

The Many Voices of Influence

Throughout our lives we are continually being influenced by a myriad of voices that are trying to persuade us to react or respond to their "word," in a manner that is considered appropriate, acceptable and approved ___ according to the same standards and beliefs of the one(s) speaking to us. What is often difficult to discern is the origin or source of the information we collect. Regardless of the relationship between us and the media that is trying to gain our attention, trust, and acceptance, we should, "Try the spirits," to know what is of God, and what is of man.

This is especially true when it comes to our "Christian" heritage and our ongoing process of being conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ and becoming God's likeness. Unfortunately, this is where the current church system has failed and fallen short and has mislead the people who assemble under their various banners, through ignorance, deception, delusion, and by speaking lies that have been passed down and perpetrated since the beginning of the, A Church Age@. The vast majority of "Christians," are in confusion and bound captive within the city described in the book of Revelation as "Mystery Babylon the Great. ("The mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.")

There are many who have left any number of traditional, modern day, denominational (or "non") churches and believe they have been set free from the clutches of Babylon, only to find themselves still wandering her streets, trying to find their Love, the Bridegroom. The cry to, "Come out of her, MY PEOPLE, and not participate in her sins and receive her plagues," is being heard by many, from a variety of sources ___ other than God, speaking by His Spirit.

The age old problem necessitates our looking back at the time when all of the descendants of Noah, (the whole earth), used the same language and the same "words," UNTIL they came to the plain in the land of Shinar, built a city, and had the same "mind" to build a tower ___ that reached into heaven ___ in order to make for themselves a NAME. (Or, in other words,

"Make a NAME for themselves." When that precipitated the "CONFUSION" of their language, they began to speak "words" that couldn't be understood by one another. They stopped building and were "scattered" throughout the whole face of the earth.

Herein lies a problem that may not be considered. Although their city was Babylon and their language became "Babel," it is evident that they still had it in their hearts to: build cities, (establish governments), build towers, (ascend into heaven), and make a name for themselves. (What seems obvious is, "That is a reality of the many denominations of the current church systems.") The Catholics speak their own language, build cities and towers, and have made for themselves a name. Likewise, Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Presbyterians, Jehovah witnesses, and every name that identifies the religious orders of our day. Each "ORDER" has their own language and WORD, rituals, ceremonies, conferences, meetings, doctrines, government, traditions, culture, etc., etc..

When we leave one "harlot daughter" in Babylon, wander her streets and find another harlot to have an intimate relationship with, we have to learn a new language, a new "word" and submit to the laws of that order, to become a "citizen" in that land. These are all part of the Mystery Babylon. We, as God's people, are being called upon to "COME OUT OF HER"!!!!

WE are in search of the ONE CITY THAT HAS FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE BUILDER AND MAKER IS GOD! We will not find it by visiting every harlot's house in Babylon and being a participant in her abominations. The Voice we need to be hearing is the Holy Spirit's voice and not the voice of a stranger.

There are individuals and groups within the Christian Community that would be appalled by the thought of using a comparison between the descendants of Noah and themselves. The general consensus is, "That's Old Testament and we are New Testament, so that doesn't apply to us".

If we take a closer look at the events, following the death, burial,

resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, it may give us a measure of understanding as to how the modern church systems have become so fragmented and scattered, in a manner that is very similar to events described in the eleventh chapter of Genesis. A reverent reading of the first few chapters of the "Acts of the Apostles" and, listening to the Spirit's voice as we read, may be worth considering. When the disciples followed the Lord's instructions to go to Jerusalem, enter the "house where they were staying," and tarry __ until the promised Holy Spirit came as, "tongues of fire" __ they had no idea of what was happening. While they were praying, and the Spirit came, they began to speak in the language of the Spirit, (tongues), and all of those who had gathered together in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost, *from every nation under heaven*, (See Acts 2:5-8)), were astonished to hear the "word," spoken in their own language. (This, in reality, was a foretaste of the restoration of the people of God to speak "One Language" throughout the whole earth.)

