

Prophets, Prophecy & Prophesying [continued from 282002]

by Bill Crews

... *prophets*" (Matt. 2:23; in other places "*prophet*"); "*the scriptures*" (Matt. 26:5 and other places); "*the scriptures of the prophets*" (Matt. 26:56); "*the scripture*" (Mk. 15:28 and others); "*this scripture*" (Lk. 4:21 and other places); "*which were written*" (Lk. 24:44); "*word that is written*" (Jn. 15:18); "*all that was written of him*" (Acts 13:39).

The expression "*word of prophecy*" is used in 2 Peter 1:19, "*prophecy of scripture*" in 2 Peter 1:20, and "*prophecy*" in 2 Peter 1:21, but "*prophecy*" does not mean "foretelling." It aptly describes every word of God spoken or written by God's prophets, none of which "*came by the will of man; but men spake from God being moved by the Holy Spirit.*"

"Says Who?"

by Wayne Goff

It seems that there has arisen among us a generation that has been taught that anything believed subjectively is "right" for that person. Thus, "truth" has a different meaning for each individual, and there is no absolute standard of objective truth. -- This is a tenet of humanism.

Post-Modernism

"Post-modernism" is a philosophical term which suggests *a change in society's attitude* from what previously had been called "modernism."

"Modernism" began *historically* at the dawn of the Enlightenment, and reflected the attitude that the physical world was a "machine" which could be understood by the human mind via its discovered laws and regularities. "It became the goal of the human intellectual quest to unlock the secrets of the universe in order to master nature for human benefit and create a better world" (Grenz, *A Primer on Postmodernism*, p. 3). Thus, the great technological advances we enjoy today are the result of that thinking.

Furthermore, the mindset of the "modernist" is that knowledge is certain, objective and good. It can be discovered by the human mind. The use of human logic and reasoning can determine the validity of any philosophy, religious doctrine, etc. Since knowledge is *objective*; it has an **absolute standard**. Thus, the Bible, for example, is viewed as an absolute standard for "right and wrong" *religiously*.

Now "post-modernism" is the rejection of the modernist's assumptions. Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) first attacked modernism, but things really changed in the 1970's. Philosophers embraced a "deconstruction" view which says that there are no true, objective standards. The true "meaning" of something does not exist without an "interpreter," and since the "meaning" is now **dependent** upon the interpreter, there are as many "true meanings" as there are interpreters! Hence, there are no absolute truths.

Society's Chaos

Needless to say, once a society rejects **any standard** as true, chaos results. A philosophical anarchy is the result, with people sneering at authority figures -- parents, teachers, policemen, judges, politicians, and yes, even God. How dare these beings assert power over others by suggesting that there is an objective right and wrong!

Irony

The *irony* of all this is that it is **not** new. Pilate in 33 A.D. asked Jesus "*What is truth?*" (Jn. 18:38). Go back and read the history in the Bible and you see man's consistent rejection of God, religion, and truth. The idea is "Don't fence me in!" Today's post-modernism is just **the old rebellion!**

A *second irony* is that the post-modernist is **inconsistent**. He has to be in order to survive! One has to accept some absolutes or else there is nothing but total chaos. Thus the real battles are fought in *theory*, not in *reality*. Christianity is viewed with suspicion because it teaches one way, one truth, and one eternal destiny, *unapologetically!* (Jn. 8:24; 14:6; Acts 4:12). This really "yanks the chain" of the unbelieving post-modernist and his *unrealistic* world.

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