



*"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion,
and sound an alarm in my holy
mountain: let all the inhabitants
of the land tremble: for the day of
the LORD cometh, for it is nigh*

November 2014

**LEARNING TO LEAN AS HE
LEADS**

Obedience to Christ proves we love Him, and in return He shows Himself to us. You say, "There are so many commandments, how can I obey? How can I remember them all, and can I be sure I am obeying?" In faith and love rest, wait and look. Then as His teaching touches your life, conform to it. There are some teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ that you would never get into because they would not touch you. They would not impinge on you in your present state. But as soon as they do touch you, then you automatically, sweetly and quietly obey. A man was giving testimony about being shipwrecked and praying, and about how the Lord delivered him. A dear old man of God went home, got on his knees and wept before the Lord. "God," he said, "You never saved me from shipwreck." And the Lord said, "Son, have you ever been at sea?" The man answered, "No." Of course you cannot save from shipwreck a man who has never been offshore. There are things that do not touch you, but the moment they do, obey instantly. For instance, the Bible says, "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:22). If you do not have any husband, why worry about that one? But if ever the words of our Lord Jesus Christ touch your life, instantly--because you are totally committed--gladly and quietly obey and do what you are told. He said that is your part, and His part is to manifest Himself to you and get you out of the rut.

A. W. Tozer

Sound the Trumpet

- Section 1 -

NEW EVANGELICALISM

To better understand New Evangelicalism it helps to have some understanding of church history. In the letters to the seven churches found in of Revelation 2-3 we have the history of the entire church age. This history was written at the very beginning of the church age as a prophecy. *"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand"* (Revelation 1:3).

We are living today at the close of the church age. The letters are filled with fearful warnings of judgment and with wonderful promises of blessing to the churches and their members.

These seven churches are representative churches; they present God's truth to us from three different perspectives.

First - These churches existed in the first century, they were churches chosen by the Lord because their experiences, qualities, sins and failures and strengths would be of great value to churches in every period of the Church Age.

Second – These seven churches also present to us church history in seven different stages or time periods. These two chapters were prophetic in John's day, but are now almost all history. Today we can look back look back over church history and see how these letters prophesied events exactly as they happened in seven different time periods.

Some may object to assigning of dates to the different churches. These dates are assigned as we compare church history with this prophecy. An example in another area is the prophecy of Ezekiel 37:5-8 where the rebirth of the nation of Israel was prophesied. *"Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking,*

and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them." That was fulfilled in 1948 when Israel became a nation again, a nation even though they were and are yet spiritually estranged from their God. Though the date 1948 does not appear in scripture, history confirms this prophecy fulfilled on that date.

Third – Another significant perspective is the message of apostasy in the church. This apostasy began in the early days of the church, (Acts 20:29, 30) and will accelerate in the last days church of Laodicea to be consummated in the harlot church after the body of Christ is raptured. We see Satan constantly whittling away at individual churches. He cuts away at that which makes a church, a church, until finally the church loses its candlestick and becomes an arm of apostasy.

Apostasy is turning away from truth, an abandoning of what one once professed to believe. The record of apostasy can be traced in the story of the seven churches, right down to the great apostate church of Revelation 17.

The letter to Ephesus reveals a picture of the powerful, dynamic, apostolic church of the first century. This church comes to its end as the Lord removes its candlestick because of the loss of first love. The very essence of the church is a burning first love for Christ, a love that affects everything the church is and does.

The Letter to Smyrna describes the second and third centuries with the martyrdom and persecution of the church of that period. This is one of two churches that receive no condemnation from her Lord, the other being Philadelphia. The message is that persecution purifies the church; the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church; that is God's church growth program.

The Letter to Pergamum reveals the compromise and corruption of Christian testimony by the union of the church and

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the world under Constantine. The Laodicean/ Evangelical Church of the present hour is making the very same mistake of compromising with the world and it will bring the very same destruction.

The Letter to Thyatira reveals the dark ages and the apostasy of the Roman Catholic Church from the sixth to the fourteenth centuries. This was a new depth of apostasy. The Roman Catholic Church remains in the world, but in 1516 when Luther nailed his 95 objections to the church door at Wittenberg, the absolute domination of the world by Rome began to come to an end.

The Letter to Sardis tells us of the rise of Protestantism and its ultimate destruction through apostasy. That which began well ended in apostasy.

