

The background image is the interior of a church. It features a high, vaulted ceiling with dark wooden beams. The walls are light-colored with several tall, narrow, arched windows. The floor is covered with rows of wooden pews, and a central aisle leads towards the front of the church. The lighting is soft, creating a serene atmosphere.

OBSERVATIONS

# WHY MANY CHURCHES REFUSE TO TEACH PROPHECY

BY PERRY STONE





**YEARS AGO,** I was ministering at a great mega-church where the pastor requested that I preach on prophecy. He was well studied in the prophetic Scriptures, although many of his contemporaries either ignored these themes or willfully chose not to teach about the time of the end and the tribulation to their members and attendees. This pastor said, “Perry, I know many ministers of large churches who watch your program, but they will not have you preach in their churches, as they believe the subject of end-time prophecy is too negative and controversial.”

After forty-four years of preaching, I am beginning to see a dangerous trend in the American church. Many of the older ministers, who were well informed on the coming of the Lord, are retiring and turning their churches over to other ministers, or at times, family members. In many instances, the younger men are following the new “church trends,” which include avoiding prophecy as it may “frighten too many people,” and placing the “rapture” teaching on the shelf of heresy.

There are several dangers that emerge with this lack of knowledge concerning the future, according to the Bible. First is, people are “destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). The Hebrew word *destroyed* is *damah*, whose root word means “to be dumb or silent.” Knowledge is transferred by information in either printed or verbal form. Silence is not “golden,” as some have said. Silence in teaching prophecy leads to prophetic illiteracy and can be dangerous.

For example, there is a universal mark, number, and name that will initiate a system of buying or selling, called “the Mark

of the Beast.” Without a doubt, this is linked to modern computer and A.I. technology, including chip implants. Those who are prophetically literate know we are racing toward the beast system and would refuse to follow the global trend. However, the younger generation waits for the latest iPhone, downloads all the apps, follows global trends, and loves the convenience of technology. The uninformed and unwarned would be the first to accept this number and mark-system as the latest technology, especially when, without it, a person cannot buy or sell. *Ignorance of the mark’s danger leads to the destruction of the soul.* Thus, to avoid frightening an offended sensitive generation, the pulpit is silent.

As far as prophecy scaring people, prophetic teachers must explain, “who should be frightened?” God’s warnings to Israel throughout her history was to prepare her. They were warned that the Babylonians were coming one-hundred and fifty years prior to Nebuchadnezzar’s invasion. The awareness of what was coming moved righteous men to call for national repentance and preparation. We read that Noah, “being warned by God of things not seen



# MISTAKES PENTECOSTALS HAVE MADE

This message came through a revelation during prayer. Perry saw several things that the Pentecostal Movement did that often hindered men and women from drawing closer to the Spirit of the Lord. Many “old-timers” stated this was a real “eye-opener” and explained why some of their own family members had not received Christ and were not attending church. Every Spirit-filled believer needs to hear this message.

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yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house” (Heb.11:7). Noah’s one-hundred-year job, of preparing a huge floating houseboat, was not to save the *world*, but to save his *house*, meaning his wife, three sons, and their wives. Lot experienced a similar situation when, prior to the destruction of Sodom, he was told to warn his children and sons-in-law to get out of Sodom as destruction was looming within hours. They didn’t believe the message and were later consumed in the fire.

It wasn’t the righteous (Lot and Noah) who sat in a corner doing nothing, smiling, and acting as though all was well. Their advanced knowledge provided not only the warning, but a *pattern to escape* what was coming. It was Christ who said, “Pray that you be accounted worthy to escape all of these things and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36). There should be a “fear of the Lord” (Prov. 9:10) or a godly fear knowing that the judgment of God is

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near. It should motivate Christ’s followers to be informed of the times.

In conclusion, Jesus experienced the same type of high-level religious opposi-

tion when He warned His generation that the shedding of innocent blood would bring destruction to Jerusalem. Because they refused His warning, He said this would occur because “You did not know the time of your visitation” (Luke 19:44). Thirty-six years later, a small remnant of Christians remembered Christ telling His disciples that when “Jerusalem was surrounded by armies, the desolation was near.” This remnant fled from Jerusalem to the mountains in Jordan, living in Pella, a city where they were given asylum (Luke 21:20-21).

A minister who willfully refuses to allow the end-time prophetic message to be preached may restrict comfort from their people. When the birth pangs become more intense, and the signs come to pass, then these same ministers who withheld the message need to have the knowledge and a Biblical explanation for the seekers who will need it. ●