

False Latter Rain

#0133

Study given by W.D. Frazee - October 31, 1975

A friend of mine placed in my hand something that came to his attention. It is an announcement of a convention in a city where a large group of Christians are going to be gathering, seeking for and witnessing to what they believe is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The man who is sending the call is a man who for several years has headed a large organization, international in its scope, with its emphasis on the Pentecostal phenomena of speaking in tongues. It is more than a human call. It claims to be the work of the Lord. Notice the claim to the prophetic gift:

“Over twenty years ago God communicated to me a vision wherein each continent came into view before my eyes, and I was able to see the men who lived there. Although the color of their skin and the clothing they wore differed, they all had one thing in common. Their heads were bowed in despair and their arms were folded to emphasize the spiritual emptiness they felt. Then through my wife came this prophecy. The very thing you now see before you will suddenly come to pass. Suddenly I saw those same men with their arms and hands lifted in praise. It was an out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, revival upon all flesh. God has graciously allowed this organization to have a part in His revival. Through its ministries of fellowship, literature, the media, and international airlifts, this organization reached more than one hundred forty million people last year. God has used this organization among others to prepare a foundation for the world shaking revival now on the horizon.”

That was published just a few days ago. Now I want to read something that was published nearly a hundred years ago.

“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted love for God and His word. Many, both of ministers and people, will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s

second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make to appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world" *Great Controversy*, page 464.

Before the latter rain comes and the loud cry is given, Satan comes with a counterfeit. His purpose of introducing the counterfeit is to hinder the work of the latter rain. Satan comes first.

As far as I know it is safe to preach this from the pulpit tonight, but the day is coming soon when it will be considered blasphemy. We are entering into a time so rapidly when the enemy of souls will have succeeded in hypnotizing the multitudes that any who oppose his work will be looked upon as rebels against the government and true religion.

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isaiah 8:20.

In most stores dealing with produce such as fruit and vegetables there are scales where the amount you wish to purchase is weighed. If you look on those scales you will see a seal. The inspector has examined those scales to see whether they tell the truth.

God has given us a measure to test everything that is from God. Every movement and every message is to be examined and weighed in the scales of the sanctuary. If they speak not according to the law and to the testimony it is because there is no light in them. Do you believe that? Pretty soon you will find out whether you do or not. The universe will find out. The test will come to every soul.

"The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the truth that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested" *Great Controversy*, page 593.

The only way you are going to be able to check out these movements is to the law and the testimony. This doesn't mean that everything they say is a lie. Satan's effort has always been to mix truth and error. But there is no light in that which leads away from the law of God and the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of prophecy. There is no truth that leads into the delusions of the enemy.

Let's get a prophetic view of some of the tests that are ahead of us:

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him” Revelation 12:9.

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live” Revelation 13:13-14.

There are multitudes of people who believe that miracles must be from God. But the Bible plainly shows that the devil has power to work miracles. This is one of the texts that prove it.

Elijah on Mount Carmel prayed to God, and God in answer to his intercession sent fire from heaven, and all the people recognized the God of Elijah. Don't forget that many of the miracles of the Bible can be duplicated by the devil if God allows him to. Here is a clear perdition that what Elijah did by the power of God the religious leaders in our day and in our country will do by the power of the devil. They will doubtless refer to the experience in 1 Kings. Doubtless they will call attention to the fact that in answer to prayer God sent fire down to Elijah, and that He is doing it for them. They say it proves that they are sent of God, but it doesn't prove any such thing.

And how will we know? To the law and the testimony. If they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them. Any movement that claims to have a message from God must be tested, not by whether it works miracles or not. Not whether it is prophecy or not. Not whether there is a great experience that comes with it or not. It is to be tested by the law and the testimony of God. What God says in the Ten Commandments and what He says in the rest of the Bible testifies to the perpetuity of the law. This is the test.

Somebody says, That sounds rather legalistic to me.

I am so glad that God has given us His holy law, the Ten Commandments. There doesn't need to be anything legalistic about our attitude. By legalistic we mean something cruel and hard. But it is the devil's game to try to frighten us away from our refuge, to make us afraid of the very thing that can protect us in this hour of danger.

