

RIVERBANK NEWS

A Publication of The Ol' Ship of Zion

MESSAGE 4 - 1996

SPIRITS NEVER DIE!

By Gordon F. Nelson

"Who knoweth the spirit of man that GOETH UPWARD, and the spirit of the beast that GOETH DOWNWARD to the earth?" Ecclesiastes 3:21.

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Ecclesiastes 12:7.

According to the Bible, man is a triune being, made in the image of a triune God. *"And God said, Let US make man in OUR image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion."* Genesis 1:26. In the Hebrew, the word for God is "Elohim," plural for Gods, indicative of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. Then it follows, "to be created in His image," God the Father must be a type of the body to house the soul and the spirit. Jesus is a type of the soul, and the Holy Ghost a type of the "spirit of man" which doth return unto God who gave them. *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send..."* John 14:26.

"Behold, the man is become one of US." Plurality of Gods, or Judges, or Magistrates of heaven. Heaven is not even ruled, like our churches, by a single Magistrate, the pastor. *"Let the elders (Gk.-presbuteros) RULE."* 1 Timothy 5:17. *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name"* (Matthew 18:20), read in context is relative to church government (Matthew 18:15-20). Two or three elders (or ministers) can bind or loose "on earth," because they are representative of the government in heaven where "three" ruled: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. In a Scofield footnote it reads, "There is no instance of a single elder ruling the early church." In governmental practice, most of Pentecostalism is "Oneness," with a single dictator, answerable to no one, or a "hireling" by virtue of a democracy.

In heaven, God never delegated any authority to angels! They had no voice or vote! Do you know who was the very first "hireling" recorded in the Word of God? It was Lucifer, Son of the Morning, who led the heavenly choir and was the most beautiful cherub God ever created. Lucifer must have had a platform that appealed to one-third of the heavenly host. The congregation in heaven represented myriads of angels. *"And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne...and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands."* Revelation 5:11.

Do you know how many angels the chief cherub of heaven, controlled? Lucifer had a much larger following than any televangelist; one-third of the heavenly host.

In Numbers 16:3, we read of the accusation against Moses and Aaron by Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. *“Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?”* Korah, the leader of this rebellion, believed in democracy, especially where *“ALL the congregation are holy, every one of them.”* Moses and Aaron should submit to a vote of confidence by such a holy congregation, as Korah described; *“and the LORD is among them!”*

All Korah wanted was for Moses and Aaron to submit to a vote of approval. In the same manner that God met Lucifer in heaven, Moses confronted Korah. *“Even tomorrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy...Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works...If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me. But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.”* Numbers 16:5, 28-30.

It is the nature of sheep to follow the shepherd, but there will always be the Korah's, Dathan's and Abiram's who put on the facade of representing the sheep by a vote. *“And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the SHEEP FOLLOW HIM: for they know his voice.”* John 10:4.

Lucifer was an angel, hence knew how to appeal to angel's weaknesses. How many holy, good Christians want a voice in the church? The chief expression is to vote. Lucifer, like Korah, was appealing to the angels under a dictatorship--God. He was their great benefactor! *“The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors* (Gk.-a teacher of good works, a philanthropist, a worker of good).” Luke 22:25. The angels wanted representation and 1/3 selected Lucifer as their “Business Agent” before the throne of God. Democracy seems so reasonable that even the minds of angels transgressed. He pulled it off in heaven and in the earth! THIS was the sin of Azuza Street! The Assemblies of God organized the churches guaranteeing each member a vote. We have had WAR ever since. *“And there was war in heaven!”* Revelation 12:7. Many a church is split right down the middle following a business meeting where the members all have a vote and a voice. When will they repent of this “sin of Korah”?

We see daily in our newspapers the difficulties confronting any future Pope attempting to rule over Catholicism. The granting of a vote, or voice, to each “holy” Catholic would completely destroy that

religion. The Catholic women want women priests, abortion, feet washing, and a voice in the church. Catholicism is ruled by seventy Cardinals, not just a Pope!

**Welsh Women Want
Their Feet Washed Too**

Reuters

London

A group of Catholic women protesting what they see as sexism in the church demonstrated yesterday outside a Welsh cathedral that excluded women from an Easter feet-washing ceremony.

Under a banner saying "Wash Women's Feet Too," the women held an alternative sidewalk service outside St. David's Cathedral in Cardiff as Archbishop Aloysius Ward washed the feet of 12 men in the congregation.

The Maundy Thursday ceremony follows the tradition of the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

"I think it is terrible to exclude women like this!" said protester Sheila McBride.

