

Fractured Found Fractured Found ations

A red lightning bolt graphic is positioned to the right of the word 'Found' in the title, pointing downwards towards the word 'ations'.

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Fractured Foundations

The Lord Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith and indeed also of our lives so our beliefs should be firmly anchored to him in all things, and through him we should view everything that occurs not only in our little bubble of life but all things that occur around the world.

We could ask ourselves at what point did Jesus become the cornerstone of mankind's existence and through these deliberations we would recall the second half of the scripture passage that tells us it was this base cornerstone building block upon which all other structures rest upon "that the builders rejected"¹ and we would also generally recall that this passage refers to the rejection of Jesus, the son of God and rightful heir to the Kingdom of Israel, by the Children of Israel two thousand years ago; and in essence continues to day. But is this correct? So to answer the question of when Jesus is considered to have become the first (and corner) stone to be laid, would we be happy to say; "Well it was when he started his earthly ministry and he was rejected by the remnant of the Children of Israel".

However on reflection we would be doing our Lord a great dis-service with this answer and in John's New Testament Gospel the occasion of the Lord becoming this icon of our Christian faith extends right back to the beginning of time.

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

What John is revealing to the world is that Jesus is the personification of the deity of God-our-Father's spoken word, and from Genesis we observe that Jesus takes a central role in the whole Creation process. So in scriptural terms we "see" Jesus in Genesis Chapter One: "*God said, let there be light*"². Hence the cornerstone of our belief and faith commences in the Beginning prior to the occurrence of the first human soul and prior to the first occurrence of disobedience³ against the Word of God who said; "*Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*"⁴

¹ Matthew 21:42. Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17

² Genesis 1:3

³ Genesis 3:11

⁴ Genesis 2:16

Does this put some perspective around the depth and breadth of whom our Lord is and when he entered into the bringing forth of mankind?

Now if we go back to the quotation of when Jesus our Lord became the cornerstone that the builders rejected and displace the Lord's advent from the Beginning at Creation and wind the time forward four thousand years to (say) 30AD, what in effect we do is disregard everything that occurred and everything that he said in the world for those thousands of years; and if we were to be blunt, this too is rejecting the cornerstone and turning Jesus into just another stone somewhere up in the wall. It is tantamount to blasphemy in the least. But what it effectively does, and I speak to our younger generations particularly, is that it rejects all the work of the law that Jesus was intricately woven into with the Children of Israel. In other words those who reject Jesus from the period between Creation and the Lord's terrestrial advent do not have law in their foundation. This is a flaw and will sent faults right through their lives unless remedial action is undertaken. It is incorrect to say, "Yes but we have no law today" because clearly there is still law as we are told in the Testaments of the Apostles and disciples.⁵ By not answering this correctly is a positive indicator that more teaching is required to address that specific fault in the person's belief foundations.

The point we must utterly realise is that our faith and our salvation today must be anchored to the cornerstone of God's creation. Many may disagree with this however by rejecting Jesus (ie the Word of God) for those thousands of years it will reveal a stark reality to those who are to be judged in the End Times for their rejection of Jesus, the son of God, as having no relevance to mankind today. The message may not be clear here, but it has a very nasty sting. By only "partly" believing in Jesus as the Word of God places a believer in jeopardy of having no solid foundation to their faith – and no solid foundation in any structure is a disaster. God said that Jesus is the cornerstone, therefore if we wait until the wall is over half built and then put the headstone in what does it say for everything underneath it? At best the answer in the case of a building is skewed and not level.

This is our introduction to the foundation of our world and is the anchor point of which everything in the entire creation, including our faith, stands or falls. Every event that we read of in the Hebrew and Greek Testaments are relevant to our faith having a solid and unfailing base. Whether this be Eve's gullibility, Cain's loss of self-esteem, the restoration of mankind's relationship with God when Enos, the son of Seth, "began men to call upon the name of the Lord"⁶, the contamination of mankind's DNA by the fallen angels, the great flood and

⁵ Jeremiah 31:33 (Israel), Matthew 5:18, Matthew 7:12, Luke 16:17, 1 John 3:1-10, James 2:8

⁶ Genesis 4:26

Noah's salvation, the promises to Abraham, the giving of God's law to mankind and the sign post that Zechariah⁷ and Haggai⁸ said would be in Zerubbabel's lineage pointing to Mary (Miriam) and Joseph bringing forth the headstone.

Understanding all of the events from Creation to Christ is the reinforcing within the foundation of faith and belief and in particular our relationship to the Children of Israel and the role that they will play in the lead-up to and during the End Times. Believing the whole Word of God brings understanding; understanding builds faith; and these all combine to raise-up a man of God, Spirit filled and driven to be a servant of the Lord in the works of salvation.

