The Perfect Spiritual Storm Looming
T. A. McMahon

Perfect storm defined: a mixture of seemingly varied events that converge together creating a greater magnitude of devastation.

I REMEMBER AS though it were yesterday a conversation I had with Dave Hunt not too long after he had moved to Bend, Oregon. He wanted me to move to Bend also that we might continue communicating with those who had responded favorably to the book I’d had the privilege of co-authoring with him, The Seduction of Christianity. That book and many of his later books, articles, and sermons gave insights into most of the things that would prove to be portents of the developing apostasy that we see moving ahead at overwhelming speed and in wide circulation today.

In our 25 years of ministering through The Berean Call, we have extensively covered various aspects of the apostasy. Although some of the highly promoted deviations from Scripture have had their heyday and then appeared to have faded, in fact they have simply undergone alterations, changed players, assimilated other heresies, adjusted to the times, and become more devious, i.e., hidden in plain sight. One example of this is the Word/Faith Movement (W/FM). The popular leaders of days past included Oral Roberts, Kenneth Hagin, Sr., Charles Capps, David (formerly Paul) Yonggi Cho, and Gloria and Kenneth Copeland. The Copelands are still around, along with their followers, and are promoting the same false teaching, but the W/FM has expanded to the Faith Healing Movement, the Prosperity Teachings, the Positive Confession Movement, and the Inner Healing Movement, all of which have been raised to a new level of sophistication as major tactics of the Adversary. These perversions of the Word of God originated when Satan deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden (Gen 3:1) with his words, “Yea, hath God said…?” Questioning and then repudiating what God has declared has been Satan’s strategy from the beginning and will continue until he is thrown into the Lake of Fire.

That Deceiver and Father of Lies has also employed a host of seemingly diverse deceptions that are nevertheless connected. The Word/Faith teachings are not merely a perversion of biblical faith, but they are of late gleaned from the mind science cults, with concepts that go back to Hinduism and other Eastern mystical religions. The teachings of this movement are found within Transcendentalism and New Thought, as well as the writings of Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Mary Baker Eddy’s Christian Science and Helena Blavatsky’s Theosophical Society brought Eastern spiritual beliefs into mainstream America.

E. W. Kenyon (1867-1948) is said to be the father of the Word/Faith Movement. Many of his teachings were the product of his New England education at The Emerson School of Oratory, a hot bed of Transcendental philosophy. Some authors, such as Thoreau, gleaned beliefs from the Bhagavad-Gita, the Vedas, and other sacred Hindu texts. Kenyon’s writings and preaching were a mixture of religious science, godhood for humanity, and the Scriptures, all of which became foundational to the myriad of W/FM-connected offerings.

The relationship to Eastern mysticism is irrefutable. Hinduism, Buddhism, and other Eastern religions teach that the physical world is maya, an illusion, and thus can be manipulated by various techniques: thinking (meditation, mind power), speaking (mantras), and imagery (visualization). The supreme deity of Hinduism is an impersonal god—a spiritual energy of which everything consists. That energy force is positive and negative (yin and yang) and can be controlled by the gods, i.e., all humans. Self-realization—to realize one’s own godhood—is the goal of yoga.

Even a cursory review of the Word/Faith teachings reveals its clear connection to pagan and occult origins. Terms such as positive confession, faith as a power, negative thinking, speaking forth healing, commanding wealth, visualizing what’s being prayed for, realizing that humans are gods under God, and the like, abound in this movement that has corrupted the biblical doctrine of faith for millions. The latest development among W/FM adherents is the New Apostolic Reformation agenda, which claims to produce new Apostles and Prophets who will take over the world and turn it into a paradise, setting up Christ’s kingdom before He can return from heaven. They will minister in power as gods.

These heresies are being taught to the upcoming generation of Christian youth at schools connected with Mike Bickle’s International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Missouri, and Bill Johnson’s Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry in Redding, California, and their worldwide satellites.

Also related to the beliefs of the Word/Faith Movement is the teaching of Positive Mental Attitude and Possibility Thinking brought into the church primarily by Norman Vincent Peale and Robert Schuller and advanced by “Christian” business organizations such as Amway and Mary Kay Cosmetics. Among Peale’s numerous false teachings is his endorsement of occult visualization as a biblical prayer technique; Schuller championed the building of one’s self-esteem (as presented in his book Self-Esteem: The New Reformation, which was sent out to 250,000 pastors) as the primary objective of his psychologized gospel. Peale was instrumental in ushering in psychology as a means of counseling in the church, which then paved the way for the practitioners of so-called Christian psychology, whose major therapeutic methodology is the unbiblical doctrine of self-love.

