

## Our Promise: The Divine Restoration

In Joel 1:1-4 and 2:23-27 we read about the destruction of God's church and about the periods of restoration of all things. And this time has come now (*Acts 3:19-21*).

Every believer is compared with a tree (*Psalms 1*). But the predestinated church is presented also as a fruit tree of God, which has to bear God's nine-fold fruit of the spirit (*Gal. 5:22*). This fruit tree has been planted from God at Pentecost, fully fitted with the nine-fold fruit of the spirit and the nine gifts of the spirit (*I Cor. 12:4-11*).

We read in Acts 2:42-47, *"The Lord added daily such as should be saved."* How long this continued we do not know, but one day even as Eve was tempted and seduced by Satan, **so the church was contaminated by the entrance of an antichrist spirit.** *"And this is that spirit of antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come and even now already is it in the world"* (*I John 4:3*). And Jesus said concerning His Bride in that first age, *"I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen and repent"* (*Rev. 2:4-5*). [1]

So already in the first church age of Ephesus from 53 to 170 post Christ, the antichrist spirit began, presented in the different forms of the locust, to operate in a destructive way in God's church.

So way back there in the early church (**a very short period after Pentecost**) the false vine got to intertwine itself around the True Vine and we find these deeds of the Nicolaitanes. **And that spirit is going to be found fighting the True Vine until it is destroyed by God.**

What are these Nicolaitanes? The word comes from two Greek words. **Nikao, which means to conquer, and Laos, which means the laity.** In plain fact, somebody was doing something in that early church which was conquering the laity. If the laity were being conquered, then it must have been some "authority" there doing it.

What was it that God hated that was happening in that church? What was going on then, **and is now going on today, is exactly what the word Nicolaitane means.** The people were being subjected somehow in a way that was absolutely contrary to the Word of God. [2]

Now why is this such a terrible thing? **It is terrible because God has never placed His church in the hands of an elected leadership which moves with political mindedness. He has placed His church in the care of God-ordained,**

**Spirit-filled, Word-living men who lead the people through feeding them the Word.** He has not separated the people into classes so that the masses are led by a holy priesthood. **It is true that the leadership must be holy, but then so must be the whole congregation.** Further, there is no place in the Word where priests or ministers or such mediate between God and the people, nor is there a place where they are separated in their worship of the Lord. **God wants all to love and serve Him together. Nicolaitanism destroys those precepts and instead separates the ministers from the people and makes the leaders overlords instead of servants.**

Thus, **that which started as a deed in the first age was made a literal doctrine and so it is today.** Bishops still claim power to control men and deal with them as they desire, placing them where they so will in the ministry. **This denies the leadership of the Holy Ghost.** [3]

And if you will check closely, those four insects of Joel 1:1-4 are the same insect in a different form: The first was the palmerworm, and then the locust, and then the cankerworm, and the caterpillar. We are told that that is the same insect in just different forms coming down. [4]

First came

1) the palmerworm (referring to the church age of Ephesus, 55 – 170)

⇒ these "roman bugs" ate the fruit - the fruit of the spirit, which is **divine love, joy, peace....** (*Gal. 5:22*).

Does not the Bible foretell that

⇒ because lawlessness is increased, the love of many will wax cold (*Matt. 24:12; Revelation 2:4*) and

⇒ **they are perishing, because they refused to love the truth** (*II Thess. 2:10*)

2) the locust (referring to the church age of Smyrna, 170 – 312)

⇒ came with the same anti-Word-spirit and ate the leaves → **the divine fellowship.** The leaves are there for coolness, for shadow in the heat.

⇒ **By lack of this revelation is why we have so many different divisions among us, and so much mockery. See, they lack that revelation, the teachers!** (*Hosea 4:6*). [5]

We all have a growing revelation – your faith is increasing - because the Word of God is a growing Body of the Bride (*Eph. 2:20-22; II Peter 3:18; Acts 6:7*).

3) the cankerworm (referring to the church age of Pergamos, 312 – 606)

⇒ came and ate the bark.

