

# THE ELIJAH FACTOR

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September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

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## **INTRODUCTION.**

### **Why This Paper?**

This is a top-level paper, to give a first view into biblical ideas detailed in other companion papers of this series. It is to pack as many ideas into as few words as possible, so the reader may quickly judge whether or not to read more detailed writings on the same subject.

The basic issue is that of the end-times restoration of Christianity via the prophesied Elijah Ministry. Therefore, this paper lays out what the Elijah Ministry has previously been, and how it now applies as a type to these end-times.

### **It's a 'Core Dump'.**

Using a computer term, this paper and its companions may be viewed as a 'core dump' of writings the author has been producing since the 1980s. These writings have not been widely distributed. That is probably because of two reasons. They were written in detail first, and only boiled down to easily readable form, last. Also, they have not been needed by Christians until very recently.

Only now are my writings being coordinated and integrated with those of other authors, many of whom are secular. It is now becoming clear how my writings fit with those that are giving a view and analyses of secular happenings.

### **It's About Levels of Understanding.**

The prophetic restoration of end-times Christianity was first written up in two book-length manuscripts, based on hundreds of scriptures. Those two books suffered from the 'trees and forest' problem. That is, there is so much detail present that it obscures a wider view of its subjects. Therefore, shorter papers were written to make plain the wider views of some of the issues. This paper is one of the shorter ones.

If one can grasp the biblical overview of an event like the end-times prophetic restoration of Christianity, then the details may be gotten later, if the reader is called by God to work in the event. That call may be made clear by reading the less detailed paper. Then, the reader may go for a deeper level of understanding by reading the more detailed manuscript.

### **Elijah - The Key to Understanding End-Times Christianity.**

The key to understanding the end-times prophetic restoration of Christianity is the ministry of Elijah. We will see below that 'Elijah' is the one who prepares the way for the appearance of Jesus in the end-times. Jesus taught that Elijah was the type for the ministry of John, the Baptist, to prepare the way for Jesus' first advent. Jesus also said that Elijah must also prepare the way for Jesus' second advent through a task of restoration. Both of these appearances of 'Elijah' are prophesied in the Book of Malachi.

Seeing what Elijah did in his Old-Testament appearance and in the New-Testament appearance of John, the Baptist, will then show us what shall be done, this time. The correspondence from old to new will not be hard to see, given the Bible and the documented happenings of our present time. It is for this purpose that this present top-level paper is written.

## **ELIJAH AND THE TIMES OF JESUS.**

### **The Malachi Prophecy.**

The Book of Malachi is the very last book of the Old Testament. And, the book's last two verses form a bridge to the New Testament. Those are the verses where God says He will send Elijah to work on a heart problem between fathers and children. And, what do we see in society today, but a heart problem between fathers and children.

### **John The Baptist.**

Before the Baptist was born, his priest father, Zechariah, received a prophecy about the son, from the angel, Gabriel [Luke 1:5-19]. The prophecy was that John would go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children. Thus, Gabriel linked John to Malachi's prophecy. So, John was to be Jesus' forerunner, just as Elijah had been Elisha's forerunner. Later, Jesus confirmed to his disciples [Mat. 17:9-13] that John had indeed preceded Him in the spirit of Elijah.

### **Why Elijah Must Come Again to Restore.**

Notice that Elijah is to come before the great and dreadful Day of the Lord. That's what the New Testament's Great Tribulation is called in the Old Testament. And, Malachi is all about the Day of the Lord. So are eight other of the prophets of the Old Testament. When Elijah came spiritually in Jesus' first advent [Mat. 17:9-13], it was the Day of the Lord, but it wasn't great and dreadful. Thus, there are two of them, Jesus' first advent and His second.

So, at that time, after the Baptist had been killed [Mat. 14:2], Jesus said that Elijah must come again. And, that will be just before the Day of the Lord becomes great and dreadful. And, this Elijah will again be Jesus' forerunner.

