

The subversion of Christianity: what is religious fundamentalism?

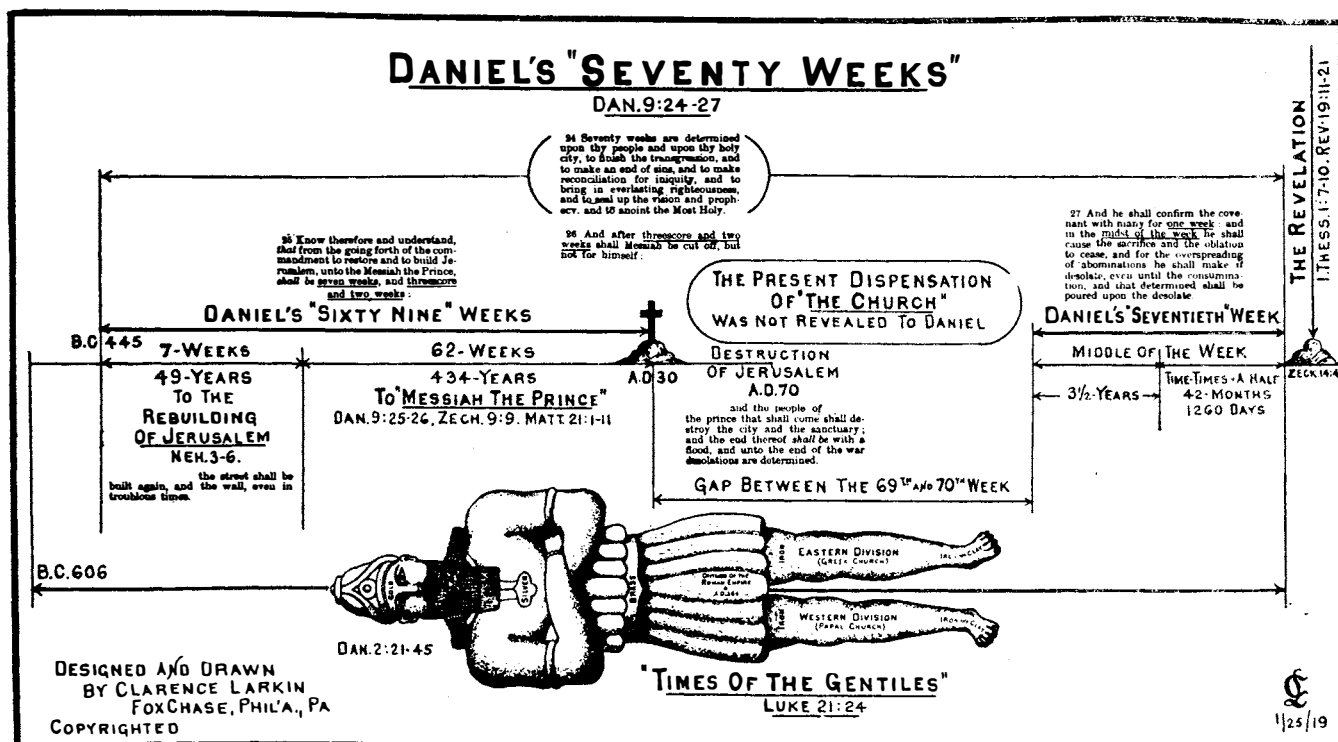
by Kathleen Klenetsky

"Frankly, no, it doesn't bother me that the rebuilding of the Temple will lead to an Arab-Israeli war. That's inevitable. But it's all right, because it's part of God's plan."

The speaker of these words is Chuck Smith, pastor of the Calvary Church in Costa Mesa, California, and an ardent political and financial supporter of the plot to rebuild the Temple of Solomon as a detonator of religious wars in the Mideast.

Smith's outlook is noteworthy not only for its implication that it is a religious *duty* for Christians to foment religious strife between Muslims and Jews, but because it is an outlook that is becoming increasingly prevalent among a significant segment of American fundamentalists and other conservative Christians.

