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LATTER RAIN and The Rise of Joel's Army
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The DAY OF THE LORD will be glorious when Jesus returns to set up His Kingdom here on earth. Luke describes it as, "For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day." (17:24)

Jude says, "Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints". (14)

And in Joel 2:1-11:

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong: there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it even to the wars of many generations.

A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen. so shall they run.

Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

They shall run like mighty men: they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

They shall run to and fro in the city: they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

This scripture is referring to the "Day of the Lord" which is the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the time when the Lord Himself will come to execute judgment on the earth. Joel's Army in this chapter is a supernatural army led by Jesus Christ. This event occurs at the time of the Armageddon War at the end of the tribulation period.

When the book of Joel is interpreted literally in the light of other scriptures, there is no doubt that Joel's Army is an army from heaven led by the Lord Jesus. It is not the last day Church now being raised to take dominion of the earth.

One truth stands out clearly and that is the DAY OF THE LORD is an event yet to be fulfilled and only with the advent of the literal presence of Jesus Christ.

Sadly today so called "prophets" are spiritualizing this army and interpreting it to be a supernatural breed of people being birthed without the literal presence of Jesus Christ. Scriptures have been taken out of context to imply a super end-time church made up of a "New Breed" of people who will move in the supernatural realm. Many times the power of God becomes a "force" to be manipulated by practitioners who mete out "blessings" according to their solicitations for monetary gain. This is a concept that has been long held by the cults. When the Word of God is spiritualized the literal meaning is ignored. This method of interpretation today is threatening the church even as it has done since its inception. It appears to those who are looking for deeper revelation and hidden truths. A basis for belief is that truth was lost during the Dark Ages, but is now in the process of being restored. This means the Scriptures are not the final authority, but are to be interpreted with a deeper meaning for today's church. Many believe that just as the writers of the New Testament revealed truths from the Old Testament, so the Church (who has the Spirit of Truth) can now reveal even more truth hitherto hidden.

The "Restoration" teaching centers on God restoring to the last day church truth that was "lost" during the centuries. Thus, the arising of the "five-fold ministries" is part of this restoration. The "prophets" on the scene today provide "revelation" knowledge as to God's desires on the earth. Part of the restoration process is to bring various art-forms back into the church. From a recent Prophetic Conference advertisement we read:

"Through anointed DEMONSTRATION of the arts and prophetic warfare praise, the Voice of the Lord will be demonstrated through mime, expressive signing, specials, flag presentations, pageantry, dance and praise and worship. Prophetic warfare praise will activate your spirit man to new levels and dimensions in God. Seeing the word demonstrated will bring life to the teaching. Each service will begin with praise and worship and include demonstration in the dramatic arts."

Unfortunately when we study the history of these "art forms" we find them a destructive force. The historical church banned mime totally and the fall of Rome was regarded to be caused by the debauchery that resulted when *pantomime* was introduced. This word is not far removed from pantheon or pantheism which is a worship of all gods of different creeds.

It is also interesting to note the use of the dance in the flowing white dresses. This was an integral part of Druid ceremonies. The Druids had prophets or seers who led their people and indulged in pageantry and the carrying of flags and banners!

So, what is really being restored? It is my belief that paganism as never before even imagined is being birthed and alarmingly arising through a church that has deserted sound doctrine.

The "waves" that break from time to time are referred to as new waves bringing forth new truths hitherto hidden. One of the strongest waves to bit in this century was the "Latter Rain" referred to as "'The New Order of the Latter Rain.'".

