

The Temple, the Antichrist, and the Structure of Revelation

By Hermano, October 22, 2019 (*Edited Jan. 12, 2020*)

Contents:

- ▶ Introduction: The Dangers of Legalism
- ▶ The Temple Rebuilt
- ▶ What comes next prophetically? The rise of Antichrist!
- ▶ The persecution of the Jews under Antichrist
- ▶ The reappearance of the Ark of the Covenant
- ▶ Revelation and the Rapture(s)
- ▶ The Millennium
- ▶ The structure of Revelation: the importance of distinguishing the main timeline from later supplementary details
- ▶ Some final thoughts and exhortations

[Around forty pages of supplementary material is appended after this essay.]

▶ Introduction: The Dangers of Legalism

Matthew 16:1, 2a, 3b

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven. He replied, “... *You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but **you cannot interpret the signs of the times.***”

The self-centered legalism of the Pharisees blinded them from recognizing the first coming of their Messiah.

Unlike unconverted Jews, we Christians recognize that Jesus of Nazareth is indeed the promised Messiah; and that just as there was a literal, physical First Coming of Christ ([Gen. 49:11](#), [Zech. 9:9](#), [Mt. 21:5](#)), there will also be a

a literal, physical Second Coming of this very same Jesus ([Mt. 24:26-27](#), [Rev. 19:9-21](#); and [1 Jn. 4:2-3](#) KJV).

Note: please understand that whenever I have several Bible verse references in a row in parentheses, I tie them together with one single link: so you will have to *scroll down* the page you are sent to, in order to be able to read them all.

Paul says regarding the Jews:

2 Corinthians 3:15-16

15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.
16 But whenever *ANYONE* turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

So I would add that the Jews are certainly not the only ones that are blinded by legalism: Adam and Eve's decision to eat from the bipolar Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil corrupted *all* humanity. Mankind's focus was thus taken off of the unipolar Tree of Life (Jesus), and instead it was put on ourselves, and on our own performance, which is legalism.

We know that at the end of Creation Week, God pronounced everything that He had made, "good" ([Gen. 1:31](#)), which would include Lucifer! The angels were all supposed to minister to mankind ([Heb. 1:14](#)). But apparently Lucifer decided he wasn't having any of that, and because of pride and jealousy, he became our enemy, and God's. Soon thereafter, through a serpent, he tempted Eve.

By eating from that bipolar Tree, Adam and Eve themselves became bipolar, and began projecting their bipolarity and fearfulness onto their loving Creator. For example, after the Fall, when God came for His walk in the cool part of the day ([Gen. 3:8](#)), they mistakenly thought they needed to hide from Him — *instead of running right to Him!* They now wrongly believed that God loved them only when they did good, and hated them when they did evil.

Thus, Adam and Eve lost control of earth to the devil. And we recall that in the devil's third temptation of Jesus ([Luke 4:5-8](#)), the Lord did not contradict Satan's claim of ownership of all the kingdoms of the world.

[But thankfully, we may further recall the discussion of a property deed scroll in [Jeremiah 32](#). That passage helps our understanding of how a kinsman could buy back land by paying the purchase price. The sealed book could then be delivered to the original owner, or the heir. The heir could, at his convenience, break the seals, and, with the open scroll as his authority, take possession of the land—by force, if necessary (*cf.* [Rev. 10:1-3](#)).

So, as to the Second Coming, the final process of evicting Satan begins when the Lamb starts breaking those seals on the title deed ([Rev. 6](#)). And regarding the breaking of those seals, and the satanic killing that follows: contrary to the author of Revelation's sometimes skewed interpretation of what he was seeing in his vision, specifically, *the mistaken idea that God was also killing*, the God of Abundant Life will only be working to resist the devil, destroy his strongholds, and stop *the devil* from killing people.]

Again, trying to do good in order to *earn* blessings from God, and trying *not* to do evil in order to avoid curses from God, is legalism. Regardless of the prophets' occasional misunderstandings, God is love, and *only* blesses. Regardless of the prophets' occasional misattributions, *Satan* is the one who sends "the sword, famine, and plague," *not God*.

In today's fallen world, we should all be very grateful that, although the law of sowing and reaping is true ([Gen. 8:22](#); [Gal. 6:7-8](#)), God's grace and mercy *are more true* ([Heb. 4:16](#)), and trump the law of sowing and reaping:

Grace: receiving good that we did NOT earn—enjoying benefits that we do not get by our sowing.

Mercy: NOT receiving bad consequences that we DO deserve, from evil things which we did indeed sow.

Today, of course, the fallen archangel Lucifer, the god of this age—whom the unspiritual don't recognize in all his soulish subtleties—is still a very persistent enemy. If he can't manage to kill us outright, he wants to at least

keep us off track: whether by paralyzing us with condemnation, and thus causing us to feel disqualified for service in the Kingdom; or else by encouraging us to self-confidently, blithely move forward to serve God *in our flesh*. But either way, we are to resist the devil, and he will flee from us ([James 4:7](#)).

We must resist the enemy's self-centered, performance-based, legalistic mindset which allows him to victimize us and defraud us of our full inheritance in Christ. We are not to focus *on sin and self*, and working to be righteous; rather, we are to focus *on JESUS*, and learning to rest in him and in his finished work. Therefore, we must bring every lying thought into submission to the truth of Christ's all-compassing victory ([2 Cor. 10:5](#) NKJV).

As Christians, we ARE righteous: and so we are now perpetually qualified to freely receive all of God's blessings. We must daily remind ourselves, "*I am the righteousness of God in Christ*" (personalized from [2 Cor. 5:21](#)). We must understand that although we frequently sin, ALL of our sins have already been forgiven at the cross (see, "[Are all our sins—past, present, and future—already forgiven?](#)").

We must understand that "righteousness" is not something we *earn* by our obedience, or that we have to *work* to maintain. Rather, righteousness is a free and permanent GIFT which we received when we received Jesus ([Rom. 5:17, 3:24](#)). And God's gifts, including salvation ([Rom. 6:23](#)), and His calling, are irrevocable ([Rom. 11:29](#)). Immature Christians are righteous. Carnal Christians are righteous. Deceived Christians are righteous.

God is always gracious, never legalistic. But *the devil*—like a hateful prosecuting attorney, judge, jury, and executioner—*is very much a legalist*. The devil is the one who accuses ([Zechariah 3:1-4, Rev. 12:10](#)), and condemns, and threatens, and kills: not God!

After mankind's Fall in Eden, we can be grateful that God did finally manage to get his message of **grace** through to one man: Abraham. And Abraham, the first Jew, received all of God's wonderful promises, by faith.

However, the whole Mosaic system later “crept in” ([Rom. 5:20](#) ISV). It was a ministry of death and condemnation ([2 Cor. 3:7-9](#)), and an unfortunate interruption in the **unilateral**, everlasting, Abrahamic covenant of grace to Abraham and his descendants.

We recall the self-maledictory oath of God—with Abraham as the beneficiary— in [Genesis 15:5-21](#) (and examined in [Hebrews 6:13-20](#)). God made a type of oath, known back in that day and culture, which Abraham could understand: “*May it happen to Me, like it happened to these poor animals, if I don’t do what I am promising you!*” And the fact that Abraham was asleep and didn’t walk between the cuttings himself, highlights that this covenant for God to bless Abraham and his descendants *included no obligation on the part of Abraham*. It was unconditional—just take and enjoy. God’s love is unconditional—just take and enjoy.

Again, the Abrahamic pact was “unilateral”—one-sided, because it was only God making a promise to Abraham; and the commitment to fulfill the pact was between God and Himself (and was concluded at the cross): The Father—the smoking furnace, and The Son—the burning lamp, **went together** through the cuttings (cf. [2 Cor. 5:19](#)). It was *not* a bilateral covenant, between God and us, with *both* sides making promises: only God made any commitment—to Himself, in promising to bless Abraham.

Everything we need is found in the faithful Christ, alone. God has packed everything we need into him—all ours for the taking. All we need to do is repent: allow Jesus to overtake us, pick us up, carry us on his strong shoulders, and rejoice over us ([Luke 15:1-7](#))!

The Abrahamic Covenant was a divine, *unilateral* covenant from a *unipolar, others-centered* God of love: in effect, God said, “I promise I am going to bless you, *just because* I love you!” Whereas the Mosaic Covenant was a *bilateral* covenant that later crept in because *self-centered* men chose to reiterate a mistaken, bipolar view of God: “We do good, we get good; we do bad, we get *beat!*”

But although the law was a detour for the descendants of Abraham, which impeded their relationship with the unchanging God of grace, we must remember that Jesus fulfilled every jot and tittle of the law, and abrogated that legalistic covenant at the cross, through his blood ([Lk. 22:20](#)). And

being in Christ means that *we Christians are now numbered among the descendants of Abraham!* ([Romans 4](#), [Galatians 3](#), [Hebrews 7](#)).

Many Christians are wrongly trying to juggle between the Old Covenant and the New, because in reading the words of Jesus, they miss the context. But we need to remember that the New Testament does not begin at Matthew 1:1, but at the death of Jesus.

We must bear in mind that most of what Jesus is quoted as saying in the New Testament, he was saying to people still under the Law of Moses. For example, in the Sermon on the Mount, lusting became adultery; anger became murder. By emphasizing the impossibly high demands of the Law, Jesus was jerking the “works rug” out from under his listeners’ feet and pointing them to the grace of God, himself, the Savior of all mankind. (He did the same thing with the rich young ruler, who insisted that he had indeed faithfully kept all the commandments.)

Living under the grace of God is what keeps people from sin, NOT the Ten Commandments. As Romans says,

“For sin shall no longer be your master, BECAUSE you are not under the law, but under grace.” Rom. 6:14.

(Sadly, the converse of that verse is also true: ‘If you are NOT under grace, but under law, then sin SHALL be your master.’)

Joseph Prince highlights the horrendous exchange of covenants by the Jews in *Destined To Reign* (2010):

Study the Bible yourself. You’ll find that every time the children of Israel murmured and complained [before Mount Sinai], it only brought forth fresh demonstrations of God’s favor, supply and goodness. Why? Because during that period, the blessings and provisions they received were not dependent on their obedience or goodness. They were dependent on God’s goodness and faithfulness to the Abrahamic covenant, which was a covenant of grace.

The Exchange Of Covenants At Mount Sinai

Then, something tragic happened right at the foot of Mount Sinai. In Exodus 19:8, your English Bible says that the people cried out to Moses, saying, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do.” In the original Hebrew text, this is actually a statement of pride. They were saying, “All that God requires and demands of us, we are well able to perform.” In other words, they were saying, “God, stop assessing or blessing us based on Your goodness. Start assessing, judging and blessing us based on our obedience.” So they effectively exchanged covenants, from the Abrahamic covenant which is based on grace, to the Sinaitic covenant which is based on the law.

The satanically inspired dogma—that is, the legalistic embellishments of threats of violence mistakenly added to God’s communications by Moses—that was able to creep into man’s relationship with God, *was because of sin* ([Gal. 3:19](#)), and proved to be a yoke of slavery ([Gal. 5:1](#)). Those added-on threats were then used by the legalistic devil as a weapon, to bludgeon people with evil consequences—supposedly from God—for their sins. *But God nailed that weapon of dogma to the cross:*

Colossians 2:14-15 (ESV)

14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands [Greek: **DOGMA**]. This he set aside, **nauling it to the cross**.

15 **He** [thus] **disarmed the rulers and authorities** and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

(“Dogma”: Strong’s G1378, “the rules and requirements of the law of Moses; carrying a suggestion of severity and of threatened judgment.”)

In spite of Christ’s victory over dogma, Christians are still persistently being tempted away from grace, and back toward legalism ([Galatians 5:4](#)); and if they give in to that focus on self and performance, they bring themselves back under the curse of the law ([Gal. 3:10, 13](#); [James 2:10](#)). “Believers” thus hardened by the deceitfulness of sin start to move into unbelief ([Heb. 3:12](#)). Many Christians today have grown to doubt the love of God, the

miraculous testimonies of the Bible, and the warnings against religious deception and false miracles.

