

<Introduction>

“Godless myths” by Jeremiah

Today, we are studying the book of Timothy from the perspective of “Godless myths”.

1Timothy 4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

<The rise of Godless myths amongst the churches in the End Times>

The Bible warns us of the rise of Godless myths amongst the churches in some parts, therefore we are not to be deceived by them. The scripture above is an example of such warning and through this, I would like us to take a look at the warnings of the Godless myths which are infiltrating the churches.

In the scripture above, “old wives” was mentioned. Let’s look at what this means.

The Bible is full of parables and the Lord rebuked the disciples when they did not understand these parables (Mark 4:13 “Don’t you understand this parable?”). So, it is mandatory for anyone who wants to become the Lord’s disciple to understand them. Now then, what is represented in the parable of “old wives”?

As is written in Ephesians, the marriage is seen as a “profound mystery” and it is about “Christ and the church”. Therefore, the wives represent the churches and “the old wives” can be seen as the ones in their end times, not the early church.

Practically, a wife maybe obedient at first, but as she gets older, she might become self-centered and not as obedient to her husband as she was when they were younger.

In the same way, the parable describes that in the End Times, the churches would start taking selfish actions rather than following Christ’s (husband) word. Also it points out that the churches would be attached to this world and become demonic, ending up preaching some Godless myths which are not related to the Bible or the teachings of Christ.

So, we could interpret the scripture in this way but what does the reality look like? Well, unfortunately this is very true and the current churches no longer willingly follow the word of Christ (husband) and the Bible which says “the word is God”. They have started preaching untrue myths and fictions. For example, Catholics say “Evolution is scientific therefore undeniable”, they treat the word of God as myths. Also, they claim publicly that “hell doesn’t exist” which is against the word of God. But we have to remember that these words of the Catholics are myths and far from the truth. It clearly shows how the old wives would be into the worldly myths.

We have learned that the Christian churches will be dominated by the doctrines of demons in the End Times, and we need to know that the doctrines of demons actually come along with those myths.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons

<A myth which the churches rapture before the Tribulation>

The Catholic Church is being dominated by myths and demonic doctrines where they believe that hell doesn't exist.

However, this is not the problem of the Catholics alone, we have to remember that Protestants are also dominated by myths and demonic doctrines also.

One of the prime examples of common myths is the wide spread doctrine of the pre-tribulation rapture (also known as two-stage rapture) which describes that the churches will be raptured before the Tribulation.

This commonly accepted doctrine in recent times started to slowly infiltrate the churches in 19th century when the church began losing its power. This teaching had never been mentioned until then, and is a relatively new myth.

Historical saints such as Martin Luther or John Wesley never mentioned these teachings. It was preached in the United States during 19th century by J.N. Derby from Plymouth Brethren in England.

He spread this story based on the dream that a psychic woman called Margaret Macdonald had. In her dream, Christ returned before the Tribulation and raptured the saints. Again, this doctrine is based on what the psychic saw in the dream, not the word of Jesus Christ.

<The myths are inconsistent with the teaching of the Bible>

Because this teaching does not originate from the Bible, there are some inconsistencies with the word of God in the Bible, such as pre-tribulation rapture or Christ returning twice.

As you can read below, the Bible repeatedly states that the true Christians "will face the Tribulation" and "will go through it" in the End Times. There is absolutely no mentioning of pre-tribulation rapture in there at all.

(Was Christ just a liar who talked about the Tribulation which will never happen?)

Matthew 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

24:4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.

24:5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many.

24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

24:7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

24:8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

24:9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

This part of scripture is related to the End Times and the Lord warns us that we will face the Tribulation or the difficulty of being hated by other people in that day. However, if the pre-tribulation rapture is true, Christ has to be considered as a liar who talked about the trouble which will never occur. And of course, this is not the case.

(Was Jesus Christ a false prophet?)

Matthew 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold

In this part, the Lord said, “At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other”.

He prophesized here that because of the difficulty we face during the Tribulation, many Christians will turn their back on their faith, and also betray and hate each other fearing that they could be arrested and jailed.

However, if the churches will be raptured before the Tribulation, any of those events warned of here will not actually occur, therefore it can be said that Jesus

Christ is a false prophet who prophesized something which will never happen. Again, this cannot be the case.

(Christ preached to stand firm to the end)

The Lord never mentioned rapture, but he told us as we can see below that whoever stands firm to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Therefore, to insist that there will be rapture before the Tribulation means you are completely opposing the word of the Lord who encouraged us to stand firm during the Tribulation right to the end.

In conclusion, we can clearly see that the doctrine of the rapture is only a myth which is absolutely inconsistent with scriptures. So, it is obvious that this is the myth in End Times which is mentioned in the book of Timothy as well as demonic doctrines.

