

# Seeking My King & His Kingdom

## #29 A Gathering Of Goats In Laodicea

In the parable of the dragnet, we learned there are fish of every kind being caught in the net. The good will be separated from the bad at the end of the age.

J. Boice: Sobering point of the parable: "A day of reckoning will come in which God will separate the true believers from mere pretenders, and those found to be false will be cast into hell."

The Sheep and Goat judgment is a judgment of all Gentiles who are alive at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus Christ. He will separate the sheep [to life everlasting] from the goats [to eternal fire].

Rev. 3:14-22 relates Christ's message to the church of Laodicea. He addresses them as "the faithful and true witness." It is replete with severe rebuke to the self-righteous, apathetic and affluent church. Their lukewarm state is nauseating to Christ who is ready to reject this apostate organized church when He returns for His true church. The comparison to separating His true sheep from the blind goats is easily seen in the Laodicean Church.

This apostate church teaches inclusion of all but has excluded Jesus Christ as He is described outside the church. This is a picture of a "Christless church."

New Testament passages clearly Predict An Apostasy in the latter days.

A. II Thess. 2:1-3 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him (rapture), we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of the Lord had come. <sup>3</sup> Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,

Note: Day of the Lord refers to the Tribulation Period and Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

Two things will occur before the Tribulation Period will start.

1. The Falling Away > The Apostasy = Greek = apostasia
2. The man of sin, son of perdition = Antichrist will be revealed

B. I Tim. 4:1-2 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, <sup>2</sup> speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, ...

1. The source of apostasy is demons. Apostates become enamored with doctrines of demons and end up giving heed to the seducing spirits.

Consider: Satan has his own system of doctrine > *doctrines of demons*. Such doctrines find no basis in God's Word and are based on teachers' claiming to have received special, divine revelation from God. These revelations must now be accepted as "new truth."

Note: Many will defend these "new truths" based on how happy, good or joyful they FEEL. They assume such good feelings must be of the Lord.

Caution: People are attracted to things that make them feel good and evoke an emotional release. If the feeling can be ascribed to a supernatural work of God, the people are deceived.

C. II Tim. 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: <sup>2</sup> For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, <sup>4</sup> traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. From such people turn away! (religious) Pope Francis [June, 2017] called for "a one world government" and "political authority", arguing that the creation of the one world government is needed to combat major issues such as "climate change."

June, 2017 Pope Francis told the Italian newspaper La Repubblica that the United States of America has "a distorted vision of the world" and Americans must be ruled by a world government, as soon as possible, "for their own good."

June 25, 2017 "There are those of you who believe that you can have a personal, direct and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ outside of the communion and mediation of the Catholic Church. These temptations are dangerous and harmful. They are, in the words of the great Pope Paul VI, 'absurd dichotomies'.

Harry Potter & The Sacred Text is a new podcast reading Harry Potter as if it were a sacred text. 2 co-hosts: an assistant Humanist chaplain at Harvard; a minister-in-training for non-religious people. Just as Christians read the Bible, Jews the Torah and Muslims read the Quran, we will embark on a 199-episode journey to glean what wisdom and meaning these beloved novels have for us today. We will read Harry Potter as instructive and inspirational sacred texts that will teach us about our own lives. How could this change us?

With millions of readers and a vibrant fan community, there is no better text to invite listeners to re-read in order to explore practices that can help them live more fulfilled and meaningful lives. There is no better time to re-engage with the "Wizards World." We've opened deep and difficult conversations by modeling how to let the text speak to our own lives.

By treating Harry Potter as sacred, we mean three things:

1. *Trusting the text.* We must believe that the text is capable of more than what we have gotten from it before. We must believe it is not "just entertainment." If it is taken seriously, it can give serious rewards. The same things are in these books as are in the traditional sacred texts such as the Bible.

2. *Rigor and ritual.* By reading the text slowly, repeatedly and practicing close reading, effort becomes a key part of what makes the book sacred. The book is not sacred in and of itself, but only through rigorous engagement. What you're doing is practicing *loving* something, and practicing loving things can only be a good thing. It's a time in which you're having a positive emotional experience.

3. *Reading it in community.* Scholars of religion explain that what makes a text sacred is not the text itself, but the community of readers that proclaim it as such. The same applies for us. "We have Harry Potter World, which is a church, of sorts, and you only have one Bible on your shelf but you have seven *Harry Potter* books on your shelf. "How is it a Christian text?" The guy stated, "Well, he literally dies and rises from the dead in order to save humanity."

Mark Kennedy grew up a Catholic, and a Harry Potter fanatic. Only one stuck.

"I considered myself a nonspiritual person," he said. He thought he was done with religion.

And then he stumbled on the podcast "Harry Potter and the Sacred Text."

The podcast told him that the Harry Potter series — the books that he always turned to for solace when he was angry or stressed or in need of an escape — could be a source of spiritual sustenance. "I feel like I'm born again," he said.

More than 500 cheering Potter fans seemed to agree.

