

## David Wilkerson and Prophetic Warnings

David Wilkerson is well known for his prophetic revelations and predictions of the future. He has written books and produced many sermons on these prophecies and visions detailing what he claims God has spoken to him.

Recently Wilkerson preached a sermon in which he claimed that God had shown the calamity of the September 11th catastrophe in New York - *6 weeks prior* to the date in which the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre in New York were destroyed with the loss of many thousands of lives.

The following Sunday *after* the disaster Wilkerson claimed: *'Six weeks prior to the disaster, the Holy Spirit forewarned our pastoral staff that a calamity was coming...in one meeting, I had to steady my knees with my hands, to keep them from trembling in God's awesome presence. During this visitation from the Lord, the Holy Ghost revealed there was a reason for the weeping in our hearts. We were being so moved...A severe calamity was coming to the nation...'*

Wilkerson, as in many of his visions, mentions Revelation 18:10: *'Alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgement come.'* Wilkerson says *'We need to understand where God is in this calamity. And to do that we have to trust His Holy Word alone...'* Wilkerson goes on to say *'...we have to have a word from God.'*

As usual Wilkerson relies heavily on Old Testament Scriptures to back up his visions and revelations. He quotes Isaiah 9:8: *'The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it has lighted upon Israel.'* Wilkerson says of this verse: *'This verse tells us something very important at our own time of devastation. It simply says, 'God always sends His word.'* Wilkerson then goes into Prophetic mode and says: *'I have to speak a word none of us want to hear...if we don't hear God's truth and face it, our nation is doomed. Here is the word I hear the Lord speaking to us right now: 'The Lord shall set up the adversaries of Rezin against him, and join his enemies together...for the people turneth not unto him that smiteth them, neither do they seek the Lord of hosts', (Is.9:11,13) [Verse 12 is left out here - it speaks specifically about the Syrians, the Philistines and Israel].* Wilkerson then expands on this passage and relates it to the current disaster in America and says *'...we risk missing God's message to us.'*

Before continuing with Wilkerson's latest prophecy, a scan of his past prophecies is illuminating. In **1985** Wilkerson wrote a book titled *'Set the Trumpet to Thy Mouth'* in which he recounted a prophetic vision and a direct revelation that God gave to him for the church. This book gave concise details of this message from God in which Wilkerson wrote that America would *'imminently'* be destroyed by fire. The book was liberally sprinkled with the phrases *'imminent'*; *'soon'* and *'very soon'*. Wilkerson wrote: *'Sudden destruction is coming and few will escape. Unexpectedly, and in one hour, a hydrogen holocaust will engulf America - and this nation will be no more...judgement is at the door!...America is about to be shaken...God called me to be a watchman. I hear the Word of God to Ezekiel ringing in my ears, 'Son of man, speak to the children of thy people...'* (P.9,10). *'I believe it is imminent...God will...send fire on us!'* (P.16,17)...*'Soon, very soon, an economic nightmare will explode into reality...America is about to face a time of mass hysteria...our economy spins totally out of control.'* (P.21) *'I see Almighty God even now slowly turning His back on this nation! America is on the verge of committing the unpardonable sin by resisting the Holy Ghost.'* (P.25)...*'this awesome nuclear holocaust...'* (P.32)...*'The end of things is near...'* (P.93)...*'I tremble at what God has called upon me to prophesy.'* (P.112)...'

*[The] soon coming judgement on this nation...'* (P.126)...*'Soon, very soon, those powers [Pentecostal powers] will no longer be needed...'* (P.152)

With the *'imminently'* and *'very soon'* phrases in mind, and the benefit of more than 16 years hindsight, it is clear that *many of the prophecies have simply not come to pass.*

