

Expect no global revival

Introduction

One of the major constituents of radical Charismatic theology¹ is the hope of a coming global revival. Different heretical groups have different expectations of this revival. Latter Rain inspired Charismatics teach all sorts of absurdities; such as that Spirit-filled believers will be invulnerable to bullets, able to fly and able to pass through walls, plus many more idiocies. Others emphasise that apostles and prophets will rule the world. Some blasphemously aver that the church will become so powerful in dominating all nations that the earth will be purged of all sin, creation will be redeemed, the earth restored and Jesus need not return. Still others expect a more subdued historical form of revival where the characteristics of revivals in church history (sinners saved in large numbers, backsliders returning in faith, an influence on society for good etc.) occupy the whole world, unlike the localised revivals of history.

These various hopes have fuelled all sorts of errors and aberrations which people adopted thinking that they presaged a coming revival. Anything that seemed to imply some sort of powerful move in the church was endorsed and pursued, even if it was bogus or demonic. All Satan had to do was get some deluded church leader to be tempted to pursue a form of mysticism or occult manipulation that resulted in odd phenomena and hordes of church people celebrated it constantly, making a movement out of it.

The biggest example of this was the Toronto Blessing; which was nothing but a mixture of mysticism, created by inducing passivity, plus the excesses of a type of demonic inspired Kundalini yoga.² As with all manifestations of the flesh, it eventually passed away, failed to produce any coherent fruit, did great damage to individuals and churches, but people forgot and moved on. Even some more rational Charismatic church leaders are now admitting this, or at least accepting that there were serious things wrong with what they once claimed was a glorious expression of the power of God.³

So the various movements, aberrations, teachings, strategies, practices, and indulgences pursued by the Charismatic Movement in the last 30 years have all failed to bring us one step nearer to global revival. Indeed, everything in the world and the church is far worse than when the Charismatic Movement began in 1960. Do I really need to explain that?⁴

¹ There is a difference between Charismatic-lite, where churches adopt the trappings of Charismatic worship plus some teachings, and radical Charismaticism. The radical form used to be found in the Restoration and New Churches; then it advanced through the Signs & Wonders and then Kansas City Prophets movements. These spawned the Toronto Blessing and its descendants (such as Pensacola or Lakeland) followed by Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare, the New Apostolic Reformation and other aberrations.

² A form of extreme Hindu discipline, usually avoided due to its severe nature; also called the 'Serpent power'. It involves manipulation of the body's chakras to coalesce into an explosion of inner power that causes people to do extreme physical things (scream, fall over, roll around, bark, etc.). This is merely giving oneself over to control by a demon, which is why the manifestations are so unedifying and deny Scripture.

³ E.g. Matthew Hosier of Gateway Church, Bournemouth. Matt was a teenager in NFI head church (CCK) in Brighton at the time and the son of the former leader John Hosier. See Thinktheology.com, 'The Charismatic and Culture Reflections on 1994', 12 June 2014.

⁴ For example see my papers, 'Charismatic Catastrophe', 'The Charismatic Movement is a failure'. Never has the world been in a more dangerous condition than today, with impending economic collapse, the problems of international migration, multiple wars, terrorism and the threat of world war.

Despite all this, current major leaders of radical Charismatics, like Bill Johnson,⁵ are still pushing the agenda for a global revival and still try to whip up excitement around anything that may promote 'power religion'.

Though these people are very short on Scriptural support for global revival, the few texts they quote are so obviously out of context it beggars belief. Usually these are verses pointing to the return of Christ or the glorious age that follows.⁶

What I intend to show in this paper is that the whole of Scripture teaches the very reverse of this concept. The end time suffering of the church and the triumph of satanic evil in a blasphemous society are taught everywhere. There are specific dogmatic declarations of this, such as by Paul. There are clear statements by Jesus himself describing this situation. There are types and symbols that correlate with this. There are historical precedents which teach us to expect this. Finally, there is even figurative, but clear, apocalyptic literature that warns us about this and urges perseverance in trial.

There are so many forms of teaching warning us about this that it is tantamount to self-delusion that anyone could teach the opposite.

Now we could analyse the popularity of prophetic movements and eschatological interpretations over time to explain this. Such as the change amongst Charismatics from the Dispensational eschatology of Classical Pentecostals and Historical Premillennialism of Arminian evangelicals to a dominionist, triumphalist, Post-Millennialism from about 1970 onwards. However, that would be dry. Here I want to preoccupy your thinking with what God's word specifically teaches.

I have explained this subject in concise terms on a number of occasions within the framework of papers on other subjects. Here I want to fully concentrate on this matter of a fabricated global revival in order to completely dispel the lie. Believers will be no good at the end if they are chasing dreams and false visions when they need to prepare for what is coming.

A short word on revivals and revivalism

It is a mistake for believers to put all their hopes in a coming revival of any sort. In any case, what is always needed is a reformation not a short lived, excitable revival of dubious merit. People who hoped in this were nearly always left disappointed and sometimes bitter. A recent example is Martyn Lloyd-Jones whose ardent desire for a Puritan-type revival of godliness led to him adopting some unwise alliances and aspirations. He died a sad and disappointed man in this respect.⁷

The reason it is wrong to do this is that it is a distraction. Our goal and hope is always God and nothing less. If God has hard times, or times of small things, planned for us in our lives, then constantly hoping for some exciting revival is going to work against God's plan for us.

Since God's plan for Gottschalk was to bear witness to the truth of sound Augustinian doctrine, particularly double predestination, and then to suffer for it and die in prison, then longing and hoping for revival would have done Gottschalk no good at all.

⁵ Senior Pastor of Bethel Church, Redding, California and leader of Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry.

⁶ For example: Acts 3:21; Isa 11:9; Hab 2:14.

⁷ I do not deny that he died a godly man with a good testimony but that he was very dejected (some would say worse) regarding the state of the church and the failure to see a revival.

The church has known persecution or suffering far more than revival during church history, that is just a plain fact. For several hundred years believers had no access to a Bible or proper fellowship. Shortly after that you could be burned for just owning a Bible. Under Bloody Mary children were killed for refusing to submit to the Catholic Mass. What is important in our testimony is not being in a revival but persevering faithful to the end and doing the job that God has given us.

Then we have the problem of revivals. Many supposed good revivals were nothing of the sort. They were a period of religious excitement that bore no difference from similar secular social excitements at the same time.⁸ Many were of mystical origin and led to very bad fruit. Some were similar to the Toronto Blessing.⁹ Many of the revivals listed in evangelical books on revival were either very bad events indeed or were very mixed.

In addition to all this there is the matter of revivalism.

This is really religious excitement of various forms that used to be called 'enthusiasm'. For example: CG Finney's revivals were revivalism; Cane Ridge was revivalism, the Holiness and Pentecostal Movements had much revivalism, Latter Rain was revivalism, the Healing Revival was revivalism. History is full of revivalism where the church was brought into disrepute and believers were damaged. Toronto, Pensacola and Lakeland are examples of this.

Historically, many Pentecostal churches planned and organised 'a revival' on a set date, which was really what we would now call a Charismatic celebration. These revivals had their own songs, 'revival choruses'; their own revivalist preachers on a circuit and revivalist logistics, such as revivalist tents and benches borrowed from circuses. This was just fleshly works.

Common in all these is an elevation of unrestrained emotionalism, often coupled with mysticism, which results in exotic phenomena of various degrees. Very often it includes people falling over in a faint (called 'being slain in the Spirit' by Holiness churches, Pentecostals and now Charismatics).¹⁰ The claimed healings were usually the result of heightened emotion leading to raised endorphins or adrenaline which gave temporary pain relief. It was common for 'healed' people to die or end up in hospital shortly afterwards.¹¹

In fact all the symptoms of excesses found in revivalism are equally found in occult traditions and false religions where the same techniques are used to manipulate people, make them suggestible and make them passive. This results in a hypnotised state (altered consciousness) where they will do what they are commanded, submit to peer pressure, or behave oddly.

The longing of many Charismatics today is really a longing for revivalism, not a true revival; they want an emotional jamboree. A true revival results in deep repentance and concern for dealing with personal sins, followed by open confession, a release of joy followed by obedience and commitment to evangelism. Few Charismatics teach that global; revival involves dealing with personal sins and confessing them. In fact, most of the

⁸ Such as St Vitus Dance.

⁹ For more information on this matter see my work, 'Preoccupation with revival'.

¹⁰ The main pioneers of making people fall over were all false prophets and heretics: Maria Woodworth-Etter, Aimee Semple McPherson, Kathryn Kuhlman, Benny Hinn; the Hunters. All were impacted by direct influence from one to another, just as with occult shamans who regularly make people fall over by touch. Many people have been injured, paralysed or even killed by being slain in the Spirit.