In keeping with the theme of this discussion being cloaked in civil engineering parlance, we can think about what happens when there is a flaw in a foundation. We would all know that when foundations fail they do not support the weight and stability of the structure above it. In engineering speak, we see cracking occurring from the base of the construction right through to the top. We see instability of the structure when other forces are applied to it and generally these overtly show as fractures and gaps in the building materials and if not remedied can lead to a total structural failure. In other words the building has to be demolished as it is unsafe to be within its perimeter.

If we juxtapose this discussion to refer to our belief and faith in Jesus Christ we can see strong parallels between the two models. There has been a persistent perennial problem throughout Christendom for the two thousand year period since our Lord ascended to heaven. Over these millenniums there have been a multitude of fissures opening up in the outward working of the body of Christ that have led to a fragmentation of the base faith that was originally laid down by the Apostles. These fissures became chronically worse over time resulting in severe disjuncting and a dumbing down (on our part) of our relationship with the Lord and his covering angels.⁹ In some cases these wayward congregations have caused a reactionary distancing away from the body because of their unacceptable behaviours and teachings where the congregations are also willingly participating.

Within two hundred years of the Lord's ascension syncretism had usurped the very authority of the Body of Christ and held it as a political prisoner for many decades by the strong arm of secular rulers. In short, the faith, unity and holiness of worship evaporated toward the Lord Jesus Christ in many of the congregations and in one extreme case has been fully supplanted by

⁷ Zechariah Chapter Four

⁸ Haggai 2:23

⁹ Revelation 1:20

syncretising the worship with old pagan gods of empires past. Hence the global unity of Christ's hope for a unified one-world Christian body was shattered.

As we look back on the Lord's body of believers over the last two thousand years we cannot miss the ingress of evil that has mocked our Lord, carried off our children and despatched any and all who would call out the agents of evil within the churches; and the great pity and shame of it all is that the congregations themselves have, in the main, been willing partners in the ejecting those who undertook to call out the evil for what it was. I do not see that this has changed and perhaps it is better expressed by a scenario of a shepherd herding his sheep at dusk when he hears one sole sheep bleating over yonder by the fence: His reaction? Shut the bleating animal up so it won't disturb the rest of the flock and he can get some sleep. Hmmm!

So we can have a robust discussion about failing foundations and the consequences of not trying to undertake remedial action to fix them; or to an extreme demolish the compromised structure.

We must also have in the back of our minds that the root cause of all issues is the interference by the powers of evil through both believers and non-believers who carry a lot of baggage around with them. That I refer to the issue-causing things as baggage is a good description as the flesh is constantly warring against our spirits to secure what it likes, when it likes and how it likes – and all centred on self. If there is one lesson that all new believers should be made to write out fifty times on a blackboard it is that in the transition from unbeliever to a believer there will be an inner state of flux for some time as the flesh wars with the indwelling spirit of God and even to the extreme where in one's mind a conversion can actually occur: "Yes do it!" "No don't! Remember what you wrote on the blackboard." When we get to "Oh shut up the whining you're not the boss anymore!" you will be on your way in Jesus name. :-)

However the true target of the princes of the celestial Babylon that are "hell-bent" on deploying the Dragon's evil machinations is to destroy the fruit of Salvation planted and grown in the Word of God; their actions over just the previous two millenniums have gained them more than just a climber's bolt hold into most of the Christian organisations worldwide. The prophets of old and also John's Revelation of Jesus Christ are very informative of the spiritual activity that goes on behind the scenes of our terrestrial world for which a small window is opened to us in Daniel Chapter Ten and Revelation Chapter Eighteen. It is thought provoking to say the least.

God fore-knew that as the End Times came closer the level of activity by the Dragon and his princes to perpetrate a great lie upon the world was going to

significantly increase. The Lord went to great lengths to teach that in the End Times there would be many fake prophets and lying spirits teaching whomever would listen – and I emphasise “*whomever would listen*” because the message that these fake prophets and lying teachers bring invariably always offer something desirable to the flesh. Let me remind you of the prime cause of Adam and Eve’s fall in the Garden – it was because “*the tree was good for food and that it was pleasant to the eyes and a tree to be desired to make one wise*”.¹⁰ In other words its appeal to the flesh was so strong it over-rode their obedience to what God (ie the Lord) had said; and that basic mechanism has not changed over the five thousand seven hundred years of modern man’s existence.

