

SEDUCING SPIRITS & THE GREAT REVIVAL

*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because **greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.** They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.*

1 John 4:4-5

*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, **giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.***

1 Timothy 4:1

The apostle John said the Spirit of God in the believer is greater than the spirit of Satan in the world. Yet Paul said a time would come when believers would “depart from the faith” as a result of listening to seducing spirits and the doctrines of devils. This is what’s happening right now; it’s happening all around us. If “he that is in you” is greater than “he that is in the world”, then why are so many Christians being deceived and overtaken by seducing spirits in these days?

One reason is because they have been taught numerous doctrinal errors by religious leaders who have *themselves* been seduced and overcome. Seducing spirits always go for the leadership first because they know that if they can deceive the leadership, they have just gotten the victory over about 75 - 80% of the “*sheeple*” because that’s about how many will blindly accept the lies they are being taught.

Satan and his demons are *spirits*. That means they move on people’s hearts and minds much the same way that God moves on them. Did you ever witness to anyone and you knew the words coming out of your mouth were not your own words, but were the words of the Holy Spirit? Well, those who are deceived by seducing spirits do *exactly* the same thing. They speak words that are not their own.

Did you ever talk to somebody and you knew the anointing *of God* was on those words, and you could see they had a *real affect* on the person you were talking to? Well, the same thing can happen with seducing spirits. They have an anointing; they have real, supernatural power; and when someone is under their influence (*whether they are a Christian or not, it makes no difference*) they are doing the same thing for Satan through the power of those spirits that we do for God when we speak under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Right now, many Christian teachers and preachers—and many regular folks just like you and me—are moving and speaking under an anointing that is *not* God’s anointing. When preachers or teachers who have been deceived by seducing spirits stand behind a pulpit or get behind a mic, they are not really the ones doing the talking. Rather, deceiving spirits are speaking *through* them; and when they speak, supernatural powers are being unleashed over the audience through their words.

Contrary to what most of us assume or have been taught, doctrinal error is *not* harmless because many of these errors come from the minds of supernatural creatures. They *didn’t* come from the mind of man or from the mind of the flesh; and because they came from supernatural creatures, they contain supernatural power.

Why did Paul call these spirits “seducing” spirits? Because they have the power to seduce the mind. They come to us and try to wrongly divide the Scripture *in our minds*; or they try to impart false ideas or revelations *to the mind*. Once a person accepts the ideas or revelations of a seducing spirit, two things happen: (1) Their minds become *enslaved* to the power that gave them the idea or revelation; and (2) they become vessels *through which* these spirits can freely operate. They go forth and spread the teachings and ideas of these spirits among the people of God; and the same spirits that seduced them are *present with them* when they teach, in order to seduce the minds of those who are listening.

What we believe doctrinally is very important. Those who think doctrine isn’t important, and who remain confident that God will lead them to glory regardless of what they believe, are not moving in faith: they are living in unreality. The way God leads us to glory is *by* giving us His Holy Spirit—which *is* the Spirit of Truth—to expose and deliver us from those things (*including false doctrines and concepts*) which keep us from attaining that glory. This operation *is* the faithfulness of God.

Many Christians today are making the same mistake Israel made. Most of the people of Israel paid no attention to the instruction or teaching of Moses and the prophets, whose ministry were but a type and shadow of the ministry of the Holy Spirit under the New Covenant. Doctrine, obedience, faithfulness; they cast all these things behind their backs. Yet they continued to *assume* God would fulfill the promises He made to them anyway. The supreme accomplishment of the Old Testament Church was to tie God’s hands and make it impossible for Him to give them what He had prepared for them. This is why King David said they: “...*limited the Holy One of Israel*” (*Ps. 78:41*).

Most of today’s Christians are repeating the same fatal mistake National Israel made because we are being taught the doctrines of devils by religious leaders who have been deceived by seducing spirits. They get behind the pulpits and the mics and function as a mouthpiece for Satan. They teach us that because we are the children of God, and because He has brought us into a covenant relationship (*ie: the New Covenant*), He *must* protect us from the power of the enemy. They tell us that because we have been born again, God *must* keep us safe because this is His responsibility—and His alone. The result is that most of us go through life assuming God is *automatically* protecting us, regardless of what we do or how we live.