‘Unbelieving believers’ today accept the idea of macroevolution, so of course they would deny that the worldwide Flood of Noah even occurred (see “[Evolution, The Flood, and God’s True Nature](#)”); and hence, they cannot possibly recognize that Jesus was using the story of the Flood to illustrate the conditions of peace, prosperity, and sensuality that will characterize the world at the time of the unexpected first Rapture ([Mt. 24:37-40](#)). Peter even anticipated this very situation of unbelief, indicating it would characterize the last days before the Second Coming ([2 Peter 3:3-6](#)).

Increasingly, deluded Christians talk of “taking over the world for Christ,” and setting up a theocracy to which Christ will be able to return—when it’s finally ready for him. They say that the world must be completely evangelized, or else Jesus cannot return; and that we must come together and join their cause, and follow their leaders, in order to get the job done. But they forget that the task of world evangelism will finally be completed *from above, during the time of tribulation*, as indicated in Revelation ([Rev. 14:6](#)).

This growing movement of Christian [dominionism](#) (a.k.a. [The New Apostolic Reformation](#)) holds many similar tenets to those of the New Age Movement. For example, both movements have many followers who believe God is not truly omniscient (popularized among Christians via “[open theism](#)”), and that Armageddon will be avoided as mankind comes together to “co-create with God” a better future under one common leadership—using psychic power. Both movements are politically active, with each trying to put its own leaders into power. But, unsurprisingly, [the two movements are merging](#): after all, the spirit of Antichrist is ecumenical, encouraging unity that is not based on truth.

And regarding the erroneous idea that there must be unity among professing believers at any cost, Paul said, “For there must also be factions among you, so that those who are approved may become evident among you” (1 Cor. 11:19).

As we see the apostasy growing in the Church, we realize our redemption is drawing near (Lk. 21:28); and Jesus exhorts us:

“Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.” Revelation 3:2

The self-absorbed Pharisees of old, who studied the Scriptures by the letter and not by the Spirit, did not understand the true nature of their God, and could not recognize the manner of Messiah’s first coming. In the same way today, self-absorbed *Christians*, who study the Scriptures by the letter and not by the Spirit, and thus also do not understand the true nature of their God, cannot recognize the manner of Messiah’s *second* coming; or his true motivation: *to rescue, and to lovingly set things right!*

►The Temple Rebuilt

As a futurist, I recognize that there will yet be a literal, physical temple rebuilt in Jerusalem. And I further recognize there will be a coming “golden age of man” under Antichrist, which will—before the first Rapture—provide the prolonged conditions of peace necessary for the rebuilding of a literal, physical Babylon in Iraq—and its growth as a city which will become the unparalleled commercial center of the whole world ([Zech. 5:5-11](#); [Rev. 17:3-5, 18:9-17](#)).

The news media will occasionally carry stories about Jewish plans to rebuild a Temple in Jerusalem ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). And currently, [many Jews are excited about Donald Trump’s administration](#); after all, it formally [recognized Jerusalem](#) as the capital of Israel.

Skeptics of the rebuilding of the temple would do well to remember that, right after the persecution of Jews by that prototype of the Antichrist, Adolf Hitler, Israel was reestablished as a sovereign nation. It is now a resurrected country, again speaking the “dead language” of Hebrew, and even again using the shekel as its national currency!

(And let’s not forget that this reestablishment of Israel—almost two thousand years after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD by the Romans, and the enslavement and dispersion of the surviving Jews—was contrary to

the biblical interpretations of the unbelieving, although perhaps erudite, *preterists* of that time. And even today, adherents of [preterism](#) remain bloodied but unbowed: the miraculous rebirth of Israel in 1948 holds no prophetic significance for them.)

►What comes next prophetically? The rise of Antichrist!

I believe that the next major prophetic event is not the Rapture, or the Second Coming, or the rebuilding of the Temple, but the rise of Antichrist. One day soon, a literal, physical man, prophetically referred to as “Antichrist” (and, “The Assyrian,” Is. 10:5; “The Little Horn,” Dan. 7:8; “The Chaldean,” Hab. 1:6; “The Man of Sin,” 2 Thes. 2:3; “The Beast,” Rev. 13:1) will come onto the world stage—and be hailed as a hero. He will be “the man of the hour” when he defeats three opponents ([Daniel 7:20-22](#)), and brings the world back from the brink of total chaos and destruction: but it will all just be a great deception orchestrated by Satan to gain his man acceptance. After that, Antichrist will set out to deliver on promises he has made to his supporters: promises of vast, seductive, ill-gotten **riches** ([Daniel 7:8-11](#), [Habakkuk 1](#), [1 Thes. 5:1-4](#), [Rev. 3:16-19](#)).

Daniel 7:7-8 (NIV)

7 “After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had **ten horns**.

8 “While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, **a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.**

In Daniel 7:7 above, the “ten horns” are understood to stand for all the leaders of the area that once comprised the Roman Empire (see, for example, [“Four kingdoms of Daniel”](#)). Then in Daniel 7:8 above, the “little horn”—who is also from within that area, and displaces three of the other horns—is understood to be the Antichrist.

Perhaps the Antichrist will arise from a little, seemingly inconsequential country from within the area of the ancient Roman empire, like Lebanon ([Habakkuk 2:17](#)). Tyre is a city on the coast of Lebanon. Consider this possibility: The “Prince” of Tyre, described in [Ezek. 28:1-10](#), is Antichrist; while the “King” of Tyre, subsequently described in [Ezek. 28:11-19](#), is Lucifer.

Wherever he is actually from, Antichrist will be THE main character on the world stage over a period of years; the time from his rise until his final defeat could perhaps stretch over a whole generation of forty years ([Mt. 24:32-34](#)). But considering that a major portion of all the prophecies in the Bible will be fulfilled during that very same period, it is actually not such a long time!

Under Antichrist’s authority, the territories of old world empires will be amazingly, astoundingly resurrected; and will then face their final destruction ([Compare Dan. 7 with Rev. 13:1-2](#)). Of course, all this will take some time.

We don’t know exactly when the impending world crisis will begin; or how long it will last; or exactly how the Antichrist will resolve it; or all the characteristics of world peace and prosperity that will follow under that dictator; but we do know that for the *final* 10.5 years of Antichrist’s activities —from the time of the first rapture until the Second Coming—the world will be suffering terribly under the satanic trinity of the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet.

The Antichrist will not be recognized by most people for who he really is (that is, he will not “be revealed,” [2 Thes. 2:7-9](#)) until AFTER the first Rapture—because his prolonged bubble of peace, prosperity, and unbridled sensuality, will have been burst by the Rapture ([Matt. 24:38-42](#); [1 Thes. 5:3](#); [Rev. 6:4](#)). It is only then that he will begin to openly persecute the remaining Christians, as well as all who later become Christians ([Rev. 12:13-17](#)). By that point, one would imagine that there will be wide recognition of who and what he really is.

The so-called “doctrine of imminency”—the idea that there are no more major prophetic events before the Second Coming, so therefore Jesus

could return at any moment—has been an obstacle for many in understanding the proper order of coming events. As indicated already, there are in fact many more major prophetic events to come even before the first Rapture—starting with some as-yet-unknown major crisis: a crisis which will have to be intense enough, and prolonged enough, to unite a divided world under Antichrist. (After which he will launch into power as the bringer of world peace and hedonism.)

To reiterate: what is coming next is a satanically orchestrated world crisis (which is NOT the Great Tribulation). Many will think the Rapture is imminent during this coming crisis (but the Rapture will NOT be imminent during this crisis). Then, the (as yet unrecognized) Antichrist will militarily resolve the crisis. The world will then buy into his “snow job” of flattery, and will settle down to a time of prolonged peace, prosperity, and building programs. Babylon will be rebuilt, and under Antichrist, a world common market will bring great prosperity to many. People everywhere—including Christians like those in the church at Laodicea ([Revelation 3:16-18](#))—will be seduced by pleasure and “living it up” (with the exception, initially, of the Jews—as we will see next). But it is during this very time of pleasure and self-satisfaction, when people least expect it, that the Pre-Trib rapture occurs! Then the satanic peace will be taken from the earth, and the Great Tribulation will begin!

► **The persecution of the Jews under Antichrist**

After his meteoric rise to power, the Antichrist, a satanic anti-Semite, will waste no time in enlisting help from the enemies of the Jews, in order to persecute the Jews, and to even steal their territory from them—at least temporarily ([Ezek. 35:10-15](#); [Obad. 1:14](#)).

Eventually, because they are hounded by the Antichrist worldwide, the Lord will make a way of escape for the Jews, apparently guiding them again to Egypt ([Deut. 28:65-68](#)). There, the desperate Jews will opt to renew their covenant relationship with God, in deadly earnest ([Ezek. 37:11-14](#), [20:33-38](#)). (Even so, most Jews will still not recognize Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah until his physical return to earth. [Zech. 12:9-10](#))

► **The reappearance of the Ark of the Covenant**

It has been argued by Arthur E. Bloomfield (1895-1980) that at that very time of impending doom for the Jews, and because of their repentance, the Ark of the Covenant—which represents God’s protection for Israel—will make a reappearance to those hopelessly cut-off Jews ([Isaiah 11:12](#), and [18:3](#); and later during the Millennium, the Ark in retrospect: [Jer. 3:16-17](#)).

This reemergence of the Ark will save the Jews from imminent death. And then, traveling with the Ark, the Jews will be able to return safely *en masse* to Israel ([Deut. 30:1-10](#)), and retake their land from their enemies. (So the temple will probably be rebuilt after this retaking of their land, while under divine protection.)

But unfortunately, we already know that the Jewish leaders in Israel will at some later point foolishly choose to abandon their trust in God’s supernatural protection, and make a seven year covenant with Antichrist instead ([Daniel 9:26-27](#) WYC).

Looking again at [Daniel 9:26-27](#) (this time, in NKJV) we read history in advance—how the Antichrist will break that seven year covenant with the Jews after only 3.5 years, and how he will then defile the rebuilt temple. But, praise the Lord, Christ will return to that temple soon thereafter ([Malachi 3:1-4](#)).

Side note: It appears the Ark of the Covenant has already been found—although it has not yet been publicly revealed. See, [“The Discovery of the Ark of the Covenant by Ron Wyatt.”](#) (Also see [“Ron Wyatt and biblical archeology.”](#))

► Revelation and the Rapture(s)

Regarding the much maligned idea of a “rapture”—that is, the idea that some day in the future, believers will be “caught up” or “snatched up” (Gr. *harpazō*, Latin *rapio*) to heaven—we should recall arguments that both Enoch ([Gen. 5:24](#)) and Elijah ([2 Kings 2:11](#)) were apparently “raptured.” Further, Revelation 11 indicates there will be two witnesses in the future who will be killed, resurrected after 3.5 days, and then raptured ([Rev. 11:7-12](#)). (Jesus, on the other hand, ascended back to heaven under

his own power: slowly, deliberately, and victoriously— 40 days after his resurrection.)

By the way: how will **all** the believers have gotten up to heaven to be **together** for the Wedding Feast, and to then be able to all come back down together from there to earth on white horses with Jesus at his Second Coming? Well, either by death...*or by Rapture!*

It appears there will actually be a series of **three raptures**, *as people are ready to go:*

1. There will be a first, pre-Tribulation rapture. This rapture, like the two more that will follow it, is A RESCUE and a reward; but this one is also a judgment (1 Peter 4:17): it will be a separation of the more vigilant Christians from the less (Mt. 25:1-10). In Revelation chapter 12, the pregnant woman described there with a crown of twelve stars does not represent Israel, but the whole body of professing Christians at the time of the first Rapture. And the catching up of the baby who will rule with a rod of iron (Rev. 12:5), symbolizes not the ascension of Jesus, but rather the rapture of a smaller body of alert Christians who are promised to rule with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27). They are the Christians who are actually able to hear, whenever it comes, God's call from heaven. God will call us to come up, and those who have ears to hear, like John in Rev. 4:1, will hear God's "Come up here!" John in Rev. 4:1 represents, by proxy, the response of those sober-minded, spiritual believers at the time of the pre-Trib Rapture. John's rapture provides a chronological place-marker in the narrative for the timing of that first Rapture. And of course the pre-Tribulation Rapture of Rev. 4:1 comes right after the warning to the carnal church at Laodicea, at the very end of Rev. 3. Note: Jesus ascended to heaven **victoriously**, 40 days after his resurrection. However, the baby of Rev. 12:5 is born, and **immediately rescued from the dragon**. Those who heed and escape up to heaven in the first rapture will be like those few who heeded Noah before the Flood (Luke 17:26, 34-35; Ps. 27:5); they are wise virgins who will get to ride things out far above the devil's wrath, as he violently resists his eviction (Isa. 26:20).

