

Absolute Truth & Prophecy

Robert Palaszewski

NEWSLETTER

www.ATPMinistry.com

ZEW'S NEWS REVIEW

September 18, 2011

Issue #362

END GAME 2011 – PART VIII

*In Part VII we started to explore some of the heretical forms that the Church of Man has taken. So far we've covered: **The Luke Warm / Prosperity Gospel - Replacement Theology - Deniers of Biblical Truth - Militant Atheism...In The Church – and – Chrislam**. Now we're ready to take on the big ones: **Universalism & The Emergent Church – and – The Eastern / Pagan Revival**. [And it just so happens that they're related.] *The Antichrist's Religious System is being prepared.**

THE CHURCH OF MAN (CONTINUED)

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:8)

Now, except for the actual denial of the existence of God, each of the manifestations of the heresies that we've touched on so far is related. And even atheism could be argued to be a form of idol worship – in that it raises the self to the level of Lawgiver; the prerogative of God alone. But what is happening now in the Church is something special and significant – if not unique in Church history. It is a perversion of the Gospel as never seen before – only in that it is becoming so accepted among the professing faithful. It has wrapped Christian terms around an increasingly Pagan message.

A Bit O' Background

In all fairness, it must be acknowledged that the Church has been at war with paganism since its founding. And paganism has taken more than a few hands. It was Nimrod, the founder of Babylon, who set up the first pagan system of worship. Now Nimrod built an empire that exercised both civil and religious control. He introduced the black arts including “astrology, occultism and devil worship”. He married a beautiful woman named Semiramis, and together they established a religion based on the worship of themselves, - and eventually their son. It was a religion full of mystery and ceremony and secret sacred knowledge. As a unifying centerpiece, he began to build a tower that was to house an astrological / astronomical observatory at its' peak. So when God scattered the people after their attempt to build the Tower of Babel, they took aspects of their Babylonian Mystery Religion with them to the far ends of the earth.¹ What they took with them was a strange amalgam of both the dimly remembered “revelations of God” as well as the Devil & Nimrod worshiping cultic ideas that originated in Babylon. This system is known as ‘The Babylonian Mystery Religion’.² The central feasts of this religious system was based on the ‘resurrection’ of Semiramis’ son, Tammuz. It also gave us the feast of Ishtar, (from whence we get our name Easter), which is just another name for Semiramis. During that Feast of Ishtar, colored eggs serving as a sign of fertility became part of the celebration. Son and mother were both being honored: He as savior and she as Co-Mediatrix between God and man.³

This religion manifested itself throughout the ancient world. It was headed by a supreme High Priest who took the title Pontifex Maximus. As Clarence Larkin, author of Dispensational Truth: “So in AD 378, the Head of the ‘Babylonian Order’ became the Ruler of the ‘Roman Church’”.⁴ Thus was laid the foundation for the infiltration of the Church and the Great Apostasy of the Last Days.

So let's jump ahead to the early days of the Church founded by Christ. During the first three centuries of its existence, the Church was severely persecuted by the Roman authorities. Then along came the Emperor Constantine, an astute politician. Whether his original conversion was genuine or not is a bit in question. But in any case, he made it legal to be a Christian and used the Christian faith to unite his empire. His aim was a revival of the religious / civil unified state that had been first dreamt of and established by Nimrod himself in Babylon. He was setting himself up as nearly a priest-king, placing giant statues of himself throughout the empire. Over the next couple of centuries, pagan religious traditions were progressively adopted by the Church to create a pagan-friendly form of the faith. Institutional Christianity began to look less and less like what Christ and Paul had set up as it began to take on the ceremonial trappings of the ancient Mystery Religions. . Statues of the Queen mother goddess Isis nursing her child Horus were easily replaced by depictions of the Virgin Mary nursing Jesus at her breast.⁵ The 'Saints' Peter and Paul replaced Romulus and Remus as the 'patrons' of Rome. Christ's birthday celebration was conveniently celebrated on December 25th, - to coincide with the Sol Invictus festival, - a pagan celebration complete with decorations of green branches and lights and the giving of presents.⁶ The new church was becoming pagan friendly to accommodate all of the 'converts' that were thronging into it by the early 5th century. Many church leaders felt they had to be in order to welcome these former worshipers of the **"creature rather than the Creator"**, - who brought their superstitions and pagan customs. [This is a longer story than we can tell here. Suffice it to say however, that the Church had been infiltrated and compromised.] Still a remnant has always existed. However it took the Reformation to wrestle the Church back closer to the roots of the Faith. So we jump ahead to today.