As I move on to psychology, I hope you are seeing the links between the beliefs and practices that I’ve mentioned thus far. All these things have been documented in the books, articles, videos, radio programs, and talks that Dave and I have presented over the years and are archived on TBC’s website. What then of psychology? An editor for Psychology Today declared that Eastern mysticism would come to the West through the teachings of psychology. Although there are more than 50 different fields of psychology, together they pale in influence when compared to psychotherapy or psychological counseling. Though posing as science, secular researchers tell us that the methods used in psychotherapy are little different from those used by shamans and
wrestling with the Devil. Psychology’s spirit connection is most blatant in the field of transpersonal psychology, also known as spiritual psychotherapy. Its relationship to Eastern mysticism is undeniable. Yoga meditation, which has overtaken the West since the 1970s, has been incorporated into psychotherapeutic programs such as MindUp and Mindfulness and touted as a cure-all for life’s various problems. It is claimed that these programs are especially helpful for children.

The answers to life’s questions, we are told, are found by looking within, delving into the subconscious where the true self is found. Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung taught that it is in the subconscious where everything that has happened in one’s life resides, and those events psychically determine every aspect of that life. It is the supposed workings of the subconscious that offer a pseudo-scientific explanation for what Hindu yogis have taught for thousands of years as karma and reincarnation.

Psychology’s salvation for humanity is rooted in “self,” and its self-actualization concept is the same as the self-realization belief of Hinduism. Both have the ultimate goal of the deification of humans and the worship of self. This should come as no surprise for the biblical Christian, because the Bible tells us that self-delusion began with Lucifer in heaven, and he brought it to earth in his deception of Eve (Isaiah 14:12-14; Genesis 3:1-5). Furthermore, Scripture tells us that the demonically possessed Antichrist will “sit in the temple of God, [showing] himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4). That’s the Lie.

“The Lie” takes on many forms, some far less obvious than what’s been described. Yet they can all be recognized by asking this simple question: Does what is being presented involve man displacing God by endeavoring to save himself, whether by fixing his temporal issues or securing his eternal destiny? Whatever contributes to those objectives is a form of “works salvation,” i.e., man playing God. Every religious belief system (including atheism) other than biblical Christianity is an attempt made by humanity to save itself without the help of the true and living God. Saving mankind is something that only Jesus Christ can do. Scripture calls humanity’s rebellious attempt at salvation the broad way that leads to destruction, which, tragically, many will follow (Matthew 7:13).

The lie of godhood is found in some form in all that has been noted above and in much more than this brief article can cover. It’s important, however, to have given some details to prove the Satanic connection between these numerous diverse movements. Why? Because they will converge in these last days prior to the Lord’s return for His bride and will be firmly established after the church is removed. At present, cries for unity and oneness abound, declaring that we are all connected. Their mutual beliefs and practices are components that will come together forming the perfect storm of godlessness—the religion of the Antichrist.

If the church will be removed in the Rapture (which it will!), why should we be concerned about a religion that will come together after believers are removed? First of all, the religion of the Antichrist doesn’t pop up overnight. It’s been in the works since Satan deceived Eve in the Garden. Secondly, Jesus gave the answer to His disciples when they asked about the End Times. He characterized those times by saying, “Take heed that no man deceive you” (Matthew 24:4-5). That deception about which He warned His disciples has two consequences: 1) It hinders the lost from turning to the Lord, and 2) It prevents believers from being fruitful and productive. Regarding the latter, all believers have been saved unto (not by) good works, and, in the Lord’s words, we are to “bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:8).

So it would seem that diverting or wrecking a believer’s good works is Satan’s only effective stratagem against the Lord’s bride. This ploy is found in some “Christian” agendas that have duped believers into supporting programs that, in fact, contribute to setting up Christ’s kingdom before the King himself returns. A number of very influential yet diverse programs today are attempting to do that very thing in the camps of the Kingdom Dominionists, the Amillennialists, and the Ecumenists. The Bible’s timeline of events to come clearly reveals that the kingdom that will emerge following the Rapture of the church is the kingdom of the Antichrist, and thus all believers who are presently caught up in those un biblical programs today are unwittingly and unfruitfully serving the cause of the Adversary.

