

## Scripture of the Quarter

"Now when these things begin to occur, stand tall and lift up your heads [in joy], because [your suffering ends as] your redemption is drawing near."

Luke 21:28<sup>(Amp)</sup>

## Are You Looking UP?

I'm writing facts which are documented about what is happening in different denominations and churches, not all. There will always be a remnant who wants to know and loves the TRUTH! There is a movement already implementing NEW AGE practices, which are totally demonic - but has disguised itself as being of God. Jesus Himself has warned us in Matthew 24:11<sup>(NASB) 11</sup>Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. You must be very careful who you listen to and ask your self-is what they are saying truly Biblical? I believe the Lord has given us more insight as to how we are to live our lives in Proverbs 3:5<sup>(NASB) 5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. If you as a believer, trust God and stand on His Holy Word you won't be lead astray. My first example of how "wolves in sheep's clothing" are teaching pagan religions and practices while calling them "Christian". How many of you have heard of churches offering "Christian" Yoga? There is NO SUCH THING! What? That is correct, Yoga means unification of your spirit and it is based on Hinduism. You are doing deep breathing and stretching to reach a level referred to as "MOSHA" which allows spirits (evil - Not the Holy Spirit) to move through your body to help you attain enlightenment. Each of the positions you

get into are designed as a worship of false gods. I know some of you don't want to believe me, so my suggestion is do your own research, like I did. Think about this many of the sessions begin with a stretch called the "Sun salutation" - and NO it is Not the Son of God but the worship of the SUN god. When you allow these teachers that have become Yoga instructors to teach in your church, you pastor/deacon have opened the doors of your church to allow evil spirts to enter members of your congregation. You have given permission for spirits to enter the sanctuary and the congregation! When the Israelites did this, God gave a Warning—if you continue to practice this (Hindu) worship you are in rebellion to God! The first commandment in the Ten Commandments states; "You shall have no other gods before Me." Ref. Exodus 20:3.

In case you are still in doubt let's read Deuteronomy 12:29-31<sup>(NASB) 29</sup> "When the LORD your God cuts off before you <u>the</u> <u>nations</u> which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, <sup>30</sup>beware that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed before you, and that you <u>do not</u> <u>inquire after their gods</u>, saying, 'How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?' <sup>31</sup>You shall not behave thus toward the LORD your God, for every abominable act which the LORD hates they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

Hmmmm, I can see you are still unconvinced? Ok, you would never allow people to use Ouija boards in your church—right! Well, did you know that another thing present in some of our evangelical churches today it is called an "Angel Board" - and is nothing more than an Ouija board with a different name. Look it up, they have the same design. Do you see how sly the devil is? Paul warns us in 2 Corinthians 11:14(NASB) No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Next Paul told us what to do Ephesians 6:11 (NASB) "Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil."

Something else demonic in some of our churches is called "Destiny" cards. People look at them and tell you your destiny. Sound familiar? Again these are nothing more than Tarot cards read by Palm readers or "mediums" etc. My Bible and your God tells us our future and the plans He has for us. Ref. Jeremiah 29:11. And what is so sad these are in some of the larger - well known churches in America. People line up waiting to hear what a spirit (and it is not the Holy Spirit) is speaking through that person who is doing their reading is going to tell them. I don't know about you but I will listen to God and not a deceived human being! The churches that are practicing this are again going against the will of Almighty God. Deuteronomy 18:10-11 (NASB) 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 110r one who casts a

spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who *calls up the dead.* The punishment for the above listed people in Moses day was found in Leviticus 20:27<sup>(NASB) 27</sup>"Now a man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist shall surely be put to death. They shall be stoned with stones, their bloodguiltiness is upon them." A question - can you imagine what would happen in our society today if we still sentenced people according to the Law of God? But the sad thing is you have people who call themselves Christians who go to psychics and palm readers instead of going to the THRONE ROOM OF GOD IN **PRAYER FOR ANSWERS!** Other teachings such as "karma" what goes around comes around and is based on Eastern philosophy (Hinduism) is being taught in some that if they stole something when they were fourteen years old it would come back on them later and they would be punished for it. There is a wheel they use which is called an (atma wheel), which contains the sin and its punishments. This goes against the Word of God. Ref. Colossians 2:14(NASB) 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Thank you LORD!

