
DISCERNMENT NEWSLETTER

“...how is it that ye do not discern this time?” Luke 12:56

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The TABERNACLE OF DAVID: AN END-TIME DECEPTION



Image from “A Bridal Canopy Over Texas,”

<http://tomschlueter.blogspot.com/2012/08/secure-texas-bridal-canopy-over-texas.html>

David was a man after God’s heart. 1Chronicles 13 speaks of his well-intentioned desire to bring the Ark of the Covenant into the Holy City of Jerusalem:

All the people, including the priests and the Levites, were in agreement with David’s desire to glorify the Lord. They were all convinced it was of God. There was only one problem: their actions were not in accordance with the will of God, and Uzzah, a Levite, died. The Ark was to be carried only on the shoulders of the Levites – not on a man-made cart. And it surely needed no help from a man to steady it. God’s people should have realized that there is a right way and a wrong way for the presence of God to come to His people. David and his people disregarded God’s specific instructions, and however pious their intentions, disaster followed. David needed to seek the Lord further, to delve more deeply into the Word of God to proceed in wisdom and gain God’s approval.

There is presently a movement to establish an end-times “Tabernacle of David” centered around 24/7 prayer and worship. Fact sheets are distributed that detail the historical

background for this movement, culminating in the present-day attempt:

On September 19, 1999, the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, Missouri, started a worship-based prayer meeting that has continued for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week ever since... [T]hat the fire on the altar should never go out, there has never been a time when worship and prayer has not ascended to heaven since that date.

<http://www.loudounburn24-7.com/history/>
<http://www.ihopkc.org/prayerroom/history/>

Interestingly, the fact sheet for the small, local branch of a “Tabernacle of David,” aka **24/7 Burn**, is word-for-word the same as the one headquartered at the International House of Prayer (IHOP) in Kansas City under the authority of Mike Bickle. All are tied together.

24/7 BURN: A PORTAL

Many months ago I became curious about “healing rooms” and, more importantly, its affiliate “24/7 Burn.” I had no idea that when I clicked that one key – healing room – on my computer, I would be led to “24/7 Burn” and from there I would also find all of the following: **Tabernacle of David prayer and worship; Catholic monasticism and asceticism; contemplative prayer, meditation and mysticism; Rick Joyner, Kansas City Prophets/IHOP and New Apostolic Reformation.** Additionally, when clicking the key for the local Healing Room, the next screen introduces Cal Pierce, head of Healing Rooms but also a leading figure in Peter Wagner’s International Coalition of Apostles. There are accompanying ads for Rick Joyner’s Morningstar Worship Conference and Chuck Pierce’s Leadership Conference. Pierce is second-in-command at Peter Wagner’s International Coalition of Apostles and a leading apostle and prophet. A meeting by James Goll is publicized. Mr. Goll is the President of Encounters Network, the Director of Prayer Storm, and the Director of God Encounters Training. He is an instructor in the (C. Peter) Wagner Leadership Institute. His website: <http://encountersnetwork.com/index.html> lists material on consecrated contemplative prayer, angelic encounters, prophetic maturation, dream language class, the lost art of practicing his presence, etc.

The Healing Rooms School of Transformation http://healingrooms.com/index.php?page_id=443 includes instruction on healing. Yet it also ventures far afield into a much wider sphere of influence. These topics include: apostolic government, the five-fold ministry, and, most interestingly, the 7 Mountains Mandate that “identifies the major institutions that identify society.” (Ibid.) The 7 Mountains Mandate is the term coined by C. Peter Wagner and the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) group as part of their

Dominion Theology (also known as Latter Rain). The "Sacrifice of Praise" and the restoration of the Tabernacle of David were important themes within the Latter Rain. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latter_Rain_\(post%E2%80%93World_War_II_movement\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latter_Rain_(post%E2%80%93World_War_II_movement))

What seemed to be a small, local group is instead a part of a broader picture that includes links to a whole network of international groups like: Wagner's New Apostolic Reformation, Bickle's IHOP, Generals International, YWAM, Reformation Network, etc. That this is true can be seen in the latest venture of the NAR and IHOP: David's Tent DC – enthroning a Latter-Rain 24/7 altar presence on the White House lawn during an election season.

Below is a sample of the current public announcements on David's Tent DC.

