

158. The Gospel of John—16:1-2

The Coming Apostasy—Part 2

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier

(10/3/21)

Find this weeks' sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

Today's message is part 'two' of a message I wanted to finish last week—but then the Lord laid on my heart to do a special message on combating the spirit of fear.

So, this morning I'd like to finish that message—a message I'm entitling, "*The Coming Apostasy*"—a title I've taken from 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

As we have been saying for the past few weeks, Jesus in Chapters 13 through 16 is giving His farewell address to His disciples before His crucifixion (at this point in John's gospel we are less than twelve hours from the cross).

Their hearts were troubled (John 13:18-38)—and so He spends most of Chapter 14 comforting and reassuring them by giving them many promises designed to encourage their hearts for the difficult days ahead once He returns to His Father in heaven.

But then He begins to promise them some things that were not such a blessing to hear—

John 16:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ "These things I have spoken to you [see 15:18-25], that you should not be made to stumble. ² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service.

The Lord Jesus is prophesying here—He's telling them how they can expect to be treated as His followers in the future.

The thing about Bible prophecy that's important to understand is that—many times there is a *short-term partial fulfillment* but then there is a *long-term ultimate fulfillment* as well.

We looked at the short-term fulfillment(s) a couple of weeks ago where we said that it started with the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem who hated Jesus' followers once the Church was born on the Feast of Pentecost.

The Jewish leadership (members of the Sanhedrin) hated these '*traitors to Judaism*' (most of those first Christians were Jews) and were determined to hunt down and eliminate all of those Jews who belonged to this cult called Christianity—believing they were serving God by doing so!

And as I said last time, the prophecy of Jesus also had another shorter-term fulfillment in mind when He spoke these words in John 16:2.

How that the Jewish people would eventually be persecuted by the followers of Islam and eventually by the Roman Catholic Church (check out the study from a couple of weeks ago). But I further believe that Jesus' prophecy also had a long-term ultimate fulfillment in mind.

I believe He was ultimately speaking of another time—a time long after the 1st, the 7th or even the 11th centuries A.D. when the Jews and Gentile believers would be hunted down and killed by those who believed they were serving God.

What time in the history of the world will this take place and in obedience to what 'god' am I referring to?

The Bible calls this time in history the "Great Tribulation Period" and the 'god' that orders the execution of the Jews from the earth so that to obey his edict causes his followers to believe they are serving God—is the coming world leader we call the *Antichrist*.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, 9-11 (NKJV)

³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God...

⁹ The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe [The Lie](#)...

The Antichrist when he comes to power as the leader of a one-world government, will be hailed by the world as its messiah—but he will be a false messiah. The devil will empower him with miraculous intelligence, charisma, and supernatural power. He will come preaching a 'gospel' but not the gospel of Jesus Christ—it will be a false gospel, a gospel that will contain nothing more than doctrines of demons—the very thing Paul the apostle warned us about when he said—

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Doctrines of demons (doctrines = 'teachings') have been around since the beginning of time—in fact they got started all the way back in the Garden of Eden. It was there that Satan, in the form of a serpent, introduced this lie into the human race—like a serpent's bite he injected this doctrinal 'venom' into the 'bloodstream' of humanity.

A lie that, before it's all over, will have caused the spiritual death of billions and billions of people throughout the history of the world.

This lie is talked about in Scripture (Romans 1:25 and 2Thessalonians 2:11) as "[The Lie](#)"—not "a lie" as in one of many, but "[The Lie](#)"—a very specific and extremely deadly lie!

Look, the world is full of lies, that's true—but there is one lie that is the 'mother' of all spiritual lies that the father of lies (the devil—John 8:44) introduced into the human race in the Garden of Eden.

It's a lie like a great tree bearing poison 'fruit' (to change metaphors) that has been growing and spreading since the Garden of Eden—and now its *branches* have covered the earth and it's *fruit* has reached 'full ripeness' and will be readily consumed by the people of this world in the last days (the time just prior to Jesus' return to the planet earth to establish His Kingdom).

1 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

Did you know that demons have doctrines? God's Word is telling us that—demons are teachers!

These doctrines are what occultists and New Agers have called the 'Cosmic Gospel' or more recently—the 'New Gospel'. It's the same message people have heard from extra-terrestrials (close encounters of the third kind), in séances, while on LSD trips (which the Bible calls sorcery and forbids), in deep yoga trances, while practicing transcendental meditation, out of Ouija boards and through mediums that are in contact with the spirit realm.

You'll find this same basic message in many of the cults and in the occult alike.

It's a message that's flooding into our world from dozens of different directions all at the same time (no doubt in preparation for the coming of the Antichrist), proclaiming the same thing over and over again with amazing consistency.