Well, I have news for God’s people—and for anybody who is hearing my voice—we are no different than the Jewish people! God does not bear all the responsibility for *our* spiritual protection any more than He bore all the responsibility for *their* protection! They had to do their part and nothing has changed for Gentile Christians. We are told very clearly in the New Testament that we are responsible to do certain things. We are responsible to be sober and vigilant (*I. Thess. 5:6; I. Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; I. Pet. 5:8*); we are responsible to stand against the wiles of the enemy (*Eph. 6:11*); we are responsible to resist the devil; (*James 4:7; I. Pet. 5:9*); and we are responsible to wrestle against his power (*Eph. 6:12*). We are responsible to take up our cross daily (*Luke 9:23*) and to die daily (*I. Cor. 15:31*); and we are responsible to put to death the lusts of the flesh (*Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5*).

These things are not an option! If we refuse (*for whatever reason*) to do the things God said we are responsible to do, then He is under no obligation to protect us—and you can be sure He will not protect us—and we will end up under the power of seducing spirits and possibly even departing from the faith.

Of course, we can't do these things in our own Adamic or religious strength. We need the help of the Lord to do them. But the necessity of having God's help does not alleviate us of *our* responsibility. God will help us do our part as we apply ourselves. However, He will *never* do our part for us.

In these days especially, we must be very careful about what kinds of teachings and ideas we accept into our hearts and minds. Those who just believe every thing they are taught are committing spiritual suicide. You must test everything against the Scripture—including the things I share with you—and then ask God to give you a witness as to whether or not they are coming from Him. For if a teaching or a revelation (*or a dream, or vision, or word*) is coming from a seducing spirit and we accept it, our minds will be taken captive by the power of that spirit. This is why Paul told us to bring every *thought* into subjection to the obedience of Christ.

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the **pulling down of strong holds**;) Casting down imaginations, **and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God**, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

II Corinthians 10:3-5

Our minds are a battlefield. We have to be on guard constantly against the “high thing” that tries to exalt itself “against the knowledge of God” as revealed in the Scripture. When we accept something from the enemy, he has gotten a foothold in our minds. The next step is to turn that particular area into a strong hold—and in these days, the spirits have become so powerful, it's very easy for them to turn a foot hold into a strong hold. Once a strong hold has been established in our minds by a seducing spirit, only the power of God can break it. That's why Paul said the weapons of our warfare—and we are in a real war—are “mighty through God”. They are *only* mighty through God.

The error of Ultimate Reconciliation is a good example of Satan having a strong hold in people's minds. Anyone who has dealt with people who have accepted this error know first hand that it's darn-near impossible to break this strong hold. Very few, if any, ever get free from it once they have been taken captive by it.

Before the person's mind is taken captive, they read the passage where Paul says: “*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive*” (*I. Cor. 15:22*); and they never think he was saying all men will eventually be saved. But once the mind comes under the power of this particular seducing spirit and a strong hold has been created, that's all the mind can see. The individual, regardless of how much they know the Scripture or value it, can't see anything else. They see Ultimate Reconciliation on practically every page!

You can tell them till you are blue in the face that the term “all” in that verse is constrained by the context of what is being said; and that Paul was clearly referring to every person who is “in Christ” (*not everyone in general*), but they won't listen because they can *no longer* hear truth in this area. A demonic strong hold has been established over that part of their mind. That part of their understanding has been taken captive by a spiritual power which is not only greater than their “flesh” (*ie: human logic and reason*), but is greater than the power of God in their lives. This is why they remain under its influence forever.

Once we understand how this works, we will realize why certain doctrines which are clearly unscriptural, have been embraced by otherwise biblically sound believers. We will see *why* some of these errors are almost impossible to dislodge from the person's mind.