We want to announce an unprecedented witness to this grace. Imagine 24/7 worship on the Ellipse, the backyard of the White House, from Yom Kippur til election day! To my knowledge, this has never been done. God is granting us a literal picture of the Tabernacle of David, in our governmental seat of authority, at the capitol of our nation....

For more than a year, God has been speaking to us about the significance of **Tabernacles, that 2012 would actually be a fulfillment of Cindy Jacobs' vision of the "X" over our nation that transforms into a Bridal Canopy.** (bold in original)

Jon and Jolene, Hamill of Lamplighters are related to the Reformation Network, sponsored by Cindy Jacobs of Generals International, who is the leading prophetess in the NAR and claims to be the apostle over America. Jacobs is on the Board of Advisors of the David's TentDC event. Birthing literally hundreds of affiliate organizations, the New Apostolic Reformation operates as a conglomerate that especially includes the International House of Prayer (IHOP) movement. Their agenda is both a national and global ambition of building 7 mountains, which is often referred to as the "Next" or the "Third Great Awakening."

This is the group that is leading the David's TentDC operation. They are launching the effort through Twitter, Facebook, and all the hundreds of IHOP "Prayer Furnace" locations across the USA, including networking with mission groups like YWAM and various prayer organizations across the globe.

(See <http://herescope.blogspot.com/2012/09/davids-tent-dc.html>. Dr. Orrel Steinkamp, Sept. 3, 2012 for the whole article.)

There was repeated mention of the phrase Latter Rain. This may be new phrase to many but it is not a new teaching at all. In fact, the Latter Rain teaching – and heresy – is well over 50 years old.

The Assemblies of God position paper on endtime revival pays particular attention to the Latter Rain doctrine: <http://ministers.ag.org/pdf/EndtimeRevival.pdf>. The Latter Rain originated in a series of revival meetings in 1948 and by late 1949 was declared heretical and false by the Assemblies of

God in Canada and the U.S. The beliefs of the present-day apostles and prophets, and the misinterpretation of the Tabernacle of David scriptures fall within these parameters. (pp. 24 of noted position paper). In 2001 the AG General Council released another statement titled "Apostles and Prophets" arguing that the restoration of these offices is unbiblical and "opens the door to abusive leadership." It also spoke against the five-fold ministry and apostolic succession. It stated that these offices "belonged to the foundational era of the church" and that the biblical model for church leadership is elders and deacons.

http://ag.org/top/Beliefs/Position_Papers/pp_downloads/pp_4195_apostles_prophets.pdf

All involved in C. Peter Wagner's NAR have titles of either apostle or prophet and exercise the authority concurrent with those titles. Sandy Simpson, a veteran in discernment ministries at www.deceptioninthechurch.com, is a missionary living in Hawaii, which is home to one of YWAM's largest training schools. YWAM is one of the motivating forces behind 24/7Burn. In Sandy's book *The New Apostolic Reformation* he reports that it was Peter Wagner who served on YWAM's prayer boards.

In a "BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO LATTER RAIN DOCTRINES" posted at <http://nextreformation.com/wp-admin/resources/Restorationism.pdf>, *The Third Force* author Gordon F. Atter, a recognized authority on the history of Pentecostal revivals, cites a number of distinguishing traits which doctrinally set the Latter Rain Movement apart from orthodoxy. His list includes:

- "Kingdom now" teaching, emphasizing God's complete sovereignty over nature and active dominion over sin, sickness and the devil (lack of a theology of suffering)
- Restoration of the offices of Apostles and Prophets to the church. While the effects of this movement were minimized by 1955, it has not faded from view. It exists today in a more contemporary form as "Restorationism," an eschatological reading of Scripture calling for a 'recovery' of Davidic worship, praise and service, said to have been lost to the Church between the death of the Apostles and the Dark Ages. This 'recovery,' is said to enable man to experience all that God had planned in the very beginning.
- Restorationists accept Dominion theology, which states that Jesus cannot or will not return to the earth until the Church has taken control of at least a significant portion of human government and social institutions.
- The voice of authority, it is believed, will reside in certain latter-day apostles and prophets operating in conformity to their own peculiar interpretation of Ephesians 4:11-12 (known as 5-fold ministry teaching). In order for the saints to be perfected (made sinless) they believe there must be a restoration of the offices of apostles and prophets.