It is hoped that everyone reading this is aware that conditions in the world and especially in the church have changed dramatically over the last two decades. The warnings presented in the book of Acts, in 1 & 2 Timothy, Jude, 1 & 2 Peter, and the first three chapters of Revelation, have been blatantly manifested. Verses that prophesy “when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?”; “the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine… and they shall turn away their ears from the truth…”; “in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves…”; “grievous wolves shall enter in among you… Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Luke 18:8; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:1-2; Acts 20:29-30). In my four decades as a believer involved in observing, speaking, and writing about issues that have adversely affected the body of Christ, those verses, among so many more that could be given, seem like understatements—a high tide compared to the spiritually dark tsunami we are presently experiencing. Could a revival forestall the flood? That’s not impossible with God, but there is neither any hint of collective repentance in the world or in the church nor is there prophetic scripture to support such a hope. Therefore the apostasy will continue unabated.

How then should we deal with it? We at The Berean Call see our function as workers in a rescue operation, praying that our materials reach those “who [have] ears to hear… if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth” (Mark 7:16; 2 Timothy 2:25). We want to get information regarding discernment issues to our brothers and sisters in Christ, especially encouraging one another to hold up to the light of God’s Word what they are being taught. As for those in leadership positions, we want to support them as they deal with specific erroneous doctrines and practices, influential false teachers, and extra-biblical trends and agendas that can enter into a fellowship. Our heart is with Paul’s exhortation to the Ephesian elders: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).

To this end we have developed a new “Topics” section on our website that features 25-plus years of archived resource materials. It may be accessed at www.thebereancall.org. Just click on “Topics” at the top of the page. There you’ll find a list of subjects with which we have dealt over the years, along with links to newsletters, Q&As, radio programs, and more, for each topic.

If you don’t have access to our website, we haven’t forgotten you! In July we plan to release our first printed “Topics” booklets. They will contain much of the same information presented on our website in an abbreviated but comprehensive format. Booklets on Mysticism, Hebrew Roots, and the Emerging Church are in the works now and, the Lord willing, will be followed by a host of other subjects. We want these inexpensive little booklets to be a great resource for those who seek information, enabling them to quickly get up to speed on a specific issue, or to share with someone else. We’re hopeful that we can become more effective in our desire to assist the body of Christ, especially those who have been called to be shepherds and are ministering to the Lord’s sheep. We covet your prayers for this endeavor.

TBC
QUESTION: We are studying angels in a Bible study at our church. The question of who or what demons are came up and the teacher said that they are not fallen angels. We were under the impression that they are. Your help would be most appreciated.

RESPONSE: We agree with you that demons are fallen angels. That conclusion cannot be avoided, particularly since we know that Satan was once an angel (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:14-17), is a spirit being, and has been called the tempter, the adversary, that great dragon, and other similar titles. Further, according to Scripture, angels are spirit beings, intelligent, and have wills. They have personalities and are immortal and powerful.

The Scriptures also speak of fallen angels (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 12:7-9). “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” When God created angels, they were “good” because all creation was good (Genesis 1:31). The King James Version uses the word “devils” to describe these demonic beings who are commonly called “demons” in other translations.

With this in mind, the Lord Jesus said in Matthew 25:41: “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Speaking of Satan, Paul described him in Ephesians 2:2 as a spirit who works within “the children of disobedience.” In the New Testament, a number of cases of demonic possession or oppression are highlighted.

The Scriptures warn us concerning the devil and his tactics. Second Corinthians 11:13-15 reveals that one of the adversary’s favorite roles is to present himself as an angel of light. Paul further warned us in Galatians 1:8 that, “...though we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” Devils (demons) are fallen angels.

QUESTION: Some believe Jesus is Michael the Archangel in Daniel 12:1 and other verses of the Bible. I would like to know where this teaching came from.

RESPONSE: Biblical speculation, like everything else, falls under the category of being “nothing new under the sun.” More recently, of course, this teaching has become common among Seventh-day Adventists. In Patriarchs and Prophets, written in 1890 by the SDA “prophetess,” Ellen G. White wrote, “Again: Christ is called the Word of God. John 1:1-3. He is so called because God gave His revelations to man in all ages through Christ. It was His Spirit that inspired the prophets. 1 Peter 1:10, 11. He was revealed to them as the Angel of Jehovah, the Captain of the Lord’s host, Michael the Archangel” (p. 761).

White isn’t the earliest writer to promote this teaching, however. Isaac Watts, writer of many beloved hymns, wrote on page 223 in The Glory of Christ as God-Man (published 1795, but clearly written before his death in 1748), “And may not Christ himself be this Michael the Archangel, the Prince of Israel? It has been observed by some writers, that the scripture never speaks of archangels in the plural number; perhaps there is but one archangel and that is Christ.”

