

The True Revival Versus the Apostasy

By Gerry Watts

There is a lot of talk within the Church these days about a revival, which many see as the final harvest of the age. There is emphasis on power, dominion, miracles, signs, healings, spiritual gifts, prophecy, etc, and the Body of Christ rising up in power and the sons of God manifesting themselves to the world. Yet, disturbingly, in relation to this kind of teaching, there is often a haughty, arrogant-like spirit that accompanies it, which honours God with the lips and not the heart. This is evidenced by the lack of real fruit in many Christians' lives, and the preoccupation with money, and physical and financial success.

There is also a severe lack of the fear of God, while these preachers rant and rave about 'God saying this', and 'the Holy Spirit saying that,' and 'the Lord commands this.' They are not feeding the sheep of God, they are often trampling on them, lording it over the flock, using manipulation and control to force feed the people with contaminated milk! This is not the meek and humble way of Christ, Who guides His Sheep with loving care, being an Example to the flock in righteousness and truth.

Yet I believe that there is an element of truth in the teachings and 'prophecies' that speak of a revival and a harvest before Christ returns, but I don't believe it will necessarily be the kind of revival that most Christians are expecting. First and foremost, I believe it will be a revival of truth and righteousness in the true Body of Christ that will be accompanied by persecution and affliction that will serve to separate the Wheat from the Darnel or Chaff. Judgment begins from the house of God, and He will be preparing His Bride for the coming wedding of the Kingdom in these final days, preparing His sons for their future reign.

Yet at the same time, the secret power of lawlessness and the apostasy shall continue working its deceit over the mass of Christendom. The works of Satan shall continue to manifest through false signs, miracles and every seduction of injustice. This spirit is the spirit of an unfaithful bride who will willingly jump into bed with the world.

So on the one hand we have the great Apostasy (or falling away) from the truth of the Scriptures, which is a counterfeit revival of sorts, as an unfaithful Bride; and on the other we have the true Revival, the genuine power of God manifested through His servants, the faithful Bride/Wife. These two spirits will continue to operate side by side as the kingdom draws near again, and it will climax in the Day of the Lord when Christ returns in righteous judgment. I believe that we have, in fact, already entered into a period of transition that will result in this end time scenario.

I will now attempt to lay out as simply as I can some of my reasons for believing that there is going to be a true Revival of the Spirit, which will see the rise of the Sons of God within the Body of Christ - these will be the Gideon Remnant that will have an **Elijah/Elisha** type anointing. (For further information see *The Gideon Remnant* and *The Elisha Anointing*). There are some key scriptures that reveal this scenario and we shall see that a very interesting time pattern emerges in relation to these last days.

Elijah

During the time of the prophet Elijah's ministry, there was an awesome sign that was given to Israel and the surrounding area to show the power, as well as the judgment, of God to the people. Through Elijah's prophecy and prayer, God withheld rain from the land for **three and a half years**, causing a great famine throughout that area (1 Kings 17:1; 18:1). Both Jesus and James confirm this.

"I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in **Elijah's** time, when the sky was shut for **three and a half years** and there was a severe famine throughout the land."

(Luke 4:25 NIV)

"**Elijah** was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for **three and a half years**. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops."

(James 5:17-18 NIV)

It was also prophesied by Amos that there would be a famine for hearing the Word of God before the coming of the Messiah

"The days are coming," declares the Sovereign LORD,
"when I will send a famine through the land—
not a famine of food or a thirst for water,
but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.

Men will stagger from sea to sea
and wander from north to east,
searching for the word of the LORD,
but they will not find it.

(Amos 8:11-12 NIV).

This was fulfilled during the early centuries that led up to the time of Christ's first coming (known as the 'inter-testamental period'). Yet I also believe that this speaks of a time during this Church era when there was to be a famine of spiritual truth throughout the religion of Christendom, though the leaders are ever learning but not at any time able to come into a realisation of the truth (2 Timothy 3:7). Only the true servants of Christ, the real Sons of God, are able to send rain on the land and end the famine through prayer and prophecy and intercession during the famine. This was to ultimately occur during a mystical period of three and a half years.