THE KANSAS CITY FELLOWSHIP – INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER

It is imperative to know the history and beliefs of IHOP aka Kansas City Fellowship to get the full picture of what

we are dealing with. Below is an abridged excerpt from Pastor Keith Gibson's "Wandering Stars: Contending for the Faith with the New Apostles and Prophets." [This came from an article no longer available online. But Pastor Gibson has now published it as a book. This newsletter formatting is significantly edited and revised.]

IHOP (Intercession, Holiness, Offerings, Prophetic) was founded by Mike Bickle in 1999. Currently, Lou Engle of "The Call" is a member of the leadership team. IHOP centers a great deal of their efforts on "24/7 worship and prayer 'in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David'. [The] emphasis [is] on modern prophetic revelation. Training forerunners to be the end-time apostles and prophets who will participate in the end-time judgments upon the earth performing great signs and wonders."

History

While pastoring a church he had started, Bickle was visited by Augustine who prophesied that he was to come to Kansas City. Before coming to Kansas City, Bickle took an extended trip overseas. While in Cairo Egypt, Bickle relates that he heard, "the internal, audible voice of the Lord." He claims he heard the very words and the intonation of the voice. The Lord said, "I am going to change the understanding and expression of Christianity in the whole world in one generation." Bickle states that the majority of the pivotal prophecies were given in 1983 and 1984. One such prophecy, known as "The Blueprint Prophecy" was received on March 26, 1984 in written form from a prophet Bickle claims was unknown to him. This prophecy reportedly gives God's blueprint for the ministry. This prophecy was not released publicly until approximately 2003. It has never been released in full and three differing versions of it can be found on the Internet. One of the most important occurrences in the first days of Bickle's ministry in Kansas City was his introduction to Bob Jones.... prophecies and alleged supernatural signs... occurred at that time. Upon their first encounter, Bickle was certain that Jones was the false prophet Augustine had warned of. However, through a series of signs, Bickle became convinced that Jones was truly a prophet of God. In a relatively short amount of time other people claiming prophetic giftings joined KCF.

Men like John Paul Jackson, Jim Goll, David Parker and, eventually Paul Cain joined Bob Jones as prophetic voices to Mike Bickle. They became known as the Kansas City Prophets.

Beliefs The formal doctrinal statement of the International House of Prayer is relatively standard among Evangelical Christianity. However some of the doctrines actually taught and the practices that occur at IHOP are in contradiction to these stated beliefs. Further, these central doctrines do not factor largely in the teaching ministry which is focused primarily on intimacy, the prophetic and eschatology.

24/7 Prayer: The aspect of the ministry for which IHOP is most well-known is the 24/7 night and day prayer and worship. It should be noted however, that a significant amount of what is labeled prayer is not what the typical Evangelical would expect. In addition to standard prayer practices, IHOP advocates Contemplative Prayer; a form of passive, mindless meditation.

Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare or Spiritual Mapping: in which the participant discerns the demons controlling the spiritual atmosphere of the city which are then bound,

Prophetic Decrees; in which prophetic authority is used to speak the decree of the Lord over geographic regions, to elements of nature, to release the power of God, and much more.

Bridal Paradigm: The Bridal Paradigm is another key doctrinal construct that influences virtually all of the teaching at IHOP. In this understanding of redemptive history, God is a fiery lover who desires to have a bride equally yoked to Jesus in love. Jesus is the bridegroom with a ravished heart. The Bride is understood to be the primary identity for believers of this generation. In fact, this generation will be the first to really walk in this identity. God is no longer to be seen in a master-type of role.

The cross is understood in terms of a dowry or bride price.

This teaching becomes a key for interpreting all Scripture and spawns other doctrines such as "bridal intercession," "the cross in bridal perspective," "the global bridegroom fast," and many more. Esther is interpreted as a type of the end-time church reigning through intimacy. Song of Solomon is allegorized as depicting Christ and the Church. While this is not uncommon, what is unique is that the allegory is applied to the individual believer and then literalized so that the relationship between Jesus and the individual is seen in romantic terms. IHOP and other similar ministries have begun having marriage ceremonies to wed individual believers to Jesus.

