

# ***THE LEGACY OF LATTER RAIN ESCHATOLOGY AND ITS INFLUENCE ON THE CURRENT-DAY “PROPHETS” OF THE NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION***

## **Purpose of this Paper**

In this paper, I will describe (1) a particular scripturally unsound and dangerous eschatological perspective which has been handed down to Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians from the “prophetic” writings of the 17<sup>th</sup> century mystic Jane Lead (2) the influence this eschatological perspective has had on the current-day self-described “apostles” and “prophets” of the so-called New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) as is witnessed in several affiliated “megachurches,” such as Mike Bickle’s International House of Prayer (IHOP) and (3) the inroads and connections which NAR advocates of this eschatology have made into non-Charismatic, denominational Christianity.

This has been facilitated through proposing that all Christians should come into “unity” over unassailable themes such as effective prayer, vibrant praise and worship, evangelism, church growth, and making a positive Christian impact on society through political means.

The way I have organized this paper is to begin with introductory information then follow the major expressions of Latter Rain eschatology “backward” to their source in the ideas of the 17<sup>th</sup> century mystic Jane Lead. In other words, after “A Little History,” I will examine (1) the teachings of NAR “prophets” who have been influenced by Latter Rain eschatology followed by their impact on non-Charismatic Evangelical and denominational churches, such as Methodist congregations (2) the teachings of earlier, “first generation” Latter Rain “prophets” (3) the teachings of several prominent cults with Later Rain-based eschatology and (4) the “prophetic” writings of the 17<sup>th</sup> century mystic Jane Lead, the influence of which can be traced through the Latter Rain movement of 1948 all the way to the current-day “prophets” of the NAR. This unfortunate lineage has delivered unsound and potentially dangerous doctrines to the doorstep of the non-Charismatic denominational churches through the cry for “unity.”

## **What is this “new” Perspective on Eschatology?**

Having reviewed and analyzed the writings of numerous Bible-based cults and movements over the last 40 years, communicated with others doing similar research, been invited to speak at a national anti-cult conference about Latter

Rain-based eschatology and its presence in various “Christian” cults, consulted with cult experts, helped to counsel people out of such groups, and interviewed their leaders and adherents I, and those with whom I have collaborated, have become aware of a certain take on “end-time” teachings that were not present in Evangelical Christianity prior to the so-called Latter Rain movement of 1948.

In a nutshell, these teachings can be summarized as follows: all apocryphal scriptures that refer to (1) “taking dominion” to establish the “kingdom” (2) becoming morally “perfected” and (3) “executing” the “judgment day,” are appropriated to “elite” members of the Church; it is said that they will be fulfilled through the human agency of the corporate “Body of Christ” on earth. As a result, the above three objectives are to be accomplished prior to the return of Jesus Christ who, it is said, is not “allowed” to return until these things have been “fulfilled.”

### **Questions to Ponder**

This report should raise the following questions. Obviously, our pastor would not want to support the groups and individuals that espouse such beliefs or their highly suspect and potentially dangerous eschatology. Then why would we hear from the pulpit a casual reference to Allan Hood, a leader from the NAR prophet Mike Bickle’s “International House of Prayer” which, as you will see below, reflects the influence of a bloody “judgment” day with the hands-on participation of an “elite” group of Christians? How did this introduction into a very un-Methodist doctrinal world come about? Is it due to an attempt to address the issue of dwindling denominational attendance, as compared to the growth and “vibrancy” of those in NAR-affiliated congregations? Is it because of a lack of familiarity with their eschatology and its unchristian implications?

Why would the congregation of a Methodist church be introduced to any advocates of the above eschatological perspective? By extension, the same question applies to the other “apostles” and “prophets” in the network of NAR leadership, which I have examined below, such as Rick Joyner, Bill Hamon, Cindy Jones and Gwen Shaw. All of these “prophets” share similar Latter Rain-based eschatology and support, sponsor, and facilitate each other’s endeavors to spread these beliefs. What do they have to offer a Methodist church? Look at their beliefs regarding *them* “taking dominion” of society and *them* carrying out the “judgment day,” which I have documented below, and then see what your answer is. Finally, is the pastor being exposed to influences within the congregation and his staff that might unknowingly open him to contact with those who espouse the

eschatology of the current-day, Latter Rain-based NAR? As you read on, you will see that, unfortunately, this is that case.