<Sweet sounding myths will spread>

So, why on earth did this kind of myth which is completely unscriptural dominate the churches? Paul mentions about this as in the scripture below.

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

4:4 They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

What is described here is that by the End Times, Christians will no longer be able to stay listening to the true doctrine and Bible based healthy teachings and start ignoring them. This also prophesizes that there would be the time when they will start listening to sweet sounding myths more and more.

This is taking place right now. The pre-tribulation rapture is a “sweet sounding myth” which promises that Christians will never face the Tribulation therefore has become very popular amongst Christians and is being preached at various churches.

<Sweet sounding doctrine of the End Times will spread>

As is written in the scripture above, “to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear”, by the End Times, any doctrine or teacher which is sweet sounding will be

welcomed by Christians and wide spread, while the truth will still remain unknown because its content is not popular.

Therefore, the doctrine which will become popular in End Times has the specific characteristic of “sweet sounding”.

The book of "Hal" Lindsey which describes the End Times has sold around 10 million copies in the United States and globally. Also, the book of “Left Behind” have the exact characteristic of “sweet sounding teachings for Christians”. Here are the examples.

Pre-tribulation rapture: Sweet sounding teaching which promises that Christians will not face the Tribulation.

It is only the Jews who will face the troubles during the Tribulation, so Christians will never have to face it.

The real truths are not preached such as the churches’ apostasy in End Times, selection amongst Christians, or worshipping of the anti-Christ.

As you can see, these books separates us from the truth in the Bible which is not always seen as necessarily ideal, and talks about complete myth and fantasy. As a result, these deceptive books have become the best sellers.

This phenomenon explains exactly where it says “to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear”.

<The prophecy of End Times will be fulfilled by the word of God, not myths>

However, regardless of whether these deceptive books become the best sellers or not, what happens in the End Times will not be determined by these myths or fantasies. We have to remember that it is determined by the true word of God.

We also need to know that many Christians will separate themselves from the truth which is not ideal for them and listen to these myths passionately.

This happened in the times of Jesus’. People didn’t listen to the truth but paid attention to sweet sounding stories and myth. As it is stated below, we can see that Pharisees and rabbis who were teachers at the time also preached sweet sounding story rather than the truth.

Luke 11:42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

What is described as “justice” is interpreted as “judgment” in the King James Version. This means that the Pharisees at the time seem to have tried to meet the public’s demand by preaching sweet sounding stories and didn’t tell them about God’s judgment which was about to come.

The public must have also wanted to hear just the sweet sounding stories therefore it seems that they did not welcome the word of truth spoken by the Lord which describes the future judgment as stated in scriptures below.

Luke 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it

19:42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

19:43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.

19:44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

People couldn’t put up with the truth which the Lord preached, therefore, they arrested Him as a heretic and crucified him on the cross to get rid of him. However, how did the future turn out later?

A.D 70, 40 years after Christ was crucified, the word of the Lord was fulfilled when Jerusalem was surrounded and attacked by Romans, and every single one of them was killed. The word of the Pharisees and their myths which were preached to satisfy the public without mentioning the justice (judgment) have never been fulfilled. On the other hand, the word of the Lord, although strict, came fulfilled later.

We need to know this is exactly what happens in the End Times. Pre-tribulation rapture or any sweet sounding myths will never be fulfilled but only the word of truth will. The Lord clearly rejected the teaching of pre-tribulation rapture as stated below.

John 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

This means that the Lord didn’t mention pre-tribulation rapture which “takes the disciples” from the world, but prayed to “protect from the evil one” despite going through the Tribulation. We shouldn’t preach the gospel which the Lord didn’t mention or insist.

“Covering the shortage”

There is something that the Lord has been speaking to me for some time. That is “the obedience required by the Lord” and I felt that He clearly spoke to me about it at the morning service of 1st of December 2013, so I would like to share it here.

First of all, let me explain why I felt that the Lord spoke to me. It was through the Bible. Did you know that there is a description of the “Temple” in the Bible? In various parts of the Old Testament, specifications of the “Temple” are mentioned. Some may know that they are giving details of the length of the pillar and the size of the room as well. And just like the temple, the same goes with the famous “Ark” which Noah built. God specified to Noah the materials he was to use, the height, width, and length of the ark. You can see it here in the scripture quotes below.

Genesis 6:14 So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

6:15 This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.

6:16 Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks.

6:17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.

As stated in verse 17, Noah and his family certainly built the ark to survive the big flood and indeed they were protected from the disaster by it. Although not specifically mentioned in the Bible, this is the very reason why they survived; they built the ark and stayed in it as they were instructed by God. This happened in the era of the Old Testament but this story can also teach some lessons to us who live in the New Testament era. Yes, surely the big flood will never happen again since God promised that “**it will never again be destroyed by a flood**”. However, there is this scripture in 2nd Peter.