So let’s get our teeth into a robust meat and vegetable diet here. Because of the tendency of Christians to respond to that which pleases their flesh, the body of Christ has become seriously ill from having a very deleterious silver-service of sugar-coated fatty foods that look and taste “out of this world”. If it pleases our outward man (like it did with Adam and Eve) the uptake of the temptation will be massive; and what we are really talking about here is not food.

The outworking of these contrary temptations in our Christian lives are not as obvious as we might think. In fact those who are “hooked” on having their outer man pandered to are the ones most likely to re-buff anyone who would seek to help them. In another astonishing phenomenon any passages of God’s Word that is correctional of any of these failings is shunned, confused by lying spirits or derided. Specifically in the opening chapters of the Book of Revelation there are the messages to the seven churches. The intent of these messages is not taught – but the waters in which they sit are very muddied by anyone who has a passing opinion spilling out a very confused interpretation.

This is the effect of not having strong foundations. These souls who teach with a lying spirit or falsely prophesy – even changing the meaning of the word “prophet” from one whom God speaks through – to anyone who has a dream or an envisioning (and there are many doing it) or even just a good idea, exemplifies why every Christian must seek the Spirit of God to teach them God’s will and God’s way from Genesis to Revelation – or if you will, from Creation to our eternal rewards in God’s New Jerusalem.

We spoke about cracks in foundations and how eventually they would become observable at the top of the structure. If we put this into human terms, erroneous teaching and awry opinions that get cast into a believer’s foundation that are covered over and built upon will ultimately manifest somewhere in that person’s day-to-day life and how they conduct themselves. Remember that a

¹⁰ Genesis 3:5-6

key aspect of retaining erroneous beliefs is driven by the power of the flesh that will be like a wedge in a crack to keep a schism open until it surfaces at some point.

We can elaborate more at the personal level of day-to-day activities that many argue vehemently that it's okay and God "wouldn't care" or it has "nothing to do with God" and these reactions are a sure sign that just as the ingress of moisture erodes the underneath base away from a house slab, on a personal level there is something going on underneath. If a person worships a god that gives them great joy and pleasure, it is a true generality that they will not recognise it is idolatry before the Lord. Sporting codes are a classic example of this but idolatry is not limited just to them. Anything can be an idol before God; rock bands and secular music, food, drugs, your body beautiful codes, technology, money, narcissism, fiction movies and literature, seeking pre-eminence above others in the things we do, hero worship, elitism; and the list is very long. These are classic wedges that can be hammered into cracks and fault lines to ensure they don't get closed up and repaired. You know how it goes! Go to church every Sunday; go to footy every Saturday. Go to church Sunday night; be in the band and play rock music to liven up the crowd. I am a 100 percent gamer and play every night; can't get into Bible study though. I try and live a holy life; I vape when I get bored. It is very disappointing to see otherwise good people who believe in the Lord but are just blind to what is happening underneath them. We need to be aware of what the Lord's indwelling spirit is saying to us about our lives. The Lord is perfect in all of his ways – human are not. If the gods block our ears with one hundred thousand fans screaming at the Grand Final it's like purposely going into the workshop and hitting your thumb with a hammer. Why go to a place where it is really going to hurt you?

Another point to raise is that foundational issues can occur in not only individuals, but when like minds are collectively bonded together they can also heavily influence the corporate soul of any organisation. In the precinct of our discussion this refers to the churches of the splintered body of Christ. In fact mainstream churches of today are the largest, by far, of having cavernous cracks in their walls and roofs; and once again all because of their foundations. Chief amongst these are the organisational convocations that have hidden their heathen god-worship behind syncretism and are deceiving multitudes on a world wide scale who think they are attending a Christian congregation; and the unnoticed broader issue is that as a generality all of the mainstream convocations are trotting along the same pathway, also deceived into thinking they are following the correct pathway to Christ's salvation.

We can conclude from this that it is not just a case of foundational beliefs causing later issues but there is devilry at play here on a grand scale that is concerning for all future young Christians growing up even though it is prophesied that these lying teachers and false prophets will cause havoc. As demonstrated in our current time, younger generations are rejecting the Christendom as delivered to us by the Apostles and are tracking in a contrary direction. Without being blasphemous; God help them and their offspring as the End Times draw near.

Looking at the churches today we should not wonder at the Lord's messages to the seven churches in Revelation. In part we have mentioned this, but we must sit up and get our minds into gear (so to speak) that if all of the churches were tracking in the steps of the Lord, why is he calling for saints to come away from them? The striking part of the Lord's message is that they all contain his call to "overcome"; and that word is very significant as it means like Jesus himself did, to sacrifice one's life for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ our Saviour.¹¹ In a backhanded rebuke, the Lord is saying that amongst many issues your commitment level is too low to bear the fruit of sainthood.