Understand that the first three churches rose to ascendancy and then passed off the scene and ceased to exist in the world. The last four churches came on the scene, had their day of ascendancy and then went into decline but remain on the earthly scene.

The letter to Philadelphia and the letter to Laodicea are written to the last two churches of the church age. They are now running side by side in our present world.

Philadelphia came on the scene after the decline of Sardis in approximately 1750. Philadelphia is a church that receives only commendation from the Lord.

With the birth of the Neo-Evangelical/ Laodicean Church in approximately 1950 the Philadelphian Church became a remnant and began to disappear below the world's radar screen. Today it is made up of humble separated people, mainly small groups who have remained faithful to the Lord and His Word. It will continue in the world until the rapture, "*Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth*" (Revelation 3:10).

Laodicea seems to have come out of Philadelphia as a rebellion against the principal of separation from the world and separation from ecclesiastical apostasy.

Dr. Ockenga, the founder of Neo-Evangelicalism wrote the following in 1976...

"Neo-evangelicalism was born in 1948 in connection with a convocation address which I gave in the Civic Auditorium in Pasadena. While reaffirming the

theological view of fundamentalism, this address repudiated its ecclesiology and its social theory. The ringing call for a repudiation of separatism and the summons to social involvement received a hearty response from many evangelicals... It differed from fundamentalism in its repudiation of separatism and its determination to engage itself in the theological dialogue of the day. It had a new emphasis upon the application of the gospel to the sociological, political, and economic areas of life."

It was a call to return to involvement with the world and with apostate Christendom. Evangelicals are now dialoging with liberals who deny the authority of God's Word and deny the deity of Christ. They not only dialogue but they cooperate with them in many areas including evangelism and social action. They dialogue with Catholicism, Mormons, Islam and whoever comes along. God's Word rejects these associations, "*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds*" (2 John 9-11).

Neo-Evangelicalism was born in compromise, it has compromised with the world and it has compromised the Word of God on numerous issues. The compromises were made one inch at a time until the inch became a mile, the Evangelical Church is now light years away from where it once stood.

Today, the New Evangelical compromisers have no understanding of what the Church of Jesus is to be or what it is to do. They have no understanding of what worship is or how to worship. They have lost the fear of God and they have sold out to the world. They have brought into the church the spirit of the world, the ways of the world and the music of the world.

Their rock music, be it soft rock or hard rock, has the power to produce an altered state of consciousness; this is claimed to be a fact by many rock musicians. That is the very reason people go to rock concerts, to get an emotional high. The result in the contemporary church service is a religious experience that is not of the Spirit but is of the flesh.

An altered state of consciousness is essentially a disassociation or disconnect

between the mind and body. Feelings are imported to the body without being screened by the mind.

People may reach an altered state of consciousness through different types of activities. Certain forms of prayer, chanting, meditation, rock music or yoga may cause mind/body dissociation. These dissociations can promote extremely positive feelings. We see this evident on the faces of those attending a Rock Concert.

The "Worship Central School of Contemporary Worship" operated by Alpha International state that the objective is to encounter God. The objective of worship is to glorify God not to encounter Him, not to encounter God to obtain some good feeling, but magnify Him. Contemporary worship is man centered not God centered; true worship is really about God not about man. Worshippers with glassy eyes speaking of ecstatic feelings betray a man centered worship.

Contemporary Christians are encountering God through contemporary rock music, which induces an altered state of consciousness, which bypasses the mind and produces worship which is of the flesh and not of the Spirit of God?

Rock musician Steven Tyler of Aerosmith rock group said that rock music, "is strongest drug in the world."

Whether it is soft rock or hard rock, whether it is secular rock or Christian Contemporary rock, it is the backbeat and rhythm that alters the state of consciousness.

Mickey Hart, drummer for the Grateful Dead, has travelled the world researching the power of drums. In his book "Drumming at the edge of Magic" he observes: "Everywhere you look on the planet people are using drums to alter consciousness. I have discovered, along with many others, the extraordinary power of music, particularly percussion, to influence the human mind and body. There have been many times when I've felt as if the drum had carried me to an open door into another world."

New Evangelical worship has a night club atmosphere and is similar to the entertainment of the world, if you close your eyes you may well think you are in a night club. Their worship is existential, emphasizing feeling and experience over sound doctrine. Their casual, slovenly dress betrays a loss of reverence for the Almighty, Holy, Sovereign Lord of heaven and earth and a desire to be liberated

from all restraints. Evidence is now abounding that shows Laodicea now drifting into the great apostasy of the last days.

