

# Sanctuary (Oak Haven 1969) 9 of 10

## *True vs False Latter Rain*

#0501

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—August 1969

Turn please to Matthew the 24<sup>th</sup> chapter. In our imagination, we'll gather with some of Christ's closest disciples. He's seated upon the Mount of Olives, overlooking the city of Jerusalem. He's mentioned the fact that the temple and the city will be destroyed. The disciples have asked Him for signs of His coming at the end of the world. Now notice Christ's response:

"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you" Matthew 24:4.

This is the very first thing He said in answer to their question:

"Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?"  
Matthew 24:3.

The first thing is, be careful; don't get fooled. Why? Nobody's going to be fooled about this subject, are they? Jesus says:

"Take heed that no man deceive you, for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" Matthew 24:5.

I want to ask you something. If the very first things that Jesus spoke about when He was questioned about His coming was to warn His children, His disciples, His inner circle, of the danger of being deceived, would it be a good thing for us to check? Would it be a good thing for us to examine His prophecies and see how to avoid being deceived? Of course, everybody here is already done that, and there's no danger of *our* being deceived, is there? And Jesus was talking to some ordained ministers who were very close to Him—Peter and John and Andrew and James, the four closest to Him. And He said:

"Take heed that no man deceive you, for many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many" Matthew 24:5.

So, Jesus, looking down the stream of time, knew that there was great danger of people being deceived, *His* people being deceived, and He warned, "Be careful, take heed that no man deceive you."

Now, let's go down a little further to the 23<sup>rd</sup> verse:

“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not” Matthew 24:23.

Would there come a time when somebody would say, “Jesus is over there” or “Jesus is here”? Does Jesus say to go investigate it? What does He say? “Believe it not.” From the time that Jesus left this world and went back to Heaven, any message that locates Jesus in someplace on this planet and says, “Go over there, and you’ll see Him,” Jesus says:

“Believe it not. 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 24:23–24.

Now these false Christs that come claiming to be the Son of God, here and there over the surface of the earth, Jesus says they are going to show what? Great signs and wonders. You mean an imposter, a counterfeit, somebody sent of the Devil can show great signs and wonders? That’s what this says.

“...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.

“Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore, if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not”  
Matthew 24:25–26.

In this 26<sup>th</sup> verse, Christ foretells two places, especially that men will be called to seek Christ, to find Jesus. What’s one of them? The desert. And the other is the secret chambers. And in this verse, two of the greatest modern counterfeits are clearly depicted. Two great systems of religion that are with us today are pointed out here. Thousands, through the last hundred years, have gone out to the desert expecting to find Jesus. They’re still looking for Him to come to a special temple that’s been built out there. I spent several years of my ministry working among those people, in helping them to see that the place to find Jesus is in the temple *above*, not the one down here in this world.

Then this other one: “Behold, He is in the secret chamber; believe it not.” What great modern system do we have pointed out here? Spiritualism. Thousands have gone to the séance chamber, hoping to meet with Jesus. And, of course, from time to time, they hear somebody who says He *is* Jesus. But Jesus says what? “Believe it not.”

Now, the 27<sup>th</sup> verse:

“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” Matthew 24:27.

No danger of counterfeiting *that* coming. When He comes, everybody will know it. “Every eye shall see Him.” (Revelation 1:7)

But do you know, my dear friends, there is one message in all this world tonight that gives the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth on the coming of Jesus. It’s amazing how many delusions, deceptions, diversions, half-truths the enemy has brought in.

I read to you in our last study a statement from *Early Writings*, page 256:

“These messages...

(the first, second, and third angel’s messages of Revelation 14)

“These messages were represented to me as an anchor to the people of God. Those who understand and receive them will be kept from being swept away by the many delusions of Satan” *Early Writings*, page 256.

In the study we had the other night, the one I’m having with you tonight, and the one I want to have with you Friday night, my great longing is to make clear how you and I can escape these delusions that are ahead of us. And I hope nobody will think you know so much about it, friends, that you’re all safe. There was a man by the name of Peter, who was very sure that *he* was safe. Do you remember? But, poor fellow, he fell down, didn’t he? He fell down. And there are multitudes today who suppose that they are proof against all the deceptions. And Satan laughs at how gullible they will prove to be. “Those who understand and receive these messages [this anchor] will be kept from being swept away by the many delusions of Satan.”