Out of this Movement in the late 40's came the teaching: "Manifest Sons of God". Other terms that were prevalent are: "Joel's Army", "New Breed", "Elijah Company", "Manchild" and "Overcomers" etc. Modern day prophets are always quick to deny that they teach Manifest Sons of God teaching, but yet continue to do so. We see from the 1920's onward, similar thinking emerging from divergent sources:

1. World Goodwill (founded 1922 by Lucifer Trust).

"...a spiritual event, coming to us to bring about great changes or major restorations, to inaugurate a new civilization or to restore the "ancient landmarks" and lead men nearer to the divine. They have been defined as 'extraordinary men who from time to time appear to change the face of the world and inaugurate a new era in the destinies of humanity.' They come in times of crisis; ...They come when evil is rampant... The necessary stage is set for the reappearance of the Christ." [emphasis added] 1

2. THE SONS OF GOD (1925).

"Man glorified...are the Sons of man, who, through their own deliberate, conscious efforts and their willingness to suffer in order to help their fellow men, became Sons of God and in close communion - at-one-ment - with the Father, so close in fact, that they comprehend the spirit of the Law which will help the race to steer away from destruction unto personal salvation."2

"In each human being there is a Spark, a germ of the Divine Nature. ..This spark is the potential Christos...then becomes a 'light that lighteth all the world of man's consciousness.' When man attains the consciousness of this light within his own being, and recognizes and obeys the still small voice, he has reached a state of being bordering on the illumination of the Soul...and is well on the path toward immortalization. ...Man in toto is a nucleus of Light, a Temple or Church for the living, radiating Christ..." 3

The late 20's and 30's saw a proliferation of esoteric teachings. E. W. Kenyon was heavily influenced by New Thought. His books were (and still are) sold in Christian book stores, and they became the springboard for the Word/Faith movement. Many of the cults started during this time in the same way - with a mixture of truth and error. So it is not surprising that various teachings also quickly infiltrated the Latter Rain revival. The similarity between each of the groups arising out of the Latter Rain are (i) there is a mixture of truth and error, (ii) doctrine is not important, and (iii) scripture is interpreted spiritually and allegorically. The Bible is seen at first as having a literal meaning, then a "spiritual" meaning. What follows then is a progressive revelation of the Scriptures. Therefore the adherents are subject to the "spirit" for their final authority, followed by the witness of the corporate ministry - thus making the Bible subject to them.

Some of the teachings emanating from the Latter Rain include: Restoration, Positive Confession, Shepherding/Discipleship and Manifest Sons. From these teachings come the five-fold ministries (new prophets), dreams and visions, signs and wonders, spiritual warfare and ecumenism based on experience- A focal point of their belief is that a Church is being raised up who will "take the world".

The Deity of Christ and authority of Scripture seems always be under attack. Yet we are continually bombarded with "doctrine divides". It is indeed as if the Church is being set up for a massive deception. The aberrant teachings appeal to those within the Church who are excited by a "new thing" and "deeper truths" that are "hid" but to the "wise". As they move from experience to experience, senses become dulled and they cease to rest on the authority of Scripture. Extra-Biblical revelations take the form of prophetic utterances, angelic messages and dreams and visions. In this way the authority subtly moves from the Bible to the "teachers" who are bringing forth "new truths". These teachings are flourishing unchecked and finding their way into the "mainstream" through ecumenical services that are crossing denominational barriers.

As these tentacles slowly wind their way around sincere Christians, they lose their own identity and start thinking only the thoughts they are programmed to think.

In 1948, the Assemblies of God were particularly hit by the wave that came out of Canada. The new manifestations coming out of the tide were claimed to be of God. The Assemblies at that time took a strong Stand and officially rejected the new teachings. There already was a strong anti-denominational spirit and the split that resulted reinforced the feelings that denominations could not experience the blessing of God or the "move of the Spirit". Denominations were commonly referred to as "old Order Brethren" or "Pharisees" then, even as now.

However today we are seeing a new development - instead of the Assemblies of God rejecting this teaching in its new garb, they are courting it and have been infiltrated to such an extent they have become part of it. There is such a desire for "signs and wonders" and the 'supernatural' that all caution is being thrown to the wind. For some years already leading ministers in the Assemblies of God have been appearing at conferences with known heretics – yes, that is a strong word but when many of these pernicious teachings are studied in the light of Scripture one can only realize that doctrines of demons are being preached from many pulpits.