Yet just as there was a faithful remnant from Israel in the time of Elijah, who were chosen by grace, so shall there be a faithful remnant from Israel and the nations during these last days who together form the Body/Bride of Christ, and they shall receive the anointing of **Elijah** as it fell on **Elisha** from on high (which is a type of Christ sending the Holy Spirit). Elijah's name in Hebrew means *Strength of Yahweh* or *He is God*.

"God did not reject His people, whom He foreknew. Don't you know what the scripture says in the passage about **Elijah** - how he appealed to God against Israel: "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself **seven thousand** who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So, too, at the present time there is **a remnant chosen by grace.**"

(Romans 11:2-5 NIV; see also 1 Kings 19:10-18)

"As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and **Elijah** went up to heaven in a whirlwind...He (**Elisha**) picked up the cloak that had fallen from Elijah..."

(2 Kings 2:11 & 13 NIV)

Seven is the number of spiritual completion or fullness or maturity. This Remnant of 'seven thousand' shall proclaim the truth in power, and like Gideon's small army of 300 men, they shall defeat the enemies of God with the full armour of God and the Sword of the Spirit. The anointing of Elijah (Christ) shall be upon them, which will include the genuine power to perform signs and miracles. Yet just as Elijah was persecuted and afflicted by the religious majority, so shall the remnant go through an era of affliction and persecution.

John the Baptist, The Messenger

This truth about Elijah has its parallel in the ministry of John the Baptist. John came as the special Messenger and Prophet who would prepare the way for the Messiah, and although he never did one miracle, he nevertheless came in the spirit and power of **Elijah**, and he became a type of the **Elijah** that is to come.

"And if you are willing to accept it, he (*John*) is the **Elijah** who is about to be coming...Jesus replied, "To be sure, **Elijah** is indeed coming, and will be **restoring all things**. But I tell you, **Elijah** has already come, and they did not recognise him"...he was talking to them about **John the Baptist**."

(Matthew 11:14; 17:11-13 FT)

"Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, **in the spirit and power of Elijah**, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous - to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

(Luke 1:16-17 NIV)

Now even though it is not clearly stated, it can be calculated that the length of Jesus' earthly ministry was **three and a half years**. He officially began His ministry at His baptism when He was about 30 years of age (Luke 3:21-23). This would've occurred during the Harvest/Tabernacles season about September/October 29 AD. He then died and rose again **three and a half years** later during the Passover/Firstfruits season of 33 AD.

During the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the kingdom of God was near.

"...coming along is John the baptist, heralding in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent! for the kingdom of the heavens is near!"...Thenceforth Jesus begins to be heralding and saying, "Repent! for the kingdom of the heavens is near!"

(Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17 CV)

Yet the kingdom did not come in its fullness at that time, though it was established as a spiritual, invisible kingdom. The powers that accompanied the heralding of the kingdom subsided during the first century due to apostasy. But the time will soon arrive, and is now here, when the heralding of the kingdom shall occur again to mirror what occurred in the first century, but on a much grander scale, with the powers of the coming age being manifested through the Remnant as they fulfill their **Elijah** role in preparing the world for the return of the King.

"Now at the beginning of these occurrences, unbend and lift up your heads, because your deliverance is drawing near...Thus you also, whenever you may be perceiving these things occurring, **know that the kingdom of God is near.**"

(Luke 21:28, 31 CV)

" And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come."

(Matthew 24:14 NIV)

"Then I saw another angel flying in mid-air, and he had the eternal (*eonian*) gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth - to every nation, tribe, language and people."

(Revelation 14:6 NIV)

This corresponds to the latter rains before the Harvest, the former rains having occurred in the first century AD, after the pouring out of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. In the same way as the gospel went out to all nations in the first century, so it will be proclaimed in the whole earth again as a testimony to the nations in these final days.

