



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)

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"SERPENTS" AND WHY ONE SHOULD "TAKE THEM UP"

By Gordon F. Nelson

Some things in scripture can only be understood by revelation. *"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."* (Matt. 11:25) *"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."* (1 Cor. 2:7-8)

While attending the First Covenant Church on the shores of Lake Merritt in Oakland, California, I was listening to a Bible teacher for the adult class. In the course of his teaching, he taught that several parts of the Bible should be omitted from scripture simply because they were not in "the most ancient manuscripts."

According to this graduate of Biola University, John 5:1-15 regarding "the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda," should be removed from scripture due to its absence in the most ancient manuscripts. Next, we were to take a penknife and cut out 1 John 5:8 out of the Bible for the same reason. *"And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."*

By this time, this "Doctor of Divinity" had my attention. What is going on? Then this D.D. (dead dog) attacked Mark 16:9-20. To my amazement, most Bibles vindicate this preacher by questioning this portion of scripture by inserting into their footnotes the following:

- The Scofield Bible states, "This passage from verse 9 to the end is not found in the two most ancient manuscripts, the Sinaitic and Vatican."
- The NIV states, "Verses 9-20 are not found in the two most ancient manuscripts, the Sinaitic and Vatican."

No one manuscript contained the whole of scripture! These Bibles are inflicting doubts in the mind of the believer relative to the authenticity of what God hath said. In turn, it becomes the message of the serpent, *"Yea, hath God said?"* (Gen. 3:1) (In the NIV, "Did God really say?")

I call this treatment of scripture “snakebite.” Why? Because when this preacher set about to eclipse Mark 16:9-20 with a similar treatment, I felt the bite of a rattlesnake in my lower leg. I could then feel the venom from that bite travel throughout my body. At the same time, my friend accompanying me felt he had drank “*the deadly thing*.” (Mk. 16:18) He had to run to the men’s room to vomit up this “deadly thing.”

From this experience, God taught me that it was my responsibility to “*take up (these two-legged) serpents*.” (Mk. 16:18) It has become a call upon my life to fulfill this responsibility.

Only believers have the authority from God to “take up serpents.” The serpent is a liar and the father of lies. These lies must be confronted, and this is now a calling upon my life that believers “*shall take up serpents (of the sea)*.” Just as the beast rises out of the sea (Rev. 13:1), so does the serpent. The sea meaning humanity.

#1 Serpent – Tom Patten

Hello! This is Gordon Hagglund (now Gordon Nelson¹), to you Pattenites who were on all night vigilantes to protect your properties from a suspected arsonist. Strange how these fires always came at tax time. They just happened to occur in the particular corner where all tax records were kept. Tom Patten and the dog were gone! Why was Peter Boy (the dog) taken from the house? The lady next door saw a man in a gray suit come out of the house. I never ever owned a gray suit, but Jerry Cage, a paid on-staff “yes-man” of Tom Patten, was never ever seen without a gray suit.

This Tom Patten plot to protect the congregation from a “fire-bug” caused Linda G., the student body president, to call the entire Bible College together to pray that God would kill me. On that very day, my wife-to-be left the Bible College with this testimony, “Now I know they are all nuts!”

The Patten’s needed a scapegoat. I became that scapegoat simply because I went to the District Attorney over the sale of our church to the Moose Lodge. C. (for Cash) Thomas Patten gave us his word that, “The hinges will rust off the doors before I’d ever sell our church!” We believed him. He added insult to injury by further stating, “Why, I’ve fixed it up legally to where I can never sell this church.” How could we believe this ex-felon, guilty of car theft and transporting cars across the state line, who had lost his right to vote? Tom would claim personal friendship with high-ranking Republicans at the time, such as Senator Knowland. The irony was that it was illegal for him to vote.

When the Oakland Tribune first reported the sale of the church to the Moose Lodge for approximately one-half million dollars, and he paid only one-quarter million dollars, Tom Patten forgot

¹ I hired a lawyer, Alfred Nelson, to have my family name changed from Hagglund to Nelson on August 26, 1956.

his pledges to the congregation. This one act opened my eyes to the antics of a high profile con artist. Tom's word meant absolutely nothing! The Kingfish, as he enjoyed being called, was actually making mockery of the "suckers" who believed! Patten accused the Tribune of persecuting the church by their reporting of the sale of the City Club to the Moose Lodge.

We were sheep believing in the words of our shepherd. Jesus described us as the *"blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."* (Matt. 15:14) My testimony changed after the sale of the City Club to that of another blind man's testimony in scripture, *"Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see."* (Jn. 9:25) I was blind for five years!

Remember, I am praying for you *"other sheep...which are not of this fold"* (Jn. 10:16), but are blind sheep following a one-man-show, void of "governments that God hath set in the church." (1 Cor. 12:28) Those of you who are following a man as though he were God, are in this same predicament.

