

56. The Book of Revelation—13:4

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
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We are currently studying what I believe has to be one of the most important Chapters in the Book of Revelation. In this Chapter we are introduced to two coming world leaders—one political and the other religious.

As we said last time, there are 33 titles in the Old Testament and 13 in the New Testament that are used for these two coming leaders. In verses 1-10 we are introduced to the first of these two leaders—a political leader likened to a **'beast'** that rises out of the **'sea.'** (**verse 1**)

The **'sea'** could be a reference to the Mediterranean Sea signifying that this leader comes from the Mediterranean world—in other words, from the old or historic Roman Empire. However, in the Scriptures the *sea* is often used as an idiom for the nations—as in 'Gentile nations.'

So, it could be that this world leader will be a Gentile—as many of commentators believe he will be.

And then in verses 11 through 18 we are introduced to a second beast, a religious leader who rises up out of the *earth* and will unite the world in a global religious movement—a world 'church' if you will.

In Revelation 16:13, 19:20, and Chapter 20:10—this second beast is called the 'false prophet.'

Revelation 13:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast [Antichrist] rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name. ² Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard, his feet were like *the feet of a bear*, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. The dragon [Satan] gave him his power, his throne, and great authority. ³ And I saw one of his heads as if it had been mortally wounded, and his deadly wound was healed. And all the world marveled and followed the beast. ⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

All the world marveled and followed the beast—whose **"deadly wound was healed."** (**verse 3**)

This becomes a 'game-changer' for the Antichrist's followers, who up until this point were enamored with him as the ultimate human being and political leader—but now move into full blown worship of him as a god (he has the power to raise himself from the dead)!

Revelation 13:4 (NKJV)

⁴ So they worshiped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast...

So, Satan will finally get what he's always wanted—to be worshipped as God!

This first beast will look like the *"winner;"* whereas Jesus and His people will appear to be complete *"losers"* (at least for a short time)—i.e., *troublemakers, rebels*—an evil *cancer* in the earth that must be done away with if mankind is to survive and thrive!

Let me stop here and take a little detour into how Satan has been preparing the world for the coming of the Antichrist and False Prophet and their message of hope for planet earth (a glorious new age is coming!)—and how this will feed into the mindset of their followers and why they will be so zealous in killing Christians (also Jews and Muslims) during this period of time.

It all has to do with false doctrine! Remember that the Antichrist and False Prophet won't be the only false christ and false prophet that will be alive during the Tribulation Period—as Jesus foretold:

Matthew 24:3-5, 9, 11, 24-25 (NKJV)

³ Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" ⁴ And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many..."

⁹ Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you...for My name's sake...¹¹ Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many..."

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²⁵ See, I have told you beforehand

As we have already said, the Antichrist will be the leader of the one-world government and the False Prophet will be the leader of a one-world religion—which I'd like to focus on for the remainder of our time tonight.

- The question is—what will be the ideological mindset and underpinnings that will precipitate it?

I mean nothing happens in a vacuum—Paul the Apostle said, *"The mystery of iniquity is already at work."*

If we are as close to the return of Jesus Christ as most of us evangelicals think we are—then we should be able to look around and see things coalescing around a doctrine which will ultimately bring the world together in a one world religion.

I personally believe that New Age ("new spirituality") thinking and doctrine will be at the heart of the movement that will unite the world in a global religion.

This doctrine is what the Apostle Paul referred to as *"the lie"* in Romans 1:25 and 2 Thessalonians 2:11—which we will study this Sunday. For right now understand that the devil for many, many years has been trying pervert people's understanding of the true Christ, Jesus Christ, with a false, phony, imposter "Christ".

Warren Smith, an ex-New Ager and now and evangelical Christian and author in his book, *Reinventing Jesus Christ* has this to say about the New Age Movement.

"What had been called "new age" is now being presented as "new gospel." These "new gospel" teachings are not new and have actually been around for centuries in one form or another.