I would like to take a few minutes and look at another powerful stronghold. This particular stronghold has been around for a long time and has been used to deceive many people. The strong hold of which I speak is the *Great Revival* error. Much the same thing that happens to those who embrace Ultimate Reconciliation, happens to those who embrace the Great Revival error. Before they accept this error, they read what the New Testament says about the last days and see absolutely no evidence of an end time revival. But after they accept this idea and a strong hold has been established in the mind, they see Scriptural evidence for an end time revival on practically every page of the Bible.

Some of you have already heard my special message about the Lakeland revival, but I want to review some of the Scriptures I referred to, to show this whole idea is a religious fantasy.

Jesus said the great tribulation will be so bad: "...*except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened* (Matt. 24:21-22). Far from experiencing a great revival and accepting Christianity—which would stabilize them—the nations will continue down their present path of self-annihilation. They will be on the verge of destroying both themselves and the entire planet just before Jesus returns. No evidence of a revival in that scenario, is there?

Jesus also said we would be "afflicted" and "hated" of *all* nations and that the nations would "kill" us (Matt. 24: 7-9). If the Christians were leading the nations into a great revival just prior to the Lord's return, then those nations wouldn't be seeking to kill us.

In another place the Lord warned last days would get so bad, we would have to endure it or we would not be saved. He said: "*And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved*" (Matt. 10:22). Again, if the Christians were heading up a world wide revival, there wouldn't be very much to "endure" would there? In fact, just the opposite would be the case. We would be basking in the glory of revival; we would be walking in the glory. The nations that would be receiving salvation and healing at our hands would be treating us like kings, not trying to kill us!

In another place Jesus asked His disciples a very sobering question: "...*when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth*" (Luke 18:8)? Imagine the kind of response He would get from today's Christians if He were to ask that question of them. They would look at Him in shock and say: "Lord, why would you ask such a strange question? Of course you will find faith on the earth! In fact, you will find more faith on the earth than ever before! Did you forget about the great end time revival? Don't you remember saying the gospel will be preached in 'all the world' for a witness unto all nations? Don't you remember that your servant Joel said God would pour His Spirit out upon 'all flesh' in the last days"? Yes indeed, the Lord's question would seem *very strange* to today's revivalists because they have totally ignored His warnings about the last days.

In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus warned us three times that many would be deceived in the last days. He said: "...*many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many* (vrs 5); and "...*many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many*" (vrs 11); and "*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and*

wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (vrs 24). Now how many times does the Lord have to say *many* false prophets would arise before we believe Him? How many times does He have to say *many* will be deceived (*not saved*) before we believe Him? People run around acting like Jesus said: "And in the last days many preachers of righteousness will call many to repentance and holiness". But that's not what he said—and all the dreams and visions in the world can't change the truth.

One of the most telling things the Lord spoke about was His reference to Noah. He said: "*And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all*" (Lk. 17:26-27).

Now think carefully. What happened in the days of Noah? Well, Noah prophesied. He had a prophetic message. He had a testimony. He warned the nations of the coming judgment for 120 years before it actually came. He was a witness to, and against, that generation but none repented. Nobody paid any attention to him. Life continued on for them as usual—eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage (*and probably being very religious too*) until the day the flood started.

The Lord compares *that* generation (*what they did*) to the generation that will be alive when He returns, which is our generation. Just as Noah's generation rejected and ignored the witness God had provided for them, so our generation will reject and ignore the last witness of this age—and this is exactly what John saw in Revelation chapter eleven.

Try finding an end time revival anywhere in the book of Revelation. That book is one long series of visions depicting a last days hatred for God—not a last days revival—which will sweep across the world. John saw a time when the whole world would be following and worshiping Satan, the Beast (Antichrist), and the False Prophet.

Some revivalists try to turn the ministry of the Two Witnesses in chapter eleven into some kind of end time revival, but this is crazy. First of all, the Scripture says these people "prophesy" for 3½ years. It says nothing about them "preaching" anything, let alone preaching the gospel. Moreover, the ministry of the Two Witnesses is clearly a ministry of judgment, not evangelism. They are not reconciling people to God; they are calling plagues down upon the rebellious nations of the earth.