But the Rev. John Lloyd denied that the service was sexist, saying "The diocese is simply following Vatican instructions."

Democracy, broken down--"demo" (Latin-mob)-- mobocracy! Our founding fathers recognized the evil of a mobocracy, which is the reason they formed a Republic, a representative government. The word "democracy" is not in the Constitution, and was never used publicly until the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt. God would not put up with "mobocracy" in heaven either, and it is the reason for the war that broke out. Whenever you vote to have a pastor removed from office, you could be touching God's anointed. *"Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."* Psalm 105:15.

I knew of a pastor of an Assemblies of God church in Oakland, California. The congregation sent him on his annual vacation. While he was on vacation, the congregation found another pastor. Returning from his vacation, they then informed him that he was fired! The minister wound up in the hospital, believing that God had fired him! An emotional trauma from which he never survived. He never preached again!

"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Galatians 1:10. Paul was no hireling! The hireling *"seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth."* John 10:12. Who is the wolf? *"For he cometh in sheep's clothing."* A type of the wolf in our present hour is Bill McCartney, founder of the Promise Keepers, who is either a Freemason, a Mormon, an ecumenicalist, or all three, to give such "Promises!"

As a child growing up in the Chicago area, I attended Pastor Mattson Boze's Philadelphia Church on the Northside. I guess more and more, I am becoming like one of my mentors, this great man of God from Stockholm, Sweden. What was unique about Pastor Boze's teaching and preaching was his insight on "government." To this particular pastor, everything in the Bible said one thing--"government." No

one told me this as a lad, but I would pick up on it through his sermons. So, sitting in church alongside my father, I would ask myself the question after Pastor announced his text, “Just how can Pastor Boze cause this scripture to speak on government?” Invariably, he did. I was not even a Christian at the time! After I had become a Christian, with over fifty-five years in the church, I have never heard the word “government” even mentioned. Today, the only mentor to “government” I have is a man I heard while yet a sinner! What a sad indictment of the Pentecostal religion.

This is what Jesus was referring to when He said, *“Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? (and in thy name spoken in unknown tongues?) and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Gk.-lawlessness or without government).”* Matthew 7:21-23. This can only be referring to the Pentecostal religion of which I have been a part for the past fifty-five years.

It was never the doctrine of the “Holy Ghost and fire,” but the “lords” and “hirelings” who scattered the sheep. *“And many shall follow their pernicious (Gk.-damnable) ways: by reason of whom THE WAY OF TRUTH shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you.”* 2 Timothy 2:2-3. The false prophets “make you vain” (Gk.-lead astray) and you become unproductive. Their greed and covetousness blinds their eyes. You become a case of the “blind leading the blind.”

Returning to our text, “Spirits Never Die,” look at Genesis 2:7. *“And the Lord GOD formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”* This is a favorite (hand-picked) scripture of the Jehovah’s Witnesses (JV’s), who deny the existence of both a “soul” and a “spirit” in man. They explain both away by their understanding of the word “breath.” They admit man must breathe! God did not simply breathe into man’s nostrils “breath,” but the “breath of life.” The absence of the soul and spirit spells death! Their impartation gives life. *“The spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”* Ecclesiastes 12:7. God in turn imparts them again into man by His breath in the next generation.

What is impossible for man, God is able through His Word, to “divide the soul and spirit, and body (joints and marrow).” Hebrews 4:12. The Bible teaches we have a body, a soul, and a spirit. The yet unconverted man is not conscious of having a spirit. *“The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD.”* Proverbs 20:27. God’s candle is the Holy Ghost. *“When His candle shined upon my head, and when by His light I walked through darkness.”* Job 29:3. When God’s candle lights your candle, you are what is termed “born again.” Your candle, or spirit, has been lit anew. It was already lit once when you were

born, but the light went out. *“Ye must be born again.”* You need your candle to be re-lit! *“That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”* John 1:9.

Job understood this candle to be man’s spirit! As man continued to sin, God extinguished the candle. *“And his candle shall be put out...”* Job 18:6. *“How oft is the candle of the wicked put out.”* Job 21:17. Once the candle has gone out, he is reduced to the same level as an animal; left to his five senses for survival. Many Christian’s candles go out through false doctrine. *“Take heed unto thyself, and thy doctrine; continue in them; for in doing THIS thou shalt save thyself, and them that hear thee.”* 1 Timothy 4:16. How quickly God turns *“the light that is in thee to darkness.”* Matthew 6:23.