We hear continuously, "do not question". If a certain teaching is questioned then the questioner is labeled as "negative", a "heresy-hunter" or "touching God's anointed". Submission to the "scriptural authority", which they claim to possess, is emphasized and the good of the "community" is to be considered above one's own needs. A spiritual elitism develops and one is made to think they are "losing out with God" by leaving the group and will always be "second class" Christians.

The key teachings of the Manifest Sons of God continue to be taught. This teaching was present from the very inception of the Latter Rain Revival. THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES by George Warnock became a handbook of this movement. It expounded the two main themes of the "Sonship" message." 4

1. "The MANIFEST SONS or "Overcomers" will arise to overcome the enemies of both man and Christ".

2. "This will come about by a secret inner coming of Christ to some Christians which would transform them into 'Overcomers'".

Well known teachers of this thinking are even suggesting that these Overcomers will either be equal with God or share the headship with Jesus Christ. They arrive at this conclusion because they say it has taken Jesus 2,000 years to prepare and perfect the church.

A leader among the Restorationists says" "When the Church realizes its full sonship, its bodily redemption will cause a redemptive chain reaction throughout all of creation.”⁵

New Age adherents call this the PARADIGM SHIFT. This is the whole purpose of THE GREAT INVOCATION:

"From the point of light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.
May Christ return to earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
let purpose guide the little wills of men –
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of love and light work out
and may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let light and love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.”

They believe that, as many thousands use this prayer every day, “it will create a worldwide spiritual public opinion which can become irresistible”. Global transformation will take place and indeed we will enter the Age of Aquarius.

I. New Age Organization Quotes the Neo-Pentecostals. Since there has been extra-biblical revelations in all the teachings coming out of the Latter Rain, it should not be surprising that a New Age organization was delighted to find the neo-pentecostals were really like them in many ways! “...there is within the Pentecostal movement, an evolving theology that is surprisingly close to that which students of the nature of Spirit agree upon.”⁶ They would certainly never give credence to those who have strong scriptural moorings. So why do they admire about the Neo-pentecostals? Some of the teachings they agree with are:

A. Jesus is God’s Greatest Sign! *'For as Jonas was a sign to the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of Man be (a sign) to this generation.'* So, if Jesus is the Sign... who or what is the fulfillment? ...Paul who saw the wonderful truth of the Body of Christ, the 'Perfect Man',

the 'Sons of God', the many membered man that God was making after His own Image... You can be a member of the Perfect Man..."⁷

B. A Reliance Upon Patterns Types and "Shadows". These were the teaching tools of ancient mystery schools (cabbalism). In this teaching they found that there are three types of worshippers. (the masses, the aspirants and the initiates) which are symbolized by the Outer Court, Inner Court and Holy of Holies.⁸

"... The Outer Court corresponds to the initial conversion experience and gives entry into the Holy Place. In this second court, the candlesticks, oil and flame correspond to a humanity filled with the Holy Spirit. The Outer Court experience, while giving you eternal life, offers no spiritual light; it is illumined only by the light of the natural sun. In the Holy Place, flesh and spirit work together, to produce light."⁹

Dr. Bill Hamon also teaches that there are always three entry levels, i.e. 100-fold, 60-fold, 30-fold. Jesus had three groups; Inner circle (3), the other (9), and then the (70). Hamon calls this the "Divine Principle".

Whenever "types" are used in the interpretation of Scripture, the allegorical method becomes the basis. This gives free reign to the interpreter as:

"Sarah is a type of the Church. The Church is 'withered', and its womb is dried up in many places, but God is sending a revival of joy to awaken and renew the Church so that she can bring forth the 'man-child' of joy, even the army of overcomers who will go forth in the likeness and image of the Lord in these last days."¹⁰

Unfortunately, whatever the latest "rage" is in the church, the Scriptures can be adulterated through this method to make the situation seem "scriptural".

