

# The characteristics of the end

## Introduction

The Lord Jesus told us to be awake and to discern the signs of the times (Matt 16:3).<sup>1</sup> This means that we should be awake and aware as we approach the time of the end. To facilitate this, the Lord and his apostles gave us signs and characteristics that would accompany the end times.

Now no man knows the exact time of the end; we are warned against speculation.

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. Matt 24:36

Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. Matt 24:42

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Matt 24:44

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. Matt 25:13

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Mk 13:32

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 1 Thess 5:2

It shall be one day which is known to the LORD -- Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen *that* it will be light. Zech 14:7

Nevertheless, we are informed about the character of the end period. There are signs that the end is approaching and we should be on our guard and watchful, praying for the return of the Lord in glory.

This paper investigates these signs and considers the times that we live in today.

## Part of the church becomes demonised

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

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<sup>1</sup> Compare 1 Chron 12:32, 'the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do'.

This is part of the great falling away, or apostasy, that Paul explains in 2 Thessalonians 2.

### **Demonic doctrine**

Giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

Note that this is something that the Spirit EXPRESSLY says; i.e. this is something significant and important.

Contrary to all those Postmillennial triumphalists (mostly Charismatics and Reconstructionists), we are told that in the latter times ‘some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons’.

There is a part of the church (a significant part in order for the Spirit to emphasise this because this has been true of sects for millennia) that will be dominated by demons. These people will be utterly deceived, thinking that they serve God, but are absorbing demonic teaching. Thus deception will be rampant amongst the churches at the end. The more churches are deceived by false teaching, the more demonised they are.

The indicator of demonic influence in churches is observed by how close that church is to Biblical doctrine. The further away from sound teaching, the more that heresies are accepted, the more that church is demonised.

So the regulating principle for soundness is truth.

### **Observations today**

I have written very many papers over many years pointing out how churches are falling into serious errors. I have detailed this and need not go over it again here. The point is that many churches are accepting and preaching, with authority, demonic doctrines.

Certain movements and denominations are most notable in this matter. We could include the errors perpetrated by: the Roman Church, the Charismatic Movement, the Holiness Movement, the Pentecostal Movement, the Signs and Wonders Movement, the New Apostolic Reformation, the Emerging Church and many more.

Some church movements were founded upon a syncretism of the demonic occult with Christianity; such as: Unity, Christian Science, the Shakers, the Charismatic Movement, Latter Rain and so on. These deliberately took aspects of the occult and turned it into a church doctrine or practice. We could include: necromancy, channelling, inner healing, Kundalini yoga, spiritualism, divination, magic and so on.

As churches took on these false doctrines, so also they began to manifest a demonic character in meetings: uncontrolled irreverent behaviour, unrestrained emotionalism and individualism, passivity and suggestibility, sensualism, selfishness, narcissism, foolishness.

We could also mention that hierarchical, pyramidal leadership structures are taken directly from the demonic realm. These characterise the authority systems in the world in every department, whether it is the armed forces, management systems or politics. Pyramidal authority is never appropriate for church government where only a plurality of equal elders is ordered by God. Yet most, if not all, of the big modern churches not only have a pyramid leadership structure under a single authoritarian dominant leader, but this hierarchy is very formalised and rigid. Inevitably all are paid and the higher ranks get more pay, just like the world. However, the point is that this structure is demonic. Satan has his ranks of fallen angels that are given specific tasks.

## Lies

Speaking lies in hypocrisy.

A major characteristic of the end times is lying. Lying has been around forever since the temptation of Adam but in the end there will be a notable rise of lying in the churches. This is where the institutions supposed to be a signpost for truth become shop-fronts for lies.

These lies come in many forms, with the obvious first example being the lies included in false teaching. All bad doctrines involve lies. As teaching becomes demonic it takes on the character of the Devil who is the author of lies.

Thus many churches are involved in systems of deception. They are deceived and being deceived.

Is this being observed today? Absolutely!

Heresies abound everywhere covering all sorts of subjects. Every type of heresy that has erupted in history and was then demolished is now resurrected in the church – all of them. Every conceivable type of error is now being witnessed in the professed churches. Even obscure heresies, such as Monothelism, are being expressed.

But on top of false doctrine the church is riddled with various lies. Examples would include:

- Pay some money into our ministry and you will be healed.
- ‘As an apostle, I hear from God and then pass on God’s will to you.’
- Christian giving must be to the church and nowhere else.<sup>2</sup>
- If you give 10% of your wages you will be blessed.<sup>3</sup>
- I am a prophet with the authority of OT prophets.<sup>4</sup>
- Christians are never guilty or condemned.<sup>5</sup>
- It is spiritual to fall over backwards into a trance, scream, shout, make animal noises etc.
- Speaking in gibberish is Biblical.
- The word of knowledge is prescience.<sup>6</sup>
- Staring at gemstones aids the healing process.
- Sacramentalism is Biblical.
- Praying to Mary and the saints is acceptable.
- Getting the congregation to shout drives demons away.
- You need to confront local territorial demons before you can do anything spiritual.
- True Christians can be demonised.
- You are a ‘little god’.
- Christians in the Spirit do not need to obey any commandments.
- Christians must bless Jews and pray for physical Jerusalem.

