**THEOS LOGOS**

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**Session 3**

They were excited about this Jesus of Nazareth that day. But when He looked around in the Temple and went back out and did not ascend the throne of David and did not become a mighty king to break the power of the Roman Empire, they said what happened? In a few hours later, the same crowd that was shouting Hosanna stood outside of the Judgement Hall of the Roman Governor Pilate, and when Pilate was going to let Him go, they said, no, crucify Him, crucify Him. And the more Pilate wanted to let Him go, the louder the crowd got. Crucify Him. That’s a strange change of attitude.

They decided since He was not going to be the Mighty Conquering King Messiah to destroy the enemies of Israel and exalt them to the top of the nations and give them power and prestige and plenteous, that He was not the Messiah but an imposture. Had they not been ignorant of the second major line of prophetic scripture, had they known all that the Bible had to say about the people of God, they would have understood that He came not to break the power of Rome, but to break the power of sin by being an atonement, a substitutionary, blood sacrifice, in order that God might forgive the sins of all men of all the world. That He must be a dying Messiah in order to be the Savior. And that was there everywhere in scripture. Had they had their eyes focused on both major lines of prophesy, they would have known He was the true Messiah and not have destroyed Him. They caused His death unjustly. Not Pilate.

There are 2 major lines of prophesy in the New Testament scriptures of the church.

**REFER TO ILLUSTRATION 2.**

The Second Coming of Christ is a major line of prophesy in the New Testament. Acts1:11 - *Ye men of* (Israel) *Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?* *this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go...* If I go away, I will come again and receive you unto myself, - John 14:3. Christ is going to come again. 1 The 4:16-17 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:* *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.* The Rapture of the Church; the Second Coming of Christ. Is truly throughout the New Testament a major recurring prophetic line.

The people of God called Christian today, universally, the evangelical Bible-believing born-again church of Jesus Christ without exception. The whole church knows all about this major line of prophesy of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the planet earth to rapture us away where we’ll go to the marriage supper of the Lamb. And then tour Heaven for 7 years and then come back with the Mighty Conquering Messiah that Israel wanted 2000 years earlier. The whole Church says Amen, Hooray, I’m for rapture. The same things happen again. They are totally ignorant of the second major line of prophesy. The deception and destruction of the Church runs throughout the New Testament and the Old Testament. That God’s people are going to be deceived and destroyed and be in utter ruins when Christ comes back.

Note: The 2 major Old Testament lines of prophesy are parallel and offset. They are not parallel this way but they are parallel here and here. They are offset. Which meant that one of them would come to complete fulfillment and then later, the second one would commence to be fulfilled and by completed.

A meek and lowly and poor and abused and rejected and a dying Messiah was prophesied and that was fulfilled from God’ Word. He died on the cross. But the second major line of prophesy had a 2000-year interruption. There’s an offset. There’s a period between those 2 major lines of prophesy. When this one was fulfilled at the death of Christ, when He died, it was completed. He had been meek, lowly, poor, He was abused, He was rejected, and He died and He was Messiah. That whole line of Old Testament prophesy came to an abrupt fulfillment at the death of Christ. Then the Church of Jesus Christ was born on the Day of Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ back to Heaven. And for 2000 years, the Church will endure in its history. At the end of the 2000-year period of the Church, Jesus Christ will literally come back to the planet earth, not as a meek, lowly, dying Messiah, but as a Mighty Conquering Warrior King. And the 2nd major line of prophesy will be fulfilled, and Israel shall be exalted to the top of the nations and Israel shall experience a time of power and prestige and plenty such as even King David’s reign could have never known. Jesus will reign upon the Earth as King from the throne of His Father David from the Temple in Jerusalem on the planet earth. The Bible says He will break the nations as a potter’s vessel (Jere 19:11). He will enforce the rule of the Eternal King upon all the nations of the earth. It’s going to happen.

Both lines of Old Testament prophesy are surely going to be fulfilled. But they were parallel and offset. The 2 major prophetic lines of the New Testament are not parallel and they are not offset, but they are converging and there is a precise point of convergence where not one to be fulfilled completely as in the Old Testament prophesies, and then 2000 years the other to come to fulfillment, but both shall be fulfilled precisely at the same split second.