### **Old Testament 'Patterns' are New Testament 'Types'**

We're going to look not only at Elijah, but also at the pattern set by Elijah and Elisha. Such an Old Testament pattern is called a 'type'. This was defined by Paul in [1 Cor. 10:6], wherein he called "examples" the ancient Israelite failings during their trek through the wilderness. The Greek for the English "examples" is "typos" from which we get the English "type". The characterization and application of Old Testament types is a major element of Bible interpretation<sup>1</sup>.

So, what we want to do is look at the pattern or example of the ministry of Elijah and Elisha, to see what their type is in our very end-times.

### **The Pattern of Elijah and Elisha.**

The Elijah/Elisha type and the subsequent pattern of the Baptist and Jesus have common elements that also apply to the very end-times of the Great Tribulation. It is interesting that the first manifestation of Elijah/Elisha was physical. The second was spiritual on Elijah's part and physical on Jesus' part. The third, it turns out, will both be spiritual. I also think that whereas the first two manifestations were individual, the third will be corporate. That is, Elijah's will be corporately among the body of Christ, as will Jesus'. After all, the Church is Jesus' operative physical body on Earth.

Because the ministry of Elijah preceded that of Elisha, we must first look at Elijah's. Then, we will look at the transition between them. Finally, we will look at the succeeding ministry of Elisha.

## **WHAT ELIJAH'S MINISTRY WAS.**

### **Why It's Important to Know the Details of Elijah's Ministry.**

Whereas in [1 Cor. 10:6] Paul labeled the Israelite wilderness trek as a type for the Church, Stephen actually called them "church" in [Acts 7:38]. The Greek Bible word is *ekklesia*, the called out ones. Therefore, Elijah and Elisha were part of the ancient 'Church', and what they did was a type for our Church. Thus, we need to know precisely what they did, so as to apply the type to our very end-times.

### **The State of God's Nation at the Time of Elijah.**

Israel was a 13-tribe (13 state) nation with a state religion. The institutional religion was run by the priests, and the nation was run by the king. Thus, the king was in charge of the welfare of God's people, and he supposedly reigned under the precepts of God's Law. But, it wasn't so in Ahab's time, since he was devoted to another god. Jeroboam, a king before Ahab, had converted the religion of the northern 10 tribes into a satanic duplication of the worship of Jehovah, including false priests (non-Levitical), false prophets, and many kings that were not chosen by God (anointed by God's prophets). So, instead of God, they fell into worship of the local Canaanite god, Baal. The North split God's original Church, leaving true worship with the tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Levi in the South. The 10 tribes kept the name, Israel, while the three tribes in the South became known as Judah.

In the North, Ahab was not one of God's chosen (anointed) kings. He was the most evil of Israel's kings, up to his time. He worshiped and served the god, Baal, the sexual god of the Canaanites. This was the period of Israel's worst idolatry, when the northern 10-tribes of Israel split off, to form a separate kingdom. This was but 209 years before God sent the northern kingdom off into captivity in 722 B.C., never to return. It was the period of the North (Samaria) rejecting their God. It did not happen overnight, but took 57 years to accomplish.

### **Ahab, Jezebel, and False Prophecy.**

Ahab married outside his people, taking as his wife, Jezebel, a daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon, whose name means "Baal's Man." She was actually a High Priestess of Baal, according to Rogers<sup>2</sup>. Jezebel was manipulative, getting into all of Ahab's business. She set up an order of false prophets, to oppose God's remaining prophets of Israel.

Then, God's prophet, Elijah, showed up. He went straight to Ahab and prophesied that that would be no rain until Elijah said so [1 Ki. 17:1]. According to Rogers<sup>2</sup>, this was to get Ahab's attention, since he thought that his fertility god, Baal, controlled the rain. After Elijah made this pronouncement, God told him to get out of town.

Elijah stayed first by a brook that then dried up from the drought. God next sent Elijah to a nearby city, to stay with a widow. There, God performed some miracles through Elijah that Jesus would later also perform. These included a miracle of food and the raising of one from the dead.

