

THE FUTURE IS NOW

– “Satan is the ruler of this world.”

– “The Jews rejected Christ and crucified him so the kingdom had to be postponed.”

– “Jesus is not with us now but he is supposed to return to rule sometime in the future.”

Is this Christian doctrine?

A few of our Protestant fathers took the bait. Lured on by Humanists and anti-Christians, they embraced the leaven of “futurism.”

Now, the leaven has spread and infected millions of Christians. Symptoms of this infection are that the victims become passive and neutralized.

Futurism takes people to a dream world of unreal expectations. Futurist preachers misuse words, definitions and certain key scriptures. They contrive a distorted “gospel” which removes the reign of Jesus, His judgement and even His presence from the here-and-now and relegates them to sometime in the future. In fact, Futurist teachings usually remove Jesus’ reign from our sphere entirely, into some mythological scenario. Couple that delusion with the sensationalism and emotionalism of today’s

Charismatic movement and you have an effective escape from reality.

Futurists and Charismatics can talk about religion for a long time without dealing with reality. Their theology is usually contrived, on one hand, by literalizing scenes from the Bible that are written as symbolism. On the other hand, they may just ignore large portions of the Holy Scriptures.

Their most damaging doctrine

teaches that Jesus failed:

“The Jews rejected Christ their King, and the kingdom was postponed.” (John R. Rice, Christ’s Literal Reign)

“He (Jesus) would have set up the Kingdom, but they (the Jews) rejected and crucified Him.” (William Blackstone, Jesus Is Coming)

“God . . . made the attempt to set up His Kingdom on earth” but the Jews rejected it, so “the kingdom has been withdrawn” until the Second Coming. (Clarence Larkin, Dispensational Truth)

“Messiah’s kingdom on earth” was “offered by John and Jesus. It was rejected, so it was postponed until Christ comes to set up the Kingdom.” (Dakes’s Annotated Bible)

This doctrine has inflicted serious damage upon our people. They’ve become Futurists ... a people without a country.

They have no King since they believe Jesus is absent. They claim that He abandoned His throne and ceded it to another god whom they call “Satan.” The Futurist’s christ is a lame duck who is waiting for his second chance to try to



THE FUTURIST

WAITING FOR THE END OF THE WORLD.

reign in some imaginary future "dispensation" (the so-called "millennium").

They have no Biblical Lawmaker because they believe God has left it to men. In essence, they have no God because they think He has been fooled, undermined, rejected, dethroned and defeated. Yes, the Futurists' god is a weakling, not the Almighty God of the Holy Bible.

Futurism presents a god who fails. No wonder churchgoers today have little or no faith in God. By the same token, they have little or no hope that He can help them in their day-to-day life. Thus they sing:

*"This world is not my home, I'm just a' passing through.
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue."*

If our Christian Israelite brethren across America could only hear the truth of "The Gospel of The Kingdom" they could take heart, wake up and shake off the trance that has neutralized them. They could begin to see purpose in their lives and hope for their children. They could feel like bona fide citizens in a real kingdom, with a real King! They wouldn't have to feel homeless.

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Eph 2:19)

John, in 90 AD, was a citizen:

"I John, who also am [present tense] your brother, and companion . . . IN THE REIGN . . . of Jesus Christ . . ." (Rev 1:9).

John also witnessed that "Jesus Christ IS . . . the prince of the kings of the earth." (Rev 1:5).

Just before his death, Jesus was announcing that his kingdom was imminent:

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the REIGN of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mk 1:14-15).

He told His disciples to ". seek the REIGN of God; and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt 6:33) - a meaningless, absurd statement if His reign didn't exist in their lifetimes. And why would Jesus tell the disciples, "Verily I say to you, There are some standing here which shall not taste of death till they see the Son of man coming in his reign" (Matt 16:28) if He didn't mean it?

Then, after He suffered, died and was raised, He made the bold claim that:

"All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth . . . and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt 28:18 & 20).

Paul also testified:

"For He (Jesus) must reign till He has put all enemies under his feet" (I Cor 15:25).

In Matthew 21: 42-43, Jesus told the chief priests and the elders:

"The stone (Jesus) which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. Therefore say I to you (the priests and elders), The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof"

Jerusalem rejected Jesus to its own hurt. However, they neither stopped nor frustrated Him!