### **Why Worry about these Sorts of Extreme Ideas?**

Maybe nothing bad will happen, right? Just let it go; live and let live. Afterall, there have always been fanatics and “end-time prophets” full of doom and gloom. True. However, prior to the influence of the prophets of the 1948 Latter Rain movement, they have never said that an “elite” group of essentially super Christians would be the ones to attempt to take control politically and then be the ones to literally carry out the “ministry” of “executing judgment” on the “ungodly” and uncooperative Christians. And even if nothing comes of it, is this something a good Methodist, or a good Christian of any sort, should approve of and support in any way? Does this sound like a conspiracy theory?

Without a doubt some of the folks involved in the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on the Capitol in 2021 were driven by conspiracy theories. But is it possible that some with Latter Rain-inspired eschatology might attempt to put their beliefs into action in a similar way, making their beliefs about the role of the Church in bringing about the removal of the “ungodly” a reality? It is my contention that it would be irresponsible for a Christian to be aware of these beliefs and neglect to bring them to the attention of other Christians. As you read on, you can make up your own mind based on the words which I have documented straight from the horses’ mouths.

### **A Little History: From the Latter Rain Movement of 1948 to the Denominational Churches of Today**

In 1948 the Latter Rain revival supposedly “restored” the “lost” offices of “apostles” and “prophets” to the Church. The apostles were given greater authority, while the prophets received “ongoing revelations” from the “spirit” to unlock the “meat of the Word.” Much of their “revelations” had to do with “dominionist” eschatology with an “eliminationist” touch which, in reality, can be primarily attributed to the influence of the “prophetic” writings of the 17<sup>th</sup> century mystic Jane Lead. Influential forerunners to the Latter Rain which shared this approach to eschatology were William Branham and Franklin Hall.

Some of the cults that formed around this very controversial “spiritual outpouring” include William Branham’s Branhamites aka “The Message,” John Robert Stevens’ “The Church of the Living Word” aka “The Walk,” Jim Jones’ “The People’s Temple,” later known as “Jonestown,” “Moses” David Berg’s “The

Children of God” aka “The Love Family” and Sam Fife’s “The Body of Christ” aka “The Move.” At its inception, “God,” through “prophecy,” told the adherents of the Latter Rain, in a very Gnostic sort of way, to “keep quiet” about the “new thing” that “he” was doing. Afterall, “God” reasoned, other Christians “would not understand” the “deep revelations” and the “outpouring of the spirit” would fall into disrepute.

With the Latter Rain acting as something like a Petri dish, other “new” doctrines concerning the “end-times” were born. For example, by following “ongoing revelation,” some verged into teachings more at home in the “esoteric” world, while others “discovered” the “present truths” of Neo-Gnosticism, racial theories about the “Aryan” race, white-supremacy and the Alt-Right. The key figures that adopted and developed these new doctrines include the “prophets” George Hawtin, Bill Britton, Royal Cronquist, and J. Preston Eby, who were in consistent agreement that “all things” to be achieved in the “end-times” would occur through the essentially deified “corporate Body of Christ.”

Driven by “ongoing revelations” and through “borrowing” and plagiarizing the written works of the Esoterically-inspired, 17<sup>th</sup> century mystic and “prophetess” Jane Lead, these “prophets” of the Latter Rain developed the idea that “all things” to be achieved in the “end-times” would occur through the essentially deified “corporate Body of Christ” prior to the literal, physical, personal return of the individual Jesus Christ. The inspiration provided by Lead is of no small significance in that her unorthodox brand of “mysticism” was forged by an eclectic collection of beliefs including “Christian Kabbalah,” Neoplatonism, astrology, numerology, spiritism, the works of the “alchemist” Jacob Boehme, and an ongoing series of “visions” with the “Great Goddess” and “spouse of God, “Sophia.”

Accordingly, the beliefs of these four influential men documented below are not only truly amazing in their diametric opposition to the Jesus Christ of traditional, orthodox, Biblically-based “sound doctrine,” they also follow a straight line from the influence of the mystic Jane Lead and are consistently reflected in the teachings of the “prophets” of the current-day NAR. With Latter Rain eschatology as a given, beliefs of several prominent destructive cults are also documented below.

