

More on New Age and the Second Coming of Jesus

The Gnostics denied the resurrection of the dead and they would therefore also have denied the Pauline message on the Second Coming of Jesus and especially the rapture. They believed that the "great division" had already taken place in their day and age and because they gave everything a mythical, esoteric meaning, the physical return of Jesus and a physical rapture (1 Thes. 4.17), also a physical resurrection in accordance with Pauline doctrine (1 Cor. 15) were rejected by them.

Those who reject Salvation through the Cross of Jesus, and especially being saved by the shed blood of Jesus, are then siding with gnostic thought. So never succumb to such fallacious doctrine - there are indeed many who reject the crucifixion of Jesus giving us Salvation via this path - the Gnostics believed that Jesus had to suffer for His own sins giving us all the more reason to reject their antichristian doctrines.

There is therefore also good reason to believe that the "mockers" referred to by Peter in his letters, and who were ridiculing the apostolic message concerning these glorious events which were going to take place at the parousia - the end-times coinciding with the return of Jesus, namely (1) to receive His own, His Bride, and (2) to reveal Himself to Israel, His People - were mainly coming from the Gnostics.

It is this renewed Gnostic attack on first-century apostolic truth (=New Age manifestations) that is currently experienced and we are therefore again detecting a subtle - yet sometimes blatant Gnostic onslaught (=New Age manifestations) against our faith giving us all the more reason to take note of this type of knowledge that has, since the discovery of the Nag Hammadi literature, come to our attention.

It then seems clear that this type of onslaught against first-century apostolic truth was especially driven by those apostate Jewish sects who contaminated themselves with gnostic doctrine and which basically boils down to spiritualizing everything in stead of keeping to first-century apostolic prescriptions.

Note the Apostle Paul's directive (1 Cor. 15.1-2): "The gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand (compare this statement with Acts. 20.17-31) "...by which also ye are saved (!), IF ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, UNLESS YE HAVE BELIEVED IN VAIN, for I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received....." (Compare this bold Pauline statement with his Letter to the Galatians (I.11-13):

"But I certify you, brethren (I am telling the absolute truth) that the gospel which was preached of (by) me is not after man (which compares well with the popular but totally false doctrine the Gnostics had brought to the people in general). "...For I neither received it of man (as the Gnostics indeed had, and following then wrong, deviant teachings), "...neither was I taught it (Paul was taught by Jesus Himself as he indeed pointed out to the Galatians,) "...BUT by the revelation of Christ."

Paul's gospel was therefore completely trustworthy and because He was God's elect and chosen apostle at the right time, you and I must especially take heed of his directives, full knowing that the apostles of Jesus, and especially the Apostle Paul, were bringing the message that rightly carried the mark of Jesus' approval.

Therefore, and in accordance with this specific translation, Paul boldly declares, "But I CERTIFY..." (in other words, the apostle vouched for gospel truth and he could therefore confidently state that the gospel he brought to the world was and is the very gospel truth you and I, as followers of Jesus, must remain in. (See Arie's video on the Second Coming of Jesus, also my comment on "return" and "parousia")

Jesus' return must therefore be seen as Jesus indeed returning but, and this is the crux, coming back in great glory and therefore in a very spectacular (public) way. All will therefore see Him in His splendour - or they will experience this spectacular event in a very remarkable way although all will not be participating therein (!) - for it will be the advent of that very age those who had died in Christ, and which message was faithfully proclaimed

as gospel truth by them, will indeed see fulfilled (see 1 Thes. 4).

This special resurrected crowd, coupled with those who are still alive and who had kept themselves ready for this crucial hour, will indeed consist of those Jews and Christians who accepted Jesus/Yeshua as Messiah. However, those Jews who were faithful to God and who were looking forward to fulfillment of the Messianic promises, will also be part of this first resurrection - they are then those who are singing the song of Moses, over against those who are singing the song of the Lamb (Book of Revelations).

However, this greatest of all events, something that will indeed be salient and unique in the history of mankind, will also coincide with Jesus' final and unique return to Zion and when He will return as His People's Great Warrior or Deliverer from of old (Ex. 23.20) and when He will vindicate/establish God's promises to His people, namely those who had kept faithful to Him from among the Jewish tribes.

There will then be two events that will almost jointly be experienced but with two distinct audiences in mind: (1) Jesus will fetch/gather His Bride from among the nations (via the rapture) taking them to a safe place until after Armageddon - the "mother of all battles" that will then play out in and around Jerusalem where (2) He will publicly fight for His People (Israel) - His Presence will be visible to all involved - leading them to final victory, i.e. in accordance with the Scriptures.

Let's therefore be on our guard against false doctrines denying the rapture and Jesus/Yeshua's return to Jerusalem, just as the Jehovah's Witnesses, also many from among the charismatic conglomerate are apt doing, keeping in mind the onslaught of apostasy on the apostolic doctrine, i.e. after the apostles of Jesus had left the seen.

Gnostic influence is therefore still resonating in modern-day "Christian" doctrines and we must therefore be on our guard against this type of apostate influence.

(See Ester's article, God, His Son and Creation on this website which deals with the Second Coming of Jesus in greater detail).

Biblical quotations from, The New Testament in Hebrew and English, the Society for Distributing Hebrew Scriptures, England.

Ester Blomerus

www.housealtarnetwork.com

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