THE HOPEAND THE HOAX

By

Curtis Dickinson

According to Paul the apostle there is one faith and one hope,¹ and that hope is repeatedly described as the coming of Christ to raise the dead and bestow immortality to believers, who are changed into His likeness.²

All this is described as taking place in the "last day," at the sound of the "last trumpet." That last day also includes judgment of the unredeemed. There can be no more days after the last one, so the coming of Christ will mark the end of time to begin the age of eternity.

Given the emphasis which Jesus and the apostles put on the hope of resurrection, and the glorious nature of that hope, one would think that it would be the primary focus of Christians looking to the future. What greater good news can there be in this violence-ridden world of sin than the assurance that Jesus will return to bring final judgment on all evil and give immortality to all His people in a new creation?⁵

But instead of this great hope, what is emphasized today is a great error which some call the hoax of the twentieth century. This gross error has ramifications which adversely impact Christian faith as well as government policies and the lives of millions of people abroad.⁶

The name of the hoax is dispensationalism, and for lack of space I will mention only three of the chief errors.

l. The erroneous belief that modern Jews are God's chosen people. This is widely held, in spite of the fact that numerous Jewish leaders and writers have affirmed that the majority of modern Jews are the descendants of a Turkish people known as Khazars, and have no blood connection to Jacob (Israel). Modern Judaism is primarily the following of the Talmud, not a racial identity, and has no connection with Biblical Israel.

Israel was, indeed, "chosen," and in a covenant relationship with God, but with the death of Jesus a new covenant was established, and since that time, the only access to God is through Christ. All Christians are now the "called and chosen," and make up God's "holy nation" and make up God's

2. The error that both Old and New Testaments prophecies are being fulfilled in the present nation of Israel. The claim made by Zionists is that God promised the land of Palestine, Jordan and most of Iraq to Abraham and His seed, but that the promise was never fulfilled. Writing in *Israel My Glory* (Aug./Sept. 1993), Will Varner describes the boundaries from the Sinai peninsula to the river Euphrates, then says, "Israel has never

possessed this land in its entirety, but they will when Christ returns to reign as the messianic King."

In fact, the Bible expressly says that they once possessed all the land promised them. "So Jehovah gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein."

The land promise was conditional. Moses gave a critical warning, before he died, that if Israel failed to observe God's commandments, they would suffer numerous curses and horrible plagues and be "plucked" from the land and scattered among all peoples. ¹³ Jesus repeatedly told the Jews that the judgment upon the nation was near, and illustrated His message in parables. ¹⁴

Books, magazines and the airwaves are filled with sensational sermons and warnings concerning "The Great Tribulation," and "The Abomination of Desolation," and other expressions of Jesus from His discourse in Matthew 24. But both of these events were fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem. In AD 67 Jerusalem was besieged by Roman armies and the terrible sufferings described by Moses began. Conditions were so horrible that some women ate their own children, as predicted by Moses, then described by the historian Josephus. The destruction of the city and nation foretold by Jesus was completed in AD 70.

Christians have endured many eras of terrible tribulation, including the era of communism which took the lives of millions of saints. But the tribulation which Jesus predicted for the nation of Israel fell upon the Israel living at the time He spoke, as He promised: "This generation shall not pass away, till all these things be accomplished" (vs. 3a.).

The Hebrew author writes that "you (Christians) are now come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem", ¹⁵ indicating that the old Jerusalem was of no further significance in God's economy.

3. The mistaken idea that God has one destiny for Israel (meaning Jewry) and another for the church. According to the *Scofield Reference Bible*, which is the mother of much dispensational doctrine, "God purposes to set up on the earth, in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7:16 and refs.). A kingdom, political, spiritual, Israelish, universal, over which God's Son, David's heir, shall be King, and which shall be, for one thousand years, the manifestation of the righteousness of God in human affairs."

This millennial concept fits perfectly with the political agenda of Zionism, as described by Rabbi Michael Higger in his book, "The Jewish Utopia." He says, "The contrast between the Christian dogma and the Jewish doctrine of the Kingdom is evident. The dogmatic doctrine of the kingdom in the New Testament is not a continuation of the prophetic hope at all. Nothing is mentioned in the New Testament of the spiritual and material glory of Palestine in the day of fulfillment. The Kingdom that Jesus...speaks of, is more mystical, inward, and personnel...Unlike the prophets, Jesus thought of the

Kingdom as having actually begun with him and his disciples." He cites scriptures for this statement. (pg. 113)

"The Kingdom of God, as pictured by the Jewish prophets, on the other hand, is an ideal society of nations on earth" (pg. 114). Higger pictures what he calls a "New World" completely under the control of Jews who establish law according to the Jewish Talmud.

So the dispensational hoax outlines two destinies. As one dispensationalist recently wrote, "It is clear from even a cursory study of the prophecies pertaining to the Church and Israel (meaning modern Jewry) that distinct destinies lay ahead for each." 17

The Scofield/Rabbinic teaching negates the claim of the apostles that Jesus our King is already reigning, ¹⁸ that we are already in His Kingdom, ¹⁹ and that upon His return He will judge the world and bring time and worldly matters to a close. ²⁰

This Zionist hoax turns attention away from the Kingdom of God to the temporal state of Israel. It focuses on Jews and their material and political goals rather than on Christ and His goal of transforming us into His own image.²¹ the Gospel of Christ by presenting a gigantic puzzlement in trying to fit current affairs into some prophetic scenario, the folly of which is readily seen when world affairs take a different turn and make liars out of the modern prophets.

It denies the Kingdom of God, teaching that it was postponed because the Jews did not receive Christ, thus making Him a failure, as stated by Pat Robertson, in *Charisma and Christian Life*. He was asked, "If God called you to run, then why did you fail to get the Republican presidential nomination?" Robertson replied, "I suppose we could ask the same question of Jesus. God sent Him to be the Messiah of Israel and King of Israel; why did He fail the first time around and get crucified?" How absurd to think that God should fail in carrying out any part of His eternal purpose.

This great hoax brings the force of religious conviction to the side of political Zionism, with the result that a foreign power exercises great force in our domestic affairs, and receives billions of dollars to carry out programs that are detrimental to our national interest as well as being anti-Christian.⁶

Millions of Christians are sidetracked by this hoax by their concern with prophecies that have already been fulfilled. The principle concern of many believers is with a future age which will never come, because we are now living in the last age of this present world.²³

Paul writes that there is "one hope." He declares that it is not a hope in this life, but in the resurrection, and that we have been "made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. 17

"Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. For you died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, shall be

manifested, then shall you also with him be manifested in glory." That's the hope. It's no hoax.

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