If we go back to the Gospels to find out how the global body of believers conducted their day-to-day administrations we find a very different model for operating in the Kingdom of God to nearly every congregation standing today. The Apostle's outreach work and the congregation the Lord built up around them were inextricably moulded together in a model of service, or in other words the servant role. There were no hierarchical appointments and each and every believer was part of a single peer group. Even the Apostles, whose role as first fruits was exceptional in every way did not construct an organisational model where there were hierarchical levels of believers.

For some this is a difficult concept to understand, particularly if they are within a Nicolaitan convocation and are themselves organisationally appointed by a church to be a priest or minister as a superior group to be hierarchically above the "laity" of disciples. This is a model based on the Levitical priesthood of old and was demonstrated in the tabernacle and the temples by the division of the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest could enter, and the Priests' Court where all of the offerings and animal sacrifices were prepared by the Levitical priests and the fires in the altars needed to be attended to constantly; and outside the Priests' Court there was an outer Court where the Children of Israel were permitted to be. The point of all this is that when Jesus died the curtain separating the Holy of Holies from the priests' quarter ripped apart and signified that there would no longer be a High Priest of man over believers; because now

¹¹ John 16:33, Revelation 3:21, Revelation 12:11

all believers are of the Royal Priesthood and are priests themselves unto the Lord. In the temple in heaven John notes that when he was to measure the temple it had no outer court; because all would be priests unto God where Jesus is our High Priest.

We can note the varied tasks the disciples undertook according to the running of a well-oiled outreach program to the world, but they did not usurp the Lord's High Priestly authority nor create a cast above the peer group of believing disciples who like them, were undertaking outreach into the world.

On the point of being an Apostle and I note that there are some who use this title as their "profession" today; regarding the matter if there are such things as modern-day apostles? The answer is categorically No! Paul recorded in Acts 1:22 a speech by Peter who explained that the twelve apostles were ordained of God because they were eye-witnesses from the beginning of John's baptism of Jesus when the Spirit of God alighted upon him and right through to when the Lord ascended to heaven; and I take this to be they saw and spoke to Jesus when he spent that short time with the disciples and they literally saw him ascend up to heaven.¹² There is no one alive in this day who can fulfil this criterion, hence the twelve¹³ Apostles as were appointed were one off. A fact check on this: In Revelation 21:14 John describes The New Jerusalem as having twelve foundations and in them the name of the twelve Apostles. (There are no more foundations for anyone else to have – including Paul who would be the thirteenth, and is referred to as the Apostle to the Gentiles).¹⁴

But all this is very different in today's Christian era. In spite of the machinations of mankind (perhaps even prodded along by another who has evil machinations) to have a manning chart with the head of the organisation at the top and under that pinnacle position descending levels of other important people until the at the very bottom of the pile we find the likes of everyday believers seeking the Lord in the best way they can as they work out their salvation. It is soul destroying stuff to be man-handled by a fellow believer who has usurped the superior place of our Lord Jesus. But just because the world has this hierarchical system imposed over those who are caught in these Nicolaitan convocations there is no impact on the Royal Priesthood of believers who are blessed by the Lord as they go about their lives every day.

The Royal Priesthood of believers have the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to go about their priestly duties to the world where the Lord communes with them in a real way. But if a person does not believe in the Royal Priesthood they will

¹² Matthew 28:9, Mark 16:14 + 16:19, Luke 24:50

¹³ Judas was replaced by Matthias as the twelfth Apostle

¹⁴ Romans 11:13

not see it. It is a bit like if we don't believe in Jesus Christ as the only begotten son of God and Saviour to mankind; then he will not be seen – by you.

Now out of all this is a dire warning for all those who condone or participate in a church hierarchical system where they are priests, ministers, prophets, and teachers and Bishops, Cardinals, Popes, Pastors, enlightened ones or what-ever else they might wish to be called and they place themselves between any believer and the Lord – they are usurping the role of High Priest, ie Jesus himself. And just so we all know the consequences of this, Paul tells us: [paraphrased] If we usurp the Lord's High Priestly role we in effect are saying to him that he is not the Lord God who rose to be in heaven with his Father and be the High Priest forever after the order of King Melchizedek; thereby we endeavour to wrench him back to earth and put him to the cross again for being a liar and we do the work by our own soiled hands. This is tough stuff so let me be very clear about what Jesus has said about Nicolaitanism, "*Which thing I hate*".¹⁵

I have spent time on this one point because with the exception of conspiratorial evil intentions to deceive believers into rejecting Jesus, the construction and maintenance of a Nicolaitan system has had a free reign for two thousand years and has continuously put hurdles and road blocks in place to prevent true and earnest blessed-of-God believers in Jesus Christ from realising their purpose in life as a servant in the Kingdom of God. Need I remonstrate against the sheer evil of anyone who thinks they are better, or closer to God, or have authority over another believer just because some man-made organisation instituted their own rites and rituals to elevate themselves above the Lord's congregation. Do we wonder why God has withdrawn his spiritual gifts from these organisations? Hardly!