2. Then 3.5 years after the first rapture ([Rev. 12:6](#)), there will be a second rapture ([Rev. 7:9-17](#)).
3. And then a third and final rapture, at the blowing of the seventh, final trumpet, when Christ descends *partway down* on clouds ([Mk. 13:26-27](#); [Rev. 14:14-16](#); [1 Thes. 4:13-18](#)) and gathers to himself all the Christians in heaven, together with all those still remaining on earth—giving us at that time our new, immortal bodies ([1 Cor. 15:51-53](#)). Then they (we) will proceed to the Wedding Feast in heaven. That Marriage Supper is held shortly before the Second Coming of Christ, when Jesus will descend *all the way down* to earth on a white horse, with us accompanying him on white horses ([Rev. 19:9-21](#)). Then, with a mere breath of his mouth ([2 Thes. 2:8](#)), Christ will dispense with Antichrist, and his Millennial reign on earth will commence.

To reiterate: we must distinguish that at the third rapture, Christ will remain above on white clouds; whereas at the soon-to-follow Second Coming, Christ will ride all the way down to earth on a white horse, and then remain here for the Millennial Age.

Those Jews in Israel who accept Christ after the first Rapture ([Micah 5:3](#)), will become courageous evangelists to their people, traveling throughout Israel ([Mt. 10:23](#)). At the second rapture, they will remain on earth, but will enjoy special protection ([Rev. 7:3-8](#)).

►The Millennium

At Christ's physical Second Coming to earth, the remaining unconverted Jews will finally recognize Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah; they will repent with mourning ([Zech. 12:9-14](#)); and they will be saved ([Rom. 11:25-26](#)). This will be followed by a Millennial Age of reconstruction and healing ([Isaiah 65:20-25](#)), in which the Jews will figure prominently, with Jesus ruling from Jerusalem. And it should be mentioned that just as the Lord's Supper memorializes the death of Christ, the Jews will also memorialize his death with sacrifices at the Temple during the Millennium. (See, for example, [Ezek. 45:17](#), [Isa. 66:20-23](#), [Zech. 14:16-21](#), [Mal. 3:1-4](#).)

At the end of the Millennium, God will briefly release the devil, who will again attract followers, and whip up a new attack on Israel; but, like the enemies who came against Jerusalem at Armageddon a thousand years earlier, this new crop of enemies will also be doomed to failure. Regarding their destruction: I believe it is actually their angry, disappointed, resentful leader *the devil* who will kill them, *not God* ([Rev. 20:7-9](#)). The devil is the killer, *not God* ([John 10:10](#)); the devil has the power of death, *not God* ([Hebrews 2:14](#)). GOD DOES NOT KILL. Death is an *enemy* of God—not a *tool* of God!—which will eventually be defeated. [1 Corinthians 15:26](#). (Please see “[Is God Violent, or Nonviolent?](#)”)

Then comes Judgment; the remedial, age-during, lake of fire (“the second death,” which will be the death of death); the gradual emptying of that lake as each of its occupants outside the gates eventually chooses to come out of that lake and go through the always open gates of the City ([Rev. 21:25](#)) to take the free water of life offered within ([Rev. 22:17](#)); and then our graduation together from this temporal classroom to a blissful eternity of unimaginably great joy and adventure with the Lord:

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

► **The structure of Revelation: the importance of distinguishing the *main timeline* from later *supplementary details***

We must seek to distinguish the basic timeline which is first given in a prophecy, from any supplementary details added afterwards—details which do not actually follow later chronologically.

So, for both the Olivet Discourse and the Book of Revelation, let’s examine how ***first***, a foundational chronological timeline is given, ***and then*** supplementary details are added that fit back into the earlier timeline. (If we read these long passages of prophecy as contiguously chronological straight through to the end, without recognizing where recapitulation and

added details even begin, it will cause terrible confusion and misunderstanding.)

In The Olivet Discourse, found in [Matthew 24](#), [Mark 13](#), and [Luke 21](#) (although we will limit ourselves here to just Matthew's treatment of it), **first**, after reference to the soon-coming destruction of the Temple at the time of Christ's first coming (that is, Herod's temple), we jump forward to the basic chronological timeline from the rise of false Christs to the third rapture, Matt. 24, verses 4 through 31.

The basic timeline begins with warnings about false Christs, and wars and uprisings ([Mt. 24:4-6](#)); [the Pre-Trib Rapture—*which happens here*—is skipped for now]; then Jesus goes right into comments about the suffering of Christians during the Tribulation, and the exhortation to them to stand firm (in hopes of the second rapture), and the gospel being preached to the whole world from heaven ([Mt. 24:8-14](#)); then there is a shift to address the Jews, warning them to flee Jerusalem when they see Antichrist break his covenant with them; also, there are warnings about not following false rumors concerning the supposed return of Christ, because his return on the clouds at the third rapture will be visible and unambiguous ([Mt. 24:15-27](#)); and then we hear of the final events leading up to the Return of Christ, or more precisely, to the third rapture ([Mt. 24:29-31](#)). So, again, the basic chronological timeline covers from first signs to Return of Christ.

-**Then**, we get added details that fit back into the earlier timeline: the lesson of the fig tree, with an exhortation to be alert for the Pre-Trib Rapture, and details about the dynamics of the Pre-Trib rapture, e.g., one person taken, another left ([Mt. 24:32-44](#)).

In Revelation, first, we have a basic chronological timeline presented in Chapters 4 through 11, from a *heavenly* standpoint, that covers from the first, Pre-Trib Rapture ([Rev. 4:1](#), with [John in representation](#) of that future body of sober-minded Christians who get to leave before the Great Tribulation begins)...all the way up to the Second Coming ([Rev. 11:15-19](#)).

-**Then**, from Chapters 12 through 19, we get added details, from an *earthly* standpoint, which fit back into the earlier timeline: for example,

the Pre-Trib Rapture is described again, in a new way ([Rev. 12:5](#)), and mention of the Wedding supper is added ([Rev. 19:6-9](#)).

The following is an additional example of this principle of interpretation, from Arthur Bloomfield in his book *Before the Last Battle—Armageddon* (p. 20). This quote (with my emphasis in bold) is from his discussion about the phrases “In that day,” and “At that time”:

“A very important illustration of this rule may be seen in Daniel 12:1:

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

The commentators stumble over the phrase, ‘*at that time.*’ They argue, ‘How can it be that after Antichrist has been destroyed and the kingdom of Christ has come, there is a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation?’

But Jesus quoted this statement in Matthew 24:21 and applied it to the same time as Daniel 11, not afterwards. The fact is that in Daniel 12:1 ‘at that time’ does not mean at the end of the events of Daniel 11. **The prophet means that he is going back to fill in a detail left out in the main sequence.**”

Again, Revelation chapters 4 through 11 tell the basic timeline of events from the first rapture through Second Coming; whereas Revelation chapters 12-19 then go back and add supplementary details that take place during that very same period of time—from first rapture to Second Coming.

Here is an overcrowded *MS PowerPoint* chart, that I created in 1997, for your consideration, which I hope may help you understand the structure of Revelation. *It has been converted into a PDF file*, labeled “RevChart1997BloomfieldSeiss.pdf,” and chronologically depicts Revelation chapters 4 to 11:

► **Some final thoughts and exhortations:**

Many have discarded futurism as pessimistic-unsophisticated-passé. The idea of a rapture, à la Tim LaHaye's "Left Behind" money machine, seems shameful and escapist. But I am telling you: *do not throw out the baby with the bathwater.*

I myself am a futurist; however unlike some other futurists, I am not promoting a hurtful God; nor an "us versus them" elitist attitude; nor a "Beam me up, Scotty," escapist mentality. **Rather, I strongly affirm that our loving heavenly Daddy is not in the *killing* business, but the *saving* business.**

When Jesus, our kinsman-redeemer, starts to break the seals on the title deed to earth, in order to finally begin taking repossession of it, the devil will indeed violently resist his coming eviction. So the Lord wants us to be usable *now, ahead of time*: to warn, to teach, to serve, to confront the powers of darkness, and to make preparations on behalf of others, for after we're gone.

John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

In light of John 3:17, [let's not confuse God for the devil](#), as the Bible prophets mistakenly did on occasion. God is not going to send evil. God is not going to punish the world. But God *is* spelling things out for us in advance, and forewarning us of what the devil will do, so that we can pray with understanding, and take appropriate action.

Moses saw through a glass, darkly ([1 Cor. 13:12](#) KJV): the blood of lambs gave the Israelites protection from the plagues of "the destroyer" ([Ex. 12:23](#)), *not from God*. And Jesus died to ransom us from the legalistic devil ([1 Tim. 2:5-6](#)), not to ransom us from His loving Father!

God did not pour out wrath on Jesus at the cross—the devil did ([Psalm 22:16](#)); and in the future, God will not pour out wrath to kill people during the Tribulation—the devil will ([Rev. 12:12](#) ESV).

The false projection of bipolarity onto God started at the Fall of mankind in the Garden, and continues to this day. The mistaken conflating of God (LIFE) and Satan (death) happened to the prophets sometimes, and it still happens to believers today! But God is not a two-headed monster: the unchanging God is only love ([1 John 4:8, 16](#)).

Evangelical Universalists indeed believe that a person **must** receive Christ and be born again in order to see the kingdom of heaven ([Jn. 3:3](#)); but we also believe that *eventually everyone will do so*—either in this life, or after judgment, postmortem. (Please see, “For Further Consideration” at the end of [this essay](#).) And we believe that then, after the last person repents and comes out of the lake of fire, God will finally be “*all in all*” (1 Cor. 15:28), and we will all graduate together from the temporal to the eternal. And, of course, we believe that God would passionately prefer that each individual receive His Son *sooner* instead of *later*.

The greatest assignments and adventures of all time still lie ahead for the Church; but they must be discerned, accepted, and carried out under the leadership of Jesus, the Head of the Church, in harmony with the Holy Spirit—who wants us to humbly seek and utilize the very necessary supernatural Gifts He offers. [1 Cor. 14:1](#).

The heavenly resources available to us are UNLIMITED. [Isaiah 53:4-11](#) presents “The Divine Exchange,” foretelling that Messiah would TAKE our sin and suffering, and GIVE us his righteousness and “shalom” —shalom being variously translated as “health,” “prosperity,” “safety,” “contentment,” “friendship,” and “peace.” The Prince of Shalom has done that! “It is finished.” We cannot add anything to the finished work of Jesus; we can only receive it, enjoy it, and share it. *EVERYTHING* God has *IS* ours ([Luke 15:31](#)).

God has already disallowed all evil in Christ, and the Church must stand on its authority, through Christ’s finished work, and use the keys of the kingdom of heaven—binding and casting out death and disaster, and

loosing and proclaiming life and blessing—and in this way it will not neglect its ‘so great salvation’ (Heb. 2:3). We must act to resist the devil and expose his snares; we must prophetically anticipate and mitigate the devil’s coming rage. “*Forewarned is forearmed,*” and “*knowledge is power.*”

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV)

2 Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

All of us are here together in this temporal classroom (whether above in Paradise, or still on earth, or under the earth as POWs in Hades) learning to yield to God in all things, and learning that His ways are always right. This is often an abhorrent, painful classroom for those of us still on earth; and it may become even more so for those who pass through the avoidable Great Tribulation.

And certainly it will be *even more painful* for the unsaved, who, after death, pass through the horrors of Hades—still under the dominion of Satan in death, as they were in life. Jesus warned the Jews, and all of us, that we are to avoid [Gehenna](#) at any cost.

