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## **A New Wave or An Old Lie?**

There is a militant battle cry today to build a "New Order". According to the "new thinking", denominations and church structures are part of the "Old Order". We are increasingly hearing words like: "If the leaders resist this move the Lord will continue it through the congregations." As you read on in this prophecy called, "The Harvest" by Rick Joyner, you find that "Some that were used greatly by God in the past have become too rigid in doctrinal emphasis. . . . some leaders will actually disband their organization as they realize they are no longer relevant to what God is doing. . . the dismantling of organizations and disbanding of some works will be a positive and exhilarating experience for the Lord's faithful servants. . . a great company of prophets, teachers, pastors and apostles will be raised up. . . Nations will tremble at the mention of their name."

These are very threatening and frightening words. Before you climb aboard this new Glory-Train promising signs, wonders, prophetic words and even immortality - STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! DISCERN!!!!!! The "New Order" is made up of a "New Breed" of Christian. This "New Breed" has a hidden agenda which is to make their organization more powerful than the established church. As a body they will wield such tremendous influence that they will have great political power. Already in New Orleans in October 1986, 7,500 leaders were told, "Perhaps. . . the Lord will raise up an army of apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists who will fan out over the world." The goal of AD 2000 is "To bring the majority of the human race to Jesus Christ by the end of the Century." This excites every believer, however, there are some caution signs that need to be carefully observed."

The "New Order" has obvious designs of setting up the Kingdom of God on earth. There is a widespread appeal to adopt a new "worldview". The agenda is becoming more and more political. It is coming from all sides. The Reconstructionists and Theonomists are also talking about the Church controlling the earth. They are calling people to "radical" Christianity. They believe the Church must regain an understanding of their political mission. They clearly lay

out that Christians must control the government. The Church must become organized to replace all the evil rulers with God-fearing rulers. We are told that a way to accomplish this change is to start by infiltrating school boards and city hall. The very foundational thought is that Christ is NOW reigning and His followers with Him.

There is nothing new about this Order! The New Order is building an earth-bound kingdom. In 1919-Clarence Larkin said the following:

"The 'Kingdom Idea' has robbed the Church of her 'UPWARD LOOK,' and of the 'BLESSED HOPE.'" There cannot be any 'Imminent Coming' to those who are seeking to 'Set up the Kingdom.' The 'Kingdom Idea' has robbed the Church of the 'Pilgrim' and 'Martyr Spirit,' and caused it to go down into Egypt for help. When the Church enters into an 'Alliance with the World,' and seeks the help of Parliaments, Congresses, Legislatures, Federations and Reform Societies, largely made up of ungodly men and women, she loses her "SPIRITUAL POWER" and becomes helpless as a redeeming force. The end of such an 'Alliance' will be a 'Religious Political Regime' that will pave the way for the revelation of Satan's great 'Religious Political Leader' and 'Superman' - the ANTICHRIST."

Innocent souls are being told that today God is raising up "Prophets" as part of the Restoration of the Church. A schedule of God's Restoration Program is laid out neatly in a number of "hot selling" books. According to "Bishop Hamon" who is also "Prophet Hamon" etc., God's timetable is laid out according to an arranged Restoration schedule. Get on this train, follow this schedule, have your visions and revelations and when the MAN OF SIN is revealed you will not even recognize him. This doctrine and teaching takes away your Blessed Hope. In the very core of this teaching, not only does the Church replace Israel but also replaces the very person of the Lord Jesus Christ! This is MANIFESTED SONS OF GOD teaching!

Whenever "Manifest Sons of God" is mentioned, people seem confused. There isn't an organization called by such a name. Not too many today remember when this teaching abounded some years back and the havoc it caused then. The "new prophets" complain, "They always want to call us Manifest Sons, well that's not what we are!" It IS what they are!

This doctrine in its present form came directly out of the Latter Rain Movement in 1948. The five-fold offices were set in place also at that time. Even then the General Secretary of the Assemblies of God warned against the elevation of prophets and apostles saying, "It allowed some to give the 'Spoken Word' equality with Scripture." Untold disasters followed this practice at that time. However, the same pattern is developing as searching and longing souls are being led on a "new" journey by "new prophets" who are giving them directions in direct contradiction to the Word of God. Yet so many are very sincere, seem to have an "aura" of holiness and can express themselves very convincingly. However, according to the Scriptures, they are "wresting the Scriptures unto their own destruction" and "handling the Word of God deceitfully".

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." II Timothy 4:3 & 4.

In Corinthians we read, "The manifestation of the truth commends us to every man's conscience in the sight of God." It is truth we desire according to the precious incorruptible Word of the Almighty God.

