



Let my people go!
Ministry of Cpt. Gordon Nelson
The Old Ship of Zion
Only believers "shall take up
serpents" (of the sea). (Mk. 16:18)

MESSAGE 13 - 2004

**PASTOR JOHN S. TORELL, EDITOR OF "THE DOVE",
SEEKS RETRACTION OF IDENTITY MOVEMENT CHARGE MADE BY THE CAPTAIN**

By Cpt. Gordon Nelson

Dear Gordon,

It's been some time (years) since we met, when you lived in Sacramento. Just read your response to Charles Thorell. It was sad to me to see you smear me, that I am part of the Identity Movement. In order for you to keep your integrity, you should have all your facts checked out first, before you write something.

I took a strong stand against this teaching that the people of Anglo/Saxon background are the ten lost tribes of Israel, and we devoted almost a whole issue of the Dove¹ to refute this teaching. If you have lost that copy, let me know, and I will send you another copy, so that you can set the record straight.

I hope that you have enough integrity to admit if you have made a mistake and then correct it.

Yours in Christ
John S. Torell

The above is an email I received from Pastor John Torell of the Resurrection Church of Jesus Christ in Sacramento, CA. His nephew, Charles Thorell, contacted me in regards to Ralph Woodrow, the previous pastor of the Capital Christian Center, which was then called Bethel Temple. I told him I knew nothing about Ralph Woodrow.

Strangely, John Torell recently sent me a booklet entitled, The Truth About Christmas. The book is divided into three sections, each section being the opinions of the Bible by three preachers relative to Christmas.

#1 – Charles Halff of the Christian Jew Hour – “Should Christians Celebrate Christmas?”

#2 – Reverend Ralph Woodrow, 1965, Chapters from “Babylon, Mystery Religion”

#3 – John S. Torell – “Should Christians Get Out of Idolatry?”

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John Torell wrote a postscript in this booklet, which reads,

POSTSCRIPT: In 1994 Ralph Woodrow wrote to tell me he, himself, had revised his book, “Babylon Mystery.” He has written a new book, Christmas—Reconsidered. Here is the letter I wrote in response to him addressing his divorce and change of heart.

¹ The Dove – Spring/Summer 1996, Vol. XVIII, p. 20

November 22, 1994
Ralph Woodrow
Ralph,

Thank you for your letter and the book that you sent to me, "Christmas Reconsidered." Reading this new book from you put me into a state of shock. I have never seen something like this in a long time. I could not believe my eyes when I read it, but there it was.

The first thing that I want to tell you is that this is not a "hate" letter, such as you apparently are receiving from others. So don't put me in that category. My feelings toward you is of pity and sorrow that a man of God can become so deceived.

I do not know if anyone will dare to tell you this, but you have a reprobate mind. (Romans 1:28) When you left Sacramento many years ago, you sinned against God and you broke the covenant that you had made. In order to go on in the ministry you had to justify what you had done. It is one thing to sin, another is to know it, refuse to repent and justify it.

Your spiritual condition is best described in 1 Kings 11:1-10. You have joined the ranks of men like Solomon and king Manasseh. (2 Kings 21:1-3)

God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel, and told the priests who had profaned themselves and their ministry that they would be left standing but they were to bear their shame and they would not have access to God. The worst part of this judgment was that they would not know they had been cut off. (Ezekiel 44:5-16)

It is one thing to sin yourself, but you are now leading thousands of believers in Christ into idolatry, and they will use you as their authority to do so. Jesus did not speak lightly of men who let others into sin. (Matthew 18:6-7)

My prayer for you is that the Holy Ghost will convict you of your sins, and give you the power to repent before your life is over on this earth. Remember this: there is judgment coming and what we do not clear up on this earth will be handled in the court of Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10-11)

My intent is not to get a debate going between us. All I want to do is respond to what you have sent me and let you know my convictions.

My prayer for you is that God shall give you grace to repent.
Sincerely, *John S. Torell*

Today, you are witnessing a "sign of a believer" (Mk. 16:18), "*they shall take up serpents.*"

These are two-legged serpents that cast doubts as to what God hath said. Aaron's rod represents scriptures that will swallow up the "*Hath God said?*" (Gen. 3:1) given by the serpent.