However, when God's people returned to their "Nations," those who had been added to the Church during __ and following the feast of Pentecost __ established communities, (cities), built towers to reach into heaven, (established a government), and to make for themselves a NAME. The resulting phenomena are what has been presented beforehand. Each Religious Order had entered "spiritual Babylon."

Many of the "Leaders" within the current religious systems have been trying to bring "unity" through various means, such as, Ecumenical movements, pastoral prayer groups, citywide leadership conferences, gospel music events, public prayer gatherings, youth oriented retreats, pot luck dinners, ____ and the list of experimental attempts to leave the confusion and bring "Oneness" continues on and on, without any significant or lasting results. Some smaller expressions of Christian life have decided to try a "Merger" with other small groups to bolster their presence in the community. Many of these fellowships fall apart and dissolve because of contention concerning leadership positions, doctrinal differences, gender participation, etc.

There are a few that have not defiled themselves with these "women" and may be counted among those who constitute the remnant which is

identified as the "Virgin," who the Holy Spirit has prepared and kept, without spot, wrinkle, or any blemish and is preparing her to be the bride of Christ. She, in contrast to the Harlot Church, descends down from the heaven of GOD and is recognized as "New Jerusalem", the HOLY CITY wherein dwells righteousness.

Is there a solution to the confusion? "God is taking from among the nations a people for HIS NAME." Each of these individuals will serve the ONE TRUE GOD, learn from a TEACHING PRIEST, after the order of Melchizedec, and be governed by the LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE, in Christ Jesus. This body of "sons of God" will all speak the same language, have the mind of Christ, and will co-labor together with Christ to build his Church, which is predestined to reach into heaven. The word they speak will be the same Word, spoken by the Spirit of Truth. Those who have an ear to hear and a heart to obey GOD'S VOICE, will be the "OVERCOMERS," who will possess their inheritance as joint heirs, together with Christ.. Glory to GOD MOST HIGH!

So, what is to become of the multitude of God=s people who are still in Babylon __ after the manchild company of Asons@ have been birthed by the bride who has gone out to meet the Bridegroom? What is the destiny of the people of God remaining in/as Babylon?

AThen a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence, and will not be found any longer. "And the sound of harpists and musicians and flute-players and trumpeters will not be heard in you any longer; and no craftsman of any craft will be found in you any longer; and the sound of a mill will not be heard in you any longer; and the light of a lamp will not shine in you any longer; and the voice of the bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you any longer; for your merchants were the great men of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.@ "And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth." (Rev 18:21-24 NASB)

If we have begun to see a little light and begin to understand the prophecy of scripture, we soon realize that the fulfillment of prophecy is not going to unfold in, Achronological order.@ We sometimes read a portion _ whether from the old testament or the new testament _ and imagine that there are Awords@ that have had their fulfillment, i.e., that are already accomplished/finished, and are yet to be revealed and performed. There are many things that folks are Ahearing,@ and are saying, AWe've already Aheard@ those things and we Aknow@. In reality, the people we are reading about, whether Israelites, Gentiles, Apostles, disciples, prophets, etc., and the various Alocations,@ whether in the earth or the heavenly realms, along with the events and accounts recorded concerning the fullness of God=s purpose, are often given to us in parables, metaphors, symbols, and allegorically. The Areality@ of what is being spoken must be Adiscerned/interpreted@ by the Spirit, who often reminds us to, AHear what the Spirit is saying.@ There are times when we need to, see with our ears, and hear with our eyes. (Selah)

It is true that former generations have experienced the Afulfillment@ of many events and a variety of Awords,@ recorded in the Bible, in a measure that God has purposed for their growth and development, during their number of years of life as sojourners, pilgrims, or whatever we would consider as their Atime@ on earth.

It is our responsibility to Aseek@ the LORD and ask for wisdom from above, as we Afollow on to know the LORD _ in our generation _ by following the Lamb, wherever he goes and to walk in the Spirit by the faith of the Son of God@.

All of these things have been said to cause us to reconsider our Aplace@ in the world, the Church, heavenly places, and to take time to WAIT on GOD to raise our thinking to the AThings ABOVE@ level, and not be so enslaved by this temporal, earthy Away@ that seems right to mankind. Let those who have ears, hear what the Spirit says to us in these Last Days.