In the above mentioned book, time and again Wilkerson quotes passages that *specifically refer to Israel* but insists they are for *America*, (eg. Zech.9:16, P.22). He says Israel is the church (P.23); he replaces Babylon with America (eg. Jer.51:64, P.26); and says the prophecies to Israel were a *'dual prophecy'* (P.106) and are about to happen again to America. *'America is modern Babylon...no other nation on earth fits the description of Revelation 18...America is referred to as Babylon.'* (He then quotes Ezekiel 17:8, 12 as being *'for America'*, P.11,12. However, Revelation 17 & 18 clearly show the identity of *'Mystery Babylon'* not to be that of America. At least 14 descriptions are given. She is not a country but a city built on *'seven hills'*!). Wilkerson continues...The *'lady in the harbour'* is the *'Statue of Liberty'* (P.15). He says Jeremiah 21:5 *'is an outright warning to America.'* (P.18) *'Russia invades Israel because the American Eagle is no longer there to defend her.'* (P.20)

On digging into Wilkerson's past prophecies we have found *not a few* startling revelations that have gone totally *unfulfilled*. In 1972 *'The Vision'* written and preached by Wilkerson claimed prophetic stature and produced several major prophecies. These prophecies were supposed to be fulfilled *'within a few years.'* They included: A world wide economic recession/depression was on its way...No economist would be able to explain why the world is in economic upheaval...It would start in Germany, spread to Japan, and eventually involve the United States. There would also be a series of world wide natural calamities. And *God and Satan* would pour out pornography upon the world.

Of the *'economic nightmare'* Wilkerson said: *'Soon, very soon, an economic nightmare will explode into reality. What frightful news it will be!...America is about to face a time of mass hysteria, as banks close and financial institutions crumble, and our economy spins totally out of control. Gold and silver will also lose their value...The chaos that is coming cannot be stopped by our government...Scoff if you choose, but the underlying fears about a collapse will soon become a tragic reality...Senators and congressmen will sit in stunned silence as they realize no one can stop the tailspin into chaos...'* Wilkerson finally concluded that following America's economic collapse, Russia was going to administer a nuclear strike to the US with deadly missiles coming from over the North Pole.

In a newsletter called *'Intercessors for America'* there is a prophecy titled *'Preparing For Hard Times: God's Plan Is Heart Preparation First'*.(1) Wilkerson said: *'A few years before the Gulf War, I warned there would be five hundred fires burning in the Middle East. Most people winked at my words. But after the war, there were precisely five hundred and three fires consuming Kuwaiti oil wells, all set aflame by Saddam Hussein. That and many other warnings I've received have come to pass. So these days I listen intently when the Lord is speaking to me about coming events.'*

However, if one goes back and reads Wilkerson's above prophecy published in 1985 in his book *'Set the Trumpet to Thy Mouth'*, there is no reference to *'500 fires'*, although there was a reference to Mid-East oil field fires. The context makes interesting reading: *'Before the great holocaust there will be*

*smaller holocausts - the oil fields of the middle east will be ablaze, and the smoke will rise night and day as a warning of the greater holocaust yet to come. There will be bombs falling on oil fields, on shipping docks and storage tanks. There will be panic among all oil producers, and shippers, and upon all nations dependent on that oil.'*

But has anyone ever referred to the Gulf War as a 'holocaust'? Were the 'oil fields of the middle east...ablaze'? (The oil fields of Kuwait were certainly ablaze but no others). Were there 'bombs falling on oil fields, on shipping docks, and storage tanks'? Was there 'panic among all oil producers, and shippers, and upon all nations dependent on that oil'? Absolutely not! The price of gas was hardly affected by the Gulf war; there was little if any hysteria; and the oil well fires were put out with amazing rapidity. And why did God miss out on the number of 'oil fires' by three? Actually, the only part of the 'Prophecy' that appears correct is the 'oil fires'.

In his latest prophetic revelation concerning disasters in America, Wilkerson has much in his message that speaks of the immorality of American society and the slide away from Biblical standards. (His past courageous stand against 'Christian rock music' and pornography are well known and we applaud them.) In this latest revelation from God he says the Lord 'spoke' to him 'deep in his spirit' about the idolatry and immorality in society and that God was 'forced to carry out his righteous judgements as a last resort...'