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<sup>2</sup> Giving is first towards the poor and needy. Individuals must choose how they do this giving.

<sup>3</sup> There is no NT command to do this. This can also contradict other commands. If someone is very poor his first obligation is to feed and house his family. He may not be able to give 10%. We are commanded to give as we have determined, that is, according to wisdom. Rich people can give much more than 10%. A poor widow can only give two small coins.

<sup>4</sup> OT type prophecy ended with John the Baptist (Matt 11:13; Lk 16:16).

<sup>5</sup> This fails to understand the difference between the new nature and the old nature. Note: Gal 2:11 (‘blamed’ is literally ‘condemned’).

<sup>6</sup> No; it is teaching.

- The State of Israel is blessed by God and is based upon OT precedent.
- There will be a global revival where super apostles will rule the world.

This is sufficient; the list is endless.

### **Hypocrisy**

Speaking lies in hypocrisy.

The definition of hypocrisy is the practice of claiming to have higher standards or beliefs than is the case. In essence hypocrisy is lying, but in a way whereby what you judge in others you actually do yourself.

Sadly this is observed in modern churches all the time.

### **A seared conscience**

Having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

Searing is to scorch with an intense heat. The Greek word carries two ideas; the first is to cauterise, as in searing a wound. The second is to brand, as in branding a cow.

When people go against their conscience and sin they damage their conscience. If this is repeated over and over without remorse and repentance then the conscience is irretrievably damaged beyond repair and it is seared. Such people effectively have no conscience.

The conscience is the voice of God's law in the heart confirming that an action is right or wrong. The conscience must always be obeyed and it also must be developed in knowledge as part of progressive sanctification.

Do we see people in modern churches acting without conscience? Yes we do.

- When we see people preach about sin in others but all the time are committing acts of fornication.
- When leaders pretend to have a happy normal family but later come out as homosexual.
- When leaders fleece the flock but have multiple mansions, private jets, servants and Swiss bank accounts.
- When people pretend to do miracles but they are tricks and illusions.
- When leaders claim to be the messiah.

### **Forbidding to marry**

This has been common in previous heretical cults but, in the end, is a feature in the mainstream churches.

There are some churches today that act like cults and forbid people to marry outside of their church or denomination.

### **Abstinence**

Commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

Multiple cults and sects have demanded various forms of asceticism, including controlling diet. It is interesting that those who partake of a certain dietary abstinence in order to be spiritual are said to not know the truth.

There are some modern churches that support Israel and all things Jewish that subscribe to the OT dietary laws, despite the words of Jesus (Mk 7:19; Lk 11:41).

### **They will not endure sound doctrine**

For 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

How many people today even know what sound doctrine is? How many churches are based on solid, historic, confessions of faith prepared by our ancestors? How many churches catechise their young believers?

Far from teaching the truth, most modern churches believe in the Postmodernist ideology that each person finds his own truth and that is sufficient. The idea of absolute truth that must be understood is now forgotten or ignored.

Yet when a person does preach sound truth to modern converts they cannot endure it. They castigate teachers of solid doctrine as being old-fashioned legalists. Some have even said that the Bible is a dusty old book to be ignored and the word of Charismatic prophets must replace it with a 'now word' (Rhema<sup>7</sup>).

Sound doctrine is merely the analytical exposition of the will and character of God as expressed in the Bible. It is shocking that many modern supposed believers have no interest in this. Some excuse themselves by saying, 'I am not a theologian'. Yet every true believer IS a theologian – someone who studies the doctrine of God.

### **They will heap up for themselves teachers**

Because they do not study sound doctrine they find teachers that fit into their way of thinking. The world is full of people claiming to be a Christian who teach anything and everything. So churchgoers find the club of their choice, that teaches a certain doctrine, and then they join that because it suits their beliefs.

Thus the end will be a time where there are multiple types of churches, sects and denominations that all believe different things. There is no unanimity of sound, Biblical doctrine.

For example, regarding eschatology, we see the following variations today:

- There are churches that claim that there is no Second Coming of Christ at all (e.g. certain Charismatics).
- There are churches that claim that Christ comes before a millennium reign on Earth (Historic Premillennialism).
- There are churches that claim that Christ comes before a millennium reign on Earth but that the elect are secretly raptured to escape a great tribulation (Classic Dispensationalism). There are multiple variations of this aspect (Pre-Trib, Mid-Trib, Post-Trib, and no-Trib).

