

**Isaiah 21:11 "(Prophecy against Edom) "Watchman,  
watchman what of the night? The watchman said 'the  
morning comes and then the night'"**

At night in the Middle East in the midst of the night, the bright morning star arises and appears to be the dawn. This is not as obvious nor as prominent in North America) The planet Venus comes over the horizon briefly and appears as the morning star. After the morning star passes, there is an extreme darkness for about two hours which is broken by the dawn, the sunrise.

**Revelation 22:16 Jesus is the Morning Star  
Malachi 4:2 Jesus is the SUN of Righteousness**

## **THE JOB OF THE WATCHMAN**

**Ezekiel 3:17-19**

**“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.**

**When I say to a wicked man, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him from his evil ways in order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.**

**But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his evil ways, he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself.”**

If we are charged as watchmen, should we not be even more diligent among God’s saints?

Tonight and for the next three weeks, I want to share with you the contrast in our time between the darkness and the Light of the world – our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are at least 12 warnings of false teachers and prophets in the end of the age. Many of us believe that we are living in the last days. As only one example of many:

**Zech 12:3 "In that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone to all people. All who burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces though all of the nations of the earth be gathered against it."**

**These words have not been applicable since 70AD. However, on May 15, 1948 the nation of Israel was declared by the United Nations partition. In the 1967 Israeli-Arab war, Jerusalem was retaken by Israel after 2000 years. Today, Jerusalem is such a flash point between Jews and Muslims, Jerusalem has become in our day "a burdensome stone" that threatens to trigger a war that could impact the entire world.**

**In Matthew 16:13 Jesus asks a question of His disciples:  
Matt 16:13 "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"**

**This is the Report we would have to give our Lord Jesus today.**

During the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century and 19<sup>th</sup> Century, great spiritual revivals, referred to as "Awakenings" stirred through America. Unnoticed was also another movement taking place at the University of Tubingen, Germany, the cradle of the great Protestant Reformation. Men who had doctorates in Theology and were recognized as "Christian" teachers went beyond the legitimate and acceptable discipline of textual criticism (a process

where a translator of the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament will critique his use of the proper words in present native languages such as German and English in order to update and continue to express the truth of God's Word). The study of historical criticism and form criticism began which questioned the very truth of God's Word and treated Biblical writings with the same attitude and view that they would give to the writings of pagan Greek mythology.

These theologians used philosophy in their teachings on the Word of God. As an example, one theologian, F. C. Bauer taught that Jesus started one religion while Paul started another. He then proceeded to reconcile this with the philosophy of George Hegel, fashionable in universities in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

This continued to spread in the Christian Divinity schools of Europe. Although these men taught seminarians who would later become Christian pastors, the entire movement went unnoticed among European lay people and unknown to Christian lay people in America.

In 1889 these teachings were first used in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. It then spread to Union Theological Seminary in New York and finally to the Divinity School of Princeton in 1928. Around that time frame another renowned “Christian” professor in Germany, Rudolph Bultmann boldly declared and taught seminarians that:

- 1. The Bible is not the inspired Word of God**
- 2. Jesus was not divine**
- 3. Denied the need for the vicarious Blood Atonement of Jesus**
- 4. Denied that Jesus was born of a virgin**
- 5. Denied the resurrection.**

Bultmann was heavily influenced by Martin Heidegger who authored the beginning of modern existential philosophy. This philosophy holds that the universe is devoid of any meaning. The only meaning in life is what the individual puts there in his / her life. This final end of philosophy teaches hopelessness and offers no solution or consolation to those who study it. The very movement is the ultimate self-destruction of all schools of philosophy from Heraclitus (6<sup>th</sup> Century founder of Greek philosophy who stated “man is the measure of all things”). These men knowingly and willingly turned away from the counsel of the Word of God:

**Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest anyone rob you through philosophy and vain deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ.”**

In these teachings, these theologians are modern day Sadducees who denied the miracles of God, the existence of angels and the resurrection.

These men are a modern example of the description of Apostasy provided in **Romans 1:21-22 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.**

**Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,”**

**Apostasy in the New Testament comes from the Greek “apostasia” meaning a falling away or departure.**

**2Thess 2:3 “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”**

**This word is used only one other time in the New Testament in Acts 21:21 where James and some elders of the Church of Jerusalem tell Paul that they have word that Paul is teaching Jews living in the diaspora or dispersion against the traditions of the Jewish elders and teachers.**

**Allowing the Word of God to interpret the word of God, we see that in both cases the word “apostasia” or apostasy is used to mean a departure or turning away from the true faith.**

### **A Description of Apostasy in Israel**

- 1. EZEK 22:26-29 “Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.**
- 2. Ezek 22:27 “Her princes within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain.”**
- 3. Ezek 22:28”Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say, `This is what the Sovereign LORD says'--when the LORD has not spoken.”**
- 4. Ezek 22:29 “The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.”**

Apostasy begins with the priests and the prophets followed by the princes and finally the people.