### **Confronting and Eliminating False Prophecy.**

While Elijah was out of town, Jezebel was eliminating the remaining prophets of God. One of Ahab's servants, Obadiah, hid and fed a hundred of them in a cave, because he feared the Lord God, greatly. About this time, in the third year, God tells Elijah to go to Ahab again, and tell him that God is about to break the drought. Meanwhile, Ahab and Obadiah go out separately, to see if they can find some fodder for the horses. Elijah meets Obadiah and tells him to tell Ahab to come meet Elijah. This he does, and Elijah tells Ahab to bring all Israel's people to Mt. Carmel, including Jezebel's 450 prophets of Baal. Mt. Carmel was on the seacoast, where the people thought Baal lived, according to Rogers.

Elijah exhorts the people to make a choice. It's either the Lord God or it's Baal. And, they must choose now [1 Ki. 18:20]. Elijah then sets up two sacrifices, to be burned. He says that he will call on God to send the necessary fire to burn his sacrifice, and they should call upon Baal for the fire to burn theirs. It's a test of dynamic power. Those whose god sends fire win.

The false prophets call on Baal all morning and afternoon. When there is not answering fire, they get frenzied, cutting themselves till the blood flowed. But, no answer from Baal. At the time of the Jewish evening sacrifice, Elijah has the people repeatedly pour water over his sacrifice, so it'll be as wet as can be. Then, he calls out to the Lord God, asking for fire so that the people may know that it is God who will turn their heart back again to Him. God does it. The people are won over. Afterwards, Elijah has the people kill all the false prophets.

Elijah then goes to the very top of the mountain and tells his servant to look out to the sea (for rain). Nothing. Elijah tells him seven times to look. On the seventh, the servant sees a small cloud. Elijah tells the servant to tell Ahab to get down off the mountain, because it's going to rain. And, it rains buckets. The drought is broken.

### **The Manipulator of the Leadership Threatens to Kill the Prophet.**

Ahab goes back to town and tells Jezebel about all her false prophets being executed by Elijah. Elijah has run in God's power ahead of Ahab's chariot, so he's already there. She's furious, and sends a messenger telling Elijah that she's going to kill him. So, Elijah heads out of town, again. This time he goes for forty days, all the way to Mt. Sinai, where Moses originally got the Ten Commandments from God. Elijah has gone back to the founding place of his religion. There, he abides in a cave.

### **The Cave Experience.**

In the cave, the *rhema* word of the Lord came to Elijah, asking, "*What are you doing here, Elijah?*" Elijah recites what God's people have done to him. He laments that he's the only prophet of God left. God then instructs him to go out on the mountain and stand in front of the Lord.

Elijah goes out and the Lord passes by with a great show of wind, earthquake, and fire. But, the Lord is not in any of them. However, after the fire comes a still small phonetic voice (*Gk-phone*). When Elijah hears it, he wraps his face in his mantle and goes to stand in the cave's entrance. There, a phonetic voice comes to him, asking exactly the same questions as previously. Elijah gives the same response as previously. God then gives him instructions to go back and anoint three people. First, a king over Syria. Second, Jehu as king of Israel. Third, Elisha, to be a prophet under

Elijah (for training). God then informs Elijah that He still has 7,000 in Israel who have not worshiped Baal.

### **Anointing Elijah's Successor and New Leadership.**

Elijah then leaves the mountain and goes to find Elisha, who is plowing at the time. As Elijah passes by Elisha, he casts his mantle upon him [1 Ki. 19:19]. After making provision for the other people there, Elisha follows Elijah as his minister (servant).

### **Disobedience and Condemnation of the Old Leadership.**

There follows a period of disobedience of King Ahab of Israel. Two wars are fought and won against Syria, which is the attacker. It is the Lord God, Jehovah, who gets the victories for Ahab. Then, instead of killing the king of Syria, Ahab spares him and makes a covenant with him. God sends a prophet to tell Ahab that his life is now forfeit [1 Ki. 20:43].