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<sup>7</sup> Greek for 'word'. It is used interchangeably with *logos* in the NT.

- There are churches that claim that Christ returns after a millennium reign of the church on Earth (Postmillennialism). There are at least three variations of this (Theonomy, Charismatic, and Puritan).
- There are churches that deny that there is any type of millennium reign over a sinful Earth (Amillennialism). [This is the true Biblical position.]
- Within these frameworks some teach that the church gets progressively stronger and stronger and rules the Earth; others teach that there is a Charismatic global revival and the church quickly dominates the Earth (Dominionism, Triumphalism); while others teach that the church gets weaker and falls away. Some even teach that the true church isn't even present at the crisis at the end.
- Some churches follow Jewish ideas and support all things Jewish without realising that Talmudic and Kabbalistic Jewish eschatology teaches that Jews rule the Earth in the messianic age with all Gentiles being Jewish slaves. Each Jew has hundreds of Goy slaves because Goys are not human but are dogs and cattle.

This is but one doctrinal locus. It shows how disparate the doctrinal position of the modern church is. After the Reformation there was much greater unanimity. Premillennialism (not Dispensationalism) had appeared in the early church but was a tiny minority view and was disparaged by the reformers as not worth confronting. Postmillennialism began to appear amongst certain Puritans in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century who expected a revival of Israel, but again this was not common. Most Protestants (and even all Roman Catholics) were Amillennial. Today there are a myriad ideas about eschatology.

### **They will turn their ears away from the truth**

If we held up a good confession of faith, such as Westminster, Savoy Declaration, 1589 Baptist, Belgic etc. (even despite minor flaws) as an analytical standard of Biblical truth, most modern Christians would not be interested to study them. Indeed, very many would never have heard of them.

In the past, catechisms based on these (such as the Shorter Westminster Catechism) were used as guides to teach young children about the truth of Christ from a very young age. By the time they were ten they were well versed in the truth and could defend all major doctrines with clarity. Most modern churchgoers would struggle to even get through this catechism. When presented with it they turn their ears away. I have watched this happen literally.

### **And be turned aside to fables**

By this is meant fiction, something not true.

An examination of Charismatic doctrines today, as just one example, reveals many ideas that can best be described as fables. We could list: imagineering, channelling, inner healing, auras, destiny cards, signs and wonders, modern prophecy, testimonies of heavenly visits, visions, dreams, and so on.

### **Summary**

All of this is the effect of demonisation in the church. This is not some Hollywood form of demonisation that is pure nonsense, but a captivity of the mind by progressive deception. The attack has been upon the truth, and most notably doctrinal purity, especially about God.

The modern church has wandered away from the truth and is now lost in a morass of heretical nonsense that drives beliefs and practices.

It is noteworthy that one of the published aims of the Global Elite is to control all religion. This is why millions were spent on Elite placemen in modern churches who grew to international fame with a great following. Numerous people in the Charismatic Movement were sponsored by the Elite to lead people astray.

## **The falling away of the church**

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 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, 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. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. 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. 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 2:1-12

### **That Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed**

This is a chief characteristic of the end. The church falls away; it apostatises. I have explained this in detail many times but will only give a cursory explanation here.

It is not the world that is in view here. The world is already fallen away in sin. It is the church that falls away and lets Satan dominate God's temple.

The church does not get stronger in spiritual purity and rule the world. Neither do super apostles and prophets rule the world. Nor is there a global revival at the end whereby the church rules the world. The true church comes to fulness, but this is a hidden and secret affair away from the eyes of the world (Matt 13:24-30). God is never without a witness in the world. However, the world believes that the true church is destroyed at the end from violent persecution (Rev 11:8). In its place there is an end-time corrupt church.

The church falls away at the end and at the same time the man of sin is revealed; it becomes an outward, perverted, satanic body. This is the capitulation of mankind to satanic captivation; Satan becomes personified in mankind, which is given over to wickedness. Mankind becomes the expression of the Devil; it is the corporate man of sin. As the world is fully corrupted, so is the outward church.

So, there is no outward witness to God (the church is hidden of necessity) but the testimony of the whole world (secular and ecclesiastical) is satanic and evil. Thus it becomes ripe for harvest and destruction.

**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.**

The final act of the world is that Satan sits in the temple of God. This is not a stone temple made with hands; it is man – created to be the temple of God, the dwelling place of God. All mankind is fully demonised and submissive to Satan and the outward church is fully apostate, idolatrous and evil.

The objective of Satan has always been to be God. He wants to kill God and become the universal ruler over all; it is the height of hubris. By taking over mankind, and thus the government of the world, Satan lays claim to be God. He usurps God's authority over the world. At the height of this, Jesus returns in glory and destroys Satan, his demons and all sinners following them; and then to judgment.

**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. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie.**

This is the deception that Satan attacks all people with. Sadly this deception afflicts most people in the churches; only a small number are elect who escape this deception and leave the churches to meet Biblically in homes in secret.