The 1st major line of the New Testament prophesy is the **RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE PLANT EARTH**. The whole church is saying Hosanna and because they believe it’s all goodies for them. They are ignorant of the 2nd major line of prophesy. When we see all of the wonderful signs that the Church is preaching about, Israel restored to the land, ten nation federation in Europe rising up as the anti-Christ kingdom, television satellites and we can see 2 dead bodies lying in the streets of Jerusalem for 3½ days, and all of the marvelous signs. Knowledge has increased and transportation methods have exploded as a sign of the 2nd coming of Christ in the Bible. Abundant signs of this 2nd line of prophesy being fulfilled in our lifetime. If that is true, and I know it is, also those of us who are observing both major lines of prophesy know that absolutely as these signs of fulfillment are progressing to a point when Christ shall actually appear again on the planet earth, that, at the same time being fulfilled are the processes and the means of the deception and the destruction of the people of God which will be fulfilled simultaneously at the 2nd Coming. God’s Church will be in deception and ruins when Jesus comes at the same moment. It’s true. This can’t be denied. It’s scriptural; it’s rational; I’m trusting the Holy Spirit to tell your heart that’s got to be true. It’s there.

When the Son of man cometh, shall He find the faith on the earth? As it was in the days of Noah – bad hardly anybody right with God – how many souls saved in the Ark? 8 out of millions and millions that populated the plant earth. Luke 17: 26 *as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.* See both lines converging in that statement? As it was in the days of Noah, deception and destruction of people who knew God, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.

Listen to this: As it was in Sodom and Gomorrah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man. What was the condition in Sodom and Gomorrah? Do you remember Abraham pleading for its deliverance. But Lord what if you find 40 righteous, will thou not spare it if there are 40 people in those 2 great cities that are still in right relationship with you? Yes I’ll spare. Well for 5 you would not destroy it. What if there were 35 righteous in those 2 cities will you spare it? Yes I’ll spare it. Now Lord don’t be angry with me, but what if there are 20 righteous in those cities? Yes I’ll spare them if there are 20 that are right with God in those great cities of the planes. How low did Abraham get God to come down and what is the meaning?

Only a very few, if any, were right with God. Jesus said as it was in Sodom and Gomorrah, there’s not going to be very many Christians right with God. They are going to be deceived because they are ignorant of God’s truth. The church thinks She knows a lot when, in fact, She knows practically nothing today. I’m sure of that. As a result of that being true, only a very few, if any, are going to be right with God when Jesus comes back to the planet earth. Satan knows how to work.

Let’s go back to Laodicea. Many many of the ablest Bible scholars say that those 7 churches are prophetic of the consecutive historical conditions of Christ’s church throughout the age for 2000 years.

Rev 3: 14 – This is the church today. Laodicea is the church of your moment of history. Christ is going to come anytime now. We are already in ruins hardly any survivors. That’s depressing. *And unto the angel* (or the minister) *of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;...I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.* You’re not cold and you’re not hot. I wish you were one or the other. *So then because thou art lukewarm,* (somewhere between hot and cold) *and neither cold nor hot,* (you make me so sick that I am about to vomit you out of me) You know what the Christian relationship is? I in you and you in me. That’s what Christianity is. Christ is in me and I am in Christ.  *I will spue* (that word in the Greek is vomit; I’m about to spue you out because of your lukewarmness) *thee out of my mouth.* Lukewarmness is a reference to theology. It is what the church is believing and practicing that makes Him sick. And it’s the church of our moment of history. It’s the church in the world today that’s making Christ sick once you see and understand what is really happening.