Today in some quarters it is popular to down-grade the law and obedience to the law. And by comparison the love of God and the cross of Christ are uplifted. God is not in the business of separating what He has joined together. And at Calvary righteousness and peace kiss each other. Mercy and truth embrace. There is no antagonism between the law and the gospel. It is the devil that makes that

issue. Don't get fooled with that. Don't get led astray. If you do, you will eventually be led into some movement that claims to have a wonderful experience of grace and the power of the Holy Spirit, yet ignores full obedience to every commandment of the law of God.

“None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict” *Ibid.*

Peter stood for a while when the mob came, and down he went. Even John fled when the test became critical enough. And we are told that multitudes will leave God's true church in the crisis hour either because they are afraid of persecution, or because they are led astray by these delusive doctrines.

As I have been thinking about this announcement that I read at the beginning of the study, I tried to think what it is that is so appealing in these great Pentecostal movements. It isn't just speaking in tongues. That appeals to some. Another thing that appeals is healing. There are multitudes who think that they have been healed by one of these faith healers.

“We need not be deceived. Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God's Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick, and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed” *Selected Messages, Book 2, page 53.*

Suppose a box weighed a hundred pounds. I put it on a man and he carries it all day. How does he feel? He is tired. Suppose the next day I put a hundred and fifty pounds or two hundred on him. Then in the middle of the day as he is carrying that load I take it off of him. How does he feel? He feels better.

Can the devil put a load of sickness on people? Yes. One way he does it is through their habits. But he can miraculously make people sick. He has that influence. Some people are made sick through his power. And when it suits his purpose he can withdraw that influence and they think they are healed. They have had that load taken off them only to be wrapped in that terrible spider web of the devil.

Another example of how the devil substitutes one thing for another is people who are under the influence of drugs. Multitudes have gotten in that problem. Here comes a man with the Pentecostal power, and he lays hold of people who have been on drugs. And listening to him, and responding to his message in the name of Christ, they are supposed to be delivered from that drug and start speaking in tongues.

The Federal Government is now spending quite a bit of money in a research project on the influence of one of these Pentecostal movements in helping people to get off drugs. I don't question but that they are helping people to get off drugs. But

the devil is a slight-of-hand man. He is simply substituting one method of controlling the mind for another.

Drugs influence the mind. They confuse the senses. And the hypnotic influence of spiritualism, whether manifested through mediums or hypnotists or Pentecostal delusions, has this influence to confuse the senses as far as the Word of God is concerned. And what difference does it make to the devil whether he controls people through drugs or spiritual influences?

There are even those in the remnant church who will look upon something like that and say, Oh, isn't that a wonderful thing. Here is something that takes people who are on drugs and gets them off them. That must be a wonderful work.

It is a wonder all right. Jesus doesn't want us to be deceived, so He has given us warning after warning through the Word of God and these latter-day Spirit of Prophecy.

“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect”
Matthew 24:24.

These false prophets shall shew great signs and wonders insomuch that they shall deceive the very elect - if it were possible. I am so glad for that limiting clause.

Do you know why it isn't possible to deceive the people of God? They will listen to the Word of God, the law of God, and the testimony of Jesus instead of depending upon what they see and hear that the miracle workers are doing. That is what gives them security.

“Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived”
Great Controversy, page 624.

Political and religious leaders, and leaders in all the different phases of life will be taken in by these miracle-working movements. And this announcement we read is of a movement that contacted last year one hundred forty million people. This thing is growing. It is going like a prairie fire.

One of the ways the devil heals people is to put the burden of sickness on them and suddenly withdraws it.

“These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventist to the test. Many who have had great light will

fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ” *Selected Messages*, Book 2, page 53.

It is proper for us as we read these things to determine in our hearts that we will not be deceived, but it is going to take more than that. What can we do to get our people ready for this? What can we do to get ready personally? The lesson is very obvious and timely, and we need to dig into the Word and fill our minds with what God says. If the law of God and the testimony of Jesus are the scales that we are to use in weighing things, we must be very familiar with what God says.

But more than merely knowing what it says, we must school our minds in the practice of what we read. While we are dealing with intellectual truth, we are dealing with far more. Our attitude toward truth determines on whether we see it or not.

We are going to read a text that explains why multitudes of religious leaders, some apparently sincere men, will be taken in the snare of the devil and be used as his agents to lead the world to Armageddon

“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delu-sion, that they should believe a lie” 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11.