Rejoice then and be glad, ye children of Sion, in the Lord your God: for he has given you food fully, and he will rain on you the early and the latter rain, as before. And the floors shall be filled with corn, and the presses shall overflow with wine and oil.

(Joel 2:23-24 LXX)

Be patient, then, brethren, till the presence of the Lord. Lo! the farmer is waiting for the precious fruit of the land, being patient about it, till it should be getting the early and late showers.

(James 5:7 CV)

The Mystical Three and a Half Years

"And a reed like a rod was given me, and one said, "Rouse, measure the temple of God and the altar and those worshipping in it. And the court outside of the temple cast outside, and you should not be measuring it, **for it was given to the nations, and the holy city will they be treading forty-two months**. And I will be endowing **My two witnesses and they will be prophesying a thousand two hundred sixty days**, clothed in sackcloth."

These are the two olive trees, and the two lampstands which stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone is wanting to injure them, fire is issuing out of their mouth and is devouring their enemies. And if anyone should be wanting to injure them, thus must he be killed. **These have authority to lock heaven, that there may be no shower of rain for the days of their prophecy**. And they have authority over the waters to be turning them into blood, and to smite the land with every calamity, as often as they will.

And whenever they should be finishing their testimony, the wild beast which is ascending out of the submerged chaos will be doing battle with them and will be conquering them and killing them. And their corpses will be at the square of the great city which, spiritually, is being called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord, also, was crucified. And those out of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations are observing their corpses three days and a half, and they are not letting their corpses be placed into a tomb. And those dwelling on the earth are rejoicing over them and are making merry, and will be sending approach presents to one another, **seeing that these two prophets torment those dwelling on the earth**.

And after the three days and a half the spirit of life out of God entered into them, and they stand on their feet. And great fear falls on those beholding them. And they hear a loud voice out of heaven saying to them, "Ascend here!" And they ascended into heaven in a cloud, and their enemies behold them. And in that hour occurred a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city falls, and there were seven thousand names of the men killed in the earthquake. And the rest became affrighted and give glory to the God of heaven.

(Revelation 11:1-13 CV)

In this portion of the highly symbolic vision of Revelation, we are told about the Two Witnesses (lit. martyrs), who are also termed Prophets, who represent the Overcomers of the Body of Christ, the true Ecclesia of God, as well as symbolising the whole written Word of God, the Bible.

These are the Chosen Ones who are measured and counted (numbered or elected) as the heavenly Temple of God and the Royal Priesthood that ministers within it. All who are outside belong to the nations, and the Holy City of the New Jerusalem is given over to the nations for trampling for a mystical period of **42 months**. This Holy City is the heavenly Israel of God.

During this period of Great Persecution and Affliction (or Tribulation), the Two Witnesses are still able to prophesy and minister as a testimony to the world, clothed in the sackcloth of humility. They are types of Moses and Elijah; the Law and the Prophets; the Old Testament and the New Testament; all being fulfilled in Christ Jesus first. First the Head and then the Body. Their Elijah/John the Baptist ministry involves judgment by a spiritual famine, due to lack of rain or spiritual blessings.

The duration of their ministry/testimony is **1260 days**. This is exactly the same as 42 months of a 360 day lunar year. Therefore, **1260 days = 3.5 years = 42 months**. This same period is also stated as '**time, times, and half a time.**' All these periods are one and the same - the mystical 3.5 years or 1260 days.

He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

(Daniel 7:25 NIV)

In the same way as Jesus their Lord laid down His life after His ministry/testimony of 3.5 years was finished, so these martyrs are killed by the wild beast of the Roman Empire and its ten-horned offshoots, and the two-horned beast of the antichrist kingdom, composing of the false Church of the Holy Empire of Christendom, and the False Prophet of the Islamic Empire. These powers are associated with earthly Jerusalem which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, the Great City of Secret Babylon. This city always rejects or humiliates or kills the true messengers of God.

