Satanic Cities and Saints Standing Fast

Introduction

A feature of the seven heads of "...a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads...the great dragon...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan..." Revelation 12:3, 9 is the association of each crowned head, corresponding to a king, with an ungodly Gentile* city or a nation in which an ungodly city is situated with intent to afflict the saint, which God thwarts or ultimately will thwart, after the manner of Psalm 21:11 "For they intended evil against thee: they imagined a mischievous device, which they are not able to perform."

*Note that "Jerusalem the holy city" Nehemiah 11:1 is in the End Times "...the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" Revelation 11:8 but at the Second Advent "Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain" Zechariah 8:3.

The revelation of "the scripture of truth" Daniel 10:21 of that association of satanic cities and God's judgement on them should help today's believer fulfil Deuteronomy 11:16 "Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them" and in turn 1 Corinthians 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved...That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory" Ephesians 1:6, 12-14.

"a mighty one in the earth"

The first post-flood king mentioned in scripture is Nimrod. Nimrod is a mighty king and he is associated with an evil city. He sets the precedent in the post-flood world for the scriptural revelation of satanic cities and their associated kings. It is noteworthy that Genesis 10:8, 10 "And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth...And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar" reveal Nimrod to be a counterfeit of "the mighty One of Israel" Isaiah 1:24, 30:29, "the mighty One of Jacob" Isaiah 49:26, 60:16. Nimrod is thereby shown to be a type of the antichrist, a revelation that is obscured by any change of the wording of Genesis 10:8.

Types of Antichrist and Crowned Satanic Heads

Dr Ruckman¹ lists the 18 types of the antichrist in scripture, of whom Nimrod is the first of the post-flood types. That list includes four kings who are included among the seven crowned heads of the dragon of Revelation 12:3 "...and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads" namely Nimrod, Pharaoh, Sennacherib, Nebuchadnezzar, underlining the satanic nature of the cities with which those kings and indeed all seven of the dragon's crowned heads are associated.

Concerning those cities, although no Persian rulers are included in the list of types of the antichrist and neither is Alexander the Great nor Caesar, their historical empires are listed in Daniel 2:39-40, 7:4-6. Alexander is identified historically the he goat of Daniel 8:7-8, 21 while Caesar, historically, is mentioned 30 times in the New Testament. The significance of those empires is as follows.

Crowned Satanic Heads Historically and Prophetically

Dr Ruckman² lists the seven heads of the dragon, Revelation 12:3, historically as:

- 1. Nimrod, king of Babylon
- 2. Pharaoh, king of Egypt
- 3. Sennacherib, king of Assyria
- 4. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon
- 5. Darius, king of Persia
- 6. Alexander, king of Greece
- 7. Caesar, king of Rome

He amends that list slightly to accommodate Revelation 17:10-11 "And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space. And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition" prophetically as follows, merging the rule of Babylon under Nimrod and Nebuchadnezzar with that solely of Nimrod, according to chronological order, likewise substituting Cyrus for Darius as king of Persia:

- 1. Babylon under Nimrod, the first Babylonian king, is fallen
- 2. Egypt under Pharaoh is fallen
- 3. Assyria under Sennacherib is fallen
- 4. Persia under Cyrus, the first Persian king, is fallen
- 5. Greece under Alexander is fallen
- 6. Rome under Caesar is still in power at the time of John's writing

It appears that kings 7 and 8 are Caesar in the End Times, the head of the Catholic Church, in two successive guises separated by the events of Revelation 13:3 "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast" namely "that man of sin...the son of perdition" 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

The stage is set to address the satanic cities associated with the dragon's seven crowned heads and their significance for today's believer but a particular question must first be answered.

Why Not Genghis Khan?

The question arises why isn't a major conqueror like Genghis Khan³, noted for his ungodliness, identified in the scriptures as a type of the antichrist and/or as one of the heads of the dragon?

In answer, the distinct characteristics of the 18 types of the antichrist that Dr Ruckman lists apply directly to the antichrist. Comparison of those characteristics with the life and career of Genghis Khan would likely show that he does not manifest any of those characteristics sufficiently to qualify as a type of the antichrist. That said, the *particular* characteristic of the antichrist and his types, but not conspicuously for Genghis Khan, *is enmity toward "the people of God*" Judges 20:2, 2 Samuel 14:13, Hebrews 4:9, 11:25, 1 Peter 2:10 and/or God Himself as Esther states for Haman, a type of the antichrist, in Esther 7:6* "*The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman*." *7+6=13!