According to this belief system, “all things” to be achieved by the “corporate Body of Christ” prior to the return of Jesus include (1) “taking dominion” politically to establish the “theocratic” state of the “kingdom” (2) becoming “sinless” and “perfected” as the “incorruptible” “manifest sons of God”

of Romans 8 (3) “executing” the “written judgments” of God through human agency in a physical, literal removal of those deemed “ungodly.” Once these three goals have been achieved, the individual Christ, it is said, would then be “allowed” to return to “receive” a “glorious kingdom” established and “cleansed” by the “corporate Christ” on earth. Other expectations of this mindset include (1) a closer relationship with angels, “those who have gone on before” and now reside in the “great cloud of witnesses” (2) an increase in miraculous “signs and wonders” and (3) a “great end-time harvest of souls” rather than a falling away from the faith.

The influence of these doctrines carried through to the 1980’s with the so-called Kingdom Message of Earl Paulk, Bob Weiner, and John and Anne Gimenez. John, a close associate of Latter Rain “prophet” Bill Britton, was instrumental in encouraging Evangelicals to become more involved in politics by organizing “Washington for Jesus.” The Latter Rain torch and eschatology was then passed on to the present-day influential “apostles” and “prophets” of the “New Apostolic Reformation,” aka the NAR. Principle among NAR “prophets” that I will focus on here are Bill Hamon, Cindy Jacobs, Mike Bickle, Rick Joyner, Gwen Shaw and Bob Jones, along with their association to the “Kansas City Prophets” and “International House of Prayer,” aka IHOP. I will also examine IHOP/NAR-affiliated Allen Hood and Pete Greig and their influence on Evangelical, non-Charismatic, non-NAR denominational churches.

For the purpose of this report, I choose to focus on the theme of “Executing Judgment” in the context of “Taking Dominion.” In this way, I hope to show that the NAR and its doctrinal ancestry are indisputably both unscriptural and potentially dangerous.

## ***THE LATTER RAIN-INFLUENCED “PROPHETS” OF THE NAR***

### ***MIKE BICKLE AND IHOP***

The following should establish connections and beliefs. In other words, it will help to establish who supports whom, and whether or not their teachings are consistent with those of Latter Rain eschatology concerning human involvement in carrying out a literal “cleansing” purge to remove the “ungodly” on behalf of Jesus. In regard to connections and affiliations, we are told in an article titled *The Kansas City Prophets*, excerpted from *Heaven Can't Wait* by William M. Alnor (1996), that some of the “main prophets and/or leaders” in this very controversial movement of the NAR include Mike Bickle, Bob Jones and Rick Joyner.

In regard to beliefs, according to Bill Jackson's *The Quest for the Radical Middle: A History of the Vineyard* (1999), Bickle's eschatology is "consistent with the restorationist thesis that began in the Latter Rain" and that he supports other Latter Rain-influenced, NAR "prophets," such as Rick Joyner, and makes the books of "apostle" C. Peter Wagner and "prophet" Bill Hamon available in his bookstores.

According to Holly Pivec and Doug Geivett, coauthors of *A New Apostolic Reformation?: A Biblical Response to a Worldwide Movement* (November, 2014), Bickle claims he "received revelation" to start a 24/7 prayer room from the Latter Rain "prophet" Bob Jones on September 19, 1999. As a reminder, IHOP's Allen Hood, who has recently been referenced from the pulpit in a denominational church, calls the Latter Rain-based Jones a "prophet of the Lord."

The Apostle Paul was adamant when he said that anyone who taught "another gospel" should, as he put it, be "accursed." Decide for yourself if the following should qualify as "another gospel." According to Bickle, "through the practice of 24/7 prayer" the "last generation of Christians will actually *cause* the tribulation" and the judgments written "in the book of Revelation." He says that Christ will "only return when the church is functioning in the unity of the Spirit" and is "anointed in prayer" which will result in "billions of men, women and children being killed." Bickle says when "Jesus kills people, their blood will splash up on His garments" as their "blood spurts up on Him," which he confesses "is gruesome." Bickle also says that "perfected saints" will join Jesus in this bloody battle which will be expedited by the "fervent prayer" of "true" Christians. Notice in particular the role to be played by Christians in this imminent bloodbath.

