

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.”
—Acts 17:11

Mysticism and the Coming World Religion—Part Three

T. A. McMahon

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Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.... Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

—EPHESIANS 6:13, 16-18

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

—ACTS 2:42

WHAT LIES AHEAD, according to the Scriptures, regarding the increasing development of mysticism today has been addressed in the previous two articles presented in April and May. That's one of the purposes of biblical prophecy: to have believers “take heed.” But being aware of what's coming is only part of what God would have us know. There is also the “what we are to *do*” part. And the good news is that He enables us by His grace and His Holy Spirit.

How we go about our life in Christ is critical. Whether in peace or persecution, in poverty or prosperity, in sickness or in health, our

condition cannot *determine* a response that keeps us from being fruitful, productive, and pleasing to the Lord. That certainly makes no sense to the world and, sadly, many Christians are confused by it. Yet that's the gist of John 10:10: “I [Jesus] am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” How can persecution, poverty, and sickness equate with an abundant life? That doesn't seem right, but perhaps one's definition of “abundantly” inhibits a correct biblical understanding of the word.

If we're thinking that the abundant life is one filled only with the physical pleasures and provisions of life to the suspension of things not so pleasant or seemingly favorable, we've misunderstood John 10:10 as well as other verses throughout Scripture. That erroneous mindset cannot reconcile the joy indicated in verses such as 2 Corinthians 7:4: “...I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation,” and 2 Corinthians 8:2: “How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.” Words such as “tribulation,” “trial of affliction,” and “deep poverty” seem at odds with “abundance” and may lead a person to a misunderstanding that could play havoc in a believer's life in Christ.

Jesus said, “Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets” (Luke 6:22-23). The point of bringing these verses to our attention is because as we draw closer to the return of Jesus

Christ, the obstacles, both physical and spiritual, will increase. Many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world are already undergoing horrendous persecution. Where that is limited, such as here in the West, spiritual deception and seduction are running rampant, thereby shipwrecking the faith of multitudes of believers. Ignorance of what the Scriptures teach is a major contributor to said conditions, but there are numerous verses that every biblical Christian needs to understand in order to successfully weather the trials and tribulations that will surely come.

The good news is that God has provided “abundantly” everything a true believer in Jesus needs in order to be fruitful in his or her life in Christ. The Apostle Peter wrote, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3). “All things” means *all things*, and therefore that must include spiritual protection in the days that Jesus characterized by declaring, “Take heed that no man deceive you,” and “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:4, 24). Furthermore, the good news is that the biblical prevention program against being led astray by the cunning deceits of the Adversary is neither complicated nor formidable. Here are the basic elements for preventing being deceived: the Word of God, prayer, and fellowship.

“All things” that the Lord has provided are empowered by the Holy Spirit and enabled through His grace. The preventative process against being spiritually duped isn’t complex, but it does demand a willing heart, a love of the truth, and the exercise of discipline. Avoiding being deceived or seduced by the apostasy must begin with the Word of God and our commitment to it, meaning a consistent reading of the Bible—daily. There is no better *habit* for the man, woman, and child of God. James gives the primary exhortation for that: “Submit

yourselves therefore to God” (James 4:7). That must include submitting ourselves to God’s instructions. Two things here: we can’t submit to instructions we haven’t read, and submission involves doing what God has instructed.

God’s Word has long been held as a Christian’s *authority*. Today, although many evangelicals profess that they do believe in the authority of Scripture in matters of faith and practice, in actuality, they *deny* them in practice. A young man who was a local leader in promoting the Emerging Church Movement came in to see me one day. Previous to that, I was praying about how I could explain some things to him and perhaps help him to get back on track with God’s Word.

As we were about to start our conversation, I said that I thought it would be very helpful if we acknowledged the spiritual authority to which we were each submitting. With my Bible squarely in front of him, I said, “This book is my authority. What’s your authority?” He looked around, and looked around, as though searching for a response, and then finally said, “My God is bigger than that book.” I wasn’t shocked by his answer because I’ve heard it a number of times. Nevertheless, I followed that by responding that he must therefore have *other authorities*, and who might they be in whom he was trusting in place of God? Needless to say, our “conversation” went nowhere worthwhile after that.