In his vision of the ministry of the Two Witnesses, John was not seeing a "revival" but one final testimony which God does intend to give the nations. But not only do the nations *reject* that testimony (*as in the days of Noah*), they rejoice when the Beast slays those witnesses. John watched as the bodies of these people laid in the street. He says that for three days: "*...the people and kindreds and tongues and nations...shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves*" (Rev. 11:8-10).

Leaving a person's body to rot in public is the ultimate demonstration of contempt for that person. Not only will the nations rejoice over the death of God's witnesses and let their bodies rot in public as a sign of utter contempt, John says they will make merry and send gifts to one another. In other words, the nations will be so relieved that God's final witness has been silenced and they are now free to live the way they want to without any interference from God or His people, they will throw a giant party!

Instead of experiencing a great revival in the final hours of this age, instead of embracing Christianity on a massive scale, the nations will be overtaken by a *fanatical hatred* of God and of His people, the likes of which we have never seen. You can see this hatred build as you read through the book of Revelation. The nations move from a stubborn refusal to repent in chapter nine, to a manifest hatred and contempt in chapter eleven—which is demonstrated in the way they treat the Two Witnesses. By the time you get to chapter sixteen, a fanatical hatred of God and His people is being manifested and the nations are cursing Him because of what He is doing. Again none of this speaks of a world-wide revival just before Lord's return.

You are all familiar with the other places in the New Testament which speak of how bad it will get in the last days. There will be a great falling away (*II. Thess. 2:3*); people will be departing from the faith (*I. Tim. 4:1*); people who claim to be Christians will be acting just like the unsaved (*II. Tim. 3:2-5*); they will no longer endure sound doctrine (*II. Tim. 4:3-4*); the spirit of Satan will sit in the "Temple" (*ie: God's people*) (*II. Thess. 2:4*); etc., etc.

You can search through the New Testament till you die and you won't find a single verse that states or even implies there will be a world-wide revival just before the Lord returns. The *only thing* the New Testament says about the last days is that it will be a time of monumental upheaval, tribulation, destruction, deception and apostasy. From Matthew to Revelation, every verse of Scripture which deals with the last days paints the same *gloomy* picture. From a certain point in man's history onward, the whole situation goes south with a vengeance. There are no U-Turns or Stop Signs. It just keeps getting worse and worse, at an accelerated speed, until the entire population of the planet is on the verge of self destruction and Jesus must return to put a stop to it.

Right now there are two main views regarding the coming revival. (1) The original view—which is that revival will soon begin (*or has already begun*) and it will continue to grow until the Lord returns. (2) The recently adjusted version—which is that revival will come during persecution (*probably during The Great Tribulation*) and will sweep many into the Kingdom. But then, another apostasy will sweep over the world. Andrew Strom promotes this latter idea in his article, "*Is End Times Revival A False Hope*"? He says:

"...I believe that it is the Elijah or the Elijah ministries (whatever) that will be sent in by God, preaching repentance and leading the coming true REPENTANCE REVIVAL. And it is they who will cause the great turning, and also the outpouring of God's Spirit "upon all flesh" to come. For we are in that kind of situation again. It is truly an hour when the Elijahs of God are desperately needed once more. I hope this makes as much sense to you as it does to me. I have pondered this quite a lot. Yes, there is great apostasy prophesied, but also great victory in that God's Elijah will come "to restore all things" (which is what God always sends them in to do), just prior to the "great and terrible day of the LORD". Just a note here though: I believe that even greater deception will arise just after this Revival - immediately before Christ's return. (A counterfeit 'elijah' ministry of some kind?) And everyone will be forced to choose."

The idea of another great apostasy, *after* the long-anticipated end-time revival, is even more unscriptural than the original error! If there is to be an end time revival and then *another* great falling away, you've got a situation where there are *two* apostasies in the last

days—an idea that is absurd and without a shred of Scriptural support. There is *only one* apostasy predicted in the New Testament! So if you'll fall for this idea, you'll fall for anything. This is so far out, I'm not even going to waste my time discussing it.

As for the original “Great Revival” error, in order to really understand it we must have a little knowledge of Pentecostal history, especially as it relates to the development of the “Latter Rain” idea, and the Great Commission teaching. This is too much for me to cover tonight, so I will refer you to *Part One* of my *Babylon Rising* series, where I explain the history and development of these two ideas.

