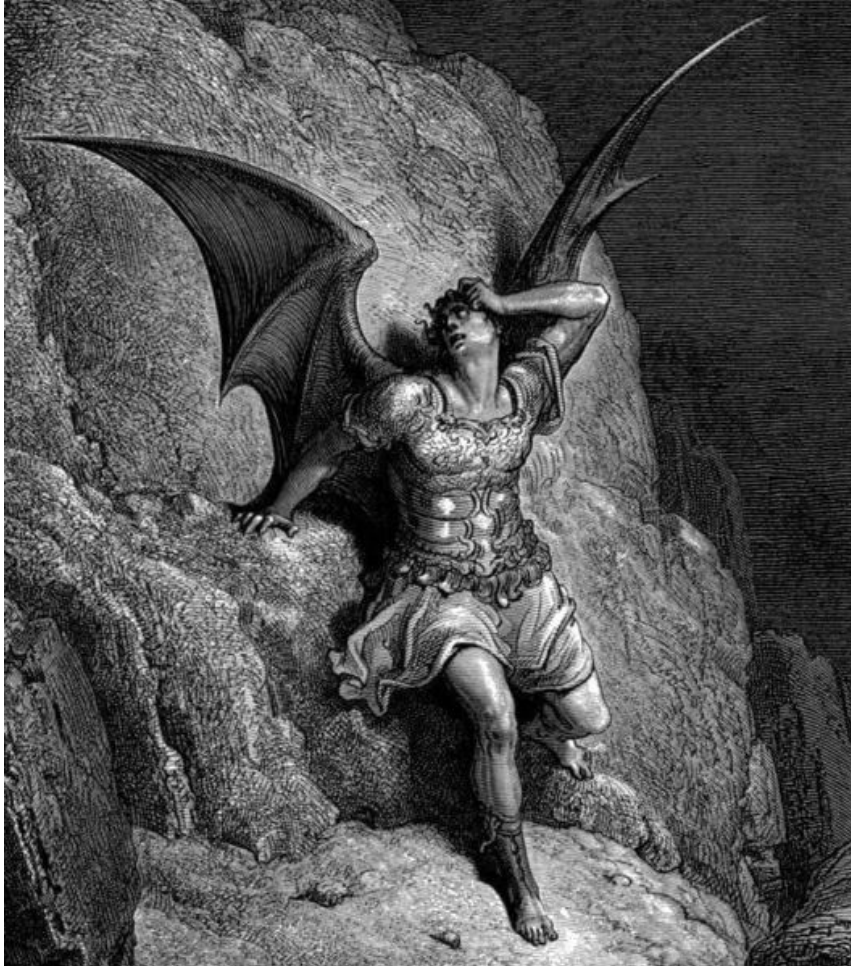


# **Preparing to Welcome the Anti-Christ**



**The Righteous**

**The Wicked**

**The End Times**

**By Rev. Mel C. Montgomery**

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—CHAPTER ONE—

## **ANTI-CHRIST—LORD OF THE WICKED**

*. . . and the whole earth went after the beast in amazement and admiration. . . they also praised and worshiped the beast, exclaiming, Who is a match for the beast, and, Who can make war against him?  
—Rev. 13:3b, 4 Amplified Version.*

Once all true Christians are caught away from the earth in the Rapture of the Church, the Anti-Christ will appear. The remaining multitudes of the Wicked will greet the man the Bible calls “the Anti-Christ” with amazement, admiration, praise, and worship. They will absolutely *worship* him.

Why? Because the Anti-Christ is their Lord, in the same way that Jesus Christ is our Lord.

When the Anti-Christ appears, none of the Wicked will ignore him, or be indifferent to him. They will love and worship him. They will see him as the answer to their prayers, the culmination of their fondest hopes in a leader, and the ultimate development of humanity.

The appearance of the Anti-Christ will be preceded by all true Christians being removed from the earth in the Rapture of the Church. The Bible makes it clear that the Rapture will occur, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye . . .”—I Cor. 15:52. Many of us have assumed that after the instantaneous Rapture of the Church, the usually reasonable and stable Wicked would instantly turn purely evil. But Paul makes clear that the transformation will not be an instant change, but a gradual process. Paul predicted:

*But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.  
—II Tim. 3:13 NIV.*

They will “grow worse and worse.” It will be a gradual metamorphosis. The Wicked are like caterpillars in cocoons, gradually being transformed into what will be their final form. But this form will not be that of a beautiful butterfly. Their final form will be that of sold-out worshippers of the Anti-Christ. They will hate God. They will hate and blaspheme Jesus Christ. They will serve the Anti-

Christ, loving him, praising him, and following him unquestioningly, even into the Lake of Fire.

What the Wicked do not realize, and we have not noticed, is that right now their personalities and mindsets are changing to conform to the eventual acceptance of the coming Anti-Christ. On a subconscious level, the Wicked are preparing to receive and welcome their Lord—the Anti-Christ.