This "cosmic gospel" (which is by no means 'new') is made of four tenets or doctrinal 'pillars'—that together make up [The Lie](#) that Satan told Eve in the Garden of Eden.

I believe that the very lie that caused the human race to fall in the beginning—is going to be the ultimate lie (spiritual deception) that Satan is going to use against the human race in the end. You see, I believe that this very lie that Satan introduced into the human race in the Garden of Eden—is [The Lie](#) the Antichrist will use to deceive the world with when he comes on the scene.

Let's go back to Genesis 3 and look at [The Lie](#) that Satan told Eve in the Garden of Eden—

Genesis 3:1-5 (NKJV)

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ "but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵ "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

This lie that Satan told Eve was made up of 4 different false doctrines (listen carefully, some are more obvious than others):

1. God is not personal but an impersonal force that fills the universe and everything and everyone in it.

When Satan came to Eve one of the things he subtly planted into her mind was the concept that the Person she had come to know as God—was not God because of who He is (the eternal, personal God) but only *became* God because of some secret information (the new gospel?) He became aware of.

In other words, He was God because of what He knew —"***you will be like God...knowing***" (verse 5)

He had found out how to tap into a force that made Him God and now He was trying to keep her from understanding what this god-force was because He did not want her to find the same divinity for herself that He had found for Himself! So in that regard, Satan was 'helping' Eve to see through God's selfishness in trying to keep her and the whole human race from reaching godhood!

Here you have *the first part of The Lie—God is not personal but is an impersonal force* that fills the universe and flows through everything and everyone in it—a 'god-force' that anyone can tap into if they only know how to!

Of course, that was the main message that was being preached through the Star Wars movies—“*May the Force be with you.*”

George Lucas fancied himself as the ‘Billy Graham’ of the Force. Listen—a force (like electricity) is impersonal and amoral and isn’t going to hassle you with morals. If God is a *force*—then that means that I can use or tap into this force while at the same time not be held to any *personal* God’s standard of right and wrong.

Those who believe this doctrine don’t believe in moral absolutes because the god-force is in you and so you need only to look within yourself to find your ‘truth’ and what’s right and wrong for you.

2. The second element of [The Lie](#) that Satan told Eve was that there is no *ultimate death*.

When Satan told Eve, “*You will not surely die*” he was saying to her, “*Eve there is no ultimate death.*”

This, of course became the basis for the doctrine of *reincarnation*. Reincarnation is the process of ‘spiritual evolution’ whereby our spirit keeps being reincarnated (recycled) upon the earth in a new body in the hope that we will live a more moral, spiritually enlightened life each time until we finally evolve into godhood.

You see, if we are all part of the ‘god force’—the ‘god force’ is eternal!

So, my body dies but my spirit never dies because it’s part of the eternal god force—it just keeps getting ‘recycled’ into a new body—in other words, there is no ultimate death!

We also saw this also being taught in those Star Wars movies. Remember how when Obi-Wan Kenobi was struck down by Darth Vader?—he didn’t stop existing; he continued to communicate to Luke Skywalker as a disembodied spirit from out on the astral plane—in other words, there is no ultimate death.

That’s what Hinduism and the New Age believes and teaches—that when we die our spirit simply moves out onto the astral plane where we wait for a new body to be reincarnated into.

Of course, the main problem with the doctrine of reincarnation is that—it does away with the reality of *judgment* and *hell* and therefore lulls those who follow its teaching into a false hope that if they blow it in this life (or live an overtly wicked life)—there’s always going to be another opportunity to ‘redeem’ themselves in the next life.

The Word of God says that “*...it is appointed for man to die once and after comes the judgment.*” (Hebrews 9:27)

But reincarnation says, “*There is no judgment after death, you just keep getting another chance to come back to the earth and do better next time*”—which of course is much more appealing to people than what God’s Word says on the subject.

Now, reincarnation works according to the law of ‘Karma’ which is the spiritual law of “cause and effect”. *Karma doesn’t solve the problem of sin* (as does the atonement of Jesus Christ on the cross)—in fact, karma only perpetuates the problem of sin!

Karma is one of the cruelest jokes that the devil ever played on the human race for it robs man of some of the most basic, beautiful and important attributes that God has given him—compassion, mercy and kindness toward his fellowman.

As a true Hindu if you see a person who is starving, impoverished, begging by the side of the road—you can't go over and help him because he is working off the bad karma from his past life.

Most of the charities, hospitals, orphanages that have been established in the world (by far)—have been established by Christians.

Why is that? Because of the love of God (agape) which He has placed in our hearts (Romans 5:5) as His children—a love that is kind, gracious, giving, generous and merciful.

3. The third element of [The Lie](#) that Satan told Eve was that she could become god.

"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God..."—or in other words, Satan told Eve she would ascend to godhood!