Scripture: IHOP's approach to interpretation is very important. Teachers at IHOP frequently interpret Scripture by way of personal revelation. Context, history and word meanings may all be ignored. For instance, in the early days of the movement Bob Jones spoke to Bickle that God was giving him Psalm 27:4. Jones said that Bickle would eventually have a ministry involved in 24/7 prayer and fasting with worship in the spirit of the tabernacle of David with prophetic singers. He said that out of this movement, revival with signs and wonders would break out and spread throughout the earth. Bickle admits that he couldn't see all of that in Psalm 24:7. He asked Jones how he came to that understanding and was informed, "The Lord told me." Bickle came to accept this based on Jones's record as a prophet. He states that he continues to have people question whether this word is truly found in Psalm 27:4. He tells them, "You take that up with Bob Jones. I know that's what this is about."

IHOP's understanding of the nature of prophecy is also very important. While affirming that this generation will be the greatest apostles and prophets in history and that no disease known to man will be able to stand against them, IHOP teaches that New Testament prophets can err and are not subject to the tests given in Deuteronomy 13 and 18. Thus the failure of a prophetic word does not disqualify the speaker as a true prophet of God.¹⁶ These new prophetic words form the basis for much of what occurs and even the doctrines that are believed at IHOP.

End-time generation: The uniqueness of the end-time generation is another foundational doctrine. This teaching, which has been variously called "The Elected Seed," "The New Breed," "Joel's Army" and "Apostolic Pre-millennialism" is the understanding that the final generation, which is believed to be now, will be the greatest generation of apostles and prophets who have ever lived. One of IHOP's missions is to raise up ten thousand apostolic evangelists in the last days

who will "...stand in the counsels of the Lord. They will walk with such authority in the courts of heaven that they will be invited to partner with God in His end-time judgments. Their lives will shake heaven and earth. Creation will bow to the word of the Lord. Their prophecies will broadcast the news-reports of heaven and the headlines of earth."

They believe, based on personal prophecy, that God is establishing end-time cities of refuge, Kansas City being one, which will be places of abundance of food, economic provision, open heaven prophetic activity, and safety to which people can flee during the last days. Based on personal prophecy they believe the Anti-Christ will rise through an alliance between communism and Islam....

Scripture: The foundation rests, not on Scripture, but on prophetic words by modern-day prophets. None of the leadership will admit this but it is demonstrably true. Bickle came to Kansas City as the result of personal prophecy. He understood the nature of his ministry through prophecy. The name "IHOP" came by personal revelation as did the names of other aspects of the ministry. The Blueprint Prophecy is believed to be God's direction for the entire movement. But most troubling is that, despite claims to the contrary, doctrine is frequently established by personal prophecy. IHOP's belief in end-time cities of refuge, in the alliance between communism and Islam to bring forth the Anti-Christ... are just [two]of the examples where doctrine is established by new revelation. Regardless of one's view on the continuation of spiritual gifts, this is problematic. It is the Scripture that is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). The fact that personal revelation is frequently used to interpret Scripture, as in the case of Psalm 24:7, is troubling. If passages are not kept in context, the Scriptures can be manipulated to mean whatever the particular prophet wants them to mean. The Bible cannot fulfill its purpose of instructing believers if passages are torn from their context and reinterpreted. This fundamental problem is the groundwork for much of the doctrinal error and false practices at IHOP.

IHOP's belief that prophets can be errant is also a problem especially in light of the claim to be hearing the audible voice of God, receiving an "open heaven", or having visitations to heaven. If a prophet is truly hearing the voice of God, then that word must be without error for God is never wrong and never lies. To claim such an exalted status for one's revelations while at the same time affirming that one does not have to meet the Biblical criteria for such revelation is inconsistent.

Bridal Paradigm: The Bridal Paradigm, despite its popularity and apparent scriptural support, is actually very concerning. First, because of its de-emphasis on legal acquittal and justification in favor of a dowry. The Bible never uses the concept of a dowry or more properly a bride price to illustrate the work of Christ on the cross. A bride price is paid because of the worth of the bride. According to the scriptures, we did not have anything to commend us to God. We deserved only punishment. God saved us as a response of grace not because of our beauty. There is no doctrine of sin and repentance in the bridal paradigm. Additionally, while the bride metaphor is used of the church as a whole, it is never used of the individual. The overly romantic emphasis of the bridal paradigm is out of balance. Further, the idea of

having marriage ceremonies to Jesus has no support in Scripture.