Most Christians tend to hang on to the belief in the authority of God’s Word, but functionally they bail out on it. That’s because they don’t really believe in the *sufficiency* of Scripture. That’s unfortunate. It’s also senseless. Why? Because anyone who claims to believe in the authority of God’s Word but denies its sufficiency means he doesn’t believe it has all the answers that it claims. Therefore, if a person feels he must go elsewhere for answers, he’s doing...what? He’s looking for another authority.

It should be obvious that not believing in the Bible’s sufficiency is a rejection of its authority. Again, the Bible makes it absolutely clear

regarding its sufficiency. Second Timothy 3:16-17 proclaims: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” These expressions—“inspiration,” being “profitable,” giving “instruction” in order to grow in maturity, and being “furnished” (equipped) for every good work—certainly confirm sufficiency. Ephesians 2:10 spells out a major reason for God making His Word sufficient for every believer: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” And by “*all things* that pertain unto life and godliness,” as we noted in Peter’s second epistle, Scripture is referring to all that is necessary to please God regarding things that have both temporal and eternal value. To what or to whom should a believer in Christ turn for that?

The daily habit of reading the Word of God, recognizing its sufficiency for our growth, maturity, fruitfulness—and then doing what it says by God’s enablement—is necessary for protection against spiritual deception. And that must be undergirded by prayer. “In every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Philippians 4:6).

Hopefully, we all realize that when the verse says “every thing,” it means *everything*. A number of years ago, I was in England with a couple of believers—guys I hadn’t met before. But after spending a few days with them, I was stunned by their approach to what we were doing: *they prayed about everything*. Although I wasn’t used to their zeal for prayer, the way they went about it reflected it as a seamless part of their lives. They prayed at the day’s beginning, prior to a drive to a meeting, for the spiritual blessing of the meeting, thanking the Lord at meals, praying for those we met along the way, and on and on. I found myself singing phrases from the hymn *What a friend we have in Jesus: All our sins and griefs to bear. What a*

privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. That experience with them got me both excited and re-invigorated about how important prayer is.

When I came out of the Roman Catholic Church and into a personal relationship with Jesus, it was difficult at first (on my part) to make that relationship truly *personal*. My early prayer life more closely reflected the rote prayers I had practiced for decades when Jesus was hardly a “friend” to me—certainly far less so than His mother. As the evangelical church of late has become enamored with the Church of Rome, many are practicing contemplative prayer, which has been a historic part of Catholicism from the Desert Fathers to the modern-day promotions of mystic priests such as Henri Nouwen and Thomas Merton. Although the claim is that contemplative prayer is more intimate and draws one closer to God, the reality is that it involves hundreds of vain repetitions of phrases and singular words, a process that is condemned in Scripture (Matthew 6:7-8) and renders intelligent communication totally absurd.

Biblical prayer, on the other hand, consists of a believer’s personal communication with his Creator. Although fully God, Jesus is also fully Man. He demonstrated the intimate relationship we are to have with Him and with God the Father in numerous ways. For example, we read that He withdrew from the crowds in order to commune with His Father: “And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.” And at times He “continued all night in prayer” (Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12). Prayer, according to the Scriptures, is set forth as an imperative for the believer. We are to pray “without ceasing,” “always,” “exceedingly,” “night and day,” regarding whatever conditions beset us. We are to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ (Romans 15:30), for our rulers, as well as for our enemies (1 Timothy 2:1-2; Luke 6:27-28). The simple reason that biblical prayer is so important is that we cannot do anything that has eternal

value except by God's grace, and that is mostly received through prayer.

Specific to spiritual protection, we are exhorted to pray "always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Ephesians 6:18). The Apostle Paul asked for prayer "that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men..." declaring that "the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil" (2 Thessalonians 3:1-3). Moreover, and better yet, we have Jesus, who prayed for Peter that his faith would not fail (Luke 22:32), and who now is at the right hand of the Father making "intercession for the saints" (Romans 8:27, 34)!