The Kingfish lived by the adage, "If you have plenty of money and smart lawyers, you can do anything and get by." This particular lifestyle had only one condition. One must own a non-profit religious incorporation given by the Secretary of the State to any three people, usually consisting of a pastor, his wife and their son. Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) is a present day example of this. It is another tower into the heavens! At the time Patten said this publicly, we never thought it included rape of Bebe's own choirgirls.

Don't you think it is ironic that twin babies would be birthed at the time of the longest criminal trial in the history of Alameda County? Were these test tube babies to avoid prosecution by the state? After the rape of a beautiful 17-year-old, Carol R., Dr. Bebe Patten had Tom "fixed" so he could no longer impregnate another of her choirgirls. Carol had to leave school and move to Seattle to have her baby. Betty B., my class president, who was fifteen at the time, gave me the story of her rape by Tom Patten. "I threatened him with a lawsuit, but was told, 'Go ahead and get your lawyer, but first pull out the trunk from under the bed you're seated on.'" Betty pulled out the trunk that was full of jewelry, rings, gold coins, and diamonds. The Kingfish, attired in his usual hand-tooled cowboy boots, told Betty, "I'll buy your lawyer out!" It looked like a Captain Kidd's pirate treasure. (I'll bet the IRS knew nothing about this treasure.)

Tom Patten had bellowed from the platform, like a Goliath of old, "If you have plenty of money, and smart lawyers, you can do anything and get by." His words had hardly left his mouth and God spoke to me as a student in the Patten Bible College, "And you're going to stop him!" I pondered those words in

my heart. I didn't have a bundle of money or a battery of lawyers, but God used me as a little David to cut the giant's head off!

Whenever one is called upon by God to obtain an accounting of the money stolen from the people, he becomes a type of Jesus who overturned the moneychanger's tables in the temple. This is when they plotted the death of Christ. *"And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him."* (Mk. 11:18)

I was visited at night on two occasions with sugar put in my gas tank. Both engines were completely destroyed. After the second visit, I moved to Sutter Creek, CA.

It was while Patten's inquiry was before the grand jury that a hit and run driver, missing me by ¼ inch, hit my wife. It sounded like she was shot out of a cannon, landing 62 feet from the crosswalk. Don't ever attempt to pick up snakes unless you are prepared to die. It is only the grace of God I reached the age of 82, and many of these other varmints are dead.

When one owns one of these three-name non-profit incorporations issued by the Secretary of State, one attains unto "godhood," virtual *"lords over God's heritage."* (1 Pet. 5:3) One can do anything and get by.

The Patten Foundation, Inc. consisted of only three members. These were all that had a legal right to vote.

1. Dr. Bebe H. Patten
2. Carl Thomas Patten
3. Mary Martha Hawley

It required only two of these three to agree to sell the City Club Hotel and the motion was carried. "The door swings both ways, and you can swing right out of here." I heard those same words from the mouth of Dr. Cecil J. Lowry, an Assembly of God preacher, as came from Tom Patten. Pastor Lowry, an anti-Semitic, married a student of the Assemblies of God Bible College he was made a president over.

Azusa Street Outpouring! – 1906!

The Azusa Street outpouring of God's Holy Ghost was introduced to the city of Los Angeles by Brother William Joseph Seymour, a black minister. The hunger for more of God was ignited in the heart of Brother Seymour, both by reading about the great Welsh revival under Evan Roberts and from a white minister, Charles Parham in Houston, Texas. As a black student, he had to stand in the hallway to hear about these "tongues of fire." He opened his Old Glory Barn Church in a section of town that was not as color line conscious as was Houston. Pentecostalism, as it was birthed in Los Angeles, was

definitely a black man's visitation from God. "Blacks and whites worked together in apparent harmony under the direction of a black pastor for eight years, a marvel in the days of Jim Crow segregation." ²

The whites within the movement surrendered to the all-black leadership from the time the revival started in 1906 until William Durham, with his Finished Work theology, formed their own organization called The Assemblies of God in 1914. In seeking the type of government that should rule each church in this newly formed organization, the founders looked to Washington DC's democracy. This type of government was destined for failure from the beginning.

Dr. Cecil J. Lowry would never be a "hireling"

When I confronted Dr. Cecil J. Lowry on his three-name non-profit religious incorporation, he told me, "I would never pastor a church set up the way the Assemblies of God set them up. I am a preacher. I am called to preach. But under the Assemblies of God system, I could be voted out next week."

William Durham should have looked into scripture instead of the good old American way, with every member getting a vote; or Laodicea (people rule) democracy. Many of these early preachers would preach for \$40 and eight chickens a month.

The system of government devised by William Durham was the "hireling" system described by our Lord in John 10:12-13. The Assemblies of God produced Bible Colleges that produced more hirelings for the field to fill the various pulpits as they vacated them for whatever reason.