Nicolaitanism is a major flaw in the foundation of every Christ professing church, Christian organisation and every individual if they exercise its tenets; because it will cause a structural failure in their beliefs at some point in their ministries. There is also by (apparently) no coincidence an association with these offending bodies with idolatry and pagan worship that almost go hand-in-hand. I refer to the syncretism of worshipping the pagan fertility goddess and temple prostitute, now called Easter, in the celebration of the festival of that name that glorifies the rising from the dead and the re-birth of Tammuz. The Easter bunny, eggs and crossed buns are all ancient rituals acknowledging the goddess status of "Queen of Heaven"¹⁶ and for reasons that I cannot fathom the Christian churches worldwide celebrate this evil every year and to boot, sacrifice our most vulnerable in society to her altar – our precious children.

¹⁵ Revelation 2:6, Revelation 2:15

¹⁶ Jeremiah 7:18, Jeremiah 44:19

What does this say about our commitment to the Lord into the future? Again, I would think the Lord will address this with each individual at Judgement.

Also consistent with Nicolaitanism in congregations is the celebration of Christmas Day on 25th December and it is from here that a pattern starts to emerge. The truth of this matter is that the Jesus was not born anywhere near 25th December; in fact it is six months out of sync of the season. This again is a pagan celebration that has also been syncretised to look Christian but it belies the worship (in a real way) of the Sun god of the Roman Empire that was instituted by Emperor Constantine of the Roman Empire in the third century AD with the unequivocal purpose to honour the pagan deity Sol Invictus.

We can further find consistencies across the Nicolaitan churches of today in the agreement and adoration of the Nicene councils that, contrary to what we are told today was an ecumenical move to bring all congregations under a syncretised worship of Sol Invictus and this practise is still undertaken in this modern era putting millions of souls at risks as a result. The only reason why any organisation would sign up to this convocation is to purposefully destroy the real fruits of the Lord Jesus' salvation. It is in plain unambiguous terms evil to the core and why the protestant convocations are meekly following along is astounding.

We still have a way to go on these matters and next is another consistency across the Nicolaitan churches that use academia as a tool to accommodate stratum of authority between on-the-ground believers and the Lord. It also is a weapon to put down any independent study of the scriptures under our indwelling Holy Spirit and is a control mechanism for maintaining the cultured mystique of a split system of priests and laity. But more insidiously, academia does not believe everything that is written in the Bible and hence questions the Word of God and indirectly sows doubts and preaches only that which promotes their own vested interests. It also has its form of syncretism and falsely gives titles to those who fawn before these gods.

Academia has several faces apart from what we have noted above. The Nicolaitan system will not appoint "priests" into their mainstream convocations unless they have been to university and graduated in Theology. I might quickly add here; their own theology not God's. Those who do not fulfil this prerequisite can still preach but here is the kicker; they are called Lay preachers or Deacons ie, not the real thing.

Moving sideways, academia is not seen for its wrecking-ball approach to understanding the Bible. I have been appalled at the academic assault on the Word of God by some who use their "education" to tear the Bible apart starting

at an unbelief in Genesis and ending in an unbelief of Revelation. What is left in the middle is a mish-mash of gibberish that is devoid of any spiritual context what-so-ever. We can cite the Lord who told us; [paraphrased] That the things of the world cannot understand the spiritual substance of the Word of God; and this my friends is God's own truth to all believers who are labouring under an academic leadership ie, "I've got a Master's degree so I know better than you!" The true children of God have been raised and taught by the Holy Spirit that the Testaments of the Hebrew nation and the Apostle's writings are an authentic record of the Word of God. It is a pity academia cannot hear or see the Lord in them.

If we now move from foundational flaws we can trace fault lines emanating from them right up through to the top of the structures where the gaps are as wide as the Amazon River in flood. Some fractures are completely obvious, as we have discussed above, although surprising is the number of supporters who do not see them, however in other fault lines their outworking is not quite so evident.