Since we are all a part of this god-force that flows through everything—people, rocks, trees, animals etc., then that means that *'all is God'*—this is what is known as *'pantheism.'*

According to pantheism, *"everyone and everything is god"*—which means if all is God then—I am God!

Which is exactly what Shirley MacLean declared in the movie, *'Dancing in the Light'*—she said,

- *"I know that I exist, therefore— I AM."*
- *"I know that the God source exists, therefore— IT IS."*
- *"Since I am a part of that force, then— I AM that I AM."* (the name of God)

Look, if I am God then—I'm free to worship myself, live for myself and answer to no one but myself—which I believe will in essence be the religion (new gospel) of the Antichrist when he makes his appearance on the world scene.

4. The fourth element of [The Lie](#) that Satan told Eve was that godhood could be achieved through the tree of knowledge.

In other words, the path to godhood is through enlightenment.

As Satan's lie to Eve progressed, he told her—*"You will not surely die for God knows that in the day that you eat the fruit of that tree **your eyes will be opened** (you will be enlightened) **and you will become like God** (ascend to godhood)."*

Those involved in Hinduism and the New Age Movement (pantheism) believe that although man *is* God—he has *forgotten* that he is God!

And therefore, since he is a forgetful 'god'—he must come to a *'higher level of self-awareness or enlightenment'*—to the realization of his own divinity or "Higher Self."

This enlightenment can be achieved through various means—Transcendental Meditation, hallucinogenic drugs like LSD. Or further through things like—visualization, yoga or some other technique (in Eve's case eating the forbidden fruit) that is being promoted today and used to gain 'enlightenment' and ultimately godhood in our culture.

You see the only obstacle, these yogi's of the 'new gospel' tell us that stands in the way of you reaching godhood and your full potential is the way you *think*—the way you perceive reality. The problem is that you—*misperceive* reality and impose upon it your own *limitations*.

What you need to do is come to the realization, to the awareness that you have infinite potential within because the god force flows through you! You must understand (these guru's tell people) that you'll never start enjoying your full potential until you embrace your divinity and believe you are God!

That's why Shirley MacLaine (prophetess for the New Age) takes the first five minutes of every day reminding herself that she is god (she's not much of a god if she has to keep reminding herself that she is god!).

Now once you realize that you are God with the god force flowing through you and that you have unlimited power and potential—then you can begin to use this power to work miracles, overcome weaknesses, heal sicknesses, gain wealth and success—in short power to create your own reality and change the world for the better.

➔ Talk about the Hindu belief that what we perceive as 'reality' is nothing more than an illusion created by the mind called a 'maya'.

The New Age Movement's beliefs are not new at all—**they're a westernized version of Hinduism** which has its roots as far back as the Garden of Eden.

C.S Lewis traced all major religions and cults back to two primary sources—Judeo-Christianity (God's truth) and Hinduism (Satan's lie)—both of which started in the Garden of Eden.

Both Hinduism and the New Age Movement (now called the "New Spirituality") teach that the only obstacle that stands in the way of you reaching godhood and your full potential is the way you think—the way you perceive reality. Again, they teach that most people don't believe they're God (which they call heinous pride) and therefore impose their own limitations upon their reality.

What a person needs to do to start tapping into the infinite power of the god-force within them and use it to conquer sickness, poverty, bad habits, and other human failings is to realize that they are god—until then they will continue to remain a failure in life.

In that regard—you are your own worst enemy they tell people—you are fighting against yourself!

Remember the scene in one of the Star Wars movies where Luke has a vision he was in a cave and was confronting his fears and Darth Vader shows up who Luke kills and discovers his enemy was really himself?!)

The only one hindering you from achieving complete divinity (godhood) is you because you place limitations upon yourself by the way you think! This was something that Yoda (the yogi of the force) tried to teach Luke by having him lift his starship out of the swamp using the power of his mind.

When Luke failed, he told Yoda that he "asked the impossible"—at which time Yoda levitated Luke's spaceship from the swamp using the power of his mind. Luke exclaimed, "*I don't believe it!*" to which Yoda responded—"*that's why you failed, because you don't believe.*"

This is [The Lie](#) the devil has sowed into the human race back in the Garden of Eden like tares among the wheat which has been growing and branching out and has become the lie of Hinduism and the New Age Movement (which is nothing more than westernized Hinduism).

It is **The Lie** Paul warned would come into the church in the last days (Word of Faith Movement)—and I believe will be **The Lie** that the Antichrist and False Prophet will use to deceive the people of this world with—soon!

Those who reject it will be killed by the Antichrist and his followers believing they are serving God (the Antichrist)—

"For...the time is coming when those who kill you will think they are doing a holy service for God." (John 16:2)



In light of that, all I can say is—"Come quickly Lord Jesus!"

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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