"Wherefore we are receiving [present active tense] a REIGN

which cannot be moved." (Heb 12:28a)

In Colossians 1:13, we read that the Father "... has [past tense] translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

Perhaps men who struggle with this concept and fail to see His reign are looking from the wrong vantage point. Jesus told Nicodemus, in John 3:3:

"You cannot see the reign of God unless you are born again."

The reign of Jesus - "The Holy City" and "New Jerusalem" - obviously exists in our day and not just in a distant future. We read in Revelation 22:15 that "dogs (male sodomites), and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loves and makes a lie" are presently existing outside the city. This is that city which is "in the world but not of the world."

In light of these scriptures, can any honest Bible student still think that Jesus - the Messiah of Israel - was actually thwarted by the Jews, overcome by evil, forced to retreat to outer space and postpone his plans until a later date?

The time has come for millennialists to take an honest assessment of their doctrines. Their main text is Revelation 20:4, which seems to say (in the English translations) that Christ will reign in a future one-thousand year period. However, in the Greek it reads a little different: ". . . and they lived and reigned with Christ the thousands [plural] of years." The same exact phrase is found in the 2nd and 6th verses of Revelation 20. This alone disqualifies any claim that the millennium doctrine comes from the Bible.

These popular teachings originated from non-Biblical sources. They did not come from the Bible, nor are they part of **The Gospel of the Kingdom.**

THE ANTI-CHRIST

by Francis Christen

One of the main tenets of the Dispensationalists¹ doctrine of Futurism is the idea of a coming Antichrist or “Man of Sin” who is to be an “incarnation” of the devil himself. Fundamentalists claim that right after the fabled “Rapture” of the Church, this notorious world-leader will appear and rule for seven years (the so-called Great Tribulation) until the second coming of Jesus Christ at which time the “Antichrist” and his kingdom will be destroyed.

Dispensationalists are not the first group in Christian history to believe in one future man becoming “The” Antichrist. The idea is as old as the notion of “Dualism” in the church. Dualism is a set of false doctrines which teach that a balance of good and evil forces are opposing and warring with each other: the old Eastern thought of the yin and the yang. In Judeo-Christianity, it has been interpolated as the doctrine of “God against Satan.” With the development of the doctrine of Satan as the “god of this world” people have been deceived into losing sight of the “Sovereignty of God.”

Our God is not in a struggle with anyone - especially not with some so-called fallen angel. He tells Isaiah:

“Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.” (Isaiah 43:10)

So much for another “god” called “god of this world.” After all, a god who could not even control his own creation would be pretty weak, would he not?

But, in reviewing history one can find those who pointed to Anti-Christ:

Justin Martyr (100-165) wrote “He (Jesus) shall come from heaven with glory, when the man of apostasy, who shall speak strange things against the most High, shall venture to do unlawful deeds on earth against us Christians, who have learned the true worship of God from the law and the word...”²

Irenaeus (130-202) writes of “the resurrection of the just which takes place *after* the coming of *Anti-christ*.”

Hippolytus (170-236) wrote of the empires spoken of by Daniel, and the fourth empire bringing in “*the Antichrist*.”

Other church fathers in the early centuries of the church wrote in like manner. They wrote of “a coming man of sin” - “the Anti-christ” who would come and persecute the church of God and then the Lord would return. The Dispensationalists merely changed the order of things by bringing in the rapture before the Antichrist took power.

The historic position of the Protestants has been that the Pope was the Antichrist, and not without sufficient evidence from their own day.

In World War II some believed the Kaiser was the Antichrist, later it was Stalin. When Roosevelt introduced his ‘new deal’ many believed he was at least the forerunner of the Antichrist (some probably still do). Hitler and Mussolini³ were also given the title by preachers in their day. In fact, even John Kennedy was thought to soon be revealed as this man.

It’s been believed that Nimrod, Judas Iscariot,⁴ Nero or Hitler will be resurrected from the dead, or that their spirit will possess some modern day world leader who will control the world.

Some will assume that since so many churches have promoted the idea of one person becoming “The Antichrist,” it must then be true.