Part of this deception will be powerful signs and wonders (not the fake Charismatic signs and wonders seen so far). Those who follow this path become not only deceived but utterly deluded. Those who accept these signs as being from God will perish. They show who they are by having pleasure in unrighteousness.

In confrontation of these deceptive signs will be a preaching of the truth. Those who accept this truth will be saved. There is still a witness to the truth at the end. This will be one-to-one conversations and witnessing by members of the hidden true church.

### **Messianic movements**

For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. Mk 13:22

Part of the wave of deception against the church in the end will be a series of false messiahs and prophets. Typical of this would be the false messiahship of Mother Ann Lee, leader of the Shakers.<sup>8</sup> Ann Lee joined the group in 1758, declared herself the female Christ then, inspired by visions, established a community near Albany in New York colony in 1774. From that point the sect developed into more and more serious errors, including occultism.

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<sup>8</sup> A revivalist group that originally held many Quaker views although they left the Quaker movement in 1747.



Various occult groups, such as Theosophy and New Age, have identified some guru as the modern messiah, such as Maitreya.<sup>9</sup> Others have proclaimed '*the cosmic Christ*' as part of a rogue eco-movement.<sup>10</sup>

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

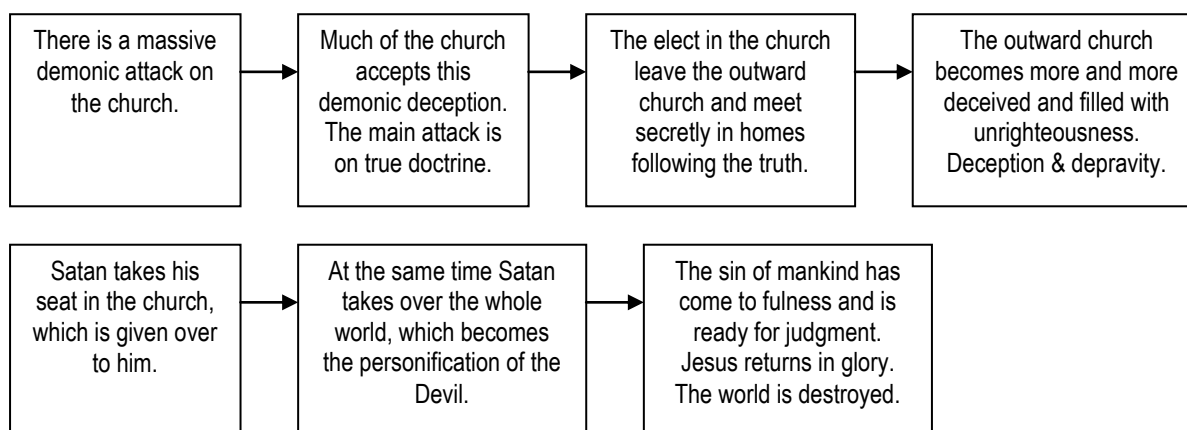
Today the Charismatic and Pentecostal churches are riddled with a plethora of false prophets, both male and female. These hold great sway over large portions of the various denominations, even though their prophecies continue to fail.

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<sup>9</sup> This is the fifth and final Buddhist messiah, also accepted by many Theosophists and New Agers.

<sup>10</sup> Such as 'theologian' Matthew Fox, Jurgen Moltmann or Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. This is usually an evolutionary theology tying Christ with the universe.

## Summary so far



## The final character of the world illustrated in cities and states

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. Rev 11:8

And another angel followed, saying, 'Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication'. Rev 14:8

The Bible applies the names of certain cities to this end-time world system. These are Sodom and Babylon. It also implies the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified. Plus it alludes to the nation of Egypt.

### Sodom

This is notable as a city that was so vile and wicked (Gen 13:13, 18:20) that God rained down fire from heaven to destroy it (Gen 19:24). This served as a warning to all at the time, and also as a type of the final end of the world by fire (2 Pt 4:6).

The chief sin of this place was homosexuality (Gen 19:5). This was not just a characteristic of the city but was something condoned by the authorities as normal behaviour.

Today the world exactly copies this behaviour. Sodomy is not just accepted but is legalised. Gay marriage and adopting children to two men is also legalised.

### Egypt

This is a Biblical symbol of the world opposed to God. It is something that God's people have to be delivered from and taken out of.

It is full of idolatry, including the worship of multiple gods that are the focus of different demons. The worship given to these idols is lapped up by demons.

So the character of Egypt is opposition to God, worldliness and demonic worship; much like today.

### Jerusalem

Jerusalem represents here the place of rebellion against God that ended up by crucifying God's only Son. It is stiff-neckedness; hubris, rebellion, false religion, and hypocrisy.