¹¹ Of course, all of this is still common in Charismatic meetings.

spokesmen for global revival (usually a supposed prophet or apostle) downplay the matter of sin and openly teach antinomianism.¹²

Real revival involves release from sin and encouragement to evangelise. Spurious revival involves a desire for personal and corporate power.

Having established this we must press on to denounce this idea of global revival in Scriptural terms.

Statements by global revivalists

In case you are not familiar with the spokesmen for global revival, I will give a few samples of their statements and expectations.

Revival in general

Revival is the derelict Temple quickly swept clean, speedily built up and dramatically filled with glory - from the revived church will come displays of glory, works of power, fruit for the world and salvation for the nations.

David Mansell, 'Times of Refreshing', *Covenant News* (Harvestime).

We must have church growth - we must have revival - the Bible has failed us; so now we must have the Spirit, the new anointing to do the work.

An elder in a British church spoken at the time of the Toronto Blessing.

It is sometimes claimed that the global revival is characterised in four waves, viz.:

- First wave - Pentecostalism.
- Second Wave - the Charismatic Movement.
- Third wave - the Signs and Wonders movement of John Wimber, and the Church Growth Movement of Peter Wagner.
- Fourth wave - global revival; the glory of God filling the earth.

E.g. Mark Stibbe, 'Times of Refreshing'.

John Wimber was originally claimed to, 'contain the good of all the previous moves and much more to lead the church of Jesus Christ into the greatest season of harvest and manifestation of power and glory and righteousness that the world has ever known'. Paul Cain; 'God speaking the second time', *Leadership Conference, General Session*, Grace Ministries, (1990). But this didn't happen and a fourth wave was necessary.

The Toronto Blessing was claimed to be the beginning of the fourth wave:

We are currently (i.e. Toronto Blessing) in a time similar to the ministry of John the Baptist, which is preparing the way for a soon-coming time resembling the ministry of Jesus where powerful signs, wonders and miracles will take place.

John Arnott; 'Spread the Fire', 1, no. 3, May-June 1995, p2.

That idea of progressive waves is now defunct since nothing changed and things got worse. Furthermore we have had several divergent other waves (Pensacola, Gold fillings, Lakeland revival, New Apostolic Reformation etc.). The list is completely arbitrary and meaningless.

Irreverent language used by Charismatic revivalists

Git 'em Jesus! Git 'em, git 'em, git 'em.

Spiritual drunkenness. [People falling in a faint.]

Holy Ghost glue. [Keeping people flat on the floor.]

A Holy Ghost tornado.

¹² Being opposed to God's law resulting in condoning unrighteousness.

A Holy Ghost blowout.

Rodney Howard-Browne (who called himself '*the Holy Ghost bartender*' and '*the Holy Ghost hitman*'), Hank Hanegraaff, *Counterfeit Revival*, Word (1997), p29, 25, 21, 42-43.

John Arnott wrote of a conversation he had with Jesus! In it Arnott asked him what he would like to do when they met. The Lord of Glory allegedly said to Arnott, '*Oh John, I just want to wash your feet*'. John Arnott; '*The Father's Blessing*', Creation House, (1995), p28. This blasphemy alone explains the source of the Toronto excitement.¹³

The coming revival is the greatest in world history, full of healings

This new thing God is bringing forth is the merging of God and man, not seen in fulness since the separation of man from God in the Garden of Eden. [What then was the incarnation of Jesus Christ?]

Clayt Sonmore; *Beyond Pentecost*, Thy Kingdom Come Ministries.

Paul Cain has seen, by the Holy Spirit, an earth-shaking outpouring of revival such as the world has never seen. Prophet Paul Cain has seen in the Spirit, a last days revival so powerful that hospitals will literally be emptied and people kneeling in public places to receive Christ will be commonplace. [Over 20 years later none of this has happened and Cain is a disgraced sinner.]

Paul Crouch; 'Blessed are the eyes which see', *PTL Newsletter*, March 1994.

The day is coming, I tell you this, I knew it like I know my own name, the day is coming there will not be one sick saint in the body of Christ. Nobody will be, nobody's gonna be ... You're all gonna be healed before the rapture.

Benny Hinn, '*Praise the Lord*', 8 July 1996.

All the sick are gonna be healed, the dead are gonna be raised and nations are gonna turn to God in a day.

Bob Jones and Paul Cain; '*Selections from the Kansas City Prophets*', audio. Quoted in Hank Hanegraaff, *Counterfeit Revival*, Word (1997), p157.

Angelic appearances will be common to the saints and a visible glory of the Lord will appear upon some for extended periods of time as power flows through them. There will be no plague, disease, or physical condition, including lost limbs, AIDS, poison gas or radiation, which will resist the healing and miracle gifts working in the saints during this time. Food will be multiplied day after day.

Rick Joyner; '*The Harvest*', *Morning Star*, (1990), p128-129.

Sin, sickness and disease, spiritual death, poverty and everything else that's of the devil once ruled us. But now, bless God, we rule them; for this is the day of dominion.

Kenneth Hagin; 'Rejoice! This is the day which the Lord hath made', *The Word of Faith*, July 1996, p16.

I live for the revival that is unfolding and believe it will surpass all previous moves combined, bringing more than one billion souls into the kingdom. [We live for God not some longed for experience on earth.]

Bill Johnson; '*When heaven invades earth*', p23.

A generation is now forming ... that will walk in an anointing that has never been known by mankind before, including the disciples.

Bill Johnson; '*The Supernatural power of a transformed mind: Access to a life of miracles*', Destiny Image Pub, (2005).

¹³ Jesus is not on earth as a man any longer; he sits at the Father's right hand as a glorified man ascended into the greatest majesty as King of the Universe. When he returns to earth as such his mere breath will destroy Satan. Arnott has no fear of God; thus no wisdom and no authenticity. He is a false teacher.

God gave every believer the power to heal as Jesus did. [Cf. 1 Cor 12:30; 2 Cor 12:12.]
Bill Johnson; 'You've got the power', *Charisma Online*, March 2012.

Every born-again Christian can manifest any gift that he wants to, because with the coming of the Holy Spirit you have the Source of all gifts.
John Wimber; Wikipedia, 'Wimber'.

The revived church rules the world

A key summary of the foundational root for Charismatic revivalism are the three major feasts of Israel, purporting to be the stages of the Church.

- Passover - deliverance from sin.
- Pentecost - the former rain, or individual empowering.
- Feast of Tabernacles - God indwells his people corporately and makes them to rule.

This is a synopsis of George Warnock; *'The Feast of Tabernacles'*, (1951) published by Bill Britton.¹⁴

The redeemed community might become the means whereby he [God] would establish God's sovereign right in his own redeemed earth. ... God's people are going to start to exercise rule and they're going to take dominion over the power of Satan. As the rod of his strength goes out of Zion, he will change legislation, he will chase the devil off the face of God's earth and God's people will bring about God's purposes and God's reign.

Ern Baxter; quoted in Pauline Griego MacPherson, *Can the elect be deceived?* (1986), Bold Truth Press, p52.

The revived church is glorious

Prior to Jesus Christ's physical return, his living presence will companion the Church in ever-increasing power. During this time, the visible glory of the Lord will rise and appear upon God's people. This unique event will be known as the Days of His Presence.

Francis Frangipane; *River of Life ministry newsletter* (re: Signs and Wonders), August 1995 .

What is about to come upon the earth is not just a revival, or another awakening; it is a veritable revolution. The vision was given in order to begin to awaken those who are destined to radically change the course, and even the very definition of Christianity.

Rick Joyner, *The Harvest*, 'Joel's Army'.

[The global revival gives Christians] a greater privilege than was ever offered to any people of any generation at any time from Adam clear down through the end of the millennium ... and they're gonna have more than just a little omnipotent surge – you're gonna behold that glory and become that glory. [Both the references to omnipotence and becoming glory are blasphemous since both are attributes that belong to God alone.]

Bob Jones and Paul Cain; *'Selections from the Kansas City Prophets'*, audio, quoted in Hank Hanegraaff, *'Counterfeit Revival'* (1997).

When the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us we beheld his glory of the only begotten of the Father and when you begin to become that Word I want you to know the world will behold the glory of the Father, and that's what we're waiting to see ... I want you to know that we're going to have some channelling one of these days, but it's going to be channelled right out of the throne room of heaven. [This is just sheer blasphemy.]

Paul Cain; 'You can become the Word', *Vineyard Prophets Conference*, 1989.

¹⁴ In fact the typology is better served as: Passover = salvation obtained by the blood of Christ; Pentecost = the indwelling of the Spirit; Tabernacles = the final harvest of the world (the return of Christ and the consummation of salvation) the ingathering of the church.

The revived church defeats Satan before Jesus returns

The very unseen powers of the heavenlies must be toppled from their thrones ... as the sons of God begin to mount up ... to take to themselves their God-given authority in the Spirit. ... Satan and his hosts [will] relinquish their kingdom into the hands of the Sons of God. ... into the very heavenlies they shall ascend, first of all in the Spirit, to take possession of the kingdom left vacant by the casting out of Satan and his evil hosts. Then they shall be in a position to administer peace and life and blessing to a Church and a world that are in bondage and under oppression.