They reason, “How can they all be wrong?” But how do these beliefs square with Scripture?

Daniel foretold an “increase of knowledge” in the last days. Few would deny that increase in scholastic or scientific fields, but when it comes to theology we seem to go from one generation to the next believing what we are told without question. Yet God commands us in Scripture to “*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...*” (II Cor 13:5) and “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.*” (I Thess 5:21).

Here are some Scriptural facts we should keep in mind whenever someone tells us about “the coming Antichrist”:

1. There is no mention of an antichrist in the Old Testament – not once. Scriptures cannot be used to prove it without either misinterpreting (as in Daniel 11), or “reading into” the verse.

2. The word antichrist does not appear in the New Testament until the Epistles of John.

3. Since only John wrote about antichrist, what he says must be taken as the authority on the subject (Read 1 John 2:18:23)

a. John says *anyone* who denies that Jesus has come in the flesh is “*an antichrist*.”

b. There is no inference of one man coming on the scene in the future as “*The Antichrist*” – a world dictator. In other words,

there are many anti-Christ's instead of just one Antichrist!

"...you have heard that antichrist shall come" (we are still hearing it over and over again)

"...even **now** (first century) are there **MANY** antichrists..."

In fact, there were so many in John's day, we are told they knew "...that it is the last time..."

The force of John's Epistles should cause us to hold fast to the faith which is contained in the Scriptures, and not be deceived by those ideas of men which were already beginning to corrupt the true faith "once delivered" (Jude 3).

The word "antichrist" in the King James Version Bible comes from the Greek "ante-christos" meaning "instead of (in place of) Christ." This term refers to one who is a replacement, or counterfeit – another "christ."

There are indeed many "christ's" who stand in replacement of the true Biblical Jesus. There are many who offer other christ's "in the stead" of the true Christ. They use Bible terminology but with different meanings to conceal their deceitfulness.

When churches teach that there is a coming world leader who will be "the Antichrist," it clouds their view of the real ante-Christ's all around them. It may be popular, but it is not Biblical and therefore should be rejected.

Some will ask at this point, "What about the 'man of sin' in 2 Thess. 2:1-3?"

First of all, Paul was not speaking of 2,000 years in the future. He was referring to his own time, and his people understood him.

Secondly, when it says, "and that man of sin be revealed" the word "man" does not refer to one particular man, but is used as you

find it in Psalms where it says, "as for man his days are as grass?" It doesn't mean any ONE man. It means "man" in the generic sense. In other words, "all men" who deny and reject God.

Thirdly, Paul was probably speaking in veiled language. The Roman Empire was ruled by the mindset of "the man of sin" – those who would oppose Christ and exalt themselves: the Holy Roman Empire with its leaders claiming to sit in the place of Christ. This was the classical Protestant interpretation prior to the 1800's. He

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wasn't describing some world leader 2,000 or so years into the future.

The 'falling away' which was to come first was "a corruption of Christianity through false doctrine...the falling away to which Paul referred took place many centuries ago,"⁵ a fact which can be easily realized by studying history and the development of the

Catholic church in Constantine's day.

Another facet of this verse is that Paul is alerting Christians to the "man of sin" within each of us which would exalt itself over Christ and pollute our temple which is His body (Eph 4:22, Col 3:9).

The false doctrine of a future one-man world leader as "The Antichrist" diverts our minds away from the many ante-christs in our present world "here and now." The enemy loves it when we preoccupy ourselves with the future because they can rape and plunder the land today without being detected.

Footnotes:

¹Dispensationalism was invented around 1830. "Meanwhile, throughout the northern half of the United States, a new movement was arising ...which found its inspiration in the "dispensationalist" and "pre-millennialist" speculations of J. N. Darby (1800-82) in England. ...This penetration was greatly facilitated by the popularity of the *Scofield Reference Bible*, an annotated edition of the Bible prepared by C. I. Scofield (1843-1921)..." See *Religion in America*, by Winthrop S. Hudson

²Justin, *Dialogue with Trypho; Apology*, chap 52

³Rice, *World-Wide War and the Bible*, p. 212

⁴DeHaan, *Thirty-five Simple Studies on the Major Themes in Revelation*, p. 184

⁵Ralph Woodrow, *Great Prophecies of the Bible*

WHITE-WASHED WITCHCRAFT

by Paul Bunch

The superstitions of witchcraft are some of the many strange ideas circulating among Christians today. Unfortunately, these superstitions are being unwittingly accepted and believed by some Christians, even though the Bible denounces them as lies.