Should a teacher of such unchristian ideas have his church and one of his leaders, Allan Hood, casually referenced from the pulpit of a Methodist church, even if it was in the context of effective, "fervent" prayer? If I wanted to ask my employees to "clean house" in an unorganized business, would I reference Hitler as an example of effective "purging"? When you read about the eschatology of Latter Rain prophet J. Preston Eby and others below, you will see that my example is not outlandish or unfair.

In answer to my earlier rhetorical question about the possibility of influences on the direction that the church is taking, the following conversation I had on 3/13/22 bears much light which, as it turns out, is not the Light of Jesus Christ. After services that day I met, by "chance," the leader of current prayer initiatives in the church. As we talked, the subject of her being previously involved in a "house church" in Kansas City came up. I asked if she meant Mike Bickle's

“International House of Prayer.” She answered yes, her “House of Prayer,” which was literally, in her house, was affiliated with Bickle’s IHOP. This seemed strange, but I went on to mention other “Kansas City Prophets,” such as Rick Joyner and Bob Jones with which Bickle was associated. She affirmed that she knew all of them, including her past involvement in John Wimber’s “The Association of Vineyard Churches,” another group known for their Latter Rain-based eschatology.

Seeing how things were spilling out, I took things to another notch; I went straight to questions about the Latter Rain and its “founding fathers,” those who had clearly plagiarized the writings of esoteric-influenced 17<sup>th</sup> century “prophetess” Jane Lead and passed on her eschatological views on “taking dominion” and “executing judgment.” In particular, I asked if she was aware of the Latter Rain “prophet” Bill Britton (examined below, including my correspondence with two of his associate pastors), his “House of Prayer” in Springfield, Missouri, or his seminal work of Latter Rain eschatology, *Jesus the Pattern Son* (1956). She said yes. To place things in perspective, Britton’s views on eschatology, and other matters, were considered so extreme and heterodox that he was “defrocked” as a minister in the Pentecostal denomination of the Assemblies of God. It could be seen as a little surprising that our Methodist prayer leader acknowledged a positive familiarity with this man and his very un-Methodist book.

With her response, I went on to ask if she knew of another seminal work by one of the “founding fathers” of the Latter Rain, *The Feast of Tabernacles* (1951) written by George Warnock, who was another who “borrowed” from the writings of Jane Lead. The name of the author produced a puzzled look on her face. But when I mentioned the title of his book, she smiled and let me know that his name had jogged her memory and that, yes, she knew of this book.

In regards to Britton and Warnock, it is of further interest to note that in Ernest Ramsey’s *The Neo-Pentecostals and their Amazing New Age Teachings* (1982), which was written from the perspective of a “new age” disciple of the “Christian esotericist” Alice Bailey, Ramsey points out the similarities of “new age” and Latter Rain-based doctrines on the “manifestation of the sons of God” of Romans 8. He says that both perspectives, one Christian and the other “new age,” teach that there will be a final “third” salvation in which “perfection” is achieved prior to the arrival of “the Christ,” and references Britton’s *Jesus the Pattern Son* and Warnock’s *The Feast of Tabernacles* as source materials for this “revelation.”

Ramsey goes on to urge those with a “new age” background to have an open mind toward these Latter Rain-based teachings, and says that contacts and collaborations should be made with them. He points out that these teachings, which are more spiritually “evolved” than those of other Evangelicals, are disseminated from “centers” which he identifies as Bill Britton’s “House of Prayer” in Springfield, Missouri, and John and Anne Gimenez’s “Rock Church” in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Again, one of the questions raised is this; how is it that a conduit, a funnel, an open door to some of the most rancid, unchristian teachings that have plagued Charismatic Christianity since 1948 have made their initial introductions to the orthodox, Evangelical, Bible-based denominational churches of today? This brings us to the obvious follow-up question; with a knowledge of the Latter Rain eschatology and an understanding that it has no place in the faith of the Church, what should be done? Before we left the church, she graciously prayed with me about my mother’s health.