But, Hades will eventually be cast into the remedial, purgative, temporary (*aionios*: YLT “age-during”)—and ultimately liberating—lake of fire. There, the wicked (who are loved by God) will be in the presence of Christ—God’s consuming fire of love—and his angels, until they are free of every cord of bondage, and every lie, so that they can see the God of love clearly, and come to repentance.

Note: Reconsider Matthew 25:46, regarding the fate of the damned (about to be sent into the lake of fire) and of the saved. Jesus says,

*“Then they will go away to **eternal** punishment but the righteous to **eternal** life.”*

1. But the Greek word translated “eternal” (or “everlasting”) is *aionios*, and does NOT in fact mean “unending or everlasting in quantity of time.” Rather, *aionios* speaks to an “indeterminate age set by God alone.” This adjective is used to describe something *within time*, not outside time (that is, in eternity). *Aionios* is the adjective form of the Greek word *aion*, where we get our English word “eon” (age). **Young’s Literal Translation for *aionios* is always “age-during.”**

2. And the Greek word translated in this verse as “punishment” is *kolasis*, a term used to describe the pruning back of trees, to allow fuller and healthier growth. It is also used to describe corrective punishment, “inflicted in the interest of the sufferer.” (For vindictive, vengeful punishment, “inflicted in the interest of him who inflicts it, that he may obtain satisfaction,” the word *timoria* is used.)

Many erroneously believe that if you deny that the punishment of this verse lasts forever, then you must also deny that the “eternal” life of the saved is unending. But that doesn’t follow, because this verse is dealing with life, or punishment, WITHIN TIME, during the final eon. However, eternity is *outside* time.

In **1 Cor. 15:20-28**, we discover where time will come to its end, and eternity will begin. When the last person has repented in the lake of fire, the purpose of the lake will be finished. It might take a long time, but “*Love is patient.*” 1 Cor. 13:4.

In all of this, GOD IS JOYFUL, and He wants us to be joyful, too! But, you may ask, how could God possibly be joyful, or expect us to be joyful, in the face of all this pain? Well, because of the truth of promises like this:

1 Cor. 15:22

For as in Adam all die, so **in Christ ALL will be made alive.**

As Nehemiah said, “Do not grieve, for the joy of the *LORD* is your strength.” The story of mankind, like all good stories, has a happy ending; because its author, is the The Author of *Life!*

Friends, Joseph in Egypt correctly interpreted God’s prophetic warning of coming disaster; and he also received divine grace, wisdom, and power to prepare for it, in order to rescue many people from death. We too, by the same Holy Spirit, need to correctly interpret prophetic warnings; we too need to receive—and work by means of—divine grace, wisdom, and power, in order to prepare for what is coming; in order to rescue many people from death.

Exciting times are ahead! And as we know from Romans 5:20, ‘where sin abounds, grace **superabounds!**’ So, let us encourage each other, and all the more as we see the Day approaching.

*******END*******

After posting the above essay at the *Evangelical Universalist* web site, I have continued to make additional comments in the Comments Section that follows, several of which I offer here—

- 1) **“Davo” (a preterist) wrongly suggests that Arthur E. Bloomfield promoted belief in UFO’s, and that maybe Donald Trump is actually the Antichrist (!) Here is my response to Davo, where I also go on to discuss Cyrus the Great:**

I responded:

The only extraterrestrials Bloomfield believed existed were God, angels, and demons. And regarding “unidentified flying objects”: yes, certainly Bloomfield believed demonic entities could and would mistakenly be described as such in the last days, as they work more and more openly.

And regarding the suggestion that Donald Trump is the Antichrist: nah, I don’t think so. While I don’t know for sure if Trump is genuinely born again

yet, I know he frequently says that “every life is a gift from God”; and he wants to *support* Israel, *not destroy it*. Plus, he’s not from Lebanon 😊

But it did get my attention when Benjamin [Netanyahu compared Trump to Cyrus the Great](#).

You many recall that God raised up Cyrus, king of Persia (who was not a Jew), directing him to take actions that would favor the Jews, and that would fulfill the miraculous prophecy made by Isaiah, which mentioned Cyrus by name, about 150 years before he came to the throne! (See [Isaiah 44:28; 45:1](#))

As a result of an order by King Cyrus, some 42,000 Israelites returned to Jerusalem from their exile in Babylon. Among them was Zerubbabel, a descendant of King David, who became the governor of those Jews who returned to Palestine.

To reiterate: someday very soon, after his meteoric rise to power, the Antichrist will quickly begin persecuting the Jews, and will thus be criticized by some (probably mostly Christians). Nevertheless, he will also have just brought the world out of a colossal epoch of crisis, for which there will be near universal relief and gratitude. And, after all, he will seem to furnish genuine world peace and prosperity—for the gentiles, anyway.

May we remember recent world history: strong, yet evil leaders can inspire vast multitudes—and deliver on their promises.

Following World War I (The Great War), Germany had severe economic problems, and as the loser, the burden of heavy reparations payments. The Kaiser had been replaced by the weak Weimar Republic which couldn’t seem to stop runaway inflation. German currency became nearly worthless. At one point, inflation was so high a German hausfrau would need a wheelbarrow to transport the amount of currency needed to buy her family a loaf of bread!

Then, in 1929, Germany was also hit by the Great Depression, a worldwide economic downturn that threw half of its labor force out of work and caused the failure of banks and industries. The Germans, like the Italians, looked

for a strong leader to lift them out of their problems and to give them hope and direction. And, like the Italians, “Christian” Germany chose an anti-Semitic fascist, Adolph Hitler.

At that time in Italy, it is said Benito Mussolini was adored for getting the trains to run on time. (How about many of us today? If we even lost our electricity for a week or two, wouldn't we be 'eternally grateful' to someone for restoring it!?)

Are we so naïve as to think that during the greatest world crisis to date, many undiscerning in the Church will not feel, at least initially, blindly indebted to such a charismatic world leader?

- *“Don't be too judgmental of him.”*
- *“Don't be so ungrateful as to bite the hand that feeds you.”*
- ***“He's no saint. But then neither was Cyrus the Great, and God used him to help his people back then; today, we Christians are ‘the chosen people.’”***

2) In the following comment to Davo (again), I promote my interpretation of the Book of Habakkuk:

I think God sees our beginning and end at the same time, and is in both places at the same time. If we drew a timeline of all human history—say from Adam being born, until the very last person is finally born again—on a piece of paper, God would be that piece of paper, holding and surrounding the timeline.

The prophets, although seeing the present, were also seeing into the future, in the Spirit. They then tried to describe their vision to us, using the limited vocabulary of their own time, and culture—and imperfect theology—for example, the false idea that God is a bipolar, violent killer; when actually, He's not.



davo said:

H

Hermano:

To reiterate: someday very soon, after his meteoric rise to power, the Antichrist will quickly begin persecuting the Jews, and will thus be criticized by some (probably mostly Christians).

Hez 6:66? Nah Hermano with all due respect... you just can't keep making this stuff up in the name of biblical prophecy.

Making this stuff up? No, I am interpreting Scripture from a futurist viewpoint. Take [the book of Habakkuk](#), for example.

The conditions surrounding Antichrist's future rise; his sensuality; his corruptness; his violence; his defeat; and the Second Coming were all laid out long ago by the prophet Habakkuk. Sure, Habakkuk might have also been anticipating Nebuchadnezzar's invasion of Jerusalem in 586 BC; but I am certain the book is primarily warning about *Antichrist*, and also *giving hope* about God's rescue and justice at the Second Coming.

-In Chapter 1, Habakkuk starts out talking about seeing terrible conditions of violence and injustice all around him. I think he is actually describing coming world conditions just before the rise of the Antichrist, thousands of years after his own lifetime.

Then Habakkuk talks about a wicked foe who catches people in his net, and who is "destroying nations without mercy." I think this is specifically Antichrist.

-In Chapter 2, God tells Habakkuk to...

*"Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets*

so that a herald may run with it.

**3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end**

and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it;

it will certainly come

and will not delay.

Note that in this revelation, God says He is speaking about “the end.”

Then the next verse, verse 4, is famous for its impact on the apostle Paul, as well as on Martin Luther:

“See, **the enemy is puffed up;**

his desires are not upright—

but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness—

Again, I think this “puffed up enemy” is Antichrist. Habakkuk’s description of this enemy goes on to tell of his use of wine (intoxicants), his bloodshed, his plunder of many nations, his “violence done to Lebanon,” and his idolatry.

-In Chapter 3, ask yourself, are we reading about *Nebuchadnezzar’s* end (who apparently died of old age), or Antichrist’s—at the Second Coming of Christ? Here is chapter 3 verses 3-4 & 13

God came from Teman,
the Holy One from Mount Paran.

His glory covered the heavens
and his praise filled the earth.

4 His splendor was like the sunrise;
rays flashed from his hand,
where his power was hidden.

...

13 You came out to deliver your people,
to save your anointed one.

You crushed the leader of the land of wickedness,
you stripped him from head to foot.

Hmmm. Now wait a minute. God *did not* personally, dramatically come down from heaven to rescue his people from the Babylonians when they overwhelmed Israel in 586 BC.

And God *did not* personally, dramatically destroy Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian king, in 586 BC, either. In fact, Nebuchadnezzar eventually became a believer! Daniel records Nebuchadnezzar's conversion testimony in Daniel 4:

"...Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just..."

So if Habakkuk *was not* foretelling the 586 BC Babylonian situation against Israel under Nebuchadnezzar, **then we are still waiting for the future fulfillment of what he was describing.**

To reiterate, the book of Habakkuk describes the dark world conditions at the rise of Antichrist, his corrupt nature, his large scale conquests and violence, **and his demise at Christ's Second Coming.**

3) Here is another comment of mine, about the relevance of the Feasts of Israel to this topic, which is *more of an essay*:

Regarding the Seven Annual Festivals of Israel, and Their Prophetic Significance

The Jews still observe the seven annual feasts described in [Leviticus 23](#):

1. Passover (in Hebrew, "Pesach")
2. Unleavened Bread (Hag-Ha-Matzot)
3. Firstfruits (Bikkurim)
4. Weeks (Shavuot); a.k.a. "Pentecost" (Greek, *pentēkosté hēmērā*: fiftieth day)
5. Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah)
6. Atonement (Yom Kippur)
7. Tabernacles (Succoth)

These seven feasts are not only commemorative, but also prophetic. It can be convincingly demonstrated that the first three were prophetically predictive of the *First* Coming of Jesus. And that the last three are associated with his *Second* Coming. And that the fourth one—right in the middle of the series—is associated with *the Church*. (Also, that the third rapture is prophetically anticipated in the fifth festival, the Feast of Trumpets!)

The first four festivals *have already been prophetically fulfilled* by Jesus:

1- Passover: Jesus was the Passover Lamb,

1 Corinthians 5:7

Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

2- Unleavened Bread: Jesus is the sinless bread of life,

John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

3- Firstfruits: Jesus is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep,

1 Corinthians 15:20

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

4- Weeks/Pentecost: after His ascension, during the time when the Festival of Weeks (Pentecost) was being celebrated in Jerusalem, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to baptize his disciples, who had been told to wait for that experience in order that the Church would be initiated in his power:

Acts 2:1–4

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one

place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

[Interestingly, the giving of the law at Mount Sinai is actually *celebrated* during this festival of Weeks/Pentecost. Yet at Mount Sinai, three thousand people *died* at that event, [Ex. 32:27-28](#). But now we Christians understand that the Mosaic covenant was a ministry of *condemnation* and *DEATH*, [2 Cor. 3:7-9](#). Whereas under the New Covenant of abundant LIFE, during the festival of Weeks—when at another mountain, Zion, Peter preached the perfect representative of God’s true, unipolar nature of love, Jesus, God the Son,—3,000 people received the gift of *eternal life!* [Acts 2:41](#).

Also, the Book of Ruth is traditionally read during the Festival of Weeks, because the story is a reminder to the Jews *that God is also concerned for the gentiles*; plus, the setting of the story is during the Feast of Weeks—which celebrates the late spring harvest.