Over the past decade, the American population, especially in the so-called Bible Belt which stretches across the South and Southwest, have been swamped by a deluge of "Biblical prophecy" propaganda. Predictions drawn from the prophetic books of the Bible, particularly Revelations and Daniel, that the world is now in the period of the "last days" and that Armageddon is just around the corner are daily transmitted over the air waves to millions of Americans by the fast-growing ranks of the so-called electronic evangelicals. Secular as well as church-related bookstores are stacked with such ominous titles as *World War III: Signs of the Impending Battle of Armageddon*; *Armageddon: Oil and the Middle East Crisis—What the Bible Says About the Future of the Middle East and the End of Western Civilization*; *The*



From a tract pointing to the "seventieth week" in which the Anti-Christ is supposed to appear, and "true believers" are rescued to "meet Christ in the air."

Final Countdown; and *Things to Come*. Meanwhile, crowds throng to the local movie theater when films about the Antichrist like *The Omen* and *Prophecy* are being shown.

Through this propaganda—all of it traceable to British Freemasonic sources—American fundamentalists and others are being whipped into a millenarian frenzy, and brain-washed into believing that they must *welcome* world financial collapse, war, and other catastrophes because these are signs of the imminent Second Coming of Christ!

Temple Mount and Armageddon

A conspicuous purveyor of this basically anti-Christian—and anti-Semitic—claptrap is Hal Lindsey, best-selling author of a number of “prophecy” books. His *Late Great Planet Earth* (1970) sold more than 18 million copies and was made into a movie that drew huge crowds. Its 1980 sequel, *The 1980s: Countdown to Armageddon*, gave detailed accounts of the events that are supposed to take place during the “last days.” Lindsey’s books have popularized the belief structure that has enabled the British to rope in a growing number of American fundamentalists and evangelicals into supporting their Temple Mount scheme.

Lindsey claims that the founding of the state of Israel in 1948 represented the “in-gathering of the Jews” supposedly identified by the Bible as the event signaling the onset of the “end times.” According to Lindsey and others of this school, the “end times” will be characterized by the following developments:

- The creation of the state of Israel, accompanied by increasing pressure on it by the Arab states and the Soviet Union.

- The rebuilding of Solomon’s Temple. As early as the late 1960s, Lindsey was stressing the Temple Mount project as the most important prelude to the fulfillment of other Biblical prophecies. “Obstacle or no obstacle,” he wrote in *The Late Great Planet Earth*, “it is certain that the Temple will be rebuilt. Prophecy demands it.”

- Increased political and economic turmoil in the world and a marked increase in plagues, famines, and other natural catastrophes.

- The development of a powerful 10-nation Mediterranean confederacy (identified by Lindsey as the European Community) and the concomitant decline of the United States as an economic, political, and military power. This confederacy will be led by a charismatic figure who will promise peace and prosperity, but will actually be the Antichrist or false Messiah. (Lindsey calls this figure “the future Führer,” which is significant in light of the fact that a “new Hitler” is indeed being cultivated by certain British and Swiss Masons.)

- The Antichrist will become a world dictator who will force through a one-world government and financial system. Lindsey identifies this as the program of the Trilateral Commission and the Bank for International Settlements.

- Israel will make a deal with the Antichrist in exchange for his protection against her enemies, but the Antichrist will

ultimately declare himself God and enthrone himself in the Temple. Under his reign, known as the “tribulation,” the Jews will be persecuted mercilessly.

- The Soviet Union and the Arab countries will then invade Israel, precipitating a worldwide nuclear conflict (Armageddon). Just before the world is destroyed, however, Christ will return to Earth and establish the millennium.

Is it really Christian?

Despite the claim to representing the peak of Christian belief, the Biblical interpretation practiced by Lindsey and others of his ilk is completely antithetical to the traditional Christian approach first articulated by St. Augustine. In his writings, the great Church father and foe of the cults explicitly warned against a too literal interpretation of the Bible.

Lindsey is no simple, misled fundamentalist kook, but is rather a high-level propagandist for British Freemasonry. He has traveled to Israel on behalf of the State Department, lectured at the American Air War College, and given seminars on “Biblical prophecy” to various intelligence agencies.

The clearest indication that what Lindsey is preaching is pure cultism is the implication that it is somehow wrong or sinful for man to try to prevent such evils as nuclear war and economic collapse because these are part of God’s plan. To call on Christians to help rebuild the Temple, even though this means inevitable war, or to assist the rise of the new Hitler, because these events supposedly fulfill Biblical prophecy, is an utter perversion of Judeo-Christian belief.

It is therefore rather telling that Lindsey explicitly identifies the Trilateral Commission, the Bank for International Settlements, and the “future Führer” as part of the “end times” scenario, since these are precisely the agencies and policies through which the British Freemasons intend to consolidate their hegemony. By citing them as part of God’s plan, Lindsey is effectively counseling those who want to be “good Christians” to accept them.