It also represents judgment because God fully judged the sin of Jerusalem by a terrible judgment of horrific proportions in 70 AD, as prophesied by Jesus (Mk 13:19, 'For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be').<sup>11</sup>

## **Babylon**

This is a large subject.

Babylon begins as a city-state created by Nimrod (Gen 10:9-10) and the place of the Tower of Babel.<sup>12</sup> It was the first empire established in rebellion to God after the flood and the origin of Old Babylonia and Assyria. The character of this rebellion was seeking to dethrone God and to replace him. It developed the initial system of idolatry and occultism that deified Nimrod as the sun god. It was the beginning of all occultism, witchcraft, idolatry (pantheons) and the hubris of man against God.

So Old Babylonia was the seat of all spiritual wickedness and rebellion. This developed into the empire ruled by Hammurabi [1792–1750 BC].

The Neo Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar [c.630–562 BC] and others symbolise the enemy of the people of God, the brutal oppressor and attacker of the faithful.

The picture of Babylon in Revelation is the fulness of all these things. In detail it represents the hedonistic, idolatrous, blasphemous, occultic world opposed to godliness (Rev 17:15, 18).

Thus we see it represents:

- Fornication (Rev 14:8).
- Iniquity (Rev 18:5).
- Abominations (Rev 17:5).
- Hedonism, luxury, materialism (Rev 18:3, 7, 9).
- Mercantilism (trade, control and wealth; Rev 18:3, 11, 15, 17, 19, 23).
- Entertainment (Rev 18:22).
- Witchcraft, sorcery (Rev 18:23).
- Satanic deception (Rev 18:23).
- Persecution of the saints (Rev 17:6, 18:24).
- Kingly authority (Rev 17:18, 18:9).
- The expression of the beast, the political world system opposed to God (Rev 17:7).
- Blasphemy (Rev 17:3).
- A haunt of demons (Rev 18:2).

We see all of this beginning to take centre stage in the modern world. Babylon may not exist in fulness yet but the development is accelerating every day so that even people in the world see that the world is falling apart and has gone mad.

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<sup>11</sup> Jesus compresses a prophecy about Jerusalem here with a prophecy about the end of the world. The judgment of Jerusalem thus becomes a type of the end. This prophecy was heeded by some Jews as the armies of Titus came near and escaped to Pella. Those that trusted in the strong walls went through appalling privations.

<sup>12</sup> Babel (Hebrew), meaning confusion or to confound, is also Babylon. Babylon was the Greek name for the city. In the cuneiform script of the Babylonians, it is bab-ili, which means in Semitic, 'the gate of god'.

### *Sorcery*

A word about Babylonian sorcery in the end.

For your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived. Rev 18:23

‘Sorcery’ is the Greek word *pharmakeia*. As well as meaning sorcery (usually in connection with idolatry), it also means poisoning and the administration of drugs. This is where we get our words ‘pharmacy’ and ‘pharmaceutical’ from.

At the end Babylon is full of sorcery that deceives the nations. This also makes merchants wealthy to become the great men of the Earth.

So we have ruling men becoming wealthy by using *pharmakeia* and deceiving people. Is this not exactly what is going on today? Big Pharma is one of the most powerful influences in the world today. It controls the media and also governments. It has a hold on almost everybody on Earth to some degree. Just see how much power Bill Gates has, who funds Big Pharma companies. Just reflect on how much power Big Pharma had over global populations in the last two years.

So, in the hands of the wrong people, the administration of drugs becomes a tool to make merchants rich and deceive the world in a similar way to using the power of magic. They have a hold over people to get them to do their bidding (wear facemasks, track and trace, social distancing, get vaccinated etc.)

This aspect of Babylon is very observable in the modern world.

The end will see the domination of Big Pharma to deceive people, cause harm but make the owners the great men of the Earth – the ruling Elite. Big Pharma will be a key player in the end time.

### *Mystery*

And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.  
Rev 17:5

There are several mysteries in the NT. The main mystery is the mystery of Christ (Eph 3:4). This is that through Christ the church (in Christ) reveals the wisdom of God to spiritual powers (Eph 3:9-10). The mystery of the Gospel is Christ indwelling believers (Col 1:27). The mystery of godliness, of the incarnation, is that God was manifested in the flesh (1 Tim 3:16).

In these cases the mystery is something indwelling something else and changing it.

The mystery of Babylon is the world system being indwelled by Satan (Rev 17:7ff). The world system goes from simply being wicked to being the actual personification of Satan. Though not visible, Satan is behind the entire world system pushing it into greater and greater depths of depravity and blasphemy.

Thus the first beast, the second beast and the harlot Babylon are all expressions of Satan. The end-time man of sin is nothing but Satan in the flesh.

## The persecution of the church

This is a key part of the end times.