Warnock, *'Feast of Tabernacles'*, p31.¹⁵

The revived church has new levels of power

I believe that the government of the church is finally coming into place ... We're going to new levels of prayer. We're going to new levels in the spiritual. We're going to new levels in healing and miracles. We're going to new levels in deliverance of demonic deliverance. [From this point (2000) Christian membership in churches dwindled.]

C Peter Wagner; *CBN interview*, 3 January 2000.

[End-time prophets] 'Possess the Spirit without measure. For they are the best of all the generations that have ever been on the face of the earth. ... They will move into things of the supernatural that no one has ever moved in before ... They'll move in the power that Christ did... They themselves will be the generation that's raised to put death itself underneath their feet.

Bob Jones, tape: *Visions & Revelations* (1988) quoted in David Cloud, *'The New Prophets'*, Way of Life Literature, Oak Harbour, Washington, p10.

The revived church is based upon new apostles and prophets

The second apostolic age began in the year 2001, OK? ... The body of Christ hadn't recognised them and released them for the office that they had so that they'd function as apostles and prophets in the foundation of the church. But now we have that, I believe we've reached our critical mass in the year 2001. [This completely ignores counter claims that a true apostolic office had been functioning in Britain from the early 1970s in the Restoration Movement. How can both be true?]

C Peter Wagner; *'Arise'* Prophetic Conference, Gateway Church, San Jose, 10 October 2004.

There is an emerging Apostolic Movement that will revolutionise the 21st Century Church.

Bill Hamon, *'National Symposium on the Post-Denominational Church'*, (C. Peter Wagner) 21-23 May 1996.

No prophet or apostle who ever lived equalled the power of these individuals in this great army of the Lord in these last days. No one ever had it, not even Elijah or Peter or Paul, or anyone else enjoyed the power that is going to rest on this great army.

Bob Jones and Paul Cain; *'Selections from the Kansas City Prophets'*, audio (tape: 155C).

The revived church in conflict with the evangelical church

A great but painful transition is occurring, represented prophetically by the lives of Saul and David. God is doing a new thing, raising up believers who will move under the anointing of David to challenge the goliaths of our day. This fresh move threatens the powerless backslidden body of Christ represented by Saul. The Saul spirit must die, in order to make room for the David generation...The Saul church has lost the anointing; this backslidden Saul Spirit in the Church must die if the fresh powerful move of God's Spirit is to flow untapped.

Colin Dye [Kensington Temple]; *'When The Spirit Comes - Ready to Face The Giants'*, *Elim*

¹⁵ This is a denial of the Biblical teaching that Satan and his angels have already been cast out of heaven and a restricted to the aerial regions above the earth. Rev 9:1, 12:4, 9, 20:2-3; Lk 10:18. 2 Pt 2:4 ('hell' is not Gehenna but Tartarus, figurative for the depths of the earth). Eph 2:2.

Pentecostal Church magazine.

Rick Joyner has written extensively of a coming civil war in the church that is analogous to the American Civil War between the Union Army in blue and the Confederate army in grey. In this church war the Blue army is the 'Spirit-filled' Charismatic globalists who persecute the Grey army, or the Christians dominated by rationality (focused on their brains, grey matter). E.g. *Morning Star Prophetic Bulletin*, 'Civil war in the church', No 16.

Multiple prophets have had a vision of the blue and grey armies in the church civil war; they include: Bob Jones (the initial vision in 1984), Wes Campbell, and James Ryle.

The revived church is an army that kills other Christians

When this army comes [the revived church] ... it's so mighty that there's never been anything like it before ... begin the slaughter and begin it in the temple and begin it with the elders. The leaders of my people. And they walk through the land and they start and they begin to slaughter ... it is coming now among the church.

Jack Deere; *'Joel's Army'*, Vineyard Ministries Int. (1990).

[The church army] as it follows Christ, initiates spiritual warfare against the various gates of hell ... there are a growing number of churches around the world who are being gathered together by the Lord for war.

Francis Frangipane; *'The Three Battlegrounds'*, p124, 128.

We are the ones who will choose if the next move of God will be a day of salvation or a day of judgment – for those who reject it ... will have a more severe judgment.

Paul Cain; *The Word and the Spirit* conference, London, October 1992.

Don't speak a word against signs and wonders and the prophetic ministry in these last days or God's zeal will chasten you.

Paul Cain; *'The prophet'*, Christ for the nations, Dallas, September 1989, p5.

Failed revivalist prophecies

There are huge numbers of failed prophecies spoken at both high and low levels in Charismatic churches; sadly most of these are not recorded in any published format. I have personally heard major church leaders and so-called apostles and prophets speak failed prophecies on multiple occasions. In one or two cases God has used me to be the means by which the prophecy failed.¹⁶

10 million Japanese will come to Christ by the year 2000.

C Peter Wagner; *'Breaking strongholds in your city'*, (1993), p25.

The San Francisco Bay area would be destroyed by an earthquake and a tidal wave in 1890. [A 1,000 people fled to the hills.]

Maria Woodworth-Etter; Burgess, McGee & Alexander (eds.), *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*, Zondervan, (1989) p901. [Woodworth-Etter was lauded as a great prophetess by Benny Hinn.]

Paul Cain declared that revival would break out in London in October 1990, timed with a Wimber conference in Docklands. This was widely published in the leaflets and posters for this conference. Result: nothing happened. In fact the spiritual condition of the UK worsened significantly and numbers dropped over the decade.

¹⁶ For example: a certain apostle prophesied that his then growing church would relocate to a new site where a supermarket had closed down. Under God's sovereignty I was the Project Controller for Royal Mail that purchased that site for a new postal delivery office (I had no control over the choice of the property, which was an estates matter).

John Hinkle proclaimed on TBN that on 9 June 1994 God would, ‘rip all evil off the face of the earth’. This was ‘verified’ by ‘two men with reliable ministries’. A defensive article supporting Hinkle was written by Karen Howe and printed in *Charisma* magazine in December 1994.

Gerald Coates: ‘Dr. Kendall - in 18 months from this month (April 1995) your church, Westminster Chapel, will be unrecognisable ... the Holy Spirit will increase in power (!). In 18 months (i.e. October 1996) the Spirit of God - not just upon Westminster Chapel, but upon Westminster itself, upon the high of the land, upon many who live in that area, is going to come on that place ... the Spirit of God is so strong in that place. etc etc. i.e. revival. Prophecy given at Spring Harvest, 20 April 1995 and circulated by Kendall at Westminster Chapel in December 1995. Result: By the date specified, over 100 people left the church amidst much division and despondency. The church dwindled and had less impact on the surrounding area than ever before. If anything, the ‘high of the land’ in Parliament became more ungodly with reports of sleaze and deceit. (See Alan Howe, *Evangelicals Now*, Feb 1997). One former member stated that the church was, ‘a shell of its former glory’. Neil Richardson, Vanguard article and App 3 in Bill Randles, *Beware the New Prophets*.

In 1991 Gerald Coates visited New Zealand where he told church leaders that an earthquake would devastate Lake Taupo in April 1991. Local Elim pastors instigated a national media campaign to warn the nation. 44 Elim churches went on survival courses. Result: nothing happened except that the church became a national laughing stock. Widely reported in the Christian press, see also Bill Randles, *Beware the New Prophets*, St Matthew Pub. Ltd, p118-119.

If you're really in the vine ... then the life sap from the Son of the living God keeps you from cancer, keeps you from dying, keeps you from death ... Not only will they not have diseases, they will also not die. ... this army is invincible. ... they can't kill you. [Needless to say, since then many colleagues of Cain both got sick and died (like John Wimber, who died from cancer).]

Paul Cain; ‘Joel’s Army’, cited in ‘*Documentation of the aberrant practices and teachings of the Kansas City Fellowship*’, Full Faith Church of Love (1990), p218.

Paul Cain wrote that he had a dream that President Bill Clinton would have the Spirit of the Lord poured out upon him and change him into another man just as he did Saul. ‘*Bill Clinton represents grace from God, not judgment*’. [In fact Bill Clinton went on to be scandalised, disbarred from practice, impeached and later accused of huge fraud, corruption, multiple sexual abuse, rape and paedophilia.] Paul Cain & Rick Joyner; ‘*The Morning Star Prophetic Bulletin*’, January 1993.

One prophet falsely accused a teenager of having a problem with pornography in front of a meeting of 800 peers, humiliating him so that he began to weep. In the end the prophet had to apologise to the whole conference. Hank Hanegraaff; ‘*Counterfeit Revival*’, p75.

In the OT such failed prophets would have been put to death under the Mosaic Law.¹⁷ Today such people should at least be put out of ministry. Instead they continue to have national and international authority.