### **ALLEN HOOD AND BOB JONES**

In a YouTube video titled *Weeping: Key For The Breakthrough* //Allen Hood at IHOPKC (April 25, 2021), Hood, one of Mike Bickle’s associates at IHOP, tells us about a meeting with the Latter Rain “prophet” Bob Jones. Hood is obviously in awe of Jones, referring to him as “a prophet of the Lord” who acts as a “spiritual father” with a “prophetic” ministry.

Jones was considered a “prophet” of the so-called “Kansas Cit Prophets” and is an associate of Mike Bickle of IHOP and Rick Joyner of MorningStar Ministries, whose eschatological leanings are documented below. According to Jones in *Shepherd’s Rod Prophecy* (2012), “Instead of there being one Jesus down here” on earth at the “manifestation of the sons of God,” “there will be thousands.” In *The Coming Kingdom* (Feb 24, 2011) held at NAR “apostle” Bill Johnson’s Bethel Church, Jones said that “the Lord” told him “I’m coming IN my people.” He says in *God’s Mercy* (September 2018), “there will be a war” in which these chosen “warriors” will be given “the victory.” To speak of a “war” in the context of “perfected” Christians, the “manifest sons of God” in the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans, is a misguided reading of scripture and a recipe for disaster.



## **RICK JOYNER**

According to *Pastor Rick Joyner Urges American Christians to Prepare for Civil War*, by Benjamin Fearnow (Newsweek 3/16/21), Joyner, the NAR “prophet” and close associate of Mike Bickle of IHOP, “urged” Trump supporters and “true disciples of Christ” “to buy up arms” in “preparation” for “a coming civil war” with the “evil” forces which he claims “stole” the “November election from former President Donald Trump.” Again, signs of the Latter Rain fixations with “taking dominion” and “executing judgment” should be apparent.

## **BILL HAMON**

The late “church growth expert” C. Peter Wager, who claimed to have started the NAR, was its head “apostle.” He wrote glowingly of his approval of Hamon in the foreword to Hamon’s *Apostles, Prophets and the Coming Moves of God* (1997). This is of no small significance when you read about Hamon’s Latter Rain-based eschatology below, and how it is expressed in the phone conversation I had with him.

In *Apostles, Prophets and the Coming Moves of God*, Hamon writes about “God’s army” that will “subdue everything under Christ’s feet” and “execute God’s written Judgments.” Hamon has close connections with the usual list of NAR “prophets,” such as Mike Bickle, Rick Joyner, Gwen Shaw, and Cindy Jacobs.

Over the phone I asked Hamon if (1) “taking dominion,” or political control, of America to establish a “theocracy” and (2) “executing judgment” on the “ungodly” causing their physical, literal death were responsibilities to be carried out through the human agency of the “manifest sons of God” of Romans 8 prior to the physical, literal, personal return of Jesus Christ. The “prophet” Hamon nonchalantly told me that whether you “cut their heads off” or “execute judgement” in some other way, “death is death, any way you look at it.” He went on to give several Biblical “proofs” that this action of murder for God would be an acceptable and expected upcoming “end-time” event.

His Biblical “proof-texts” included decontextualized scriptures like “go and smite” and “utterly destroy,” “slay both man and woman, infant and suckling,” do not “let anything that breathes remain alive,” and “annihilate them.” He also made sure to reference Ananias and his wife Sapphira, who were struck dead for disobeying God and lying to the Apostle Peter. Then Hamon’s voice became more forceful and intense. He drew out his words, as he slowly and emphatically stated his assertion that, in all of these cases, the main point was that “they died!”

He then went on to pose the question; “What do ya think He’s gonna do to all those ministers that hinder the work of God?” Hamon ended by reminding me that those who are to partake in this “ministry” of death will first have to come into “perfect love” so that their motives will be “pure” in “cleansing” the earth in order to “allow” Christ to return to a “glorious kingdom” and a pure “Bride,” which is the “Body of Christ” on earth.

As strange as it seems, Hamon is still considered a “prophet” in the growing, current-day NAR, and remains significant through his writings and by training other politically active supporters of Trump and influential “apostles” and “prophets” such as Cindy Jacobs.