C. The Year of Jubilee. Instead of using the phrase, "The Aquarian Age of Enlightenment", they have the same message but use The Year of Jubilee:

"...I see the great year of Jubilee, when we shall pass through the veil into the very Presence of the fullness of God, to be filled with this fullness and go forth proclaiming liberty to all of creation. Romans 8 calls this the "Manifestation of the Sons of God", and says the whole creation is groaning and crying for this day. This goes far beyond anything portrayed anywhere else by God's fifties. This is the ultimate anointing! This is the fullness of the Spirit! This is the Spirit without measure that Jesus had, spoken of in John 3:34, reserved until the end time for His Brethren!"¹¹

The tentacles that come from the Latter Rain vary in form and thought, but they are ever becoming streams flowing together until they become one "mighty river" or "Move of God"!

II. Revival. There is much talk about revival which is synonymous with the "Latter Rain". The revival has quite a different meaning to that which has always been the orthodox sense. This revival:

A. Is Based on Signs and Wonders, New Thing etc. As long as there are manifestations, it does not matter what is being taught. Rodney Howard-Browne (from South Africa) has the laughing manifestations in his services. Interestingly he calls denominations "abominations", obviously because they dare question his style. The common denominator is the hilarious laughter. His claim is that he is a holy "bartender" and is telling the people to drink. He calls his "bar" Joel's Place!

His teaching on the Deity of Jesus Christ is the most disconcerting. He sees Jesus as an earthly prophet who left His Deity in Heaven. Rodney Howard-Browne writes:

"Nothing Jesus did was because He was the Son of God. The Bible says He laid aside His royal robes of Deity and when He walked on earth He did so as a Prophet under the Abrahamic Covenant."¹²

"The first person in our modern era to suggest that Jesus had set aside His Deity was arch-liberal German rationalist Johan Semler in the 18th century. Semler suggested that the Kenosis or self-emptying of Jesus in Philippians 2:7 was a complete discarding of Deity. That is patently false because we see the Deity of Christ shining forth through all His earthly ministry..."¹³

In a conversation with a young pastor it was not too surprising when he said, "Jesus emptied Himself of Deity while on earth - He did miracles when He operated in the Gifts...so as the Body of Christ, we all have the same capability if we are filled with the Spirit." This same young pastor said that Jesus became, "the Anointed One" at His water baptism and put Deity back on at His resurrection.

What was the most frightening was when questioned regarding the Word being our final authority, he would only retort, "the letter killeth".

"The Kenosis (emptying) of Christ during His incarnation does not mean that He surrendered any attributes of Deity, but that He took on the limitations of humanity, This involved a veiling of His preincarnate glory (John 17:5) and the voluntary waiving of some of His divine prerogatives during the time He was on Earth,"¹⁴

Regarding the two natures of Christ, Louis Berkhof offers the following observation:

"From the earliest times, and more particularly since the Council of Chalcedon, the Church confessed the Doctrine of the two natures of Christ. The Council did not solve the problem presented by a person who was at once human and divine, but only sought to ward off some of the solutions which were offered and were clearly recognized as erroneous. And the Church accepted the doctrine of two natures in one person not because of had a complete understanding of the mystery, but because it clearly saw in it a mystery revealed by the Word of God. It was and remained ever since for the Church an article of faith, far beyond human comprehension,"¹⁵

The Word is important! Doctrine does matter! It is imperative as a believer in Jesus Christ to know we believe in the Jesus Christ of the Holy Scriptures, not the Jesus of Rodney

Howard-Browne's imagination who sends the Holy Spirit on command to enter the belly and "ha ha ho ho" comes out as the expression of being filled!

This is sensual and a corruption of the truth and holiness of our God! The cackling and uncontrolled emotions continue unchecked even as an attempt is made to read the Word of God. Never in the history of the Church has such mockery gained prominence and prestige among those who would call themselves Christians. Truth is never judged by experience!

B. Does Not Allow Anyone to Question. Any unscriptural utterances or practices must not be questioned. If one does question, threats are made, sometimes even to the point of the questioner's death.

C. Rejects Sound Doctrine. There is no place for judging. The scriptures are not the standard but rather subjective experiences. Thence the door opens to any teaching. Where there is an absence of DISCERNMENT, heresy thrives.