### **Continuing Manipulation of the Leadership.**

Ahab covets a vineyard whose owner won't sell or trade it. Jezebel usurps Ahab's authority, writing and sealing letters to the elders and nobles, telling them to bring a false accusation against the owner of the vineyard. She orders them to take the owner out and kill him. She then tells her husband to go take possession of the vineyard [1 Ki 21:16].

### **Repentance of the Leadership and the Delaying of Judgment.**

After Jezebel's usurpation of Ahab's authority and his going along with it, God sends Elijah to tell Ahab that because of his selling of himself God will take away not only his life but that of his posterity. God also says that Jezebel's life is also forfeit [1 Ki. 21:24].

However, Ahab then humbles himself before the Lord, so God sends word via Elijah that God will put off the evil He would bring upon Ahab and bring it instead in his son's day, upon Ahab's entire house [1 Ki. 21:29].

### **Later Leadership Continues Supporting the False Religion of Baal.**

After further war, Ahab is killed in combat by the treachery of Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, with whom Ahab had become allied. Ahab's son, Ahaziah, takes the reign of Israel (Samaria). But, he, too, worshiped Baal and angered God [1 Ki. 22:53]. He reigned only two years.

When Ahaziah has an accident, he sends messengers to go inquire of Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, whether or not Ahaziah will recover. The messengers are met on their way by Elijah, who give them God's word on the matter. The word is that because there is no God in Israel, Ahaziah shall stay in his bed and die. Ahaziah rejects the word and sends a company of the military back to pick Elijah up. He, then, sends down fire and they are consumed. A second company meets the same fate. The Captain of the third company recognizes Elijah as a prophet of God. So, an angel instructs Elijah to go with him. Elijah repeats his message that Ahaziah shall die in his bed. And, so he does. And, Jehoram, Ahaziah's brother, reigns [2 Ki. 1:17].

## **WHAT ELISHA'S MINISTRY WAS.**

### **The Transition From Elijah to Elisha.**

Elijah is about to leave. He's almost finished his job. But, on his way to leaving, he takes Elisha on a tour. It is a tour of the history of their Church-based nation. He is reviewing with Elisha how their country became what it was, how it was originally set up. It is the training Elisha is going to need, before he is on his own. It will show Elisha what it takes to build a true Church-based nation. Once Elijah's people knew all that, but being under Baal so long, that knowledge had been lost.

It starts at Gilgal [2 Ki. 2:1]. This was the place where Joshua's new troops, born during the Church's 40-year wilderness walk, received their New Covenant and were circumcised. These were the troops who were to take from the enemy that held it the land of inheritance promised to them by God. During the war, Gilgal remained their in-country base of operations.

The second stop is Bethel [2 Ki. 2:2], the place of the Old Covenant, where Abraham and his grandson, Jacob (Israel) first heard the covenant from God [Gen. 12:7]. Jacob called it the house of God, heaven's gate [Gen. 28:17].

The third stop is Jericho [2 Ki. 2:4]. The site of Joshua's first battle under the command of the Captain of the Lord's host [Jos. 5:13-15]. That was the battle that defeated all seven tribes of Canaan [Jos. 24:11].

At Jericho, Elijah struck the Jordan River with his cloak, and God opened a dry path for them to cross back over, west to east, to the fourth stop [2 Ki. 2:8]. Elijah had brought Elisha back to the place where Israel's fight for nationhood had started. He had brought Elisha back to the place where the Kingdom was founded.

At the fourth stop, there is yet one thing for Elijah to do. He asks Elisha what he can do for him, before he leaves. Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit to be upon Elisha. Elijah tells him that is hard, but if Elisha sees Elijah leave, it shall be so. There then appears a chariot of fire and horses of fire that part Elisha and Elijah, and the latter is taken up to heaven by a whirlwind.

Elisha makes an exclamation and rends his clothes. He then takes Elijah's mantle, goes back to the Jordan and smites the river with it. He exclaims, "*Where is the Lord God of Elijah?*" The waters part, and Elisha passes back over, east to west.

