

## **BOWING THE KNEE TO BAAL (part 5 of 7; next post: tomorrow – 3/28/2021)**

Many Christians believe we are living in the very last days of the Church Age. Anticipation for the fulfillment of Bible prophecy is at an all-time high. Rightly so! Events throughout our world, especially in Israel and the Middle East, seem to be lining up with what our Lord predicted during His Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24. However, one end-time prophecy recorded in the New Testament, which can be easily overlooked, is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4, where we read this –

**“Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”**

The apostle Paul is telling us in no uncertain terms, that prior to the revealing of the Antichrist and the onset of the Tribulation, the Christian faith will be plagued by yet another apostasy; perhaps greater than any other, as indicated by the definite article “the.” This falling away from the faith will be orchestrated by false prophets who will mislead many (Matthew 24:5, 10-11, 24); which in turn will serve as a precursor to the revealing of the man of lawlessness, the son of destruction. For anyone and everyone who has an ear to hear, the apostasy of 2 Thessalonians 2:3 has arrived. It has reached such a depth of corruption that another purging, prior to the coming of our Savior and the rapture of His Church, is needed.

I believe this apostasy began in seed form with Pentecostalism at the turn of the century, circa 1900. It has currently spawned so many heretical beliefs and bizarre practices that even some of the more conservative members of this movement are appalled at the falling away from the faith which is occurring before their very eyes (1 Timothy 4:1-2). This deviation from historic orthodoxy has been exacerbated by a liberalized form of Christianity which has sought to undermine the veracity of sound doctrine and the Word of God as a whole. These movements have been unified by yet another development, coalescing in a mixed multitude calling themselves “Christians.” Under this third insidious influence, American Evangelical Christianity can rightly be compared to the days of Jezebel and Israel’s worship of Baal. This final expression of end-time apostasy will be our focus of attention, next.