

War of the Prophets God's Prophetic House Cleaning

By Norm Franz

As the world moves another year closer to the day of the Lord, I believe that 2007 will be an unusually prophetic time. I say this in regard to the growing number of would be prophets and prophetic ministers who are offering up a wide array of prophetic predictions for the New Year. Unfortunately, many of these prophecies not only contradict each other, but they also conflict with both the Letter and the Spirit of God's Word.

Return of the Rebellious Prophets

As we look at some of these soulish and disjointed predictions coming from within the church, it must be understood that this phenomenon is nothing more than a repeat of the carnal prophecies made by God's rebellious prophets of ancient Israel:

"Then the LORD said to me, 'The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.'" (Jeremiah 14:14 ^{KJV})

Referring to their soulish prophecies, the Apostle Peter reminds us that true prophecy is by the Spirit and that prophesying out of one's own interpretation (mind) is the primary misuse of prophecy (2 Pet. 1:19-21). Then, he goes on to specifically warn us that this same type of abuse will repeat itself, and that we are to be on guard against the return of the rebellious prophets:

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Partners' Update

Our new website is taking longer than expected, but it is going to be well worth the wait. Totally redesigned from top to bottom, our new site includes teachings on biblical economics, Israel & the Middle East, end time prophecy, discerning God's feasts from pagan feasts, how to apply God's Commandments to everyday life and more.

We are also planning to reestablish the **Institute of Prophetic Studies** (IPS) and reopen the *School of Prophetic Ministry* this year. Our goal is to reeducate the body of Messiah on how authentic Torah based prophetic ministry is supposed to function — especially in the last days.

There will be numerous study tracks including Prophets, Prophetic Ministry, End Time Prophecy, and Torah in the New Testament. One exciting subcategory deals with judging modern day prophecies similar to what we are doing in the above article.

Since prophetic ministry is God's revelation of the beginning to the ending (Rev. 19:10), these courses will incorporate the entire Bible when addressing prophetic ministry as a whole. Consequently, this month's enclosed teaching on "**The Love and the Fear of the Lord**" takes a prophetic look at when man first lost his love and his fear of God and how that plays out from the beginning to the ending in Messiah Jesus.

Please receive this as an example of what we will be teaching at IPS, and our thanks for your faithfulness in supporting this work.

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“But there were false prophets, too, in those days, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly tell their lies about God, turning against even their Master who bought them; but theirs will be a swift and terrible end. Many will follow their evil teaching that there is nothing wrong with sexual sin. And because of them Christ and his way will be scoffed at. These teachers in their greed will tell you anything to get hold of your money. But *God condemned them long ago and their destruction is on the way.*” (2 Peter 2:1-4 ^{TLB})

Here we see Peter warn us that:

1. The same type of false prophets and prophetic teachers (including shepherds) will walk in the same falsehoods that the rebellious prophets, teachers, and shepherds of ancient Israel walked in.
2. They will secretly introduce heretical teachings that ultimately lead people to turn against Messiah Jesus (Yeshua) and what He taught.
3. Their perverted teaching of God’s word allows them and their followers to follow after their sensualities (lust for money, authority, sex, etc.).
4. Their love of money will cause them to develop unbiblical teachings designed to get you to send an offering to their ministry.
5. Their judgment has been a long time coming and will soon manifest for all to see.

Because lawless men and their works grow exponentially worse in the last days like the birth pains of a woman, this trend will become more and more pervasive as we move further into the future.

God’s New Thing

The most familiar prophecy for the New Year is the annual prediction that God is going to do a **“new thing”**. The most popular “new thing” of late is the promise of a “new anointing” and/or a “new spiritual authority” which will produce something that is sometimes biblical and sometimes not.

In most cases, however, the yearly regurgitation of the “new thing” prophecy has

been nothing more than a repeat of the ancient Athenian phenomenon, where the Greeks come together and confer over some “new thing” they imagined would happen:

“For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to *tell, or to hear some new thing.*” (Acts 17:21 ^{KJV})

Unfortunately, like the Greek’s of old, most of today’s “new thing” prophecies fail to manifest as predicted. Consequently, the only “new thing” that most Christian’s ever get is the promise of another “new thing” next New Year.

Prophets or Profits?

As you probe further into these “new thing” prophecies, many of them require that you pray and give financial offerings according to the prophet’s “new thing” formula. Generally, these formula’s go on to imply that, even though prayer is of foremost importance, it is actually the giver’s seed faith offering that releases the “new thing” in their lives.

This type of exploitation forces us to ask whether these ministers are prophets or profiteers. Most of them are incredibly nice people with sincere intentions. However, they fail to realize that they are exploiting the sheep in much the same manner that the rebellious prophets and shepherds of Israel did in their day (Ez. 34:1-6; Jer. 23:1-4, 9-40).

Matthew Henry’s Commentary best describes these ancient ministers as follows:

“All their care was to advance and enrich themselves and to make themselves great. ...they fed themselves, contrived every thing to gratify and indulge their own appetite, and to make themselves rich and great, fat and easy... They made sure of the fleece, and clothed themselves with the wool, getting into their hands as much as they could of the estates of their subjects...”

One of today’s prophetic groups takes the prophecies of others and republishes them on their website as fuel for promoting their own ministry. This scenario is similar to how Israel’s prophets borrowed each others prophecies to advance their own ministry agenda (Jer. 23:30).

“But there were false prophets, too, in those days, just as there will be false teachers among you.”