### **Baalism Comes to Judah, and God Acts Through Elisha.**

From [2 Ki 2:13] to [2 Ki 8:15], the miracles of Elisha are documented. They are miracles that would foreshadow those of Jesus. The miracles include raising from the dead, feeding miracles, healing miracles, and tactical prophecies in the continuing war with Syria. The one miracle type of Jesus' that is not present in Elisha's is that of deliverance of God's individual people from evil spirits.

Starting with [2 Ki. 8:16], the ruling families of Israel and Judah begin to become intertwined, to the damage of Judah. There are two Jehorams involved, here. One is the son of Ahab, who takes the reign from Ahaziah, because he has no son. The other is Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah. This Jehoram was very evil. He took as his wife, Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, and brought Baalism to Judah.

When 'good king Jehoshaphat' dies, the Judean Jehoram takes reign. He immediately executes his six brothers so that there will be no competition for him.

This is the same Jehoram that Elijah had rebuked in [2 Chr. 21:12-15], before he ascended. When Jehoram dies according to the prophecy, his son, a second Ahaziah, is anointed king of Judah.

### **Jehu Overthrows the Joint Government of North and South.**

In his wonderful narrative about Elisha, Rogers<sup>2</sup> says that it is now time for God to act. Elijah had originally been tasked by God to anoint Jehu as king of Israel. But, Elijah had not accomplished that task. So, Elisha sent one of the 'sons of the prophets' to do that job. Notice that what was a 'big deal' for Elijah was not such a 'big deal' for Elisha. He authorized a subordinate to do it.

When this subordinate prophet had anointed Jehu, he then delivered God's message that went with it. That is, the prophet first anointed the new head of government. He then delivered God's prophetic instructions. Jehu is ordered to smite the house of Ahab (Baalism) to avenge the blood of God's servants, the prophets and His other servants, at the hand of Jezebel. The Word also says that Jezebel shall be eaten by dogs and she won't be buried [2 Ki. 9:7-10].

Because the North (Israel) and the South (Judah) are now united by family in the government, Jehu is mounting an armed insurrection. He mobilizes his forces and drives to Jezreel, where both kings of Israel and Judah are together. Jehu kills both of them [2 Ki. 9:14-29]. Then, he presses on to Jezebel's house and has three of her eunuchs throw her down to the street. There, her body is eaten by dogs, fulfilling Elijah's previous prophecy. Jehu had ended the government-inspired support of Baal worship but not the worship, itself. This, he now proceeds to do.

### **After Elijah and Elisha.**

Our study here has been of Elijah and Elisha, because of their type for Jesus' time and for our very end-times. However, we can't just stop here and leave the story dangling.

Jehu exterminated Baalism from the North, being the 10-tribe nation. But, he did not exterminate it in the South, comprising the 3-tribe 'Judah'. Nor did Jehu reestablish the one true religion of worshiping Jehovah in Israel. 119 years later, the North would be sent into Babylonian captivity, never to return. 136 years after that, a similar fate would befall Judah. However, a remnant of the Remnant Church, Judah would return to rebuild the temple and reestablish the one true religion of God.

## **WHAT ELIJAH'S END-TIMES MINISTRY IS ABOUT.**

### **It's All About Prophets and Apostles.**

Jesus is the Apostle of our profession [Heb. 3:1]. And, John, the Baptist, was the prophet who was forerunner for Jesus. That is the way it is to be in our very end-times, also. And, the type of Elijah and Elisha applies to both things. It will be first the time of the prophetic anointing and training of the apostolic. Then will be the apostolic, which deals with the government. And, that is the government of the Church. It may also be dealing with the government of the nation. But, that distinction is not to be made in this paper. We are concerned here with Elijah and the following transition.

### **It's About Restoring Christianity Before Jesus Appears.**

Jesus said that Elijah must first come and restore everything. And, now we can see why that is. The Church is not ready for Jesus to come back. The Church is not ready for what comes with Jesus. The Church is not ready for the Great Harvest. The Church is not ready for the Great Tribulation, which is Jesus' Day of the Lord. It is His second Day, which is great and dreadful. The Church is not ready for any of this. And, the unready Church is us. That's what the restoration is about.