Now, we’re looking at Matthew 24. I want to ask you something. Who’s talking in this 24<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew? *Jesus* is talking. Who’s He talking to? His disciples, His church. And several times here, He’s warning them against being what? Deceived. And deceived particularly by what? False Christs—somebody coming, here and there, claiming to be who? Christ. And He says, don’t believe it. When *I* come, I am coming in the sky, surrounded by the myriads of the angel host. And “as the lightning shineth out of the east even to the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” (Matthew 24:27)

Friends, I propose to wait for that coming. What do you say? And if there’s any question about somebody, we know that there isn’t any question about it. I mean by that, friends, that when Jesus comes, there’ll be no question about it. So if there are any questions, there isn’t any question, it’s false. Don’t investigate it. Did Jesus say to go out to the desert and look things over and decide whether it’s the true Christ or a false Christ? Did He say, when they say, “Go into the secret chambers” to send a committee to investigate it? Did He? Wouldn’t that be the scientific way to do it? Jesus has already covered that ground, and He said to not even go, don’t listen.

Do you remember a woman who, 6,000 years ago, investigated something? What did she investigate? The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. That was the first broadcast. It came from a serpent speaking. And Eve was charmed; she

was entranced to hear that marvelous thing. Was it a great sign and wonder? Had she ever heard a serpent speak before? No. I want to ask you something, friends. Do you suppose if there was a tent pitched down here, and a serpent was talking, do you suppose anybody would go and hear it? I wonder if you'd go. Would you go and hear a serpent talk? Oh, I'd like to hear it. I'd like to see it. *Would* you? Jesus says that these false Christs and false prophets are going to do what? Show great signs and wonders insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. I can tell you this, friend: I'll never be charmed by the serpent if I don't listen to it. I'll never be deceived by a false Christ if I don't go and look at him. Is that right? Jesus covers the whole ground and says to go not forth. Oh, I wish that I could help somebody here tonight to see that there are some things, many things that we ought never to investigate. As I said the other night, you don't have to drink a gallon of milk to tell whether it's sour or not. No, you don't.

Now, I'm going to read another comment on this from *Great Controversy*:

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception..."

Now notice, this is simply part of a great drama. This is the crowning act. There is one act after the other. And the people who are finally deceived by this crowning act are people who have been led along through lesser acts previous. Don't forget that. I'm going to cover some of them tonight, but just now we're looking at the crowning act:

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ" *Great Controversy*, page 624.

Satan is the great actor. You know what an actor is. An actor is one who pretends to be somebody else. Somebody gets up on a stage and acts like George Washington, or Napoleon, or the apostle Paul, or somebody else. Well, Satan is the great actor, and he's going to personate who? Christ. And, believe me, friends, he's a good actor. By "good" I mean skillful, successful, a good imitator. Listen:

"In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld" *Ibid*.

Wouldn't you like to go see that? Wouldn't you? Listen. People who have their eyes glued to TV day after day are going to see this, I can promise you that my friend. That's right. The enemy is in the business of getting people in the habit of just watching, watching, watching, watching.

"A shout of triumph rings out upon the air: 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and

subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones, he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Savior uttered” *Ibid.*

Do you think he can repeat the Sermon on the Mount? Now watch:

“... he heals the diseases of the people” *Ibid.*

Is he coming as the great medical missionary? Yes, he is. Coming as the great healer. And listen: people who no doctor could cure, they’re going to have the hands of that devil, that false Christ, that counterfeit Jesus, placed upon them, and they’re going to be healed. Great signs and wonders.

“... he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday” *Ibid.*

Just what people want to hear.

“...and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest give heed to these sorceries saying, ‘This is the great power of God’” *Ibid.*

This whole world is going to be deceived. They’re going to bow down and worship him. He’s going to get just what he’s been wanting for 6,000 years—worship, worship, worship, worship. That’s what he wants. It feeds his egotism. I like this next sentence:

“But the people of God will not be misled” *Ibid.*, page 625.

Do you know why? They’ve listened to what Jesus said in Matthew 24. They have learned how to tell the true Christ when He comes and how to tell the false Christ. Let me ask you something: Which comes first, the true Christ or the false Christ?

