

Two Rising Stars

The Coming Antichrist and False Prophet

"None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand." Psalm 101:3

by Bill Rudge

The pages of history are laced with accounts of new movements generating such enthusiasm and momentum that a nation – even the world – was swayed.

As a teen in the late 1960s many of my generation got caught up in the sexual revolution, race riots, and rebellion against authority. Very few of us really thought about why we were involved or where these movements were headed. We were seized by the emotion of the moment and went with the flow of the crowd.

Hitler's media propaganda and hypnotizing speeches influenced a nation and changed the world. Today, terrorists use slick social media to motivate youth and adults to join a regime that commits unbelievable atrocities.

The time is nearing when a prominent person will arise on the world scene. Carnage from terrorism, devastation from natural disasters, threat of nuclear annihilation, and the need to solve other potential global crises is motivating an increasing number of voices to cry for a global leader.

The majority of people on our planet will blindly submit to this compelling leader (revealed in prophetic Scripture as the Antichrist) who promises peace and prosperity. The Antichrist will appear to be the savior of the world and will acquire "authority over every tribe, people, language and nation" (Revelation 13:7). The masses will also readily embrace his cohort – an influential religious leader promoting *love* and *unity*, but biblically identified as the False Prophet.

There is no denying that our world is ripe for such visionary leaders who will astound with apparent solutions to global problems. Their hypnotizing charisma, persuasive words, powerful speeches, pleasing promises, inspiring media visuals, moving testimonies, euphoric music, cheering supporters, incredible popularity, and displays of supernatural power will mesmerize the multitudes. According to Scripture these two "rising stars" will be demonically energized. They will

take the reins of this world through deception and intrigue to ultimately lead humankind in a unified rebellion against the God

of the Bible.

It is clear that a scenario is unfolding to create a global system of political power, economic control, military might, and religious unification. As Revelation foretells, we are moving toward a global society with a one-world government, a universal economy, and an ecumenical religious system offering tolerance and acceptance for all religions – except one, biblical Christianity. There is a growing movement of globalism, religious unity, and the celebration of diversity – along with a growing intolerance for biblical Christians who believe Jesus is the only way of salvation. Those who use the Bible to speak out against the immorality in today's society and culture are often accused of bigotry and hate crimes with the aim to be silenced or eliminated.

Underlying the Antichrist's facade is his ulterior motive to attain control over and receive worship from every human being on this planet. The False Prophet will attempt to help him achieve this – Satan's ultimate goal.

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast [the Antichrist] — all whose names have not been written in the Book of Life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

It is interesting to note that only two people in Scripture were possessed by Satan himself: Judas, when he betrayed Jesus, and the Antichrist, as he seeks to gain control over and obtain worship from everyone on this planet.

The Bible reveals that the Antichrist's and False Prophets's true intent will be concealed under a cloak of intrigue, diplomatic deceit and cunning manipulation. When the layers of glitz and glamour are peeled away, the shocking remains will be far removed from what was promised or anticipated. They will lead a world of undiscerning and biblically illiterate people down a deceitful path to global chaos and unprecedented devastation and destruction.

Words of Hope and Admonition

Although the days in which we live are becoming increasingly dangerous, treacherous, corrupt, and

Concealed under a cloak of intrigue, diplomatic deceit and cunning manipulation.



Wake Up and Watch!

confusing, those who know the Lord in these end times will demonstrate wisdom and strength:

...the people who know their God will display strength and take action. Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand (Daniel 11:32; 12:10).

Do not be seduced by the spirit of this age – whether it is in the political arena, social media, pop star realm, religious circles or any other venue. Do not be impressed, influenced or deceived by a well-turned phrase or the surface appearance of those who have ulterior motives and agendas. Do not reflect the values of an amoral society. Do not be a cultural Christian, motivated by feelings, desires and impulses, or influenced by every new and exciting trend or phenomenon that comes along.

Make certain you are, and remain, aligned with Jesus Christ and God's Word. Follow the genuine leading of His Spirit. Be discerning. Examine all things carefully. Hold fast to that which is good and true. Live by the standards of Scripture. Stand rock solid as a biblical Christian in this day and age when Biblical prophecies of the end times and Jesus Christ's return are rapidly lining up.

I close, as did Paul to the Corinthians:

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all you do be done with love (1 Corinthians 16:13, 14).

Bill Rudge Ministries received a letter with prophetic perception from Mrs. Valerie Graves, a pastor's wife from upstate New York, who has read much of what Bill has written over the years, finding the teaching insightful and encouraging. Valerie described her and her husband's adventurous trip to California, visiting their daughter who is pursuing a PhD at Berkeley. They enjoyed sunny skies and cool breezes as they toured the San Francisco Bay area and surrounding sleepy beach towns. One moment they were relaxing in the lap of luxury and the next they were fleeing for their lives as wildfires ravaged the area.

