

MARCH 2004

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

What would happen if that which we believed were going to happen in the future had already taken place in the recent past? What would happen if some of the prophetic events we think were still yet in the future had already occurred?

All of us come various schools of theology that teach that the end times will unfold thus and so. All of these schools vary somewhat in their interpretation of end times events, and in these schools of thought are variations of opinion as to what will happen and when. And all of them, basically, believe that they are correct. But what if they were mistaken in some things?

This is not a criticism, but an observation of the obvious. It's been my observation that those who think they have a grasp of prophecy and the Book of Revelation don't, even though they think they do. The problem is that, even if they did have a mastery of the Old Testament, and they don't, they still run into the problem of the accurate interpretation of the Book of Revelation. And even if they had that, they still run into the problem that only those who are living in the end times will have the correct understanding.

This gets into the area of teleological or progressive revelation; God reveals as he goes along in his plan. In Daniel 12 God indicates that not only will his words be sealed up until the time of the end, but the understanding of them as well. In those days only the wise will understand what is going on, but the wicked won't; they won't understand that **we are in the end times.**

What is needed is humility; the humility to see that they may not really understand it all; the humility to realize that their statements of confidence in the matter are no more than "parroted" the theology of their own schools of thought. And what is also needed is an open mind to consider new truth.

Having said that we have to ask the question, "What would happen if that which we were led to believe concerning the unfolding of the end time was not totally accurate?" It's not saying that they were a pack of lies, because for the most part, these are good men who study hard, but maybe new light needs to be shed on this subject. For example, we know that there will be the Beast and the False Prophet, the anti-christ, and a religious leader. One will rule over the world in the political arena and the other will rule over the area of religion.

There has been a lot of speculation over the years as to who these two men will be: Hitler, Juan Carlos, Napoleon, the Kaiser, Maitreya and many others. The closest anyone has come to the idea is that the Pope will be the False Prophet, but no real, clear ideas as to who the Beast will be. The Reformers were right in saying that the Papacy is the anti-

christ institution, but better yet there will be one Pope at the end of the Age who will be, not the anti-christ, but the False Prophet. So who is the anti-christ?

There is a school of theology that teaches no one will know who he is for he will be revealed after the Church has been raptured, which would put him somewhere in the middle of a seven year tribulation. They have him in the tribulation, but he is the one who starts the tribulation by forcing Israel to sign a peace treaty, so it's kind of a tricky thing. So they have him coming along after he came along, see what I mean.

But what if the anti-christ's situation parallels the False Prophet's situation? The false prophet will be a man, this is true; he will be the head of all matters pertaining to religion in the world; and he will come out of an already existing religious institution. What if it's exactly the same with the anti-christ? He too will be a man, but he will be the head of all matters pertaining to politics and rule; he will be the World-Ruler, and where would we expect to find him? Not in a religious institution, but a political one!

And there is only one political organization that is ruling the world on an international level and that is the United Nations, and the head of the United Nations is the Secretary-General. So the Secretary General is to the UN and politics as the Pope is to the Roman Catholic Church and religion. So the end time Beast and False Prophet will be the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Pope, these two will be the heads of politics and religion.

One of the main events that Christendom is looking for in the unfolding of prophecy is when the **false prophet forces the inhabitants of the world to worship the Beast**, the anti-christ, along with the forced mark of the Beast and many other things. "*He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.*" Revelation 13:12

The problem comes in with the average Christian's understanding of the word worship. They look at this in the sense of worshipping a god or things along that line. What they are lacking is an understanding of how it was used in those times, which has a totally different emphasis than the idea of worship.

The word for *worship* is *proskuneo*, **proskuneo**, which meant to kiss toward, to adore, and to throw a kiss, to bow down and kiss the earth, (the earth deity, as the Pope does); to prostrate oneself, to kneel and to bow, but its chief emphasis was **obeisance**.

It was used in the Roman Emperor cult where the Emperor was superior and exalted above all others, and to bow down to the Emperor, *proskuneo*, meant that **you bowed to his will, that you did whatever he told you to do**. This was accomplished by one of three ways depending on your station in life. Those at the **bottom** prostrated themselves before him kissing his feet. Those in the **middle** kneeled before him kissing his finger ring, (pontifical ring). Those at the **top** of society bowed before him and kissed his ring.

So their idea of worship is not fully accurate, but is really the idea of **obeisance**. So when it says that the False Prophet will make the world “*worship*” the Beast (anti-christ) what it’s really saying is that he **will make the world obey the anti-christ**, and that along the lines of the Roman (Babylonian) Emperor cult.

Now we get into some interesting areas of the development of this theme. We know that the False Prophet will be the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, and that he will make the world submit to the authority of the Beast, and we know that the anti-christ will be the Secretary General of the United Nations, if not this present Secretary General, then one down the road; some say that it will be Boutros Boutros Ghali.

We also know that the Pope claims to be the Vicar of Christ and the ruler of the world; he claims to have God’s authority over all matters spiritual, temporal and political giving rule to earthly rulers as he sees fit. Yet in his bestowing of temporal powers on various earthly rulers he has always retained his full spiritual, temporal and ruling powers as God’s Vicar over the earth.

But something happened about forty years ago that changed all that. In 1965 Pope Paul VI (Montini), head of the Roman Catholic Church handed over to U Thant the Secretary General of the United Nations all the symbols of his spiritual, temporal and political power: the Papal Ring, the Pectoral Cross and his Triple Tiara. He also addressed him saying, “It is your task here to proclaim the basic rights and duties of Men. You are the interpreters of all that is permanent in human wisdom; we could also say of its sacred character.” This was the repudiation of the authority that the Vatican and Pope had held for centuries, and the statement that all their authority is now vested in the United Nations and the Secretary who presides over it.

In Jan. 1, 2004 the present Pope directed not only all Roman Catholics, but also all the people of the world to now obey the United Nations, its laws and the Secretary General who presides over it, who is now the present ruler of the world under the devil. He is calling for all people to now submit to the New World Order!

When Pope Paul VI handed the authority of the Roman Catholic Church and the rule of the world over to U Thant, the Secretary General of the UN; he was handing all that was vested in an institution, its rule, authority and power that the Catholic Church had claimed for years, over to a man and the institution that he heads and represents. The power and authority has been transferred and it all now lies in the hands of the Secretary General of the UN, and with the latest call of the present Pope calling on all people of the world to obey the UN and its head we now have the idea of the word for obeisance. The world is being made to submit to the will of the head of the UN.

What this means is that time could be shorter than we think! What we thought was going to happen has already happened! And what it means to us is at least a look at our lives and a changing of our priorities, with the concepts of prayer, the filling of the Holy Spirit, Bible Doctrine and a willingness to do the will of God in our lives as the most important things. We also need to remember that God has placed us here in this time in history and he has, not only perfect provisions for us, but a perfect plan as well! And on a continuing

positive note...we win! **We have eternal life guaranteed to us and this life is nothing more than one-step in our walk throughout all eternity!**

Pastor Mike