The Manifest Sons of God teaching incorporates the above, namely; (1) Kingdom Now theology and (2) the elevation to an "office" of the five-fold ministries and much more. However, the following aspects of this teaching are far more ominous and undermine the very Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. They believe they will become Christ corporately and individually. When you hear someone say, as Mike Bickle (from Kansas City Fellowship speaking at a Vineyard Conference in 1989) said, "Christ is the Alpha and we are the Omega" you immediately realize this is not Scriptural - only Christ is the Alpha and the Omega. What is it then? Manifest Sons of God. . . we are Christ corporately. Another Manifest Son quote is. . . "what He was in the incarnate power and life, they [the church] would become in the corporate power and life." (Ern Baxter)

At the same conference in 1989, Mike Bickle enthusiastically proclaimed, "In these last days things are going to be revealed that haven't been allowed to be revealed before - for example the things that Daniel saw in Daniel 12 - the things that he saw and the things that he heard he wrote in a book that was to be sealed until the time of the end and obviously not everybody is going to be privy to opening that book. It's going to take somebody of a very high stature to do that. I would expect somebody like Paul Cain to be privy to that book." Revelation 5:3 & 5 gives us a very clear picture of who is worthy to open the book. ". . . no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book; neither to look thereon. . . behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David hath prevailed to open the book; and to loose the seven seals thereof."

2. They believe the Church is the Ongoing Incarnation of Jesus. This is the cornerstone of Manifest Sons teaching. Instead of us partaking in the divine nature of Jesus, we become EQUAL TO and EVEN ASSUME the ROLE OF JESUS CHRIST - THE GODMEN! The following quotes are from Earl Paulk's writings:

"Jesus was God in the flesh. We must be as He was in the world, and even greater in volume and influence."

"The completion of the incarnation of God in the world must be in His Church. . . Jesus Christ is the firstfruit, but without the ongoing harvest, the incarnation will never be complete."

"The living Word of God, Jesus Christ, was conceived in the womb of a virgin. The Word became flesh in the God man, Jesus Christ (John 1:1). Likewise, the Word of God must be made flesh in the Church in order for us to bear witness to the Kingdom which God has called us to demonstrate."

"We are on earth as extensions of God to finish the work He began. We are the essence of God, His on-going incarnation in the world."

3. They believe the Five-Fold Ministry becomes the foundation. Leaders from around the country are hopping about seeking "new revelations" and becoming "prophets" as a foundation for the future of the Church. They are being told that they will "birth" the end-time Church. The "apostles and prophets" being raised up are to bring us to maturity and enable us to become **THE GODMEN!** These apostles and prophets are considered spokesmen for God. Their authority and teaching cannot be questioned. The "apostles" and "prophets" that are being raised up are forming a sort of Pentecostal papacy. Woe betide anyone who rejects the authority of these "leaders" in the land.

4. The RAPTURE as looked for by the Manifested Sons of God is a coming forth of the "Christ within" every saint after the order of the Pattern Son. He made it as a divine, immortal and sinless Son of God. This can be duplicated by each individual, who by following Jesus as the Pattern Son, becomes a Manifested Son. This company is known as "The New Breed" or "Joel's Army" etc. They will take dominion (establish a theocracy) and execute judgment on those they deem ungodly.

The great question therefore is: Who will be deemed ungodly? Some of their answers to this question are as follows:

1. Those who are not as godly as they are or those who have not "entered in".
2. Those that reject the "occult" view of the Manifest Sons of God.
3. Those that resist the apostolic or prophetic papacy – won't come under "spiritual authority" as they interpret it.
4. Those that criticize or speak out against their teachings.
5. Those that are not of the pure (Aryan) breed or race.
6. Those that believe Israel was and still is a chosen nation of God.
7. Those that believe Jesus is come in the flesh (in a personal literal body) and shall literally come again in person to execute judgment against the ungodly.

"To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds, which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Jude vs.15

There is a grim determination that a NEW ORDER must be established. The method all along has been a gradual infiltration. However, with the rise of militancy, the warrior songs and the use of military language - I see a violent overthrow of the OLD ORDER in the making. The Manifested Sons are establishing a new and glorious Kingdom - led by a NEW BREED of men and women. If you are not a part of this, you have not "entered in". The situation is becoming so serious that couples are encouraged to divorce if one of the spouses does not become part of the "New Thing". Parents are not allowed to speak to their children who have "entered in". A favorite intimidation scripture used is "to come out from among them and be separate". Instead of applying it to the world - it is applied to anyone who does not see the new "deep" truths as seen by the "prophets". This is cultic!