\* \* \*

—CHAPTER TWO—

## **PREPARING TO MEET YOUR LORD**

The Wicked belong to Satan. And so did all of us until we repented of our sins and made Jesus Christ the Lord of our lives. But for now, Satan is the Lord of the Wicked in the same way that Jesus Christ is our Lord. It is perfectly natural for them to desire the appearance of their lord, the Anti-Christ, in the same way we long for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. There is a parallel process going on here. We Christians are moving intellectually and spiritually towards our Lord—Jesus Christ, who was sent to us from the Heavenly Father. The wicked are moving intellectually and spiritually towards their Lord—the Anti-Christ who will be sent from Satan.

As each camp moves toward their Lord, their personalities and thinking are steadily conforming to the nature and personality of whichever lord they have chosen. We are watching the Wicked become impossible to reason with, more indifferent to light and truth, and more at home with lies and darkness. They are transforming right before our very eyes, and it is truly astonishing to behold. I do not wish to come across as flippant about so serious a subject as the Wicked being deceived and moving steadily towards their eventual end in the Lake of Fire. But watching this epic drama as it is played out worldwide is almost like watching a science fiction movie in which one by one, human beings are taken over by alien entities.

The character in the movie begins to notice subtle changes in the people he has known all his life. He can't quite put his finger on it, but they have somehow become “different.” He begins to understand that he can no longer connect with them on a human level, and it is obvious that they do not connect with him either. It is at about this point in the movie that the main character discovers whatever the change is, and begins to take steps to see that he too is not “taken over” by whatever is happening around him. In a way similar to that movie plot, we are noticing a change in the Wicked. They are “different” than they used to be. Surely, you've noticed.

As we observe the Wicked, certain changes are becoming glaringly visible. For instance, the relationship between the Wicked and truth has been almost completely severed. Increasingly, the nature of Satan is becoming more prominent in the Ungodly. In the Scriptures, Satan is called "the Father of Lies." Therefore, to the Wicked, as they draw closer to Satan and to his coming representative, the Anti-Christ, lies seem normal. Lies seem believable. Lies are welcome. Lies are to be admired. To them, the truth is beginning to look like lies, and lies are starting to look like the truth. Conspiracy theories that are patently absurd seem perfectly reasonable to the Wicked.

A conspiracy theory currently making the rounds is that someone other than terrorists brought down the Twin Towers in New York City on September 11, 2001. "Vice President Dick Cheney blew them up!"

How? Why? Did he shinny up the drainpipe and plant tons of dynamite throughout the towers while the Secret Service wasn't watching? Did he also pilot the two airplanes into the two towers on live TV? Did he parachute out of the cockpit just before they hit? Why wasn't this caught on live TV? There are multitudes of people out there who believe crazy stories like this. Similar ridiculous conspiracy theories are becoming more believable to the Wicked. Why? Because they are drawing closer to the Father of Lies and are drifting farther away from the One True God.

In their attitudes towards murder, the Wicked are also changing. It has to do with the fact that Satan in the Scriptures is called "a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44). Therefore, to the Wicked as they draw closer to the Anti-Christ, murder has come to seem normal. Have you noticed that the plots of many of our TV programs and movies are increasingly built around murder? Usually the murder is heinous. The program or movie graphically depicts every gruesome detail in close-up high definition: *You are there!* I watched an interview with a forensics pathologist whose job it is to investigate crime scenes. He said that the movies he sees on TV so perfectly depict violent murder that even as an expert in the field of crime investigation, he cannot tell whether what he sees on screen is acting, or if it is an actual murder that was filmed.

The Wicked did not always respond so callously to murder. Back in the 1930's when the movie "Frankenstein" starring Boris Karloff was released, after only one showing, the movie was withdrawn and edited. In the original movie, at the part where the monster is talking with the little girl beside the pond who is playing with a flower, the original movie showed the monster pick up the girl and throw her in the water. The first time this movie was viewed, women in the

audience screamed, some fainted, and some mothers became hysterical. Such were the tender sensitivities of that day. Now the most horrific mutilation and torture are played out on screens and wicked women and men just laugh. Murder has become the entertainment of the Wicked, and sadly also of many Christians.

But it is not only the attitudes of the Wicked towards simulated murder that has changed. Their attitudes toward real murder, such as abortion, have become incomprehensible. Within a single generation, abortion in the United States has gone from something shameful and illegal, to something that is now deemed a treasured constitutional right. A leading politician in our country was asked to identify the point at which a baby becomes a human being. The interview went like this:

“When does a baby become a human being? At conception?”

“No.”

“At three month’s gestation?”

“No.”

“At six months? At nine months?”

“No. No.”

“At birth?”

“No.”

“When does a baby become a human being?”

“Maybe about 6 weeks after the parents take it home.”

