



The Plumbline

Assessing Current Teachings, Issues and Events with Scripture

Signs That Make One Wonder

Signs and wonders have always been claimed in the church. In the middle ages signs and wonders were usually related to apparitions of the Virgin Mary. It wasn't until the latter part of the 19th century that the sign phenomena began to be noted again. Alexander Dowse and Mary Woodworth-Etter, (the "trance evangelist"), being examples. The Pentecostal move at the turn of the 20th century emphasized healing and the spiritual gifts. But in more recent times John Wimber and his Vineyard movement chose signs and wonders as the focal point of their movement. Wimber's ministry and movement attained notoriety in a church growth class he team taught at Fuller Seminary on signs and wonders with C. Peter Wagner. Wimber's signs and wonders were, however, limited to healing, slain in the Spirit, halo's designating those to be healed and warm sensations etc. Wimber proceeded to found the Vineyard movement. It was Vineyard pastor John Arnott that sparked the Toronto Blessing. Wimber surprisingly became uncomfortable with the excesses at Toronto and also with certain aspects of the Kansas City Prophets. He assumed leadership the Kansas City Prophetic and it became the Metro Vineyard of Kansas City. About this time Bob Jones, a prophet and seer at Kansas City, was sidelined because he used his so called prophetic seer ministry to influence ladies to disrobe before the Lord etc. Jones was given a behind the scenes ministry but never was actually disciplined. Jones was resurrected by Todd Bentley. It is interesting that a number of Vineyard pastors have been the ones to go beyond Toronto and are now into The Extreme Prophetic movement with yet more bizarre and strange supernatural phenomena. More Later.

This extreme Signs and Wonders movement has dramatically expanded the current list of signs and wonders. Pat King, a prophetess and seer, has even named her website the "Extreme Prophetic." Her website is aptly named indeed. Benny Hinn's swinging coat routine and even Rick Joyner's trips to heaven are fast becoming "old hat" and passé among the sign seekers. Signs and wonders have gone from the days of the horse buggy to grand prix autos in the last 18 months. Pat King (formerly Pat Cocking and convert from the new age) could be a good introduction to the Extreme Prophetic. I don't know where to begin. Let's begin with her trance trips to the third heaven with Bob Jones and Todd Bentley. Then there are the "orbs" which are apparently little white round phenomena appearing in some meetings and when anyone touches them they turn into angels. Of course falling angel feathers and gemstones and gold and sapphire dust now appear to be quite normal. Pat tells of riding on the wings of an angel through the heavens. This angel had brown feathers, a sort of an oddity. She has introduced exstasis trance dancing. She is also important in that she mothered, tutored and commissioned Todd Bentley. It has been Todd Bentley who brought the extreme prophetic to national and international attention, thanks to Rory and Wendy Alec and their GODTV providing international 24/7 telecasting of all things extreme prophetic.

Todd Bentley

Todd Bentley was born Jan 10, 1976 in BC. Canada. His parents were divorced. His past is checkered by satanic worship, drugs, criminal burglary, abuse of his deaf mother, and a member of a sexual abuse ring. (News Magazine (4-30-2001 Rich Hiebert). By his own admission he was arrested for sexual molestation of a minor. He was reported to have been totally delivered of this life style by a very dramatic deliverance of a demonic force. At the age of 22 he took over leadership of a ministry group called Fresh Fire. He was tutored and commissioned by another Canadian Pat King. He was schooled in all the extreme phenomena