The issue is further complicated because on page 224 Isaac Watts comments that some (unnamed writers or preachers) believed that the angel appearing to the prophet Daniel was not Gabriel. Rather, he was “Christ.” And Watts doesn’t appear to be giving his own theological opinion but is passing on what he has read or heard elsewhere. It has been also pointed out that John Calvin was discussing this teaching 200 years prior to the time of Watts.

So, is there any truth to the idea that Michael the archangel is just another name for the Lord Jesus Christ? No! Hebrews 1:8-14, speaking of the Son, specifically contrasts Jesus with the angels and very bluntly asks, “but to which of the angels said he at any time, ‘Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?’ Are they not all [my emphasis] ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

The Lord Jesus directly rebukes Satan, as recorded in Matthew chapter 4 regarding the account of the temptation in the wilderness. In contrast, “Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil...durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee” (Judg. 9).

Speaking of His humanity and His relationship with the Father, the Scriptures declare that Jesus was made “a little lower than the angels; thou crownest him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands” (Hebrews 2:7). All the angels (Michael included) are part of “the works of thy hands.” Jesus, on the other hand, is the only begotten (not created) son of the Father (John 1:14; 3:16). When the Father brought His only begotten son into the world, He said, “And let all the angels of God worship him” (Hebrews 1:6).

QUESTION: What does “complete unity” mean in John 17:23? Does complete unity mean unity on the essentials such as the Trinity, Salvation by Grace Alone, and the Resurrection of Jesus? Or does it speak of unity on “non-essentials” also?

RESPONSE: Thank you for your question regarding what “complete unity” in John chapter 17 means. John 17:23 reads, “I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

The comparison is that since Jesus is “in them” and the Father is in Him, thus the outcome is that “they may [all] be made perfect in one.” This clearly involves more than an agreement on “essentials.” Rather, it speaks of a progressive unity that may only be reached when we leave this world (through death or the Rapture), which is the same agreement that the Son has with the Father. First John 3:2 tells us, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

Of that event, 1 Corinthians 15:52 says, “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

We shall be changed, and in that changing we shall move beyond the limitations of our life here, which is greatly influenced by the “flesh.” Although the prayer of Jesus will be answered fully in that we shall have perfect agreement and unity with every member of the Body of Christ, in the meantime our focus remains upon our... “endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).
Dear Berean Call,

Thank you for your ministry and being so faithful to God’s Word. Last Christmas, we purchased and sent out 200 copies of Death of a Guru by Rabi Maharaj. Just recently we received a text from someone who had just finished the book. They were so convicted by Rabi Maharaj. Just recently we received a text from a Guru of some specific brothers. Your discussions on the Hebrew Roots here at this unit and have been a bit concerned about the practices interest to me, because I often attend the “Messianic” services opportunity to read a couple of your recent newsletters (part I and II of the Hebrew Roots movement), and greatly enjoyed them. TheTo whom it may concern,

Greetings in the name of our Loving Father! I’ve had the prayer, and have been a bit concerned about the practices of some specific brothers. Your discussions on the Hebrew Roots movement has provided me with some much needed enlightenment, as well as some knowledge to assist me in ministering to those who are walking in obvious confusion. AR (TX, prisoner)

Dear TBC,

We preach Christ crucified because it brings believers back to the Cross and the real Lord Jesus Christ. Then the Holy Spirit can work mightily in one’s life (Romans 8:2). It wouldn’t hurt to wrap your messages around the Gospel. Sometimes you have, but not every time [do you] put the message of the Cross in. It’s the Power of God. GB (CA)

Dear Brothers and Sisters at the Berean Call,

With all that’s going on in the world right now and getting worse (such as the anti-Christian legislation in Russia), all the abortions in the USA, taxes so high that elderly folks can’t stay in their homes, and the passing of legal use of drugs here and in Israel…with no end to the evil increasing, continue to preach the word of Jesus with all your might. Darker days are coming and time is short. Even so, come Lord Jesus. TD (PA)

To whom it may concern,

Greetings in the name of our Loving Father! I’ve had the opportunity to read a couple of your recent newsletters (part I and II of the Hebrew Roots movement), and greatly enjoyed them. The content and subject matter of those particular issues were of great interest to me, because I often attend the “Messianic” services here at this unit and have been a bit concerned about the practices of some specific brothers. Your discussions on the Hebrew Roots

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To give any kind of prediction about world events apart from the Scripture is to practice a form of religious insanity that serves only to confuse people, who then finally give up and say, “I can’t understand prophecy; I guess it’s not for me.” Any prediction of our Lord’s return that relies on education or technology is sure to be wrong and leads only to discouragement, and finally to abandonment of what the Bible has to say about Jesus’ return. The Blessed Hope is for the believer, and it brings comfort, assurance, and confidence to the heart of the believer in the midst of this world’s turmoil. Our focus is not on the calamity around us, but on His glorious coming. Prophecy is not for the critical or curious eye, but for that eye focused on and looking for the Lord Jesus Christ, the Coming One.