But watch out for yourselves, for they will deliver you up to councils, and you will be beaten in the synagogues. You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. Mk 13:9

But when they arrest *you* and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. Mk 13:11-13

Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. Jn 15:20

They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. Jn 16:2

For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. Phil 1:29

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. Rev 6:9

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. Rev 11:7-8

I saw the woman [Babylon], drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement. Rev 17:6

And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth. Rev 18:24

The end includes a period of violent persecution against the church. This is to eradicate the elect from the church so that the professing church can be changed into a fully demonic institution tied to the state. The so-called 'Christian' church will then be a fully functioning satanic institution that is a propaganda arm of the state run as the second beast from the earth. This false religion will worship the beast, the satanic political world system, and become a functioning part of Babylon.

The modern church is well underway in effecting this change to an apostate body, having been under outward attack and inward corruption for over 100 years.

The elect people that escape persecution will gather in secret in homes and continue to bear witness to Jesus. They will flourish in secret. They will continue to preach the Gospel to individuals. They will be the wheat coming to fulness surrounded by poisonous darnel.<sup>13</sup>

The world, at a certain point in the persecution, believes that the church is destroyed; that all elect people have been killed. This is spoken of symbolically as the two witnesses lying dead in the street of Sodom.

## The preaching of the Gospel to the whole world

And the gospel must first be preached to all the nations. Mk 13:10

Despite all the abominations that are expressed in the end period, the Gospel will finally reach all nations. This will not only include preaching in native languages but also publishing the Bible in these languages. This work is well underway at this time.

Since the Gospel is the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), it also means that there is widespread didactic teaching of sound doctrine at the end, despite the persecution to stop this.

The church's witness to God is not terminated by persecution (it never has been throughout all church history). Indeed, this will be a time of glory in witness, just as it was in the imperial Roman persecutions of the early church, which the end-times is a mirror of. As it was in the beginning, so it is in the end.

## Social upheaval

### Families will turn on each other

Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father *his* child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. Mk 13:12

Family break up is a large part of the end. It is a devilish scheme to enhance the power of the state that has been evidenced in Marxism, the Illuminati (1776ff.), Cultural Marxism, Talmudic Judaism and several more. In recent days political dissenters have been threatened with the removal of their children by the state.

But this is worse. The effects of satanic programming in culture ends up with families breaking up of their own accord. Family members betray one another for some perceived infringement. This has been evidenced recently with children taking parents to court or family members betraying others to the police for breaking Covid rules. At the end, family members betray other members to death.

### A lack of love

Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. Matt 24:12

Lawlessness causes people to cease being loving since it enhances selfishness. Narcissism and self-love results in failing to love others; or even just doing good to others.

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<sup>13</sup> This weed looks like wheat but its grain is black.

Part of the world going mad being evidenced every day is the staggering lack of love shown by people focused on themselves. This is especially evident in social media where, for a slight offence, people are threatened with death.

### **Lawlessness**

Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. Matt 24:12

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. Matt 13:41

The mystery of lawlessness is already at work. 2 Thess 2:7

Lawlessness is sin (1 Jn 3:4). Sin will increase in the latter days. Do we not see this even today?

### **Dissenters unable to buy or sell**

He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Rev 13:16-17

Don't get bogged down with the mark; it is not referring to chips under the skin. The mark (666) on the right hand and forehead indicates submission to Satan in mind and work. 666 refers to the indwelling of Satan, man trying to be god; the ultimate lie of the Devil.

The point in clear language is that no one failing to comply with the satanic demands of this end time totalitarian society will be able to buy or sell. That is, they will starve.

## **Global upheaval**

### **Wars and rumours of wars**

But when you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be troubled; for *such things* must happen, but the end *is* not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. Mk 13:7-8

War has been around since ancient times; it is nothing new. However, the proliferation of wars in the end is significant. The growth of the world population and the ease of killing people with technology has made it possible for conflicts to erupt constantly around the globe. Thus there are probably more wars going on today than is usual in history. Also we have seen modern conflagrations way beyond the scope of historical wars. Millions upon millions have been killed since the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Then there is the relative peace that Europe enjoyed since WWII. This is now over and brings the point home. There has been war in Kosovo and Serbia, Georgia, and several other places. Yugoslavia was bombed by NATO and splintered into states. There was the Gulf War, the Iraq War, the Iran-Iraq War, the Libyan proxy war, incursions in Somalia, the invasion of Syria supported by NATO. There has been bombing and drone strikes in Pakistan, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Iraq and many other places. America under Trump was dropping a bomb every six minutes.

Today we have threats of war in Serbia, Kosovo, Azerbaijan, and Armenia while NATO is fighting a proxy war in Ukraine with the SAS, NATO troops, NATO armaments and resources already active. Saudi Arabia is fighting a war in Yemen with full NATO support. Russia is fighting the West in Ukraine, with US cruise missiles attacking Russian territory, while China is threatening to 'invade'<sup>14</sup> Taiwan. Iran is being drawn into various theatres. Israel is deploying missile strikes, and even possibly limited nuclear weapons, in Syria. World War III is a very real possibility. Britain had a short-lived new Prime Minister in Liz Truss that threatened war with both Russia and China.