By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

Also, the previous verse says

They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was

formed out of water and by water. By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed.

“Fire” and “water” represents spiritual beings, the “evil spirit”. Therefore, you can say that the people, except Noah and his family were destroyed by the “water”, but it has another meaning which is they were destroyed by the flood of the “evil spirit”. Also as it is stated **“reserved for fire”**, it seems that the same thing will happen again in the End Times. I wonder if “water” and “fire” used here have exactly the same meaning as they are both connected to the word **“destroyed”**.

So, my point is, if the “fire” will destroy the earth in the End Times, we may need to prepare to avoid it like Noah did. Because it is written as “heaven and earth”, it is possible that the actual planet could be destroyed. At the same time, however, we have to think about the flipside of the Bible’s interpretation which is to “be destroyed spiritually” as well. Also, I wonder if we could still go into the kingdom of heaven once we are spiritually destroyed. Noah and his family survived the flood because they had prepared for it. This is a classic example of inheriting the kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, if you look at what happened to those who didn’t prepare, you can see that they were “destroyed” hence, they didn’t inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Now, let’s remember the theme here which is “covering the shortage”. This means building the temple which “meets the Lord’s standard”. It refers to “each Christian’s spiritual temple” as well as “the temple of the Holy Spirit”. This is the “preparation” and for Noah, it was to build the ark. When preparing, there is no point in doing it with our own idea, therefore just as they listened to what the Lord said when building the ark or temple, we need to follow what the Bible says so that we can build the spiritual foundation in the way the Lord instructs us to.

As the Bible says that “no man with a crippled foot or hand (may come near)”, I believe that when each Christian stays within the bounds of scriptural teachings (where the Lord tells us to stay), we are able to build God’s temple individually.

In this way, we can avoid the “judgment of fire” (i.e. death) like Noah and his family. Now, even at the time of Noah, there were many believers (Christians of our time) but only 8 including Noah survived. This makes me think that there may be only few who can avoid the “death” in End Times.

Pastor Jeremiah also preached about this in his sermon on the 1st of December 2013 and I suppose if you don’t meet God’s requirement, you are not going to be counted in. This means there is a possibility that you could miss going into the kingdom of heaven even though you call yourself a Christian. This also seems to be related to the scripture below.

“But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Therefore, we would like to live our life to meet God's "standard" and be seen as "satisfying" by God. It is written that in the time of Daniel, Babylon under the King Belshazzar's reign was seen not meeting the requirement so it was eventually destroyed. I don't think that this is unrelated to us in this era, so we have to understand that we would end up being destroyed if God sees us not meeting His requirement.

Finally, I would like to conclude by sharing the things I have learned and been doing to meet His requirement. As always, the bottom line is to "pray" and "read the Bible". In addition to those, I keep praying that I could do God's will which is very important because although I try my best, I often get attacked by the enemy (Satan) or head to the wrong direction. As long as you are determined to follow God's leading, despite some difficulties along the way, I think you can live the life God has prepared for you with His help.

I also pray daily asking God to show me what to repent of and what needs to be improved. Then through many ways, God shows me the things I have missed, need to improve and repent. Sometimes He even shows me things I was not expecting at all. For example, there are things which other Christians are doing fine and even non-believers are having no problem but somehow I am struggling with. Even then, God kindly and patiently teaches me what to do. I often feel shocked and embarrassed thinking "Oh, I can't do even simple things like this. I just don't get it well enough..." but as I repent, being filled with the Holy Spirit, the experience will bring the benefit in the future. That is when I feel God's mercy and love the most, thinking "How precious is God's work that protects us from being destroyed?" So, I believe it is very important that our sinful parts is revealed to us.

We may not "meet the requirement" from God's perspective. Also as the Bible says, probably we "do not yet know as we ought to know" and I hope I could keep this in my mind for the rest of my life. I want to repent immediately once God showed me some issues so that I can meet His requirement each time. By doing so, I hope God sees me good and takes me to His temple so that I can avoid the death by the "fire" and become someone worthy of entering the kingdom of heaven.

I understand that this testimony may not be accepted by everyone, but I decided to share anyway, so if you think that God has spoken to you, I encourage you to put into practice.

May glory and honor be unto God who always gives us important messages.

<Other information>

◆Despite the Davidic dynasty was promised for its eternal existence by God, it has disappeared in the history after 400 years since the Babylonian Exile.

◆ Is it possible that the almighty God's solemn promise, "David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel" will be broken and the family line will end?

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