We Christians now understand that BOAZ, the kinsman-redeemer of Ruth (who was a gentile) REPRESENTS the kinsman-redeemer of all gentiles: JESUS of Nazareth. And we gratefully acknowledge that our salvation is from the Jews, [John 4:22](#).]

The last three festivals—in their prophetic fulfillment by Jesus—are still pending:

5 The Feast of Trumpets: it will be prophetically fulfilled at the final Rapture, when all Christians meet Jesus in the clouds, at the sounding of *the seventh and final trumpet*:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—

*52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For the*

trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17

15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

*16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and **with the trumpet call of God**, and the dead in Christ will rise first.*

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

Revelation 11:15 (NIV)

The Seventh Trumpet

15 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

6- The Feast of Atonement (Yom Kippur): will be prophetically fulfilled at *the Second Coming of Christ*, at which time all the Jews will finally recognize Jesus of Nazareth for who he really is: their Messiah—

Zechariah 12:10

"They will look upon me whom they have pierced, they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only Son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for their firstborn."

Zechariah 13:1

"In that day, a fountain shall be opened for the House of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sins and for uncleanness."

(Today in Israel, Yom Kippur is a day of national mourning, a day of fasting and prayer for the afflicting of one's soul, [Leviticus 23:28-29](#).)

7- Tabernacles: this feast will be prophetically fulfilled *during the Millennial Age*. We are told that the wicked people who attacked Jerusalem during the Battle of Armageddon, and survived, must go to Jerusalem each year to pay homage to Jesus (or, more probably, they must send representatives each year):

Zechariah 14:16-17

16 Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, and to celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles.

17 If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain.

I don't believe this Zechariah passage is warning of a lack of *physical* rain for the disobedient, but rather a lack of *spiritual* rain; after all, concerning physical rain, Jesus has already clarified the true nature of his unchanging Father,

Matthew 5:45b

"...He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."

The Feast of Tabernacles always includes water libations: offerings of thanksgiving to God for providing much needed rainfall.

But water is also the symbol of *spiritual* blessing: it was actually during this very feast of Tabernacles that Jesus stood up, and made the symbolic connection between physical water and spiritual water, in his famous invitation—

John 7:37

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink."

(But, of course, a person *must be willing* to come to Jesus in order to receive his living water in this life...or else, postmortem—that is, after Hades, and after being cast into the remedial lake of fire outside the City gates, when those in that lake will still be invited to come in through those *gates which are never shut*:

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.)

And of course, the symbolism of the Holy Spirit *as water* had already been laid out in the Old Testament; for example, by Isaiah:

Isaiah 45:8

*“You heavens above, **rain down my righteousness**; let the clouds shower it down. Let the earth open wide, let salvation spring up, let righteousness flourish with it; I, the Lord, have created it.”*

We recall that Peter quoted the prophet Joel—who spoke of both early and latter rains—in order to contextualize the strange new phenomenon of the disciples speaking by the Holy Spirit in tongues:

Acts 2:15-21

15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

18 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood BEFORE THE COMING OF THE great and glorious DAY OF THE LORD.

21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Futurists believe that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit during Acts 2 represented the first of *two* outpourings: 1) during Peter’s time, at the beginning of the Church Age; and 2) at the end of the Church Age, in a second outpouring *yet to come*.

Remember, Joel does specify TWO times of “rain”:

Joel 2:23

“Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, **the early and the latter rain, as before.**”

Within the charismatic world, there is much argument about the timing of this yet-to-come second great outpouring of the Holy Spirit; but Joel 2:20 (above, earlier) relates the timing of the next outpouring to when “*the sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood,*” which is noted to be ‘*before The Day of the Lord.*’

We also read another reference in Revelation concerning those same phenomena involving the sun and moon:

Rev. 6:12

I watched as he opened the SIXTH seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,

And, as graphically illustrated in my Revelation chart—

[RevChart1997BloomfieldSeiss.pdf](#)

—the opening of “the SIXTH seal” (in Rev. chapter 6) is located during the Great Tribulation, shortly before The Day of The Lord commences. Hence, the “*latter rain*” outpouring of the Holy Spirit should probably be expected *after* the Pre-Trib Rapture, *during* the Great Tribulation.

Note: this suggested location for the second outpouring being during the coming Great Tribulation, is in sharp contradiction to the opinion of the dominionists of the New Apostolic Reformation, who insist that the prophesied Latter Rain is happening *right now*; and that virtually every strange spiritual manifestation in the Church today should be accepted unquestioningly as part of that second outpouring, and that these manifestations (for example, gold dust, angel feathers, glory clouds, “holy” laughter) are supposedly helping the Church to now set up God’s kingdom

on earth—BEFORE the Second Coming of Christ. Whereas biblically, *God's kingdom will come when Jesus himself comes to earth with his Church to set up his Messianic Kingdom—personally, physically, and visibly.*

Blessings.

4) Another comment of mine, about translations that promote a false bipolarity to God:

By eating from that bipolar Tree, Adam and Eve themselves became bipolar, and began projecting their bipolarity and fearfulness onto their loving Creator. For example, after the Fall, when God came for His walk in the cool part of the day ([Gen. 3:8](#)), they mistakenly thought they needed to hide from Him —*instead of running right to Him!* They now wrongly believed that God loved them only when they did good, and hated them when they did evil. The use of the false filter of God being bipolar is reflected more by some translators than others.

Consider Mark 3:29. The context is that Jesus had been accused by the teachers of the law of casting out demons *by the power of Satan*. So Jesus explained the illogic of that accusation: Satan would be opposing himself. In verse 29, Jesus then went on to warn against blaspheming the Holy Spirit—which people do whenever they misidentify the Holy Spirit as being Satan.

Compare Mark 3:29 in the NIV translation, vs. in the YLT translation:

Mark 3:29 **NIV**

but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will NEVER be forgiven; they are guilty of an ETERNAL sin.”

Mark 3:29 **YLT** (Young's Literal Translation)

*but whoever may speak evil in regard to the Holy Spirit
HATH NOT FORGIVENESS – to the age, but is IN
DANGER of AGE-DURING judgment;'*

-In the NIV translation of this verse, an unbeliever is wrongly given cause to think: *“Oh no! I too have maligned manifestations of the Holy Spirit! So I am guilty of an ‘eternal sin,’ and I can never possibly be forgiven!”*

-Whereas the YLT has Jesus saying that a blasphemer has not received forgiveness (is not yet a believer), and is *in danger of* a terrible, but **temporary**, judgment.

4) Another comment of mine—a response to “Al-K-Hall” (who continually argues Antichrist will be a fanatical Muslim), regarding Daniel 2:



Al-K-Hall:

I was researching different views on **Daniel 2. Most people think Rome is the legs of iron *but it's not.***

I responded:

Daniel was taken to Babylon in the 6th century b.c. His symbolic prophecies to identify four empires used both a statue (Chapter 2) and animals (Chapter 7) to describe those same four empires. His descriptions in both cases begin with the Babylonian empire of Nebuchadnezzar, and then go on to the next three empires which

successively arise afterward. His descriptions are so clear and accurate that **there is no scholarly debate—either among Christians or unbelievers—about which empires they represent**: Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. (But since *non-Christian* scholars do not believe in an omniscient God, or the miracle of predictive prophecy, they *instead* argue that the prophecies **MUST** have been written *after the fact*; and that then, by pretend, they were fraudulently predated under the name of “Daniel” and foisted on the world. But that’s another discussion.)

The Same Four World Empires Described Using a STATUE in Daniel Chapter 2, are Again Described Using ANIMALS in Daniel Chapter 7:

1. **BABYLON**: Chapter 2, Head of Gold (Nebuchadnezzar); Chapter 7, Lion given the heart of a man (Nebuchadnezzar repented).
2. **MEDO-PERSIA**: Arms of Silver ; Bear of two sides.
3. **GREECE**: Trunk of Brass ; Leopard with 4 wings (rapid growth) and with 4 heads (the later 4-way split of Alexander’s empire after his death).
4. **ROMAN EMPIRE**: Legs of **Iron** (Western capital in Rome and Eastern capital in Constantinople); fourth “Beast” with **Iron Teeth**.

Then follows,

- ROMAN EMPIRE DIVIDED INTO NATIONS: Daniel Chapter 2, **Ten** Toes of statue ;Daniel Chapter 7, **Ten** Horns of fourth beast.

Then follow more debatable events among futurists:

- RISE OF ANTICHRIST (the rise of the Little Horn, [Dan. 7:7-8](#)) and his empire: rebuilding of Babylon, Tyre, and areas encompassed by those 4 earlier empires, [Revelation 13:2](#)—but you're right: **Antichrist's empire does not encompass the whole world.** (Note: the coming leopard, bear, lion, and beast of Rev. 13:2 correspond to the final manifestation of that Statue of earthly political power described in [Daniel 2:44-45](#): that statue will—one day soon—be *fully standing* when it is finally struck on its feet and disintegrated by the Rock, Christ, who will then set up his physical kingdom on earth during the Millennium.)
- FIRST RAPTURE (a rescue): those judgment thrones set in place of [Daniel 7:9-14](#) correspond to—are the same as—the thrones of [Rev. 4:1-5](#). (As previously discussed in the original post, John's rapture in Rev. 4:1 represents a proxy for the first, pre-Trib rapture, and is a place-marker in the chronological narrative. The basic timeline of Revelation starts at the first, Pre-Trib Rapture and goes up to the Second Coming of Christ: these events are covered chronologically in Revelation Chapters 4 to 11.)
- A TIME OF TRIBULATION (The Day of the Lord): [Daniel 7:24-25, 8:12-14, 24](#).

- THE KINGDOM OF GOD FINALLY PHYSICALLY ESTABLISHED ON EARTH: Daniel Chapter 2, a rock that strikes the statue and becomes a mountain ; Daniel Chapter 7, “a son of man” and “the holy people of the Most High” begin to reign during the Millennium.

Regarding the idea of the Antichrist being from out of the Roman Empire: futurists interpret the “Seventy Sevens” of [Daniel 9:24-27](#) to mean that the Messiah would be killed, and then after that, the people of the ‘prince to come’ would destroy Jerusalem and the Temple. And that furthermore, this passage of prophecy then jumps forward into *the time of the end*, when this ‘prince to come’ (Antichrist) will break his covenant with the Jews in the middle of one seven (that is, after 3.5 years).

So, since it was *the Romans* who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, then *the Romans* are “the people of the prince who is to come”: and so Antichrist will arise from somewhere within, or on the edge of, the territory which was encompassed by the vast Roman Empire. (I earlier offered Bible verses to suggest that the Antichrist will arise in Lebanon—which was within the Roman Empire; other futurists suggest Germany—which was an area on the edge of the Roman Empire; and so on.)

Finally, as to fixating on the particular rôle of **Islam**, or the Roman Catholic Church, or the New Age Movement, or false signs and wonders in the evangelical church, et cetera: we should just know that ultimately, compromised people will openly worship Satan:

Revelation 13:4

People worshiped **the dragon** because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, “Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?”

I certainly hope you will indeed “keep an open mind,” and eventually take the time needed to prayerfully investigate all the assertions (with their many references) in my original post.

Blessings.

4) Let me skip down to a comment of mine on prophetic “Jezebel” and the New Apostolic Reformation:

In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. 2 Peter 2:3.

Never heard of the “NAR”? Then it’s high time you began to inform yourself about this arguably dangerous movement, and right here’s a good place to start! After all, teachers of the New Apostolic Reformation are methodically taking over the evangelical world, and they are “*coming to a church near YOU.*” I would argue that what has been termed **the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR)**, which initially began in charismatic circles, should be on *everyone’s* radar as a manifestation of the apostasy among Christians prophesied to develop shortly before Antichrist is revealed ([2 Thes. 2:3](#)).

Everyone should seek intimacy with Jesus. But the problem is, there are lying spirits leading hungry, well-intentioned—but undiscerning—people toward clever counterfeits: a *false* Jesus and a false gospel (2 Cor. 11:4¹). And that's what is happening to those moving with the NAR. It gets confusing, because there are many good people caught up in this movement, and there is certainly a lot of biblical truth mixed in with their errors.