Who are the Manifest Sons and from where do they originate? They are reputed for spiritualizing and allegorizing the Scriptures making the Scriptures say anything they want them to say. The fact that they also use the Apocrypha books and writings which are blatantly Gnostic in content, makes it quite obvious why they seem insecure in the Scriptures. Who wouldn't be if the literal meaning of Scripture is allegorized to mean something else? The

answer to the above question is clear. The Manifest Sons doctrine is cultish in a theological wrapping, and to all intents and purposes is on a par with the Rosicrucians in that both have their origin in Gnosticism.

Gnosticism is basically a form of mystical, religious and philosophical doctrines the early Christian sects spread and which the early Church vehemently rejected as heresy. The word "Gnostic." is derived from the Greek word "gnostikos" or "gnosis" (inner mystic knowledge). The Gnostic's believe the "gnosis" is subjective knowledge of the divine element or spark in every man that needs to be discovered to be known. They believe the divine spark originally came from the "realm of light". The only way to release the divine spark is through divine revelation knowledge experienced in the spirit. Also they believe that when the unconscious spirit in man is awakened by revelation from the "realm of light" can he come to know his real self - the god within.

Out of the 2nd Century A.D., Gnosticism and ancient Cabalism (essentially Gnosticism), a variety of occult movements emerged with an emphasis on "enlightenment" through religious teaching based on mystical insight. Groups of this sort included the Druids, Rosicrucians, Theosophists, Mormons, Freemasons, Shriners, the Order of the Golden Dawn, etc. and now in the last days we are seeing the Manifest Sons of God manifesting the same essential mystical base (Gnosticism) common to all occult groups. Corporately all these groups are an integral part of the New Age Movement. Let us not make the mistake in thinking the New Age comes only from Hinduism and eastern mysticism. Western mysticism brings us to exactly the same place.

During the Renaissance period, Gnosticism surfaced as a strong force and spread rapidly throughout Europe. By the 18th century the era known as "the Enlightenment" dawned. Since then the esoteric groups have flourished and the Rosicrucian Order, which admits to having its roots in Gnosticism, has proved to be a pattern of thought other mystic groups share. As strange as it may seem, it was during the 18th Century era of the Enlightenment that the Christian Faith in Europe and America experienced theological reform that radically changed Christian Orthodox theology to flow with both Gnostic thought and mysticism. The prominent German theologian and philosopher namely, Friedrich Schleiermacher stands out in history as having influenced his contemporaries and the Church to Gnostic theology. Not only did the Church regard his views as Gnostic, but also accused him of teaching pantheism. In his early years, Schleiermacher was directly influenced by what was then known in Europe as the "Romantic Movement" which was characterized by liberalism and by a reliance upon subjective experience rather than upon reason, and the dependence upon the testimony of the human heart rather than upon the revelation of Jesus Christ according to Scriptures. The essence of which was that in every man was the "Divine" and the only way to know reality was through a heart-felt experiential revelation.

Like Schleiermacher and the "Romantic Movement, the Church has become "experience" oriented. It is very common to hear, "I know it is real because of my "inner knowledge" or my "experience". Take the "experience" away from many Christians and they fall apart. Their foundation is not upon the Word of God, but upon their "experience". Unfortunately, too many popular speakers play upon this and are taking their hearers from experience to experience. This is a religion centered on self. "It is man's return to himself" is how Robert Werner characterized it. Self is at the core of the Gnostic philosophy and occult groups.

So many when questioned about the validity of the "new prophets" will say, "But I have the 'inner' witness or my spirit bears witness that it is of God." It sounds good and it "feels" good, therefore it must be right. A so-called "Word from the Lord" is given to them, perhaps in the way of revelation about their personal lives, and they are won over. These same people do not even want to hear how the Scriptures are being maligned and trampled under foot by the same "prophets" who are taking their hearers on a journey of "self" that will end in despair.

The sum of the matter is that the current "so-called" Manifest Sons of God movement is not and can not be the work of the Holy Spirit. If indeed it is anything at all, then it is without doubt a revival of the occult. But, judging by the fruit of their own lips, abuse of Scripture and bizarre unscriptural prophecies, there leaves no room for any doubt that what we are seeing and hearing is the fruit of the flesh instigated by the Father of Lies. The NEW WAVE says, "eat. . . and ye shall be as god", this is in fact, THE OLD LIE.

When the simplicity of the following Scripture is abused or stretched beyond the literal sense to mean anything else other than what the Scripture is saying, then it goes without saying, ignorance or some strange power is at work.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, [literal person of Christ] we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." I John 3:1-3

In the simplicity that is in Christ,

**Jewel van der Merwe**