of Pat King and others in that circle. He learned early how to induce visions and related phenomena by the use of what he called the "third eye." (An occult term). "We have to see with our "third eye." This eye is on the inside in our imagination. I have showed you this eye in Ephesians 1. There it is called the eyes of our understanding... You see things with the eyes of your heart." (Stirring up wisdom and revelation) Todd Bentley, Nov. 20, 2008.) Through all the stories of astral travels and angelic encounters, we must make careful note that this is all an imaginary exercise. Bob Jones, in a bizarre discussion with Bentley and Pat King describes his daily trips to the third heaven. He teaches that one can just go anytime. Jones asserts that it is important to go regularly to the third heaven. He says that when one goes through the second heaven on the way to the 3rd heaven, the "hooks" (flesh and the devil) fall away and when arriving in the 3rd heaven angels greet you.... He talks about people seeing colors in the 3rd heaven. He says, however, the children he "takes up" see all things in white... There are also great fragrances in the third heaven. Jones thinks the fragrance is that of vanilla. Back here on earth Bob Jones has located the area of the seer anointing. Jones says: "anointing works in the Kidneys and the fat"... "Wanna see someone (a prophet) preserve an anointing? Pray for their kidneys!" (Bentley, Lakeland Revival, April 11, 2008) This is interesting because Jones himself has kidney failure and needs dialysis. If Jones anointing is in his kidneys does he have to have dialysis in order to minister? How can any believer actually accept this man?

On April 2 - 08 Todd Bentley arrived at Stephen Strader's Ignited Church in Lakeland FL. to lead a one week series of meetings. "These meetings mushroomed to the point that a stadium was needed to hold the throngs of people attending from all over the world." (Abridged and sourced from Deception Bytes Portrait of a wolf.) Bentley continually made wild reports of angels visitations and visits to heaven to numerous to list here. One of his angels was named Emma, a female angel, and deserves special mention. Emma first appeared to Bentley in an AOG church in Buelah N.D. "An angel glided in... The angel floated a couple of inches off the floor emitting a brilliant light and colors. The Angel was releasing from heaven bags of gold..." (Todd Bentley's angels, Wolf Tracks) This angel spoke with Bentley and said she was the same angel that was active earlier with the Kansas City Prophets. Increasingly, Bentley's ministry became more absurd. On one occasion he said that the Spirit told him to kick a lady on stage. Other times he would yell "bam bam" and knee people etc. He was surely the first healer to use many of the moves of Wrestle Mania violence. Bam Bam knew these moves were from the wrestling world and referred to it as such. Bentley invited Bob Jones, the disgraced prophet from Kansas City, to his Lakeland meeting. He also brought Paul Cain, the reputed greatest prophet since Branham to Lakeland, knowing that he was an unrepentant alcoholic and practicing homosexual, who refused restoration by Joyner and others.

At some point Stephan Strader, an ICA apostle under Wagner of the Ignited Church Lakeland Fl., apparently contacted Wagner urging an apostolic intervention. Bentley was only loosely related to the Wagner's International Coalition of Apostles (ICA). Wagner relates receiving a word from the Lord and the word was "alignment." Wagner, never having met Todd Bentley, arranged to make an "Apostolic alignment." On July 23 Wagner appeared with others from the Revival Alliance (a subsidiary of ICA) and stated "I preside over the ICA with over 500 apostles world wide. This is a ceremony celebrating the formal apostolic alignment of Todd Bentley." Wagner even gave him an apostolic ring. Other prophets took turns prophesying over Todd Bentley on stage for the world to see. Bill Johnson prophesied "We shape the course of history by partnering with you... I pray the measure of glory would increase so that Moses would no longer be considered the high water mark when glory shown from his face.... Rick Joyner then referred to Todd Bentley's "portal anointing" a reference to being able to open portals to heaven for two-way traffic for angels and humans. Stacy Campbell a prophetess since Toronto days began to prophesy. It was disturbing to watch because she both hissed loudly and violently shook her head side to side while giving a very clear prophesy. At one point she compared Bentley to Moses. The irony of all this is that in mere weeks the debauchery of Bentley's alcoholism on stage and his on-going affair off stage would suddenly become known to all. August 23 it was all over. The staff and people surrounding his ministry had known for sometime that Bentley was having an affair with his former live-in nanny, Jessa Hasbrook. Bentley abruptly left the revival. Many of the ICA prophets were publicly upset with this fiasco and more so the fiasco of the so-called alignment. Later Bentley got a quickie divorce in Las Vegas and