Another necessary element in regard to preventing being seduced or deceived by the increasing apostasy may be the most difficult one to satisfy or maintain. It has to do with fellowship. Scripture declares "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

Those verses give simple insight as to how we should go about dealing with these troubling times that aggressively oppose the Bible's instructions for living our lives in a way that is pleasing to the Lord. Fellowship with like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ is a major part of the Lord's instructions, given for our protection, strengthening, and fruitfulness. Ecclesiastes implies that those who disdain fellowship have put themselves into a weak and vulnerable position: "Two are better

than one.... For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." A believer who has no one to support him spiritually will find himself in trouble sooner or later. When any of us gets knocked down spiritually, we need a fellow believer to help us up—mentally, emotionally, and, most important, *spiritually*.

As for those who declare, "The Lord is all we need," too often, their subsequent thinking is out of line with God's Word. Jesus said in Luke 6:46, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" We as believers need to "circle our wagons" now and in the days ahead. Our best option is in a church fellowship, supporting the leadership that is steadfast and staying the course of God's Word, and especially—*serving the body*. When that isn't an option, we must ask the Lord to help us to find another committed believer or believers with whom we may have a Bible study, with whom we can pray, with whom we might minister to one another, encourage one another, and with whom we can gather together for doctrinal discernment and spiritual fortification. "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." First and foremost, that third strand must be the Lion of Judah, the Lamb of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus himself.

In summary, the Word of God, prayer, and fellowship are the biblical keys empowered by God's grace for a believer's spiritual protection. By His grace, may we be motivated to make these a priority as we observe the spiritual darkness that is overtaking the world around us.

TBC

QUOTABLE

“Take care that you abide in Christ when you are being purged. ‘Oh,’ says one, ‘I thought I was a Christian. But alas! I have more troubles than ever. Men ridicule me, the devil tempts me, and my business affairs go wrong.’ Brother, sister, if you are to have power in prayer, you must take care that you abide in Christ when the sharp knife is cutting everything away. Endure trial and never dream of giving up your faith because of it. Say, ‘Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him’ (Job 13:15).”

—CHARLES SPURGEON

Q&A

QUESTION: I believe that you sometimes add to the Word of God to make your point. For example, to Daniel 9:27 you added the words, “breaking the covenant.” This concept is in no way found in the original text. To Daniel 8:25 you added the words “at the Second Coming” to make this appear to be a prophecy concerning a future Antichrist. Here again, there is nothing in the text about the Second Coming of Christ; you had to add to the Word of God to try to make it appear plausible.

RESPONSE: Your claim that I added to God’s Word is most serious. I would never do so. The words you say I added are in brackets, which you surely know indicates a commentary that is not part of the quotation. Comments, interpretations, and observations regarding Scripture are a normal part of teaching, not additions to God’s Word.

You say Christ confirmed a covenant with Israel for Daniel’s 70th week. What covenant? In the midst of the week He “caused the sacrifice and oblation to cease”? When did that happen? “He,” in Daniel 9:27, can only refer to the nearest previous person, “the prince that shall come” after Messiah is cut off (v. 26), whose people would “destroy the city and the

sanctuary”—a prophecy of the Roman destruction of AD 70. Titus could not have been the “prince that shall come” because he made no such covenant. This must refer to Antichrist. It certainly was not fulfilled by Christ during His earthly ministry. I am not reading into this passage something that isn’t there.

Logically, “the sacrifice and the oblation” could not be “caused to cease” had they not been resumed upon the rebuilding of the temple by the imposition (the meaning of the Hebrew) of the covenant for the 70th week. None of this has happened, and certainly not during Christ’s earthly ministry. I am not “adding to the Word of God” in coming to this conclusion, but it follows as a reasonable commentary upon these scriptures.