If we sidestep the mainstream congregations who we have discussed, we then move to the contemporary congregations who perhaps enjoyed their up-take of numbers through their attraction of appearing to be alive, and this in particular became popular with the younger generations in the last century. The charisma of these congregations was very strong due in part to the services being tailored to a modernity of almost everything that the mainstream churches could not – or would not offer. But all was not well even with all of their charisma and we now see serious issues developing across-the-board in their teachings and their blatant disregard for being holy before God. Interestingly we are now seeing a Nicolaitan system coming to the fore – albeit not with a defined priesthood but none-the-less still hierarchical but based on a commercial organisational structure ie, same beast different colour.

Contrary to broad opinion, the roots of Pentecostalism are the flourishing flower of Spiritism that ostensibly gained footing out of the southern states of the USA. The baggage that came with the "alive" tag was what appeared to be miracles and wonders by the Holy Spirit of God. Sadly, through a dearth of God-given discernment, all perceived paranormal activity was mistaken to be the powers of the Holy Spirit and consequently an "anything goes" policy was largely adopted, and particularly if it occurred in a Christian Centre deemed a holy place. There existed then (and still exists) no discernment of what is of God and what is of man's machinations of miracles and wonders. This foundational fault was not addressed in the early days and has now opened up a fissure that we see quite plainly at the top all these years later.

These centres are now champions of the social gospel, the entertainment spectacle gospel, the wealth gospel, and a plethora of errant teachings and false prophets. The emphasis on revenue for the church (not the congregation to do outreach as did the early Christians) is blasphemous as the principal of tithing is used and terribly abused openly showing a complete disregard for God's truth of this matter. To have the temerity to preach that if you want big miracles from God you need to give big tithes is something that I am sure the Lord will also address on a personal level on the great day of his Judgement of mankind. But when you might be thinking that is all there is you would be wrong. Stage performers with lights and smoke, crowd manipulation, rock music – and at best cross-over music, a thousand mouths yelling out gibberish that is supposed to mimic speaking in other languages for the benefit of foreign unbelievers present and I question the prerequisite that you don't get "in" unless you speak in tongues – something that is amusing when there is no one to tell the difference between it and gibberish. It's a relic from the old days for those who remember.

We will not go into how services are poorly conducted or how representations of spiritual gifts are flouted and not to mention the absence of the God-given gift of teaching our young generations to be respectful and to lead a holy life before God. Demonstrably this is not occurring.

There is a common thread in the charismatic convocations that as a general statement they have ruled a line under the Old Testament and then cherry-pick from the New Testament to preach some very awkward untruths. Of these is the notion they have picked up that at some point in time before the Revelation Period of God's judgement, a "rapture" of the Pentecostals will take place where they will all just float off into the air one day to meet the coming Lord with all his saints and angels. This is a "feel good" message and its uptake now by other churches is very concerning. The great issue is that it is in gross error and exemplifies the complete lack of understanding – or for that matter knowledge of scripture. It is no more than a fanciful idea that gained notoriety by the feel-good power over the flesh pushed along by the powers of the disguised pagan Spiritist movement.

So now we have opened this topic up let's explain the issue. The fact of the matter is that throughout the entire period of the End Times there is only one single event that could be construed to be relevant to this lie and it is the raising into heaven (not into the clouds of witnesses as claimed) of those who are the overcomers out of the seven Revelation churches, and in order to be raised to heaven these are those who are correctly called saints who are raised to heaven because they have lost their lives. The timing of this event is at the end of the opening of the Sixth Seal and by that time there will have been many wars, anarchy in the nations, deadly famines and deaths through lack of water. Over

one quarter of the Earth's population will die or be killed and there will be a horrendous quaking in the world's atmosphere when the evil angels and their princes are cast down from the heavens into our terrestrial world. The Sun will be darkened as a result and the moon will appear as blood. This will signal that God's heavenly abode will be cut off from the earth and it will leave our world, now inhabited by the fallen celestial beings that are unable to go back to their heavenly abode. Following this, throughout the world the angels of God will anoint one hundred and forty four thousand servants of God who are from the remnant of the Children of Israel.

Now after all of these above events have occurred, we subsequently read in Revelation ¹⁷ that a great multitude that no man could number stood before the throne clothed in white robes and the angel said to John, "*These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*" In plain speak, they too, like the Lord had to lose their lives. This event is called the raising of the saints – not rapture: And a thorough examination of all the significant End Time scriptures support this as being saints who have come out of great tribulation and lost their lives in the process.