And although we are *not* to be judgmental or condemning (Greek *krinō*, e.g., Mt. 7:1) against those with whom we disagree, we *are* to judge/discern (Greek *anakrinō*) all things, since we have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:15-16).

Two factions in the Church

Dave Hunt and T.A. McMahon stated in their book, *The Seduction of Christianity* (1986):

Two factions are now emerging within the church. One side adheres to the belief that an apostasy is coming for the church in the last days, and with it a great tribulation and God's judgment for the world. We are to rescue as many as we can before it is too late, calling them to citizenship in heaven. On the other side are those, *equally sincere*, who see the primary call of the church as solving social, economic, and political problems. Although they are also concerned to see souls saved, the conversion of the masses provides the means for taking over the world for Christ, taking dominion back from Satan, and thereby

establishing the kingdom in order that Christ might return as king to reign at last.

Yes, both factions are “equally sincere.” But they can’t both be equally *right*. The description of that second faction well covers today’s dominionists of the NAR. There is a faction following the Holy Spirit, and a faction following the Antichrist spirit.

Seven churches, seven periods of Church history

In trying to understand today’s church scene, we will be helped by recognizing the relevance of the book of Revelation. Some scholars (e.g., [Arthur E. Bloomfield](#), [Joseph A. Seiss](#)) believe the letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) found in the first four chapters of Revelation, served multiple purposes. While those letters were addressed to seven long ago local churches, to encourage and correct them, they also prophetically anticipated later developments in the Church, by offering parallels between the characteristics of those churches with coming epochs of Church history. This prophetic laying out *in advance* of the future of the Church shows seven stages of the Church universal, beginning back at the time of those ancient churches, and going right past us, up to the time of the (first) Rapture. The correspondence looks like this:

1. *Ephesus*, the church of the first love.
2. *Smyrna*, the subsequent time of widespread persecution.
3. *Pergamos*, the infiltration of the clergy-laity *mentality* of Romanism (the Nicolaitans).

4. *Thyatira*, the Romanism of the Dark Ages (Jezebel), is firmly established.
5. *Sardis*, the church is reformed. Here, Jezebel is dropped.
6. *Philadelphia*, a period of revivals, missionary outreach, and church growth.
7. *Laodicea*, the self-satisfied church of the last days.

*“But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman **Jezebel**, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.” (Rev. 2:20).*

Hence, for example, in Revelation 2, it is contended that Thyatira corresponds to the Church during what would be the coming time of the entrenchment of **Jezebel**, with her “Romish”-style mystical, ceremonial, political, legalistic religion; but that Sardis in Revelation 3 corresponds to the following time when she would be *cast out of the true Church*, during the Protestant Reformation. Cast out, but by no means dead.

Jezebel and the NAR

We recall that the original, literal Jezebel was a Phoenician princess, the daughter of Ethbaal, ‘king of Tyre,’ ‘king of the Sidonians.’ (Interestingly, both Tyre and Sidon thrive to this day on the coast of modern Lebanon). Jezebel married Ahab, king of Israel, and led him into idolatry and murder. Also, she persecuted the true prophets of God. She is remembered for her idolatry, her witchcraft, and her makeup! ([2 Kings 9:22, 30.](#))

And whereas the *glorious* woman of Rev. 12:1 symbolically represents the *true* Church in the last days—

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

—“Jezebel,” an *inglorious* woman, symbolically represents an alternative, seductive, *false* church, which **had already begun back in Babylon**. “Jezebel” actually *began* in Babylon (Iraq); and one day, she will *end* in Babylon (Iraq).

That woman Jezebel, warned against in the letter to Thyatira, *is the very same woman* who will eventually come to full fruition and strength as a major religious and commercial center in Babylon, as we see, for example, in Revelation 17:1-2,

*Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I will show you the judgment of **the great harlot** who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.”*

The woman Jezebel figuratively represents an evil, centralized religious and economic system that will fully ripen under the Antichrist; but we can detect her spirit even now working inside the true Church, drawing people away toward herself via, for example, the NAR, with hooks of power and wealth. This ecumenical

Jezebel spirit seduces followers with the offer of unity...at the expense of truth.

The temptation of power

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Matthew 4:8-10.

Do you believe there is a devil? If so, do you believe he (or his helpers) could ever tempt *you yourself* with power, wealth, and success—perhaps offered to you as though for noble purposes?

Power is very seductive. We remember that young Saul started out hiding among the baggage, but as king ended up erecting a monument in his own honor ([1 Sam. 10:22, 15:12](#)).

There are many ambitious, power-hungry people in the world. They tend to rise to the top in politics, in business, in education, in the arts and the media; and also in the religious world, where they strive to influence and keep the the support of followers and their families, and even to control them. Certainly, many, if not most, of these power-hungry people are well-intentioned, at least in their own eyes. But for how many of them is *the devil* actually behind their success? —and the devil, sooner or later, always calls in his

debts, *with interest*; sooner or later, the devil *will* be worshiped by the carnally minded, unless they repent ([Rev. 13:4](#)).

However, we Christians are called to recognize, and reject, seductive offers from the devil. We are *‘to worship the Lord our God, and serve him only.’*

Where does bad doctrine come from?

I strongly disagree with the doctrine of the NAR, and in later comments want to explain to you why you should watch out for these people, and try to reason with those being drawn to them. But first, let me assert that **nearly all bad doctrine stems from misunderstanding about God’s nature, especially in distinction to Satan’s nature.** The truth of this assertion will be foundational to the remaining arguments in this essay.

Most believers rightly recognize that Satan exists; nevertheless, **many people confuse God with the devil, whenever they mistakenly attribute *evil* to God, and call it “good.”**

But it should also be remembered there are an increasing number of believers who no longer think Satan is even real anymore, having so grown in *erudition* and *sophistication* that they now insist *all evil comes only from mankind*, without any malevolent supernatural influence. (For example, [Michael Hardin](#), a popularizer of the philosophy of René Girard, appears a very reasonable Christian when he argues that the devil is “not a person but a principle.”)

Either way, because of the blinders of false doctrine arising from fundamental misunderstanding about God's good nature (or, from disregard of the very existence of the devil), many Christians, including those in the NAR ("New Apostolic Reformation") are rapidly being overtaken by significant world trends and events, which they either misinterpret, or miss altogether. And because they do not understand, they do not recognize and resist the spirit of Antichrist.

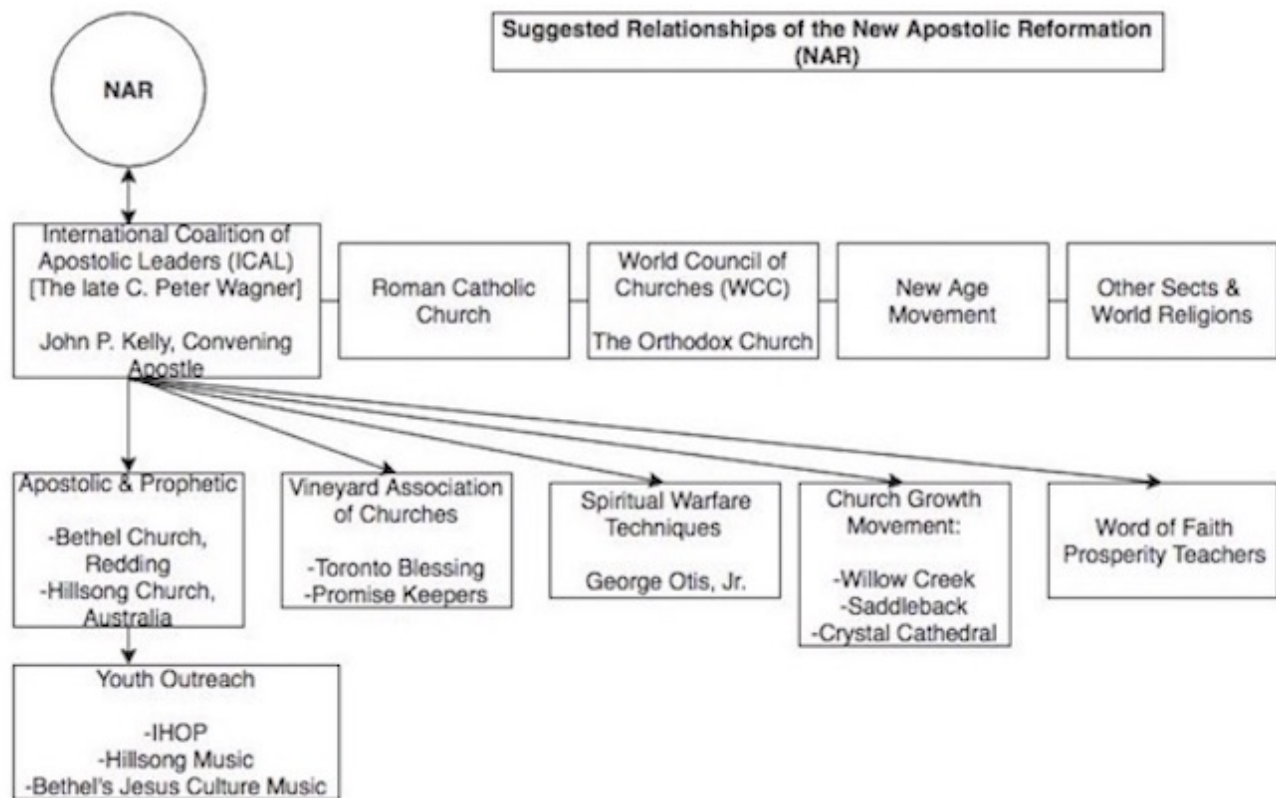
5) And here is a more comprehensive comment I added on the NAR, an essay in its own right:

The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), by Hermano

Perhaps your own Christian background is *not* charismatic; nevertheless, the NAR, although initially seen mostly within the charismatic faction of the Church, is a dynamic, **ecumenical**, growing movement. It is gobbling up churches and organizations, as it relentlessly promotes the "victorious eschatology" of [Dominion theology](#)—a theology which has its roots in the 1940s [Latter Rain theology](#). Both of these theologies generally reject futurism—with its belief in a coming apostasy, a coming human Antichrist, and a coming rapture—as being pessimistic and false.

The charismatic wing of the dominionist movement, which is still somewhat loosely organized, claims to be restoring the offices of apostle and prophet, and uniting the global church under their leadership. They even have their own favored version of Bible, [The Passion Translation](#) (see also, [TPT](#)), a work in progress. Their goal is to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, by taking over the earth—the so-called "[seven mountain mandate](#)"—and then to hand it over to Christ. The seven mountain mandate ([SMM](#)) has [parallels with Marxism and its tactics](#).

Who is associated with the NAR?



(A larger .pdf version of this chart is available [here](#).)

“New Apostolic Reformation” was a moniker coined for the movement by its first chief apostle, the late Professor C. Peter Wagner of Fuller Theological Seminary. Before his death, Wagner handpicked John P. Kelly as his replacement. Kelly is now the “International Convening Apostle” of the International Coalition of Apostolic Leaders (ICAL), with central offices in Fort Worth, Texas.

Other ecumenical, dominion theology antecedents of the NAR movement include both the [Promise Keepers](#) and the [Toronto Blessing](#) movements from the [Vineyard churches](#) of the late Pastor John Wimber—who was himself an associate of C. Peter Wagner at Fuller, where they [team-taught a class](#) on “signs and wonders.”

Regarding NAR membership, Wikipedia states, “[Although] **few, if any, organizations publicly espouse connection to the NAR ...there**

are *several individuals* often associated with this movement” (Wikipedia). A more comprehensive list of associated teachers can be found [here](#).

In their book, *A New Apostolic Reformation?: A Biblical Response to a Worldwide Movement* (2018), R. Douglas Geivett and Holly Pivec point out that,

As with any other large, multi-faceted movement, participants in NAR hold to a spectrum of beliefs, accepting some NAR teachings and being unaware of or rejecting others. Indeed, many people taking part in NAR don’t even realize it is a movement, let alone embrace all the radical teachings surrounding it.