David Wells states, *“Fundamentalism always had an air of embattlement about it, of being an island in sea of unremitting hostility. Evangelicalism has reacted against this sense of psychological isolation. It has lowered the barricades. It is open to the world.”*

Harold Lindsell said back in 1985, *“Evangelicalism today is in a sad state of disarray. It is clear that evangelicalism is now broader and shallower, and is becoming more so. Evangelicalism’s children are in the process of forsaking the faith of their fathers.”*

Francis Schaefer said back in 1976, *“What is the use of evangelicalism seeming to get larger and larger in number if significant numbers of those under the name of evangelical no longer hold to that which makes evangelicalism evangelical?”*

Schaefer said in 1985, *“A large segment of the evangelical world has become seduced by the world spirit of this present age.”*

In the intervening 30 years, that which those evangelicals dismayed about has now become a full blown apostasy. Various groups are at different stages in this apostasy, some, like the “Emergents” are out front; they have overthrown sound doctrine and are already joining hands with Rome while others are following more slowly in their train.

The Lord has warned that He will spew Laodicea out of His mouth. *“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth”* (Revelation 3:16). I believe that because Laodicea is the last church of the church age, they will be spewed out into the tribulation period. If you are in a Laodicean church you need to come out or risk facing Laodicea’s fate.

As we look at the Laodicean/Evangelical church today, we can confirm that the great apostasy is upon us, with Christ and His Word dishonored by those who profess to be a part of the Church of Jesus Christ.

In my lifetime I have seen the transition from Philadelphia to Laodicea; from Fundamentalism to New Evangelicalism. I suggest that New Evangelicalism is now an aberrant form of Christianity. This aberrant form of Christianity has swept over much of that which has been known as the Church of Jesus Christ and it is

called Laodicea.

As we view Laodicea, we see the tares continue to increase among the wheat. The buzzards continue to increase in the trees that are Christendom and the leaven of evil gains momentum in the church as it comes to the end of the age.

God’s Word calls for God’s people not only to separate from error but to militantly defend the truth. *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”* (Jude 3).

Speaking to believers, Paul said to the Corinthians, *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you”* (2 Corinthians 6:17). The Church and the believer are called out of the world to be separate from it. New Evangelicals are plunging into the world with both feet; they bring the world into the church and are seduced by the world.

Listen to what the founders of New Evangelicalism are now saying about it.

“The New Evangelicalism is a theological and moral compromise of the deadliest sort. It is an insidious attack upon the Word of God. The New Evangelicalism advocates the toleration of error. It is following the downward path of accommodation to error, cooperation with error, contamination by error, and ultimate capitulation to error!” (Woodbridge, former professor at Fuller Theological Seminary)

The following is by one of founding fathers of New Evangelicalism, Harold Lindsell.

“I must regretfully conclude that the term evangelical has been so debased that it has lost its usefulness. Forty years ago the term evangelical represented those who were theologically orthodox and who held biblical inerrancy as one of the distinctives. Within a decade or so neo-evangelicalism was being assaulted from within by increasing skepticism with regard to biblical infallibility or inerrancy.”

Francis Schaeffer sounded the following warning, *“Within evangelicalism there are a growing number who are modifying their views on inerrancy of the Bible so that the full authority of scripture is completely undercut. Accommodation, accommodation, how the mindset of accommodation grows and expands.”*

With tears we must say that a large segment of the evangelical world has become seduced by the world spirit of this present age.” Since Schaefer said that the situation has greatly accelerated. In fact since that time, the world has flooded into evangelical churches.

Here are some of the downward steps evangelicals have taken.

Evangelicals are characterised by Repudiation of Separation

The founder of New Evangelicalism stated, *“The ringing call for a repudiation of separatism... received a hearty response from many evangelicals... It differed from fundamentalism in its repudiation of separatism...”* (Harold J. Ockenga)

Today New Evangelicals have abandoned all pretense of separation from the world and from theological error.

Evangelicals are characterised by Positivism

Many evangelicals teach much truth but the danger is in the truth that is neglected. They focus on only a portion of the Word of God and leave the door wide open to error by neglecting truths that would deliver from error. The one who does not teach the whole counsel of God is an unfaithful teacher, the truth he teaches is open to being twisted or made of no effect. The servant of God is to teach the whole counsel of God, *“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27).

The present day evangelicals claim and proclaim all of the promises for believers in God’s Word but they are silent about the demands of Christ on their lives.