24/7 Prayer: It should also be noted that the concept of 24/7 corporate prayer and worship is not mandated in scripture. Nowhere in the New Testament did anyone set up houses of 24/7 prayer. And despite attempts to find it in Amos 9:11, the Bible really knows nothing of the re-establishment of Davidic worship among New Testament believers. Additionally, many of the prayer practices such as Contemplative Prayer, Prophetic Decrees, and spiritual mapping find no support in scripture. The fact that these are done 24/7 only compounds the problem. Doing a great deal of something wrong doesn't cause it to be right.

The Davidic Order of Worship 24/7's History Page

The IHOP website <http://www.ihopkc.org/prayerroom/history/> states that "although the tabernacle was replaced by a temple, the Davidic order of worship was embraced and reinstated by seven subsequent leaders in the history of Israel and Judah. Each time this order of worship was reintroduced, spiritual breakthrough, deliverance and military victory followed."

The IHOP website says that the Biblical history for 24/7 prayer is based on the Davidic plan of worship as discussed in 1Chron 15:1-17:27. (No mention is made of the first attempt to bring the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem as related in 1Chronicles 13.) There is an obvious problem with this assumption for the born-again believer: we are New Testament believers whose faith is not in the shadow of the old covenant but in the substance of the risen Savior of the new covenant Hebrews 7 -10 (see also Col 2: 16-23). As such, our spiritual worship is not of the orchestrated, formalized type of the Old Testament but rather of the individualized Romans 12:1 proclamation.

According to Leonard Hjalmarsen at <http://nextreformation.com/wp-admin/resources/Restorationism.pdf>

Notice, however, that there is no new temple or restored temple worship or restored priesthood, in the Old Testament sense, happening in New Testament churches. Instead, we are all priests (1Pe 2:5). We worship not in Jerusalem but "in spirit and in truth." The people of God are now His temple... If we have the reality, why go back to the shadow?...

"In spirit and in truth" was spoken by Jesus to a Samaritan woman who was confused about the relationship of worship and culture. Jesus, by His example, was already tearing down old things to bring new vision. Consider for a moment what is occurring in the passage in John 4.

...Jesus, contrary to the Jewish law, is telling her that worship is not confined to the Temple. Jesus tells her that it doesn't matter where she worships or who she is (culturally) because worship is a spiritual and inner transaction between her and the Lord. The Jews believed one had to go to Jerusalem to the temple... but God doesn't dwell in buildings made with hands. This is the heart of the new (old) wineskin. Where once the Temple was the center, now WE ARE the Temple. We carry the Spirit.

There are three central elements in the Mosaic covenant: sacrifice, priesthood and tabernacle. Together these

constituted the covenant relationship between God and His people. Sacrifice and priesthood and atonement cleared the way to God and were the center of covenant faithfulness. We stand in a new dispensation, however, where Jesus Christ has fulfilled sacrifice, priesthood, and tabernacle. He is our great High Priest; therefore we need no earthly priest (Heb.4: 14; 8: 1). The priesthood has passed away, or rather has been given to all believers (1 Pet.2: 9). Likewise Jesus is the true sacrifice, to which all sacrifices looked forward. No further sacrifice is necessary or even possible (Heb.7: 27; 9: 14, 25-28). The sacrificial system has become redundant because all that was foreshadowed in the covenant with Moses was fulfilled in the death of Jesus. The only sacrifice that remains is the church herself as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12: 1-2).

It is also true that Jesus is the fulfillment of the tabernacle (Heb.8-9). He became flesh and dwelt (literally, "tented", "tabernacled") among us (John 1: 14) and "has entered, not a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf" (Heb.9:24). In another sense, the church, His body, is part of the true tabernacle. We are "God's house," (Heb.3: 6; 1 Tim.3: 15), a "holy temple," (Eph.2: 21; 2 Cor.6: 16), a "dwelling of God in the Spirit" (Eph.2: 22). Sacrifice, priesthood, and tabernacle – all these were instituted through Moses, and all passed away with the coming of Jesus and the birth of the church.... [We must remember] that if we have to call people into four walls for a special service where specially trained people perform elaborate rituals... we have just returned to the Old Covenant.

The Early Monastic Tradition of 24/7 Prayer

It is alarming that 24/7 uses monastic tradition – and to such length – as one of its primary foundations. Why? Because there is an approximate 200-year gap between the apostolic age and the monastic age and, therefore, the question must be asked: where did the monastic tradition originate if not from the apostles? And if not from the apostles – and henceforth from Jesus – then why would we follow its example?