III. Intervention. The new interpretation of this word is that it is, "a suspension of the ordinary laws of approach to God." Again it is emphasized that, "The Lord Jesus Christ has waited twenty centuries to give the redeemed an opportunity to partake with Him these conveyed powers..."¹⁶ [Thus, making the church before this time incomplete thus make the cross of Christ of non-effect].

Spiritual elitism is emphasized, "God is bringing a company of overcomers into this experience of Divine Control in preparation of a higher level of intervention."¹⁷

IV. Gnosticism. The new wave is gnostic in their approach to the person of Jesus Christ in that they separate Jesus from "The Christ".

A. The Christ. Always take note when this phrase is used. The Manifest Sons believe that Jesus only became "the Christ" or the "Anointed One" at His baptism. Just so, there will be an actual time in the course of human history that we will put on this "divinity". In this way they easily fit in the teaching that the Church is the ongoing reincarnation of Christ, "as He was, so are we"!

B. On-going Reincarnation. The belief that we are the "ongoing incarnation" of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone upon which the apostate beliefs are building. Instead of us partaking in the divine nature of Jesus Christ, we are becoming equal to and are-to assume the role of Jesus Christ.

1. Restoration Movement. The teaching has also shown up in the Restoration Movement: "God wants us to see Jesus as merely the big brother in a huge family of brothers and sisters who are like Him. You have the Divine nature - the Eternal life of God - still Christ must be formed in you. God reveals that Christ had to be formed - even in Jesus". [RESTORATION] by James Robison

2. Shepherding/Discipleship. From the this teaching: "...until there came a body of men and women in the earth who could be compared to a corporate mature

man...what He was in the incarnate power and life, they would become in their corporate power and life.” [Thy Kingdom Come] by W.J. Ern Baxter

It is gnosticism that says "God in me and I in you'. Thus by obedience to the Divine Law, man attains unto Christhood, becomes the Son of God. He who loves his fellow man is possessed of the Christic power within himself, if he deliberately puts forth every possible effort to develop the spiritual essence within him, he will grow into Consciousness. (Sonhood). In his fourfold nature of body, spirit, mind and Soul, man is an epitome of the Universe. Potentially, he is the Divine Creation in miniature."

V. Revealing Joel' Army. When Paul Cain (a modern day "prophet") was 19 years of age he had a visitation from the Angel of the Lord. This angel was standing in majesty like a warrior. He had a bright shining sword and he pointed to a billboard that said, "Joel's Army in Training". He didn't know what that meant and then he said after asking the Lord what it meant; the Lord took him by the hand and led him through the book of Joel.

The basic theme of this teaching is that God is about to raise up out of the Church a Joel's Army. There are some very important things to note about this army:

A. It will PURGE the Church and destroy all those who are not worthy to be part of the Bride. "The dismantling of organizations and disbanding of some works will be a positive and exhilarating experience for the Lord's faithful servants...the Lord will raise up a great company of prophets, teachers, pastors and apostles that will be of the spirit of Phinehas...this "ministry of Phinehas" will save congregations, and at times, even whole nations...they will be moved by the jealousy of the Lord for the purity of His people...It was said of the Apostle Paul that he was turning the world upside down; it will be said of the apostles soon to be anointed that they have turned an upside down world right side up. Nations will tremble at the mention of their name..." 18

Others are also speaking of this "cleansing action". A prophecy by Glenn Foster reads:

"I have been cleansing the Church. Now I am ready to begin cleansing the nations... The fire that falls first is upon the sacrifice on the altar – that's my Church. Then the fire falls upon the false prophets - that's the government and leadership of the world that rules in cruelty in its own wisdom... This is a special day - an appointed time... Behold, my Jehus are ready to receive a fresh anointing. Jehu will replace the rule of Ahab and Jezebel...there is a prophetic word upon the lips of the Elijahs of this hour, which shall feed the flesh of Jezebel to the dogs."19

B. It will pave the way for a great signs and wonders revival. According to Jack Deere this revival will, "bring the nations to the mountain of the Lord to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ."