Nowhere else in the entire sequence of events covering the period before the End Times and during the Seals, the Trumpets and the Bowls of wrath from God is there anything remotely like a rapturous event. So where is this holus-bolus rapture of all still living church people? And quite clearly from when this is supposed to occur the Lord will not be returning to this terrestrial world as Messiah on a white horse surrounded by his clouds of witnesses from heaven for at least another seven years, and further as we all should know, the Lord is only returning once – not several times like we do when we forget something on the shopping list. Within the End Time period is the Seventieth Week from Daniel's prophecy of the Judgement of Israel which will occur directly after the last of the martyrs who were slaughtered for the Word of God and the testimony

¹⁷ Revelation 7:9-17 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.
(Revelation 7:9-17)

of Jesus Christ are presented in their death clothing under the altar in the temple of God in heaven. The Judgement period on Israel is just shy of seven years in its own right. In all of the fifty (approx.) scriptures that in context relate to these End Times there is not one mention of this contemporary event coined the Rapture and this should be a dire warning to all who so preach it.

Make no mistake about this matter. We are not playing with our toys in the sand pit where the monster from beneath is just a dislodged foot. This is very real and we are in a theatre of war against these evil influences that are being perpetrated on our young generations who are just lapping it up (as they say) like a lizard drinking. These unlearned minds who know no better than to just soak up everything as the truth with no discernment are terribly exposed and where the evil of it all becomes evident it is like a sting from a scorpion; Gotcha! And it is very hard to recover from it.

The evil part goes something like this. When the rapture does not happen and the world enters the Beginning of Sorrows and the pre-Tribulation period coinciding with the opening of the Six Seals, the earth is filled with the trauma of violence, famine, lack of water and death. So we can foresee that the deceived church will be saying, “But God said we would not be here.” Let us develop this scenario a bit further and ask the question, “Who will be on the side-lines and will step into say, “But I will save you!” This is very reminiscent of Satan’s counter-argument ploy with Eve in the Garden Eastward (of Eden). He lied and they died; and what will happen to the deceived church – he will lie and they will.....die too?

Although we have spent quite some time on this congregation there are some other important points we need to cover. It became a signature teaching of the charismatic movement that the Holy Spirit was a separate entity that acted as a servant to mankind’s every want in life. I want to be rich; I want it not to rain on Saturday; I want a new jazzy car; I want to be the owner of a world-wide mega church; I want this and I want that. I have wondered what the Lord might be thinking because the Holy Spirit “is” God¹⁸ and not some indifferent third party – hello! God’s spoken word is Jesus – hello again! I think there is another scorpion’s nest here somewhere! Once again we call out blasphemy of the church as it drags God down to our human level to service us, His created blobs of clay. Hmm!

¹⁸ The Promotion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost as a trinity has been an incorrect emphasis on three individual identities and hence the Holy Spirit was excised and abused. Correctly, There is God our Father ie, Our Father has a Spirit and he has a voice whom we are told is personalised by Jesus Christ. Where is the difficulty here? Romans 3:30, Ephesians 4:6

If we step back and take a broader view we see that in most of the congregations in one way or another gender equality has been brought to the fore, and despite the Word of God defining that women's roles are not to include preaching in the churches¹⁹ nor and having the authority (rule) over men²⁰ these scriptures are not only ignored but a flaunting disregard is evidenced by mainstream churches ordaining females into priestly roles and leadership positions.

Of a similar circumstance is the acceptance of practising homosexuals in ministry and condoning same gender marriages. Where this is occurring there is no barrier-to-entry of these overt behaviours that are very clearly unholy in the eyes of God.²¹ God's word is unambiguous that these are very unholy human behaviours and there is no place in his Kingdom or within the believers group when worshipping. If the behaviours remain unaddressed and are therefore blatantly flaunted before the congregations those offending must be excised from the congregation whether they be appointed to ministry or an attendee.

The recent Australian Royal Commission into the abuse of children by the clergy and other institutions found that by far, the bulk of offences were committed within mainstream convocations. That these crimes against our most vulnerable were not addressed by the Nicolaitan hierarchy is as a greater sin than those who committed them. Once again the foundational flaws in these church organisations and the clergy that condoned the behaviour and through devious means shifted offending priests and ministers to other congregations supported those offending clergy to retain privileges and facilitated their recidivism.

The offences against the children, and I noted that many of the children were under-privileged, became so bad that the secular governments of the day had to step in and use the states' constitutional powers to bring it to a halt in what we should be calling places to worship God. It is beyond my belief that such evil was permitted to continue. So let me ask another question. "Why would our Lord give his blessing and his spiritual gifts to those offending convocations?" Perhaps this is a perfect example of why the Lord has called his saints to come out of these offending congregations and why his promises are so rich for those who respond to his call.