At present, perhaps the chief apologist and equivocator of the NAR is radio host Dr. Michael L. Brown, who, depending on the audience, sometimes [argues the NAR doesn’t even exist!](#)

Suffice it to say that the movement seems to be rapidly drawing in every false teacher in evangelical Christianity, particularly from the charismatic world. Like a multi-level marketing scheme, it is big business. And *“better to join up sooner than later, while seniority is still being established.”* There are so many tempting goodies to be had by affiliating yourself: networking opportunities, book endorsements, speaking engagements, travel, fame, and fortune.

So, will you hitch *your* wagon to the rising star of Antichrist? Will you join this seductive, self-affirming, mutual admiration society of power and wealth? Or, will you go to Christ, outside the camp ([Hebrews 13:13](#))?

Business models and professional Christianity

What conditions in the Church have fostered the development of the NAR? I would offer, among other possibilities, the acceptance of outside control of local churches by, for example, denominational boards, missionary boards, and parachurch ministries; and the use of pragmatic (but unspiritual) short-cuts—that is, the use of worldly business growth principles—to achieve higher numbers of people and resources for the Kingdom.

“Nor did we eat anyone’s food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.” 2 Thes. 3:8

Paul, a brilliant theologian, and a divinely appointed apostle, was also a self-supporting tentmaker (Acts 18:3). In this way, he had the advantage of not being in anyone’s pocket financially or doctrinally.

The Scriptures delineate the leadership of local autonomous churches as a plurality of elders, a collective leadership, raised up from within, with no single man in complete control. But in today’s churches, there is usually a “senior pastor” and “associate pastors” (often brought in from outside) who are generally professional clergy, as well as other hired staff.

The positions of “elder” and “deacon,” as effectuated in most churches today, are not in line with Scripture. They are born out of Protestant tradition, which is only slightly removed from that of Roman Catholicism, with the pastor as priest. In church meetings, the pastor is usually “running the show”; whereas in the Bible, we read things like,

*“Now **to each one** the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” 1 Cor. 12:7*

*“Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, **the first speaker should stop.**” 1 Cor. 14:29-30*

Today’s larger churches often rely on worldly management techniques, marketing ploys, and business growth models, [with the pastor often seen as a Chief Executive Officer \(CEO\)](#).

This pragmatic business mind-set for church leadership and church growth has done inestimable harm, adulterating the spiritual with the secular. To name some names,

- Certainly the influence of business management guru Peter Drucker is prominent in this church leadership business mindset. In fact Rick

Warren, Bob Buford and Bill Hybels have been referred to as “[the Druckerite ‘trinity’](#).”

- We see that this church-as-business thinking was promoted by the late [Bob Buford](#), who was founder of the [Leadership Network](#) and mentor to senior pastor Rick Warren of the Saddleback Church, as well as to Emergent Church leaders like well-spoken mystic and social justice warrior, [Brian McLaren](#). (And certainly, McLaren and Warren are [no fans of the study of end-times prophecies](#).)
- We see this commercial mind-set popularized in the annual “Global Leadership Summit” (GLS) events of the [Global Leadership Network](#), developed by disgraced former senior pastor Bill Hybels of Willow Creek Church, which are still sponsored by that church. (Do you remember Jesus saying he would pick the most gifted public speakers and business minds to build his Church? Me neither! Paul neither. [1 Cor. 2:4-5!](#))
- Regarding toxic church growth philosophies, Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, and John Wimber were all influenced by the late [Robert Schuller](#) of the Crystal Cathedral. Further, C. Peter [Wagner identified Warren and Hybels as New Apostolic pastors](#) in his 1999 book, *Churchquake: how the new apostolic reformation is shaking up the church as we know it*.

Will true peace come to the earth before Jesus returns? Like other dominionists, Rick Warren of Saddleback Church in California believes that the Church will establish the Kingdom of God here on earth, *before* Christ’s return. His [P.E.A.C.E. plan](#) is part of that initiative.

The eschatology of the NAR

In their eschatology, advocates of the New Apostolic Reformation generally *reject* futurism in favor of either,

1. [Preterism](#) - the position that biblical prophecies concerning the “*last days*” were mainly fulfilled by 70 AD, when an angry Jesus, utilizing the Roman army, returned to kill the Christ-rejecting Jews in Jerusalem. (That’s right: the same, apparently bipolar, Jesus who had earlier said so tenderly, “*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ...how often I have*

longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing”, Mt. 23:37, Lk. 13:34). And so in this viewpoint, there is **no coming Antichrist, Rapture, or Tribulation** on the horizon. Instead, in the words of singer [Johnny Nash](#), *“Look straight ahead, nothin’ but blue skies.”*

Or, more acceptable to nonviolent-types within the movement,

2. **“Open Theism”** - the belief that God does not actually know the future (is not truly omniscient), and so He is “open” to working with us, in order to rewrite the violent end-times scenario He has forewarned about in prophecy—making it into something more victorious and glorious, by editing out all the negativity, *with our help*. And so, here again, there is **no coming Antichrist, Rapture, or Tribulation** on the horizon. (It should be noted here that in a similar fashion, New Age leader Barbara Marx Hubbard says that the New Age “Christ” has a plan, and he is promising that **if** everyone will just collaborate and co-create *with the New Age Christ*, world peace is possible, and *Armageddon is avoidable*.)

Nevertheless, there is a third category of NAR dominionists who do not reject futurism, and hold a distinctive version of the Post-Tribulation position—with their own violent spin:

3. Post-Tribulationism - Mike Bickle, a dominionist from [IHOP](#), teaches that *the Church causes the Great Tribulation*, and will kill people during it. Then, *Christ will return after his Church has Christianized society*. (Remember: Adolf Hitler was initially derided by some as an inconsequential buffoon. With that in mind, watch this [video clip](#) of Bickle shortly after the 4:30 minute mark of YouTube IHOP TV podcast 3, as he says, *“I’m talking about the prayer of faith that heals; and I’m talking about the prayer of faith that **kills!**”*

The NAR teaches that all Christians, by placing themselves under the direction of their “divinely” appointed apostles and prophets, must join together in unity to successfully incarnate Christ (**“WE ARE Christ”**), in

order to take over the world in the name of Christ. These cooperative Christians, as specially appointed overcomers, are known variously as “Joel’s Army,” “Manifest Sons,” or “New Breed” Christians, and will supposedly usher in a beautiful theocracy.

Many in this movement believe the return of Christ is spiritual and invisible, not physical (—kind of like the Jehovah’s Witnesses believing that Jesus came back *invisibly* in 1914), and, as we recall from one of its antecedent streams, Promise Keepers, “*Christ cannot incarnate in a divided body*”; so, it’s necessary that the Church be united under dominionist leadership, and— as the New Age movement similarly suggests—*come under an “overshadowing.”*

But Christ’s return will be *physical* and *public*, not *spiritual* and *invisible*. We have been forewarned about this kind of confusion:

- “*Therefore if they say to you, ‘Look, He is in the desert!’ do not go out; or ‘Look, He is in the inner rooms!’ do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.*” Mt. 24:26-27.
- “*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 John 4:2-3. (KJV)**

Note: I used the KJV on 1 John 4:2-3, because “*is come*” in English better captures the intent of the perfect participle active used in the Greek—meaning the condition of ‘come’ is both being stressed and has ongoing effect—which can thus encompass past, present, and future.

Jesus has chosen to permanently abide in the (now-glorified) *physical* body he received through Mary. We know that the lesser reality of the physical realm—purged of all death—will some day merge with, and be subsumed by, the the greater reality of the

heavenly realm ([Rev. 21:1-5](#)). Jesus' birth in a physical body was the initial intersection point in this process.

The NAR promotes a broad, triumphalist, social gospel, which rejects, *as negative nonsense*, any idea of a coming worldwide deception under the leadership of any *made-up, bugaboo* Antichrist. Ironically, to resist the NAR is to be labeled “Jezebel.”

The NAR's message is sometimes mixed with militant and violent rhetoric by certain adherents (see, for example, the earlier video clip of Mike Bickle and the later clip of Peter Wagner). **This violent rhetoric anticipates the eventual fulfillment of this warning of Christ:**

“...In fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God.” John 16:2b.

The dominion theology of the NAR takes the literal Old Testament promises of God given *to the nation of Israel* and forces them to apply *to the Church*. (From the perspective of futurism, this “[Replacement Theology](#)” is perceived as a step toward the enemy's anti-Semitism.)

The eschatology of the *New Age* movement

In an eerily similar vein to the NAR, **The New Age Movement** speaks about a growing “[Christ consciousness](#)” throughout the earth which will impact society for good. “New Agers” think mankind is on the verge of an esoteric *evolutionary* leap to the “Omega Point” of human evolution, which will result in a super race of overcomers. They, also, are ecumenical, and believe that enlightened people need to unite in purpose with New Age leaders, and fully focus on working together in order to bring “Christ” to earth.

By way of the harmonic convergence of our innate human potential—our psychic power—New Agers believe “Christ” will finally appear, and we will enter a “new age” of worldwide peace and prosperity. Adherents talk about a type of conversion experience needed in order to see and enjoy our oneness and interconnectedness, a “paradigm shift” to “Christ consciousness.” (Again, “**WE ARE Christ.**”)

But, regarding the idea that “**We are Christ**” promoted in *both* the NAR *and* the New Age, consider this dire warning from Jesus:

Matthew 24:4-5 (NKJV)

The Signs of the Times and the End of the Age

4 And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.

5 For MANY will come in My name, saying, ‘I AM THE CHRIST’ and will deceive MANY.”

The Ecumenism of the NAR

Question: have you ever heard of national and international concerts and youth rallies led by either Australia’s “Hillsong Music,” or by “Jesus Culture Music” of Bethel Church in Redding, California? How about Lou Engle’s “Awaken” and “[The Send](#)” Events? These are actually NAR-sponsored activities, **which have an agenda** to *draw in* young adults and foster trans-local, trans-denominational unity under their “apostolic” leadership—a hierarchical pyramid structure of leadership reminiscent of the pope in Rome and his cardinals.

And, by the way, key evangelical leaders in the NAR, such as Benny [Hinn](#), Kenneth [Copeland](#), Kris [Vallotton](#), Todd [White](#), Mike [Bickle](#), and [Lou Engle](#), to name a few, are enamored with the idea of **evangelicals reconciling with the Roman Catholic Church** —with its salvation through sacraments. But that’s only in keeping with what the late Paul Crouch, president of TBN, had said on his “Praise the Lord” program back on October 17, 1989:

“I’m eradicating the word Protestant even out of my vocabulary...I’m not protesting anything... [it’s] time for Catholics and non-Catholics to come together as one in the Spirit and one in the Lord.”

Of course the Lord loves Catholics! Jesus died for them. **But** how many professing Catholics do you know who understand the born-again experience? Every Christian I know with a Catholic background, never felt led to return to the Catholic church after they got saved. Indeed, the

Roman Catholic church, like the NAR, is something to be run *from*, not run *to*.

The false teachers of the Word-Faith movement

Speaking of Hinn and Copeland, false teachers of the Word-Faith movement are a big stream of the NAR. The enemy mixes his lies with just enough truth to still make things appealing to many Christians. So although these money-loving wolves with lavish lifestyles preach a self-centered health and wealth gospel, still and all, God's will **is** for people to be healthy (Mt. 8:16-17, 1 Peter 2:24) and to prosper (Lk. 15:31, 16:9; 2 Cor. 8:9, 9:11):

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. 3 John 1:2.

Indeed, you can't very well give others *a hand up* if you are flat on your back, sick, or with empty pockets.

Further, regarding "the power of the tongue," an idea so misused and abused in Word-Faith that it is, for them, part of some self-hypnotic, psychic, Mind Science, Proverbs **does indeed say**, "*The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit*" (Prov. 18:21).

James asserts that "*Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect,*" and yet also says, that "*no human being can tame the tongue*" (Js. 3:8)! So, we must humbly give our tongue over to the Holy Spirit, and learn to "*pray in the Spirit on all occasions*" (Eph. 6:18; and see 1 Cor. 14:14-15). In this way we can facilitate our deliverance from evil, and begin to more consistently obey the injunction, "*Bless and do not curse*" (Rom. 12:14), as we should.

