

Walk

An Organic Imposter

¹And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²"Son of man, speak to the sons of your people and say to them, 'If I bring a sword upon a land, and the people of the land take one man from among them and make him their watchman, ³and he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows on the trumpet and warns the people, ⁴then he who hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, and a sword comes and takes him away, his blood will be on his own head. ⁵He heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning; his blood will be on himself. But had he taken warning, he would have delivered his life.

⁶'But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet and the people are not warned, and a sword comes and takes a person from them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require from the watchman's hand.'

— Ezekiel 33:1-6

Very often we seem to witness those who confuse the biblical roles of a prophet with that of a watchman. I'm not referring to bad guys such as false prophets or false teachers, but good guys with good intentions. This is most often seen when they advertise their ministry or activity as a "prophecy update" when, in reality, it is a "watchman's update". The content of their report does not directly connect to nor confirm a verbatim passage of God's prophetic Word but does draw a different parallel to a current event and the violation of doctrine or a biblical principle. This month's Walk with the Word commentary is focused on a current event which may eventually lead to the fulfillment of larger prophetic issues but is nonetheless a biblical watchman's warning for the present environment.

The most obvious example of the difference between a literal prophetic fulfillment and a watchman's warning is COVID-19. It is not the fulfillment of the 4th Seal of Revelation 6:7-8, and biblically speaking, the disease itself is not the most important aspect of the pandemic where we are concerned. Its unprecedented use to end church as we know it in the Western world established it as a harbinger of far greater persecution and deception to come. Particularly in the United States, where American Christians thought their constitutional rights to peaceful assembly, free speech, and especially religious freedom were inviolable, such literally disappeared in less than a week as they were forbidden not only to meet in large groups, but here in California, prohibited to meet even in small home Bible studies and to sing. We argued over masks and social distancing without fully appreciating the precedent to ban our meetings and activities all together not just in the present, but for future situations yet to come.

But now, that which was popularly thought to be just short-term compromises that would soon go away are generating a harsher, more permanent leverage to abolish those rights.

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A particular conduit for these changes is being facilitated by none other than the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

We should have known that the CDC left all reasoned reality when it conducted a nationwide drill for handling a "<u>Zombie Apocalypse</u>". With so many movies and television shows revolving around variations of this fictional genre, it seems the CDC got caught up in this notion and uses it to teach emergency preparedness. The CDC set a precedent for stepping outside the boundaries of conventional possibilities. [Mea Culpa: This author owns a t-shirt stating, "I like you, but if a zombie chases us, I'm going to trip you."]

But most recently, the CDC took a giant leap from medical orthodoxy and declared that one of the most dangerous and infectious conditions among humankind at present is "racism". In other words, the CDC took a social issue which has no organic connection to a virus or any kind of communicable disease and has taken it under its wing as if it is. Such a precedent makes one wonder how many more non-organic issues the CDC will declare as not just unhealthy to our general well-being but equated to a public danger on the level of a pandemic. They are no longer bound strictly to medical health hazards. They are using the science of medicine to mask an agenda of social reform.

Notice how they began with an issue we all universally abhor and is difficult to protest. That is how it always begins. They initially start with a subject no one can defend, expanding to more issues with like evil qualities before revealing their agenda against Christ and His Church. How long before the CDC declares Christianity a pandemic "health risk" because of its biblical stand against divorce, sexual immorality, the LGBT+ agenda, and so-called "hate speech" when merely reciting God's Word? Establishing the precedent to regulate social issues, even an agreed upon evil one, eventually develops into a weapon that will inevitably be used against us. It is now only a matter of time. By including just one social issue to begin with, many more are sure to follow, and in the present environment, Christianity and the Bible are sure to be eventually included.

Remember, the original debate over legalizing abortion was focused on the specific argument of having to choose between the life of a mother or the life of the child. Non-therapeutic abortion was incrementally included as precedent after precedent expanded the one issue no one could argue with—the threat to the life of a pregnant mother, and eventually endorsed for any and every situation. It started with an issue no one dared protest or object to and led to legalizing the previously illegal, even now to the point of terminating a full-term baby that has actually been born.

Furthermore, when we make the CDC's list of public health dangers, do not be surprised at how many professing Christians and church-goers will publicly support that decision. Look at how many within the walls of the Church support abortion today. The current level of apostasy will be magnified and well on its way toward that which Scripture says is sure to come before His return. Especially when it comes to the Bible, those who have already abandoned His Word will have no problem endorsing it as a public health hazard; they treat it as an illness now as it is.

The number one example of the Antichrist and his intentions is found in Antiochus Epiphanes IV, called *"the king of the north"* in Daniel 11. He literally reigned during the Intertestamental Period. His main agenda was to change all aspects of Jewish culture to instead adopt the Greek way of life, including the worship of Greek gods. He not only banned all practice of Judaism and temple worship, but even criminalized the reading of Scripture. We have already witnessed the inroads separating the United States from its

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Christian heritage, and only the willfully blind are ignoring that those parts of the Bible addressing sexual immorality have already been banned as "hate speech". The precedent set by the CDC is part of that greater effort to eradicate any Christian influence still remaining. Many Jews abandoned Judaism and joined Antiochus and his agenda of cultural change, even going to war with their brethren.

But in the mean time, regardless of how this may provide a path to the fulfillment of anticipated End Times events, there will not be a "return to normal" for authentic Christians in a post-COVID world. The rules for handling the pandemic permanently closed an estimated 25% of churches in the United States alone. A significant percentage of attenders have permanently abandoned trekking to a church and are now viewers of streaming services when and if it is convenient. This has not only permanently altered Sunday morning services for adults, but Sunday School and other youth activities for children and teens. The kluge caused by closing public schools has been compounded by the closing, or at least reduction, of church as we once knew it for the same demographic.

There has additionally been a recent rise in articles and personalities who propose that racism is also responsible for climate change. (Example from Yale University.) Such proposals were at one time considered ridiculous by the same academics and scientists who now embrace and support them. It is not just the propositional truth of God's Word which has been abandoned, but that willful blindness has deepened within them and further corrupted the truth of mathematics and published, traditional research. When finally it is Christians who are blamed for any and every thing, it will be accepted absent any coherent data.

During the first half of my life, it was difficult to construct a reasonable scenario where the apostasy gained its scripturally proscribed momentum to close down churches in the West; now we've seen it in a sort of "practice run". But we must fully understand that this has just been a "dress rehearsal" for greater things to come, and that a "return to normal" where church is concerned is never going to happen. Such are really the "birth pangs" of Jesus' warnings of a time when even those closest to us will turn against us.

⁸"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

⁹"Then <u>they</u> will deliver <u>you</u> to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹²Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. ¹³But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. ¹⁴This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

— Matthew 24:8-14

The greater, more important question is, "How are we going to fare when unprecedented persecution and deception comes if we can't bear the weight of these early birth pangs? How many more will fall away when it *really* gets tough?" The voices in the American Christian community proposing how to take back America or reverse such trends are distracting us from the more important task of preparing spiritually for the next birth pang. And it will be even further afield from reason and common sense, with the full support of so many who attended and were even raised in a church.

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Once the "birth pangs" begin, no reversal is possible; each instance is automatically stronger than the previous until the birth event itself.

In Him,

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