According to the "new gospel," Christ is not a person. It is an office. The "new gospel" teaches that while Jesus of Nazareth occupied the office during His active ministry, He no longer holds that same position. Today the office of "Christ" is occupied by someone else. And this "someone else" is presently in the process of establishing contact with humanity. This "Christ" intimates that he is already in the world awaiting mankind's call.

"Concerned" that humanity is in peril and facing possible extinction, this "Christ" explains that his "new gospel" will unify the world's major religions and bring peace to the world. He has communicated these "new gospel" teachings to his designated teachers, who in turn are now conveying these same teachings to the rest of the world."

The New Age Movement has been around for many years but only in the last 40 years or so has it emerged out of the shadows to become a mainstream political and spiritual movement.

This rise to mainstream popularity has been helped by celebrities like Oprah Winfrey who on her XM Satellite radio show, *"Oprah and Friends"* several years ago began airing a course taught by Marianne Williamson, who is a leading New Age guru (and ex-presidential candidate).

The course that Oprah had Williamson teach for one hour each day was (and still is) called, *"A Course in Miracles."* The year-long course completely covered the 365 lessons from the *Course in Miracles Workbook*.

A Course in Miracles is allegedly "new revelation" from "Jesus" to help humanity work through these troubled times by giving us the knowledge to speed up our evolution in our journey to oneness with all creation and with God who is really us!

Warren Smith says concerning this,

"This "Jesus" -- who bears no doctrinal resemblance to the Bible's Jesus Christ -- began delivering his channeled teachings in 1965 to a Columbia University Professor of Medical Psychology by the name of Helen Schucman.

One day Schucman heard an "inner voice" stating, "This is a course in miracles. Please take notes. "For seven years she diligently took spiritual dictation from this inner voice that described himself as "Jesus."

The 1200-page Course in Miracles was quietly published in 1975 by the Foundation for Inner Peace. For many years "the Course" was an underground cult classic for New Age seekers who studied "the Course" individually, with friends, or in small study groups."

That is until Marianne Williamson came on the Oprah Winfrey show in 1992 and Oprah introduced her as the author of a new book—*"My favorite book"*—*"A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles."*

And this is what Oprah went on to say,

"Marianne is a leader in a philosophy that I personally know could change the world. I believe that in my heart. I have read many books over the years, but I have never been moved by a book like I have by Marianne Williamson's 'A Return to Love'. So moved in fact that I went out and bought a thousand copies and will be giving each of you one before you leave here today. I really believe that the message in 'A Return to Love' is the message that we all need in our lives. If it sounds like I'm trying to hype the book I really am! It's the first time you can open a book and actually see some answers."

Oprah's endorsement skyrocketed Williamson's book about *A Course in Miracles* to the top of the New York Times bestseller list.

Oprah then started pushing The New Earth, by Eckhart Tolle.

As one Christian author put it—

"Oprah has become a fountainhead for New Age poison—there is no false prophet she will not promote to millions."

1 John 4:1 (NKJV)

¹ Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

So just what did this "Jesus" in *A Course in Miracles* say to Helen Schucman that has captivated so many people?

- "There is no sin. . . " 9
- A "slain Christ has no meaning." 10
- "The journey to the cross should be the last 'useless journey.'" 11
- "Do not make the pathetic error of 'clinging to the old rugged cross.'" 12
- "The Name of Jesus Christ as such is but a symbol. . . . It is a symbol that is safely used as a replacement for the many names of all the gods to which you pray." 13
- "God is in everything I see." 14
- "The recognition of God is the recognition of yourself." 15
- "The oneness of the Creator and the creation is your wholeness, your sanity and your limitless power." 16
- "The Atonement is the final lesson he [man] need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation." 17
- "For the undoing of the crucifixion of God's Son is the work of the redemption, in which everyone has a part of equal value." (Text, p. 209)
- "The song of Easter is the glad refrain the Son of God was never crucified." (Text, p. 428)
- "You are not persecuted, nor was I." (Text, p. 94)
- "There is no sin; it has no consequence." (Workbook, p. 183)
- "Innocence is wisdom because it is unaware of evil, and evil does not exist." (Text, p. 38)
- "Those who oppose the 'Christ' in the Course in Miracles are Antichrist."