Universalism & The Emergent Church

Today there is another stream of paganism filtering into the professing Body of Christ. It is the lie of Universalism; the mistaken notion that all roads lead to God. Christ Himself was very clear on the subject. **"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."** (Matthew 7:13-14)

But many of today's leaders are putting forth a different gospel. Take the late Pope John Paul II for instance. In December of 2001 he pronounced: *"The gospel teaches us that those who live in accordance with the Beatitudes--the poor in spirit, the pure of heart, those who bear lovingly the sufferings of life--will enter God's kingdom. All who seek God with a sincere heart, including those who do not know Christ and his church, contribute under the influence of grace to the building of this kingdom."*⁷ Unfortunately, that doesn't resemble the true gospel whatsoever. This sentiment was not strange at all to John Paul. In 1986 he convened a prayer meeting at Assisi at which Hindus, Buddhists, Animists and Muslims all participated together. On one such ecumenical occasion, the Pope allowed a pagan-Hindu priestess to put a Shiva mark on his forehead. Shiva is the "Hindu God of Illusion, Yoga, Animals, Ascetics; Lord of the Dance." That is how far this heresy has reached. The exclusivity of Christ as the only way to the Father is now routinely denied in the halls of the professing Church. This is not the narrow way Jesus preached.^{8 9} Christ said: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."** (John 14:6) And John 3:18 reads: **"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."**

These universalistic tendencies that are spreading through the Christian world are a reflection of the ultra-tolerant ethic that is overtaking much of the world. The thought is: *'Who are we to judge....anything at all.'* It results in a world where we are afraid to weigh the merits of ideas; accepting instead an equality of thought. It is an Eastern way of thinking and its infecting the Church. The revered Roman Catholic nun known as Mother Theresa gave voice to this new / ancient ethic. *"All is God--Buddhists, Hindus, Christians, etc., all have access to the same God."*¹⁰ In a letter published after her death she went even farther. Referring to those to whom she ministered she wrote: *"They are all children of God."*¹¹ But that's not biblically accurate. While we are all God's creation, made in His image: We are NOT children of God until we are born again. The Apostle John spells it out in the first chapter of his Gospel. **"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** (John 1:12-13) But Mother Theresa is not alone in this line of thinking. Both Presidents' Obama and George W Bush have expressed similar sentiments; as does Glen Beck. In an event in Jerusalem,

Beck declared that city the place through which God provided: *“Three faiths, three paths to God.”* [Since Islam had nothing to do with Jerusalem, this statement is historically incorrect as well as being both theological and logical nonsense. (*Jesus, for instance, cannot be both the Son of God as Christianity informs us – and – NOT the Son of God, as Islam claims. That’s just logical – but I should do well to remember that logic seldom applies in these matters.*)] And then there’s probably one of the most influential figures in American culture, Oprah Winfrey. So let’s explore some of what the *Church of Oprah* teaches.

Over the years, Oprah has teamed up with several New Age luminaries, teaching precepts that clearly contradict the Scriptures, all the while claiming that she is indeed a Christian. Spoken by Ms Winfrey directly or taught by her guests on her show or in a course on her website: Here are some of the offending heresies.

- In one Youtube video of her TV show she is seen paraphrasing the book *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn. *“One of the mistakes that people make is believing that there is only one way; and that we don’t accept that there are diverse ways of being in the world. There are millions of ways of being a human being and many paths to what you call God....There couldn’t possibly be just one way.”*
- Oprah herself, again: *“I thought Jesus came and died on the Cross and that Jesus’ being there was about His death and dying on the Cross; when it really was about Him coming to show us how to do it. How to be! To show us the Christ consciousness that He had and that that consciousness abides with all of us.”*
- She explains that God is a feeling and not a belief. Quoting again: *“If God for you is about belief then it is not really God.”*
- *“There are certainly many more paths to God other than Christianity.”*^{12 13}

Here’s some quotes taken from *“A Course In Miracles”* – a book by Marianne Williamson and a course offered on Oprah’s Website in 2008.