Attitudes of Charismatic revivalists to God’s word

The word will do you no good.

¹⁷ Deut 18:20-22, ‘*But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart, “How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?” -- when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him*’.

Paul Cain; speaking at the *School of Prophecy*, Anaheim, Nov 1989 session 7.

Evangelicals ... are worshipping the book. They have God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Book. They took the workings of the Holy Spirit and placed it in the book.

John Wimber; 'Healing, an introduction' audio, No. 5. Quoted in Stephen F Cannon, 'Kansas City Fellowship Revisited: the Controversy Continues', *Personal Freedom Outreach*, 11, p1 (1991). [This betrays Wimber's Quaker roots.]

The second mark of a God mocker is a fear of confrontation and change. They are so stuck in religious tradition that they are closed to new revelation.

Stephen Hill (Brownsville Church, Pensacola); *The God Mockers*, chapter 1, (1997).

I am about to release prophecy on the church as you have never seen it before... I have a secret plan, and that plan is being unfolded ... Listen to the prophets — the little prophets, the big prophets, listen to those who speak one line and to those who speak volumes.

Glenn Foster; Prophecy published by the Sweetwater Church of the Valley; *Life for the Nations*, 7 October 1994.

It is no more the primary purpose of the church to teach the scriptures than it is for British Rail to promote timetables.

Gerald Coates; [*Evangelicals Now*, July 1996, quoted in *Contending Earnestly For the Faith*, 4.2, p8.]

God chasers ... are not interested in ... dusty truth known to every one. They are after the fresh presence of the Almighty, ... The difference between the truth of God and revelation is very simple. Truth is where God's been. Revelation is where God is. Truth is God's tracks. It's His trail ... the masses of people are happy to know where God's been. ... A true God chaser is not happy with just past truth; he must have present truth. God chasers don't want to just study from the mouldy pages of what God has done [i.e. the Bible]; they're anxious to see what God is doing.

Tommy Tenney; *The God Chasers*, Introduction.

Self-authorisation

If you don't think I am anointed that just shows you how the devil has fooled you.

Paul Cain; Metro City Fellowship, 31 December 1998.

Some of you are going to disagree with this, Don't you even stop to disagree. If you disagree, just file it in 'miscellaneous' and check it out. And do not bother with it. When we get to heaven we'll check it out and you'll find out I'm right.

Paul Cain; '*Prophetic power and passion*' conference, Christ Chapel, Florence, Alabama, August 1995.

Rather than wait, we can be sure that Cain was wrong because: a) he is utterly unbiblical; b) he denies Biblical doctrines and deceives people; c) he is supremely arrogant; d) he was caught in gross sin as a long-term alcoholic and practising homosexual in Kansas City, and withdrawn from ministry ('know them by their fruit').

Essential constituents of global revivalism

Biblical themes exploited in promoting global revival

- The river flowing from the temple in Ezekiel 47.
- A second Pentecost.
- New wine.
- Joel's Army. Sometimes referred to as the 'Dreaded Breed' or 'New Breed'.

- The Joel generation.
- The mantle of Zechariah.
- The Manchild (Manifest Sons of God) doctrine that grew out of Latter Rain (the immortalised corporate Christ with power to rule the earth). This is a perversion of Paul's doctrine of believers coming to fulness, corporately, in Christ at the end.
- The Joshua anointing / generation.
- The Elijah anointing.
- The David anointing.
- A new banner.
- A third or fourth age (depending on the system).
- The feast of Tabernacles.
- The white horse of Revelation 6:2, 19:11.
- The angel of Revelation 20:1.
- Unity.

The basic claims of global revivalism

Not all Charismatics believe all of these points.

- This is a 'new thing'.¹⁸
- It is a worldwide powerful revival of Christianity.
- The church comes to the fulness of Christ, corporately, on earth not in the glory.
- This powerful, glorified church is led by super apostles and prophets who yield totalitarian power.
- Some have taught that the glory in the church is omnipotent (a divine attribute alone) and means that the church becomes the Word (i.e. has the attributes, glory and power of Christ as God). This is total blasphemy.
- Those empowered by the Spirit will be invulnerable, never die, can fly, can teleport, are never sick and never need to wash their clothes.
- The Bible is either ignored completely or its authority downplayed. Authority rests in apostles and prophets plus their delegates.
- Far from promoting unity, the revivalists teach antagonism against Christians and churches that resist their authority. The 'false church' (that is any Christian that denies this teaching) is to be killed when the church rules the world.
- The church rules the world. Apostles and prophets rule the church and the church governs the earth.
- Creation is redeemed. To teach that the church brings about this redemption by her earthly perfection is blasphemous. Creation is redeemed at the coming of Christ who restores all things.
- Sin and rebellion against God is eradicated and wiped from the earth. This is also blasphemous. Only God can do this when the earth is burned up and all sinners condemned to hell.
- Jesus has no need to return to the earth as sin is removed and the church is glorious. The promises of the new heaven and earth are appropriated for this time and this world. This is further blasphemy. It is man arrogating to himself the properties of Christ.

¹⁸ Over and over again a new movement in the church has been promoted as a divine promise to do 'a new thing'. In fact, it was always an old thing as the phrase has been repeatedly used in history.

Previous claims of an impending Charismatic global revival

Mid to late 19th century: The Holiness Movement

There were multiple examples of revivalism, usually centred in some leader. Most famous was Maria Woodworth-Etter [1844-1924] whose occult behaviour was so extreme that St Louis doctors tried to section her as insane in 1890. She was able to make people fall over while she often went into trances, which in some cases allegedly lasted for days, then she would continue preaching. Her doctrine was false and her meetings aberrant; any good teaching was copied from others like WE Boardman [1810-1886]¹⁹. The press labelled her as 'The Voodoo Priestess'. After 1885 her meetings become constant front-page news and attracted great scandal, including being arrested for obtaining money under false pretences. She was so ecumenical that she preached at Mormon churches. The rise of preachers like Woodworth-Etter gave rise to hopes of a coming global revival, which was energised by the 1904 Welsh Revival, but all these hopes did was to incubate Pentecostalism.

1901: The Topeka Revival under Charles Parham

When Agnes Ozman began to speak in tongues (thought to be Chinese) the doctrine was developed that missionaries would be able to evangelise nations without learning the languages. Parham [1873-1929] taught that a global revival was imminent when the church would be fully restored. The missionary doctrine was quickly abandoned when it failed overseas (firstly in India). Neither did the promised revival occur. In fact, Parham actually condemned the Azusa Street revival five years later as being demonic. However, Parham is regarded as the founding pioneer of the Pentecostal churches.

1906-1913: Azusa Street revival

Again it was expected that this was a precursor to a worldwide revival and a restoration of the church to be like the apostolic church. While many Pentecostal missionaries went out, the global revival did not occur and in Los Angeles the original church splintered into opposing factions. In fact this was no revival at all but hysteria and emotionalism. There was no control over wild behaviour that even attracted witches and mediums who were left in the meeting to perform their occult behaviour.

Mid-20th century Pentecostal revivalists

Revivalist type meetings and a focus upon healing were emphasised by multiple Pentecostal leaders: John Lake [1870-1935], Kathryn Kuhlman [1907-1976], Aimee Semple McPherson [1890-1944], Oral Roberts [1918-2009] and many more. To many Pentecostals these were a precursor to a coming worldwide Pentecostal revival that would restore the church and usher in the millennium.

1948: Latter Rain

This began in an emotional, mystical revival in North Battleford, Canada. It spawned multiple heresies (as mentioned in this paper) and helped propel the 50s healing revivals. It emphasised a coming global revival that would restore the church and initiate new apostles and prophets. The actual revival died down after the Assemblies of God outlawed the movement for heresy; however, its influence was to re-emerge later in the Charismatic Movement and particularly in UK Restorationism.

Paul Cain was a part of this movement and brought its heresies into modern Charismatic churches, aided by his associations with John Wimber, RT Kendall and Jack Deere.

1950s Healing Revival

E.g. AA Allen [1911-1970]; William Branham [1909-1965], Jack Coe [1918-1956].

¹⁹ A key Higher Life teacher. He published 'The Higher Christian Life' in 1858.

Allen was an alcoholic who was arrested for drunk driving (during a revival) and died of cirrhosis of the liver. The Assemblies of God also censured him for fraudulent claims of healing and for drinking. Coe was expelled from the Assemblies of God in 1953 for heresy. He was also charged with practising medicine without a licence, but the judge dismissed the case. Despite claiming victory over sickness to others, he died young of polio in 1956. Branham was a major heretic and occultist who even denied the Trinity. A book could be written about his errors. Branham is the darling of the current Charismatic revivalists.

Pentecostals in general accepted the Healing Revival as a precursor to global revival. In fact it was filled with fraud, sinful leaders and emotional excitement. Even Hollywood made a film about this ('Elmer Gantry').