At conferences and churches, it is not uncommon to see Christians nonchalantly practicing the art of divination without a second thought. They can be seen using dowsing pendulums and numerology in tandem with the Holy Bible, assuming this to be a workable combination in God's sight.

Divination, a long-established practice of witchcraft, is the pseudoscience of foretelling future events or discovering hidden knowledge by use of objects known as "means." Witches have used smoke, air, tea leaves, rings, and entrails of chickens, and even forked branches to allegedly "divine" information that could not be obtained through normal ways. Swinging pendulums and numerology are simply different twists to divination.

It is very easy to find out if combining divination and witchcraft with Christianity is workable in God's sight. The scripture is clear:

"There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an

enchanter, or a witch...

"For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord..." (Deut. 18:10-12).

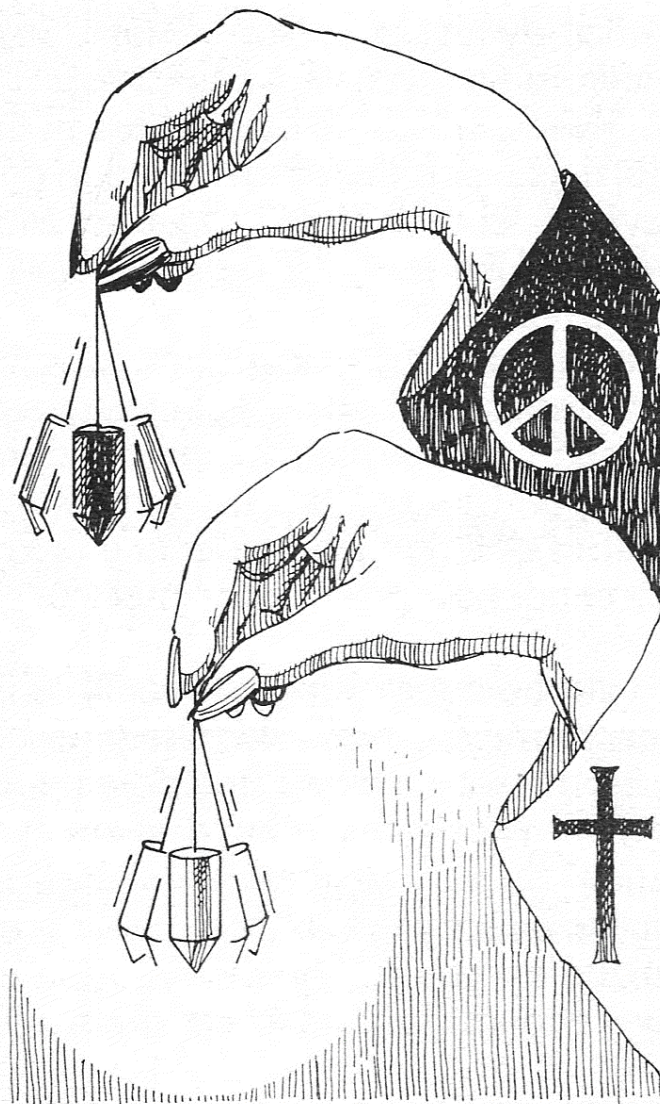
"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft,...of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19-21).

"Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live" (Ex 22..18).

How could Christians misinterpret these verses? Or if they did not misinterpret them, why don't they believe them? The answer to these questions is rooted in our pluralistic society where anti-Christianity is encouraged to intermingle with Christianity. After many generations, there has been such a fusion of ideas and doctrines between the two that now it is difficult for some to know what the true definition of Christianity really is. Likewise, it is also difficult to know what the true definition of Witchcraft is. Therein lies the problem.

Divination has been whitewashed, covering-up its bad associations with witches and fraud, and causing it to appear attractive and plausible by its claim of association with Christianity and science. Some Christians have been so deceived into believing that the powers of divination are real, that they no longer think it even comes under the heading of witchcraft! What used to be commonly KNOWN as worthless superstition has somehow come to be thought respectable scientific fact.