⇒ the covering of the church, **the biblical doctrines, has been eaten and**

⇒ unbiblical dogmas, creeds, rites and traditions have been introduced - although Jesus said in Revelation 22:18-19:

*"If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book; and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life..."*

It is the changing of even just one word by taking away or adding to it. It is the original trick of Satan in the Garden of Eden. He just added one little word to what God had said. That did it. It brought death and destruction. And in Ephesus, it was just the same. Just a word added, just a word taken away, and the anti-Word, antichrist spirit began to flourish. [2]

#### 4) the caterpillar (referring to the church age of 606 – 1520)

⇒ took hold of the roots ⇒ the life

⇒ took hold of the pulp ⇒ the sap of life

⇒ **The Holy Ghost has been forced out and human spirit came in.**

Denominations are not of God. They never have been and never will be. **It's a wrong spirit that separates the people of God into hierarchy and laity; and it's, therefore, a wrong spirit that separates the people from the people.** That's what organization and denominations do. In organizing they **separate themselves from the Word of God, and bring themselves into spiritual adultery.** [3]

Jesus said that when He went away He would send His Spirit which the world could not receive. That is right. **The world, or world systems could not receive Him. That is what organization is--it is world system.** Show me a world system church that is full of the Holy Ghost. I want to see it. If you can show me such a church you are finding a mistake in the Word. No sir. Not one of these messengers was organized. Either they were put out or got out because they were convicted of the sin of organization. **How can the Holy Spirit possibly be in organization when it is organization that takes the place of the Spirit and denominations take the place of the Word?** Remember, "Organization" is "death". It just can't be any other way. **If the world takes over, the Spirit departs.** [6]

⇒ They abided by their own ideas and opinions and by this they set aside the Word of God (*Mark 7:7-9*).

#### **But God gave us a promise of divine restoration:**

*"I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm..." (Joel 2:25-27).*

And if four messengers of death killed the Tree, four messengers of Life restore the Tree:

- 1) What was the first? **Martin Luther, justified by faith.**  
 Abraham believed God. See, **it's not what we did; it's what Christ did. It isn't what I'm going to do; it's what He's already done.**  
 I know I'm not good, never was, **never will be.** But then in the Presence of God I'm absolutely perfect, because it's not me. **He never sees me; He sees Christ. I'm in Christ.** And my name was associated with Him at the foundation of the world. I'm just waiting for the cord to be drawn up. And we'll go, some of these blessed days to meet Him in the air. [7]  
 ⇒ Justification brought back the pulp.
- 2) What was the second? **John Wesley, by sanctification.**  
 ⇒ Sanctification brought back the bark, doctrine of holiness. [8]
- 3) What was the third? **Pentecost, with the restoration of the gifts, the Holy Ghost, baptism of the Holy Ghost.**  
 ⇒ The **pentecostal movement** came and the real Holy Ghost has been poured out again (the beginning was 1906 in Los Angeles),  
 ⇒ the baptism with the Holy Ghost happened **and the real spiritual gifts have been restored.**  
 ⇒ What brought back the leaf? Pentecostals. What is it? **Pentecostals, leaves, clap their hand, joy, rejoicing, pentecostal.** [8]

You see, each one of those ages only taken **a dip into the Holy Spirit. Justification is a work of the Holy Spirit; sanctification is a work of the Holy Spirit; but the baptism is the Holy Spirit.** That's the reason it took a prophetic prophet to come down, no messenger to the age, **'cause the Holy Ghost came Himself in His fullness of the baptism.** But at the end of the age, as it always ends upon the others, we find there then, **the messenger sent; and all these scruples and things are to be placed in their places, like that. Then the rapture comes for the Church.** [9]

All down through the ages, **they received the Holy Spirit, but not in the measure that they have It now; 'cause it's a restoration of the first.** As we take the candlestick, Alpha and Omega, how they lit the first candle: it went higher and higher, and got dimmer and dimmer, and then come back again, first and last and so forth. **But in this church age the Message is being poured into the church.** But this tabernacle is not a Holy Ghost tabernacle. There's no such a thing. **Individuals that come into this church are Holy Ghost tabernacles.** They are tabernacles that contain the Holy Ghost (*Eph. 2:19*), but not the church in the body of group. [10]

- 4) What was the fourth? **The Word. What? The Word.**

⇒ **The fourth was the Word, Itself. The Word made flesh**, fruits of the proof of the resurrection sign that Christ has finally, after justification been planted, sanctification been planted, baptism of the Holy Ghost. Organizations died out. **And Christ has again centered Himself like that cap of the pyramid.** First line, justification; sanctification; baptism of the Holy Ghost; **then coming of the Cap.** [8]