There are certainly wars and rumours of wars at the present time.

### **Famines**

And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows. Mk 13:8

There are multiple places on Earth today where there are famines. These have multiple causes including both drought and too much rain at the wrong time. Some famines are man-made, such as in Sri Lanka. The collapse of the supply chains caused by lockdowns, plus the many fires burning down US food processing plants, are adding to the threat of a global famine. To this must be added the collapse of fertiliser production and the massive cost of energy that continues to rise. Farmers are quitting planting crops. Next year there will be a dearth of grains.

Many analysts are predicting a severe food shortage beginning this autumn but becoming severe in 2023. Some products are already disappearing off the shelves.

### **Pestilences**

There will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Matt 24:7-8

Pestilences means plagues. Covid was not a real plague but a false alarm utilised by governments to enhance totalitarian measures. However, there will be real plagues in some places.

### **Earthquakes**

And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows. Mk 13:8

Earthquakes have been around for millennia but here we see notable earthquakes in various places. The various earthquakes observed in recent years do not seem notable enough to warrant fulfilment of this; thus there will be some significant earthquakes in the future.

### **Troubles**

And there will be earthquakes in various places, and there will be famines and troubles. These *are* the beginnings of sorrows. Mk 13:8

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<sup>14</sup> Theoretically, it is not an invasion since Taiwan is part of China.



‘Troubles’ are: tumults, sedition, and social disturbances. Therefore, this would refer to coups, rebellions, and national commotions.

There have been many of these in recent decades. The Syrian conflict is a good example of this sort of tumult. An attempted coup by rebels, mostly from outside Syria, supported by the West to topple Assad because he is in the way of Elite plans. The destruction of Libya by the West is another example.

### **Summary**

Most of these things are the beginning of sorrows; they are not indicators that the end is imminent.

## **An end-time satanic totalitarian state**

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. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie. 2 Thess 2:9-11

Satan convinces people to follow his plans for world domination and the people willingly follow like sheep. The lawless one, the man of sin, is the world given over to Satan, who then rules the world through proxy leaders.

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time. Rev 12:12

The dragon gave him [the beast] his power, his throne, and great authority. Rev 13:2

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Rev 16:13-14

Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot [Babylon] who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication. Rev 17:1-2

The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, Rev 17:12-14

And the woman whom you saw is that great city [Babylon] which reigns over the kings of the earth. Rev 17:18

For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the

merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. Rev 18:3

The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her [Babylon]. Rev 19:9

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war. Rev 19:19

Now when the thousand years [Gospel age] have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. Rev 20:7-8

The points made here are pretty obvious. However, I will note the main issues.

- The Devil is cast down to the Earth and dominates its inhabitants.
- Satan (the dragon) devolves his power to the beast (the political world power opposed to God).
- Satan's fallen angels demonise the ruling people on the Earth and gathers them into a single purpose.
- The kings of the Earth (not necessary royal kings but rulers, presidents, heads of powerful corporations and banks etc.; people with global power) have an alliance with Babylon (the world in blasphemous, wicked opposition to God).
- The kings have authority only for one hour (a short period) with the beast.
- The kings are of one mind (thus there is a political alliance of purpose).
- The Elite live in luxury and vast wealth.
- The kings persecute the church.

This clearly points to a global world empire in submission to Satan who rules the world through human proxies.

### **A short period of peace and security**

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 1 Thess 5:2-3

But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Matt 24:37-39

But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Lk 24:34-35

This period equates to the lavish living and hedonism that we see in end-time Babylon. There is an abundance of riches for those in control. There is a wealth of luxury goods and precious things. There is peace and security brought about by the totalitarian state ruling with an iron glove. Wars cease; rebellion ceases (they were all prompted by the Elite to an end, which is now accomplished).

For the Elite everything is perfect. Then suddenly, the end comes, Jesus returns and they are destroyed. Their world is burned up.

## Immediately before the return of the Lord Jesus Christ

### Astronomical disturbances

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven. Mk 13:24-27

This is self-explanatory.

Do not expect to see astronomical disturbances until the very end. They are not going to happen decades before the return of the Lord.

## Factors that are NOT mentioned

### Any mention of Israel or a restoration of the nation or a great revival at the end

But what about a revival of Israel?

Now if their fall *is* riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy *those who are* my flesh and save some of them. For if their being cast away *is* the reconciling of the world, what *will* their acceptance *be* but life from the dead? Rm 11:12-15

I have given an exposition of this in previous papers. In summary:

The meaning of this depends upon one's interpretation. Puritan Postmillennialists and modern Messianic Christians see this as a miraculous revival of Israel that leads to a global conversion of all Jews and a wave of spiritual power and influence of the church as a result.