When did “Antiochus Epiphanes in the second century BC,” as you claim, “stand up against the Prince of princes [i.e., Christ]” and was “broken without hand” (Daniel 8:25)? It didn’t happen. Disagree with me if you wish, but I did not add to God’s Word when I simply indicated that this must be Antichrist’s being destroyed by Christ in the Second Coming. “Without hand” is surely a reference to the “stone...cut out without hands” that destroys the image and becomes the mountain that fills the whole earth and is the kingdom established by Christ (2:34-45) at His Second Coming. It certainly hasn’t happened yet and can only be a future event.

QUESTION: I have not heard an explanation of Matthew 27:52-53 for a long time and have never heard or read a reasonable one. Who were those “saints” who came out of the graves in resurrected bodies and “went into the holy city and appeared to so many”?

RESPONSE: We must accept at face value what is said and interpret it within the context of the rest of Scripture. The Roman Catholic Church was not yet in existence and had not yet begun the unscriptural practice of giving certain persons the title of “saint” years after their deaths. All believers, living or dead, are saints according to Scripture. The epistles are addressed to “the

saints at Corinth...at Colosse...at Philippi,” etc. The “saints” mentioned here were obviously Old Testament believers such as Abraham or Joseph. We are not told which ones.

The Scripture neither says nor implies a temporary resurrection, with these people dying again. It must have been a special foretaste of the resurrection of “the dead in Christ” yet to come. They did not “come out of the graves” until “after his resurrection.” We don’t know how long they stayed in “the holy city” appearing to believers, but it must have been for only a short time.

These resurrected saints must have been taken to heaven by Christ in their glorified bodies soon after His resurrection. This may have occurred when he emptied that part of Hades known as “Abraham’s bosom” (Luke 16:22) and took the souls and spirits of the believers waiting there to His Father’s house (Ps. 68:18; Eph 4:8, Heb 6:20). Believers who die today go instantly to heaven, as the scripture reads: “absent from the body, present with the Lord” (2 Cor 5:6-8), to await the resurrection of their bodies. These few saints have already been resurrected with glorified bodies.

Matthew 27:52-53, while unusual, is also not a major one, nor offered as proof of the resurrection, or we would read more about such appearances. It was a sign to those who saw these “saints,” but not to us, because we’re given so little information. So what is the value for us today? Their resurrection along with Christ, together with the clear indication in Hebrews 11:13-16 that the Old Testament saints are heavenly citizens of the new Jerusalem and share the “perfection” we will experience (v. 40), answers an important question. Perhaps Old Testament believers who looked forward to the cross of Christ (“...Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad” [John 8:56]) are made partakers of the resurrection of Christ and will be raised with the New Testament saints (who look back to the Cross) at the Rapture and

caught up into heaven at that time as part of the church. There is no indication in Scripture of any other time when they are resurrected.

QUESTION: The magazine of *The American Bible Society* once had an article titled, “Adam and Eve in the Garden of Truth,” which presented the story of the Garden of Eden as a myth. The article, written by Barclay M. Newman, the then-senior translations officer for the American Bible Society, said that “Genesis offers no hint that the narrative of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was intended literally as a ‘true story.’” Do you have any comments?

RESPONSE: For something that isn’t “true” to express the “truth,” it would have to be a parable. There is no hint that any part of Genesis is intended as a parable or anything less than literal history. Nor is there any hint in scripture that the story of the creation of Adam and Eve is not literally true. Christ certainly believed it was true, and if He was wrong on that, why believe anything else He said?

Adam is mentioned about 30 times in 10 books of the Bible. Nowhere is there the slightest suggestion that what is stated about him is not literally true. If death was here before Adam (through evolution, etc.) and was not the direct result of his sin and God’s judgment upon it (as the Bible clearly states), then the gospel is not true. As soon as one begins to “adjust” Genesis to accommodate science (as has been done, for example, by *Christianity Today*, and others who accept theistic evolution), the Bible ceases to be God’s authoritative Word.

That the *American Bible Society* should reject the literal accuracy of part of the Bible is no surprise. Anti-Christian occultist, Sir John Marks Templeton, founder of the Templeton Award for Progress in Religion, was on its Board of Managers for 15 years. That fact may say more about the leadership of that Society than the quoted article.