I do not think that any of these matters above is anything to be boasting about. Clearly the church has fallen from the high pinnacle where it was originally set through the lives of the Apostles and the devoted disciples of the Lord. These

¹⁹ 1 Corinthians 14:34-35

²⁰ 1 Timothy 2:12-14

²¹ Romans 1:24-32

first-fruits of the Lord were holy and gave their lives to be witnesses of Jesus Christ and the holy word of our God. What happened?

The raw truth is that evil crept in and perverted the congregations. Secular powers usurped the holy order of God and his Christ, and Satan plied his evil to where he knew mankind was vulnerable – the power of the flesh to be rebellious; Romans Chapter One, they were given over to a reprobate mind. It is the same old story retold on make-shift stages around the world. The hierarchical appeal of Nicolaitanism, the syncretism of pagan worship with a false Christian overlay to make it look acceptable, the creeds of unholy men who serve a different lord for worldly gain are all in the domain of the flesh and what it (the flesh) desires rather than allowing the soul to obey God. They preach God but fawn before god; they say they are in service to God but refuse to be holy; they say they are rich but are naked and homeless; they say they are alive but they are truly dead. So, now do we better understand the Lord's message to the seven churches?

Strong messages are not easy to read and often are rejected out of hand because they are an unwelcome intruder in to one's sense of "I'm okay Jack!" But clearly there are many serious issues that are contrary to the Word of God and the Lord's call for us to be holy in all things we do and say.

A person's foundational beliefs are, as we have discussed, crucial for a believer to be able to mature into eldership of his congregation with the authority and indwelling of our Lord Jesus Christ. We noted that Jesus is the personification of God's word to mankind and that realisation led us to be able to identify that it was the Lord himself as the voice of God who said "*Let be light*"²²; and what followed was an oratory masterpiece of the divine power of creating the heavens and the earth and all things therein before there was any substance in this terrestrial dimension and that culminated in the Lord being ever-present and totally involved in bringing mankind to salvation.

If our beliefs do not accept this part of the Lord's work and only cherry pick out bits and pieces that suit them, the consequences of their actions are, in our vernacular, a foundation containing faults that will fail as the weight of the world comes upon it. This is fact and the truth behind the failings of misguided men who are leading thousands to their death.

Remember the story of Eve, God said, [paraphrased] "If you eat of that tree you are going to die". Satan said, "No you are not!" And we all know the outcome which every believer on this planet needs to fully understand. God said, "You

²² Revelation 1:3

will die” and they were instantly dead in their indwelling spirit when they disobeyed. Cut off from the Lord, thrown out of the Eastward Garden (because they were dead in spirit) and struggled with life thereafter eating thistles and grass for the rest of their days.²³ And here is my point. According to Satan they indeed did not die then – but the life was hard and arduous but when they grew old they did die in the flesh anyway. So, yes, Satan lied and deceived them. The strong message to us all today is that by not having Jesus, ie living Word of God, as the whole basis of our belief paradigm, we will go astray. Our Lord must be present within us to be saved, to be taught, to be guided and very importantly to mould our lives to be holy unto God our Father. And we will let the last question stand; “If a person does not believe in Jesus Christ being the Alpha and Omega Lord, who is this other Jesus who is not the living Word of God?

Without a basic foundation of Jesus from Creation, the foundations will be flawed and the resulting fissure in the structure will break out in time as we have repeatedly said. If it is of extreme damage, the foundation will not support redemption to eternal life as some might expect.

So when the Lord gave his messages to the seven congregations of the world through John he knew what was going to occur. He knows what the future holds and message is unmistakable – come out of the sinning churches – overcome the evil and reach out for Jesus our Lord as did the Apostles and disciples of old.

What more can I say? Jesus, my Lord and Redeemer is calling **You**.

Faithchasers yours is a tough path to walk. The Lord said he came to bring division²⁴ and indeed this is very true. Walk upright, don’t compromise and thank our great God that he watches over us every nano-second of every day. Be an overcomer²⁵ and you will be rewarded by the Lord Jesus – your friend. Be proud to be of the Royal Priesthood of Believers²⁶ and to have our Lord as our High Priest. Live your lives in holiness.

God said, “Be Holy for I am Holy.”
 Leviticus 11:45, Leviticus 19:2, Leviticus 20:7
 Leviticus 20:26, Isaiah 43:3, 1 Peter 1:6

Geoff.

²³ Genesis 3:17-19

²⁴ Luke 12:51-53, Matthew 10:35

²⁵ John 16:33, Revelation Chapters 2 and 3, Revelation 21:7

²⁶ 1 Peter 2:5-9, Hebrews 5:9-10, Hebrews 6:19-20