- *“Do not make the pathetic error of ‘clinging to the old rugged cross’. The only message of the crucifixion is that you can overcome the cross.”*
- *“A slain Christ has no meaning.”*
- And here’s a famous New Age adage: *“There is no sin.”*
- *“Jesus Christ came to show us the Christ Consciousness.”*¹⁴

This confused spirituality is being given aid and comfort by something called the Emergent Church. The Emergent Church is a movement that crosses a number of theological boundaries, melding together Among its members there is a general sense of dissatisfaction with the institutional church. This then goes on to spread to many of the foundational truths of Christianity. Rob Bell, for instance, denies the existence of Hell. Another Emergent leader, Brian McLaren has this to offer on the Cross and Hell. The *“kingdom of God comes through suffering and willing, voluntary sacrifice. But in an ironic way, the doctrine of hell basically says, no, that that’s not really true. That in the end, God gets His way through coercion and violence and intimidation and domination, just like every other kingdom does. The cross isn’t the center then. The cross is almost a distraction and false advertising for God.”* This influential church leader then goes on to question the whole meaning of the atonement. Quoting another Christian writer he says: *“The traditional understanding says that God asks of us something that God is incapable of Himself. God asks us to forgive people. But God is incapable of forgiving. God can’t forgive unless He punishes somebody in place of the person He was going to forgive....And there’s a certain sense that, a common understanding of the atonement presents a God who is incapable of forgiving. Unless He kicks somebody else.”*¹⁵

With leaders like these, the Emergent Church is invading Christianity, bringing with it an adaptation of Eastern spiritual technologies; exchanging a rational truth-based faith, for an experiential counterfeit based in mysticism and personal interpretation. They offer a cafeteria-style Christianity that manages to blur the lines between the saved and the lost: And that is doing no favor to the lost. Jesus warned of leaders like this in Matthew 7:15. **“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”**

THE DRUMS OF WAR

All across the Middle East things are unraveling. Political actions and strategic decisions are opening the door to chaos.

ISRAEL & THE PALESTINIANS – The Palestinians are pushing the UN hard to approve their bid for statehood. Several competing Palestinian factions united to present a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Kimoon. That movement is gaining steam. Russia and Turkey have now officially jumped on that bandwagon, further isolating the US on the issue.^{16 17} However, Washington is applying unrelenting pressure on the Palestinians to reverse themselves and instead head back to the negotiating table with Israel. They are joined in this effort by Germany and the Saudis. To get them there, the Obama administration is working hard to leverage Israel to agree to significant new concessions. According to DEBKA, Palestinian President and Fatah head, Mahmoud Abbas is “*considering watering down his application*” and will make a final decision by Friday, September 16th – when this newsletter will have already gone to press.^{18 19 20 21} Should the bid for statehood go forward, it is expected to be accompanied by massive protests and marches on the Israeli settlements by Palestinian mobs. It has been suggested that some in the Palestinian leadership would not mind it if some of the protesters were casualties of the Israeli attempt to control the protests...so long as it was captured by news cameras. The head of Israeli settler security, Shlomo Vankin told the Jerusalem Post that those trying to force their way into the settlements “*will be shot*”.²²

ISRAEL & TURKEY - Turkey, meanwhile is radically positioning itself against its former ally, Israel; and seemingly almost trying to goad it into a military confrontation. The Turkish government has announced that the Turkish Navy would be accompanying aid ships to Gaza and that they would “*confront Israeli warships if necessary.*” Turkey has rejected Israeli claims to sovereignty outside of a 12 mile zone around Israel, saying that if it encounters IDF naval forces there – Turkish ships would “*advance up to 100 meters from the ship and disable its weapons system.*” According to DEBKA, one Turkish goal “*is to deprive Israel’s deep sea gas wells of naval protection.*” And the Jerusalem Post reported: “*New technology allows Turkey to attack Israeli targets.*” It seems the old system automatically identified Israeli targets as friendly. Now the Turks have bypassed the electronic identification system. The US has reacted by withholding military equipment from Turkey until Turkish chief “*Erdogan lifts his armed threat on Israel.*”^{23 24 25}

ISRAEL & EGYPT – We all know by now that Israel’s embassy in Egypt was attacked by radical Islamist mobs on September 9th. The police were pretty much just observers until the crowd got out of control and started to target police equipment. This has left Israeli-Egyptian diplomatic relations in tatters, with no ambassador present and only a skeleton crew manning the embassy. The Muslim Brotherhood continues to gain strength in the country – and the long-standing peace between the neighbors is in jeopardy. It turns out that the mob that attacked the embassy compound was led by Jama’a al-Islamiya, a founding branch of al-Qaeda. That terror group was involved in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.^{26 27}