The politician who made this absurd statement considered the murder of innocent human beings to be welcome and praiseworthy. To her, murder is so desirable that she fights to make it possible. By the way, the same politician proudly supports the murder of infants, but is staunchly against executing criminals who are guilty of heinous crimes. Kill the innocent and protect the guilty—while this is insane to you and me, it makes perfect sense to the Wicked.

You see, in the thinking of the Unrighteous, everything is gradually turning around backwards. They are beginning to see light as darkness and darkness as light. To the Wicked, the truth has started to strike them as an unbelievable lie and lies are being viewed as irrefutable truth. We sometimes think they fail to see the truth because of an honest failure to understand facts. But the Bible gives us a behind-the-scenes look at why the Wicked don't see the truth as you and I do:

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. . . They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. . . -II Cor. 4:4 Living Translation.

As the Last Days wind down, with the Unrighteous drawing closer to Satan and to the Anti-Christ in their thinking and affections, what little light they do have grows darker and darker. Every sort of wickedness, lewdness, and dishonesty that used to seem to them to be objectionable, now for some reason, no longer seem so bad. Darkness is becoming normal to them. While darkness is enveloping the Wicked, the exact opposite is occurring with the Righteous.

For us also, the Last days are winding down to their ultimate conclusion. We too are going through a metamorphosis. We are cocooned in the person of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit surrounds us and is fulfilling scripture by leading us into all truth, teaching us all things, and bringing to our minds all that Christ commanded us (John 14:26). We are not being conformed to the image of this world, but are being transformed by the renewing of our mind (Rom. 12:2). We are going from Glory to Glory (II Cor. 3:18).

Light is normal to us, and we welcome it. We love the One who is the Truth; so naturally, we want to know the truth in all situations. One day, we also shall emerge from our cocoons, but not to give ourselves over totally to evil and rebellion against God as shall the Wicked. When we hear the Last Trumpet, our bodies will be transformed into glorious bodies, and we shall rise to meet the Lord in the air, and ever shall we be with Him (I Thess. 4:16). In the meantime, as we prepare to receive our King, the light, the truth, holiness, purity, honesty, righteousness and all of the other attributes of Christ become more precious and normal to us. There is a deep desire in our hearts to meet our Lord soon, and to be the Church without spot, or blemish, or any such thing, that He desires us to be (Eph. 5:27). He is holy; therefore, we desire to be holy.

—CHAPTER 3—

**CHILDREN OF LIGHT**

**VS.**

**CHILDREN OF DARKNESS**

We are pulling away from the Wicked as we draw close to our Lord, and they are separating from us, as they get closer to their lord. We are finding it harder to tolerate each other, to work together for common goals, or even to speak to each other. When you see all the arguments on the TV news programs, you are tempted to think that all the strife is due to one political party opposing another political party, one race hating another race, or the poor battling the rich. Such is not the case. The struggle is between the Children of Light and the Children of Darkness.

Tension between the Righteous and the Wicked is nothing new. Nevertheless, in previous years and in former generations, we were able to come together and accomplish necessary goals that benefit all of us. For instance, during the 1950s in the United States, people at various levels of righteousness and wickedness agreed on the need to build an interstate highway system. It cost billions of dollars, consumed vast swaths of land, and took years to build, but we accomplished it together. The Wicked wanted better access to the gambling dens of Las Vegas and to the brothels of the big cities. The Righteous wanted easier access in feeding people, and going from place to place to preach the Gospel. We sat aside our differences to accomplish common goals. We cannot seem to do that today.

Why? Because in this advanced stage of the Last Days, the Children of Light are drawing closer to the Light, and the Children of Darkness are retreating further into darkness. We can't make the cooperative relationship work anymore. Paul explained our present separating process this way:

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?—II Cor. 6:14,15.

Believers and Unbelievers find little to fellowship about with each other, little communion, rare concord, and almost no areas of agreement. While this division has always been present, it has widened visibly to the size of the Grand Canyon within the last several years.

In Washington D.C., the capital of my country, our entire government is in gridlock, and has been for years. A common goal is hardly ever achieved anymore. The obstacle is not politics. It is light vs. darkness. It is a choice between taking this nation further away from the Savior who died for us, or returning to God and His ways. It is righteousness vs. unrighteousness, the clarity of which becomes obscured as it is filtered through political parties and the news media.

You won't see the battle that is raging between Light and Darkness if you lay down your Bible and look at everything through glasses colored with political party affiliation or bias. When you observe current events through the lens of the Word of God, you see clearly that no political party, denomination, or special interest group in this nation or any other is entirely Light or Dark. Every party, denomination, and group has its own mixture of light and darkness. In my opinion, certain ones have considerably more of one and less of the other.

What we have failed to understand is that this division is not going to be healed. This nation is not going to "come together." What fellowship has light with darkness? None. Other nations are not going to "come together" either. The Last Days are too far spent. Both Christ and the Anti-Christ lie just over the horizon. It doesn't matter who we elect, the same division will be there and it will continue to increase. No natural means will avail. The old ways that used to work in the past just won't work anymore. If God gives us a Revival, this dividing and separating process can be stalled for a while, but the inevitable cannot be stopped. The Righteous and the Unrighteous will continue to move further apart, and matters will get much, much worse.