Christmas Reconsidered

Single copy \$5

(760) 327-6049

**Mailing: Ralph Woodrow * PO Box
21 * Palm Springs, CA 92263-0021**

**Organizations are powerless
to discipline "gods"**

However, in this 21st century Assemblies of God, preachers no longer have to leave the Assemblies of God to form their own kingdom.

Jimmy Swaggart owned his own kingdom. The organization was powerless to defrock a minister that owns his own organization within an organization. The only reason Swaggart prevailed over the Assemblies of God disciplinary rules that would have bankrupted

him financially, was because he had his own non-profit religious incorporation. All they could legally ask for was for their ordination.

Jim and Tammy Bakker had their own organization within an organization.

Dr. Cecil J. Lowry, former president of an Assemblies of God Bible College, told me to my face, "I'd never pastor a church the way the Assemblies of God set them up." Dr. Lowry owned his own church within an organization. These "gods" operate a kingdom "WITHOUT WALLS"!

Benny Hinn, to my knowledge, has struck a first. I know of no other preacher coming into the Assemblies of God who already owned his own organization.

The diocese of John S. Torell

My friend and former pastor, John S. Torell, owns his own organization outside of all denominations. Upon his death, his nephew Charles Thorell is in all probability being groomed now for his inheritance, the pulpit of Resurrection Church of Jesus Christ in Sacramento.

You might ask me, “Were you a member?” In a church of this nature, like it is in a business, only three people are “members” and can vote:

- President – the Pastor
- Vice President – Pastor’s wife
- Secretary-Treasurer – a son, daughter or nephew.

In this type of organization, you are listed on a fellowship role. You are fellows on a ship with a god at the helm.

Do you know Rome sets up a diocese in a similar manner? The reason these three name non-profit religious incorporations will never be outlawed is because you’d be destroying the Roman Catholic Church’s hierarchy in the process. Romanism has what is termed a “sole incorporation,” meaning one-man rule. Take for example the San Francisco Diocese. It is owned by the office of Archbishop, who is only answerable to the Pope. The Pope appoints the man to that office. Whoever occupies that office has the power of a “little god.” He can fire and hire anyone in the diocese. He can buy and sell any real estate that he wishes within the boundary lines of San Francisco.

A Pentecostal non-profit religious king, or little god, has the identical same powers granted to him by the Secretary of State. I heard the Kingfish, C. (for Cash) Thomas Patten, bellow out from the platform while taking an offering, “If I take this money and throw it in Lake Merritt, it is nobody’s business but mine!” It was then I made it my business!

How does a Catholic diocese differ from a diocese set up by Jan and Paul Crouch, Pat Robertson, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Kenny Foreman or Dr. Cecil J. Lowry? What you’ve got to understand is that these individual dioceses each have their different kingdom rules laid down by their king.

The diocese of Archbishop Kenneth Copeland

If, for instance, you attend the diocese of the Archbishop Kenneth Copeland, above all, you must respect his way of salvation to be a member of his diocesan fellowship, called “faith partners.” Your dues are a minimum of \$20 a month, to be increased as your prosperity grows.

There are certain religious beliefs peculiar to this diocese. The archbishop has decreed them to be biblical, hence you believe! The archbishop has decreed that when Jesus became sin for us, He became a sinner. As a sinner Jesus must go to hell to be purged from this sin by crawling around hell as an emaciated worm attempting to find forgiveness. Once Jesus earned His forgiveness, He ascended out of that horrible pit, and on the way up He was restored to being God once again.

This is when they strike pay dirt! Because Jesus became God after being a sinner, so can you! If you don't believe, then read the volumes of books by E.W. Kenyon until you can "work the faith," becoming "as gods." (Gen. 3:5) It's like going to a Christian Science reading room on positive thinking.

These "word of faith" preachers out of Kenneth Hagin's Rhema Bible College in Tulsa, OK, learn how to "work the faith." Like the magicians in Pharaoh's court, they don't have to "hear" anything to "work the faith."