C. Stadiums will be filled! The evening news will give way to broadcasting this news.

Notice now the links to the Manifest Sons of God teaching:

Over and over it is emphasized that this army will outshine anything any believers in the past may have done for God. Jack Deere says, "this army is unique...when this army comes, it is large and its mighty. It's so mighty that there's never been anything like it before. Not even when Moses, not even David, not even Paul. What's going to happen now will transcend what Paul did, what David did, what Moses did..."

This word seems self-fulfilling in the new movement called "The Promisekeepers". This group was started by Bill McCartney (University of Colorado football coach) and James Ryle (a Vineyard pastor who has ministered with John Wimber and Paul Cain). In a recent interview in response to a question as to whether the Promisekeepers could be fulfilling the prophecy in Joel of raising an army, James Ryle answered, "Yes...300,000 men have come together so far this year under Promisekeepers...Never in history have 300,000 men come together except to go to war. These men are gathered for War."

It is also very important to note that James Ryle is a strong believer in the validity of dreams and visions for guidance for the Church. Several years ago he had a vision regarding the "new music" that God was bringing to the church. In this vision he had the revelation that the Beatles had the anointing for the new music that God wanted to bring forth, but somehow they missed God - but God is still going to have another chance to bring forth this new music and people will just fall on their faces when they hear this sound.

As the men crowd into coliseums across the land and pastors gather to organize their troops, one wonders where it is leading. Is it the disbanding of the Church as we have known it? Will our distinctives be thrown overboard in the call for Unity?

Franklin Hall, one of the forerunners in the Latter Rain taught that Christians can become immortal. (This teaching surfaces throughout). He has written that Christians can become "gravity-freed" and if they fall on a sword, the immortality from Jesus' body would protect them.

Another early teacher, Sam Fife, taught that the aging process had stopped for him and when asked his age, he would simply answer "I AM". He assured people that he would never die but was in the process of being changed into incorruptible life.

Both John Wimber and Jack Deere speak of the invincibility of this army. Jack Deere says, "...they won't be able to kill this army." John Wimber more cautiously says, "those in this army will have the 'kind of anointing...his kind of power...anyone who wants to harm them must die'".

It is important to note that the "prophecies" of Bob Jones formed the basis for many of the teachings in Kansas City which permeated the Vineyard. Bob Jones was recognized as having a "very high level of anointing". Even though he has been disfellowshipped and disciplined by the Vineyard, his tapes are still available through the Anaheim Vineyard ministry. His teachings are yet to be refuted.

Rick Joyner speaks of levels of anointing. He believes the church is moving into a "new level". In advertising his coming conference he says, (i) "There will be a special anointing present for commissioning, confirming commission, imparting spiritual gifts, and stirring up again spiritual gifts that have been dormant for a time," (ii) "There will be a special anointing

released for mobilizing the army of the Lord," and "There will be an impartation of strategic vision...to boldly march against the greatest strongholds of our time... This army of which Joel speaks is about to be revealed...They will take cities. They will burst through the enemy's strongholds and take houses (families). The very heavens and the earth are about to shake because of this great army...the time has come."20

VI. New Breed. Paul Cain was regarded for several years as the "most anointed prophet" in the world today. It was said of him. "God created in Paul a living testament of the type of men that one day would be called a NEW BREED. He directed Paul to sacrifice everything - his large ministry, the possibility of marriage, wealth, fame. His life was picked lean, so he could truly claim that all he has and is comes from the Lord."21

Bob Jones of the Kansas City Prophets taught that children are the "elected seed" generation, hand-picked in heaven from the best of every bloodline that's ever been, and offspring of the original apostles. They are the 'chosen generation of all history' who will eventually form the Bride of Christ. These "Elected Seeds" all make up part of the New Breed. This New Breed is an elite group of believers endowed with supernatural power that enables them to be part of the dread warriors that God is raising up in our generation. According to John Wimber this army will eventually subdue the nations.