I never imagined it would play out this way. Did you? I thought that the Wicked would continue in sin, of course, but that they would remain basically rational and reasonable until we Christians were caught away in the Rapture. Then overnight, darkness would overtake them. They would change directions and follow the Anti-Christ. However, the Bible paints a different picture—the very picture we are witnessing today.

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—CHAPTER FOUR—

## EXACTLY AS CHRIST PREDICTED

Several times Christ told us plainly that in the End Times there would come a separating process between the Righteous and the Wicked *before* the Rapture. One example is the Parable of the Tares. You can read the account in its entirety in Matt. 13:24-30, 36-42. For the sake of brevity, I will paraphrase it. In the parable, the Lord tells of a farmer who plants good seed in his field, and that an enemy later planted tares among the wheat. Finding tares scattered in your wheat was a matter of great concern. Tares were poisonous. If you happened to harvest tares with wheat, and made flour out of the mixture, the resulting bread would kill your family. If you accidentally fed tares to your cattle or sheep, it would kill them also. Finding tares in your wheat was a catastrophe.

The servants asked the farmer if he wanted them to pull up the tares. He told them not to do that because the pulling up process might pull up the wheat also. Tares were very difficult to distinguish from wheat. But as they ripened, the wheat would turn golden brown, and the tares would turn black, and be much easier to distinguish from wheat. So he told them to let the wheat and tares grow up together. Now, please note what the farmer specifically told the servants to do in the time of harvest:

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.

In the time of harvest the FIRST THING the servants were to do was to gather the tares, AND bind them in bundles to eventually be burned. This cannot be speaking of the Rapture in which the Righteous will be separated from among the Wicked. This is describing something else. Christ makes it plain in his interpretation of this passage:

...the tares are the children of the wicked one;  
. . . 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; --Matt. 13:38-41.

So Christ has told us that during the harvest in the End Times in which we live, the first thing that would happen is that the angels would begin binding together the tares—the Wicked—in preparation for their eventual burning. Then afterwards the wheat—the Righteous—would be “gathered into my barn,” which is speaking of the Rapture. I believe we are witnessing this “binding together” of the Wicked right now.

We are seeing the Wicked and various groups sympathetic to the Wicked joining forces and binding together. Some of these groups have no logical connection. Why are homosexuals fighting for abortion rights? Homosexuals never need to worry about unwanted pregnancies. Why are unions fighting for gay marriage? Why are those who believe in free speech fighting so desperately to have the Bible banned from public life? These groups have competing and contradictory agendas, yet they are locking arms with each other. They are “binding together,” and the “mainstream” news media and the Hollywood elites are joining with them. These groups are so closely intertwined now that it is hard to tell where one ends and another begins. They are presenting a united front against God’s Word and against the followers of Jesus Christ.

Why are they affiliating? What do they have in common? What they have in common, and even they are not consciously aware of this, is that in their hearts they have rejected Jesus Christ. They hate the Son of God. With each passing day, they sink a little further into darkness, further away from God, and closer to the coming Anti-Christ. So they are increasingly comfortable in each other’s company, and they are increasingly hostile to Christians.

Lest you think I am making too much out of one parable, consider another analogy Christ drew about the Kingdom of God and the End Times:

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

And shall cast them into the furnace of fire:  
there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. —  
Matt. 13:47-50.

Again, I point out to you that references such as the Parable of the Tares, and this comparison of the Kingdom of God with fish caught in a net, speak of the Wicked being removed from the midst of the Righteous—not the Righteous being removed from the Wicked in the Rapture. How are the Wicked being removed from our midst? They are separating from us spiritually, emotionally and intellectually, and so are we from them.

I believe that this separating process will be so complete before Christ returns that it will be, as Christ predicted, "as it was in the days of Lot and Noah" (Luke 17:26-30). Christ identified the days of Lot and Noah as patterns for what we would eventually see played out between the Righteous and the Wicked in the end times. The separation between the Godly and the Ungodly was so complete in those ancient examples that the two camps had utterly separated and were opposed to each other. No one joined Noah and his family in escaping the Judgment of God, and no one joined Lot and his family either. In Noah's day, the Wicked had become so devoid of any influence of the Light of God that the hearts of the Ungodly is described as being ". . . only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5).

There was not even the slightest ray of light left in the Wicked in Noah's day. They had retreated and retreated from the Light of God, and darkness had become so normal to them that there was no light left in them at all. Christ told us that the Wicked of the Last Days in which we live, would become just like the Wicked in the days of Noah and Lot—completely without any light in their minds and hearts. And "only evil continually."