As indicated, concerning the seven heads of the dragon, one feature of the kings to which they correspond but not of Genghis Khan is that those kings are directly identified with cities that are evil or where evil is inflicted upon or intended for "the people of God" as identified in both Testaments as Jews and Christians. As such, those cities display the devil's defiance of God with respect to "the city of God" Psalm 46:4, for the Christian "the holy city, new Jerusalem" Revelation 21:2.

Note therefore that the first man-made city was built by Cain, the first type of the antichrist that Dr Ruckman lists. "And Cain...builded a city...Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" Genesis 4:17, 1 John 3:12. Genesis 4:17 is the first mention of a man-made city in scripture, so man-made cities have a bad connotation in scripture. That applies in part even to Jerusalem. See Introduction. Though the scripture refers to "Jerusalem which now is" Galatians 4:25 as "Jerusalem"

the holy city "Nehemiah 11:1, "Jerusalem which now is" nevertheless in the End Times before the Second Advent "...spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified "Revelation 11:8.

The association between those cities where evil is intended against "the people of God" or of nations where those cities are located and their kings would therefore be one key reason why those kings, and not Genghis Khan, correspond to the heads of the dragon.

See these references to the satanic nature of those cities and/or of the nations where those cities are located and/or their leaders with respect to the dragon's seven crowned heads according to what God thinks of them and their significance for today's believer. An asterisk * denotes scriptures with both prophetical and historical application:

Babylon

"And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for morter. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth... So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth" Genesis 11:3, 8-9.

"And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD... So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon" Jeremiah 51:24, 60*.

Egypt

"Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses...and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage" Exodus 1:11, 2:23.

"And I will set fire in Egypt: Sin shall have great pain, and No shall be rent asunder, and Noph shall have distresses daily. The young men of Aven and of Pibeseth shall fall by the sword: and these cities shall go into captivity" Ezekiel 30:16-17*.

Note that the city of Alexandria⁴, in Egypt, founded by king Alexander of Greece, is the source of the corrupt Alexandrian text which has spawned all the departures found in modern versions from "the scripture of truth" Daniel 10:21 the AV1611 Text⁵.

Assyria

"And it shall come to pass, that all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her?...Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell in the dust: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth them. There is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the bruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?" Nahum 3:7, 19*.

Persia

Note that under the ministry of *Jews*, kings Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Darius and Ahasuerus of Media-Persia were converted, Esther 10:2-3, Daniel 4:37, 6:25-27. God was at work even amongst the crowned satanic heads, especially the Persians. Indeed as Ezra states, Persia was for a time openly supportive of the Jews. "For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem" Ezra 9:9.

However it was in a city of Persia that "the people of God" came under threat from Haman, see Esther 7:6 above, a type of the antichrist. His plot to massacre the Jews was hatched in "Shushan the palace" Esther 3:15, noting that king Ahasuerus ruled over "Persia and Media" Esther 1:3.

"And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king's laws: therefore it is not for the king's profit to suffer them...And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey...The posts went out, being hastened by the king's commandment, and the decree was given in Shushan the palace. And the king and Haman sat down to drink; but the city Shushan was perplexed" Esther 3:8, 13, 15*.

Haman incurred the judgement of Colossians 3:25 "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons" in that when Queen Esther unmasked his plot to massacre the Jews, the king commanded his execution and "...they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai..." Esther 7:10. Yet in spite of that clear testimony to Zechariah 2:8 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts...he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye" Persia's king later "did according to his will" Daniel 8:4, i.e. not God's will, under the satanic rule of "the prince of Persia" Daniel 10:20 so that under God's judgement "the king of Grecia...cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him" Daniel 8:7, 21.

The lesson for all that "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" Proverbs 16:18 is therefore well expressed in the testimony of another king, namely king Nebuchadnezzar. See note above.

"Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase" Daniel 4:37.

Greece

"the king of Grecia...waxed very great: and when he was strong...was broken..." Daniel 8:8, 20.

"Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry" Acts 17:16.

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" Revelation 21:8. See Proverbs 16:18, Daniel 4:37 above.

Rome - Pagan and Papal

"And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar....they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away" John 19:12, 15-16. Note that the Lord Jesus Christ is "King" big K and Caesar is "king" little k.

"And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH...And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth. And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird" Revelation 17:4-5, 18, 18:1-2.*

Final End of the Dragon's Crowned Heads and their Cities

To reiterate, the association of the cities that the above scriptures refer to with the seven kings - and the eighth arising from the seventh - that correspond to the seven heads of the dragon gives those kings a particularly satanic connection that does not apply to Genghis Khan, the extent and brutality of his military conquests notwithstanding. In addition, 20^{th} - 21^{st} century despots ultimately come under the seventh head *prophetically* of the End Times Caesar as kings 7 and 8 "that man of sin...the son of perdition" 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH Revelation 17:5. So Genghis Khan is not included with the dragon's heads and the kings that correspond to them. Thankfully, the scripture confirms their end and that of their associated cities:

"The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us...Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" Psalm 2:2-3, 9.