[Audience response] The false Christ.

Are you sure? I can tell you this, friend: unless the false Christ came first, He wouldn’t have a chance. Is that right? He wouldn’t have a chance. And God allows (there’s another reason for this) the Devil to put on his act first so that everybody who wants *that* kind of Christ can have it. You see, God is very careful to respect our power of choice. He won’t force our muscles; neither will He force our minds. He’s going to let people *do* what they want to, and He’s going to let people *think* what they want to. Listen, friend. It’s dangerous to even *want* something that isn’t right. Turn

to 2 Thessalonians 2, and you'll see what I mean. Here's another wonderful prophecy of these same deceptions.

“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” 2 Thessalonians 2:8–9.

Satan is going to work with what? With all power, and signs, and lying wonders. The Devil has never yet been turned loose fully. God has had shackles on him; He's going to turn him loose pretty soon. He's going to work with all power and signs and lying wonders and with what?

“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 delusion that they should believe a lie”  
2 Thessalonians 2:10–11.

Now, do you know how God sends people strong delusion? I'll tell you how, friends. Bruce, I wonder if you'd help me over there and Brother Fallow, could you help me over there, will you just turn out those lights, please? If we don't like the light when God turns the light out, what have we got? Darkness. Now, did these men *send* the darkness? All they did was what? Turned off the lights. Do you see what I mean, friend? That's the way God sends strong delusion. He withdraws the light that people don't want. I want the light, what about you? Let's have it, brethren. Now, do you want the light of truth? If you do, every time God gives you some, say what? “Thank you, and another helping, please.” Don't fight it. Don't weep and mourn like the children of Israel did over the manna. Oh, no, friends. Every ray of light, thank God for it. And if it points out some sin in your life, thank God for it. If it reproves you, thank God for it. If it points out a path of duty that seems hard, thank God for it and pray God that He'll help you *love* it. Don't just go ahead and carry the cross with mournful complaining. No, no. Because, if you do, you won't carry it very far; you'll put it down. The only way to go on through is to *love* the truth. And all who don't love the truth will finally receive what? Strong delusion that they should believe a lie. Will they believe it? When that false Christ comes and blesses all the commandment breakers and curses all the commandment keepers, will they be deceived? Sure. And remember, this is the “crowning act.” It isn't the first act, nor the second, nor the third; it's the *crowning* act. The Devil's got a *long* string of acts in this drama. And all the way along, he's trying to deceive people in various ways.

Now I asked you a few moments ago, which is coming first? The true Christ or the false Christ? Which is it? The false Christ is coming first. What will the people of God do then while the false Christ is carrying on *his* work? Will they go see him?

[Audience] No.

Will they go listen to him?

[Audience] No.

Will they turn on the TV just to see what he looks like?

[Audience] No.

You think so? Let's turn over to Isaiah 25, and I'll tell you what we'll be doing, friends. I love this 25<sup>th</sup> of Isaiah. When I saw this, I understood better *why* certain words are used here, in Isaiah 25:9. See if you don't catch the picture. This is when Jesus comes with all His holy angels, and the redeemed, the remnant, who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, welcome Him with joy as they see Him coming on the clouds, their voices burst forth in song.

“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation”  
Isaiah 25:9.

When I was a little boy, I used to sell a watchman magazine; we call it *These Times* now. And many a time, after my work for the day was over, I'd wait for the streetcar downtown to carry me back home. Well, here comes a streetcar, and, oh, I'm anxious to get home. But do I catch the first streetcar that comes along? Maybe not. What am I looking for on the front of that? You're looking for the destination, aren't you? And do you, if the first and the second and the third and the fourth—none of them—have the right name, do you finally say, “Well, I'm going to take the next bus that comes along, whatever it is”? Do you? Not if you want to get home. How long will you wait? Till the right one comes. This is the picture I get in this verse:

“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God;  
we have waited for Him” Isaiah 25:9.

This is our bus, thank God; *this* is the one we're going to get on. Will it take us home? Thank God, friend. Will it be worth waiting for? Do you begin to see a new meaning in that expression “Here is the patience of the saints”? What does patience do? It *waits*. What does it take to wait? It takes patience. And I'll tell you, friends, it's going to take some patience to wait through that time of the false Christ and all the acts that precede it, and build up to it. It's going to take a deep conviction in the soul that we're determined that we won't even *think* about getting on any of these other busses. What do you say? All right, now is that settled?