Rom. 1:22-23 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.

Col. 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Brooks: "Christians: Sit up and pay attention! This planet is being taken over by some of the highest intelligences in the universe, beings that are also master manipulators, against which there is no defense except God."

Warren Smith > former New Age Spirituality- "It is a tragedy of epic proportions that, not only are most Christians still unaware of the nature, power, and danger, posed by the New Age Spirituality ideas among us but, like frogs being slowly brought up to the boil, this adulterous generation inside the church has gradually been acclimatized into accepting ideas and practices that any self respecting Berean, unimpressed by "new revelation", would have run a mile from." God is not in the process of giving the Church "new revelation" that will supersede what He has already given us in His holy Word. He is not in the process of bringing a "new thing" into the Church. He is not in the process of taking His Church to a "new place," a "new dimension" or a "new level." He most certainly is not in the process of introducing a "new gospel" that contradicts in word and spirit everything He has ever taught us about our life in Christ. Church Beware: These are the plans of antichrist.

Tom Horn: Many of the popular "Christian" doctrines advocated today are nothing more than the cultic propositions of Eastern mysticism and ancient paganism. These include concepts of psychic healing, self-realization, emotional experiences, rules of success, breathing techniques, positive confession, name it and claim it, environmental theology, the ecumenical movement, visualization, hypnosis by clergy, mind manipulation, and so on.

At times, even the activity within the "fundamental" church, including certain physical phenomena we sometimes embrace as the miraculous evidence of "revival," is a modern form of magic and opens the door for "old gods" and their mysticism to invade the church.

Sincere people, in a quest to experience God, frequently mimic the doctrinal and physical activity of others. Many Christians have been drawn to mystical experiences rather than concentrating on God and His Word."

New Age beliefs are also knocking at the door of virtually every church in the world and at the door of individuals' hearts who are seeking a deeper spiritual experience.

There is now a bold blending of holy faith with demonic influence. This synthesis of two opposing worldviews is nothing short of a satanic strategy meant to blur and twist the distinctions which separate real Christianity and New Age beliefs and activities.

The "New Age/New Spirituality Movement" is a loose collection of many things that has ancient pagan roots put in a new package. It contains the same beliefs of "New Age" doctrine and Babylonian paganism with a new refined title. Eastern religion beliefs and witchcraft all have a common root source in ancient Babylon and they share the common polytheist and/or pantheist beliefs of the mystery religion that began at Babylon. "New Spirituality" movement is the latest effort to make polytheistic and pantheistic beliefs acceptable to mainstream public. "Nothing has changed in Satan's game plan, just the names of the players, and in some instances, even the names are the same." [Dr. Jones, co-author of *The Gods Who Walk Among Us*]

Brannon Howse > author of *Religious Trojan Horse: Exposing The Sinister Influences Sweeping the World Toward a Satanic Global Empire*

"Looking back at the horrors of World War II many people think, "We're glad that's over with." They naively believe the days of people like Hitler are gone for good. Yet we live amid threats creating a worldwide nightmare Hitler only managed in a few countries."

"Satan oversees a worldwide assembly of unthinkable forces trying to capture the hearts of any men and women unaware of his sinister tactics. Politics alone will not seduce the world to follow his leaders. Neither will economics by itself. This time, the enemy of God and man is bringing together what history shows to be the most powerful of all influences: the religions of everyone on the planet." [Contemplative prayer is the bridge. >Tilden Edwards]

"Postmodernism has beguiled the world and conditioned people across the globe to embrace pagan spirituality and reject reason, logic, and absolute truth. Manipulating populations through education, environmentalism, economics, and ecumenicalism will culminate in a global empire that brings oppression on a scale never before seen."

Ray Yungen: "The Age of Aquarius [synonymous with New Age] is when we are all supposed to come to the understanding that man is God. "A major theme of Aquarius is that God is within." The goal in the New Age of Aquarius: "how to bring this idea into meaningful reality."

"Contrary to many peoples' thoughts, the New Age did not die out in the 60's but was slowly but surely integrating into every facet of society - medicine, business, schools, science and religion. The last frontier for the New Age to conquer was the evangelical church. It is with great sadness we see that it has finally achieved that victory."

Thomas Horn: "The gospel according to the New Spirituality Movement is an expansive idea centered around the birth of a new world "consciousness." As a religion of monism (all is one), they hope to accomplish what the builders of the Tower of Babel failed to do: Unify the masses of the world under a single religious umbrella. Their goal is to harmonically converge the world's energies with the power of Gaia who was the personification of the Earth and one of the Greek primordial deities. [Gaia was the great mother of all: the primal Greek Mother Goddess; creator and giver of birth to the Earth and all the Universe; the heavenly gods, the Titans,

and the Giants were born to her.] To achieve these goals, they claim: God is pantheistic (God is all and all is God). Humans are divine members of the whole "that God is."