This brand of **fundamentalist is also anti-Semitic**. When the fundamentalists **claim to “love the Jews”** and to support the state of Israel, they are doing so simply because they see the Jews as playing a crucial part in the unfolding of the “last days.” Otherwise, their attitude toward Jews borders on contempt. As the Temple Mount Foundation’s Terry Risenhoover told an interviewer in January, “Between you and me, I have very little interest to know where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are buried. All that I am interested in doing is setting precedents, so that we can go into the Temple Mount, show the Arabs who’s boss, tunnel around underground, build our temple, and so forth.”

Moreover, under the doctrine known as the “rapture,” all “true Christians” will be physically removed from the earth *before* the so-called time of tribulation actually begins. In other words, while Israel is being subjected to invasion and war and its people to terrible persecution as part of the judgment against it for having rejected Christ, Christians will be safely watching from above. They will thus escape the terri-



Jeremy Rifkin, a left-wing ecologist who collaborates with evangelist Pat Robertson in a campaign against "hubris."

ble consequences of the Temple crisis.

Currently based at the Trinity Broadcasting Network, a California-based fundamentalist communications center, Lindsey used to work at the Dallas Theological Seminary, where he was first introduced to "Biblical prophecy."

British import

Founded in 1924 by leading fundamentalist theologians, Dallas Theological is the main repository for the teachings of John Nelson Darby, a 19th-century Anglican priest who did more than anyone to develop "Biblical prophecy" and spread it to the United States. Born into a wealthy, well-connected family with large landholdings in Ireland and England, Darby developed, during a sojourn in Switzerland, a prophecy-based system called "premillenarian dispensationalism." Although he drew heavily upon the writings of previous prophecy cultists, including occultist Sir Isaac Newton and two Jesuits, Frances Ribera and Manuel Lacunza, who had written extensively on Biblical prophecy, Darby added his own twists, including the notion of "the rapture."

Darby made seven trips to the United States between 1862 and 1877, traveling extensively and making contacts with many leading Protestant thinkers. His visits coincided with a growing split in American Protestantism between a liberal wing, which ultimately evolved into the National Council of Churches, and a conservative opposition. Darby's intervention helped ensure that the conservatives did not develop a philosophically Christian alternative to the liberals, but instead retreated into a position stressing literal Biblical truth and prophecy. This is the tendency which became known as fundamentalism during the early 1920s, and which was almost entirely a creation of British and Scottish networks. Dallas Theological is not only a key center for the dissemination of "Biblical prophecy," but also figures significantly in

the operational side of the Temple Mount project. Its president, Dr. John Walvoord—author of *The Rapture Question*, *The Nations in Prophecy*, *The Blessed Hope and the Tribulation*, *The Millennial Kingdom* and others—has been frequently cited as a collaborator by networks involved with Temple Mount. The school's faculty is peppered with graduates of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, and the University of Chicago—all centers for the creation of British-run cults—and its curriculum features courses on "Millennialism," "The Doctrine of the Rapture," "Interpretation of Prophecy," and "Messianic Prophecy."

A few of the many other groups involved in this operation:

TV evangelist Pat Robertson: Scion of a politically and socially prominent Virginia family, Robertson runs the largest noncommercial broadcasting network in the world, the Virginia Beach, Virginia-based Christian Broadcasting Network. It reaches more than 75 percent of all homes with televisions in the United States and more than 30 countries overseas, including Central America and the Mideast. Robertson's daily TV show and his monthly newsletter *Perspectives* regularly deal with Biblical prophecy. In the February/March 1980 issue of *Perspectives*, for example, Robertson writes that "The events in modern Europe have great prophetic significance, setting the stage for the reign of Antichrist, and one final battle, Armageddon. . . . We must conclude that there is a man alive today, approximately 27 years old, who is being groomed to be the Satanic messiah." Robertson has recently been focusing attention on the Temple Mount. He has been a major supporter of Major Haddad, the Israeli-backed Lebanese fascist, and also figured significantly in the operation that brought Efraim Rios Montt into power in Guatemala.