The prophesies are infallible. We do not seek to change prophesy. This is not going to happen because God prophesied it. God prophesied it because it’s going to happen. There’s a difference. See that? God looked down through time and saw what we were going to do with His truth. And He knew whenever we destroyed His truth, we would be in theological ignorance and that we would be deceived by the enemy into destroying Christ and so be destroyed. That’s what we’re doing. The prophesies are true. We cannot change the Word of God. We are speaking of a majority condition, a predominance. Most Christians are going to be deceived and destroyed. A great majority. We seek not to change the fact but the percentage. It may be 100% deceived and destroyed. It may be 99% if you and I are not deceived and destroyed. By God’s grace, if we can take this to the Church as we’re taking it to you here, Oh God give us the power to do it, rather than 90% destruction of God’s true people, maybe we can make it 51%. I assure you, most Christians are going to be deceived and destroyed in our time. Over half for prophetic absolute sure of true true real born-again sincere Bible believing Christians that know nothing theologically. They are lukewarm. They have half-truths. It’s not enough.

By what standard does God measure His people at all times? What does God measure His Church by? If God’s going to come up with a report card on the Church, what stardard does He use to find out if we’re A+ or F-.

Amos 7:7 - *Thus he shewed me: and, behold,* (take notice) *the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.* How many know what a plumbline is? A big brass ball with a sharp tiered shape and it’s got a sharp point on it and there’s a string right in the middle of it. It always points to the precise center of the earth. It is a tool for discerning an absolute perpendicular line. It’s always perpendicular unless you swing it. Once it stops swinging, you got an absolute perpendicular line. That’s what a plumbline is. The vision that God gave Amos the prophet was the Lord Jesus Christ, or God, standing on the top of the wall made by a plumbline. It was a straight wall. It was absolutely perpendicular. That’s the kind of wall that will last. That kind of wall doesn’t fall. A wall that leans is a wall that falls and God uses that in the Bible and He talks about His wrath being like a high wall with a leaning bulge in it in Jeremiah meaning that I’m about to fall on you guys and grind you. A perfectly perpendicular wall is a wall like God likes. A wall that is strong, and stable, and stayed. God stands on a straight perpendicular wall made out of stone or bricks. He has plumbline in His Hand and the plumbline is showing that the wall is precisely true. That’s what Amos saw. And then God says to Amos: *And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline.* I don’t like Amos’s attitude. A plumbline. *Then said the Lord, Behold,* (take note) *I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more:*

What is the Church both Old Testament and New Testament to be conformed straight and true and strong and staying by? The plumbline is the Truth of God. The church is to be built and conformed to the Truth of Almighty God. When the Church conforms to the standard of God’s theology, it is a straight true strong stayed church. When God says I set the plumbline. I’m going to go away and I’ll not come back. What He means is they will stand or fall by the standard of an established truth. God never measures His people but by the singular standard of His Truth.

Back to Rev 3. Back to the Church in our day. She’s called Laodicea by God. You know what it is means? The people decide what is right. Not God. Not even the preachers. But the laity. Laodicea. Laos – the people in the pew. (Greek) Dike – decision of what is right. Laos – dike – Laodicea. The people in charge and the people are. The preachers give the people what they prefer.

Everywhere in the church today even here if we’re not careful.

It’s what God wants not what the people want. The prophesies in the New Testament says 2 Tim. 4:3-4 - *For the time will come when they* (God’s people) *will not endure sound doctrine* (teaching)*; but after their own lusts* (desires) *shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.* And that’s already happened. The born again Bible-believing real Church of Jesus Christ. That’s where we are.

Rev 3:15 - *I know thy works,* (I know your beliefs and so your activities result from your beliefs. Your activity always results from your beliefs. If you deviate from the truth from the plumbline, your actions will accord with your deviate theology. I know what you’re doing as a result of what you’re believing.) *that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest,* Here’s your self-assessment. Here’s what you think about the Church in your day. *I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;* Understand that’s an honest sincere self-assessment. Nothing wicked or evil about it except the standard from which She comes to Her assessment. This is an honest Church. I believe that these deceived Christians are sincere and likeable and loveable. A church that has need of nothing. It means they think they have everything. We’re to look for the Church movement in our day that could actually say this and that will be the most manifest and the leading edge of the deceived church. I assure you it’s the Charismatic movement. That is the blessed and the going and the blowing and the happy and the rich church.