**Perfect descriptions of the Wicked today:**

- Tares separated from the Wheat and bound in bundles.
- The Wicked separated from the Righteous.
- The Angels severing the Wicked from among the Just.
- Just "as it was in the days of Noah and Lot."
- People whose hearts were "only evil continually."

The more you ponder the predictions of Scripture and observe the events around us, the more obvious it becomes. So what are we as Christians to do? As Believers, we have some questions to ask ourselves and some decisions to make.

—CHAPTER FIVE—

## **WILL YOU BE FOR CHRIST OR AGAINST HIM?**

Christ warned us concerning the End Times:

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. —Matt. 24:12-13.

Will you be one of those who slowly drift away from Christ? I saw on TV the story of a popular female singer. She started out as a born-again Christian and Gospel musician. She had high moral standards, modest dress, and a biblical world-view. But she was shapely and attractive. Eventually the secular world called to her more than the church world. She became a secular artist and actress. Years have passed, and she now appears in various lewd movies. She said recently that the Bible doesn't interest her that much any more, and she really "doesn't see anything wrong" with many of the sins of which she used to disapprove. Will you join her? Will you incrementally compromise with the world, slowly lowering your standards, and gradually giving God's Word less and less attention until you reach the point where you can't even remember what you used to like about this Jesus guy? Or will you do as Christ requires and "endure unto the end?"

Let no one deceive or beguile you in any way, for that day will not come except the apostasy comes first [unless the predicted great falling away of those who have professed to be Christians has come]. . . --II Thess. 2:3 Amplified Version.

Will you "endure to the end?" Or will you gradually "fall away?"

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–CHAPTER SIX–

## **WILL YOU BELIEVE DOCTRINES OF DEVILS?**

Paul warned us:

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.—I Tim. 4:1. NIV.

I am regularly amazed at the responses of Charismatic and even Word of Faith people when I point out that Scripture does not support a particular Charismatic teaching. More and more I am hearing in response, “So What!” Brethren, it seems to me that many Charismatic’s theological position is, “[This famous prophet or healing evangelist] said it! I believe it! And that settles it!” While I appreciate the teachings of many Charismatic leaders, none of them wrote the Bible. For me to accept a teaching it has to appear clearly in Scripture. It has to also appear somewhere in Early Church writings. It needs to have been consistently believed by some major Christian commentators over the centuries—at least by the ones since the Reformation. And finally, it has to be supported by experts in the Greek and Hebrew languages, not by some amateur making up his own translation from a Greek dictionary.

Any deviation from sound doctrines firmly and clearly supported by Scripture is of great concern. Here are four areas in which we must be particularly alert to doctrinal deviations:

1. Teachings that diminish or deny the deity of Jesus Christ or attempt to redefine him in some way. In Word of Faith and Charismatic circles we have for some time overemphasized Christ’s human side, and underemphasized his deity. We need to adjust our emphasis.
2. Teachings that diminish the role of Grace or try to add to it. You are saved and accepted in God’s sight through God’s Grace that comes on account of Christ’s sacrifice at Calvary alone, not by any good works you do in addition to that.

3. Teachings that claim that there is any way to salvation except through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. No man comes to the Father but by Jesus Christ.
4. Teachings that exalt Man. We are sinners who are saved by Grace. We are not "little Gods," nor are we equal to Christ or on his level. There is a place of honor and Glory that only Jesus Christ is worthy to occupy.

When the Trumpet sounds, will you be found believing sound Bible doctrine? Will you be preaching the Gospel of the Jesus Christ of the Bible? Or, will you be preaching the words of another Jesus? Will you be one of the "many" who have abandoned the faith and begun following deceiving spirits and things taught by demons?

\* \* \*

—CHAPTER SEVEN—

## **WILL YOU FOLLOW FALSE PROPHETS OR TRUE ONES?**

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. —Matt. 24:11 KJV.

Christ never said we would have a wonderful and true Prophetic Move in the Last Days. He said just the opposite! He specifically warned that we would have an explosion of *false prophets*. Over the last 20 years we have seen a steady stream of false prophets in our midst, who have prophesied again and again things that did not come to pass. Yet I see the majority of them still appearing and "prophesying" regularly on Christian TV. Why? Because big names bring in a big attendance and big bucks. Will Christ find you following a false prophet?

I have been an eyewitness to both psychic powers and the power of God. In my teenage years, for several months I saw several psychics read people's futures with astonishing accuracy. In my twenties and thirties, for ten years I observed the Holy Spirit move upon and through Sister Goodwin in the prophet's anointing. Then God has used me in the prophet's anointing for the last 20 years. I know firsthand the difference between occult powers and the prophet's anointing. My Brethren, almost all of what I see being passed off today by "prophets" in our midst is one of two things. Either they are just saying whatever pops into their mind at the moment, and adding a "thus saith the Lord" to it, or they are moving in psychic powers.