The mantra of evangelicals is “I’m okay and you’re okay, God is in control so don’t worry, everything is fine.” Everything is not okay, God is grieved at sin in our lives and He is desperately trying to arrest our attention so that we may repent and turn our lives around to avoid judgment or chastening.

Denouncing sin and warning of judgement is a major thrust of the Word of God. *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”* (2 Timothy 4:2).

Jesus spoke more about hell than He did about heaven, He warned of hell fire. Jesus said, *“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”* Today’s evangelicals speak only a soft message with smooth words so as not to make sinners and carnal Christians uncomfortable. They

are soft on sin and preach easy-believeism that cannot save. Paul warned about them in 2 Timothy 4:3, *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears."*

Their attitude is, If you draw the world and the carnal into the church you must not drive them away with the preaching of the truth that makes them uncomfortable. Just give them the promises of good things, *"Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits"* (Isaiah 30:10).

New Evangelicals Exalt Love and Unity above Doctrine

Billy Graham has led the way for New Evangelicalism and he has exalted love over sound doctrine. He stated, "The one badge of Christian discipleship is not orthodoxy, but love." The scripture condemns such wrong teaching. We are saved by believing sound doctrine, *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you"* (Romans 6:17).

We are to disassociate from those who teach wrong doctrine, *"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them"* (Romans 16:17)

We are not to allow any false doctrine, *"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine"* (1 Timothy 1:3).

Love is not giving people what they want to hear but giving them what they need to hear. Love is centered in God and the seeming love that encourages disobedience to God's Word is not of God. Jesus said, *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him"* (John 14:21). In verse 24 Jesus said, *"He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings...."*

New Evangelicalism has a Pragmatic Approach to Ministry

Whatever gets the desired results is all that matters, if it works do it. The attitude is accomplishing our desired results rather than being faithful to the Word of God. In God's Word we learn that God's method is more important than our human means and objectives. Only

God's way gets the results that He is seeking.

Carl Henry, one of the founders of New Evangelicalism warned, "Numerical bigness has become an infectious epidemic." That is why so many pastors are caught up in pragmatism as a means of building a big church, with any means at any cost.

When Jesus said, *"I will build my church,"* He was not talking about big numbers because He called His sheep a little flock and He said the way is narrow and few there be that find it. He was building them up in their knowledge of Him and in the faith. We are called to grow in grace and in our knowledge of Him. Building-up people in spiritual growth and not great numbers is the purpose of Christ. Colossians 2:7, *"Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."*

The record also shows that when apostasy comes in the church fades and loses its candlestick and disappears from the scene or it shoots up in great numbers and becomes a part of the apostasy, re: Pergamum (they brought the world into the church) - Thyatira (Catholicism) or Sardis (Mainline Protestantism) both attained great numbers as they apostatised. Today's Laodicean/New Evangelicals are also exploding in great numbers even as they apostatise.

In spite of the great movement of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, down over the long ages of church history, the true body of Christ has been made up largely of little groups of faithful believers.

New Evangelicals tend to be highly critical of Fundamentalists and soft on Liberals and Catholics

New Evangelicals are willing to dialogue with liberals and Catholics and other bible denying groups but they repeatedly express contempt for fundamentalists. They appear more comfortable with apostasy than with those who try to hold close to the Word of God.

New Evangelicals Promote the Social Gospel

They put social action and social activities on the same plain as preaching the gospel. Meeting social needs is not to be on a par with the great commission. Social action has crowded the gospel out of the New Evangelical tent. Socialism is a major plank in the coming harlot church.

If a person becomes a child God through the preaching of the gospel, he has a loving heavenly father who will be responsible for his welfare and his new Father will use His children or some other provision to help meet his needs. Nowhere in the Bible are we told to, go ye into all the world and feed the world. We are commanded by the Lord in His Word to, go ye into all the world and preach the gospel.

History tells us that when there are many Christians in a country; that country will prosper and needs will tend to be supplied and hospitals will be built, etc. Man's greatest need is to hear and respond to the gospel, deliverance from an eternal hell is not to be compared with physical needs. The emphasis is to be on the gospel first and foremost.

New Evangelicals have lost the Word of God in the House of God

They have rejected the Bible held to by the church for four hundred years in favour of that which is not the Word of God. For instance, they use and endorse the NIV translation which has 64,000 fewer words than the authorised version, something is missing. There 40 verses that are completely eliminated.