Louis Farrakhan, Muslim leader, is attempting to appear as “an angel of light” to cause some candles to go out, and exchange gods; Allah, for the God of the Jews! It all seems so reasonable, appealing to man’s brain which is at *“enmity (Gk.-opposition, hatred) against God.”* Romans 8:7.

Spirits never die, they simply return unto God who gave them. Jesus, speaking of John the Baptist, said to His disciples, *“Elias is come already, and they knew him not. Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.”* Matthew 17:12-13. Jesus said that John the Baptist was Elijah! Then He added, *“And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.”* Matthew 11:14. Elijah and John the Baptist had the same spirit. John came in the spirit and power of Elijah, *“but could do no mighty miracles.”* John the Baptist was John the Baptist, because “spirits never die!”

Where do all these Jehovah’s Witnesses come from? JV’s are the revived spirits of the Sadducees. The Sadducees could not believe in anything miraculous like the rapture, the virgin birth, hell, or an incarnate Christ. This is the reason they are so Sadd-U-See! These same spirits return to earth. Today we call them Jehovah’s Witnesses.

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sands of the sea.” Revelation 20:8. Do you know where the four quarters of the earth are located? This is referring to the 5th Beast Empire, who conquered the world under Alexander the Great. Upon his death he divided his kingdom into four quarters giving each of his four generals a quarter of his empire. The lines were drawn near and about the ancient city of Babylon where he died.

Just think about this, one thousand years later, these SAME spirits listed in the 38th chapter of Ezekiel are ready for war against God, again. As in Ezekiel 38, Gog is the designated leader of the land of Magog (Germanic-West Russia).

How does this Gog (Revelation 28) differ from the Gog of Ezekiel 38? The point I am trying to make is that “spirits never die,” they return unto God who gave them. They re-appear upon the earth! Gog and Magog were defeated at Armageddon, and Gog was buried. *“And there shall they bury Gog.”* Ezekiel 39:11. Who is this Gog of Revelation 20:8?

Gog was the leader, a man, who rules a “Ten Confederate Nation” army. Who is this Gog? whom God declares, *“I am against thee, O Gog!”* The Southwest Radio Church of the Air (of whom I have a lot of respect) declares that Vladimir Zhirinovsky is Gog! He has the same spirit of hatred for Jews that the Ten Nation Confederacy has which he will one day rule over. Is Vladimir Zhirinovsky Gog of Ezekiel 38? or do we look for another? Whenever you read about Vladimir Zhirinovsky, he sounds exactly like Hitler.

Some twenty years ago, while at work supporting my wife and three children, I had an experience that would forever change my life. I was a Teamster, driving a truck for Delta Lines, Inc. in downtown Oakland. Suddenly, at high noon, a voice came screaming from heaven in a command form, saying these words, “From henceforth know we no man after the flesh!” It frightened me, and I was totally unfamiliar with the phrase. As I pondered upon this order, it was puzzling to me. I was in a quandary as to who spoke those words, God or the devil!

That night, looking into my Strong’s Concordance, I was amazed to discover the same identical words in scripture, 2 Corinthians 5:16. *“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh.”* What possibly could it mean? I then felt more relieved that I hadn’t heard from Satan, but directly from God, being as how I found the statement in my Bible. *“Try the spirits whether they are of God.”* 1 John 4:1. If from God, what was He wanting me to do? I reasoned, perhaps He is on the verge of giving me the gift of “discerning of spirits.” I knew I had to be obedient! But being obedient to what? That was difficult for me to comprehend. In my first endeavor to be obedient to what I believed was a “heavenly calling,” I thought I would visit some close friends of the family, Evangelist Connie Stimpson and his wife.

During the course of this fledgling attempt at obedience, I suddenly screamed out, “Who are you?” Of course, my friends were shocked! “You know who we are. I am Connie Stimpson, and this is my wife, Lucy.” Then I tried to explain to them what I was attempting to gain by this outburst of energy. In that moment I saw my friend as the man the disciples found, *“we saw one casting out devils in thy name, but was not a follower of us, so we forbade him.”* Mark 9:38. Since that time, some twenty years ago, I have been asking the same question. “Who are you?”

In The Pilgrim's Progress Christian meets various people while on the road that eventually led to the Celestial City. Strangely, the people had names that described their character, much like the Indians did. All names in the Bible describe the person. In an American culture names have no significance at all.

“Who are you?” Or, in other words, what spirit were you born with? I told one young man in my church in Hayward, California, “You’ve got a green thumb, and don’t even know it.” His dad wanted him to be a musician, he wanted to go into physical education, but I told him to become a landscape architect. First, God revealed the name of the spirit he was born with; Adam. From there it was easy! “Who are you?”