I was a devout Catholic for 36 years before I was born-again. For those reasons the names and terms that appear on pp. 2-5 of the "history: 24/7 prayer" are familiar to me: monasteries, abbots, popes, the Divine Office liturgy. But more than the terms are the names that are familiar, for they are the names of Catholic saints: St. Patrick, St. Antony, St. Martin of Tours, St. Benedict, St. Bernard of Clairvaux.

Those of you unfamiliar with Catholic doctrine may be under the assumption that Catholicism is Christianity. Catholicism does uphold the four fundamental of the Christian faith. They believe in the Trinity, the virgin birth, the bodily resurrection of Jesus and the deity of Christ. However, this is where their paths part. The Roman Catholic Church (RCC) states that Christ's work of redemption is not finished and that His atonement is not sufficient. It states that the Bible is the Word of God, but holds tradition and laws passed down by the Pope who is considered infallible

above the Word of God. In addition, the RCC also erroneously believes that Mary is co-Redeemer and co-Mediator with Jesus. Finally, Catholic teaching opposes the doctrine most essential to the Christian faith – the doctrine of justification by faith alone. The RCC not only denies this doctrine but also condemns anyone who believes it.

(*Catechism of the Catholic Church: Second Edition*)

The Catholic Church gives the title of "saint" to those who have "practiced heroic virtue." Those on earth are encouraged to pray to those who have already died and are now in Heaven because they are assured that these saints "do not cease to make intercession with the Father for [them]." (Ibid) This is a direct contradiction to the Bible for it is not the saints who make intercession for us. Rather, it is Jesus Who, unceasingly, makes intercession for us, and He alone. (Heb 7:25)

The Bible expressly forbids us from praying to or talking with those who are dead and even goes so far as to call all who practice this an abomination to the Lord. (Deut 18:10,11)

The 24/7 *History* section mentions a number of saints and monks. The following are the beliefs of only two:

Around 780 A.D. St. Benedict founded a monastic community based on Eastern asceticism at Aniane. The Rules of St. Benedict stress outward disciplines and, while useful for community living, are also very much an example of the Roman Catholic "works" gospel. That it is not just a model for community but is meant as a form of salvation can be seen in its 73 chapters which St. Benedict calls a "means toward godliness." <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/b.htm>

St. Bernard of Clairvaux wrote an expanded commentary on St. Benedict's twelve steps of humility. What is distinctive about him is his special devotion to the "Blessed Virgin Mary" considering her to be "the prime intercessor for humanity with the deity." (Ibid). Hebrews 7: 24-27 strongly refutes this notion by emphatically stating that Jesus is the only intercessor between God and man.

The Infiltration of Catholic Contemplative into the IHOP

In 2005 an "Intercessory Worship/Tabernacle of David" conference was held sponsored by a group called ThreeMacs. Though it was the subject for our men's retreat, the topic intrigued me and my Pastor graciously shared his packet of information with me. (<http://threemacs.org/iw-hebron.htm>). The topic of discussion was "harp and bowl" worship (this is another title that IHOP – the Kansas City Fellowship – gives its prayer). "Apostolic Prayers of the New Testament" would be taught along with antiphonal responsive singing of Scriptural prayers." (Ibid)

Included in the literature for the conference was a reading list. While there were a smattering of books by traditional authors Andrew Murray, E.M.Bounds and A.W. Pink, the rest fell totally into a different category. The title of the list was: "readings on contemplative prayer and the links

related to 24/7 prayer deeper life.” The authors who made up the vast majority of the reading list were contemplative Catholic mystics: Brother Lawrence, St. John of the Cross, Madame Guyon, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas a Kempis, St. Juliana of Norwich, St. Ignatius, Francois Fenelon. These books espouse an experiential religion as opposed to a Bible-based faith. Why would Christians be encouraged to read them?

It is sadly not just ancient Catholic saints that 24/7 and KCF make reference to; it is also present-day Catholics that they endorse, such as Brennan Manning. Much of the contemplative, or mystical, spirituality that has gained inroads into the church of Christ has come through Catholic influences. Contemplative prayer is when you go “beyond thought” by the use of repetitive words or phrases.