Pat Robertson's diocese

In Pat Robertson's diocese, "We don't do Catholics." They have already given their endorsement to the document Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium. To be recognized as a member in fellowship, you are asked to vow, or swear, to pay at least \$20 a month as proof that you are a loyal member of The 700 Club diocese. However, Jesus said, *"Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."* (Matt. 5:34-37)

If you don't believe in swearing, seek yet another diocese.

John Hagee's diocese

How about attending John Hagee's diocese. "I don't do Jews" diocese! The archbishop of this San Antonio, TX diocese declares, "You're wasting your time if you try to convert Jews!"

Jimmy Swaggart's diocese

How about a Jimmy Swaggart diocese in Baton Rouge, LA? "We do the cross," and yet they are unable to define the Christian's cross. Jesus *"came unto his own, and his own received him not."* (Jn. 1:11) Who nailed Jesus to the cross? Why, His own. As a believer, you take on Christ's nature. Are you any better than the Master? *"It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?"* (Matt. 10:25)

Jesus nailed to His cross by His own

His own nailed Him to that cross! *"Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children."* (Matt. 27:25) Even Mel Gibson had to strike this statement from his most famous Christian film ever produced, The Passion of the Christ. His own refuse to admit guilt.

Jesus told you about the cross that you will die on. *"And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."* (Matt. 10:36) The stress from your cross can kill you prematurely. If you go on living, the divorce and communal property laws will surely do the trick, aided by the preacher screaming, "Woman, thou art loosed!" Why do you suppose the Apostle Paul, Apostle Barnabus, or any of his chosen, Timothy, Titus or John Mark, never married? *"For I would that all men were even as I myself."* (1 Cor. 7:7) Paul said, *"I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord."* (2 Cor. 12:1) *"How that he (Paul)*

was caught up into paradise, and HEARD UNSPEAKABLE WORDS, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” (2 Cor. 12:4) Could those “words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter,” be on the subject of marriage? Paul apparently was less afraid to die on Rome's block where he surrendered his head, than to die on a cross of his own choosing; his would-be bride.

Only the Apostles at Jerusalem “carried about wives”

Only the followers at Jerusalem of James the Less, half-brother of Jesus, “carried about wives.” If the early church were to christen a man as Pope, the mantle would have fallen on James. James never even believed until Christ’s resurrection from the dead.

Paul is referring to these disciples of James at Jerusalem when he said, *“Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord. Mine answer to them that do examine me is this, Have we not power to eat and to drink? Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles (at Jerusalem), and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?” (1 Cor. 9:1-6)*

The diocese of the archbishop of Sacramento, John S. Torell, isn’t any different. It has rules peculiar to its archbishop. John Torell does not do Christmas! John Torell sent me his booklet, The Truth About Christmas as preparatory for my promise of retraction. I’ve requested documentation material from him to justify warranting such a retraction. So far, all I’ve received is this booklet, along with a statement accusing me of slander and challenging my integrity to recant my accusing him to be in league with the Identity Movement.

Captain confesses ignorance between the brands of Jew-baiters

I must confess, I was really ignorant of the difference between the Identity Movement and Replacement Theology. Do you know the difference? The thing I knew they both had in common was hatred for Jews. I repent for telling Charles Thorell in an email that John Torell believed in the Identity Movement. He clearly does not. He is, however, a believer in Replacement Theology. To this day, I have never classified Dr. Cecil J. Lowry or Gerald L.K. Smith into which Jew-baiter team they were a member. Were they Identity Movement Jew-baiters, or were they Replacement Theology Jew-baiters? Pastor John Torell is accusing me of slander because I placed his name on the wrong list of Jew-baiters. I was only listing sheep and goats, as Christ will one day divide the nations.

