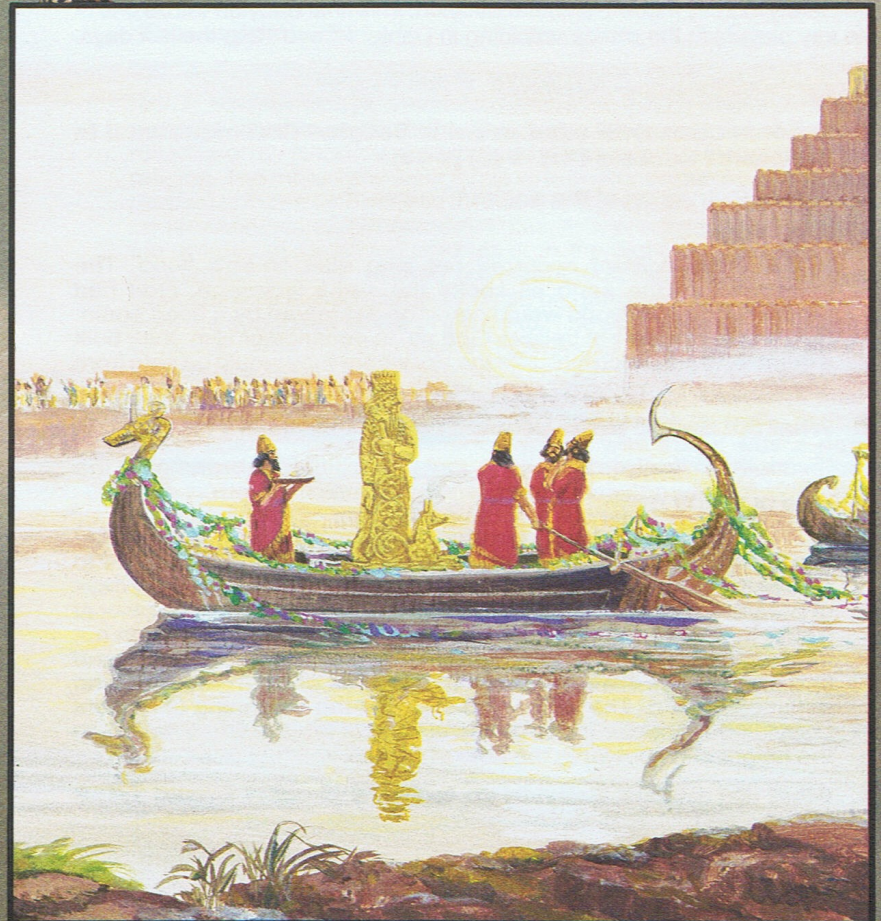




PROPHECY SEMINAR



BABYLON THE GREAT

Bible texts in this lesson are primarily quoted from New King James Version
copyright Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Copyright 1989 and 1994 by SEMINARS UNLIMITED. Christian ethics dictate that this
material not be copied without written permission.

The book of Revelation indicates that, in the last days, a modern Babylon will arise, similar to ancient Babylon and equally devastating in its impact upon the people of God (it might be well to review Lesson 7). In this lesson, we will study exciting things. We will explore the kind of power ancient Babylon was, and then carefully examine spiritual Babylon of the book of Revelation. We will clearly identify modern spiritual Babylon. This final Babylon will be one of the key players in the drama unfolding in Daniel 11 and 12 in the last days.

**1. In connection with what event is Babylon first mentioned in Scripture?
Genesis 11:1-9**

NOTE: This incident occurred not long after Noah's flood. The inhabitants of the earth all spoke the same language. God had promised that the world would never be destroyed by a flood again. But the people did not believe God so, in defiance of Him, they built a great tower to reach high into the sky where they would be safe from any flood that would ever come again.

"From there the Lord _____ them abroad over
the face of all the earth."

3. What did ancient Babylon do to God's people? Daniel 1:1, 2

NOTE: As we have already studied, Babylon is the power that took Daniel and the Jewish people into captivity. Thus the second characteristic of ancient Babylon was that it persecuted and sought to destroy God's people.

[illegible]

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper designed as a notebook page. At the top, there is a horizontal band of light blue color. Centered within this band is the text "~ NOTES ~" written in a black, serif font. Below the blue header, the rest of the page is white and filled with evenly spaced horizontal grey lines, providing space for writing.