"And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath" Revelation 16:19.

Saints Standing Fast

As noted in the *Introduction*, Paul exhorts today's believer in the midst of "perilous times" 2 Timothy 3:1 and satanic establishments as outlined above according to 1 Corinthians 16:13 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." See Appendix 1 – "Quit" for the scriptural definition of the term "quit" and Appendix 2 – Eternal Security and Revelation 3:5, 16 for an overview of the doctrine of eternal security germane to enabling today's believer to "stand fast in the faith."

Given therefore that as Daniel says of the Lord that "he removeth kings, and setteth up kings" Daniel 2:21 today's believer must in order to "stand fast in the faith" in the light of Ephesians 1:6, 12-14, see Introduction, remember to abide day by day by Psalm 30:6-7 "And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. LORD, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled" for "It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect" Psalm 18:32.

By way of illustration for "my mountain" Katahdin⁶ is the highest mountain in the US state of Maine at 5,267 feet. Katahdin is a Native American word meaning the Greatest Mountain. See graphic.

Such is a picture of the Second Advent according to Isaiah 2:2 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."

That is a reminder, therefore, in context, of Daniel 2:35 "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth."



The Greatest Mountain

Conclusion - Our City

In conclusion, given the destruction of the dragon's seven crowned heads together with the kings and the ungodly cities associated with those heads, today's believer with the exhortation to "stand fast in the faith" 1 Corinthians 16:13 and the promise of "the holy city, new Jerusalem" Revelation 21:2 to come, can look forward to a city⁷ after the manner as Paul states in Hebrews 11:16 "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city":

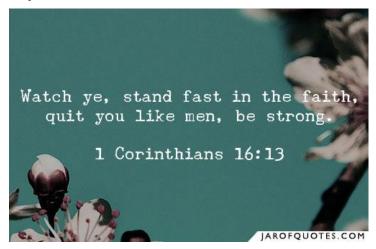


"...ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect" Hebrews 12:22-23

Appendix 1 - "Quit"

The AV1611 invariably defines its own terms. Comparing scripture with scripture as the Lord commands in John 5:39 "Search the scriptures..." and as Paul exhorts in 1 Corinthians 2:13 "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual" is how to arrive at the full and perfect definition of a word in scripture, although context should always be taken into account.

One word the meaning of which in context is found by comparing scripture with scripture or cross-referencing is "quit" in 1 Corinthians 16:13⁸ alluded to in the *Introduction*, *Saints Standing Fast* and *Conclusion - Our City*:



The meaning in context of the word "quit" is to see the challenge through to the finish, according to the following scriptures. Note that the modern substitutes, NIV, NKJV, do not convey the full sense of 1 Corinthians 16:13 and do not prompt the necessary cross references that expound the full sense of 1 Corinthians 16:13. Departure from the AV1611 Text invariably obscures revelation.

"Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!" John 19:5.

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12:2.

It is encouraging that application of 1 Corinthians 16:13 brings with it the promise of 2 Corinthians 2:14 "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

Appendix 2 – Eternal Security and Revelation 3:5, 16

See also Dr Ruckman's studies⁹ for more details.

One scripture that is sometimes perceived to conflict with eternal security is Revelation 3:5 "He that overcometh...I will not blot out his name out of the book of life." The perception is that Revelation 3:5 implies that a Christian could lose salvation by having his name blotted out of "the book of life."

However, Dr Ruckman¹⁰ points out that the Church Age saint should take Revelation 3:5 as a promise of eternal security because the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the world on the Christian's behalf according to 1 John 5:4-5 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Insofar as "our faith" is the Lord's faith, 1 John 5:4-5 match Pauline doctrine according to Galatians 2:16, 20 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified...I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Note the Lord's assurance to today's believer of His having overcome the world of John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Note further that the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the devil on behalf of today's believer "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" Colossians 2:14-15.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" Hebrews 2:14.

In addition to having overcome the world and the devil for the Christian, the Lord Jesus Christ has overcome the flesh for the Christian, ensuring a threefold eternally secure victory over the threefold enemy of today's believer as Paul states with respect to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross" Colossians 2:10-14.

Paul therefore declares for today's believer "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 15:57.