— 2 Pet. 2:1

Republishing other peoples prophecies is not a bad thing if they are kosher (biblical) and the purpose is to simply get the message out. However, this group goes on to sell books, tapes, DVDs, and miscellaneous Christian knick-knacks that appear to support a deeper experience of the prophetic revelation.

For example, this group started selling a “Third Heaven Anointing Oil” in tandem with prophecies they published on how God was going to start releasing “third heaven visions”. They go on to *imply* that the oil has special power, because it is made by a person who is under a special anointing when he puts it together.

Sadly, people who are just superstitious enough not only buy into this prophetic hocus pocus, but they start having “*false visions... in the deception of their own minds*” just like the rebellious prophets (Jer. 14:14 ^{KJV}). All of a sudden everyone is “*taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind*” that Paul warned us against (Col. 2:18 ^{NAS}). At this point they fall prey to a Gnostic spirit that is always prophesying some new esoteric revelation, where you have to give an offering or buy something to get it.

Their most recent product offer is a “Personal Survival Pack” for the low, low price of only \$29.95. This “Starter Kit” is being promoted in conjunction with numerous prophecies about end time calamities that are scheduled for the near future. How sad is this?

One of the major issues before the church today is whether this type of merchandising represents true prophetic ministry or ministry for profit? Based on Scripture, it appears to be a graphic example of what Peter was referring to when he said, “*These teachers in their greed will tell [or maybe even sell] you anything to get hold of your money*” (2 Pet. 2:4 ^{TLB}).

Most people fall for this misguided prophetic ministry, because they are still looking for God’s “new thing”. Yes, God promises a “new thing”, but prayer and financial giving are not the things that releases it. That’s because God’s “new thing” has always been tied to our loving obedience to Him and His Word. Consequently, when we return to Him with our whole heart and walk in His commandments, He releases a blessing instead of a curse. This has always been His “new thing” for us, and it is available anytime.

Another Year of War

Some other prophetic groups have prophesied that 2007 will be another year of war. No kidding? Even CNN predicted that one. In other words, making such an obvious prediction when world leaders have said we will be at war for many years, not only trivializes God’s prophetic word, but it makes us look foolish.

Some have tried to be more specific by prophesying that a devastating terrorist attack, which may or may not be nuclear, will hit America sometime this year. Similarly, there were numerous prophecies just like this for 2006 that never came to past. Generally, this type of “sometime, maybe, maybe not” prophecy is nothing more than a best guess prediction regarding something that could easily happen at anytime.

Sadly, these are examples of how rebellious leaders will prophesy from their own mind and then hope that their prophecies come true:

“They see falsehood and lying divination who are saying, ‘The LORD declares,’ when the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope for the fulfillment of their word.” (Ezekiel 13:6 ^{NAS})

Peace and Safety

On the flip side (or maybe it’s *The Far Side*), another prophet is saying that God is preparing for peace in the midst of war. He goes on to say that America is going to have Christian Presidents for the next 20 some years, which will bring great victory to America. Because of this, he says, America will not have another war for 22 years.

Not only does this contradict the prophets who are prophesying more war (which I agree with), but it flies in the face of the multiple wars that Bible prophecy predicts for this time. The reality is that America and the world are locked in the war (i.e. “*sword*”) of the “*fourth seal*” which will involve them in numerous military conflicts for years to come.

In addition to this, a well known Pastor is proclaiming his “Global P.E.A.C.E. Plan” which he predicts will solve “the five biggest problems in the world.” His goal is to recruit one billion Christians and network their churches/home groups together into a global humanitarian outreach. He says this work will

“Then the LORD said to me, ‘The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name.’”

— Jer. 14:14

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herald a worldwide “spiritual awakening” and a “new reformation” that will heal the nations.

Personally, I admire his heart and what he’s trying to do. The only problem is that his P.E.A.C.E. Plan is nothing more than a Christianized version of the U.N.’s “Millennium Development Plan”. Don’t get me wrong, humanitarian work is very biblical and much needed. However, any Peace Plan that fails to stress repentance from sin and a return to God’s commandments, is sure to be followed by judgment and wrath.

In fact, proclaiming “peace and safety” without true biblical repentance is exactly what the rebellious prophets were doing just before God released judgment on Israel.

“They keep saying to those who despise Me, ‘The LORD has said, “You will have peace”’; and as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart [*sin*], they say, ‘Calamity will not come upon you’ ...Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in wrath, even a whirling tempest; it will swirl down on the head of the wicked.” (Jeremiah 23:17, 19^{NAS})

Consequently, when we see church leaders proclaiming “peace” and safety” without repentance in the face of certain war, it is just another sign that the rebellious prophets have returned and destruction is at the door:

“For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-4^{NAS})

What we are witnessing is the classic fulfillment of end time Bible prophecy right before our very eyes. Fortunately, this is also the time when God sends the forerunner spirit of Elijah that confronts the erroneous teachings of the rebellious prophets and calls the people back to God’s Torah (1 Kgs. 18:21; Mal. 4:4-6).

It’s the end time “War of the Prophets” that I wrote about in November of 1999. However, God is going to turn the light of His Torah up a notch on them starting this year. Consequently, 2007 will begin a prophetic house cleaning that we will continue to explore next month as together we prepare the way of the Lord. **TER**

“While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child.”

—1 Thess. 5:3



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Preparing the way of the Lord

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“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth.’” —Isaiah 40:3-4^{NKJ}