1960s Charismatic Movement

This re-appearance of Pentecostalism in evangelical churches was considered to be the precursor of a global revival. The baptism in the Spirit would unite all churches and change the world. In fact, it was the opening of occultism, mysticism and heresies into evangelical churches. Nothing improved over the decades and the UK church dwindled massively.

1970s Restoration Movement

This time it was the ministries of apostles and prophets and a reconstructed church on authoritarian lines that was promised to be the harbinger of a global revival to bring in a truly apostolic worldwide church. Very soon there was a worldwide scandal about authoritarian 'heavy shepherding' that broke up many groups and ruined some ministries. The movement reconstituted itself into several Charismatic denominations, which became exactly like the thing they originally rebelled against (formal, hierarchical, authoritarian, churches). Numbers diminished even more in the UK churches.

1980s Signs and Wonders Movement of John Wimber

The same process; this time based upon healings and miracles.

1990s Toronto Blessing, Pensacola etc.

The same process; this time based upon mysticism and exotic behaviour.

Late 2000s Lakeland Revival

This 2008 aberration was led by the false prophet Todd Bentley whose ministry was filled with heresy, aberrations and violent behaviour. It dissipated when he was soon caught in fornication that led to divorce; but not before there was speculation that this was the beginning of a worldwide end-time revival. This time millions were able to tune into meetings through the Internet.

We could actually continue extending this list backwards over many centuries. Every few years or few decades someone spawns a heretical movement claiming to be the precursor of a global revival. For example in the early-mid-19th century the study of prophetics, that eventually led to the development of Dispensationalism, spawned theories of a global revival in a restored church. The scandalous church that Edward Irving belonged to in London is but one example. As with later versions, this just led to an authoritarian church cult led by apostles.

Instead of learning from history, most Christians just fall for the new version of lies; in the same way that the world falls for the lies that push them into war after war, never learning from history.

Sins of revivalists

Over and over again Pentecostal and Charismatic revivalists have ended up being charged with being prosecuted of, or admitting, multiple gross sins. In fact, this is a theme in the history of Charismatic revivalists; there has been rampant sin from beginning to end.

It would take several books to itemise and give the historical setting of these sins but here I will just list some of the actual sins that global revivalists had been guilty of. This is necessary because it shows the true character of these people who claim to have greater powers than the apostles and who will change the world church forever.

- Addictions of various sorts.
- Adultery.
- Alcoholism.
- Drug abuse.
- Carousing.
- Causing death. (Multiple cases, such as telling people to stop their medication, resulting in death. In some cases preachers have hit people to deliver them from an evil spirit so that they later died. The most famous example of this is Smith Wigglesworth.)
- Channelling spirits.
- Clairvoyance.
- Creating false healing sacraments, such as miracle cloth from a preacher, supposed holy water or revival sawdust from a meeting.
- Divination.
- Drunk driving.
- Embezzlement.
- False propaganda.
- False use of donations.
- Fear-mongering (such as creating fear in people to provoke them to give you money).
- Fornication.
- Forgery.
- Fraud (mostly financial fraud).
- Fraudulently claiming healings.
- Frequenting prostitutes.
- Gambling.
- Homosexuality.
- Hypnotism.
- Lying.
- Magic.
- Misogyny.
- Misrepresentation.
- Mysticism.
- Necromancy (communing with the dead; e.g. 'grave sucking' of Bill Johnson's followers or Benny Hinn, where people seek to get the anointing of a dead saint at their grave).
- Occultism (multiple forms).
- Plagiarism.

- Profiteering from advertising, radio stations, TV stations, books, audios, and videos – all profiting from false doctrine and false practices.
- Psychological abuse.
- Railing (including calling upon God to kill critics).
- Sexual abuse.
- Shamanism (i.e. witchcraft).
- Slander; especially slander of other Christians.
- Spiritualism ('spiritism' in USA).
- Swearing.
- Theft. (Various cases, such as theft of money, theft of intellectual data, theft of magazine mail-lists etc.)
- Using sleight of hand to mimic healing.
- Using radio earpieces to mimic having a 'word of knowledge'.²⁰
- Violence.
- Witchcraft.

If I had the time, and could be bothered, I could write a book on these issues giving names, dates, places and full references for each.

To give just one example of a multiple sinner, prophet Bob Jones was disciplined by John Wimber for using his prophetic powers to, *'manipulate people for his personal desires, sexual misconduct, rebelling against pastoral authority, slandering leaders and the promotion of bitterness within the body of Christ'*.²¹ His sins cover other matters also, such as occultism, lying, fornication etc. Yet Wimber continued to aver that Jones' *'seer-status'* was as powerful as ever, failing to understand the demonic root of these visions. At this same time prominent UK apostles and church leaders publicly supported him along with the Kansas City Prophets; this shows how lacking in discernment virtually every Charismatic leader in the country was. Similar gullibility was later shown in the cases of the fall of Paul Cain and Todd Bentley.

The fact that so many revivalists ended up committing very serious sins, often over many years until they were found out, shows that the root of their teaching is evil and not of God.

Now before anyone accuses me of discrimination and prejudice, averring that everybody and all churches have people that fall into sin, let me say this. In the history of the church there has never been a movement where so many, and so many high ranking leaders, plunged into the very depths of sins as the Pentecostal and Charismatic revivalists. Reformed churches may have had an occasional lapsing leader, but we can see hundreds of years of testimony where this was exceptionally rare. In fact, it is hard to find any of note. Yet modern revivalists have provided hundreds of examples, including their top leaders, since 1901 alone.

We will now examine why the Bible teaches that all this nonsense is demonic and sinful.

²⁰ This is where congregants write their problems on index cards on entering the meeting. A person then reads out these cards to the preacher from a hidden radio set, which he then announced as a word of knowledge. This has been done many times and is still going on today.

²¹ Public statement from John Wimber, 12 November 1991, Association of Vineyard Churches.

The teaching of Jesus

The kingdom is spiritual not material

Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here'. **Jn 18:36**

This is categorical. The kingdom of Jesus is not worldly, not earthly and not material; it is spiritual. Furthermore, the servants of this kingdom do not fight.

This means that all the claims of a Charismatic, global, earthly, material, church as a ruling power in the earth and one that fights enemies is false.

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you'. **Lk 17:20-21**

This is also categorical. The kingdom of God is not external but internal. At this time the kingdom resides in the presence of God via the Holy Spirit within believers.²²

Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'. **Jn 3:3**

Again Jesus affirms that the kingdom is spiritual; it can only be seen after regeneration. Thus the world cannot see the kingdom but only the effects of it in believers. This nullifies the Charismatic idea of an external, worldly kingdom that the world sees and fears.²³

Tribulation

In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. **Jn 16:33**

An introductory point is that Jesus promised us tribulation in this world, not a world where we can have global power, supernatural powers and rule over all things. The global revivalist agenda contradicts Jesus.

The end is a time of deception, persecution and trial

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?' **Matt 24:3**

Many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. **Matt 24:5**

And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. **Matt 24:6-8**

They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. **Matt 24:9**

Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. **Matt 24:11**

From this we see:

²² 'Within you' could also be interpreted as 'in the midst of you' in which case it would then refer to Jesus as the Kingdom of God then expressed.

²³ Note how often Charismatic theology transforms what is spiritual into what is outward, objective, worldly and material. E.g. worship is changed from being inner reverential submission to the kingship of God, a heart issue, into objective and emotional reactions to music and singing.

- The end will involve great deceit, including false messiahs.
- There will be wars, conflict, and a rise in nationalism before the end comes.
- There will be famines, pestilence and earthquakes before the end comes.
- The church will then go into a deeper tribulation than normal; i.e. global persecution by all nations, suggesting a one-world government after the previous wars and conflicts, as John confirms in Revelation and Paul in 2 Thessalonians.
- The world government sends out many false prophets since it is a secular and religious power; again as Paul and John confirm. Thus the rise of global prophets is not a good thing for the church but an evil directed at destroying the church.

No human success at the end but apostasy

When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth? Lk 18:8

Firstly, the grammar of the Greek indicates that Jesus expects a negative answer here. He is contrasting the faith of the widow with the lack of faith at the end.

The use of *ara* ['when'] before *heuresei* ['will he find'] seems to indicate a question expecting a negative answer as in Ac 8:30; Ro 14:19. But here *ara* comes in the middle of the sentence instead of near the beginning, an unusual position for either inferential *ara* or interrogative *ara*. On the whole the interrogative *ara* is probably correct, meaning to question if the Son will find a persistence of faith like that of the widow.²⁴

Secondly, 'faith' here (as often) refers to the analogy of faith, faith as describing true religion; trust in Jesus as Saviour. In other words, Christianity.

Thus Jesus is affirming, in agreement with Paul in 2 Thessalonians, that the end is a time of apostasy where faith (true Christian witness) is in short supply – as far as external witness is concerned. In fact, there is faith in secret and hidden communities of believers meeting in homes. The overall impression of the world at the coming of Christ is not a glorious church ruling the globe but a lack of faith and no obvious testimony.