Introduction of the wolf! Who is he?

The only thing with Brother Durham's system was he never made allowance for the wolf. A hireling is no match for the wolf. As in the biblical account, the wolf will come. *"But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming."* The hireling is no hero: he fleeth! *"The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep."* (Jn. 10:12-13)

Carl Thomas Patten was the wolf, along with his wife Dr. Bebe Harrison Patten. What could the Assemblies of God do when the wolf showed up in Oakland, California? Nothing! William Durham never dreamed of these 20th century wolves invading cities with "big-time religion." Only Jesus Christ, the true Shepherd, can deal with a wolf.

Dr. Cecil J. Lowry was another wolf that brought big-time religion to Oakland, California. Only this wolf came in sheep's clothing (ordination papers of the Assemblies of God). He was the former president of an Assemblies of God Bible College. Oakland, California seemed to be enthralled with wolves.

² Log on to <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/2000/001/3.17.html>

Rev. Kenneth Logie was another wolf in Oakland.

Jimmy Swaggart and Jim Bakker were both ordained in sheep's clothing carrying credentials from Springfield, Missouri. Your little hireling preacher that agrees to preach to you for \$40 a week is over! That type of Assemblies of God minister can't survive any longer. The wolves have taken over!

Can't anyone see that this greed and power of the boob-tube (television) is going to bring persecution? *"And my people love to have it so."* (Jer. 5:31)

Just how do we get any control over these wolves who are answerable only to God and the IRS? Doesn't anyone care?

The Secretary of State (interested in collecting taxes) has further complicated the problem by granting any three people (usually blood-related) these non-profit religious incorporations that legalize the wolf's adventures into the kingdom of God.

Nimrod, a backslidden evangelist!

Nimrod was a backslidden evangelist. God had said to Noah's generation coming off the ark, *"Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth."* (Gen. 9:1) This was the great commission from God to Nimrod. Aimee Semple McPherson was a great evangelist that chose rather to build a name for herself and a tower (Angeles Temple) into the heavens. She backslid in the building of the tower and the settling down as a pastor.

Reinhard Bonnke is continuing to evangelize, but whenever he chooses to quit evangelizing and settle down to making a name for himself, he will meet the same fate. *"No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."* (Lk. 9:62) *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mk. 16:15) is an order! Jesus' command is to go!

In scripture, only apostles could found a church. Evangelists were then used to build up these churches, all founded by the apostles. Titus 1:5, *"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders"* – to form a "presbuteros" to rule the church.

Church at Antioch is our example (not Springfield, MO)!

The Bible commands us to *"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."* (Jude 3) If we were Bible believers, we would soon realize that the church at Antioch, from which the Apostle Paul was weaned, is the example for us to contend for. Five different men were the overseers and ministers in this church. *"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost"* made his appearance. (Acts 13:2) Now we are ready to have church!

These wolves (in sheep's clothing) prepare hearts to receive the beast. All the wolf will accomplish is to prepare your heart for the coming Antichrist. He will soon appear on Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). He will know the scriptures!

We live in a day that Ezekiel declared the prophets would prophecy like the foxes of the desert. *"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word."* (Ezk. 13:3-6)

You would think we were listening to many of the prophets that have prophesied "good things" unto you on TBN. In this day of prophecy, I will make a prophecy: The Antichrist's premier introduction to the world will be over Paul and Jan Crouch's TBN. The stage is being set and no one can reverse it. The Bible says, *"all the world wondered after the beast."* (Rev. 13:3) What greater way for world acceptance than over a one-man-show, TBN?

The final decision on whether or not to host the Antichrist on Christian worldwide television will rest solely in the hands of one man, Paul Crouch. He is already following in the footsteps of Billy Graham by his compromise with the World Council of Churches. Why shouldn't he go the extra mile? Is it any wonder, as we see the days of the Gentiles coming to a close that a remnant would be looking to the Jew for guidance?

Zechariah prophesies, *"For thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men* (Why ten? It is the total rejection of our three; the pastor, his wife, and their son form of government)*...shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew* (Custom of a minyan of ten men to build a synagogue, thus repenting of the Gentile custom of making one man to be king over the church), *saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you."* (Zech. 8:23)

The ten men represent the Jewish minyan. Gentiles reject the government as given by the Secretary of State and take hold of the skirt of a Jew. They take hold of his skirt by invoking the same government that the Jew enjoys in his synagogue, that of a ten-man rule, or the "presbuteros" of scripture. Thus, the presbuteros is finally birthed among a remnant of Gentiles!

Why Not Women is a book Benny Hinn is advertising on his telecast. Jesus chose twelve, and not one was a woman. In the Jewish minyan there is not a single woman. In scripture there is no evidence of any apostle or any elder being a woman. The scripture says, *"Let the elders that rule."* (1 Tim. 5:17)