I said there were some other acts. In fact, that's implied in what I read: This is the crowning act. Let's see if we can find something else here that will help us. Let's go to the second chapter of the book of Acts:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: and on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy” Acts 2:17–18.

Here is Peter speaking on the Day of Pentecost, and he's quoting Joel's prophecy taken from Joel 2. In Joel's prophecy, this final outpouring of the Spirit is spoken of as "rain." What rain, particularly? The Latter Rain. Is the Latter Rain coming? Is the latter coming upon this world? Yes, it's coming. Jesus says He's going to pour it out like rain. Just pour it out. Not long ago, somebody put in my hand a magazine that's published by a great TV and radio preacher who claims to have healed literally millions of people in His ministry. And in that magazine, these verses were read. And the fulfillment of these verses, this magazine claimed, was being witnessed right now in this mighty Pentecostal movement—the healing of the sick, visions and dreams, speaking in tongues, mighty miracles. Now, is there coming a true work of the Spirit of God? Is there coming a true latter rain? Are God's people going to receive this true latter rain? That's what we're reading about here. Is there coming a counterfeit? Which one do you think will come first? We've already seen when it comes to the true Christ and the false Christ, which one will come first. Which one is it? The false. The same thing, my dear friends, with the final manifestation of the Spirit. God lets the Devil get in his work first. Why? So that everybody can get exactly what they want. Now listen, friend. If you don't want the false, what will you have to do *through* the false? You'll have to wait.

A number of years ago, out in California, there was a woman evangelist who attained quite a bit of fame in healing the sick. There was a man who was sick; he was a member of the remnant church. But he was so anxious to be healed that he went to the big tent where this woman evangelist was healing people. And do you know what happened? He got healed. But friends, he died in an insane asylum. Remember this: when the Devil heals you, he takes a mortgage on your soul. Don't forget that. And I'd rather be sick all my days, and lie in a consecrated grave than I would to be up walking around and leaping and jumping and singing and shouting under the work of the false outpouring of the Spirit of God.

"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" *Great Controversy*, page 464.

This is the time of the Loud Cry. It goes on and tells how God's people are going to be brought from all these different churches into the one true church. What do you suppose the Devil wants to do? 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. When does a false latter rain come, before or after? Before. When does a false loud cry come, before or after? Before.

"In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it 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" *Ibid.*

Read the whole chapter in *Great Controversy*; it's called "Modern Revivals."



Now, friend, I want to ask you something. If there's a great revival going on in some big tent or tabernacle or auditorium or over the TV and radio, and people are being healed right and left, and doing all kinds of other wonderful things, and yet it's not leading people to the law and the testimony, what does it say in Isaiah 8:20?

"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.

I want to tell you something, friends. When truth and error are mixed together, there's no light for the people of God in it. No light at all. When there are flies in the soup, it's best to throw out the whole bowl. What do you say?

But now I want to ask you something, friends. When is the time to *test* these movements? After you get all excited? After you have received the influence of these things? Is that the time to test them? Do you know what a dog will do before he eats food? He will sniff it. I hope you'll do the same. There are some things that shouldn't even be tasted, my friend. The smell is enough. Let it alone. "Oh, but I might miss something!" Yes, you will; you'll miss a lot and be better off for it.

Oh, my friends, what will it take to wade through these marvelous manifestations of healing, tongues, prophecies, visions, mighty miracles under this false revival, what will it take to wade through that? Patience. Patience. It will mean that you may have to be sick while your neighbors are getting healed, while you learn the laws of health. And they get healed without learning the laws of health. Do you see what I mean? The miracles of Satan are given to confirm people in disobedience. The miracles of God are given to lead people to the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

I can only introduce those two points tonight: the coming of the false Christ before the true Christ, the coming of the false Holy Spirit before the true Holy Spirit. I may be able to give you some more on that Friday night, the Lord willing, and how it links with the sanctuary. But now, friends, I come to something that, for somebody here tonight, will be the most important point in our whole study, and I hope you don't miss it. The true Holy Spirit comes to prepare the people of God for the coming of the true Christ. Is that right? The false spirit comes to prepare the world for the coming of the false Christ. Is that right?