Some of Valerie's thoughts:

We were to end our time in California at a lovely house on a vineyard in Sonoma Valley with a spectacular view of the surrounding area. We drove up a long driveway through a vineyard. The front lawn was meticulously landscaped with pathways leading to the front porch where welcoming rocking chairs awaited. There were pomegranate, lemon and apple trees. The inside was gorgeous with large windows to enjoy the beautiful view. It was difficult to take it all in.

That night as I was falling asleep I remember hearing the wind outside picking up, leaves blowing against the window. My husband Charlie and I woke up at five in the morning and went downstairs to make coffee. It was still dark outside. Just as Charlie was reaching for the pot of coffee there was a loud banging on the door. Clearly something must be wrong. Then I heard shouting, "Wake up! Quick, you need to leave now. There is no time to waste." Within five minutes we were in the car heading away from the beautiful house on the vineyard. As we headed slowly in the opposite direction of the fire in a line of traffic, we could see the sky aglow with the fire which was close.

It was a scary night, and the moment when I realized how serious this fire was, the Lord pressed on my heart to "go back and warn My people." It became clear the fire I was seeing was a picture of the impending judgment and that it would come suddenly and unexpectedly to all those on the earth who are living lives in the lap of luxury.

Though we don't see ourselves as rich, we are! We have our own homes, heated in winter and cooled in summer; we sleep on our comfortable beds and wake to warm water to bathe in and food in our cupboards to eat...Food we buy from a local store that we drive to, by the way, in our heated or cooled vehicles. We get to select the foods we enjoy (if we don't feel like preparing it, we simply call and order our dinner) or go to a restaurant where someone brings us our food, chosen from the many options on the menu. We take breaks from our relatively easy jobs, for which we are well compensated, to go on "vacation" from our easy lives. We entertain ourselves with movies, games, shows and shopping. We paint and redecorate our homes when we become bored with them. We have so much that we have garage sales to pare down our "stuff" that has gotten out of control. We run to the doctor when we don't feel well and our health insurance pays the tab for testing and medicine. We have gym memberships to get the exercise we need because our lives are so "cushy" we get out of shape.

Living in all this ease, it is difficult for us to imagine that judgment will come and we will hear that sudden alarm:

At midnight a cry was heard: "Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet Him!" (Matthew 25:6) and "Remember Lot's wife." (Luke 17:32)

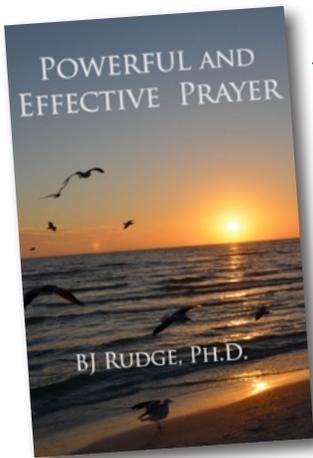
The Lord loves each one of us and wants us to be ready when He returns, suddenly and unexpectedly for His Bride, before He judges this world. Heed the warnings He provides through His Word. Do not prefer this world with all of its allure; the things that are coming to an end. Wake up and watch! Be ready and waiting for Him! Pray for each other and pray for the Lord to open the eyes of our unsaved loved ones. Flee from the wrath to come. Don't look back. I sincerely believe the Lord is about to return for His church and it is His desire we all be ready! The finish line is in sight.

Trust in the Sovereignty of God

Powerful and Effective Prayer – Part 2

“The Lord is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!” Psalm 91:2

by BJ Rudge, Ph.D.



New E-Book available
at billrudge.org.

A good place to begin a powerful and effective prayer life is in realizing that we are, in every way, completely dependent upon God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego understood that their lives were under the control of a sovereign God. Consider their response to the King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, before he had them thrown into the fiery furnace:

O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

If it be so our God Whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up (Daniel 3:16-18).

Think on these verses which highlight the sovereignty of God:

The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it (Psalm 24:1).

Whatever the Lord pleases, He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deeps (Psalm 135:6).

Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, “My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure” (Isaiah 46:9, 10).

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17).

Once we acknowledge that God is sovereign we must place our trust in Him as it says in Proverbs:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight (Proverbs 3:5, 6).

The Importance of Communication

As in any relationship, trust is established through communication – the exact essence of what prayer is all about.

A friend of my family went through a very difficult divorce. From all appearances, it seemed everything was fine in his marriage. He and his wife were active in their church and home schooled their children. He was very vocal about his faith and was very intentional in sharing the Gospel at work. When I received news that he and his wife had divorced, I gave him a call. As we talked he said, “BJ, at some point in my marriage I became a stranger to my wife. I felt like a single parent raising my kids.” This man's marriage was destroyed when he and his wife stopped communicating.