Would God send people strong delusions? Yes. I will tell you how He does it. Suppose we should decide we don’t like light. We begin to murmur about it. Could it be removed? We don’t like the light so it is going out. Did anyone send the darkness? Which door did the darkness come in?

The only way that God sends darkness is by withdrawing His light when people don’t want it. The only way it can be said that God sends strong delusions is when people don’t want truth and don’t love truth and won’t practice truth, and God lets them have what they want. They don’t want truth so He withdraws it. And just as darkness comes when light is withdrawn, so and the only things left when truth is withdrawn is strong delusions.

Do we want light? Praise God. And if we will walk in the light, as He is in the light:

“We have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin” 1 John 1:7.

Jesus says walk while you have the light (John 12:35). Only a little while is light with you. The light is moving on. The only way I can keep in the light is to

move with it. And Satan is going to work with all deceivableness of unrighteousness of them that perish because they receive not the love of the truth. So I not only need to study the Word as ever before. I need to cultivate a love for doing what it ways, and a willingness to do it when it is peculiar, because the deception is going to take the whole world captive.

Oh, that God may help our young men to be like Daniel and his three friends in Babylon. Oh, that He may help our young women to be like that little maid that went to Syria, and witness for God in the land of captivity. God is preparing young people today by the study of His Word, and by practical standing for truth from day to day. He is preparing them to be His witnesses in the time when the whole world is taken captive by the devil's delusions.

The devil is appealing to the desire that people have for seeing these great spectacular signs. He is appealing for their desire for healing. But there is another reason that these Pentecostal movements are reaching multitudes. Many people want an experience of peace without getting an experience of repentance for sin. They don't want their conscience to bother them. And they are not willing to give up the things that the conscience is bothering them about. And Satan is perfectly willing to give them either a chemical or spiritual tranquilizer. The Pentecostal movements have provided for millions of people an experience like talking in tongues, or some other miraculous manifestation so they know that God has done something for them. Therefore they know that God has accepted them, and they rest in that security.

“Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity” Matthew 7:21-23.

Everyone who calls Jesus Lord will not be in heaven. But he that does His will. Who is talking here? Jesus. Let's not call Him legalistic. Iniquity is lawbreakers. Yet they call Jesus Lord. Have they done some things? They have prophesied and done many wonderful works, and they did it all in Jesus' name. Jesus said, Depart from Me.

Who gave them the power then? It is the spirit of devils working miracles that deceive the whole world.

Don't misunderstand me. I am sure that out here in these great movements are honest souls who have been taken in the snare, and God wants to get them out. He doesn't want them in that snare. And God wants us to be so sure of His truth that we will be able to give them the message of truth from the Book that will open their eyes and get them out from under that hypnotic spell.

The devil is going to take in the whole world in his net. And remember, he comes first with this great delusion with mighty miracles, preceding the latter rain and

the loud cry. This is one of the great signs that indicates to me that we are on the verge of the final crisis.

“Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive” *Great Controversy*, page 625.

Notice two things that we are to be kept from these delusions. One is diligent students of the Scriptures, and the other is love of the truth. Do you love the truth? Do you love the Ten Commandments? Do you love the Sabbath? Do you love health reform, educational reform? Do you love everything that God has said?

Let's be honest with ourselves. We may not find it necessary to tell everyone else what our secret problems are, but let's tell God and ask Him to do the work in our hearts that will make us fully in alignment with His perfect standard. It is not enough to merely do what He says. We must receive a love for it.

I can't give you that love for it. You can't make yourself love it. But you and I can come to Calvary and there see what Satan did to Jesus. And as we behold we will hate that program of satanic deception. We can look upon the love of Jesus until our hearts are charmed with His character, and we will say, Lord, I really want to be like Jesus instead of the devil. No matter how many miracles the devil can work, and no matter how great is the power he exercises, I don't want to do anything with him. The more power he has the more I want to stay away from him.

Thank God, the elect will not be deceived. Those who make their calling and election sure by seeking God in the study of His Word, by laying hold of the righteousness of Christ, and seeking for that love which keeps them close to the Saviour and separates them from the world.

Blessed Lord, rightly interpret to our hearts these thrilling things, these challenging things that we have studied tonight. Give us such a love for Jesus that we would rather die than loose our connection with Him. We ask it in His name, Amen.

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