Sound commentators, of all shades, agree wholeheartedly on this.

In the world at the last day: there will then be little of the doctrine of faith, and less of the grace of faith, and still less of the exercise of faith, particularly in prayer, and especially about the coming of Christ; it will be little thought of, and expected, or faith little exercised about it.²⁵

Shall he find fidelity in this land? Shall he find that the soil has brought forth a harvest proportioned to the culture bestowed on it? No! And therefore he destroyed that land.²⁶

The teaching of Paul

The kingdom is spiritual not material

The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Rm 14:17

Paul confirms the teaching of Jesus by affirming that the kingdom of God is not in external or material things but internal expressions of the heart, spiritual virtues.

²⁴ Robertson's Word Pictures.

²⁵ John Gill [Calvinist]; Comm. on Lk 18:8.

²⁶ Adam Clarke [Arminian]; Comm on Lk 18:8.

Tribulation

We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God. **Acts 14:22**

Heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*. **Rm 8:17**

We told you before when we were with you that we would suffer tribulation. **1 Thess 3:4**

Share with me in the sufferings for the gospel. **2 Tim 1:8**

All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. **2 Tim 3:12**

Like Jesus, Paul also very clearly taught that believers would know suffering and tribulation in this world, not power over everything.

The end is a time of deception

That Day will not come unless the falling away comes first. **2 Thess 2:3**

And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. **2 Thess 2:11-12**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. **1 Tim 4:1-3**

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! **2 Tim 3:1-5**

The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. **2 Tim 4:3-4**

The NT has a huge amount of teaching on deception and its dangers; in fact a case can be made that this is the single biggest teaching subject. Paul, as Jesus, explains that at the end deception runs rampant more so than any time in history. Deceived people in this time are completely deluded.

The end is a period of apostasy in the church

Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. **2 Thess 2:3**

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. **1 Tim 4:1-3**

The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. **2 Tim 4:3-4**

This correlates with what Jesus spoke about as false leaders deceiving the nations. It is clear that the end is a period when there is a huge falling away of the outward, institutional church, ridden with deception. Just as in earlier ages, the real church is hidden away, meeting in homes and avoiding the apostate outward church.

The outward large church is actually in partnership with the satanic plan to rule the world. The end-time totalitarian kingdom has a powerful religious aspect that claims to be Christian (i.e. 'antichrist').

The end involves the global rule of the lawless one

The man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. ... And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **2 Thess 2:4, 8-10**

Paul's 'man of sin' and 'the lawless one' equate to John's 'Antichrist' or 'the beast from the sea' or 'bottomless pit'. We can ignore the debate here as to whether this represents a single individual or a corporate factor. We can all agree that this clearly refers to a global totalitarian empire that is opposed to Christianity but pretends to be Christian. In fact, 'Antichrist' has a semantic edge meaning 'in the place of Christ' as much as meaning 'against Christ'.

There is no globally powerful church ruling the world at the end; in fact the opposite is the case – the world is ruled by a satanic, totalitarian evil empire. In fact, far from a glorious testimony, the end is when the sin of man comes to fulness, to fruition, when God harvests the world and brings in judgment.

This passage teaches the following:

- The end is the revealing of the man of sin; the son of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above God.
- The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan,
- Satan uses with all power, signs, and lying wonders to establish the Antichrist.
- There is severe unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. The outward church is taken in by the Antichrist and follows him.
- The man of sin sits as God in the temple of God. There is an occupation of the outward church so that it is the expression of Satan.
- The Antichrist proclaims that he is God and demands worship.
- The Lord, on his return from heaven, comes in power and glory and destroys the Antichrist and his followers with the breath of His mouth and the brightness of His glory as King of the Universe.

The teaching of James

Tribulation

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. **Jm 1:2-4**

Here James explains why tribulation is necessary for us in this world; i.e. to strengthen our faith.

The teaching of Peter

Tribulation

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings.

1 Pt 4:12-13

Like all the other apostles, Peter teaches that the Christian must take his share of sufferings in this life. This is nothing strange, but is part of the testimony of Christ, which includes sharing in Christ's sufferings.

No apostle teaches that Christians will experience absolute victory over the vicissitudes of life; rather they teach that Christians will experience suffering, weakness, sickness, persecution, trials, tribulations etc. Even Jesus during the incarnation was subject to tiredness, hunger, thirst and persecution.

The teaching of John

Tribulation

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days.

Rev 2:10

Here 'ten days' is referring symbolically to a complete amount of time. Ten is the number of divine completeness.

And I said to him, 'Sir, you know'. So he said to me, 'These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb'. Rev 7:14

This is referring to all believers in the Gospel Age, note

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands ... Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, 'Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?' Rev 7:9-13

The great multitude without number, from all nations and ethnic groups can only refer to all believers during the Gospel Age.

The idea of a seven-year end-time tribulation is a spurious teaching arising from Dispensationalism that no one believed until the late 19th century. The church is always in tribulation because it is the centre of the warfare between God and the devil.

The end time persecution is severe

When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Rev 11:7-10

I will quote from a previous paper here:²⁷

²⁷ This is extracted from 'The Church Coming to Fulness'.

We could spend a long time discussing exactly what the two witnesses are. There have been a number of candidates. However, John tells us that the witnesses are the two olive trees and lampstands - God's witness in his chosen people, the church. These are not individuals.²⁸ John is clearly pointing to the two witnesses of Zechariah 4.

And he said to me, 'What do you see?' So I said, 'I am looking, and there *is* a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the *stand* seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees *are* by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.' ... 'This *is* the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. ... 'What *are* these two olive trees -- at the right of the lampstand and at its left?' ... 'What *are* these two olive branches that *drip* into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden *oil* drains?' ... 'These *are* the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.' **Zech 4:2-3, 6, 11-12, 14**

Here the symbols of lampstands and olive trees represent Christ in his office of priest and king (through the representation of Joshua the High Priest and Zerubbabel the prince). Only the offices of priests and kings were anointed with oil and only Christ was anointed to both.²⁹ The church is the body of Christ; as Christ the head is God's testimony in heaven, the church which is his body is God's testimony on Earth.

The two witnesses are, therefore, the testimony of God manifested through the elect gathered into the church throughout time. The sackcloth refers to the preaching of repentance - the Gospel message. The testimony highlighted here is to the truth during the whole Gospel age - 1260 days (√2-3 = 42 months, 3½ years). Just as God had a witness in the Old Testament - the elect remnant church within Israel, so in the age since Christ he has a divine testimony through the elect in the church.

The references to fire and water are related to the holiness of God and the word of God, they are not to be taken literally. Drought is the withdrawal of God's grace and word. In the end there will be a famine of God's word, a time when the Bible is held in contempt. [Surely we are in this time.] Blood symbolises death. Water into blood means the water of God's word being turned into the means of judgment and death on those who reject God.

The church testifies to the glory and righteousness of Christ and points people to him as the only saviour from sin. Where this message is rejected, the end result is condemnation and death. While this condition continues throughout church history, John is highlighting that, at the end, there is an outshining of testimony that produces a retaliation from the devil and a silencing of the testimony before the end comes. The features develop in extremes towards the end: apostasy increases, the light shines brighter, the testimony is greater. At the end of the testimony of the church there is widespread persecution as the devil makes war on the saints of the Lamb.

The dead bodies of the prophets refer to the persecution of the church. What is clear is that at the end the world thinks that Christianity is killed off and rejoices, such is the global persecution of the church.

At the end of their testimony, that is in the end-times, the beast (Antichrist) wars with the prophets, that is the church, and kills them. Their bodies lie in the streets of the world for a

²⁸ For instance they are not Elijah and Moses resurrected / retranslated as Dispensationalists teach, nor Enoch & Elijah as the early church fathers taught.

²⁹ The line of kings was of Judah, while the line of priests was from Levi, thus they could not combine. When Christ comes as God's true High Priest and glorious king, there is instituted an new order. The old covenant is cancelled and the new covenant is instituted in Christ's blood. The throne is now heavenly and not the shadow of a human kingship; just as the foundational quality of Christ's priesthood depends on eternal life. See the argument of the book of Hebrews which expounds this theme under the typology of Melchizedek.

short time (3½ days), i.e. this destruction is widely publicised, as the world rejoices because there is no one to admonish them with truth. After this there is the general resurrection (v11-12).

Despite the opaque symbolism, what is clear is that at the end there is open warfare against the church perpetrated by the global satanic empire. There is no global revival.

We could expound several passages in Revelation that depict this persecution but this is enough for our purposes. The fact is established.