### **It's About Preparing the Great Tribulation Ministry.**

The time of the Great Tribulation is the time of the Book of Revelation. And, that's all about Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess [Rev. 2:20], and the Antichrist and False Prophet beasts and captivity [Rev. 13]. And that great whore named Babylon [Rev. 17:1-5], who rides the beast. And, it shall be the time of great harvest [Mat. 24:15-31]. It shall be a time requiring great ministry by the saints. It shall be a time for which the Church must be prepared.

As for God's people being raptured before idolatry is defeated, it only takes three scriptures to dismiss that idea. (The word, "*rapture*," doesn't occur in scripture. Jesus called it a "*gathering together*.") In [Rev. 8:6-12], John shows that the major destruction of the Great Tribulation occurs before the darkening of Sun and Moon (Fourth Trumpet). In [Mat. 24:29-31], Jesus said the same, that the darkening of Sun and Moon is immediately after the tribulation and before the trumpet signaling the Rapture. And, in [1 Cor. 15:52], Paul said that the Rapture is at the final Trumpet. We count seven Trumpet Judgments in Revelation. It is at the seventh that the mystery of God is concluded, in just the way He has previously declared to His servants the prophets [Rev. 10:7].

### **It's About Jesus' Spiritual *Phaneroo* Appearance.**

There is a biblical teaching, first put forth by the Houston pastor, Meeks, in his 1994 book, The Last Great Revival<sup>3</sup>, that Jesus shall spiritually 'appear' before His physical second coming. This shall be a spiritual appearance in His corporate physical body, known as the Body of Christ, which is an alternate biblical name for the corporate Church [1 Cor. 12:27]. The biblical key to this interpretation is that Jesus appears (Gk.-*phaneroo*), before His second coming Gk.-*parousia*) [1 John 2:28]. Elijah's task is to restore the Body of Christ in which Jesus shall spiritually appear. The question is, are we talking about one individual prophet or a corporate manifestation of 'Elijah' in the Church?

My writings, companion to this paper, biblically show that the very end-times restoration of the earthly physical Church shall return it to essentially its First Century form. And, that return shall be performed just like the setting up of the original Church. This will restore prophecy, first, and then the apostolic. And, many of the restoring prophets shall become end-times apostles, just as in the New Testament. The biblical type for this end-times activity is the original New Testament prophets and apostles, which were corporate bodies. The Old Testament type is the individual Elijah and Elisha.

Jesus played the Elisha role to John the Baptist's Elijah. Jesus then started the Christian Church, and handed over the fight against idolatry to it, which was His corporate Body. And, finally, in the very end-times it will be Jesus, appearing in His corporate Body of Christ, following the return of 'Elijah.'

My understanding is that Jesus, in His very end-times corporate spiritual appearance, shall again play the role of Elisha. That is, the corporate Body of Christ of the very end-times shall destroy that element, typed by Jezebel, that manipulates the governance of the Church. This will be the final fight against idolatry. We have only to look into the Book of Revelation to see that this ultimately becomes the fight against the Antichrist and his False Prophet, who have made religious idolatry and false worship a matter of life and death [Rev. 13].

The question, now, is how this is going to happen.

## **THE END-TIMES MANIFESTATION OF ELIJAH PRECEDING ELISHA.**

### **What to Look For.**

To understand what to look for requires the reader to know what God has already done. That includes God's actions in both Old- and New-Testament. The very end-times are all about 'Elijah' and 'Elisha' and the restoration of Christianity. So, that's why we first looked at their previous two restorations. But, God has done some other things between the events of the Books of Matthew and of Revelation. A key activity of God was to establish America as an experiment in Christian living.

A freely available companion paper, entitled The Battle for America<sup>4</sup>, shows why it is likely that the restoration of Christianity shall take place in the United States. That paper is based not only on the Bible, but on eight recent secular books. Putting all of those books together forms the idea that America is the venue of the final effort to defeat idolatry and restore Christianity. Given those 8 books, support for the idea can also be found in the Old-Testament's prophetic book of Ezekiel.