⇒ What is it? **A restoration back to the first day**, the first – “*And he shall restore the hearts of the children back to the fathers*” (Mal. 4:5-6) – **bringing a restoration again to the Pentecostal genuine, not sensations... and will manifest the Evening Light**, the same sun that showed in the Morning Light. That’s promised for the day. Amen, amen! Where are we, friends? Where are we? **Just waiting now to get out of the way** (II Thess. 2:7-9), so Revelations 11 can be made known to the Jews. That’s right, **the Rapture coming.** [11]

⇒ **God is uniting His Bride.** She is coming together, from the East and the West, and the North and South. **There is a uniting time, and that's on right now. What is She uniting for? The Rapture. Amen! God's getting Her ready.** Yes sir, uniting! **What is She uniting with? With the Word!** For all “*heavens and earth will pass away, but My Word shall never pass away*” (Matt. 24:35). **She's uniting Herself with THUS SAITH THE LORD regardless of what any denomination or anybody else says. She's uniting Herself. She's getting ready. Why? She is the Bride. That's right. And She's united Herself with Her Bridegroom, see, and the Bridegroom is the Word.** [12]

⇒ In Joel 2:28; He promised that in these last days there would be a latter rain poured out upon the people. **He poured Himself out** [13] **into the church. Not only a part of Him**, not only as far as it was revealed in the days of Luther, Wesley and the pentecostal movement, **but He Himself in fullness.**

This age of Laodicea started just after the turn of the twentieth century. As it was to be the age in which the true church would return to being the Bride she was at Pentecost, we know that there must of necessity be **a return of dynamic power.** The believers sensed this in their spirits and began crying to God for a new outpouring such as was in the first century.

What seemed to be the answer came as **many began to speak in tongues and manifest gifts of the Spirit.** It was then believed that this was indeed the long awaited restoration. **It was not, for the latter rain can come only after the former rain which is the spring or teaching rain. The latter rain, then, is the harvest rain.** How could this be the real thing when the Teaching Rain had not come? **The Prophet-Messenger who was to be sent to teach the people and turn the hearts of the children back to the Pentecostal fathers had not yet come. Thus what was thought to be the restoration and the final quickening**

**unto the rapture had not come.** In it was a mixture of the unrighteous partaking of Spiritual blessing and manifesting in the Holy Ghost as we have kept pointing out to you. In it also was devil power as men were under the control of devils, yet no one seemed to realize it. Then, to prove that it was not the real, **these people** (even before a second generation had appeared) **organized**, and wrote their unscriptural doctrines and built their own fences as every other group ahead of them did.

It is "Thus saith the Lord" for that is what Joel 2:23-26 says, *"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the latter rain in the first month. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, My great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, That hath dealt wondrously with you: and My people shall never be ashamed."*

**Now it says God is going to "restore". The Lutheran Age did not restore the church; it started a reformation. The Wesleyan Age did not restore. The Pentecostal Age did not restore. But God has to restore for He cannot deny His Word. This is not the resurrection of the Church; it is the "Restoration". God will take the Church right back to Pentecost of the beginning.** Now notice in verse 25 it tells why we need restoration. The locust, cankerworm, caterpillar and palmerworm have eaten all but the root and a small bit of the stem. **Now we are told that all these insects are all one and the same in different stages.** That is right. **They are the antichrist spirit manifested in organization, denomination and false doctrine through the ages.** And that poor little root and stalk is going to be restored. God isn't going to plant a new Church, **but is going to bring His original planting back to original seed. He is doing it as stated in verse 23, by the teaching, or "former" rain. Next will come the harvest rain or rapturing faith.** [1]

Yes, God has restored His complete Word, **and we know God's Word is not powerless** (*Luke 1:37*). **And with the restoration of the Word will come the restoration of the power.** [14]

It shall be Light in the evening time (*Zeph. 14:7*), Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today, and forever. **The Bride tree it come up at Pentecost.** There's a tree that David saw. It's planted by the river of waters: **one river** (*Psalms 1*), **the Holy Spirit**; all these waters flowing into it, gifts, spiritual gifts, flowing into it. Its leaves can't wither. It'll bring forth its fruit. Is that right? Remember, **it'll bring forth its fruit in its season. That perfect tree, Christ, came.** And when He came, what happened? They cut Him down, hung Him on a Roman tree. But He raised up again. That's right. **He's here today.** [15]