An example of this can be seen in pre-WW2 Germany. After a disastrous peace treaty at Versailles following World War 1, the German people were stripped of their manufacturing capabilities and heavily in debt over war reparations they were faced with paying. Democracy in the Weimar Republic had a weak start, lacked support economically and failed.

Into this depressed social vacuum came a man like Adolph Hitler.

1. Hitler had been a member of the German occult Society of Thule.
2. In the early 1920's Hitler visited a Vienna museum that housed relics such as the Spear of Longinus, which allegedly was the Roman spear that pierced the side of our Lord Jesus Christ. These artifacts have a great deal of myth and superstition in their history. It was said that, whoever possessed the Spear of Longinus, would rule the world. Hitler stared at this object for over two hours and became mesmerized by it. After his trip to Vienna, Hitler began to rise in Germany through the Fascist party which promised to restore the German economy and the German national pride.

### **3. REGARDING HITLER'S SPEECH at Nuremburg**

Young Nazis referred to Hitler as “a sacred thing” (**unheilichtun**). Von Ribbentrop, Hitler's Minister of Foreign Affairs referred to him as “the Holy Spirit”. The German people are no worse sinners than any other unbelievers elsewhere in the world. However the Western world looked askance at this rising German dictator. Many Pentecostals in America looked at Hitler his rise to power, his persecution of Jews and his attempts to establish the old Roman Empire (the meaning of the Third Reich) and wondered if they were not looking at the Antichrist, the son of perdition, the man of sin that Christians are warned about in 2THESS 2:3. It is my own

personal belief that the driving force and the spirit behind the rise of Adolph Hitler did not begin after World War 1.

4. The conditions that paved the way for Hitler's rise to power were the apostate German theologians and ministers in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Germany as the apostasy began to grow throughout Germany and Western Europe. I view the events in Germany with the modern day "Prophets, priests, price and people as fulfilling the words of Ezekiel 22:26-29. What happened in Germany on a national scale, I believe will happen soon globally with the advent of the son of perdition who will exalt himself as Almighty God.

**We are living in an age of Apostasy.**

**The Prophets and Priests – or Theologians & Ministers of God's Word.**

In 1947 the World Council of Churches was formed in order to establish unity among professing Christian churches. This has gradually developed into the Inter-Faith movement. The final end of this interfaith movement can be seen on a website entitled the **United Communities of the Spirit.**

**COMPROMISE & APOSTASY**

In the links there is an article behind each icon symbolizing a religion. These religions shown in unity are:

**United Communities of the Spirit**

**Symbols from left to right:**



**INDIGENOUS Religions– including voodoo and Native American spirit worship**



**BAHAI**



**CHRISTIANITY**

**by The Rev. Thomas A. Baima, S.T.L.  
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Interreligious  
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Council for a  
Parliament of the World's Religions**



**Hinduism**



**Taoism**



**The Arcane School**



**Buddhism**





**WICCA**



**Judaism**



**Islam**

(Exercise: take out a dollar bill – Annuit Coeptis Novus Ordo Seclorum – Now announcing the birth of a New Secular or World Order. There is a new world order that has formed in the area of a global economy. Every day I go to work, I work within this global economy. I am required to negotiate pricing in the different currencies of the world, know the impact and strength of these currencies, understand regional economies and compete with other global companies. There will soon be a world government that was prophesied in

**Daniel 7:19 “Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;”**

**Daniel 7:23 “Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.”**

Today very well-intentioned people are seeking to do the same thing. These people teach a “brotherhood of all mankind”, which sounds good to hear.

The Bible, however, does not teach us that our God is the Father of all men.

**Colossians 1:12-13 “giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.**

**13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,”**

**And**

**1John 2:23 “Whosoever denies the Son, the same has not the Father: (but) he that acknowledges the Son has the Father also.” “Acknowledges” (professes, confesses from the Greek: “homologeo” – ST 3670)**

These well-intentioned people believe that a **one world order** would eliminate war (**in spite of Jesus’ words in Luke 12:51 “Do you suppose that I have come to give peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division”**), world poverty, 3<sup>rd</sup> world pollution created by large multinational companies in search of low cost labor, low cost local taxes and no tariff duties on imports – free trade, if you please. With no more fluctuations in many currencies, there could be a new and efficient government that would use only one currency. The use of less cash or no cash could mean the elimination of international drug dealing.