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LETTERS

Dear TBC,

I have read so many comments and I said it before: what religion would Satan want to give the biggest black eye to? The True One of course! I am no theologian but I believe that on both sides those who are true believers will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Can’t remember verbatim, but I read that it was good that America had so many different denominations because it stopped us from having a national church which would have brought us right back to what we escaped from! Absolute power tends to corrupt in most things and Christianity is not immune! That is, at least until Christ sets up his eternal kingdom where there will be no more sin! MC (email)

NOTE:

Our purpose in this section is to simply show what kind of feedback we receive.

We may respond to some of them in private whether or not we agree with their views.

Dear TBC,

The KJV is the Word of God. But if someone doesn’t read a KJV it doesn’t mean they are not saved. I think it would be wise to research and study the difference of this issue. Most people are at our church because we use the KJV only to teach. Those people were right, but they probably didn’t go about it right. I have sat in churches that don’t use the KJV; they are watered down. Our missionaries use the KJV to translate into different languages because it’s the Word of God. Also a leader in another country wanted KJV Bibles only for all their students in their schools because they know the difference. You’re wrong about the other versions—they are corrupt and written from Alexandria, Egypt, from occultists Westcott and Hort which ALL new versions came

from. Praise the Lord, our church teaches from King James only. KW (email)

NEWSWATCH

TEXAS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT CANCELS DRAG SHOW

THECOLLEGEFIX.COM, 3/22/23, “TEXAS UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT CANCELS DRAG SHOW, CALLS IT ‘DEMEANING’ TO WOMEN” [EXCERPTS]: The president of West Texas A&M University has canceled a drag show planned for March 31 on his campus, arguing...drag shows are “demeaning” to women and “demoralizing misogyny.”

President Walter Wendler goes into great detail in his nearly 750-word letter sent March 20 explaining why he canceled the event, arguing “every human being is created in the image of God.”

The decision has prompted protests on campus and a petition to reinstate the event. The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression has also called on the university to reschedule the drag show.

[Wendler notes] “Does a drag show preserve a single thread of human dignity? I think not. As a performance exaggerating aspects of womanhood (sexuality, femininity, gender), drag shows stereotype women in cartoon-like extremes for the amusement of others and discriminate against womanhood. Any event which diminishes an individual or group through such representation is wrong.”

(<https://bit.ly/3V2rczi>)

NEANDERTHAL CRAB BAKE

ICR.ORG, 3/9/23, “NEANDERTHAL CRAB BAKE” [EXCERPTS]: The evolutionary science community said it perfectly in their headlines: “Proof that Neanderthals ate crabs is another ‘nail in the coffin’ for primitive cave dweller stereotypes.”

Creationists maintain there are monkeys

and great apes (orangutans, gorillas and chimpanzees), and there are people. Neanderthals have always been human. “A study published in *Frontiers in Environmental Archaeology* shows that 90,000 years ago, these Neanderthals were cooking and eating crabs.” While creationists openly question how long ago evolutionists state this event happened, they see Neanderthals seeking, cooking, and eating crabs just like any people group today.

The evidence indicated to [Dr. Mariana Nabais of the Catalan Institute of Human Paleoecology and Social Evolution (IPHES-CERCA), lead author of the study] and her colleagues that Neanderthals weren’t just harvesting the crabs, they were roasting them.... “Our results add an extra nail to the coffin of the obsolete notion that Neanderthals were primitive cave dwellers who could barely scrape a living off scavenged big-game carcasses,” said Nabais.

In fact, evolutionists think these people “may have spiced up menus with wild herbs.”

The authors cautioned that it was impossible to know why Neanderthals chose to harvest crabs or whether they attached any significance to consuming crabs....

A cursory look at the popularity (and expense) of seafood today might lead one to surmise that Neanderthals ate crabs...because they taste good?