They use dynamic equivalency in modern translations, which simply means that the meaning given to the words is from the thoughts and minds of the men who are interpreting them.

The KJV that is without notes is not a copyright Bible. Modern translations are copyright Bibles. Understand, in order to copyright someone else's writings, a person has to make a significant amount of changes in the other person's document, so that they can call it their own and qualify for copyright protection.

Now if a new translation is copyrighted, that means it is an original document of the "translators" and displays a reasonable amount of creativity of the translators. A modern translation must then of necessity be an altered version of the Bible and a perversion of the original. It must be changed to qualify for copyright status.

Remember that new translations of the Bible are very big money makers.

The Bible is the Words of God rather than the thoughts of men. We know who it is that would want to diminish the Words of God.

New Evangelicals are abandoning all Standards of Conduct

When Contemporary Christian music

enters the church and enters into the life of a Christian it lowers the standards of life, morality and conduct.

The late Gordon Sears, an evangelist who ministered with Rudy Atwood, before his death warned:

"When the standard of music is lowered, then the standard of dress is also lowered, then the standard of conduct is also lowered. When the standard of conduct is lowered, then the sense of value in God's truth is lowered"

Frank Garlock of Majesty Music, a former Contemporary worship leader, warned: "If a church starts using CCM it will eventually lose all other standards"

Conclusion

1 – New Evangelicals are looking for a new Christianity in place of the old Christianity that demands conformity to the Word of God and the will of God. They want to be liberated from the strict requirements of Christ for discipleship.

2 – In place of the warnings of the consequences of sin, New Evangelicals want a new positivism and neutralism that is non-judgemental and will liberate them

to live the way they desire. Their philosophy is you're okay and I'm okay, live and let live. They want their ears tickled in instead of the whole counsel of God.

3 – New Evangelicals are being married to the world by their association with the world and their love of the world and the things of the world. They are being immersed in the music of the world which stirs sensual passion in their hearts and bodies. Compromise is a slippery slope

4– New Evangelicals are sinking into the great last days' apostasy that will involve them in a union with Rome. That apostasy will lead them into the harlot church of Revelation 17. The advance guard of New Evangelicalism, the emergents are already entering into a union with Rome.

New Evangelicalism is the fulfilment of 2 Timothy 4:3-4, "*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*"

I believe that Jesus warned of the last days apostasy of Laodicea in Matthew

24:11, "*And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*"

To those who are involved in and are committed to New Evangelicalism and CCM, I urge you to examine how far you have moved from your former place and positions. I urge you to ask yourself why are so many people are flooding into your church? Is it the carnal and unsaved that are coming and why are they coming in? Is the gospel that is being preached in your church the gospel of easy believeism which cannot save and is filling the church with pseudo Christians? Are you excited about adding pseudo Christians to your church? Are your church and its people committed to moving closer to the world?

I believe that Matthew 7:22-23 speaks of Laodicea and its counterfeit Christians.

"*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*"

Art Sadlier

The Islamic State and the Mahdi

A high Iranian politician recently stated that he believes the Syrian revolution could be the catalyst for sparking a worldwide conflagration that will usher in an era of Muslim domination of the world.

"One can smell from the crisis in Syria the coming of the end of times and the coming of the last Islamic messiah," said Ruhollah Hosseinian, a member of the Iranian Parliament.

Shiites, whose clerics rule Iran with an iron fist, believe that at the end of times, the 12th Imam, Mahdi, a 9th century prophet, will reappear with Jesus Christ at his side, kill all the infidels and raise the flag of Islam in all four corners of the world.

I believe that this could be a scenario in which Islam would be deceived into believing that the coming Antichrist is their long awaited Mahdi. This would give Antichrist a tremendous reception in the Muslim world.

We know that when Antichrist comes it will be a time of incredible deception for the whole world. It seems that Islam will receive Antichrist as their Madhi, or saviour. That Israel will receive him as their Messiah and that Christendom will

incredibly, receive him as Jesus Christ.

We read about this deception in 2 Thessalonians 9-11, "*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.*"

Many analysts believe Iran is seeking nuclear capability to bring on that great conflagration in which they intend to destroy both Israel and America whom they call the great Satan.

Meanwhile the new Islamic State (IS) is caught up in this same deception.

The gruesome video released by the Islamic State (IS) emphasizes that the beheading of Peter Kassig took place in the town of Dabiq, Syria. The town was chosen because of its significance in Islamic end-of-time prophecies about the time when the Mahdi and (the Islamic version of) Jesus will bring victory over those who oppose sharia.