promptly married Jessa. The fact is that Bentley had a sexual dalliance some years earlier during his marriage which was then called a "sabbatical." Bill Johnson admits his knowledge of this "sabbatical". This further makes the current supposed restoration all the more suspect. Wouldn't it have been better for his handlers to insist that his second marriage be annulled and that he return to his wife and children until he worked it out? But Bill Johnson, Rick Joyner and Jack Deere decided to put Bentley on a fast track to restoration. Nevertheless, a number of Wagner's apostles began to go public with criticism. Lee Grady, the editor of Charisma magazine, resigned his ICA apostleship and began a public battle of words with Joyner. Grady states: "I am waiting to hear the sound of sackcloth ripping to shreds. We should be weeping. We should be rending our hearts." (Charismag.com "The Scandal of Greasy Grace.")

Nevertheless, Johnson, Joyner and Deere decided to push on with the restoration and are determined to bring him back to public ministry as soon as possible. Perhaps to be a part of a prophesied outpouring in California. But Bentley's hasty divorce and remarriage to Jessa are not easy to spin away. One is reminded of Aimee, Semple, McPherson in the 20's who disappeared for a 3 month affair with Kenneth Ormiston and returned to her ministry in a matter of months She, however, never was able to put the affair behind her.

As noted in the last Plumblin, a whole host of new recruits are circling the globe professing the most wild incredible and even goofy signs and wonders. Sid Roth on God TV recently interviewed someone claiming a "shofar" anointing. "He purportedly blows the shofar over the area of sickness and they are healed. As bizarre as these phenomena, appear, there is another ministry that includes all this and goes further. It is John Crowder and the Sons of Thunder also called the New Mystics

John Crowder and the Sons of Thunder

John Crowder was born into a Bible belt Pentecostal family. But in his teens he turned to alcohol and drugs and became totally "whacked" on drugs continually. In a bar and on an acid trip "my eyes were opened to the spiritual world (as opposed to the demonic). He became "buzzed" in the presence of the Lord. Soon he was aware of knowing things and the thoughts of people. He relates visions, and angelic encounters. John believes that the kingdom or glory realm is always accessible here on earth. The way into this "glory" realm is mystical trance experiences. Consequently when he speaks he appears drugged out and is often incoherent. Being a child of the drug culture he uses ideas and terms from the drug culture to illustrate and describe his trance/glory realm experiences. Crowder and the Sons of Thunder lead with their mystical/trance experiences. It is their calling card and their claim to fame. It is interesting that Toronto used the paradigm of being drunk in the spirit. Crowder and the new mystics see their ministry as comparable to a drug experience. The sons of thunder always talk of getting "whacked" on the glory. They speak of "taking (a drug culture word for smoking Marijuana) the (holy) ghost" as they pretend to inhale with their fingers. This is a way of getting "whacked" with the glory. They speak of "jehovauana; other drug phrases like "Godka" etc.... The goal is to get stoned on the glory. The meeting usually ends up in a free for all, a melee of people becoming tranced out in trance dancing (extasis dancing), all in a stupor of glory. If you want to observe this just go to google and access John Crowder. If Rodney Howard Brown was the Holy Host bartender, Crowder and company are drug dealers for the Holy Spirit. Crowder and others now speak of "Bi-location." In this they are not talking of out of body astral travel, but of being in two locations at once. Crowder describes one of his time travel experiences. Crowder describes his time travel to one of Branham's meetings in 50's. "I began to float down. My body literally went through the ceiling. As I was hovering...and came past the pulpit, Branham turned toward me and threw a lighting bolt right at me."(Website, End Times Prophetic). Not only do the Crowderites smoke spiritual marijuana, they smoke from a cross pipe. Anything to access the trance-glory altered state of consciousness

