

Gullible Humanity

by Fred DeRuvo – Study-Grow-Know Ministries

The signs Jesus spoke of in the Olivet Discourse were given to serve as a way to keep track of and to watch for things as this age began to wind down. Much speculation, argumentation and debate about what Jesus meant has raged on. Within the past few decades, the belief that most prophetic events have already occurred in the past, leaving only a few chapters in the last part of Revelation to occur, has gained momentum. This is at least part of the reason I included this chapter: because the modern trend in much of the visible Church believes that Christ's return, far from being the physical return that the two "men" in Acts 1 pointed to, was *spiritual* in nature and occurred in A.D. 70 with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

This belief seems to stem from Scripture, but in truth, what many Christians today are advocating is a *gradual improvement* in society. Once we wipe out famine, disease and the like, man himself will be much improved. This improvement will by itself usher in a new form of spiritual Christianity, one in which Christ as the absolute head of the Church will be able to reign from heaven through *all* creatures on earth. Unfortunately, as stated, this is in marked contrast with what the Bible teaches and the literal meaning that stems from that teaching.

In his book *Satan: His Motives and Methods*, Lewis Sperry Chafer pointed out then (in 1919) that a belief in a spiritual form of fulfillment had taken place by Christ. This of course was at odds with the orthodox evangelical position, which looked to the yet future physical return of Jesus. Chafer has this to say regarding this modern belief: "*Well may believers study their own motives in service in view of these vastly differing programs; and question whether there is in them a humble willingness to cooperate in the present purpose of God in preparing the Bride for the returning King. Or whether, on the other hand, they have carelessly fallen in with the Satanic ideal which rejects the coming kingdom of Christ by an unholy attempt to establish the present kingdom of Satan.*"¹

So on one hand, we see humanity – including many within the visible Church – catering to the ideas presented by the enemy that if we all work hard enough, we will one day attain that which we long for in Christ. It is unfortunate that these people are blinded to the truth of the Bible, with its plain, clear message of future events.

Those who receive the message of His Word plainly, understanding its meaning in literal terms, look for the signs that Christ spoke of in His Olivet Discourse. While these signs do

¹Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Satan His Motives and Methods* (Grand Rapids: Kregal 1990), 67-68

not necessarily pinpoint the exact timing of future events, they let us know whether or not the beginning of birth pains has already begun, or is yet future. We see these signs as simply that: *indicators* allowing us to see the progression of things to their chosen culmination.

Satan does the same thing. Through his demonic horde, he keeps abreast of what is going on throughout the world and attempts to judge the times and seasons, but that is the best he can do. He does not know when the Rapture will occur, and for that matter does not know when many other events will occur which are related to the End Times. This is why he constantly has to “correct” or “clarify” things through his messengers as time moves onward, leaving unfulfilled the things he transmitted years before to unknowing and deceived human beings.