NOTE: Here we find Belshazzar taking the sacred vessels consecrated to the worship of Jehovah, pouring wine into them, and drinking to the gods of Babylon. Here is another defiling act of Babylon, as she mixes elements of the worship of God with pagan worship. Thus the third characteristic of ancient Babylon was this mixture of truth and error, of paganism and the worship of God.

NOTE: Ancient Babylon even had its own prophets who professed to interpret dreams and visions. They were the brain trust of Babylon, relied upon by Nebuchadnezzar and all the rulers of Babylon for their religion. The magicians were those who practiced magic. The astrologers were those who studied the stars to find out the future or to better understand human behaviour. At times, they predicted the future from the entrails of sacrificed animals or in the flight of birds. They also interpreted dreams, worked out incantation formulas by which evil spirits or sicknesses allegedly could be banished, and asked advice from the supposed spirits of the dead. The sorcerers were those who professed to be able to produce magic spells. "Chaldeans" referred to a class of scholars who had laced their scholarship with spiritualistic phenomena. Each of these four groups utilized spiritualistic phenomena as a basis for their understanding and search for truth. Thus the fourth characteristic of ancient Babylon was that it was a power controlled by Spiritism. In fact, it was the spiritualistic bent of these men that kept ancient Babylon together. Babylon was not alone in the ancient world in utilizing spiritualistic phenomena; most ancient pagan nations were spiritualistic powers.

- 1) It was defiant and rebellious toward God.
- 2) It persecuted the worshippers of the true God.
- 3) It mixed truth with error, paganism with the worship of God.
- 4) It was held together by spiritualistic worship.

These characteristics, found in ancient Babylon, will be found again in modern spiritual Babylon.

MODERN BABYLON

3

Revelation 17:1-6

"The great _____ who sits on many waters."

7. What is the great harlot called? Revelation 17:5

"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE _____
OF _____ AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF
THE EARTH."

NOTE: Here is the modern re-enactment of ancient Babylon. The Bible indicates that in the last days there will be a revival of Babylonian-style power. Let's notice how the four characteristics of ancient Babylon are found in its modern counterpart.

8. How does the Bible describe modern Babylon? Revelation 17:3

"I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names
_____."

NOTE: The Bible describes modern Babylon as blasphemous. Blasphemy is a defiant and rebellious claim that clearly resembles the rebellious and defiant claims of the builders of the tower of Babel. What the builders of the tower of Babel did was blasphemy. Likewise, modern Babylon blasphemes God in her defiance and rebellion against the Word of God.

9. What does modern Babylon do to the saints of God? Revelation 17:6

She was "drunk with the _____ of the saints and with
The _____ of the martyrs of Jesus".

NOTE: Modern spiritual Babylon will persecute God's people as verily ' as did ancient Babylon.

10. How does Revelation describe the acts of modern Babylon? Revelation 17:2

"The kings of the earth committed _____, and the inhabitants
of the earth were made _____ with the wine of her
fornication."

NOTE: Revelation describes this power as a fornicating, adulterous power. Adultery is an illicit relationship. Obviously, this is not talking about physical adultery or fornication, but spiritual adultery. Spiritual adultery is a mixture of truth with error, or paganism with Christianity. It is putting together two things that don't belong together. Just as ancient Babylon mixed truth with error, so its modern counterpart has mixed truth with error, paganism with Christianity.

11. With what is modern Babylon filled? Revelation 18:2

worship and praise." But there was a couple visiting that night from New York. The man stood and introduced himself. He said, "I have visited Pentecostal meetings several times, but I have never before heard anyone speaking in tongues. I came tonight because I wanted to hear what it was like. I am Italian, and that message was in Italian. But instead of 'I am God,' as the interpreter said, the message actually was, 'I am Satan — I am your lord and master.'"—pp. 108, 109.

This should make Christians extremely cautious about having anything to do with a movement with such a heavy emphasis on spiritualistic phenomena, in light of what the Bible has predicted Satan will attempt to do in the last days.

Revelation 13 continues by stating that these false miracles, signs, wonders and tongues will give authenticity to the movement until it finally has the influence and credibility to form an image to the beast. The beast was a union of church and state. The image to the beast will be an American union of church and state. Revelation 13 states that it is these miracles, signs and tongues that bring this about. It is extremely important for Christians to watch the ever-increasing developments as the current charismatic revival seeks to become more political.