Warren Smith gives some examples of the lessons in A Course in Miracles workbook—

"For example, Lesson #29 asks you to go through your day affirming that **"God is in everything I see."** Lesson #61 tells each person to repeat the affirmation **"I am the light of the world."** Lesson #70 teaches the student to say and believe **"My salvation comes from me."**

By the end of the year, "Oprah & Friends" listeners will have completed all of the lessons laid out in the Course in Miracles Workbook.

Those who finish the Course will have a wholly redefined spiritual mindset -- a New Age worldview that includes the belief that there is no sin, no evil, no devil, and that God is "in" everyone and everything. A Course in Miracles teaches its students to rethink everything they believe about God and life. The Course Workbook bluntly states: **"This is a course in mind training"**⁵ and is dedicated to **"thought reversal."** [i.e., 'brainwashing']

Over the past decade, Marianne Williamson has continued to champion *A Course in Miracles* in the media and in her public appearances around the country.

A more recent book, *Healing the Soul of America*, has enabled Williamson and the Course to make a subtle transition into the **political** arena hoping to inspire a "new gospel" approach to national and world problems.

Marianne Williamson, and *Conversations with God* author Neale Donald Walsch, whose “God” told him things like: “*There are no such things as the Ten Commandments*”; “*So who said Jesus was perfect?*”; and “*Hitler didn’t hurt anyone (he did them a favor)*” and when he (Hitler) died he “*went to heaven.*”

But Williamson and Walsh co-founded the American Renaissance Alliance in 1997, that later became the Global Renaissance Alliance of New Age leaders, that changed its name again in 2005 to the Peace Alliance. This Peace Alliance seeks to usher in an era of global peace founded on the principles of New Age/New Spirituality that they are now referring to as a “*civil rights movement for the soul.*”

They all agree that the principles of this New Age/New Spirituality are clearly articulated in *A Course in Miracles*—which for all intents and purposes has become the New Age Bible! In fact, one of the Alliance board members, in much the same manner as Helen Schucman, says she too received “*new revelation*” from an “*inner voice*” claiming to be Christ—that board member’s name is **Barbara Marx Hubbard**.

Warren Smith in his book, “Reinventing Jesus Christ: the New Gospel” writes:

“Self-described futurist and “conscious evolutionist” Barbara Marx Hubbard writes that in 1966 she heard an “inner voice” that came in response to a question she had asked aloud and directed to God — “What is our story? What in our age is comparable to the birth of Christ?”

After asking the question she said she fell into a dreamlike state and was given an intense vision of the future. In the vision Hubbard saw the earth from a distance. She was made to understand that the earth was a living body and that she was a cell in its body.

Feeling her “oneness” with the earth, she experienced its pain and confusion. When her vision abruptly fast-forwarded into the future, she could see the earth and its people were now surrounded by a radiant light. She watched as the whole planet was “aligned” in “a magnetic field of love” and lifted up by the brilliant light. Widespread healings took place as individuals experienced the merging of their own “inner light” with the bright light that was surrounding them. A tremendous force emanating from the light sent powerful currents of joyful energy “rippling” through the body of humanity.

The world celebrated as all the Earth was born again. The pain and confusion were gone. Love had prevailed. The “inner voice” told her to spread the message of the vision.”

Smith continues,

“On Christmas Day in 1979, she had a revelation that the presence in her 1966 vision had been “Christ.” Since 1966 Hubbard has fulfilled her commission from “Christ” to tell his “new gospel” story. From NASA to the former USSR, from the Georgia State Legislature to the United Nations, she has spoken to thousands of people and hundreds of groups and organizations about the “planetary birth experience” she had been shown in her vision. In the process she has become a respected “world citizen,” known and loved by many for her insights about “God” and “Christ” and the future of humanity. Hubbard is a co-founding board member of the World Future Society.