However, before a world government can even think of ruling over diverse people on the earth, those who plan such a thing know the lessons that can be learned from the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire also had to govern over more ethnic groups than we can name or count. **The emperor needed a cement, a bonding agent that would be something that all of the people could share as one. The Roman emperors used religion as that cement that**

would hold their empire together. When Christianity proved to be a force that no emperor, not even Diocletian, could stamp out, his successor, Constantine, saw the need to make peace with Christian leaders and to use their religion to bond together the people of the Roman Empire.

Considering this need for a **global cement**, it now becomes clear why there is popular support for the Inter-Faith movement, a World Parliament of Religions and a group like the United Communities of the Spirit sponsoring such a thing as the World Scriptures.

**In 2Thessalonians 2:7 it says “For the mystery of iniquity is already work: only he who now restrains will restrain, until he be taken out of the way.”**

**2Tim 3:1-5 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.**

**For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,**

**Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,**

**Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;**

**Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.**

**Two Simultaneous Movements began the 20<sup>th</sup> Century:**

- 1. Defense of the Fundamentals of the Christian Faith**
- 2. The birth of the Pentecostal Movement.**

## **The Fundamental Defense**

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century several courageous men wrote a book called *The Fundamentals*. It is from this book that the term “Fundamentalist” first developed. In spite of the various definitions of the term “fundamentalism” today in the news media, the book simply stated the basic truths of the Christian faith that have been accepted throughout Christian history. The truths are supported with the Word of God and the faith of the men who authored this book. It simply stated the truths that are embodied in our Church’s Faith Statement along with the Faith Statements of most evangelical churches:

- 1. The Scriptures are the God-breathed, divinely inspired by Almighty God.**
- 2. The deity and the human nature of our Lord Jesus Christ defined in 451AD at the Church Council of Chalcedon but can be found in the Scriptures.**
- 3. Jesus was born of a virgin conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was crucified for the vicarious Blood atonement for our sins without which we have no salvation. Salvation is by Grace received through faith alone (Eph 2:8-9)**
- 4. There is one God consisting of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**  
**1John 5:7 – “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”**
- 5. Jesus was raised from the dead after three days and in Him and His resurrection do we have the hope of Resurrection from the dead, a resurrection of the justified in Christ and a resurrection of those unto damnation.**

**As to the Resurrection unto eternal life:**

**John 11:25-26 “ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...”**

**1COR 15: 12-14 “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?**

**But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.**

**And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is vain and your faith is also vain.”**

**As to the Resurrection of the damned:**

**MATT 23:33 “You serpents, you generation of vipers, how can you escape the damnation of hell?**

**Rev 21:8 “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”**

The Divinity School of Princeton was the last Ivy League school to fall to the apostasy. There the faith was defended by Benjamin Warfield, Louis Berkhof and Dr. J.Gresham Machen. When Dr. Machen was fired from Princeton’s Divinity School, liberal theology replaced the teachings of these men.

Still the average layman was unaware of the cancer that was infecting mainline Protestant churches until after World War 2. This falling away or departure has been expressed by numerous people, however one example came in the mid-1980’s during the ceremony to confirm the Anglican Bishop of Durham, the third most senior bishopric of the Anglican Church. At that time the newly installed Bishop in a public address denied the inerrancy of the Scriptures, the deity, virgin birth and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He said that he didn’t believe in those principles and

stated that no one else needs to believe them either. He said that in spite of his sworn allegiance to the 39 Articles of the Anglican Faith that all embrace these truths. Only the outcry from the lay people silenced this bishop at that time. It is noteworthy that there is a present Pentecostal revival that is taking place in an Anglican Church in downtown London, Holy Trinity Brompton.

The Pentecostal movement beginning at the turn of the century rightfully mistrusted educated theologians preferring instead to cling to the Scriptures and to the Holy Spirit for their direction. Only since World War 2 ended did Pentecostals see the need for educating ministers in an the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. (Jude 3)

Since that time we have witnessed some of the greatest revivals in Christian history.