Having said all this, we must still remember that this is unfulfilled prophecy. Until the prophecy is completely fulfilled we cannot speak with full certainty. However, the Biblical picture of Spiritism, uniting Protestants and Catholics into the final great apostasy, **will** happen. In light of what we see happening in the charismatic world today, Christians would be well advised to watch the developments carefully as they help bring about the final fulfilment of Revelation 13.

The issue that will separate the true from the false in the last days will be obedience to the Word of God and its truth, or acceptance of this false spiritualistic power. They will say that God is with them when they keep Sunday because of the gift of tongues and the miracles which give them credibility. But the solemn warning is that those who accept physical manifestations without following the plainly revealed will of God in Scripture will be deceived. Matthew 24:24 indicates that if it were possible these false signs and miracles would deceive even the very elect of God. That is why we must stick so closely to the Bible. God's people, the saints of Revelation 14:12 who keep the commandments of God in spite of the tongues and the miracles, must say "Thus saith the Lord" or "It is written." Their defence is Biblical revelation and not supernatural physical manifestations. Which revival of the last days will YOU accept?

author of **A History of the Pentecostal Holiness Movement**, stated that the 600 million member Roman Catholic Church could become the greatest vehicle for the evangelization of the world if its charismatic movement grows (reported in **Ministry** magazine, December, 1972, from Religious News Service). Today it has grown, and this charismatic revival of tongues and miracles has united Pentecostals, mainline denominations, and Roman Catholics. Revelation has predicted that modern spiritual Babylon will be brought together by spiritualistic tendencies. Please note the similarities between the experience of the tongues speaker, the spiritualist medium, and the faith healer.

- 1) **The Tongues Speaker:** "As my friends began to pray over me, felt a strange physical sensation start in my hands and feet, and gradually spread over my whole body. It was like an electrical current or as though the inside of my body were shaking against my skin." — Roger Alexander, "The Holy Spirit at Michigan State," **Acts, Today's News of the Holy Spirit's Renewal**, Sept.-Oct. 1967, p. 23.
- 2) **The Spiritualist Medium:** "in entering the trance condition, your hands and body may twist and jerk, as if you were being treated to a series of galvanic shocks. When the spirit enters, in the arms are felt peculiar tingling sensations like needles and pins, something akin to a current of electricity passing through from head to foot." Vishita, Bhakta Swami, **Genuine Mediumship**, Chas. T. Powner, Publisher, Chicago 1941, p. 37.
- 3) **The Faith Healer:** "I felt physical contact with God's presence in my right hand. It was a tingling sensation like an electric current. felt a strange and glorious sensation like an electrical current flowing through my hands. It seemed like 10,000 volts of electricity were passing through my body." — Oral Roberts, Life Story, p. 110.

Amazingly, the tongues speaker, the spirit medium and the faith healer describe nearly identical experiences when the so-called "spirit" enters. Certainly Christians should be very cautious about a movement that has so much similarity to Spiritism, in view of Revelation's prediction that spiritualistic phenomena will unite Babylon in the last days.

James Beshires, Jr., a former Pentecostal preacher, in his book **Praise the Lord**, tells a couple of experiences that helped him see that the source of much tongues speaking was Satan rather than Christ:

"But," someone might ask, "didn't the interpretation of the tongues benefit the church?" To answer that, let me tell a couple of incidents with which I am personally familiar. In one meeting I was in, a certain person spoke in a tongue and another gave the interpretation. Then a third person stood up, a visitor. He said, "I am a Jew. I have heard of this gift of tongues and I came to see what it was all about. That was Hebrew that that person was speaking, but he was not praising God as the so-called interpreter said he was doing. Instead he was cursing God."

On another occasion when I was present, a local member gave an utterance, and he was interpreted as saying, "I am God, give me your

"Has become a dwelling place of _____, a prison for every _____ spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"

NOTE: Just as ancient Babylon was controlled by spiritualistic phenomena, modern spiritual Babylon is controlled by spiritualistic powers.

Thus we see that all the characteristics of ancient Babylon find their counterpart in modern spiritual Babylon. Spiritual Babylon duplicates the ways of ancient Babylon. It is characterized in the same way; it is controlled by the same power.