Does the passage say any of these things? No, it does not.

Paul is talking about individual conversions, 'if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them'. The casting away of Jews after the cross led to the reconciling of the world, the Gospel being preached to Gentiles in the early church. The acceptance into the church of individual Jews will be life from the dead – eternal life after conversion.

'Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!' (Rm 11:12). The falling away of the Jews led to the Gospel being preached to the Gentiles; the riches of spiritual life. 'Their fullness' is difficult to interpret. The main point that Paul is making is that the falling of the Jews led to riches; the conversion of Jews (individually) leads to greater things because the church benefits from their inclusion. The church was always meant to be Jews and Gentiles. The church without Jews is not full, not complete. The inclusion of Jews in the church means fullness, completeness.

If they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. Rm 11:23

In other words, if any Jew accepts the Gospel of Christ and believes, God will graft him back into the people of God - the church; the body of Christ.

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins'. Rm 11:25-27

Again this is not corporate but individual. God takes away ungodliness from Jews when they get converted and he remits their sins.

'All Israel' is hotly debated, as is 'the Israel of God' (Gal 6:16). On consideration of many factors, such as Paul's theology and the context to Roman Gentiles and Galatian Gentiles, the best and traditional interpretation is that Israel here refers to the covenant people, Christians, the church. All Israel being saved is the salvation of all the elect people God chose, Jews and Gentiles.

The problems of interpreting Israel corporately are massive. They include:

- Does it mean every Jew will be saved? All commentators deny this. But if you interpret Israel corporately, why deny this? Commentators favouring a revival in Israel at the end have to fudge and say that it means 'some'.
- Does it mean that all Jews at the end, at a certain point, will be saved? Again, no one is prepared to affirm this.<sup>15</sup> But why not if it is corporate? Again people twist the text to mean a majority or some.
- We now fully understand that the vast majority of modern Jews are not derived from ancient Israelites at all but are European/Turkic in ethnicity, stemming from Khazarians.<sup>16</sup> This is now confirmed by genetics as well as history and is affirmed widely by Jewish academics (such as Shlomo Sands). This means that most modern Jews are not in the remit of what Paul is talking about.

'Until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in'. This is also hard to interpret and has spawned numerous ideas. In general it is best considered as the time when the majority of the Gentile elect have been converted. Blindness has been upon Jews to the Gospel, in

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<sup>15</sup> Adam Clark Comm., 'no man can conceive that a time will ever come in which every Jew then living, shall be taken to the kingdom of glory'.

<sup>16</sup> This is chiefly the Ashkenazim. The Sephardim are also not Semitic but Idumaeans (Edomite, under God's curse) in origin.

divine judgment, so that relatively few have been converted. This is observable in history. At the end this blindness is removed by divine favour so that more individual Jews are converted.

### **A secret rapture**

There is not a shred of evidence for this fairy tale in the NT. It arose in 1830 in a heretical church from the dreaming of a sick, unwell (some say demonised)<sup>17</sup> young girl and was taken up as a key point in Dispensationalism.

### **Escape of the church from the end-time tribulation**

This is chiefly connected to the idea of a secret rapture to rescue certain saints in a special hidden return of the Lord before he properly and openly returns later.

### **A global revival**

There is no mention of a worldwide revival of the church to power and glory in the end period. The staple of Triumphalism and Dominionism has no evidence for it.

### **A millennium**

There is no clear mention of a golden age millennium of the rule of Christ and the saints on Earth before a final battle at Armageddon.

The supposed reference in Rev 20 means no such thing. This thousand years is the Gospel Age. Those reigning on thrones are the souls of beheaded saints (Rev 20:4) that reign with Christ a thousand years. The scene is heaven not Earth. This is the only text that millennialists have to offer.

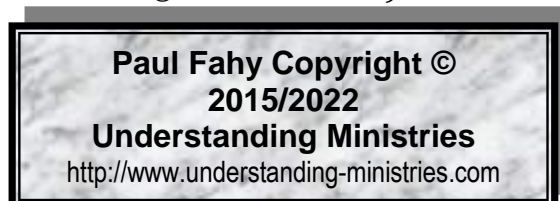
In addition, *chilia* is plural; the word means thousands of years not one thousand. The Gospel age, so far has been thousands of years.

This means that both Premillennialists (of all sorts) and Postmillennialists (of all sorts) are wrong. There is no millennium golden age.

## **Conclusion**

Analysis of what the Bible tells us about the characteristics of the end time period shows us that these correspond to the character of what we see happening all around us in these days. We can safely say that we are in the period of the end-times, the period in which we are to be especially watchful and praying. How close that is to the actual end of the world and the return of the Lord is impossible to say.

Scripture quotations are from The New King James Version  
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<sup>17</sup> E.g. Tregelles.