Other prophetic groups are saying the same:

"The 1980's and 1990's are producing a generation born in Zion; these children will grow up in the house of the Lord, destined to participate in the glorious consummation of His purposes." and "Children born in Zion have but one heart-cry: to be anointed, to be conformed to the image of the Pattern Son, the holy child Jesus."22

The New Breed spirit gives rise to spiritual elitism. The "prophets" boast that the NEW BREED of leaders (Apostles and prophets) will perfect the New Breed of people and thus usher in the "NEW ORDER" of government on the earth.

"It now appears that God is raising up a New Breed of leadership to do the 'new thing'. This NEW BREED will be young and fresh, with a pioneering spirit - whether chronologically young or old in age. Last year I had the opportunity to meet several young men whom I believe represents this NEW BREED of leadership...We invite you to learn more about Mike Bickle, a part of God's NEW BREED for the 90's."23

"...the Lord has well planted this seed of the New Bride and the New Breed...He's about to open the womb and He's about to give birth to this New thing...when the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us we beheld the glories of the only begotten of the Father and when YOU begin to become that Word, I want you to know the world will behold the glory of the Father and that's what we're waiting to see...I want you to now that we're going to have some channeling one of these days, but it's going to be channeled right out of the throne room of heaven."24

VII. Government. Many times in the transcripts we read how this "New Breed" will eventually gain power and authority throughout the earth. The government will be upon their shoulders. Plans were laid for a "Shiloh" (Retreat Center) in Kansas City where leaders in government would come from all over the world to be ministered to.

We can not take this too lightly. Paul Cain has ministered to George Bush and Bill Clinton. He has traveled to Iraq and had personal meetings with Saddam Hussein. He has had the ear of the Parliament in England. One of his favorite stories is about a prophet in California that President Eisenhower frequently" visited and listened to while President.

The MANIFESTED SONS believe they are establishing a new and glorious Kingdom - led by a NEW BREED of men of women. The " Joel's Army" now individually manifest as Sons of God, would be revealed to the world as many "saviours" who would take dominion and execute judgment. The present economic, religious and political systems are being identified as Babylon and will be defeated when the Sons of God are manifest. "The saints will take the kingdom. and possess the kingdom for ever...the Sons of Yahweh, one like the Son of man - not the lonely and blessed Yahshua of Nazareth alone, but the complete body of sons - Yahweh's masterpiece of the ages, the body of Yahshua, the house not made with hands - My Father's house of many mansions, each one whether individually or collectively 'An habitation of Yahweh through the Spirit"...these sons of Yahweh are indeed the 'One like the Son of man.'""25

VIII. What is the true Joel's Army? This army is a supernatural army that God raises up just before the Battle of Armageddon. The timing is: The Day of the Lord. The teaching of the "new prophets" happens to fit in with many today who are politically minded and believe the Church is going to take over the earth without the personal presence of Jesus Christ. It gives credence to those who by self efforts, whether they be political or spiritual, can achieve to attainment here on this earth.

"Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and he relents from sending calamity." Joel 2: 12-13.

Footnotes below

Editorial

Benn Hinn, An Assemblies of God Minister?

This is quite an amazing turn of events. Several years ago Benny Hinn was poised to present to the Pope the "Prince of Peace" award.

After quite a bit of controversy regarding teaching and practices, the Assemblies of God obviously feel it would be to their advantage to have Benny Hinn numbered amongst their ministers. It was reported that at a recent convention an official emotionally admitted to having based his decision to accept Benny Hinn solely on the premise that he felt the Lord told him "not to touch him". At the meeting when Rev. Hinn was questioned all this man could do was cry. Yet a District Superintendent upon hearing the news had never known such "total dismay and heartsickness". It does seem that the two have come to quite different conclusions. The question is then, on what do they base their judgment - an intuitive voice or Scripture?

Nearly everyone has had opportunity to witness Benny Hinn services on national television. The worship is indeed beautiful and the sincerity of everyone participating can

never be denied. I am certain also that people are being healed. My feelings during these times can be very warm and sympathetic. God has made our emotions, and certainly our feelings make us sensitive to things of the Lord. But if our feelings are the guide in determining the essentials that pertain to life and godliness, we will be led astray.

Important questions do need to be raised.