THE IDENTITY OF MODERN BABYLON

Modern Babylon refers to a power that will exist in the last days, similar to ancient Babylon in every respect, and this last power will seek to destroy the people of God. It is this power that is described in embryo in Daniel, Chapters 11 and 12, but is given full expression in Revelation, Chapters 16 to 18. Modern spiritual Babylon is not just one power; it is a conglomeration of powers that have bound themselves together.

12. Into how many parts Is Babylon divided? Revelation 16:19

"The great city was divided into _____ parts."

13. Who is the original power that forms Babylon? Revelation 17:5

"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE _____ OF HARLOTS."

NOTE: The original mother would be the same as the original beast of

Revelation 13.

14. How does the beast of Revelation 13 fit the characteristics of ancient Babylon?

- a. "On his heads a _____ name." Vs. 1, 5.
- b. "To make war with the _____." Vs. 7.
- c. "And they _____ the beast." Vs. 4.

NOTE: The beast of Revelation 13 is a symbol of the papal apostasy of the Dark Ages (see Lesson 9). It has all the characteristics of ancient Babylon. It blasphemed God in defiance and rebellion; it persecuted those who disagreed with it; it mixed together truth and error; it received false worship. It is the great mother church that introduced the original apostasy into the Christian church. It is the first a of the three parts of modern spiritual Babylon.

15. How does the Bible describe the other parts of modern Babylon? Revelation 17:5

"THE MOTHER OF _____."

NOTE: The second part of Babylon is also called a harlot. The Roman Church is the great mother, and her daughters would be those who have come out of Babylon but still hold to her harlotry. In other words, the second part of Babylon is composed of those Protestant churches who have left Rome but continue to practice some of Rome's doctrines that mix truth with error. Thus the first two parts of Babylon describe those churches, whether Catholic or Protestant, that have mixed truth with error, paganism with Christianity. Any church that mixes these two elements is, therefore, modern Babylon.

16. How does Revelation 13 describe the second part of Babylon? Revelation 13:11, 12

"Another beast coming up out of the _____, . . . and he exercises all the authority of the _____ beast in his presence."

NOTE: The second beast of Revelation 13 follows in the footsteps of the first beast. The second beast we have seen to be a symbol of Protestant America, as it originally arose (see Lesson 24). According to Revelation 13, Protestant America joins hands with the first part of Babylon, Romanism. As these two great powers join together, they become mighty spiritual Babylon.

17. What is the third characteristic of modern Babylon? Revelation 18:2

Babylon. . . has become a dwelling place of _____, a prison for every _____ spirit.

NOTE: Spiritism is the third aspect of modern Babylon. We could then expect that, as American Protestantism joins hands with Romanism to create this final great spiritual Babylon, spiritualistic phenomena will accompany its

constantly speaks about himself.

Again, there are genuine healings and a genuine gift of tongues, but these always occur when God's people follow revealed truth and keep all the commandments. If they appear among those who are knowingly breaking God's commandments, they are a false or counterfeit manifestation. God never gives the Holy Spirit to substantiate error. The true evidence of Spirit possession is not the physical phenomena of shouting, dancing, falling prostrate, speaking in tongues, or even miracles. The true evidence of the Holy Spirit is seen in the lives of transformed individuals:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22, 23).

The presence of these characteristics, not speaking in tongues, indicates that a person is baptized of the Spirit.

Revelation 13 pictures for us a time when this false, miracle-working power and this false use of the gift of tongues will eventually become worldwide and deceive nearly the whole world as it unites spiritual Babylon. There are good people in this false revival, sincere people, but the movement is false, and eventually it will permeate nearly all churches and will give life or power to the papacy by appearing even in Romanism. These churches that have become so formal and dead in their worship are suddenly brought to life by the infusion of this false power. Romanism has always accentuated its claim to truth by its performance of miracles. This was its consistent emphasis throughout the Dark Ages. And once again today we're seeing it happen, whether it be the weeping statues of Mary, the apparitions of Mary, or the cures wrought at the various shrines of Romanism throughout the world. Miracle-working powers are reappearing today in Romanism, in an attempt to deceive people into thinking that this power operates under the power of God. Obviously, Mary cannot appear in all these apparitions, for Mary is dead like all the saints of God (see Lesson 17).