Yet in the same way as Christ was raised from the dead in 3.5 days and eventually ascended into heaven in glory, so shall these Witnesses of God be raised from death in 3.5 mystical days and be given much heavenly power and glory. Even now the Body of Christ (or Church) has been steadily rising in power out of the domination of the 1260 day/years of the powers of Christendom. The false harlot church of Secret Babylon (the false remnant of 7000) will be defeated and destroyed, and God will take His tithe (one tenth) of earthly Jerusalem for all those things in which He has been robbed by her.

The ultimate earthquake of judgment that will shake the heavens and the earth will come in the Day of the Lord, and many will give glory to God! (For further study of these things, see the section [The Great Prophetic Plan Revealed](#)).

The Apostasy

Both Jesus and Paul make it very clear that there will be an apostasy or departure from the truth that will gain momentum as the present age continues. There will be many who will claim to be Christians, operating under the banner of

Christ's Name, who will, in fact, be imposters and hypocrites, false teachers, false apostles, false brethren, those who do not truly know Christ and the Father, swindlers, deceivers, workers of lawlessness, messengers of Satan appearing as ministers of righteousness, etc.

These frauds will be swept along with the world into a false revival of religion and power, into what they will believe is the dawning of a New Age of the kingdom. It will be accompanied by an antichrist kingdom, headed up by a man of lawlessness, seeking to replace the true Christ by seating himself in the spiritual Temple of God (the Church). False signs, visions and miracles will play a large part in this ongoing Apostasy. This power will be the work of Satan, the spiritual Adversary, and the deception will be so strong that even the chosen ones of God, the true Body of Christ, will have to think twice!

For false christs and false prophets shall be roused, and they shall be giving **great signs and miracles, so as to deceive, if possible, even the chosen.** Lo! I have declared it to you beforehand."

(Matthew 24:24-25 CV)

"No one should be deluding you by any method, for, **should not the apostasy be coming first and the man of lawlessness be unveiled**, the son of destruction, who is opposing and lifting himself up over everyone termed a god or an object of veneration, so that he is seated in the temple of God, **demonstrating that he himself is God?** Do you not remember that, still being with you, I told you these things?..."

...whose presence (*the man of lawlessness*) is in accord with the operation of Satan, with all power and signs and false miracles and with every seduction of injustice among those who are perishing, because they do not receive the love of the truth for their salvation. **And therefore God will be sending them an operation of deception**, for them to believe the falsehood, that all may be judged who do not believe the truth, but delight in injustice."

(2 Thessalonians 2:3-12 CV)

"Not everyone saying to Me 'Lord! Lord!' will be entering into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who is doing the will of My Father Who is in the heavens. Many will be declaring to Me in that day, 'Lord! Lord! Was it not in Your Name that we prophesy, and in Your Name cast out demons, and in Your Name do many powerful deeds?' And then shall I be saying to them that 'I never knew you! Depart from Me, workers of lawlessness!'"

(Matthew 7:21-23 CV)

"And it is exercising all the authority of the first wild beast in its sight, and making the earth and those dwelling in it to be worshipping the first wild beast, whose death blow was cured. And it is doing great signs, that it may be making fire, also, descend out of heaven into the earth in the sight of mankind. And it is deceiving those dwelling on the earth because of the signs which were given it to do in the sight of the wild beast."

(Revelation 13:12-14 CV)

"He then tells them another parable, saying, "The kingdom of the heavens is likened to a man sowing ideal seed in his own field. Yet while the men are sleeping, his enemy came and sowed darnel among the grain, and went away. Now when the wheat produced its fruit, the darnel also appeared. Now the servants of the householder came to him and said, 'Lord, didn't you sow ideal seed in your field? Then where did the darnel come from?' He said to them, 'A man, an enemy, did this.'