And regarding our spiritual authority, we are not just to petition God in prayer, but also to take action ourselves when we know the will of God. **Jesus told the disciples** to proclaim the kingdom, and commanded them, "*Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give*" (Mt. 10:8).

We too are his disciples. **Let's not throw out the baby with the bathwater, because of a bunch of greedy, manipulative "Word of Faith" psychics with weird hair.**

(Note: we must **first** learn to successfully "*freely receive*" directly from God, in order to **then** have something blessed to "*freely give*" to our neighbor. First things first.)

Mysticism and false miracles

With respect to any alleged miracle, while I certainly believe in divine miracles, even nowadays ([Jn. 14:12](#)), I also believe in **satanic miracles**, even nowadays. For example, we recall the great power on display from Pharaoh's magicians ([Ex. 7-8](#)), and from Simon the Sorcerer in Samaria ([Acts 8](#)). Further, we are specifically warned about the proliferation of demonic signs and wonders performed by false prophets, in association with the rise of the Antichrist ([Mt. 24:24](#), [Mk. 13:22](#), [2 Thes. 2:9](#)).

Some people are looking for an ecstatic experience, more than for truth. Sensuality is a characteristic of both the NAR and Jezebel—the new Babylon. NAR-affiliated churches boast manifestations of gold dust, holy laughter, angelic encounters, and even the supposed **manifest presence** of God in **glory clouds**, brought down to earth through anointed (read "formulaic, agenda-driven, hypnotic") worship. But "all that glitters is not gold," and Paul warns, "*Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light*" ([2 Cor. 11:13-14](#)).

For all of their talk about the importance of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the NAR, ironically the gift of discerning of spirits ([1 Cor. 12:10](#)) is obviously lacking!

Alarmingly, the "primal energy" unleashed by Kundalini yoga practitioners inside the New Age movement ("[In India, It's Just Hinduism](#)"), and the "anointing" activation released inside the NAR, **bear a striking resemblance**. Please be sure to watch [this](#) eye-opening thirty minute documentary to see the similarities *for yourself*. (You will need to forgive the bad opening music of the documentary, but it will be worth it!)

And unfortunately, adherents to *both* the NAR *and* the New Age Movement are very much into mysticism, and show wide-eyed acceptance of virtually all supernatural or psychic phenomena, and see them as desirable. Yet we have been forewarned by Jesus:

Matthew 7:22-23

MANY will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, DID WE NOT prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and ***IN YOUR NAME PERFORM MANY MIRACLES?***' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

It would seem that these rejected people in Matthew 7:22-23 (above) had embraced a counterfeit gospel of *works*, instead of the genuine gospel of *grace*.

Some of the people who “pray a prayer to invite Christ into their lives” do so without an attitude of unconditional surrender: I am not sure Christ always accepts that kind of invitation. For Jesus, that might be like a drunk person driving up to him in their car, and saying to him, “Hop in, Jesus, you’re welcome to ride with me!” But instead, they should be saying, “*Jesus, I’m yours. This car is yours. You drive! I’ll ride in back, if you prefer.*”

Legalism and the NAR

Speaking of misrepresentations of the gospel, there is a false gospel of salvation by works: but *God* is not legalistic, *Satan* is. And speaking of the bondage of legalism, who can forget an NAR forerunner called “[Promise Keepers](#),” in the face of Christ’s explicit command,

“But I say to you, **make no oath at all** ,...But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is **from the evil one.**” Mt. 5:34, 37.

There seem to be increasing claims of alleged divine revelations about “courts” and “courtrooms” in heaven; and the promotion of such revelations seems to be on the rise in apostolic dominionist circles nowadays. This new idea is that when we pray, we are stepping into a judicial system. So,

when we pray, we need to get “binding contracts” in place, in order for God to be able to act. So, for example, we have to find the *legal reason* why someone is sick, in order to pray for them effectively. Bethel Church in Redding, California offers [training](#) in these misguided prayer “techniques.”

But what about, “*It is finished*” ([Jn. 19:30](#))?! **We are to focus on Jesus**, and to *freely receive* by faith the benefits of *his* finished work; **not on ourselves** and what we must still supposedly do to win things from God —let alone, by way of using legalistic or mystical techniques.

Again, among evangelicals in the NAR, the trend is toward *results-oriented, pragmatic, mystical, unbiblical, technique-driven* prayer and worship. In an article titled “[Prayer Gone Awry](#),” which critically examines these techniques, T.A. McMahon says,

Based upon the whole counsel of God’s Word concerning prayer, we can also make specific judgments as to whether or not a doctrine conforms to God’s way. For example, does it make prayer a technique or methodology? Does it require certain works, rituals, or game plans in order to be successful? If that’s the case, we have denied the critical personal-relationship aspect of prayer and rendered God a law-bound entity which must answer our prayers because we have followed certain rules or procedures.

Incredibly, what may be the fastest growing technique-driven prayer among evangelicals today is known as “strategic-level intercession.” According to its promoters it involves newer varieties of prayer such as “spiritual warfare,” “territorial spirits,” “prophetic acts,” “spiritual mapping,” “warfare prayer,” “tearing down strongholds,” “identificational repentance,” and “remitting the sins of nations.” Explanations of these prayer systems are found in advocate C. Peter Wagner’s book, *Confronting the Powers*, along with definitions of other methods, including “four ways of praying in the community”: praise marches, prayerwalks, prayer journeys, and more wide-ranging prayer expeditions. These, the author notes, “were virtually unknown to the majority of Christians before the 1990s...” Certainly, they were not known by God’s prophets and apostles!

With warfare operations names like “Operation Queen’s Palace” and “Operation Ice Castle,” deluded, wannabe *Ghostbusters* in the NAR think they can successfully dislodge territorial spirits through pounding anointed “prayer stakes” into the ground, and climbing to the tops of mountains to shout at the devil.

[George Otis, Jr](#) is now the go-to guy of the NAR for spiritual warfare techniques, particularly “spiritual mapping.” He is also a proponent of [Moral Government Theology \(MGT\)](#), which denies the doctrine of original sin, and carefully avoids any recognition of the atoning sacrifice of Christ, or the power of his blood. Further, MGT was widely taught to [Loren Cunningham](#)’s YWAM ([Youth With A Mission](#)) missionaries in years gone by; and MGT–like “Open theism,” which is the new emphasis in YWAM–promotes the idea that God does not know the future (is not omniscient).

The preferred blueprint for taking dominion over cities and nations is demonstrated in Otis’s *Transformations* movie series produced by his Sentinel Group.

The NAR and the New Age Movement: *two sides of the same coin.*

Both camps seek earthly political power. As for the NAR, there are both [Christians](#) and [non-Christians](#) who are skeptical of the NAR’s dominionist **political** agenda. And as to the political aspirations of New Agers, author [Marianne Williamson](#), personal guru to Oprah Winfrey, threw her hat in the ring for the Democratic nomination in the 2020 presidential election.

Also, Barbara Marx Hubbard, a nominee for the vice-presidency of the United States on the Democratic ticket in 1984, is still promoting the well-known New Age goal of “Planetary Pentecost,” and the idea of co-creating a better future with God (equivalent to the idea among evangelicals of Open theism) in her latest book, *The Evolutionary Testament of Co-Creation: The Promise Will Be Kept* (2015).

Barbara Marx Hubbard promotes a ‘victorious eschatology,’ whereby the unity of enlightened people will bring about a peaceful Second Coming of “Christ.” An editorial review of her book at *Amazon* states in part:

"Barbara calls this collective transformation the **Planetary Pentecost**, a life-affirming alternative to Armageddon. 'The promise will be kept' is a call to action for humanity to awaken as a Planetary Social Body. It inspires each individual to awaken to his or her divine nature and fulfill the promise of performing even greater miracles than those once performed by Jesus."

And clearly corresponding to the "Planetary Pentecost" promoted by the New Age, is the "[Second Pentecost](#)" promoted by those in the NAR, like pastor Bill Johnson of Bethel Church in Redding!

Syncretism

New Age mystical beliefs from the NAR continue to enter the charismatic world, and of course, New Age Hinduism has mainstreamed into the non-charismatic world as well. (Ever heard of [Transcendental Meditation](#), or [Yoga](#)?)

A book entitled "*The Physics of Heaven: exploring God's mysteries of sound, light, energy, vibrations, and quantum physics*" by Judy Franklin & Ellyn Davis (2012) is strongly promoted by Bethel Church in Redding, CA. In his contributed chapter, Dr. Jonathan Welton of the New Hope Community Church in North Chili, NY, reassures his Christian readers not to be afraid **to reclaim purported tools** from God, which were supposedly hijacked by the New Age movement:

"I have found throughout Scripture at least **75 examples** of things that the New Age has counterfeited, such as having a **spirit guide, trances, meditation, auras, power objects, clairvoyance, clairaudience, and more** . These actually belong to the church, but they have been stolen and cleverly repackaged."

[Emphasis added, *The Physics of Heaven*, p. 49.]

The NAR and violence

The NAR is an iron fist inside a velvet glove, and one day that glove will come off. The recognition of [God's nonviolent nature](#), in contradistinction to

[Satan's violent nature](#), is of paramount importance to be able to distinguish and resist the **violent, anti-Semitic, totalitarian** spirit of Antichrist in all of its *initial* subtleties and flatteries.

You cannot “play footsies” with this spirit and think to escape from it later without serious repentance. The spirit of Antichrist is like a giant magnet, and the lies of false religious doctrines everywhere are like iron: and they are now being called in. If someone is holding a piece of that iron, he will be pulled to the Antichrist, unless he chooses to let go, through repentance. Unfortunately, we may say of the well-meaning Christians being seduced into the NAR: ‘They are **not** holding fast to the head’ ([Col. 2:18-19](#)). They are being drawn into “[Christian Imperialism](#).”

The late C. Peter Wagner, founder and “head apostle” of the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR), propagated a false equivalence between *spiritual* warfare and **physical warfare**, plainly illustrated in the following video clip:

[C. Peter Wagner's theology of war, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxxbagSM6KI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxxbagSM6KI)

Here, Wagner is teaching that physical warfare is *appropriate* and *necessary* to the dominionist agenda of world domination. He refers to *physical* warfare and killing, such as happened in Iraq and Vietnam, as being equivalent to *spiritual* warfare—apparently as one aspect of “Ground Level Spiritual Warfare,” in the same category with church deliverance ministries!

BUT regarding the use of **killing** to advance the kingdom of heaven: although we may have the highest regard for the police and the armed forces, we discerning **Christians** must affirm that, in our own case, WE are to ‘*LOVE our enemies*’ (Mt. 5:44); that “*OUR struggle is NOT against flesh and blood*” (Eph. 6:12); that “*The weapons of OUR warfare are NOT carnal*” (2 Cor. 10:4); and that “*Jesus said, ‘My kingdom is not of this world. IF IT WERE, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders.’”* John 18:36.

Another leader in the NAR movement who promotes militant rhetoric is [Rick Joyner](#), of Morningstar Ministries in North Carolina. He has warned of a coming Civil War in the Church, which will be comparable to the American

Civil War from 1861-1865 in which over 600,000 people died. But he says this new civil war will be between the *Christians being led by “the Spirit”* — who hence choose to submit to God’s anointed apostles and prophets (the Blues, akin to the “Yankees” of the Northern Union), and the *rebellious, carnally minded* Christians—who resist ‘getting with the program’ (the Grays, akin to the “Rebels” of the Southern Confederacy):

Like the American Civil War, **the coming spiritual civil war** will also be between the Blue and the Gray. In dreams and visions blue often represents heavenly mindedness- the sky is blue- and gray speaks of those who live by the power of their minds- the brain is often called gray matter- this will be a conflict between those who may be genuine Christians, but who live mostly according to their own natural minds and human wisdom, and those who follow the Holy Spirit. (“Civil War in the Church,” *The Morning Star Prophetic Bulletin*, May 1996, 2.)

In conclusion, the New Apostolic Reformation is being guided by the spirit of Antichrist, and must be exposed and confronted for the sake of the Christians who are being taken captive to it.