THE IDENTITY MOVEMENT

What has come to be known as the Identity Movement was previously termed Anglo-Israelism or British-Israelism. It is composed of those individuals and groups who identify the present day Anglo-Saxon people as the direct biological descendants of the ancient Israelites and, as such, God's chosen people, the heirs of all God's promises to Abraham and his progeny. The ten lost tribes of Israel, the former northern kingdom, are sharply distinguished from Judah, the ancient southern kingdom centered upon Jerusalem, which consisted of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and some Levites. In like measure, modern Anglo-Saxons (Israelites) are to be sharply distinguished from the Jews (Judah). ²

² <http://www.americanreligion.org/cultwtch/identity.html>

Pastor John Torell is not of the Anglo-Saxon-British-Israel belief theory.

Dividing of the Churches

The Left – Goats

Texe Marrs
Rev. Arnold Murray
Freemasonry
Klu Klux Klan
Aryan Nations
World Council of Churches
Neo-Nazi groups

The Right – Sheep

Jerry Falwell
D. James Kennedy
Southern Baptists
Assemblies of God
TBN televangelists
Talk radio broadcasters
Fundamentalist-evangelical churches

Please note, John Torell's name is not on the list. I was holding off until I received his material before passing judgment.

Now to formulate a format of dividing the churches relative to Christian Identity, Replacement Theology, or the Jew. Join a church on the right!

GOATS

Identity Movement

Rev. Arnold Murray
Neo-Nazi groups
Aryan Nations
Klu Klux Klan
Herbert W. Armstrong
Henry Ford
Church of Israel
Peter J. Peters
The Spotlight
Christian-Patriot Defense League
America's Promise

Replacement Theology

Texe Marrs
World Council of Churches
John S. Torell
Freemasonry
Cecil J. Lowry
Gerald L.K. Smith
Dominion Theology
Jehovah's Witnesses
Catholic Church
Anglican church
Crusaders

SHEEP

Evangelicals

Billy Graham
Jerry Falwell
D. James Kennedy
Southern Baptists
Talk radio broadcasters
TBN televangelists
John Hagee
Assemblies of God
Church of God in Christ
Nazarenes
Benny Hinn

In reviewing this letter sent to Ralph Woodrow by John Torell, two things in particular stand out that caused John Torell to literally bring the anathema of God down upon Woodrow.

#1 – Ralph Woodrow retracted statements made in his first book, Babylon Mystery Religion

#2 – Divorce—"you broke the covenant"

For these two sins, according to Torell, God has cursed Ralph Woodrow with a reprobate mind. (Rom. 1:28) If you know anything at all about the reprobate mind, it is something man has nothing to do with. *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient (becoming, fit)."* It takes a transition in the mind to become homosexual, to reject normal sex as God intended, to enjoy anal sex, to attend the bathhouses of San Francisco, to eat one another's fecal matter as a token of love. This is what Paul is addressing in context of the reprobate mind. Has a Holy Ghost filled pastor who has preached the gospel most of his life been so cursed by John Torell?

John Torell can dish it out, but has he the fortitude and humility to humble himself and ask Ralph Woodrow to forgive him? My experience, about 63 years in dealing with Pentecostalism's gods, is they never repent. You simply submit in these manmade kingdoms to the archbishop of the diocese whose judgments are infallible, just like the Pope of Rome. Like Dr. Cecil J. Lowry would cry out, "My deacons are nothing more than ushers! If you don't like it, swing on out of here. The doors swing both ways!" *"This know that in the last days...For men shall be...false accusers, incontinent (powerless), fierce, despisers of those that are good...heady, high minded."* (2 Tim. 3:1-3)

John Torell's next charge was divorce. "Your spiritual condition is best described in 1 Kings 11:1-10. You have joined the ranks of men like Solomon and king Manasseh. (2 Kings 21:1-3)" Because Ralph Woodrow divorced his wife, he is now compared to King Solomon who had 600 wives and 300 concubines. *"But king Solomon loved many strange women."* (1 Ki. 11:1)

"When you (Ralph Woodrow) left Sacramento many years ago, you sinned against God and you broke the covenant that you had made." (He divorced his wife.)

Has John Torell not read Mark 10:29, *"Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, OR WIFE, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's."* If Ralph Woodrow left his wife for the gospel's sake, he could well be a candidate to receive the hundredfold blessing. Please note, no new wife is included in the hundredfold blessing. The sin is not in the divorce, it is adultery while married to another and you have a living spouse.