The servants said, 'Do you want us to go and pull out the darnel?' 'No,' he answered, 'otherwise, as you are pulling up the darnel, you may also be uprooting the grain with it at the same time. **Let both grow up together until the harvest**, and in the season of the harvest I shall say to the reapers, 'First reap the darnel and bind them into bundles to burn them, yet gather the grain into my barn.' " "

(Matthew 13:24-30 FT)

"He Who is sowing the ideal seed is the Son of Mankind. Now **the field is the world**. Now the ideal seed are **the sons of the kingdom**. Now **the darnel are the sons of the wicked one**. Now the enemy who sows them is the Adversary. **Now the harvest is the end of the age**. Now the reapers are messengers. So even as the darnel is being reaped and burned in the fire, **thus shall it be at the end of the age**. The Son of Mankind shall be dispatching His messengers, and they shall be pulling all the snares out of His kingdom and those doing lawlessness, and they shall be throwing them into the furnace of fire. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous be shining like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

(Matthew 13:36-43 FT)

This counterfeit kingdom or Apostasy shall come first, following the spiritual pattern of 'first the soulish, then the spiritual,' first the counterfeit, then the genuine (1 Corinthians 15:46). The true Sons of God shall be fully manifested after this at the return of Christ (Romans 8:18-25; Colossians 3:4), yet those who belong to this end time generation will already be rising up in the spirit and power of Elijah and Moses, to expose the foolishness of the frauds of Christendom and the world with the true power of God.

"Now, by the method by which Jannes and Jambres withstand Moses, thus these also are withstanding the truth, men of a depraved mind, disqualified as to the faith. But they shall not be progressing more, **for their folly shall be obvious to all, as that of those also became**."

(2 Timothy 3:7-9 CV)

For further information, see *The Great Deception*.

In the days ahead, the whole of Christendom shall become part of Secret Babylon the Great, a spiritual Prostitute. She says in her heart, "I sit as queen; I am not a widow and I will never mourn." She is rich, full of herself, living in luxury, decked out with gold, precious stones and pearls, believing she has everything at her disposal, drinking from golden cups to her own glory. But these cups contain the wine of abominations and all uncleanness, by which she has caused many to be

drunk on the excesses of the flesh and the doctrines of demons. She has become a lukewarm Church, full of worldly wealth and arrogance, yet she doesn't realise that she is blind and naked, wretched, pitiful and poor! Only the fire of God can cleanse her (Revelation 17-18; 3:14-22). (For further study, see *Who is Secret Babylon the Great?*).

In the same way as the people of Israel rebelled against God while Moses was up the mountain, so the Church is doing the same thing. The people said, "Where is this fellow Moses? He has disappeared and left us to die in the desert! In that case, we shall have to choose another leader and collect all our gold jewelry and worldly plunder and make a god that we can see, and worship a golden calf instead. Then we can really party!"

As Moses ascended up the mountain for 40 days and nights to spend time in the presence of God and to receive the Divine Law, so Christ has ascended to the heavens for a mystical 40 days and nights waiting for the Day when He will return in righteous indignation to proclaim the Law of God (40 being the number of testing and probation). In the meantime, the people have got tired of waiting and they have changed their Deliverer to that of mere men, and they have made a god of gold to bow down to instead. They have set up for themselves a new religion with their own rules and regulations in complete disobedience to God's Good News of grace, truth and freedom that is revealed in Christ, and they have become full of corruption and seduction (Exodus 24:13-18; 32:1-35).

So may we be on guard and watch! Let us make way for repentance and humility, and seek only truth and righteousness, love and grace. Be courageous as a soldier of the Lord. There is only One Lord and One God! Make sure you serve Him only. In these last days, you will either belong to the True Revival or the Apostasy! Let us live the life, and make our calling and election sure.

Abbreviations for Scripture quotes:

NIV = New International Version

CV = Concordant Version

LXX = Septuagint

FT = Free Translation based on the CV and NIV texts