is likely to be, also a new "david" as king of the earth. If believers continue to allegorise the scriptures, here is the result:

The new Temple to be built, has a priesthood, and also a PRINCE. This Prince is clearly not Jesus because he has to be purified with sacrifices - he's a man, but the anointing high priest at that time. and possibly a king - a new king David.

David was anointed as the king of Israel, and made his home in Jerusalem. So will the New Jerusalem have to have a new king - a man, anointed by the new anointing - a man who is christed to the utmost degree, an ascended master of the highest order to lead the initiates of the new Body?

Conclusion: Are we soon to see the emergence of a satanically-energised human being, a new "david"?

APPENDIX THREE

The Endtimes Scenario according to Latter-Rain teaching:

The Church must follow the 'Pattern' of Jesus Christ - because Jesus is the 'Pattern Son'. He had a three-year ministry, a death, resurrection and glorification - and the Church must follow in his steps.

Thus the last seven years shows this pattern, and it is also the pattern of the Book of Revelation. We can learn about what such believers expect if we look at this pattern: A baptism in the Spirit that leads to an anointed three-year miracle ministry, under increasing persecution from the Religious "pharisees", The persecution intensifies to the extent that the "christ" believers are put to death or imprisoned. However, like Jesus, they are publicly vindicated by being raised by God to transformed bodies, and placed in positions of rulership "in the heavenlies" - ie, having spiritual dominion and authority to judge the earth.

The Final Three-and-a-half Years

You have to know what happens in that final 3-1/2 years! WRATH! It is believed that, after the overcomers are raised up, they do battle with the evil powers and principalities, casting them out of their places of power. This leads to a dreadful Tribulation, a horrible purging for the world and for the Church, when antichrist forces will be let loose to completely destroy society; and all the while the Manchild will be smiling down on us from their Rapturous position as spiritual Rulers, presiding over the slaughter of God's enemies

This is how they will purge the Church of any who disagree with them - basically by being in league with the devil as he tortures and destroys all who cleave to the One True God!