Just as ancient Babylon appealed to the spirits of the dead to accentuate its claims to genuineness, so we find modern spiritual Babylon utilizing spirit communication in an attempt to establish her claims to being the depository of God's truth today. Furthermore, modern Romanism has moved beyond the stage of spiritualistic miracles to also include the usage of the gift of tongues in order to further accentuate her claim to genuineness. In fact, it is especially in the area of tongues speaking today that Roman Catholics and Protestants are coming together. It began in the summer of 1967 at Notre Dame University where many priests, nuns and lay people came together to pray for the Holy Spirit, and received what they felt was the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues. From that episode the tongues movement has spread within the Roman church, until today hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholics have participated in the movement. But the movement has not been limited to Romanism; it has become truly ecumenical in character. People of all denominations are meeting together, praying together and receiving the so called "spirit."

Vinson Synan, professor at Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia and

PS-25

the gifts manifested by the Spirit. Paul then asks a very interesting question: "Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?" Paul's obvious answer is that not everyone has the gift of tongues. Not everyone has - the gift of healing. Not everyone has the gift of prophecy. All the gifts are manifested, but not everyone has the same gift. And yet in the modern tongues movement we are told that unless a person speaks in tongues he has not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. If that is true, then it must be that Jesus was never filled with the Spirit of God, because there is no record that He ever spoke in tongues except the native tongues of Palestine. Yet never was there a person more filled with the Spirit than Jesus Christ. Paul goes on in 1 Corinthians 12 to indicate that there is a better way than speaking in tongues and tells us what that way is in 1 Corinthians 13, the great love chapter. Verse 1 says: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity [love], I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

Paul indicates that love is far superior to tongues as an evidence of the Spirit of God. In fact, Paul goes on to caution against an undue emphasis on the gift of tongues. There seems to have been a problem in the Corinthian church where people were misusing the gift of tongues. Therefore, Paul counsels in 1 Corinthians 14:22, 23.

Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that 'believe not, but for them which believe. If therefore the whole church become together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

The apostle Paul indicates that tongues are not a sign to believers, but for unbelievers. Tongues have no place in the church where there is a common language, but are for usage in the marketplace, where an individual can communicate the gospel to people in languages that they themselves don't naturally understand. Paul emphatically states that the gift of tongues should not be used in the church among believers. Yet in the modern tongues movement the gift is primarily used in the church among believers, and not for the express purpose of reaching unbelievers.

The true Holy Spirit is given for the purpose of leading God's people into truth (John 16:13). All genuine manifestations of the Holy Spirit will lead to an elevation of Scripture above the Spirit. Any revelation that exalts the Spirit above Scripture and Christ is a false or counterfeit manifestation and not genuine. When the true Holy Spirit comes, He does not speak about Himself, but instead He glorifies Jesus Christ (see verses 13 & 14). As one listens to the tongues advocates today, one hears a constant elevation of the Spirit above Jesus Christ. The true Holy Spirit does not speak about Himself. There is, however, a spirit that speaks about himself. In Isaiah 14:12-13 Lucifer said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." Christians ought to be very cautious about a power that continually exalts the Spirit, when Scripture has told us that the Holy Spirit does not speak about Himself; but the devil's spirit

union. It is this spiritualistic phenomena that gives it great influence and the power to work miracles in the last days. However, this great power does not come from God, but from Satan himself.

18. How does the second beast attempt to rally the world around the first beast? Revelation 13:12-14

"He performs great _____, so that he even makes _____ come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men."

19. What spiritualistic power does the second beast exercise to deceive people into worshipping the first beast? Revelation 13:14

"He deceives those who dwell on the earth by those _____ which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast."

NOTE: Modern Babylon performs the same kind of activities as did ancient Babylon to try to gain acceptance. It uses magic, miracles, signs, wonders, etc. All of this is done in order to induce people to worship the first beast and thus create an image to the beast (Revelation 13:14). All of these false spirits and powers will be manifested for the purpose of deceiving people. It is on the point of these miracles, signs and wonders that Romanism and apostate Protestantism unite with Spiritism to form the final great apostasy of modern spiritual Babylon.

20. What is the great sign that this final Babylon brings down from heaven? Revelation 13:13

"He even makes _____ come down from heaven."

21. In the book of Revelation, of what is fire symbolic? Revelation 4:5

"Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the _____ of God."

NOTE: Seven is the number of perfection, indicating that the seven lamps of fire represent the perfect Holy Spirit of God.