Brennan Manning, in his *Red Moon Rising* (an incredible book about the rise of the global 24-7 prayer movement) puts it this way, “The most powerful thing that can happen in the place of prayer is that you yourself become the prayer. You leave the prayer room able as Jesus’ hands and feet on earth. This is what it means to pray continually (without ceasing), to see with the eyes of Jesus and to hear with His ears with every waking moment.” <http://www.loudounburn24-7.com/sample-page/>

Who is Brennan Manning? If *Red Moon Rising* is the textbook for 24/7 prayer for Kansas City Fellowship (IHOP), what practices does the book advocate? At the website <http://www.reachingcatholics.org/beware.html>, in an article, “Beware of Wolves in Sheep's Clothing,” Mike Gendron (editor of Proclaiming the Gospel, Catholic discernment newsletter), states:

Consider Brennan Manning, an inactive Roman Catholic priest, who has some obvious characteristics of a “wolf,” yet goes mostly undetected. In the last ten years, he has become a popular speaker in many “evangelical” churches. Manning was ordained to the Franciscan priesthood after graduating from St. Francis Seminary in 1963. Later he was theology instructor at the University of Steubenville (a Catholic seminary and catalyst for Mary to be named co-redeemer).

...His meditation techniques are drawn from a mixture of eastern mysticism, psychology, the New Age Movement and Catholicism. Manning gives the impression that he has a very intimate relationship with God and reports having many visions, encounters and conversations with Him. He assures his audiences that if they apply his teachings, they too can become more intimate with God.

In *The Signature of Jesus*, another one of Manning's books, he teaches his readers how to pray, using an eight-word mantra. He says, “the first step in faith is to stop thinking about God at the time of prayer” (p. 212). The second step is “without moving your lips, repeat the sacred word [or phrase] inwardly, slowly, and often.” If distractions come, “simply return to listening to your sacred word” (p. 218).

To quote from an article at Lighthouse Trails, <http://www.lighthousestrailsresearch.com/newsletter121206.htm>

RED MOON RISING: (book review)

Red Moon Rising: How 24-7 Prayer is Awakening a Generation (2003, Relevant Books), by UK author Pete Greig, is becoming an increasingly popular book among Christian youth. Greig is the founder of an international prayer movement called 24-7 Prayer and Boiler Rooms. In a magazine interview with Greig, he explains that his organization is now in over 65 countries and has partnered with groups such as Salvation Army and YWAM and has established “modern day monasteries based on the example of the ancient Celts.”

While Greig's book and ministry may, at first glance, appear to be a movement of prayer, research shows that both the book and the movement are heavily influenced by contemplative spirituality and New Age thought...

In another article Greig says 24-7 Prayer is part of a “global prayer explosion” that includes the Catholic Renewal Movement, Taize* worship, IHOP, and other prayer movements.

The 24-7 Prayer organization has another ministry outlet called “The Order of the Mustard Seed.” (ed. This is an outgrowth of Count Zinzendorf and the Pietist movement as described in the History of 24:7. It is to be remembered while reading this that we are already in an exclusive covenant with Jesus that supersedes all others – Heb 8: 8-13) Based on an 18th century order, participants are asked to take a vow and then wear a specially made ring. When we study the Mustard Seed website a clear picture begins to unfold, that this vow is a vow to be contemplative. Contemplative and occultic concepts, references, quotes, etc. so fill the pages of this site, that it would take much more than this article to describe its depth of deception. In one Mustard Seed article, Greig states his admiration for Henri Nouwen, saying: “I am firmly in the Henri Nouwen fan-club, yearning for greater spiritual depth and getting excited about Rhythms and Rules of Life.”

Note: “Taize is a form of contemplative worship that incorporates mystical practices and interspiritual beliefs. Short chants, repeated again and again, give it a meditative character,’ the brothers explain in a brief introduction printed in the paperback songbook. ‘Using just a few words, [the chants] express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. As the words are sung over many times, this reality gradually penetrates the whole being.’” <http://reformednazarene.wordpress.com/2011/11/17/taize-interspiritual-worship-promoted-at-northwest-nazarene-university/>

ARE ACTS 15:16-17 AND AMOS 9:11 CORRECTLY INTERPRETED?

Ultimately the deciding factor in the trustworthiness of all aspects of 24/7 and the Tabernacle of David concept must be Scripture. The only arbiter of truth is the Word of God.

Isaiah 8:20 (NKJV) *To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.*

In accordance with this most fundamental of all Biblical principles we must carefully examine all of Acts 15. We need to understand verses 16 and 17 in context, because that is also a fundamental principle of sound Biblical exegesis. Tabernacle of David teaching bases its validity on Acts

15:16-17 coupled with Amos 9:11. Considering that a whole movement has been formed upon the exegesis of these few verses, it is imperative to study soberly.