All of us forget about the “pit” God delivered us from! Randy, my co-worker, was a gambling man from Lake Tahoe by the age of 19. Decked out in a beautiful “baby doll” haircut, knowing every pit boss by his first name, he was a sight to behold, playing blackjack at the tables! You are a “high-roller” as long as the money holds out! He was flat broke when we first met, and hence a “low-roller”! It’s the only time one can reach a gambling man with the message of Jesus Christ.

Randy made a living by buying and selling cars from the newspapers. “If you sell cars, you can sell houses,” I declared! I chose his profession for him. It was hard for him to give up on these cars, the money came so easy. But, gradually, with the help of God, I got him weaned. He is the happier for it! Today, he is a successful commercial real estate broker and enjoys what he is doing.

It is my consensus, “work ceases to be work if you enjoy what you are doing.” Mary, my secretary, had always been a waitress. She would probably have died serving tables in various restaurants if she had not run into me. Today, Mary answers only to the president of a very successful business in Seattle.

Most of us fall into something! It was a port in the time of a storm, and thirty years later we are still in that port. I believe a lot of stress is created by jobs our spirits find difficult to adjust to. Can you imagine a Mickey Mantle driving a cab? sort of thing. Then we wonder why we die prematurely! We say, “Our jobs killed us!”

Have you ever asked yourself the question. “Who am I? Why was I born? Is this what God ordained for my life?” Oh, God is a good God! You cannot get answers without first asking questions.

In the book The Sign by Robert Van Kampen, he has stumbled upon a truth that somewhat coincides with my life experience since being given the directive, “Henceforth know we no man after the flesh.” The 6th Beast Empire is the legs of iron in Nebuchadnezzar’s image, or Rome. The 8th Beast Empire is the Ten Horns and the Little Horn, the ten-toed confederacy of nations.

But here is the \$64,000 question never asked by Bible scholars. Who or what is the 7th Beast Empire? To answer this question, I must ask you to write for the book:

The Sign, by Robert Van Kampen
The Sign Ministries
P.O. Box 113, West Olive, MI 49460

Robert Van Kampen spent eight years researching the material covered in the book. Robert Van Kampen meets the “traditional” views of scripture, sowed by the Scofield Reference Bible, head on! It will separate believers like the “wheat from the chaff.”

THE TEN NATIONS OF THE FINAL BEAST EMPIRE

<i>Name of Nation Modern Location or People Group</i>		<i>Ancestry (Son of)</i>	
THE THREE POWER-BASE NATIONS			
Magog (or Rosh)		Germanic areas* (or Rep. of Russia)	Japhetic (Magog)
Meshech	Rep. of Russia, western U.S.S.R.†	Japhetic (Meshech)	
Tubal	Rep. of Russia, western U.S.S.R.†	Japhetic (Tubal)	
THE SEVEN SECONDARY NATIONS			
Babylon	Iraq	Semitic (Arpachshad)	Japhetic (Madai, Tiras)
Greece	Greece	Japhetic (Javan)	
Ethiopia	Ethiopia, including eastern Sudan	Hamitic (Cush)	
Put	Libya	Hamitic (Put)	
Gomer	Rep. of Ukraine, western U.S.S.R.†	Japhetic (Gomer)	
Togarmah	South-western U.S.S.R.†/eastern Turkey	Japhetic (Togarmah)	
*This includes areas in the former U.S.S.R. where there is a heavy Germanic ancestry. †All references to the U.S.S.R. are, in fact, references to the “former” U.S.S.R.			

In Ezekiel 38 we read, “*Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, and say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog.*” Ezekiel 38:2,3.

Gog is the leader, of Germanic-Aryan descent, who becomes the head over a “Ten Nation Confederacy.” The three power based nations are principally from Russia and Eastern Germany. The seven secondary nations are listed in Ezekiel 38:5, 6: Persia, Ethiopia, Libya, Gomer, Togarmah, including Greece, Iran and Iraq. (see front cover)

The Sixth Beast Empire listed in Nebuchadnezzar’s image was the legs of iron, or Rome. The Eighth Beast Empire is the 10 toes, or the final Gentile Empire.

What is the Seventh Beast Empire? “*And the other (Beast) is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.*” Rev. 17:10. Could this be referring to the reign of Hitler and the Third Reich? “Gog” will hate Jews, just like Vladimir Zhirinovskiy of Russia.

“And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her...The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.” Psalm 87:5-6.