I have watched Christian TV off and on now for 30 years. It has been at least 10 years since I have seen a genuine prophecy spoken out on any Christian TV program. But I have heard numerous false prophecies. Concerned that I might possibly have an inaccurate view of the situation, I've compared my observations with several seasoned prophets in which I have confidence. They have confirmed my beliefs. They too grieve over seeing vast amounts of false prophecy and error in our midst.

What is a true New Testament Christian prophet? The pattern for any true prophet today is shown to us in the life and ministry of John the Baptist. Christ said, “. . . Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist . . .”—Matt. 11:11 NIV. John was the greatest prophet before the Resurrection, but did you notice that as far as we know, John never spoke a single personal prophecy over anyone? The greatest prophet had zero personal prophecies. Instead, he knew the times and the seasons—it was time to repent and prepare to receive the Lord. He knew the message of God for the hour—the Messiah has arrived. He pointed people to faith in the Messiah—Jesus Christ. The role of a New Testament prophet remains the same as that of John: discerning the signs of the time, knowing the message of God for the hour, and directing people’s gaze to the sinless, spotless, Son of God.

While it is true that the prophet’s ministry today, while operating in the Utterance and Revelation Gifts, may involve giving specific words of prophecy to individuals, this is not the primary function of the prophet’s ministry. I have very little confidence in services where the “prophet” lines up dozens or hundreds of people in a line, and speaks a prophecy to each individual. I find no example in Scripture where a prophet gives out dozens or hundreds of prophecies, back to back, over everyone in a crowd.

Most such so-called “prophecies” are not prophecies at all. How do I know? Because I’ve been used in that anointing for 20 years, I learned from the best, and I fellowship with seasoned prophets. If you are used in a particular anointing, you know when that anointing is active in a service. For instance, if a healing evangelist slips in the back door of the meeting of another healing evangelist and sits on the back row, that visiting healing evangelist can tell you the exact moment when the healing anointing comes into operation on the platform. Why? Because he too is used in that anointing. Similarly, any genuine prophet visiting the service of another prophet, can tell you exactly when the prophet’s anointing comes into manifestation, and can many times tell you the theme of a prophecy before it is even spoken out by the minister on the platform. When it is time to prophesy, and someone near me begins to prophesy, I can almost always tell you the gist of what they will say. In fact, they could even speak out the first half of the prophecy, and in most instances, I could speak out the second half of it. I can tell you from firsthand experience with the prophet’s anointing, that most of what many so-called “prophets” are speaking out anymore in major meetings or on TV, with a “thus saith the Lord” thrown in, is nothing more than the minister speaking whatever pops into his mind at the moment. *It is not genuine prophecy inspired by the Holy Spirit.*

If you will notice with many of the “prophets” in our midst today, they rarely preach any sound doctrine from the Bible. Their sermons consist mostly of a string of personal “revelations” and experiences, accompanied by various Old Testament symbols and imagery thrown in for good measure. Rarely do you hear them truly honor and glorify Jesus Christ by name, and preach sermons with Christ and Calvary as the main themes. In fact, Jesus Christ is rarely mentioned at all, much less in any substantial way.

Keep track of the prophecies that are being spoken out among many so-called Prophetic Leaders today. Most do not come to pass. In fact, the exact opposite frequently comes to pass. Numerous major “prophets” flew down to the Lakeland Florida Revival some time back, stood on the platform with Todd Bentley, and every one of them prophesied that this “revival” that he was leading would never stop, and would spread to encompass the world. Yet within only three weeks, the “revival” collapsed in adultery and other scandals. It *stopped*. It did not encompass the world. The “prophets” were *dead wrong!*

Contrast the “prophecies” at Lakeland with that of Howard Carter—a prophetic giant of the early to mid 1900’s. You can listen to his recordings on my website, by download for free, at [www.brothermel.com](http://www.brothermel.com). He gave 70-some major public prophecies in his life. He wrote every one of them down, and shared them with everyone. Then he added, “If even one of these fails to come to pass, I shall never prophesy again!” He never had to quit prophesying, because 100% of them came to pass. With the Goodwins from whom I learned, I’ve spoken to individuals who knew Mom and Dad Goodwin for 40 years or more. None of them could recall a single prophecy the Goodwins spoke that did not come to pass in fairly quick order. This is a far cry from these “prophetic” meetings today where in only a single service numerous prophecies are spoken out that never come to pass. Understand this: Any Christian minister who says, “Thus saith the Lord” when the Lord has not spoken is a false prophet. If you continually expose yourself to false prophecy, it will be a small step for you to turn one day from Christ and to eventually follow the False Prophet, and the Anti-Christ when they come.

—CHAPTER EIGHT—

## **WILL PERSECUTION TEST YOU OR TURN YOU?**

The Bible couldn't be clearer:

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. —II Timothy 3:12.

No may-be about it. Persecution will come in some form or manner to every Christian who lives a godly life. Just ask Christian Carrie Prejan.