Now, just as there is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to prepare the church for the coming of Jesus, there is a work of revival and reformation that must take place in the church to prepare the way for the outpouring of the Spirit. You understand that, don't you? If you were the Devil, what would you do about it? Send a counterfeit. The Devil is the great counterfeiter. He never made a piece of genuine money in his life, friend. No. It's all counterfeit. He's coming as the counterfeit Christ. Before that, he comes as the counterfeit latter rain Holy Spirit. And friends, he quotes the Bible. He's going to quote the Bible when he comes as the false Christ, isn't he? He's going to quote the Bible in these modern revivals. He's doing it already. I told you about this great radio and TV preacher who has healed *millions*. He's quoting Joel 2 and Acts 2, and he says, "This is it!"

But now, we're studying the work of reformation that's got to take place within the remnant church of God before God can pour out the Latter Rain. And I asked you if you were the enemy, what would you do about it, and some of you said, "Counterfeit."

You know, ever since I was a boy, I've watched one counterfeit reformation after the other hit this movement. And what I see taking place today is simply the repetition of what I've seen again and again. Do you know what the earmarks are? Two things: They quote the Testimonies by the yard, and they condemn and criticize the church and its leadership. By those two marks, you'll know them. They use the language of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. For example: Has God given us in the book of Revelation the third chapter, a message called the Laodicean message? But the Devil, in his counterfeit work, is not above using it. He'll quote the Laodicean message and lay it on good and heavy. I've seen it happen. Take another expression. Do we find in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy reference to Christ our righteousness and righteousness by faith and justification by faith?

A number of years ago, I saw a movement arise among us, and it bore that name "Christ Our Righteousness." I'm not talking about the 1888 message of Jones and Waggoner. I'm talking about something that arose in the Pacific Northwest a number of years ago. And it seemed, at first, to be a genuine desire on the part of people in the remnant church to get ready for the Latter Rain and the finishing of the work. But it ended up like some of these other things have ended up—opposing the church and its leadership, and indicating that the way to get ready for Heaven is to come with us.

Turn to Acts, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter, and here you'll see it, friends. Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus:

"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" Acts 20:29–30.

This is what Lucifer did in Heaven. He took the position God had given him and used it to pull angels to him instead of to Jesus and the Father. Now I'm going to read you a divine comment on this. Oh, I hope every soul will get this. Don't miss it.

"When men arise, claiming to have a message from God, but instead of warring against principalities and powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world, they form a hollow square, and turn the weapons of warfare against the church militant, be afraid of them. They do not bear the divine credentials. God has not given them any such burden of labor. They would tear down that which God would restore by the Laodicean message"  
*Testimonies to Ministers*, page 22.

God is giving the Laodicean message, but He does it to build up the church. But these, this counterfeit, wherever it appears, whether a hundred years ago, or fifty years ago, or last week, my friends, wherever and whenever it appears, you can know it by these signs: they quote the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy voluminously, but they use those things to draw away disciples *after them*. Their influence is to tear down the church and its leadership and to build up an influence that looks to *them* instead of to those whom God has appointed to lead His church.

I've given you three great deceptions tonight. What was the first one? The false Christ. And it comes before the true Christ. What's the next one? The false latter rain, the false Holy Spirit. And it comes before when? Before the true latter rain. And now, finally, the false reformation. And it comes before the true. Yes.

Listen. Are you anxious to see the church reformed and made ready for the Latter Rain? Then you're in danger, if you are. The Devil knows you're hungry, and he's got something to feed you. Listen, friend: I'd rather wait till God feeds me with good food than to take some poison because I'm so hungry I'm in a hurry. What do you say?

"Oh, but shouldn't I investigate?"

Remember, friend, what I said: You don't have to drink a gallon of milk to tell whether it's sour or not. Something else you can do is smell it, can't you? Just put your nose down in it.

"Oh, but that's not being broad-minded."

So then I'm narrow minded.

"My soul is at stake."

And *your* soul is at stake.

This is all I'm going to give you tonight. Friday night, we'll have another meeting, the Lord willing.

Heavenly Father, dismiss us with Thy blessing, and help us to dig into the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and receive the love of the truth that we may be saved. Help us not to listen to the...

[Tape cuts off]

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