The book which I'm going to recommend is the one I used for my research for this newsletter on New Age practices in our Churches. It is entitled *The Second Coming* of the New Age, written by Josh Peck and Steven Bancarz. Both of these men were raised in Christian homes that believed in Biblical principles. Both of these men, in an interview, stated the thing that lured them away from Christianity was the supernatural or the lack of being taught in the Churches they attended. We must remember whenever there is a void - something will fill it and usually it is of the evil spirit realm! They both fell into New Age teaching which offered supernatural powers from the spirits, only these spirits were not of God. They became addicted to the evil supernatural that is not of God. They have both been delivered by the blood of Jesus. We have a friend, a pastor, who married a girl that came from a home of devil worshiping. He told us a story of how her parents could chant and levitate furniture off of the ground. Fortunately his wife left the home and found Jesus and was delivered of her demonic past.

Both Josh and Steven the authors of the book I recommended had some terrible demonic things happen in their quest for the supernatural. I have a great idea—why don't our Churches start teaching God's supernatural using God's Word the Bible as it is all about the supernatural. I will give you some examples; let's start with the resurrection of Jesus Christ after three days in a tomb which was blocked by a huge stone. Ref. Luke 24:1-3. Next how about when Peter walked on water until he took his focus off of Jesus. Ref. Matthew 14:28. Next the Red Sea crossing. Ref. Exodus 14:21. I did some research on this supernatural event. God parted the Red sea wide enough for five thousand men standing shoulder to shoulder so that they could walk across on dry land! How about Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus after four days. Ref. John 11:43-44. I will mention a few more and let you look up the scriptures pertaining to the events. Walls of Jericho came down with the blowing of Shofars and shouting. Jesus ruined a funeral by touching the open coffin of a young man who died and spoke to the young man. So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. Luke 7:13-15. The bronze serpent on a pole in the wilderness when looked upon by the Israelites they were healed immediately of the serpent bites they received. This is a fantastic example of the supernatural powers of God, when He fed them for forty years while in the wilderness with manna.

## The Barna group has reported in a survey which they conducted:

**Pastors Deliberately Choosing Not to Preach on Pressing Issues, New Research Finds:** Researcher George Barna spoke recently on American Family Radio's "Today's Issues" about his research project over the past two years, in which the Barna Group asked pastors **across the country** about their beliefs regarding the relevancy of Scripture to societal, moral and political issues, and the content of their sermons in light of their beliefs. What he found was startling.

"...When we ask them about all the key issues of the day, [90 percent of them are] telling us, 'Yes, the Bible speaks to every one

of these issues," Barna told American Family Radio. "Then we ask them: 'Well, are you teaching your people what the Bible says about those issues?' and the numbers drop ... to less than **10 percent** of pastors who say they will speak to it."

Sam Rohrer, President of the American Pastors Network (APN, www.American PastorsNetwork.net), says that while it is clear that there is a disconnect between knowing the Truth and preaching it, the real question is, Why? Avoiding the politically unpopular portions of Scripture is in some respects understandable from a human perspective. From God's perspective, however, it is sin.

"The reality is that most people, including pastors, wish to be comfortable and to avoid controversy," Rohrer said. "If the primary goal is to see people leave on Sunday morning feeling good about themselves and feeling comfortable rather than seeing the holiness of God and the ugly reality of sin, then a pastor will answer to God for doing his own will rather than declaring God's will. The issues of the day that confront our nation must be dealt with from the pulpit if God's Word is to make a difference in people's lives and if the culture is to be impacted. This includes the areas of marriage and divorce, life and family, but it also includes the areas of honesty, servant leadership, following the Rule of Law, etc."

The Apostle Paul warned us in the Last Days about what would happen in **Timothy 3:5**<sup>(NKJV) 5</sup>*having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!* The Apostle Paul warns us that if you are in a Church that is not preaching the truth, or teaching prophecy which makes up one third of the Bible it is time to leave!

If there is not a display of God's power in churches today, it is not that Christ is failing to keep His promises. Instead, it is usually evidence of a lack of faith or unbelief of His followers that His power and authority still works in today's church.

If we do not let our congregations see the power of God today they can be seduced by deceiving spirits into new age practices.