The Christians dangle the pendulum confidently assert that the direction the pendulum swings when you hold it over photographs, maps or even food, tells them



some hidden information about that object.

Believe it or not, one Christian gentleman told me that if the pendulum swings counterclockwise above a photograph of a person, it indicates that person is a homosexual! If the pendulum swings in a clockwise direction, then the person is a heterosexual. Other Christians think they are finding out whether or not certain foods are good for them by dangling their pendulums over their plates.

Numerology, another form of divination, is also disguised as respectable science as some misguided Christians claim that every number has its own special vibration of cosmic energy. They claim that since numbers coincide with the alphabet, every letter of your name has a special vibration. Therefore a person's name has a certain pattern of energy which shapes his destiny. If the pattern of energy of your name has bad vibrations, then you will be a loser or a pauper. So all you have to do is change the spelling of your name slightly or change your entire name altogether so that all the vibrations for each letter add up to make you a winner or a millionaire.

But even though the Bible denounces it, some Christians stubbornly persist in practicing divination by using pendulums and numerology because they believe these practices to be actual truth. They feel justified because they think that if the powers ARE real, then why not use them towards a good and noble cause? This is the same rationale as that of "white witchcraft." For centuries white witches have sold people on witchcraft by claiming that they only deal with "good spirits" for good purposes, thereby making the abomination appear harmless.

But, in the case of Christianity and Witchcraft, are these two alternative truths? In other words, is divination (witchcraft) part of the truth at all? Does God condemn divination simply because He doesn't like it? Or does He con-

demn it because it is a deception: a lie? Consider the words of Jesus Christ:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:..." (John 14:6a).

With this verse you are forced to make a choice, because Jesus does NOT say, "I am one of the ways." He didn't say "I am a truth ..." On the contrary, He says He is THE truth - the ONLY TRUTH, and the WHOLE truth. Since Jesus Christ IS the whole truth and not just an alternative truth, then it stands to reason that He would definitely promote divination and the rest of witchcraft IF THERE WERE ANY TRUTH TO IT! Obviously, God does not promote it, but He DOES denounce it in His Word. Therefore, witchcraft (dowsing, divination and numerology) is OUTSIDE the realm of truth and is a lie.

It comes as no surprise, then, that divination is discussed in terms of lies and deception in the Bible, as in Jeremiah:

"Then the Lord said unto me, the prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: THEY PROPHESY UNTO YOU A FALSE VISION AND DIVINATION, AND A THING OF NAUGHT, AND THE DECEIT OF THEIR HEART" (Jer. 14:14).

Does this verse mean that these particular diviners were not very accurate and that there were other, BETTER diviners? Does God denounce diviners that are not accurate, but sanction diviners that ARE accurate? In other words, does God practice white witchcraft by accepting the "good" things of witchcraft and rejecting the bad things?

The truth is, divination is "a thing of naught"; an illusion.

"Woe unto them that call evil

good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! (Is 5:20-21).

In the first place, Christians should be learning how to choose, separate, and discriminate rather than how to mix, mingle and amalgamate! Truth is "holy" (separate), not blended with lies.

However, pluralism has affected many Christians' ability to think clearly by causing them to accept, as truth, God's Word AND witchcraft: a mixture of opposites. It is impossible to think clearly while simultaneously believing two opposing theologies which contradict each other.

We, as Christians, must learn that mixing Christianity with witchcraft is NOT a mixture of two truths together. Instead, it is a mixture of TRUTH (Christianity) with FANTASY (witchcraft). This means we are talking about REALITY vs. UNREALITY; SUBSTANCE vs. ILLUSION; DISCERNMENT vs. DECEPTION. These things are mutually exclusive and do not successfully mix.

"Her priests have done violence to My Law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean,..."

"And her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions and divining lies for them, saying, Thus says the Lord God, when the Lord has not spoken" (Ez. 22:26, 28 NAS).

Christians must be lovers of truth to be able to make this separation between truth and fantasy. If one is a lover of delusion - if he likes magic more than truth - it makes him susceptible to religious flim-flam and con men.