The end involves the global rule of the lawless one

A detailed analysis of John's teaching on this in Revelation would require scores of pages, so I will try to isolate some key points. While much of this is couched in symbolic terms, a careful exegesis will clearly identify themes, key events and the satanic purpose.³⁰

The crucial chapters are 11, 13 and 17.³¹ These chapters teach us this:

- The beast arises from the abyss, the realm of demons (11:7, also 17:8).
- The beast arises from the sea (13:1, 17:15); that is, from politically unstable pagan nations. This is the world ruler, or ruling body.
- This beast has seven heads (13:1, 17:3); that is Antichrist as a political power and despotic tyrant. 7 heads = the various manifestations of Antichrist's empires in history. It also has 10 horns (13:1, 17:3); that is fulness of political power and final expression of sinful kingdom authority. All nations give power to the beast. One of his heads had been mortally wounded, but healed (13:3); i.e. the concept of a pagan world empire has long been considered a dead duck since Imperial Rome. Antichrist revitalises this and the world is amazed at his power and follows him.
- The beast is worshipped (13:4, 8); partly out of fear ('who can war against him'), partly out of deception. It speaks blasphemies (13:5-6).
- It has authority over all people (13:7, 10).
- The second beast arises from the earth (13:11); that is the false religion aspect of the empire arising from peaceful civilised society. This is the False Prophet of 19:20 who exercises the authority of the first beast. He performs signs and wonders (13:13) and deceives the world into worshipping the first beast (13:14-15, and thus also Satan who empowers him).
- Chapter 17 is more an exposition of Babylon, the whore, the city of Antichrist; that is the character of the world under Antichrist. The harlot-city is the powerhouse of the beast, controlling kings and deceiving peoples.

Now we could say much more but would digress from our main purpose here. We can summarise all this as: at the end there is a global, wicked, empire that is utterly satanic. It has two aspects, one a totalitarian, fascistic political base and the other a religious aspect claiming to be Christian, which actually makes people worship Satan.

Remember that the principles of Antichrist have been slowly operating since the time of the apostles (1 Jn 2:18, 4:3) and are now coming to fruition. Thus much of what parades as

³⁰ E.g. one must first understand the layout of Revelation as an exposition of the divine decree. It is not in chronological order but is a series of 7 parallel visions covering the whole Gospel Age indicating the plan of God in the battle with the enemy and emphasising the victory of Christ. One must understand the basics of Biblical symbolism: such as colours, numbers, objects and typology. For example white = purity, blue = heaven or spiritual things, gold = the divine. 7 = perfection while six is the number of man falling short of perfection. A horn means power, incense means prayer etc. I hope, one day, to gather my notes on Revelation, compiled over nearly 50 years, into a book, DV.

³¹ For more information on the end-time empire see my paper, 'The Antichrist'.

Christian and nations seeking power that claim to be Christian, are actually preparing the way for this satanic kingdom.

The point here is that all this is the complete opposite of the Charismatic global revival-glorified church. In fact, we could say that this doctrine is preparing the ground for the Antichristian false kingdom.

Typology: the Patriarchs

We could examine all of the patriarchs to prove our point but here I will restrict myself to Abraham.

Abraham received great promises as part of the covenant of God. Some of these included promises of a kingdom, the land of Canaan as his inheritance. We could compare that promise to the promise of a global revival producing a kingdom where the church rules over the world.

In fact Abraham never received this kingdom in his lifetime and died while still a wanderer living in tents. In fact he had gone from living in relative luxury in Ur, a modern city that had sewers and water closets where, as a wealthy man, he would have had a fine house.³² After being called by God Abraham lived in tents the rest of his life and never gained the land that he was promised.

However, this was not a problem for Abraham whatsoever because he lived by faith. He knew the principle of resurrection and that the promise would only be fulfilled in the life of the resurrection that would come at the end of time.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ... These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ... But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Heb 11:8-10, 13, 16

The typology is important and sets precedents:

- **The covenant promise in this life is spiritual and held by faith in God's word;** 'the just shall live by faith' (Hab 2:4; Rm 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38).
- **The material aspect of the promise is not realised in this life but is part of what one obtains in the glory (that is, in a new purified world where earth and heaven meet).** ['He waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God ... they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.']
- **This life is a pilgrimage, a sojourn; we are strangers in this world and do not make it our home or investment. We are passing through this world and have no claims upon it.** [Ps 84:5, 'Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage'. 1 Pt 2:11, 'Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims'.]
- **We are not part of this world's system (typified by the cities of the plains and we see what that did to Lot). Lot is as picture of the fleshly believer who dwells in the world;**

³² His wealth is proved by his herds / flocks of livestock and numerous servants. In fact his father founded the city of Haran, named after his dead eldest son and Abraham's brother (Gen 11:27), proving him to be a man of some consequence.

the result was that all he had was burned up and his wife destroyed. His children went on to produce Israel's enemies (Moabites and Ammonites). Abraham chose the less fertile land and avoided Sodom and remained a pilgrim seeking a better heavenly life.

- We are crucified to this world and set our sights upon the next one. [Gal 6:14, 'But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world'.]

The teaching of Charismatics on a coming global revival is the exact opposite of these precedents. It is a desire to see heavenly experiences and power on earth now that requires no faith.

Typology: judgment on empires

I have made the point that the end is when an evil empire rules the world and man's sin comes to fulness, requiring God's intervention described as a harvest. There is a divine timetable regarding judgment; God waits for sin to come to fulness.

The iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet complete. **Gen 15:16**

Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, 'First gather together the tares [sinners] and bind them in bundles to burn them'. **Matt 13:30**

The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **Matt 13:39-42**

This has been pictured (typified) over and over again in Biblical history; for example, the Canaanites.

The Canaanites were allowed to grow in their corrupt idolatry, hedonism, perversions, violence and lawlessness for centuries until it came to fulness. At that point, God decreed that they should be wiped from the earth, utterly and completely, and that Israel was the means of this destruction.

My Angel will go before you and bring you in to the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites; and I will cut them off. **Exod 23:23**

The LORD listened to the voice of Israel and delivered up the Canaanites, and they utterly destroyed them and their cities. **Num 21:3**

When the LORD your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than you, and when the LORD your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them *and* utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. **Deut 7:1-2**

Of the cities of these peoples which the LORD your God gives you *as* an inheritance, you shall let nothing that breathes remain alive, but you shall utterly destroy them: the Hittite and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite, just as the LORD your God has commanded you. **Deut 20:16-17**

And they utterly destroyed all that *was* in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword. **Jos 6:21**

The end of the world is the antitype of this example. The world will be allowed to become more and more corrupt until man's sin reaches a climax. This will be under a satanic, global, fascist empire where Christianity is 'apparently' destroyed.³³ Then comes the end and God intervenes with the appearing of Christ in glory followed by the Day of Judgment.

All this is in complete contradiction to the world-ruling, glorified church of the Dominionist Charismatic revivalists.

Typology: Israel's kings

The Charismatic global revival features church leaders acting like kings in the earth, having the power of life and death and waging war on opposing factions. Some have affirmed that the church will be like David for example. Kingship is thus a model for the Charismatic revivalists.

The problem is that all the kings of Israel utterly failed, every one of them. In fact the very notion of a king in Israel was rebellion against the theocratic rulership of God himself.³⁴ God acceded to this fleshly desire in his longsuffering and used this to serve his purposes.

However, this does not alter the fact that every king failed God, despite massive privileges. The failures of David are well understood, but look at the failures of Solomon who inherited the largest extent of the kingdom, an initial peaceful and stable period of reign,³⁵ fabulous wealth and huge respect for his wisdom. Despite all this he turned against God, satisfied himself in fornication,³⁶ hedonism, and turned to idolatry. The result was the division of the kingdom and the long road to destruction.

Typology: the history of Israel

Israel in the OT is an example for believers today (1 Cor 10:6,11); particularly for our admonition as warnings of what not to do. Therefore, it is correct to look at Israel's history and learn lessons for ourselves.

What do we see in Israel? We see God's choosing of the people to be a testimony, his grace and deliverance given time after time, his provision of teachers, leaders and prophets to guide and instruct them – yet Israel utterly failed. The OT ends with a curse and Israel being admonished by Malachi.

Institutional Israel failed over and over again; in fact Israel corporately denied God, committed spiritual adultery (idolatry) and suffered God's condemnation. The example most used of Israel in the NT is her disobedience and desertion, given as a warning to believers to continue in obedience.³⁷

The corporate body of the supposed faithful utterly failed and was condemned; her failure continued from the golden calf in the wilderness up to the exile of Judah and even after the

³³ While many Christians are killed in a worldwide persecution, others are hidden away meeting in secret.

³⁴ 1 Sam 8:6-8 'But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day -- with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods -- so they are doing to you also".

³⁵ About 20 years or half of his reign.

³⁶ 700 wives and 300 concubines.

³⁷ E.g. 1 Cor 10:5-6; Heb 3:16-19, 4:1-3.

return of a small proportion. However, the true elect, those who had real faith, were hidden amongst the larger body and formed the remnant with which God was pleased. It was this remnant that was saved; the hidden groups meeting in homes.³⁸ Indeed, this remnant was always the only one's with a genuine testimony. In the time of Moses at one point the remnant consisted only of Joshua and Caleb and their children.