22. With what is fire associated in the New Testament? Luke 3:16; Matthew 3:11

"He will baptize you with the Holy _____ and fire."

NOTE: Fire seems to be symbolic of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. However, in Revelation 13 it is not God who sends this fire from heaven, but Satan, who counterfeits the fire of God. People are deceived into thinking that this false spirit is the genuine Holy Spirit of God. The Bible says that one of the marks of modern spiritual Babylon that will unite it, will be these false spiritualistic manifestations that will be credited to the Holy Spirit, but which actually come from the devil himself. In other words, Protestants and Catholics, who have tried to unite through formal means of unity and have failed, suddenly will be brought together by these

false spirits that will deceive nearly the entire world.

23. What do these spirits of devils do? Revelation 16:14

"They are the spirits of demons, performing

NOTE: Revelation clearly pictures spiritualistic phenomena and miracle-working powers to accompany this false holy-spirit manifestation that deceives nearly the entire world.

24. What was the genuine manifestation of the fire falling from heaven? Acts 2:1-4

"Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of a _____,
... and they were all filled with the _____
and began to speak with other tongues."

NOTE: The Scriptures point to another time when fire fell from heaven. This was Pentecost, when tongues of fire fell on the disciples and they spoke with new tongues. However, Revelation 13 pictures a time to come when so-called fire will fall from heaven. But this "fire" will actually come from Satan and the people will be deceived by this false fire and false gift of tongues. (For the astonishing fulfilment of this phenomenon, see Exhibit 1.)

25. What does God say about this modern spiritualistic Babylon? Revelation 18:2

"Babylon the great is _____."

NOTE: Babylon is no longer the depository of truth. She is fallen. Yet God still has many people in Babylon who love and serve Him.

26. What message does God send to His people in modern Babylon? Revelation 18:4

"Come _____ of her, _____ people."

NOTE: God is about to pour out the seven last plagues upon spiritual Babylon, this union of churches that has mixed truth with error and is seeking to deceive the world with its spiritualistic miracles today. He does not ask us to try to reform Babylon - it is beyond reformation. Instead, God gives His people an urgent call to come out of Babylon.

27. Will you respond to God's call and come out of Babylon today?



EXHIBIT 1

For Daniel Lesson 25

COUNTERFEIT GIFTS

Today we are beginning to witness the astonishing fulfilment of Revelation 13. Modern spiritual Babylon is being formed today. Protestants and Catholics are uniting as never before. They are being united by the spiritualistic phenomena of miracles, signs, tongues and wonders that Revelation 13 predicted. The Bible clearly states that God still performs miracles, that He still heals people, and that there is the genuine gift of tongues today. However, Revelation 13 predicts that modern spiritual Babylon will be particularly identifiable because of its overemphasis of signs, wonders, healings and tongues. There is the genuine, and there is the counterfeit. Our religion today cannot be based on signs, wonders, tongues or miracles. Rather, it must be based only on the Word of the living God. The Holy Scriptures are our only safeguard in the distressing times in which we live.

Again, let us look at the picture. Revelation 13 describes a time when Protestants and Catholics will join hands and form an image to the beast (an American union of church and state) which will then enforce the mark of the beast, passing the death decree and allowing no one to buy or sell unless they have the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:15-17). Revelation 13 indicates that miracles, signs, and spiritualistic phenomena will accompany this power in order to cause people to worship the first beast and to give credence to its claim to be the depository of the truth of God. It even brings fire down from heaven—the manifestation of a false holy spirit. Scripture indicates that fire fell from heaven at Pentecost when the disciples spoke in tongues, so we could expect that the counterfeit holy spirit movement of the last days will emphasize tongues, miracles, signs and lying wonders, all calculated to deceive people into worshipping the first beast.

There is a genuine gift of tongues: however, as it appears in the book of Acts, the gift of tongues was always used for the spreading of the gospel. The first disciples received the gift of tongues in order that they might speak the languages of the people to whom they ministered, and the gospel of Christ could thereby be implanted in the many nations of earth. These were known languages given for the express purpose of spreading the gospel. However, the gift of tongues as it is appearing in our day is not necessarily known languages used to spread the gospel, but often is meaningless gibberish that no one understands. The gift of tongues as it appeared in the early church was the least of the gifts and was not regarded as an absolute necessity for every believer.

In 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 the apostle Paul lists the gift of tongues as the last of

PS-25