Wilkerson then reminds us of another 'prophetic message nine years ago' delivered Sept 7th, 1992: 'Thirty days of chastisement will fall on New York city such as the world has never seen. God is going to let down the walls. There will be unimaginable violence and looting. The violence will be so ferocious, it will shock the whole world. Our streets will be lined not just with the National Guard but with Militia. A thousand fires will burn at the same time throughout the city. The Los Angeles fires were confined to a few sections of that city, but New York will be ablaze in all its boroughs. Time Square will be ablaze, and flames will ascend into heaven and be seen for miles. Fire trucks will not be able to handle it all. Trains and buses will be shut down. Billions of dollars will be lost. Broadway shows will stop completely. Business will flee the city in an unstoppable haemorrhage...not too long afterward, New York city will go completely bankrupt. The queen city will be cast into the dirt, becoming a city of poverty...I believe I will be here when it happens...'

Wilkerson believes, however, that these predicted events can be avoided but says 'our window of opportunity to respond to God's call is brief'.

In May/June 2000 we reminded our readers of Deuteronomy 18:20-22: '**But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or...How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him'**.

What should we think of such prophecies and revelations even if they did come true (which so many have not!)? What prophets would we listen to and not listen to when major disasters are predicted? How would we discern?

What does the Bible mean by a '**more sure word of Prophecy**'? Does this '**word of prophecy**' include prophecies by Wilkerson and others?

A look at 2Peter 1:16-21 reveals the answers. The whole passage is speaking of *false teachers*, false revelations and a departure from the faith: '**For we have not followed cun-**

**ningly devised fables...We have also a more sure word of prophecy..'** But what is this '**more sure word of prophecy**'?...the very next verse tells us!: '**Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you...**'

This '**prophecy**' in verse 19 is '**prophecy OF SCRIPTURE**' (vs.20)! What is this '**Scripture**' to any sound Christian but the 66 books of the Bible! This passage says '**Holy men of God 'spake...**' The word '**spake**' is in the aorist tense and indicative mood - meaning it was done *once* as a *completed act* and *not to be repeated*.

Prophecy in the Old Testament was generally *foretelling* and these words were then *written down* for us to have now in the canon of *Scripture*. In the New Testament '*prophesy*' is the Greek word '*prophetes*' ('*pro*' - forth, before; '*phemi*' - to speak). The word primarily means '*to speak forth the Word of God; to tell forth the message of God; to put forth before another*'. New Testament prophecy is generally *forthtelling*. In the New Testament, before the canon of 66 books of Scripture was closed, men spoke words from God. Prophets were communicators of *new revelation* from God.

However, today the Canon of Scripture is closed. The 66 books of the Bible have been unchanged for nearly 2000 years. There is a *curse* on anyone who would add or detract from Scripture, (Rev.22:18; Dt.4:2; 12:32; 5:22; Pr.30:5,6). We are to '**earnestly contend for the faith which was ONCE delivered unto the saints**', (Jude 3). '**God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son...**', (Heb.1:1,2). Jesus Christ is the final revelation.

Is not Scripture enough to be '**profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works**', (2Tim.3:16,17)?

The Reformation cry of '*Sola Scriptura!*' ('Scripture Alone') is sadly becoming a faint echo amidst the many modern day 'prophets' who would bring new and extra words from God. *The danger in all this is that it takes the peoples focus off a high view of the Word of God. Sola Scriptura* originally had no room for extra revelations, prophecies and visions as words from God!

*All things necessary for salvation and concerning faith and the spiritual life are taught in the Bible, and clear enough for the ordinary believer to understand it.*

Many Pentecostals worldwide look to David Wilkerson as the last line of conservative Pentecostals. However, a look at his false teaching on worldwide endtime revival and the Holy Spirit (see *Diakrisis* May/June 2000), should alone cause Christians alarm. Following the above *Diakrisis* article we were castigated by Pentecostal discernment ministries for exposing Wilkerson. However, the arguments were all lifting Wilkerson up as a moral and bold leader to which *we agree*. However, to this day not one critique of our article refutes the false prophecies and the documentation we set forward.

We urge the reader to be warned of this man, his teachings and such 'prophecies', and to look to the Word of God - which already explains the sinful catastrophies occurring throughout the world. Scripture is sufficient in our perilous times.

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(1)<http://www.ifa-usapray.org/NewsletterHTML/MayPg199.htm>