### **CINDY JACOBS**

The NAR “prophet” Cindy Jacobs shows the clear influences of the Latter Rain movement through her association with Bill Hamon, who she refers to as her spiritual “father,” and her participation in “Apostolic” and “Prophetic” conferences held by her fellow NAR-affiliated “prophets.” However, her influence goes beyond the NAR of Charismatic Christianity to the doorsteps of the non-Charismatic, denominational churches which desire to “put aside petty differences” in order work and “pray in unity” and to “take back the nation for God.”

At a 2008 “Prayer Quake,” Jacobs and “24/7” prayer advocate Pete Greig were featured speakers. Despite any valuable lessons on “effective” prayer that either may have to offer, this not only indicates their mutual involvement and participation in NAR-affiliated events, sharing the stage not only indicates their mutual involvement and participation in NAR-affiliated events, it also implies their support of the Latter Rain-eschatological on which much of NAR doctrine is based. In evidence of this shared worldview are the topics listed for break-out sessions which include (1) “Extravagant Worship,” which Latter Rain-inspired enthusiasts say is the “Davidic” form of “praise and worship” thought to have been “restored” in 1948 (2) how to distinguish between “Dark and Light” “angels” on “the other side of the veil” and how to interact with them which, again, goes back to the influence of the Latter Rain movement of 1948 and (3) “Prophetic Worship” with Daniel Brymer, who is affiliated with the NAR “prophet” Mike Bickle, pastor of IHOP.

In her *Possessing the Gates of the Enemy: A Training Manual for Militant Intercession* (1994), with a forward by NAR “apostle” C. Peter Wagner, Jacobs again establishes her approval of and connection with Pete Greig by quoting him and favorably promoting his “powerful book” titled *Red Moon Rising* (2003). On p.

89 she describes the Esoteric-influenced, NAR “prophet” and recognized cult leader, “sister Gwen Shaw of End-Time Handmaidens,” as another “powerful prayer leader.”

### **GWEN SHAW**

As far as NAR connections go, the following “prophets” have spoken at Shaw’s “Handmaiden’s World Convention” between 1982 and 2004. This shows the typical “in house” mode of operating which NAR-affiliated leaders demonstrate. For example, Shaw shared her pulpit with the NAR “apostle” C. Peter Wagner, the NAR “prophetess” Cindy Jacobs, and the “prophet” Kelley Varner, associate of Latter Rain “prophet” Bill Britton, whose eschatology is examined below. Shaw was also a member of the NAR “apostle” Wagner’s “Apostolic Council of Prophetic Elders,” which included the like-minded NAR “prophets” Mike Bickle and the influential Cindy Jacobs, who quotes Shaw as an authority on “spiritual warfare.”

Shaw says the “battle of all ages” is “going to take place on this planet!” She “challenges” her followers to be prepared to “do or die.” Accordingly, she says that “The Lord” spoke through her saying “I would rather give you a harvest of blessing than a harvest of judgment and a harvest of blood,” an indicator of the ever-present influence of Latter Rain eschatological preoccupations.

### **DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES, PETE GREIG AND ALLEN HOOD**

I recently heard a pastor make several points that reminded me of the NAR. I felt as if I was listening to some of the talking points of the late C. Peter Wagner, “founding father” and “apostle” of the NAR. For example, the pastor implied that “travailing prayer” had been “lost” to the denominational churches in America, that they can’t compete with the effectiveness of the churches in Africa and Central and South America which thrive in numerical growth and emotional fervor, and that these congregations will likely become the “centers” of truly pure and engaged Christianity. We were also told about Pete Greig’s *How to Pray: A Simple Guide for Normal People* (2019), which was given an endorsement from the pulpit. Again, on 3/6/22 we were told about Greig along with Allen Hood, a leader from the NAR-affiliated International House of Prayer (IHOP) pastored by the “prophet” Mike Bickle.

Pete Greig has close ties to “prophets” of the NAR, such as the influential, self-proclaimed “prophet” Cindy Jacobs, who proudly asserts that the death and destruction-oriented NAR “prophet” Bill Hamon is her spiritual “father” in the

faith. Greig says that “dynamic new churches” are surpassing the “dwindling congregations” of denominationalism. He states that this decline is “ruffling” the “feathers” of traditionalists. Greig says he pushes for “unity,” an obvious contradiction to his derision of denominational churches with “dwindling” attendance, and an apparent introduction to the “thriving” NAR-based churches which he promotes and their leaders with whom he associates.