(<https://bit.ly/3LrfP0M>)

A BRIEF WORD ON PAGANICON

MIDWESTOUTREACH.ORG, 3/23/23, “A BRIEF WORD ON PAGANICON” [EXCERPTS]: According to the Chairman of Twin Cities Pagan Pride &

Paganicon, there were about 1,000 registrations [for 2023] and they have already set the date for 2024.

Several of us were there, including [someone] who was involved with Eastern religions prior to coming to faith. He has a passion for the lost and a love for missionary endeavors to non-Christian religions.

I thought this one item would be interesting to anyone whose churches promote Contemplative Prayer. In one of the workshops, “Shamanic Journeying,” the presenter was going through a checklist of what to do

and what to expect while in the spiritual state of Journeying. She mentioned that any[one] present who has practiced “Contemplative Meditation” would be familiar with what would occur.

I posed the question of what happens if someone comes in contact with an evil spirit. Her response was that wouldn’t happen because “we call on a spirit guide to protect us while we are in the journeying meditation.”

It is interesting that Richard Foster gives the same warning in *PRAYER: Contemplative Prayer—A Warning and a Precaution* to those who engage in Contemplative Prayer: “I also want to give a word of precaution. In the silent contemplation of God we are entering deeply into the spiritual realm, and there is such a thing as supernatural guidance that is not divine guidance.”

Pagans would be quite comfortable in many Evangelical churches today. There is little difference in practices.

(<https://bit.ly/3oIknXA>)

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

TBC NOTES

“I the LORD Thy God Am a Jealous God”

The jealousy of God is a perfectly righteous jealousy. He does not want those whom He loves to be deceived and led away by that which is not true to His Word, to His truth, and to His character.

How serious a matter is this? Nahum 1:2 makes it very clear: “God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.”

To Ezekiel we’re told, “And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; *where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy*” (Ezekiel 8:3—emphasis added).

The prophet Ezekiel is given a vision of Jerusalem in which the leaders are practicing idolatry “in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery” (v. 12). That brings to mind the environment of today’s movie theaters as well as a connection between the emotional and seductive power of the film medium and this idolatrous worship. “Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD’s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for [the idol] Tammuz” (v. 14).

Perhaps my professional background in the motion picture business has me reading too much into Ezekiel’s vision of idolatry. Nevertheless, I believe the issue of God being provoked to *jealousy* by His biblical

truth being replaced by man-made images, words, actors, and *fables* (2 Timothy 4:4) is hardly speculation.

To further underscore my point, compare what’s taking place in *The Chosen* with a scenario *I made up* about the love of my life for 54 years: “Peg of my heart.” Let’s say my wallet drops to the floor and as Peg picks it up it flips open revealing a photo of the very popular singer Carrie Underwood.

Surprised, she asks, “What’s this?” Quickly I offer her a rather weak and consciousness-stricken reply: “It’s Carrie Underwood.”

“I know who it is. What I want to know is what is her picture doing in your wallet?”

“Peg, I have her picture there...because... well...because—she reminds me of you.”

If that answer strikes you as being ludicrous, it’s actually commonplace among multitudes of professing and true Christians who were (and are) bewitched by *The Chosen’s* portrayals of Jesus and his disciples. Many were also attracted to the physical attributes of the actors and actresses: their eyes, their voices, their humor, and a host of other “relatability” characteristics foreign to what the Bible presents. Many claim the images and voices of the actors even flood their minds during their prayer time.

The continual refrain from the Mormon producers and the professing evangelical writer/director (Dallas Jenkins) of *The Chosen* is that it will strengthen the viewers faith in the Bible. That’s the equivalent of believing *fake news* will hasten the belief in the integrity of today’s newscasts.

To those evangelical shepherds who are tragically promoting *The Chosen* among their sheep, I strongly recommend their reviewing the verses that declare God’s jealousy, especially Nahum 1:2 quoted above.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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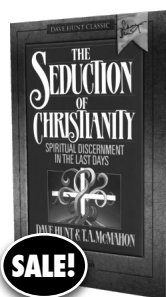
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