Miss Prejan won the Miss California beauty pageant, and went forward to compete in the Miss USA pageant. One of the judges, who was gay and was pushing the extreme gay agenda, brought politics into the process and asked Carrie her position on gay marriage. Here is an exact quote of her reply:

I think it's great that Americans are able to choose one or the other. We live in a land where you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite marriage," she said in response to a question on her view of gay marriage. And you know what? I think in my country, in my family, I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised.

She gave a perfectly courteous and reasonable answer, consistent with her Christian faith. For this answer, the gay judge gave Carrie a score of zero, which lowered her overall standing to the point where she came in as the first runner up rather than winning the Miss USA crown. His low score directly cost her the crown. The gay judge followed up on this vicious act of prejudice against Carrie for her Christian faith by filming a video in which he called Carrie a "b\*tch," and posted on his blog that she was a "wh\*re," along with other crudities. He then cropped a photo of Carrie to make it appear that she was engaged in a lewd sex act, and also posted it on his blog for the world to see. What was the response of Pageant owner Donald Trump? Did he fire the judge? Hardly. Mr. Trump said he "would be delighted" to have the gay judge return and serve as a judge again. In a few weeks, Carrie Prejan was fired from being Miss California. The news media

ignored the injustices to Carrie, but repeatedly asked her if she had any plans to apologize to the judge for her Christian beliefs! I know of no major media outlet that has asked the judge if he planned to apologize to Carrie for being "intolerant" and prejudiced against her faith.

What was this? Light vs. Darkness. Carrie Prejan was persecuted for her Christian faith. You see, for all the claims of being "tolerant" the Unrighteous are tolerant of everybody and everything except Jesus Christ, and those who follow him. Christ told us:

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. —John 15:18.

Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. —Luke 6:22,23. NIV.

What will you do when you are forced to choose between standing by the words of your Lord, or speaking the words that will please the Unrighteous? Will you, like Carrie, allow the Wicked to take from you an earthly crown or reward so that you can obtain a Heavenly crown? I've seen many Christians in times of persecution and criticism lie and water down their response to the point where they almost deny being a Christian at all.

When this persecution broke out against Carrie, and she was treated in such an insulting manner, the Civil Rights organizations were strangely silent, as were the Christian ecumenical groups, and the vigilant Feminist groups. But Carrie did not face the angry mob alone. The Lord stood with her, as did some fellow Christians. She stood her ground, and has now filed a lawsuit against the Pageant for religious discrimination. You go girl!

This level of persecution is unprecedented in the United States. We have had it comfortable for many years. But the persecution against us will get worse and worse as the End approaches. When persecution comes to you, will you stand with Christ or deny him in order to please men? Will persecution be a test over which you triumph, or an offense that turns you away from Christ?

—CHAPTER NINE—

## **WILL YOU PREACH CHRIST’S GOSPEL OR ANTI-CHRIST’S GOSPEL?**

We must preach that sin is sin, and that Jesus Christ is man’s *only* hope for salvation. Pastor, I understand your challenges because I have served as a pastor. But let me ask you, do you warn your listeners that the wages of sin is death? I know we reach out to people with love and don’t immediately bring up issues because we are trying to reach sinners, but do you find a point at which you warn unmarried couples that they are in sin? Do you confront the sins that society has now embraced? Such crystal clear preaching, and even gentle confrontation, should be done in a redemptive manner, but it *must be done*. There is great pressure from every direction to not say what needs to be said. Will you stay with the Gospel message, or will you water it down in order to avoid criticism?

Criticism just goes with the territory. You should read some of the e-mails I get! Strangely, I have never received a critical e-mail from a sinner. All vicious e-mails so far have come from people who claim to be born-again Christians. In e-mails and letters I have been called: naïve, a fool, a liar, a dog, a criminal who needs to be locked up, and I’ve twice even been accused of being the Anti-Christ! Moi? This is in addition to the two times I have been cussed out publicly, with crowds watching, by Christians who claimed to be much more Christ-like than me. Really? Jesus Christ certainly never used foul language like that! You learn to live with irrational and mean-spirited criticism, and to take it in stride.

John Wesley, the great Methodist evangelist of the 1700’s was well known for preaching a solid gospel of repentance and salvation through Christ alone. Many times he was hated for his message. One day as he was riding along on his horse, he became concerned. He realized that he had not been criticized, persecuted, had his life threatened, or been run out of town lately. So he stopped, knelt down along the side of the road next to his horse, and began to pray. He asked God if he was in sin. Within a few moments, a sinner working in a nearby field recognized Wesley, and with a loud curse, threw a stone that hit Wesley. John Wesley immediately jumped up and said, “Thank you Lord!” He then rode onward, never looking back to see who had thrown a stone at him.

I don’t care how hot the criticism becomes, or how mercilessly I am slandered and mocked on some websites, I am going to keep preaching the uncompromised Gospel of Jesus Christ. How about you?