Just let me say that the whole End Time Revival error is *part of* another teaching called “The Latter Rain”—which itself is really nothing more than the Great Commission doctrine gone berserk. When anyone talks about the End Time Revival, they are talking about the idea that at the end of this age, there will be a *second* outpouring of the Holy Spirit like in the book of Acts. This outpouring is seen by revivalists as the “Latter Rain”. The outpouring in the book of Acts is called by them the “Former Rain”. The Latter Rain will produce the Great Revival, which in turn will enable the Church to bring in the Final Harvest. So whenever you hear people talking about an End Time Revival, they are talking about the teaching of the Latter Rain, whether they realize it or not.

What started out during the Protestant Reformation as a simple mis-understanding of the Lord's words in Matthew 24—“*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come (Matt 24:14)*”—has mutated into the abomination we are seeing in Lakeland, Florida. It's that simple.

The view gradually developed within Pentecostalism that just before Jesus returns (*ie: in the last days*), the gospel must not only be preached to all nations, but be *accepted* by all nations as well. Eventually the idea of a Latter Rain was incorporated into this view and the result was that most Pentecostals believe there will be a second Pentecost like we see in the book of Acts (*called the Latter Rain*), which will give the Church spectacular, *visible*, supernatural power, and that power will bring all the nations of the earth to their knees. It will enable the Church to finally (*after 2000 years of failure*) complete the Great Commission and gather in the Final Harvest.

The idea that at some point a great revival/harvest will bring all nations to repentance is a direct contradiction of the Lord's teaching on the sheep and the goats (*Matt. 25:31-46*). Speaking of what would happen at His return, Jesus said that before Him: “*...shall be gathered all nations, and he shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left*” (vv. 32-33). Then Jesus said:

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand [the goat nations], Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels...And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matthew 25:41&46

Clearly there are goats at the end of this age, and these goats will never be saved. They will be sent away into everlasting fire. Not only is the idea that the whole world will eventually be converted unscriptural, it's doubly wrong to teach that this will happen at the *end* of this age, for the end of this age is marked by world-wide religious delusion and apostasy.

Also, Jesus told us very clearly what the “harvest” at the end of this age will be like. He said He sowed good seed (*the children of the kingdom*) in the world and His enemy sowed tares (*the children of the wicked one*). When the servants realized what had happened, they wanted to root up the tares. But He said: “*Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn*” (Matt. 13:30).

Later, the disciples asked Jesus to explain the parable to them. Notice carefully what the Lord says; for what He describes has nothing in common with what today's revivalists are predicting, or with what they are seeing in their dreams and visions.

*He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; **The field is the world**; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; **the harvest is the end of the world**; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; **so shall it be in the end of this world**. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall **gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity**; **And shall cast them into a furnace of fire**: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 13:37-42

There is no question as to the timing of these events. The Lord specifically defined the harvest as the “*the end of the world*” (ie: *age*). According to Him, what happens at the end of this age? Is there a great revival that suddenly turns the tares into wheat? Is there a world-wide outpouring of the Holy Spirit—commonly referred to as the “Latter Rain”—which suddenly turns the unsaved nations into Christians? No! The tares *remain* tares. They are gathered together in bundles and burned. The wheat *remains* wheat. They are gathered into the Lord's barn.

The harvest is not a harvest of tares into the kingdom, but a harvest of tares *into the flames*! At no time did Jesus teach there would be an epic harvest of sinners just prior to His return. Such a notion would have been a direct contradiction of His entire teaching on the last days. What's happening in the time of the harvest has *nothing* to do with revival; it has nothing to do with nations being saved; it has nothing to do with a mythical outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh—including (*according to revivalists*) unsaved flesh. Rather, the harvest has to do with *manifesting the truth*. It has to do with making plain who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are. The evil of the tares will come to maturity at that time, and the righteousness of the wheat will also come to maturity.

So at the time of the harvest, it will become obvious who is a wheat and who is a tare. At that point, God send the angels to gather out of His kingdom (*which is coming to earth*) all the tares.