By contrast, the Tribulation saint does not have eternal security pre-Second Advent and must overcome by adding a true testimony and a willingness to be martyred for it to faith in "the blood of the Lamb" for forgiveness of sin according to Revelation 12:11 "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

Revelation 3:5 thereby reveals historical/prophetical application for the Church Age and doctrinal application for the Tribulation with respect to individual inclusion in "the book of life." Paul and John summarise the Church Age application of Revelation 3:5 for today's believers "whose names are in the book of life" Philippians 4:3 and whose names <u>cannot</u> be blotted out because by definition today's believer is "...in Christ...a new creature..." 2 Corinthians 5:17 who therefore <u>cannot</u> be

separated from the Lord Jesus Christ and "as a Christian" 1 Peter 4:16 his name <u>is</u> the Lord's name and therefore <u>cannot</u> be blotted out of "the book of life" by <u>any</u> means:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 8:35, 37-39 "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him "1 John 4:16. "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" 2 Timothy 2:13 and the Lord will not self-harm "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" Ephesians 5:30.

Therefore note Revelation 3:14-16, 19 "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth... As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." The issue historically/prophetically for the Church Age is rebuke, not salvation.

As applied to Church Age saints, doctrinally for Romans 8:35, 38-39, Ephesians 5:30, 2 Timothy 2:13, transitionally for 1 John 4:16, historically/prophetically for Revelation 3:14-16, 19, the above scriptures confirm that the Church Age saint is never in danger of losing salvation, his salvation having been secured forever in "the love that God hath to us." Remarkably, Revelation 3:14-16, 19 show that the Lord is less displeased with the Church Age saint who is "The backslider in heart" Proverbs 14:14 than with one who professes to abide by 'the word of God' but who by means of, say, 'originals-onlyism,' 'the Hebrew/Aramaic/Greek' and/or modern versionism is in a constant state of stubborn rebellion against the 1611 Holy Bible "the book of the LORD" Isaiah 34:16 according to the mindset of Isaiah 14:14 "...I will be like the most High."

Samuel states "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry" 1 Samuel 15:23 and those charges are extremely serious but they do not have to do with salvation in the Church Age. Concerning the expression "I will spue thee out of my mouth" Revelation 3:16, according to Malachi 2:7 "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts" Peter therefore declares with respect to the priesthood of all believers in the Church Age that "...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light...If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" 1 Peter 2:9, 4:11.

The Church Age saint therefore has a God-given priestly responsibility to speak "the scripture of truth" Daniel 10:21 "as the oracles of God" 1 Peter 4:11. If, however, what emerges via speech, being termed 'the word of God,' is instead a lukewarm concoction of 'originals-onlyism,' 'the Hebrew/Aramaic/Greek' and/or modern versionism, where no Bible version, especially not the AV1611, is said to be perfect, it is that kind of lukewarm concoction "Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered..." Mark 7:13 that the Lord will spue out of His mouth according to Revelation 3:16, that kind of lukewarm concoction being personified with the speaker. That kind of lukewarm concoction that the Lord voids is therefore "...like the chaff which the wind driveth away" Psalm 1:4. It will therefore never fulfil the purpose of speaking "the scripture of truth" Daniel 10:21 "as the oracles of God" 1 Peter 4:11 according to Isaiah 55:11 "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Concerning "The backslider in heart" note the following with respect to a heretical group identified as the Alexandrian Cult. It doesn't take a lot of reflection to see where the Alexandrian Cult is in operation today:

The Creed of the Alexandrian Cult¹¹ Isaiah 14:14 "...I will be like the most High"

- 1. There is no final authority but God.
- 2. Since God is a Spirit, there is no final authority that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
- 3. Since all books are material, there is no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority on what is right and what is wrong: what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
- 4. There WAS a series of writings one time which, IF they had all been put into a BOOK as soon as they were written the first time WOULD HAVE constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
- 5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was unable to preserve their content through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria) where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-6), and where the word "Christian" originated (Acts 11:26).
- 6. So, God chose to ALMOST preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son OUT of Egypt (Matt. 2), Jacob OUT of Egypt (Gen. 49), Israel OUT of Egypt (Exod. 15), and Joseph's bones OUT of Egypt (Exod. 13).
- 7. So, there are two streams of Bibles: the most accurate-though, of course, there is no final, absolute authority for determining truth and error: it is a matter of "preference" are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, that are "almost the originals," although not quite.
- 8. The most inaccurate translations were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, etc.) and the world-wide missionary movement of the English speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
- 9. But we can "tolerate" these, if those who believe in them will tolerate US. After all, since there is NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of "PREFERENCE." You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.

This is the creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

References

All web references were current at the time of writing. Web reference and author as appropriate are given the first time a particular work is cited. Only the work itself is cited in subsequent references unless otherwise noted.

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