Bishop Wigfall and Curtiss Wiley, going "two by two," say "Go!"

But as my pastors, Bishop Joseph Wigfall and Curtiss Wiley, of Equator Faith Mission in Oakland, CA, who are going "two by two" would say, "Go!"

The Great Commission is the responsibility of every Christian. *"Go ye therefore, and TEACH ALL NATIONS."* (Matt. 28:19) Folks are ignorant of what the Bible plainly teaches. Traditions of men and tares, have been sown into the field by false prophets, chief of whom was Herbert W. Armstrong. Those seeds sown while the church slept are now springing forth. *"But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat...An enemy hath done this."* (Matt. 13:24-28)

Website is the Captain's pulpit

The Old Ship of Zion's website, www.shipofzion.com, is the Captain's pulpit from which he attempts to *"teach all nations."* Pentecostalism is to me what Jewry was to the Apostle Paul. God had called Paul to go to the Gentiles, but Paul was forever going to his own. "His own" would throw him out of the synagogue, stone him, leave him for dead. *"In labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in*

fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.” (2 Cor. 11:23-28)

“Be ye followers of me!”

“In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” (2 Cor. 13:1) Paul pleads four times in three different epistles, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1 Cor. 11:1) He had been in the Arabian Desert for three years. “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (Gal. 1:11-12)

“Neither went I up to (James’ Bible College) Jerusalem to them (teachers) which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia...Now the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not.” (Gal. 1:17,20) These guys up at Jerusalem didn’t teach Paul anything. “And I went up by REVELATION, and communicated unto them THAT GOSPEL which I preach among the Gentiles...But of these who SEEMED TO BE somewhat (Paul is referring to Jesus Christ’s own royal cabinet, Peter, James and John),(whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man’s person [or title]:) for they who seemed to be somewhat (again Peter, James and John) in conference added nothing to me.” (Gal. 2:2, 6-7)

Do you know why these disciples and apostles at Jerusalem could not teach this young, recent convert from Phariseeism anything? Paul knew who they were and whence they came, and most of all who they worshipped.

This all came by REVELATION to me, as well! You can’t research this one on the internet, or buy some theologian’s book on the subject. This realization doesn’t come by “working the faith” while reading E.W. Kenyon’s methods of achieving godhood. These Word of Faith folks out of Rhema Bible College in Tulsa would make excellent Mormons who strive to attain to be gods. The more children, the more wives to produce them, so your family can have their own planet to inhabit in the galaxy of the stars. How is this much different from a terrorist’s dream to meet 72 virgins after blowing himself up?

I heard the audible voice of God screaming out of heaven at high noon in downtown Oakland. I had just graduated from a three-year Patten Bible College and received my ordination—“Ordained for Eternity,” signed by Dr. Bebe Patten and her business manager husband, C. Thomas Patten. At the time, I was driving a truck for Delta Lines, when through the roof came an angry voice screaming, *“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh!”* I knew the sweet voice of the Dove and that of the Son. This voice I had never heard before nor since.

My entire body throbbed so that that Voice became even a part of me. From that date on, I only set out to appease the Voice of an angry God, once I found it was a literal scripture from the Word of God. *“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.” (2 Cor. 5:16)*

At James’ Bible College in Jerusalem and in LaBelle Bebe Patten’s University in Oakland, all you’ll ever learn about is a Christ after the flesh. When I see my dear pastor, John Torell, I can only look with

pity because, “There go I but for revelations and the grace that appeared to me.” I had a glorious Salvation Army conversion. I was healed during my water baptismal service in Lake Michigan, gloriously filled with the Holy Ghost. But all of that was naught compared to becoming a disciple of the Apostle Paul. *“For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel (that Paul preaches).”* (1 Cor. 4:15) “Never a man spoke like this man,” was true of Jesus, but it is also true of the Apostle Paul who labeled Jesus Christ after the flesh as a *“minister of the circumcision.”* (Rom. 15:8), the only Christ that religionists know anything about.