Those who believe and teach the Great Revival have absolutely no New Testament support for this error, so they are forced to find support for it in the Old Testament. Now the Old Testament contains much wisdom and knowledge. It's filled with prophetic wisdom and types and shadows which are extremely profitable. But any truth gleaned from the Old Testament must be *confirmed* by the New Testament or it's a deception—and the Great revival doctrine *cannot* be confirmed by the New Testament. The main passage that is used to support the idea of an End Time Revival is the prophesy of Joel, where he says:

*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: **And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.** And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.*

Joel 2:28-31

On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter quoted this prophesy in reference to what was happening that day. He said: "*This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel*" (Acts 2:16). He then proceeds to quote Joel's prophesy.

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before that great and notable day of the Lord come:** And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

Acts 2:17-21

So on the Day of Pentecost—when the disciples had been filled with the Holy Spirit, and the result was that they preached the word with boldness and spoke in other languages—Peter stood before a multitude of Jews and said: "*This is that*". This is the fulfillment of "*...it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh*". This is the fulfillment of "*...your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams*". This is the fulfillment of "*...and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy*".

Could Peter have said it any clearer? Yet for over a hundred years, Pentecostal leaders have said this is *not* that which was spoken by the prophet Joel. They have said that because Peter *also* quoted the part of Joel's prophesy which predicted wonders in heaven and signs in the earth—which did not come to pass at Pentecost—we should not take his "this is that" statement at face value. They explain that what Peter really meant was: "this is *only a foretaste* of that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; you'll have to wait for another 1900 years to get the rest of it".

Of course, the implication of what they are saying never seems to dawn on these leaders , for you see, if this is what Peter really meant, this is what he should have plainly said. If he was supposed to say that this is only a foretaste of that, then his “this is that” statement was clearly a mistake. Peter obviously mis-communicated a very important message to the people that day, didn’t he? And if we can’t trust what Peter said *here*, how can we trust what he says anywhere else? How do we know he didn’t mess up other messages?

So because the *last part* of the passage from Joel did not come to pass on the day of Pentecost, religious leaders have been saying that the *first part* didn’t really come to pass either. They say Peter just made a mistake. The actual fulfillment of the *entire* passage will come to pass at the same time, just before the return of the Lord.

The fact is, Joel’s prophesy contains a *prophetic gap*. A prophetic gap is when one portion of a prophesy comes to pass at one point in time, and the rest of it comes to pass at a later time. An example of a prophetic gap can be found in the following passage in Isaiah that Jesus quoted in one of the Jewish synagogues. Isaiah said:

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; **To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God;** to comfort all that mourn;*

Isaiah 61:1-2

When Jesus stood in the synagogue and read this passage, He stopped reading right in the middle of a sentence and closed the scroll.

*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, **as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.** And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And **when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. **And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down.** And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.***

Luke 4:16-20

Jesus closed the book at the place He did for a reason. When He was done reading, He looked at the people and said: “*This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears*” (Lk. 4:21). If he would have read the rest of that sentence—“*...and the day of vengeance of our God*”—He could not have said the passage he just read was fulfilled because the “day of Vengeance” was still another 2000 years away. In other words, there is a prophetic gap of 2000 years right in the middle of that sentence.

This is exactly the way it is with Joel's prophecy. It contains a prophetic gap. The first part of Joel's prophecy about the Spirit being poured out *was fulfilled* on the Day of Pentecost. It's not going to be fulfilled again—and all who are waiting for it to be fulfilled again are walking in a religious fantasy. The rest of that prophesy, which refers to the signs of the Lord's appearing in the heavens—will be fulfilled in our day. So the prophesy actually *spans* the entire Church age. The first part of the prophesy tells how God will pour His Spirit upon all flesh at the *beginning* of this age. The second part tells how God will judge those who have rejected the Spirit that *was* poured out, at the *end* of this age.

Another part of that prophesy talks about God sending the “former” and the “latter” rain in the first month. Since revivalists *assume* the Latter rain will come at the *end* of this age, they assume it will be a double portion anointing because it will be *both* the former rain of Pentecost (*like in the book of Acts*), and also the latter rain of the end times.