Luther 1483-1546	Wesley 1703-1791	Pentecost from 1901	Uniting Time Time of full restoration
<p>Luther's 95 propositions (31.10.1517) Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560) Huldreich Zwingli (1484-1531) Johannes Calvin (1509-1564) and other reformators.</p> <p>John Smyth (1609): Baptists</p> <p>Justification: a gift of God and not a demand of God. The just shall live by faith (<i>Rom. 1:17</i>).</p>	<p>Whitefield (1714-1770) C.G. Finney (1792-1878) Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) Dwight Moody (1837-1899) Hudson Taylor (1832-1905)</p> <p>Sanctification and Christian perfection were the two main concerns of John Wesley.</p>	<p>R.A. Torrey (1856-1928) Charles Alexander (1902) Evan Roberts in Wales (1905) Azusa Street Mission, Pastor Barrett, William Seymour (1906)</p> <p>Pentecostal movement, restoration of the gifts of grace and of miraculous power</p>	<p>Malachi 4:5-6 Daniel 12:4,9 Revelation 10:7 Luke 17:30 Ephesians 1:15-17</p> <p>The actual (literal) life of Jesus Christ came (comes) back.</p> <p>He Himself, not a work of the Holy Ghost, but the entire Holy Ghost Himself came. The person of the Holy Ghost came in the last days and would be with us, even in us.</p> <p>The fullness of the Word came into existence, or the opening of the Seven Seals, that is promised to us in this age.</p> <p>The Son of Man back in the church again, revealed in human beings. HE, the Bridegroom, unites Himself with His Bride!</p>
<p>It is a work of the Holy Ghost or a portion (a measure) of the Holy Ghost, but not the entire Holy Ghost Himself.</p>			

**He is the Bridegroom Tree.** Then, the Bridegroom Tree, without the female, doesn't bear fruit, **so He's got to have a Bride Tree.** She has got to be born of the same material, **the Word made flesh in the Tree. It's the same Life in this female Tree, the Bridegroom, as It is in the Bride.** [8]

Now the light of the evening time shines **upon the Word-seed** which is predestinated, **and the spiritual Israel out of the Jews and the nations will be quickened!** (*Ezek. 37:1-10*).

The Lord brings forth a four-fold restoration about the dead bones: [8]

- 1) I will lay sinews upon you,
  - Luther ⇒ not by works but justified by faith
- 2) and will bring up flesh upon you,
  - Wesley ⇒ Sanctification (purification and preparation for the service of God)
- 3) and cover you with skin,
  - Baptism with the Holy Ghost and restoration of the spiritual gifts
- 4) and I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.
  - **He Himself, the Holy Spirit, came back into His church.**
  - **The Son of Man - Christ, the Word Itself** (*Luke 17:30*) - has revealed Himself. [8]

- Luther's manna was the message and manifestation of justification.
- Wesley's message was the manifestation of sanctification.
- Pentecost was the restoration of the gifts.
- But this is introducing the Headstone, the last day, the Bride Tree, which is contrary to all of it. [16]

Reference:

- [1] Church Age Book, pg. 366, 377-379
- [2] "Ephesian Church Age", CAB pg. 92
- [3] "Pergamean Church Age", CAB pg. 197, 206
- [4] "I Will Restore" (57-0309B), par. E-12
- [5] "Christ Is The Mystery of God Revealed" (63-0728), par. 304
- [6] "Sardisean Church Age", CAB pg. 251
- [7] "The Law Having a Shadow" (56-0621), par. E-47
- [8] "Restoration of the Bride Tree" (62-0422), par. 230, 415, 505, 510
- [9] "Questions & Answers on the Seals" (63-0324M), pg. 464
- [10] "Blasphemous Names" (62-1104M), par. 121-123
- [11] "The Future Home" (64-0802), pg. 62-63
- [12] "The Sign of the Uniting Time" (63-0818), par. 91
- [13] "The Mighty God Unveiled Before Us" (64-0629), par. 91
- [14] "Laodicean Church Age", CAB pg. 363
- [15] "Putting on the Whole Armour of God" (62-0607), par. E-102
- [16] "There Is a Man Here That Can Turn on the Light" (63-1229M), par. 162

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*There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.*  
[Bro. Bransham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]