The Islamic State named its English-language magazine "Dabiq" for the same

reason. The group is telling Muslims that it is fulfilling prophecy, enticing them to participate in, what they believe is one of the most important moments in world history.

A secondary message is that Islamic State supporters should not worry about the military superiority of their enemy or the terrorist group's setbacks because they will soon be made victorious with help from the Mahdi, Islam's messianic figure, and Jesus (when he joins Islam, which he will do according to Islamic prophecy).

"Here we are, burying the first American Crusader in Dabiq, eagerly waiting for the remainder of your armies to arrive," says one Islamic State speaker.

Have you wondered why "IS" has sought to provoke an American attack upon them? It seems foolish until you realize that they believe that to provoke such a conflict, even though they would be over matched, would cause the Mahdi to come and intervene and give Islam a great victory in which they would gain the rule over the entire world.

Abu Musab al-Zaraqawi, the former leader of the Islamic State stated, "The

spark has been lit here in Iraq, and its heat will continue to intensify...until it burns the Crusader armies in Dabiq."

Another Islamic State member said to the West, "We are waiting for you in Dabiq."

The statements are a reference to prophecies in the hadith, the collection of sayings and actions attributed to Mohammed, the Holy Prophet of Islam.

One collector of the hadith, Sahih Muslim, states, "The Last Hour would not come until the Romans would land at al-A'maq or in Dabiq." The Islamic State refers to President Obama as the "dog of Rome," they are making the case that the U.S. is the modern equivalent of the Roman Empire and American military action in the Middle East is the actualization of this prophecy.

The Brookings Institute points out that the Islamic State immediately presented its capture of Dabiq in April as part of this prophecy. The group's supporters distributed pictures on social media of the seized hilltop with the text of the prophecy.

The following is a quote from an article by Ryan Mauro:

[The Islamic State's beheadings of Peter Kassig and the other Americans are not only justifiable acts of jihad in their opinion. They are also acts designed to provoke an assault on them as prophesied. In their eyes, a U.S. military response is actually desirable, as it fulfills this prophecy.

The prophecy states that the Romans will arrive at Dabiq and tell all the Muslims to stand aside so that they can fight only those Muslims who took the captives. The Muslims will then unite against the Romans. The Islamic State is hoping that this will come to fruition.

When the battle begins, according to the prophecy, about one-third of the Muslim forces will flee ("whom Allah will never forgive"), one-third will die as "excellent martyrs" and the remaining one-third will win the battle and then conquer Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey).

If Islamic State supporters believe this prophecy is about them, then they will not be discouraged by the current U.S. military action, high death tolls and desertions.

According to the prophecy, what follows this victory in Dabiq and Turkey is the appearance and final defeat of the Islamic version of the Antichrist, called the Dajjal, at the hands of (the Islamic) Jesus.]

"IS" believe that their actions are in line with the prophecy of the hadith which states, that "Dabiq will be controlled by the "best" Islamic soldiers from Mecca, Saudi Arabia. They will capture "Romans" (i.e., Americans), which will lead to a foreign attack."

In another quote Mauro says, "If Islamic State supporters believe this prophecy is about them, they will not be discouraged by the current U.S. military action, high death tolls and desertions. They will actually be encouraged by it because they believe it will ultimately bring victory."

This all seems strange to us Westerns, but this theme runs deeply through Islam and it is no more unfathomable to us than the current confusing and brutal acts of "IS."

When we see all this in the light of the stated objective of "IS" to take control of Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan and then march to Jerusalem. We have the setup for the war of Psalm 83.

We can clearly see the scenario for this war now forming. It appears that this will take some time to yet unfold. However remember that we are now living in days when situations change very rapidly. I believe we need to be alert to this scenario.

It again appears that American military might is in the way of the unfolding of the end time scenario found in scripture, including the war of Psalm 83. It would seem that if America is removed or neutralized, "IS" could quickly reach their objectives.

America has plunged into the depths of sin and wickedness and rebellion against God. The American administration has turned against Israel, and they are allowing Iran to develop nuclear weapons with the expressed purpose of destroying Israel.

The judgment of America seems to be imminent. There has been a steady stream of warnings to America, storms, floods, droughts, tornados, fires and earthquakes. In recent days there has been warnings of cyber-attacks which could bring down the hydro electric grid, an event which would bring an end to America as it is now known.