They teach that Jesus came to reveal this pantheistic nature of God and to teach humanity the gospel of Self-Realization. Afterwards, Jesus ascended to a place of distinction to live among the Masters of the Spiritual Hierarchy - Buddha and Krishna. Jesus promised the essence of God would be revealed from time to time. They look for the imminent appearing of a World Teacher who will, as Jesus did, illustrate the divine human potential. The New Spirituality theology is preparing the world for the coming of the False Prophet and the Antichrist."

"Pagans claim this religion of Self-realization is older than Christianity. That's true! ["Self-realization means to know truth through yourself and not through others. By seeking God first, through self-realization, all things - strength, power, prosperity, wisdom, health and immortality, will be added unto you." Yogananda] The gospel according to the New Spirituality Movement - a gospel of becoming god - is as old as the fall of man. It began when the serpent said to the woman, "ye shall be as gods." (Gen. 3:5) It will zenith during the reign of the Tribulation god-king." This "New Age" movement provides the perfect creed for implementing such an end-time religion. It unifies the religions of the world. It consecrates the forces of nature. It provides for human divinity, and it is vogue, post modern and politically correct." Thus, history repeats itself, and the ancient Egyptian gospel of men becoming "gods" is fashionable again.

"Has an effective strategy been found to woo Protestants away from the preaching of God's Word? Are more being led into supposedly wonderful spiritual exercises such as Center & Contemplative Prayer, Prayer Labrinths, Lectio Divina and Spiritual formation?"

Then as a powerful seductive spiritual experience engulfs their being during these exercises, the "angel of light" overwhelms their senses with an experience of spiritual ecstasy banishing the Biblical warnings and the "still small voice" of the genuine Holy Spirit. Now they are hooked on "the experience of Christ Consciousness" and "Contemplative Prayer" which becomes their new spiritual focus. They neglect to study and teach the deep Truths of God's Word.

The seduced "saint" is reveling in his seduction and praying earnestly to his new found god of love, "Please do it again!", "Please be intimate with me again" while the true God's truths are neglected and gradually exchanged for Ecumenical truths acceptable and adaptable to all the great religions of the world which are moving along "the broad way leading to destruction" as they intimately worship their god."

Eric Barger: Considered an authority on the cults, the New Age, and rock music. From his past as a former drug addict and rock n' roll musician who was deeply involved in the New Age movement, Eric has emerged since he gave his life to Jesus Christ as a great defender of Christianity in America and the truths of God's Word.

"The New Age Spirituality or the Emergent Church follows this: experience over reason, spirituality over doctrinal absolutes, images over words, feelings over truth, earthly justice over salvation, and social action over eternity."

New Age belief = spiritual experience trumps the Word of God.

The "New Age" or "New Spirituality" movement in a nutshell:

We are all powerful spirit beings.

We pre-existed before our present lives on earth.

Reincarnation

Pantheism

Worship of the creation rather than the Creator

The human species will evolve into its Christ consciousness or God state.

God is a force, everyone and everything is part of this creative force.

Because God is in everything, collective thoughts create reality.

The mother earth is part of the force and she is a living entity.

If human abuse of mother earth continues she will have to defend herself with severe natural upheavals.

We must reduce our population and eliminate all the negative thinking people (Monotheistic fundamentalism) by education or removal.

Some in the "New Age" believe that our parent species are alien life forms.

They say these aliens planted us here sometime in the past and that they are due to return.

This belief will set the world up for the great deception.

Note: Occult's view of the last days: Once these people leave this earth, the new world leader will take his rightful place over the world.

Ray Yungen "... instead of opposing Christianity, the occult would capture and blend itself with Christianity and then use it as its primary vehicle for spreading and instilling New Age

Spirituality consciousness! The various churches would still have their outer trappings of Christianity and still use much of the same lingo. If asked certain questions about traditional Christian doctrine, the same answers would be given. But it would all be on the outside; on the inside a contemplative spirituality would be drawing in those open to it.

"In wide segments of Christendom this has indeed already occurred.... Thomas Keating alone taught 31,000 people mystical prayer in one year. People are responding to this in large numbers because it has the external appearance of Christianity but in truth, is the diametric opposite. What a skillful spiritual delusion!"

"The body of Christ that should have been a bulwark against evil has, with apostate leaders and a Biblically illiterate population, latched on to the coat tails of the world and adopted practices that are DIRECTLY derived from the Occult. We are cheerfully walking labyrinths, indulging in Contemplative Prayer, adopting Yoga, babbling in languages unknown to us, and ordering God around as if He were a celestial page boy."

John MacArthur: It is mysticism. The assumption is that spiritual truth is somewhere inside of you and that is not true. Spiritual truth is outside of you, it is external to you. It is in a book, outside of you. It is not in you. You can contemplate yourself all you want, you can go sit on a rock in the middle of nowhere and think and you will find in you no source of divine revelation whatsoever because divine revelation is external to you, it's external to every human being; it's in a book that God wrote. When you put the book down and start looking into your own brain, all you're going to do is be led down a black hole.