A key article about the Tabernacle of David was authored in 2003 by Dr. Orrel Steinkamp, and is posted at <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/orrel11.html>

The Key Passage: Acts 15:16. In order to understand why James quoted from Amos 9:11 at the conclusion of the Jerusalem council, the historical context is the determining factor. The circumcision party among Jewish believers was insisting that Gentile believers had to be circumcised according to the law of Moses (v.1). Paul and Barnabas came to the council to participate in the debate and lobbied against the circumcision party (v.4, 6). Peter witnessed before the Council that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ. Paul and Barnabas recalled how miraculously God had worked among the Gentiles on their first missionary journey. James, the obvious spokesman for the council, concurred with Peter, Paul and Barnabas and expressed his conclusion that Gentile believers were to be accepted into the early church without circumcision because their hearts had been cleansed by faith in Christ (Acts 15:9-12, 19).

In order to give OT credence to the decision of the council, James quoted Amos 9:11 which appears to have settled once and for all the question of Gentile inclusion in the early church. Would it make any sense for James to depart from the only issue before the council (i.e., the question of Gentile circumcision) and predict a new form of worship? This just does not fit contextually. James did not change the subject to promote a perfect plan of worship modeled after David's tabernacle. The obvious reference to the "tabernacle of David" is a reference to the dynasty or rule of David, which is often referred to as the "house of David" or the "tabernacle of David." (2 Samuel 7:5-11).

The prophet Amos had prophesied that David's rule, with all its glorious promises, would one day collapse and fall being overrun with "breaches" and "ruins." But Amos went on to promise that David's tabernacle (the house of David) would be restored from its fallen state. James purpose in quoting the passage is to demonstrate to the council that the restoring of David's house refers to the spiritual incorporation of the Gentiles into the New Testament Church. Indeed, it had been God's intention to include Gentiles in His Kingdom from the beginning. What Amos had predicted so long ago is now being fulfilled in that Gentiles are coming to faith and being included in Christ's church. After the literal historical fall of David's tabernacle (the Davidic Dynasty) God would restore David's rule by including Jews and Gentiles in the same 'house' or family of God. James, in quoting Amos is establishing to the council that the inclusion of Gentiles was not something new but was a part of God's plan and was being fulfilled in the Church. Consequently, James concludes, "Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles" (Acts 15:19).

The only way to teach the restoration of Davidic Worship is to snatch the phrase "Tabernacle of David" in Acts 15:16 out of its historical meaning, isolate it from the context and

give it a meaning that James, Paul, Barnabas, Peter and the whole NT would not have even recognized.

BUT WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

In actuality, the New Testament recognizes only one form of 24/7 worship. It is not found in group form nor is it in any way elaborate. It is simply this:

Romans 12:1 (NIV) A Living Sacrifice: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

OR, as the *Amplified Bible* states it even more emphatically: *12 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.*

And why are we so concerned with a tabernacle of David, when we should be more concerned with He Who tabernacled and fixed His tent, our Lord Jesus?

John 1:14 (NKJV) The Word Becomes Flesh: ¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled, fixed His tent) among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

You might ask if this careful scrutiny is really necessary. The Bible says it is:

Deuteronomy 22: 9 -10 (Amplified Bible): *You shall not plant your vineyard with two kinds of seed, lest the whole crop be forfeited [under this ban], the seed which you have sown and the yield of the harvest forfeited to the sanctuary. You shall not plow with an ox [a clean animal] and a donkey [unclean] together.*

Yes, the whole crop – all that is pure and holy in our relationship with Jesus – is lost. If you try to mix in clean and unclean, all becomes unclean. That little leaven will have stealthily crept into all the crop, into all our teachings. And in the nature of leaven, it is hardest to discover when error rides in alongside truth:

"Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking, and therefore more dangerous. God hates such a mixture! Any error or any truth-and-error mixture calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died."

(Dr. Harry Ironside (1876-1951, a godly fundamentalist author, writer and teacher for many years, served as pastor of Chicago's Moody Memorial Church 1930-1948.)

NOTE: This article has been excerpted with permission from a major research paper being written by Barbara Wilhelm concerning the history and heresy of the Tabernacle of David teaching that rose to prominence in the Latter Rain Movement.