27 acres behind the Red Lobster; 7 million dollars in one day in one fund-raising service in our City. You go to the church where the truth is and see the struggle. The time will come when God’s people will not endure sound teaching and we’re there. You want to know why it’s so hard to build a church on truth, God’s people don’t want truth anymore. It’s nearly impossible to find people who want truth and when you do, you’ll find out what brotherly love is all about. I’ve got some brothers that I love with a love that you could never describe. And it’s going to get worse before it gets better. I don’t know how many of us are going to survive. God’s Word is infallibly true. The church will look at Herself and measure Herself and come out with an A+. We’ve got to see the Church today giving Herself A+ and she’s doing it with a few exceptions.

Let’s look at the assessment of the Church that Jesus comes up with when He measures Her: *and knowest not* Now He recognizes its deception not deliberate evil. *that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:* Then He gives counsel.

These are two extreme opposite assessments of condition. Her self-assessment could not be better. There’s no way her altar will be full. People will be weeping. People will be expecting and getting miracles. There’s nothing that a Christian could imagine that would be desirable that the Church is not going to be having. She has everything. But the one thing needful.

Remember Jesus went to the house of 2 ladies one evening. Their names were Mary and Martha. Martha was so thrilled that Jesus came, she jumped up and began to fix supper of the best of everything she had just in a hurry to prepare the best meal worthy of the Lord Jesus. The Bible says Mary sat at Jesus’s feet and heard His Word. And when Martha disturbed said to Jesus: Lord make her get up and help me, Jesus said Martha thou art concerned encumbered about many things and there is one thing needful – one thing needful – and Mary hath chosen that good thing. She sat at His feet and heard His Word. The church needs but one thing. They don’t need anything but one thing. The Church in our day is going to have everything but the one thing She needs. Anything that you could imagine that would be good for a Church to have, the deceived Church will have.

Let’s read a little farther. Rev 3: 18 - *I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:*(That brands Her as the true Church) *be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*  I want you to know. Where is the Lord? Where is the Truth? On the outside. I stand at the door. The door of the Church. He whose name is true is on the outside pleading to be let back in. That church has everything but the Truth. She measures Herself by evangelism, soul winning. She measures Herself by her missionary outreach. She measures Herself by Her converts. She measures Herself by Her membership. She measures Herself by Her successes in counseling. She measures Herself by Her by the happiness of Her families. She measures Herself by everything but that by which Christ measures Her. She’s going to be so extremely effective in all of the desirable ways except the one way that is needed and that’s TRUTH,

You can have the happiest most successful church in the world in the eyes of the Church and be in theological ruins and having lost the truth. And that’s what the Church is doing today. She is in ruins. She really is.

What does God measure the wall by? The plumbline of His Truth. When we conform to the plumbline of truth, then we are rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing. When we have everything desirable except the truth, we are wretched and poor and blind and naked.

Close with a warning: Why was Jesus Christ described in the Bible as a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief? Ecc 1:18 - *For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.* The more of God’s truth you know today, the more sadden you’re going to be. The prophet Ezekiel, God told him to go into the City of Jerusalem and put a mark on every person he could find that was sighing and crying and God says I’ll spare those people. The Church is rejoicing most everywhere today. But in a few places, she’s sighing and crying. Because those who see what is actually happening are compelled to sigh and cry. I hope I don’t get callous to it We are in the last battle for truth and we’re losing.

Jeremiah 9:23: *Thus saith the LORD,* (Here’s what God says) *Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,* (Glory means boast or brag; don’t brag about being smart, wise) *neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me,* I believe there’s strong implications in what that says. Wealth power wisdom are not worthy of anyone being happy about or boasting about. There’s only one thing that ought to make any man on earth feel like boasting because it’s the most desirable and the most important and the most valuable thing to ever be possessed and **THAT’S TO UNDERSTAND AND TO KNOW GOD**. How many people are in pursuit of that in the world today?

To know and understand God. I like the understandeth. Do you understand what I’m saying? It’s rationale. It’s reasonable. It’s within the range of human understanding. Nothing about God is beyond the range of your understanding. The Bible teaches that. But we’ve lost it.