—CHAPTER TEN—

## **WILL CHRIST FIND YOU READY OR CAUGHT BY SURPRISE?**

Have you ever walked into a room and caught someone by surprise doing something they had no business doing? Awkward, isn't it? The Lord told us in the Scriptures that at His sudden return, some Believers will be found by Him in places or conditions that will be embarrassing. They will not be ready for Him because they will have lost any real love for him, and they will not be looking for him to return. Such will be found in a place or condition that will merit a severe punishment. In a Parable about the End times, the Lord spoke of a ruler returning after a long journey and the consequence suffered by a servant who was not ready for his lord's return:

The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. — Matthew 24:50,51.

What does “appoint him his portion with the hypocrites” mean? I don't know, and I don't want to get close enough to it to know. I want to stay squarely in Christ's kingdom, Word, and Spirit. It is clear that for those Christians who are spiritually unprepared for the return of our Lord when He comes, there will be a very grievous consequence.

Many times in recent years when it has come time to part with loved ones or friends—who are Christians—whom I probably will not see again, I will say, “You know, we may never see each other again in this life. So stay true to Jesus Christ, and I will too. And we'll see each other one day in Glory.”

When the Trumpet sounds, will the Lord find you in a state of lukewarmness, deep sin, or so conformed to the World that there is no difference between you and the Ungodly? Will He judge you a hypocrite?

## **IN CONCLUSION:**

We are farther advanced into the Last Days than any generation has ever been before us. We are warned repeatedly in the Scriptures that these days will be full of deception, false prophets, and false doctrine. We are even told that some Christians will depart from genuine Christianity. We need to discern the times in which we live, choose which side we are going to be on, make a firm decision to do whatever is necessary in order to stay with Christ, and walk circumspectly. We need to study the Bible and stick closely with it. We need to develop and maintain a prayer life of intimacy with God. We need to stay connected with our local church and with ministries that preach sound doctrine. But yet, there is one more thing we must do.

As the Holy Spirit continues to separate us, draw us to Christ, and prepare us for the Lord's coming, we need to be alert to, and cooperate with, this separating process. You will find Him quietly wooing you away from certain things that play too large of a part in your lives. You are going to have to quit watching the vile TV programs and movies that are common now. Watch something that is decent and edifying, and then turn the TV off. Quit watching the TV news programs that just spew out hate, mockery, and insults. Watch the ones that simply report to you the facts, and allow you to reach your own conclusions. Quit listening to the songs on the radio and on CD that glorify wild living and sin. Listen to music that is clean. Be careful of the sports programs you watch and the athletes you idolize. It is, after all, just a game. None of those athletes or sports commentators hung on a cross for you. In short, fulfill your responsibilities in life, stay close to the Lord, be alert to the times in which we live, and steadily prepare for the coming of your King—Jesus Christ. The Wicked are already preparing for the coming of the Anti-Christ.

### **I leave you with the words of the Apostle Paul:**

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light—Rom. 13:11,12.

## About the Author

The ministry of author, pastor, and revivalist preacher, Mel Montgomery is an example of God fulfilling a word of prophecy.

Mel was mentored in ministry by Sister Goodwin. She and her late husband, the Rev. J.R. Goodwin had sat in meetings conducted by Smith Wigglesworth, Raymond T. Richey, and other early Pentecostals. Then God had used the Goodwins as a bridge to the leaders of the Word of Faith move. The Goodwins taught John Osteen and Kenneth Hagin Sr. about the gifts of the Spirit. Kenneth Hagin patterned his prophetic ministry after the spiritual flow he had witnessed in the Goodwins. Mel developed into prophetic ministry under Sister Goodwin’s oversight.



Before her passing, Sister Goodwin laid her hands on Mel, asked God to use him in spiritual gifts, and prophesied that Mel would have “a strong ministry, and an anointed ministry, like *some of the men of old.*” Years after Sister Goodwin’s passing, the Goodwin descendants and others asked Mel to host on his website rare audio recordings of early Pentecostal preachers that were recorded at the Goodwins’ church and elsewhere. Mel uploaded the recordings to his website, [www.brothermel.com](http://www.brothermel.com), making these treasures available to the world by download, for free.

Mel’s message and concept of ministry began to change as he listened to the recordings of the “men of old” like Howard Carter, Stanley Frodsham, F.F. Bosworth, the Goodwins, and others. He discovered that what the Pentecostal giants preached bears little resemblance to the extreme teachings common today in the Charismatic and Word of Faith branch of Christianity to which he belongs. Sister Goodwin’s prophecy is fulfilled as Mel continues to speak in churches around the world, preaching as did the “men of old,” the transforming power of the Cross and Pentecost. He authors articles and e-books, calling for a Reformation in Charismatic and Word of Faith circles.

Mel’s teachings have been translated and published in foreign countries. From 2007 - 2009, Mel’s website, [www.brothermel.com](http://www.brothermel.com), has received over 1.4 million hits from people in 131 countries. Mel’s monthly e-mail newsletter currently goes out to subscribers around the world.