I have a Baptist brother with whom I dialogue who is also convinced we are living in an apostasy. He has told me that there is no way God will do a revival in the midst of this apostasy. He has a “fortress” mentality as a result and seeks only to keep up the drawbridges and stand guard at the wall. While we should have faithful watchmen, I asked him how he could say that **God will never do a revival in the midst of an apostasy** ? He said that it was not logical that God would do such a thing because:

- Apostasy is evil
- God hates apostasy
- Therefore God will not do a revival in the midst of such faithlessness.

I told him that if he could explain the following Scripture to me using his Aristotelian logic, I might listen to him further on this subject:

**Romans 5:20-21** “The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

The **mystery of godliness** is also at work today along side of the **mystery of iniquity**.

**1 Timothy 3:16** “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” The mystery of godliness is manifested in Jesus and indwells believers in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Where the mystery of iniquity is at work, we can believe that the mystery of godliness is also working intensely. These are the days in which we are living.** The mystery of godliness is Jesus, The Word of God incarnate.

In keeping with the Word of God spoken of by Ezekiel in the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter, the princes and the people have also grown more corrupt as this apostasy in professing Christendom has matured.

In the 1950’s many people attended professing Christian churches. It certainly wasn’t regarded to be socially acceptable to attend Pentecostal churches. Baptist churches were perceived by the general public as groups of reactionary religious zealots approaching a cliff. Pentecostals were perceived as the zealots who jumped off the cliff. In many of these professing Christian Churches the unregenerate man could sit in attendance, feel “religious” keep some external standard of conduct and live in sin. Religion in the 1950’s was like a refrigerator. It retards corruption but doesn’t stop it. Anyone who has ever had to clean out old fruit and vegetables knows this. The generation coming of age in the

1960's changed all of this with rebellious hearts. They somehow unplugged the refrigerator.

### **Princes**

There has always been corruption in politics, however, we have seen in our time more and greater corruption in our political affairs. In 1960 Lyndon Baines Johnson was elected Vice-President to serve under President John Kennedy. Johnson was selected in spite of three scandals in which he was accused of involvement. After a horrified America watched the murder of an American President on national television, Lyndon Johnson became president, and these prior scandals faded away. In the 1970s we witnessed Watergate and heard testimony before the US Senate on operations of the American CIA that overthrew governments and assassinated political figures in other countries who were deemed to be opposed to the national interest of the United States. During the Clinton years, presidential scandals reached the lowest level in our short national history. CEOs of our major corporations today are rewarded by Wall Street and grateful Boards of Directors with millions of dollars in bonuses for eliminating jobs and closing manufacturing plants while the average income of an American household of 4 people has deteriorated steadily since the mid-1970s.

### **People**

When I was much younger I remember when the news was reported that a man named Richard Speck murdered 7 nurses in Chicago in one evening. That news horrified not only the people of Chicago where I am from, but also stunned an entire nation. We had never heard of such barbarity in our society. Since that time there have been so many mass murders and serial killings that Richard Speck would not receive more than 5 minutes on national news. Today people and their children have been so de-sensitized to wanton murder and violence in our society that many have



grown cold toward it. Since the Supreme Court refused to recognize that an unborn baby was not protected under the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment of the Bill of Rights 35 million unborn babies have been slaughtered in abortion clinics. Today suicide is a becoming an American tragedy with our young people as they view their lives as being without any meaning and listening to rock-n-roll stars glorifying drugs, murder, witchcraft and suicide.

This is a picture of the present darkness in which we live. In the 1950s a little light such as that coming from a born-again believer might not have been noticed much. Men and women are seeking a solution in a “gray area” or a “middle-of-the road” position. They don’t want to become “religious zealots” for Jesus Christ, however they hate the sin & corruption that grows worse with every passing day. The news is this:

There is no gray area

There is no middle-of-the-road.

**Hear what our Father’s position is on gray, shadowy areas:**

**James 1:17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”(NIV)**

**Hear what our Lord Jesus says about the middle-of-the-road that He prefers to call “lukewarm”:**

**Rev 3:15-16 “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.**

**So then because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spue (ST. 1692 Greek: emeo meaning vomit) you out of my mouth”.**

**Matt 16:15 “(Jesus) said unto them, But whom do you say that I am?”**

We will explore our answer to Jesus’ question more next week.

2COR 6:14-18 “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what fellowship does righteousness have with lawlessness? And what partnership does light have with darkness?

And what agreement does Christ have with Belial? Or what part does a believer have with an unbeliever?

16 And what agreement does a temple of God have with idols? For you are the temple of the living God, as God has said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

17 Therefore come out from among them and be separated, says the Lord, and do not touch the unclean thing. And I will receive you.

18 and I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”