Jerry Falwell: Best-known as the head of Moral Majority, Falwell also runs a far-flung communications empire

from his home base in Lynchburg, Virginia. An outspoken supporter of Israel's Menachem Begin and the Gush Enumin, Falwell is linked to the Temple Mount operation through the Religious Roundtable, a group established in 1979 to coordinate the political activities of fundamentalist religious groups. The Roundtable was the brainchild of **Paul Weyrich**, founder of the KGB- and British-intelligence-linked Heritage Foundation and a member of oligarchic pseudo-Catholic networks suspected of complicity in the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II.

The broader picture: the new age

The fanatic interest in Biblical prophecy is one important strain of the British-spawned religious revival which America has been undergoing over the last decade. Characterized by irrationalism and emotionalism, pessimism about the ability of man to improve his condition on earth, and an implicit bias against science and technology, this religious upswing is part of the revolt against reason and decline into bestiality epitomized by Iran's Khomeini and Guatemala's Rios Montt.

Following the model of the rulers of ancient Babylon and Rome, the British oligarchy has consistently used perverted forms of religion to enforce cultural and economic backwardness. No matter what their other trappings, all these cult forms have rejected the central tenet of Judeo-Christian belief: that man is made in the image of God and brings himself into atonement with his maker by participating in an ongoing, universal creative process. The current wave of American fundamentalism is no exception.

Like the other "Great Awakenings" which have marked American history (including that of the 1820s which led to the disastrous election of Andrew Jackson), the one we are now witnessing is intended to precipitate a fundamental shift in American political and economic life, while abetting such specific tactical objectives as the Temple Mount project.

The British organ *The Economist* announced in an April 5, 1980 editorial that the purpose of this new "Great Awakening" is to induce Americans to accept sharp reductions in their material standard of living, under the guise of a return to spiritual values. Hailing the "vigorous revival of religious belief" in the United States and comparing it favorably to the rise of Islamic fundamentalism under Khomeini, the editorial intoned that it "could lead to anything from a . . . blearing of intellectual clarity to, at worst, the totalitarianism of the spirit which produced the mass-suicide at Jonestown in Guyana in 1978." But, said *The Economist*, this "should not conceal the essence of what is happening: which is that a stubbornly renewed demand for access to non-material values is generating the supply to meet that demand. This could be the beginning of something fairly spectacular . . . a fresh period of history may be emerging; and this religious revival may mean that another resurrection, in a sense, is at hand."

Other British-linked operatives have elaborated at length on what kind of "New Age" is supposed to emerge out of America's latest "Great Awakening." In his 1979 book, *The Emerging Order: God in an Age of Scarcity*, Club of Rome

operative Jeremy Rifkin predicted that the ongoing religious revival would cast aside the injunction in Genesis for man to gain dominion over nature in favor of a "new conservation covenant" in which man would no longer be the most divine of God's creations, but would have the same value and rights as a rock.

Rifkin stated that evangelical scholars now believe that "what God has created is fixed," and that "anything that undermines the 'fixed' purpose and order that God has given to the natural world is also sinful and an act of rebellion. . . . It is also hubris to believe," Rifkin continued, "that people can reorder the world and redefine its purposes to suit their own whims and fancies." This, says Rifkin, means that the entire industrial revolution was sinful, and that only a "steady-state economy"—i.e., zero growth—is not.

Though considered a left-winger, Rifkin has appeared frequently on Pat Robertson's 700 Club, and views Robertson as a fellow-thinker in the area of economics. For his part, Robertson recently preached to his TV audience that U.S. basic industry should be allowed to die, because it is a "dinosaur" that has outlived its usefulness. The Rifkin-Robertson convergence underscores how successful the British oligarchy has been thus far in using false religion to usher in a new Dark Age.

People who say they are archaeologists announce new discoveries bearing on the location of the ancient Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. Then, the West Bank explodes in violence

When *EIR* first broke the results of its investigation it became front-page news in Europe and the Middle East. Now, we know more.

- Who is behind the Jerusalem Temple Foundation, whose objective is to bring Armageddon to the world?
- What do elite Scottish-Rite Freemasons in London have to do with West Bank land purchases, animal sacrifices in Jerusalem, the "Islamic fundamentalists" in the Arab world, and the arming of Protestant cults in America?
- Why is an official investigation by the U.S. executive and legislative branches immediately warranted?

Those questions are addressed in the *EIR* Special Report:

THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE MOUNT: TRIGGER FOR FUNDAMENTALIST HOLY WARS

\$500.00 Available from *EIR*'s Special Services Department, (212)247-8820