1. Benny Hinn's doctrine is questionable and possibly heretical. You may reply, "He has repented and is sincerely trying to straighten up his teachings". But, why doesn't he pull his books with the controversial teachings? Why does he continue to consort with others who teach these doctrines? Why does he continue to teach strange doctrines?

2. His own life's testimony is full of inaccuracies. How can we accept as a fully ordained minister someone who has obviously told falsehoods which have not even been corrected?

3. Are we not to live lives above reproach - to put to shame those that are without Christ? Why does it take a secular television program to show inconsistencies with what Benny Hinn says and with his actions, i.e. opulent lifestyle, etc.?

The Assemblies of God have always been held in high regard despite the fact they have traveled a rather bumpy road in recent years. With the demise of PTL and Jimmy Swaggart there have not been any bright stars to light their horizon in the television world. It does seem that courting Benny Hinn and then perhaps an alliance with TBN would somehow replace the glitz and glamour that was lost.

Recently on TBN, a program was preceded by a display of an ornate icon with a picture of the "Blessed Mother". Is this a sign perhaps of what might be in store in view of new alliances that might be on the horizon?

Yes, people weep and people are blessed. But when truth becomes murky in a pool that is crowded with ecumenism, sensuality and liberalism, it isn't long before the truth will disappear altogether. Today's carnal Christian demands that their lust be satisfied with a gospel that makes Jesus into a Saviour that is a glorified image of themselves. Are we moving into the ideology of the German Rudolf Holtmann (1884-1976) who believed that "Jesus must not be located in the realm of facts and objects...He is not the Jesus of history, but the Christ of faith and present experience."²⁶

It is our earnest desire that everyone who loves the Lord and wants to see His kingdom advance, put away these things that so easily beset and truly become purveyors of the unadulterated, pure and Holy Word of God. There truly is no substitute!

The tide can be stemmed if we take a stand for TRUTH. There are enough in the land who love the Lord and are willing to go forth equipped with the full armour of God! Today as never before we need ministers of the Word who will preach the GOSPEL of the KINGDOM! The GOSPEL that convicts of sin and brings many to righteousness, not an easy believism that panders to self-interest. There is a dearth in the land for the WORD of the ALMIGHTY GOD that declares, "*No man comes to the Father except by Me.*"

- Jewel van der Merwe

Footnotes for LATTER RAIN and The Rise of Joel's Army

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- 3 THE SONS OF GOD, The Mystical! Interpretation of the Teachings of the Masters By R. Swinburne Clymer, Published by The Philosophical Publishing Company, Quakertown, Pennsylvania, pg 10 & 13.
- 4 "THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES, by George Warnock, Box 652, Cranbrook, B.C. Canada, pp. 104, 109
- 5 THE ETERNAL CHURCH, by Dr. Bill Hamon, pp. 15, 381, 386
- 6 AN EVOLUTIONARY BASIS FOR THE REAPPEARANCE OF THE CHRIST AND HIS EXECUTIVES, THE MASTERS OF WISDOM, Research Report #2 - The Neo-Pentecostals and Their Amazing New Age Teachings, Synthesis Research, P. O. Box 8563, Prairie, KS 66208
- 7 JESUS, THE PATTERN SON, Bill Britton. P. O. Box 707, Springfield, MO, pp. 2-3
- 8 LIGHT OUT OF SHADOWS, Bill Britton, p. 28-39, Springfield, MO.
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- 10 End Time Handmaidens, Inc., Angel Letter #2, Sept/Oct. 1994.
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- 12 THE TOUCH OF GOD, pp.13, 14.
- 13 THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL, Personal Freedom Outreach, PO Box 26062, St. Louis, MO 63136, Vol. 14 No. 4.
- 14 THE RYRIE STUDY BIBLE, p. 354.
- 15 SYSTEMIC THEOLOGY, p. 315.
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- 17 Ibid.
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- 24 VINEYARD, Prophetic Conference, 1989, transcripts
- 25 NEW BEGINNINGS, George Hawtin, Aug. 1990
- 26 Eerdmans' Handbook To The History Of Christianity, pg. 599.