WHAT’S IT ALL MEAN ? – Then lets toss in Iran’s continued progress toward producing homegrown nuclear weapons – (probably by Spring 2012) – and the fact that the leader of Iraq’s Mahdi Army has announced that his forces will stop attacking American troops there – so they will actually leave by the target date of December 31st of this year. The resulting power vacuum will further open the door to Iranian influence and support of a bloody civil war waged by Iranian-supported Iraqi Shiites against Iraqi Sunnis. Add in Syrian unrest, - the attempts by Libyan radicals to gain control of that country - and unstable regimes in Yemen and elsewhere; and you have an entire region ready to blow.²⁸ The conditions for war are in place. Prophetically some very significant barriers have been removed. Nations that were once somewhat friendly to Israel have flipped and have been added to the list of her enemies. Egypt, a key part of the Psalm 83 prophecy is falling into that camp. Psalm 83 seems to describe the first – (and likely) – next war against Israel. Its members include Syria, Lebanon (Hezbollah) the Palestinians (Hamas) – and Jordan – which while not quite there yet, is a little wobbly from radical pressure. Then there’s Turkey, a former ally that is clearly part of the 2nd war - when the Magog Alliance launches its attack against the Land. We find that prophecy described in Ezekiel 38. We’re watching all of this form before our eyes. Look up! We’re living in prophetically pregnant times.

-
- ¹ Babylon Mystery Religion, Petersburg Gospel Center
- ² Nimrod, Mars and the Marduk Connection, Bryce Self, (onesimus@ix.netcom.com), Edited November 1985 by Lambert Dolphin
- ³ Babylon Mystery Religion, Petersburg Gospel Center
- ⁴ Clarence Larkin, Dispensational Truth, pg 140. I was led to this reference by Babylon Mystery Religion, Petersburg Gospel Center
- ⁵ Scott Ashley, Modern Christianity's Forgotten Roots, GN Magazine, Nov / Dec 1997
- ⁶ John Romer, Testament: The Bible and History, 1988, pgs 230-231, - as quoted by Scott Ashley, Modern Christianity's Forgotten Roots, GN Magazine, Nov / Dec 1997
- ⁷ Pope: Unbelievers Saved if They Live a Just Life, Belief Net, December 6, 2001
- ⁸ FALSE ECUMENISM IN ACTION, <http://marienfried.com/catholic%20teachings/false%20ecumenism%20in%20action.htm>, viewed September 13, 2011
- ⁹ David Bay, Cutting Edge News #1161
- ¹⁰ TIME Magazine, December 4, 1989
- ¹¹ Letters Reveal Mother Teresa's Secret, CBS News, October 9, 2009
- ¹² Oprah Winfrey's Teachings Exposed, <http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Wolves/oprah-exposed.htm>, viewed September 13, 2011
- ¹³ Oprah on Jesus, <http://www.jesus-is-savior.com/Wolves/oprah-fool.htm>, viewed September 13, 2011
- ¹⁴ Oprah Winfrey is Offering the Controversial New Age "A Course In Miracles", Truth or Fiction, <http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/o/oprah-miracles.htm>, viewed September 13, 2011
- ¹⁵ Brian McLaren: The Cross As False Advertising {This is the full transcript of an interview of Brian McLaren with Leif Hansen}, Reformed Nazarene, viewed September 13, 2011
- ¹⁶ Palestinians kick-off UN bid..., Jerusalem Post, September 8, 2011
- ¹⁷ Russia supports Palestinian bid..., Breitbart, September 12, 2011
- ¹⁸ Palestinians back off UN Security Council statehood bid, DEBKAFfile, September 14, 2011
- ¹⁹ U.S. Envoys Returning to Mideast to Try to Avert Palestinian Statehood Vote, FOX News / AP, September 13, 2011
- ²⁰ Obama to Palestinians: Drop UN statehood bid, Arutz Sheva, September 7, 2011
- ²¹ U.S. envoys press Palestinians to drop U.N. statehood bid, Washington Post, September 6, 2011
- ²² Settler security chief: September infiltrators will be shot, Jerusalem Post, September 9, 2011
- ²³ No US drones for Turkey, DEBKAFfile, September 13, 2011
- ²⁴ Turkish frigates to confront Israeli vessels, DEBAfile, September 12, 2011
- ²⁵ New technology..., Jerusalem Post, September 13, 2011
- ²⁶ Israel's diplomatic ties down to bare minimum, Haaretz, September 12, 2011
- ²⁷ Israeli embassy break-in..., DEBKAFfile, September 10, 2011
- ²⁸ Iraq's Sadr says to halt attacks on U.S. troops", Reuters, September 11, 2011