Today she is on a first name basis with many world leaders and proudly describes herself as part of “the New Order of the Future.” (Hubbard died in 2019)

Through the years Hubbard has received voluminous information from her “Christ.” In her 1993 book, *The Revelation: Our Crisis Is a Birth* (later renamed *The Revelation: A Message of Hope for the New Millennium*)—Hubbard and “Christ” “rewrite” the Bible’s Book of Revelation.

In ‘*The Revelation*’, Hubbard’s “Christ” provides specific instructions on how a united humanity, purposefully partnering with God—can literally re-create the future.

Hubbard’s Christ teaches that—

“The “violent” Armageddon script described in the Bible does not have to happen, that it is only a “possible” future, emphasizing that a more “positive” future can and will manifest when humanity— without exception —

openly declares its “oneness” with him and all creation. This positive scenario and the means to attaining it is called “the alternative to Armageddon.”

Hubbard’s “Christ” describes how—

“Planet Earth is at an evolutionary crossroads. He states that the world is about to make an evolutionary leap that will take all creation to a new level. Those who awaken to their own divinity, by aligning themselves as one with God and one with each other, will evolve.

Those who continue to believe in “fear” and “separation,” rather than in “love” and “oneness,” will not evolve.” [i.e., ‘monotheists’]

Hubbard’s “Christ” claims that *“with his help most of mankind will choose to evolve, calling this evolutionary leap “the Planetary Birth Experience.”*

He refers to it as the coming time of *“Planetary Pentecost.”*

“The “birth experience” is a shared event in the future, an “Instant of Co-operation,” when everyone on the planet will be mysteriously changed in “the twinkling of an eye,” as humanity is collectively born again into a new creation. Those who evolve will actually become a new species as Homo sapiens is collectively transformed into Homo universalis, or the “Universal Humanity. The “Universal Humanity” will live together as a community of “natural Christs” in the “New Heaven” on the “New Earth” that is the “New Jerusalem.”

However, author Warren Smith gives a chilling explanation of what will be involved in being allowed to live in the “New Jerusalem” on the “New Earth” —

“...Hubbard’s “Christ,” while describing the “birth experience” and affirming his love for all mankind, nevertheless warns that there will be no place in the “New Jerusalem” for those who refuse to see themselves and others as a part of God. He describes, therefore, the necessity of a “selection process” that will select out resistant individuals who “choose” not to evolve. This “selection process” is a “purification” that will be accomplished through “the shock of a fire.”

“Christ” states that those who see themselves as “separate” and not divine hinder humanity’s ability to spiritually evolve. Those who deny their own “divinity” are “cancer cells” in the body of God. “Christ” warns that a healthy body must have no cancer cells. Cancer cells must be healed or completely removed from the body. He describes the means of removal as the “selection process.” The “selection process” results in the deaths of those who refuse to see themselves as a part of God. After the “selection process” the spirit bodies of the departed individuals will continue to be “purified” in the spirit realm.

Hubbard’s “Christ” emphasizes that they will not be given another physical body and they will not be able to rejoin humanity until they rid themselves of all “self-centeredness.” He defines “self-centeredness” as “the illusion” that one is “separate” from God. The self-centered temptation to see oneself as “separate,” and not as a part of God, is “evil” and must be “overcome.” He also refers to self-centeredness, or this illusion of separateness, as “Satan.”

In the future described by Hubbard’s “Christ” anyone who refuses to see themselves and others as “God” and “Christ” will be removed by the “selection process”.

Those professing Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior would be subject to this process—as would traditional Jews, Muslims and all others who refuse to see themselves as a part of God.

All of this has now taken us ‘full circle’ bringing us back to Revelation:

Revelation 13:4 (NKJV)

⁴ So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

Revelation 13:7 (NKJV)

⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Revelation 7:9 (NKJV)

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

Revelation 7:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

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