In order to understand what's happening, the reader must be knowledgeable of what the United States place in Christianity has been since its founding, and what it remains to this day (Surveys show that 84% of Americans profess Christianity.) And, Christians must be knowledgeable about what its federal government has been doing to oppose God's plan since 1965. All these facts are in The Battle for America, as synthesized from the 8 recent secular books.

### **Interpreting the Signs of the Times.**

Just as in Jesus' First Advent, today's Church needs to be able to biblically interpret our signs of the times, just before Jesus' Second Advent. This was the task at which Israel failed so miserably at Jesus' First Advent [Mat. 16:3]. To interpret such signs, one needs to know where to look, and at what. To help Christians do that, I have created another companion paper entitled, Interpreting The Signs of Our Times<sup>5</sup>. From the 8 books, this paper creates a set of interpretational frames and sub-frames for biblically interpreting the signs of our times. With 10 sub-frames between them, the set of four main frames are:

- **The Biblical Controlling Context for the Very End-Times.**
- **The U.S. as an Integral Part of God's Plan.**
- **The Cultural and National Suicide of the Post-Christian West.**
- **Islam Versus Christianity.**

### **The Context.**

The controlling context for the restoration of Christianity remains God's biblically documented pattern for using a nation's government to judge the Church, followed by God's judgment of that government. The visible results of God's judgment of the Church is what is now seen in Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand as the Post-Christian West.

### **The Venue.**

The venue for the manifestation of the 'Elijah' of the very end-times and the transition to 'Elisha' must be that one remaining Christian nation that has not yet gone Post-Christian. That nation is the United States of America. It is God's remnant of a remnant, which shall rebuild the 'Temple'.

### **The Vehicle.**

The 'vehicle' for these Christian endeavors may well be George Barna's<sup>6</sup> 'revolutionaries.' They have rejected going to church, in favor of being the Church. They shall have the right number to qualify as a remnant of the remnant. And, they shall be essentially invisible to their oppressive government.

### **The Circumstances.**

The Body of Christ's restorative endeavors shall be conducted in an operational environment of government persecution of the Church. It shall be a replay of the Book of Acts, with the Book of Revelation now also applying. That is one reason for the expectation that these Christian activities do not play out in the organized churches. They are too visible.

### **The Gist.**

At its heart, the biblically necessary restoration of Christianity [Mat. 17:11] shall proceed in the same manner as The Church was formed in the First Century. First, the prophetic and second, the apostolic. And, in the middle of that restoration, as the prophetic leads to the apostolic, is Jesus. This time, it will be His corporate *phaneroo* appearance in the Body of Christ, before His *parousia* return [1 John 2:28]. He who was first shall also be last. It will be the very end-times manifestation of the sons of God [Rom. 8:19].

### **CONCLUSION.**

In order to keep this paper short, much has been brought into it that is explained in readily available companion papers. Just enough has been given here for the reader to decide if he/she is interested in going farther. For those who are so interested, I invite you to email me at the URL given below.

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<sup>1</sup> Protestant Biblical Interpretation, 3<sup>rd</sup> Revised Edition, by Bernard Ramm, Baker Book House, 1970, ISBN: 0-8010-7600-5. Chapters 9, 10.

<sup>2</sup> The Panorama of the Old Testament, by Dr. Thomas R. Rodgers, Impact Press (Christian Education Enterprises, Newburgh, IN), 1988, Chapters 44-50, No ISBN.

<sup>3</sup> The Last Great Revival, by Steve Meeks, Calvary Pubs., Houston, 1994, ISBN 0-9630425-1-3., <http://www.calvaryhouston.com/BookStore.htm>

<sup>4</sup> The Battle for America, by John Painter, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 35-pp, Available upon request.

<sup>5</sup> Interpreting the Signs of Our Times, by John Painter, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 (latest update available), 17-pp., Available upon request.

<sup>6</sup> Revolution, by George Barna, Tyndale House Publ., 2005, hardback, ISBN-13: 978-1-4143-0758-9, 144 pp.