There have also been alarming reports from the recent security conference in Halifax, reports which declare that America is no longer an impregnable fortress. America is now vulnerable to nuclear attack and we have learned that both Russia and China have greatly

increased their nuclear strike capacity. Iran has also been developing inter-continental missiles. Missiles that they do not need to reach Israel, they are intended for America.

Even more alarming is the constant warnings of impending economic collapse. What more fitting judgment could there be on a society that has fallen on its face to worship the gods of materialism?

We have constantly been warning of the coming war of Psalm 83 because we believe it is imminent.

We have been listening to recent reports that Israel must strike Iran to prevent annihilation by a nuclear attack. Reports indicate that such an attack could start a series of major wars that would probably entail the use nuclear weapons. It could be that the war of Psalm 83 would be a part that conflagration. In such a case the world would be badly shaken and possibly ready for the superman, Antichrist to appear and work his wonders and return peace and prosperity to the world. His peace will probably include world-wide disarmament. His peace would include peace for Israel, a peace that would allow Israel to rebuild the Temple.

That peace would seem tenable because the Palestinians will be decimated in the war of Psalm 83.

I apologize for the speculation involved in some of above; speculation is dangerous in our interpretation of the Word of God. However when you study the prophetic scriptures carefully you sometimes see the shadows of prophetic events on the walls of current events.

We remind you that the rapture of the Church is always an imminent event. We only know for sure that it will take place before the tribulation period begins but it could happen at any moment. Are you ready? Are you saved?

"For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

Will you be left behind to go into the day of wrath when the body of Christ is caught up in the rapture?

Art Sadlier

The Temple

There is a stirring in the hearts of Jewish people to rebuild their Temple. The preparations are rapidly being completed, priests have been trained, garments have been prepared, the furnishings are ready, plans and blueprints have been readied, a white heifer has been raised and millions of dollars have been collected.

Scripture tells us that when the tribulation period comes Israel will have their third Temple. In 2 Thessalonians 2:4 we are told that Antichrist will defile the Temple at the midpoint of the tribulation period, therefore the third Temple must be in operation at that time.

It seems when Antichrist comes on the scene at the start of the tribulation period that he will grant Israel peace and the right to rebuild the temple.

The major conflict today is over Jewish rights to pray on the Temple Mount. The violence and terrorism that has taken place in recent days has been over Jewish people praying on the Temple Mount.

Jordan has threatened to terminate the peace treaty with Israel withdraw diplomatic recognition over this issue.

The Palestinian Authority is threatening war over this issue and are provoking terror attacks to intimidate Israel. Unfortunately, Netanyahu has promised there will be no change that allows Jews to pray on the Temple Mount.

Both the US and the UN have urged Israel to prevent Jews from praying on the Mount and to give East Jerusalem to the Palestinians, which would turn the Temple Mount over to the Palestinians.

All of this speaks of the situation described in Psalm 83; it describes the situation that will exist just prior to the war described in Psalm 83. Listen to what the Psalm writer said in verse 3-5 about the present hour.

"They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee."

That describes the present situation in Israel today. More particularly the Psalmist speaks about the present situation surrounding the Palestinians

determination to drive Israel off the Temple Mount.

We read in Verse 12, *"Who said, Let us take to ourselves the houses of God in possession."*

Ezekiel speaks to the same issue in Ezekiel 36:2, *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the enemy hath said against you, Aha, even the ancient high places are ours in possession."*

The above speaks to this present hour and no other time in all of Israel's history.

This then is the precursor to the coming war of Psalm 83, which of necessity then must come before the peace treaty of Antichrist and the start of the tribulation period.

Listen to the Lord's response, in verse 5, to the Palestinians when this war begins, *"Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Surely in the fire of my jealousy have I spoken against the residue of the heathen, and against all Idumea, which have appointed my land into their possession with the joy of all their heart, with despiteful minds, to cast it out for a prey."*

Though Israel are still in unbelief and are still rejecting their Messiah, yet they are still God's chosen people, He has not cast them off permanently and he continues to work to bring their hearts back to Himself.

That wonderful time will come and it will come as the tribulation period comes to a close. We read about it two scriptures, Zechariah 12:10, *"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."* Every living Jew will be saved as they finally recognize their Messiah and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Zechariah 13:8-9 completes the story, *"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. "And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is*

my God."