But the reference to the “first month” in that prophecy is a reference to the beginning of the Church age. The early Church *did* receive both the former and the latter rain. They did receive a double portion. Why do we think it was so powerful? The fact that they did receive a double portion is revealed by the kinds of miracles they performed. Jesus told the disciples they would do “greater works” than He did.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

John 14:12

Revivalists are waiting for some super-anointing to come on them so they can do the “greater works” that Jesus talked about. But that double portion anointing fell on the apostles and they *did* do greater miracles. The very shadow of Peter healed the diseased (*Acts 15:15*); diseases were cured, and demons cast out just by applying handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched the body of Paul to the bodies of those who were sick (*Acts 19:12*); by the word of Peter, Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead (*Acts 5:5;9;10*); Paul called down blindness on Elymas the sorcerer (*Acts 13:11*).

The greater works were not only greater miracles, but also, a greater number of converts. Jesus only preached in Judea, and in the language of that country. But the apostles preached throughout the then known world, and in all the languages of all countries. The anointing they received enabled them to turn the whole Roman world upside down.

Another Old Testament prophesy revivalists use out of context is the one in Hosea.

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

Hosea 6:1-3

At the risk of sounding like an old order, dead-letter-of-the-word Christian, the fact is, many prophecies in the Old Testament refer to National Israel—and this is one of them. This prophecy has nothing to do with a Christian revival at the end of this age. It is talking about the Jewish people, and it's talking about the next age.

God has “torn” and “smitten” the Jewish people for the last 2000 years (2 days). After those 2 days (*in the third day*), He is going to raise them up—and I dare say a lot of Gentile Christians will be extremely jealous when they see this coming to pass. The Jews have already been revived nationally, but they will not be brought back into their own Olive Tree, to their own spiritual inheritance, until the third day. So whatever the former and the latter rain speak of in this passage, it's not a reference Gentiles in the Second Day, but to the *Jewish* people as God restores them on the Third Day.

Personally, I don't think there will ever be the kind of revival today's Christians are expecting—not even in the kingdom. The Scripture says that when Jesus returns, He is going to break the nations and smash them to pieces, and rule them with a rod of iron.

*Thou shalt **break them** with a rod of iron; thou shalt **dash them in pieces** like a potter's vessel.*

Psalms 2:9

*And he shall **rule them with a rod of iron**; as the vessels of a potter shall they be **broken to shivers**: even as I received of my Father.*

Revelation 2:27

Certainly if there was a revival in progress when the Lord returned, and the nations were submitting to Jesus already, there would be no need for Him to dash them in pieces and break them into shivers!

I think our view of the next age is not what it should be. Even though Jesus and the saints will be ruling over the nations, those nations will still have a free will. They can still choose to disobey and rebel. The big difference between now and then is that in the kingdom, all rebellion will be instantly punished and stopped. The fact that rebellions is still possible in the next age is made clear by Zechariah:

*And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that **whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague**, wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations **that come not up** to keep the feast of tabernacles.*

Zechariah 14:16-19

I don't think even in the next age the nations are going to experience *the kind* of revival today's Christians are waiting for. If they did, God wouldn't have to warn them they would be plagued if they *refuse* to come up to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Why would any nation refuse to come up to Jerusalem if they were *converted* and loved the Lord? And notice carefully what the nations do *after* they have been ruled over with a rod of iron for a 1000 years by the Lord and the saints:

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they [the nations] went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Revelation 20:7-9

Whatever happens to the nations in the next age, one thing seems obvious: they *do not* experience the *kind* of revival today's revivalists are anticipating. If they did, they would all be good Christians by then and they would be *willingly* submitting to the rule of Jesus and the saints—but they aren't. The fact that the nations are *not* willingly submitting, but are *being forced* to submit by the power of the Lord's rod, becomes clear when Satan is loosed at the end of that age. The very people who have enjoyed a thousand years of peace, will join in with Satan and march on the city of Jerusalem in an attempt to destroy it!

Go figure.

Is this the fruit of a great revival?

If so, count me out!