Ben and Stephanie Dunn are normal ministry companions with Crowder. Benn and Crowder often appear on Utube talking to each other in drug induced manners. Dunn often leads ecstasy dancing. They have links with Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry at Bill Johnson's Bethel Church in Redding Ca. There

is a video on face book with Dunn crying over and over... "The ecstasy of salvation" as the students goes into a spiritual version of rave dancing. Georgian Banov from Eastern Europe is a frequent ministry companion for Crowder. He also visited BSSM Bethel and one student wrote in her face book, "we were all drunk in the glory all day." Crowder and co. are more goofy than genuine, more silly than sincere and more repulsive than reverent.

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson was pasturing an AOG church when Toronto arrived. After this he moved into full blown prophetic signs and wonders. After leaving the AOG, he moved even further into the extreme prophetic. He has managed to fly "under the radar." Part of this is a personal retiring and low key ministry. If Steve Schultz and the "Elijah List is the publicist of the extreme prophetic, Bill Johnson is the demure, enabler who endorses these signs. But he insists that he hasn't had any 3rd heaven trips even though he is very jealous. Don't let this retiring profile fool you. He ministers with and invites to his church and the Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry (BSSM) and endorses all of the most incredible practitioners both old and new including Pat King (extreme prophetic), Bob Jones, R.H. Howard Brown, Rick Joyner.

"Kenosis" Teaching of Johnson and Other Extreme Prophetics

Taking a queue from the word-faith teachers, Johnson in his book "Heaven Invades Earth" resorts to a false doctrine of "kenoticism." Some Word-teachers have long been teaching that Jesus divested his deity and came to earth as mere human being and was born-again in hell. Among Word Faith people it is called "identification teaching." The Kenosis heresy states that "Jesus divested himself of his divine attributes when he was incarnated. This heresy was first taught by a Lutheran theologian Gottfried Thorasius in the late 1800's. Philippians 2: 5-8 includes the Greek work "Kenosis" But "kenosis" does not teach that Jesus "emptied" Himself of divine attributes. Instead it speaks of his humility that moved him at the will of the Father to leave his majestic state in heaven to enter the humble state of a servant. Johnson shows his dependence on the Kenotic heresy when he states. "Jesus laid aside his divinity...the anointing Jesus received at his baptism was the equipment necessary to make it possible for Jesus to live beyond human limitations." (Johnson, "Heaven Invades Earth" p.79

It is as if Jesus left his divinity coat in heaven and put on a purely human coat at Bethlehem. Even Wimber, the signs and wonders preacher par-excellence, did not teach this kenotic theory and he got his Christology right. He stated: "It is that He (Jesus) took on humanity while remaining fully God. Ryan Wyatt, who ministers with Johnson, made this teaching of a purely human Jesus anointed by the Spirit even more explicit: "You see, Jesus did not do any miracles as God. He was certainly the Son of God, but He laid down his power as God and limited himself as human in the very same way that we are limited. The only difference between Jesus in his human life and us is that His life was completely yielded to the Holy Spirit." (Ryan Wyatt, "Birthing manifestations of the realm of heaven on earth. Elijah List 7/5/04.) This teaching of Jesus self-imposed limitation as only a man is presented as proof that if Jesus could do miracles as a man, so can you and I. Indeed Jesus had no sin and since we were cleansed from all sin by Jesus blood, thereby removing sin from our lives that would put us in the same position as Jesus in regard to our relationship with the Father. This teaching of Johnson and others is necessary for them as it allows them to apparently perform miracles as they please, providing they are anointed by the Spirit, as was Jesus. Consequently, they purport to "bring heaven to earth. But we agree with Bentley that the anointing is in the imagination or rather the kidneys as per Bob Jones. These stupendous visionary imaginations have reached astounding levels, but surely their imaginations have not been exhausted yet.

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