Our human relationship with God will never grow unless we spend time communicating with Him. It is during those moments on our knees when faith develops. I foster trust in God by utilizing a prayer journal to record prayer requests and write down spiritual lessons God has taught me. This journal has proven a great resource to remind me of God's faithfulness. It is encouraging to reflect on past requests and see how God has responded to them. Sometimes God did not answer the request in the way I thought He would, nor in the time I wanted, but in each case I am reminded that I serve a God who listens and responds to the needs of His children (Psalm 34:17; Matthew 7:7; John 14:13-14; Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 5:14-15).

Some of the spiritual lessons God has taught me have come through times of trials and tribulation, others during times of prayer and fasting. Regardless of the situation, in each case it has been valuable to reflect upon what God has taught me through the years. I also jot down key verses that have given me strength, encouragement and direction through various times in my life. What a faithful God we serve!

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God (Psalm 20:7).

So then, the first principle in having a powerful and effective prayer life is trusting in the sovereignty of God. We are merely the vehicles which God uses to accomplish His sovereign will. Even in the uncertainties of life, we must realize, like Job, that we are dependent upon Him (Job 42:2-6).

The preceding was excerpted from BJ's new E-book *Powerful and Effective Prayer*. Next month we will deal with the principle of having reverence for God's name.

Leadership Training at BRM

Dr. BJ Rudge is teaching a two week session on Leadership at Bill Rudge Ministries, 280 N. Buhl Farm Drive, Hermitage, Pa. from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. on Thursday April 12 and 19. The class will consist of PowerPoint, videos, lecture and discussion. Past sessions have been very popular and filled to capacity. There is no fee but please pre-register: brm7@me.com or 724-983-1223.

By the time you receive this newsletter Bill and Karen and team should be back from their Holy Land Adventure, Pilgrimage and Mission Trip. We hope to share exciting highlights and pictures in an upcoming newsletter.

May the reality of the invisible God of the Bible be clearly visible through the faith, words, behavior and lifestyle of those who proclaim His name.

Bill Rudge

World Outreach Change the World with Your Change

We are truly grateful to each person who has responded and will respond to our "Sponsor a World Outreach Package" and "Change the World with Your Change" campaigns.

Over 1.5 million of Bill's and BJ's books, audio messages, pamphlets and other ministry resources have been distributed to missionaries, pastors, chaplains, prisoners, students, military personnel, and spiritually hungry youth and adults in every state in the U.S. and over 135 countries.

Your donations help cover the cost of postage for these items which are free to the recipients. Your kindness and generosity has been truly amazing and greatly appreciated as we have received donations in jars, cups, bottles, cans, boxes, envelopes, bags, baskets and a variety of other containers.

Please keep saving your change or consider sponsoring a World Outreach package. We also need help producing more of our books and translating them into other languages. The requests never cease so thanks for helping with this vital aspect of our multifaceted ministry.



Darlinda McDonald kneels on the lawn at BRM behind a globe and a large jar that one of our ministry friends had filled with change.

His Appearing

While some Christians may be indifferent to prophetic Scripture and have little interest in end time prophecy, God's Word promises "the crown of righteousness to all who have longed for His appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8).

Glen Meredith, commenting on this verse said, "Think of it, there is a special crown that will be given to those people who live with an eternal attitude, daily yearning for the return of Jesus." (*The Lamplighter*, February 2018).

Yard Care at BRM

We need that special "someone" to roll the lawn, weed-whack and trim around the ministry center and obstacle course.



In above photo Barry McLaughlin, John Ozinga and Kyle Haase deliver three telephone poles to the BRM obstacle course. (Lisa, Barry's wife, watches from the background.) Barry coordinated the donation of the telephone poles for the BRM Ultimate Challenge Obstacle and Fitness Course then set up the delivery with John Ozinga who was gracious to volunteer both his time and an Ozinga Roof Systems truck and trailer to transport them. Barry will be bringing the Cross Country Team he coaches through the obstacle course this summer.

Churches Appreciated for Standing With BRM

Many churches have chosen to place Bill Rudge Ministries on their missions' budget. We know you pray and plan the best way to invest your mission dollars, and we are honored you have included us. We promise to use all gifts wisely to advance His kingdom.

You are not only obeying Christ's command (Acts 1:8) in touching lives locally, nationally and worldwide, but are doing so as a good steward of His resources by supporting one of the most effective ministries in maximizing funds and outreach. It is a privilege to partner with you to reach this world for Christ and to help believers grow in their relationship with Jesus.

If your church is not supporting BRM, please encourage your missions committee or church board to prayerfully consider doing so. Also, please share our newsletters with your fellowship for special prayer needs and projects. We do not charge for any of our services or resources, but provide them free of charge. We would be happy to provide a publicity packet or have one of our staff share with your congregation. Also, explore our web site at billrudgeministries.org.