The divine testimony is not found in a concentrated, large, institutional, corporate body but is found in the small communities of the faithful elect living quietly and persevering faithfully. It is a faithful remnant that survives.

The teaching of global revival is the opposite of this affirming a huge corporate world church having global power over the earth.

Principles arising from these Scriptures

The basis of the kingdom is not material but spiritual, not earthly but heavenly

Global revivalists set their hopes on a material and earthly kingdom; a ruling power in the church that dominates nations and reigns over the world in a material way.

This is a complete contradiction of all that Jesus and the apostles taught. God's kingdom in the church is spiritual, not earthly, and its members are not even part of the world but are dead to it.

The full realisation of the glories of the kingdom are obtained in the glory not on earth now

It is an old error, repeatedly seen in church history, that fanatics claimed that the glories of the new world would be evidenced in a glorious earthly kingdom in this age before the Second Coming. This was seen in millennial groups and other sects. In fact, this temptation to focus on externals in the flesh and worldly matters is a constant threat to Christians. Global revivalists are tarred with this brush.

Yet Scripture is very clear that the benefits of the kingdom are to come; the hope in Jesus is a future hope; the consummation of the church is something longed for not experienced now. We must not set our sight on things of the earth. In fact, the glories of the kingdom are tied in with Christ himself and can only be expected when Christ returns.

Of the hundreds of texts to prove this I offer just these:

The hope and resurrection of the dead. Acts 23:6 [The hope of future blessing and consummation of salvation is tied in to the general resurrection; i.e. after Christ returns.]

Everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. 1 Cor 9:25 [I.e. any rulership (crown) in the church is in the glory not on earth now.]

The hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel. Col 1:5 [The hope is currently laid up in store in heaven for release after the end. On earth we know weakness and suffering at this time; the hope is future.]

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Col 3:2-4 [Don't expect consummation on earth now, but when Christ returns. Don't build earthly things.]

³⁸ Isa 1:9, 10:20, 46:3.

There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. **2 Tim 4:8 [Rulership is on the last day when Christ returns, not before.]**

Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Titus 2:12-13 [The blessed hope is tied in with Christ's appearing.]**

The hope set before *us*. This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence *behind* the veil. **Heb 6:18-19 [The hope is presently centred in heaven behind the veil.]**

Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. **Heb 9:28 [We don't build worldly empires here but wait; we wait until Christ returns.]**

When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. **1 Pt 5:4 [Rulership only occurs when Christ returns.]**

The Christian and the church are called to suffer in this world

We have shown multiple texts to prove this matter. The Christians' lot includes suffering, not worldly, earthly victorious reigning over unbelievers.

The Christian continues in perseverance by faith, not by power or materialism

The whole point of the Christian life today is that it is lived by faith; that is, trust in what is invisible, in spiritual things that are not seen (Heb 11:1).

The aim of Charismatic revivalist teaching is the opposite of this; it is experiencing spiritual benefits on earth, physically in the flesh that require no faith because they are seen; viz. release from all sickness, power to rule the world, ability to fly etc. The global revived glorious church does not have faith in victory over the devil in the Spirit but actually conquers him and casts him down. This church is not dead and separated from the world but governs the world by power. This church does not have victory over fear of death by faith in Christ but actually defeats death and Christians do not die.

The whole lie of this revivalism is exchanging Biblical faith for materialistic experiences. It is an earthly, fleshly, worldly, deceived church.

The ruling world power at the end of the world is satanic not the church

This ruling power applies to what controls the earth through the sin of men, commerce, finance and politics. Satan does not own the world and is not sovereign over it; the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.³⁹

God is Lord over the earth but in his longsuffering, and to complete his eternal plan for the bringing forth of the elect, he patiently allows man's sin to come to fulness, which includes allowing Satan to gain the control of sinful men, even to form an empire in his image.

Charismatic global revivalists teach the very opposite.

The situation at the end is not the rule of the church in glory but the fulness of sin requiring a harvest and the burning of the earth

This point has been proved by the many earlier texts.

³⁹ Ps 24:1, *'The earth is the LORD's, and all its fulness, the world and those who dwell therein'.*

In fact many Charismatic revivalists actually deny God's word in this matter by teaching that the world is not burned up and restored but continues as it is being ruled by a glorious church. It denies the harvesting of sinners at the Last Day because they are wiped from the earth instead. In fact, the whole matter of the general Judgement and the specific judgment of the church at Christ's tribunal seat are missing from global revival doctrine.

In theological terms there is great confusion amongst Charismatics on eschatology. Some of the revivalists, like Paul Cain, are Pre-Tribulational Dispensationalists due to their Pentecostal background and teach a millennium and a secret rapture. Others are Postmillennial Dominionists that deny a future millennium; in fact some of these have actually made alliances with Reconstructionists.⁴⁰

All of this shows what a theological nonsense it all is. Is there a millennium or not? Is there a secret rapture or not? Is there a seven-year great tribulation or not? Are there two second comings or not? Are there two judgments or not? All of these things are taught by Charismatic revivalists depending on their background.

The church at the end is persecuted, not materially powerful

We have given enough texts to prove this.

The outward church at the end suffers massive deception and apostasy, not elevation and glory

Paul makes this very clear in 2 Thess 2.

Conclusion

Global revivalism is a symptom of the apostate church that clings to fleshly, superficial, instant fixes and avoidance of gruelling, persevering, hard work during a time of pilgrimage that is our actual lot.

We are passing through this world and not setting up permanent residence. This world is not our home and the saint is dead to it. This world is to be destroyed as it is now, not perfected and glorified without the intervention of Christ. The mortal flesh is never perfected, it is crucified, killed off. This is not the place to explain the doctrine of sanctification, but it applies.

This superficial revivalist excitement is mirrored in the world. From time to time, and especially as a millennium drew near, people in the world were subject to growing fears on the one hand (perhaps the world may end) and growing excitement on the other. Multiple groups sprang up promoting a coming utopia or some religious frenzy. Thus mystical cults and millennial sects are legion, and many people advanced theories of a coming golden age. Throughout history there was always a new message of a coming new golden age that never materialised.

The Christian life is hard and full of suffering. That is normal and it is the clear teaching of Scripture. Indeed we are all called to share in the sufferings of Christ individually,⁴¹ but very few have any understanding at all what that entails. This means that the vital attribute of the saint is perseverance; indeed this is something that proves a person is really saved.⁴² They keep going, despite the problems, tribulation, persecution, rejection and suffering.

⁴⁰ A non-Charismatic Reformed group that teaches a postmillennial Theonomy where Mosaic Law rules the world through the church.

⁴¹ Col 1:24; 2 Cor 1:5, 4:10; Phil 3:10; 2 Tim 1:8.

⁴² 1 Cor 1:8; 1 Thess 5:23-24; Heb 3:6, 14, 6:11.

Charismatics hate this plodding persevering faith and constantly look for something instant that will give them power. Heresy after heresy is promoted claiming to instantly bring power or some gift (such as healing). This has happened since the dawn of Pentecostalism and the claims have always been proved false. The sheer catalogue of bogus enterprises that promised this instant power ought to warn modern believers; instead they mostly fall for the next one.

I could say, *'Where is the global revival that was promised after the experiences and teachings at Azusa Street?'*. In fact the church was increasingly divided and fragmented and the global church membership diminished.⁴³ I could say, *'Where is the global revival that was promised after the experiences and teachings at the Topeka revival under Charles Parham?'*. I could say, *'Where is the global revival that was promised after the experiences and teachings of the 70s Restorationists?'*. I could say, *'Where is the global revival that was promised after the experiences and teachings of John Wimber and Paul Cain in the late 1980s and early 1990s, starting in London's docklands?'*. The UK church numbers have greatly diminished since then. I could say, *'Where is the global revival that was promised after the experiences and teachings during the Toronto Blessing?'*. I could mention many more. Similarly I can predict that the promised global revival fundamental to many Charismatics today will also never appear.

The church will come to fulness during the end because Jesus promised us that the wheat would come to fulness before the harvest.⁴⁴ However, this is not a global revival in the terms of the Charismatics; this is the fulness of the elect coming to fruition so that God can reap the world and condemn its sin. The end-time church that survives persecution will be a secret, hidden thing meeting in homes, just as so often during history.⁴⁵

Make no mistake; the promise of a coming global revival is a lie. Anyone teaching this nonsense cannot know even basic principles of Biblical doctrine. Charismatic global revivalists are, by definition, deceivers.

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⁴³ The church at Azusa Street suffered deep rifts and division within four years as new denominations were initiated amidst great rancour and bitterness.

⁴⁴ Matt 13:30.

⁴⁵ Over and over the church has survived persecution by meeting in secret in homes or in woods, caves and even catacombs. In fact, the church usually grew in these periods. The end-time church will be no different.