Therefore, the point of Bible prophecy is not to alarm us but to alert us to circumstances leading up to the Lord’s return. This alertness is to spur us on to be ready; and the Bible says a lot about how we can be ready for His return.

—A. W. Tozer in Preparing for Jesus’ Return
MARCH FOR ‘SCIENCE’

ICR.ORG, 5/4/17, “March for ‘Science’”
[Excerpts]: On Saturday, April 22, 2017, a group of people claiming to represent science marched in Washington D.C. and 600 other cities around the world.

So what did the March for Science hope to accomplish? Apparently they intended to eliminate opposition to Darwinian evolution and man-made climate change. They consider these two contentions to be scientific fact. But [they] state that they’re interested in evidence-based policy and regulations, science education based on the weight of evidence, and free exchange of scientific research (i.e., no gag rules on scientists). Other ideas they express are political and appear to attempt to establish scientists as a special group not subject to the vagaries of economic downturns as common citizens are, yet thoroughly subject to the whims of the ruling elite.

Organizers [of the march] claim they are against political interference in science, and yet they lobby the political establishment to prevent discourse or the teaching of any ideas contrary to the current dogmas of evolution and man-made climate change—a clear contradiction of their stated goals.

(https://goo.gl/pjCPUh)

HOW EUTHANASIA TURNS CULTURE UPSIDE-DOWN

ONENewsNow.com, 4/24/17, “How Euthanasia Turns Culture Upside-Down”
[Excerpts]: An article in the Journal of the American Medical Association takes a look at euthanasia in Belgium and the Netherlands from the standpoint of organ donations. But although the practice has only been legal in Canada for a year, organ donations from patients who have been euthanized are already occurring.

Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition [says] his concern is the culture shift. “What happens is people start saying to you, ‘Well, why aren’t you giving your organs for organ donation?’ But then the other big change that occurs after that is that you then soon have organ donation by euthanasia,” he warns.

“We have a situation where people are viewing everything in an upside-down fashion, so now euthanasia’s become a good thing rather than a sad situation,” says Schadenberg. “And we’re creating more and more pressure, and they’re saying, ‘This is all about choice and autonomy,’ but in fact this is about pressuring people who are going through a difficult time in their life to have their life ended by lethal injection.” The idea is to convince society that euthanasia is a blessing.

(https://goo.gl/28DSVn)

THERAPEUTIC UNIVERSITIES AND SOFT DESPOTISM

FrontPageMag.com, 5/1/17, “Therapeutic Universities and Soft Despotism”
[Excerpts]: The phenomenon of...college students demanding “safe spaces” from “microaggressions” rightly provokes derision and scorn from normal people. Those who live among the slings and arrows of the real world, where actions have consequences and one’s delicate self-esteem is a matter of indifference, can only shake their heads at such childish tantrums.

Start with the “self-esteem”fad....In 1991 a widely publicized “study” proclaimed, in the words of a New York Times headline, “Gender Bias in Schools Is Still Short-Changing Girls.” Though the study’s methodology and conclusions were quickly discredited, it went on to provide intellectual support for the $600 million Gender Equity in Education Act of 1993 [and] Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendment Act, which threatened the cut-off of federal money to colleges in order to coerce them into policing “discrimination” on the “basis of sex.”

This is just one example of how left-wing identity politics, in this case feminism, generated phony “research” that gave a patina of science to contested and dubious ideology, which then became enshrined in federal law....Indeed, over the years universities have developed numerous services for students that monitor their psychological health and offer therapeutic solace....Identity politics programs also find such offices to be useful allies for reinforcing their ideological agendas. Identity politics is predicated on victimhood, and victimhood generates demands for compensatory programs and services.

The therapeutic services offered by the university validate this victim narrative, as do sexual harassment policies, “hate speech” codes, and other policies all backed up by badly written federal and state laws. They all assume the therapeutic imperative to protect students from damage to their self-esteem.

(https://goo.gl/HXoGmc)

THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt
Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

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McMahon—In the last couple of years we’ve seen the release of an onslaught of “biblical” movies and TV-show productions— including Noah, Exodus: Gods and Kings, and A.D.: The Bible Continues. This message challenges believers young and old to think carefully about biblical entertainment and exhorts viewers to return to the Bible. 1 DVD, 60 min.

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