

A.1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE THESIS

In these Last Days of New World Order, New Age, Post-Modernism, Relativism, the meteoric rise of Islam as a world religion, and the Search for the Historic Jesus/Jesus Seminar, truth seems to be individually relative, deceptive heresy is taught as truth, the love of many has grown cold, and people are lovers of self and pleasure rather than lovers of God. This may be seen in the apocalyptic eschatological prophecies described in Matthew 24:12; 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Peter 3:3-4; and Jude 17-19 (Unless otherwise indicated, all Bible references in the thesis are to the New American Standard Bible (NASB)). This culture has not taken place in a vacuum but in an exponentially increasing explosion of knowledge, communication and transportation, as foretold by the prophet Daniel some twenty-five hundred years ago (Dan 12:4). All of this has primarily occurred in the short timeframe since the rebirth of the nation of Israel on May 14, 1948, which in and of itself is a fulfillment of eschatological prophecy (Isa 66:7-9; Ezek 37:15-28; Amos 9:14-15; and Zech 8:7-8). This new global experience still gives evidence of humanity's innate interest in its spiritual nature, which was born and then died in the Garden of Eden around six thousand years ago (*World Book* 2001, 1:31; 3:29; *The Timechart of Biblical History* 2002:I; Butt 2006:19; *Hebrew Date Converter* 2007; and Michael Rood's newly discovered *Astronomically and Agriculturally Corrected Biblical Hebrew Calendar* 2007), and which is still longing to be in right relationship with its Creator as originally designed and described in Genesis 2 and 3. Thus, there remains a critical need for discerning truth from error, Christian orthodoxy from heresy, and the Eschatological Gospel of the kingdom of God from the false gospel of the kingdom of Satan (see Section 1.2 for definition of terms).

The Church, especially the Western Church, appears to be living in the Laodecian Period of the Church Age (Rev 3:14-20), just prior to the Rapture of the Church (1 Thess 4:13-18, symbolized by the individual rapture of Jesus Himself in Acts 1:6-11 and Rev 12:5). This End-

time/Last Days Church also appears to fulfill the Laodecian description contained in the Book of Revelation as follows: looking inward versus outward; being rich, self-sufficient and complacent; and becoming lethargic and lukewarm by allowing secular humanism, moral compromise and the social gospel to infiltrate its own body (the very Body of Christ), while actually being “wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked” (Rev 3:17). The answer to this plight is found in the following verses of Revelation 3:18-20, in the form of an Eschatological Gospel invitation by Jesus:

I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by the fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eyesalve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. *Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me*” [emphasis added].

This Eschatological Gospel was initiated by Jesus Himself and taught to His disciples nearly two thousand years ago and then presented in Revelation as the solution to the entire Church Age’s problems generally and the Laodecian Church Period specifically. The Eschatological Gospel is also addressed by Revelation 1:1-3 and 19:10, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place . . . Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; *for the time is near . . . worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*” [emphasis added].

This study is designed to outline the systematic-theological and theological-historical basis for the Eschatological Gospel of Both Comings of Jesus Christ. Then, it will outline the antithesis of the Eschatological Gospel—Satan’s plan of lies, deception and heresy throughout history, culminating with the explosion of activity since 1948. This may be directly related to the Parable of the Wheat and Tares/Weeds located in Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. There, Jesus talks

about both the kingdom of heaven/God and the kingdom of darkness (Satan's kingdom) coexisting and growing unhindered, side-by-side, until "the end of the age" (*eschaton*). Finally, it will address the "Signs of the Times" in modern history, thereby showing the need for the Eschatological Gospel to be taught in the twenty-first century, especially as the Church (Body of Christ) sees the day of the Lord Jesus Christ's *Parousia* rapidly approaching.