This is the time of Jacob's trouble spoken by Christ and by Jeremiah, *"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be"* (Matthew 24:21). *"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it"* (Jeremiah 30:7).

God has a plan for Israel and He has a plan for the Church, the plan for the Church will be completed at the rapture of the Body of Christ as recorded in 2 Thessalonians 5:16-17, *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

Paul also talked about this event in Romans 11:25, *"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."* That is the completion of the true church, the body of Christ. (Until the last member of the church has been saved).

My friend, will you be a part of that great event? Are you saved? Or, will you be left behind to be destroyed in the coming judgment of God on this sinful world?

Salvation is free, provided by God through the death of His Son on the cross of Calvary, but the same Jesus said, *"Except you repent you shall likewise perish."*

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (1 Peter 2:24). *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit"* (1 Peter 3:18).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Art Sadlier

A Broken World

Our world is a broken world; everywhere we look we see brokenness. From Parliament Hill where some of our nation's leaders are found out to be shamefully abusive of women to the CBC where we find the gross immorality of a famous talk show host, the beat goes on.

Then we have Bill Cosby, the man who represents the perfect father and husband only to be discovered to be a serial rapist. Whether it is the Catholic priest or a superstar TV evangelist, moral corruption springs up everywhere.

Our TV screens are filled with violence, pornography and suggestive filth and twisted philosophy. Our football stadiums are giant beverage rooms where nearly nude cheerleaders and gambling dominate. Crime fills our streets and drugs destroy our youth and murder is common place. Broken homes and shattered lives are the norm in place of God's wonderful plan for the family.

Epidemic diseases bring heartbreak and sorrow. Disastrous storms and countless other disasters shatter communities and lives. Wars bring death and more broken lives. Racial strife and contention tear up lives and destroy our communities. In despair some people are driven to drugs and booze that makes their lives a living hell. We live in a broken world!

Sin is so deceptive and often on the surface things appear to be wonderful, but you often don't have to dig very deep to realize that things are not what they appear to be. I am reminded of an apple that I picked up to eat; it looked so rosy red and good but when I bit into it, it was rotten to the core. Our world is like that; it looks so good on the outside but within is rotteness. Jesus spoke to a group of religious leaders who looked good on the outside, but Jesus looked upon their hearts and said, "*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness*" (Matthew 23:27).

We read in the Word of God, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God*" (Romans 3:23). Whether we live seemingly moral upright lives by man's standard; or live lives marred by sin, God looks into our hearts and He sees our sin. Whether our lives are marred by hidden sins or the sins of pride or greed or a hidden bitter spirit, God sees all and He says, "*all have sinned*" and "*The wages of sin is death.*" That is eternal death in the lake of fire.

When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden the curse of sin fell on Adam and all of Adams race. Sin blighted the earth and even the ground was cursed. Not only did the curse fall on all of mankind, it also fell on the kingdom that God had given to man to rule over, including the animal kingdom. Sin blighted the earth and even the ground was cursed.

In Romans we read about the animal kingdom waiting the day of redemption.

"For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:19-23). When ultimate redemption comes from the hand of God to man, all of creation will be redeemed.

A broken world awaits the day when the believers will be transformed into their perfect state. When Christ returns to this earth in judgement the broken world will be healed and at that time He will restore the world to the state of perfection that it was in the day He created it. The creatures of this world will also be restored as the curse

of sin is lifted from off all of creation. Christ will rule in righteousness and the broken world will be healed and made anew.

All of us have lived with the consequences of Adam's sin and our own sin throughout our entire lives, along with all of creation. The truth is that we have all partaken in Adam's sin and bear the responsibility for our own sin; we cannot blame others for our sins.

Just as the glory of the sun dispels the darkness of the night, someday the glorious deliverance from sin and guilt that radiates from the cross will dispel the darkness of our world. The shed blood of Christ is available to the contrite heart to blot out the sin in our souls and Christ the light will dispel darkness that blinds us. The curse of sin and the power of sin can be removed and smashed forever, washed in the blood shed on Calvary. The power of the risen life of Christ can be ours now and forever.

In the coming new world the curse of labor beneath the hot sun and the calloused hands of work will be gone forever. Defeat, sorrow and tears will be replaced by joy, victory and delight. We will rejoice in the presence of the one who freely gave himself for our redemption. There will be no night there only endless day of spiritual delight will be ours and we will reign with Him forever.

Have you ever faced your sin in repentance and tears and received the Saviour as your Saviour?

Art Sadlier