Unfortunately, this current cry for “unity” is heard primarily from the very vocal Charismatic Christianity community, much of which is dominated or strongly influenced by the “apostles” and “prophets” of the NAR. Accordingly, Greig takes the virtually unassailable stance of prayer that “provides denominational unity.” It is “the foundation for solidarity,” he says, in which “Catholics, Protestants, Baptists, Pentecostals, Methodists and Presbyterians are willing to pray together.” In addition, Greig’s NAR affiliations are highlighted at Justin Werner’s IHOP-affiliated blog titled *Just some Things I Find Interesting!!!*.

For example, we are told that “IHOP has received support from prominent Christian leaders” such as the NAR “apostle” C. Peter Wagner, the NAR “prophets” Bill Johnson of Bethel Church and Rick Joyner of MorningStar Ministries, and the “24/7” prayer advocate Pete Greig. It is acknowledged that IHOP is “deemed controversial by other Christian leaders and has been accused of being a Christian cult.” Under “Theology, Themes, & Doctrine” we are told that IHOP teaches the Latter Rain-influenced theme of “Apostolic Leadership” which “Some find” to be “controversial and a source of criticism.”

Finally, to repeat, Greig and his relative significance in influencing denominational churches should be understood in the context of his association to the NAR “prophet” Cindy Jacobs and her spiritual “father,” the Later Rain-influenced, death and destruction-oriented, NAR “prophet” Bill Hamon.

### ***THE NAR’S GROWING IMPACT ON DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES***

Since the themes of the Latter Rain-influenced NAR spread primarily through the “nondenominational,” Charismatic and Pentecostal churches, where current-day “apostles” and “prophets” roam unleashed, “unity” with them can become more than problematic. In other words, even when “safe,” “sound,” and “baptized” initiatives are forwarded, such as those for evangelism, “church growth,” “vibrant” music and worship, “fervent” prayer, and “making a difference in society,” many Christians in denominational and Evangelical churches seem to be ready to jump on board without counting the cost.

For example, having a “positive impact on society” as faithful Christians easily morphs into misguided versions of the desire to “take back America for God,” to the arrogant notion of “taking dominion,” or to the NAR’s Latter Rain-inspired eschatology which drives the “7 mountains” campaign to “take control” of all aspects of society in order to “allow,” or “cause,” Jesus to return to a “pure and spotless Church” and a “glorious kingdom.”

This influence is also difficult to escape due to the pervasive presence of NAR-based “prophetic music ministries,” such as those associated with Bethel Church and Hillsong, whose songs are regularly heard on Christian radio stations and played at “contemporary” worship services within denominational and Evangelical churches; music, even “good music, is the “universal language” which is able to grease wheels and open doors for a deluge of pre-existing doctrinal ailments that are handed down through the influence of the Latter Rain-based goals, doctrines, and eschatologically-skewed timelines in which Jesus is no longer in control and the Providence of God is denied. In this way, the denominational and Evangelical churches are exposed to, and corrupted by, a legacy of false and questionable doctrines and practices that cater to the senses, the wallet, and spiritual pride.

Despite the measurable “successes” of “church growth” in third world countries and America, numbers do not validate fidelity to the faith. The NAR-affiliated churches that are experiencing growth appeal to this desire to put faith in the tangible world of what can be seen and measured. In a “big tent” sort of way, they garner followers from a variety of denominations through their drive to “take dominion” of society in a deceptively favorable, Christianizing manner. They employ the seemingly unassailable foundation of “24/7 prayer rooms” and the “excitement” and “vitality” of their music and “praise and worship” events. The “evidence” that God is “on their side” comes through the “proof” of an advancing “unity,” though it is subtly detached from and unencumbered by sound doctrine. However, as shouldn’t have to be said, the Church is not called to be “effective” according to worldly standards; it is called to be faithful, and its faithfulness is not measured by emotional fervor, monetary gains, or the number of its adherents.

Unfortunately, due to the above reasons, the denominational churches that have no historical association with the Jane Lead-based eschatology of the Latter Rain and the NAR have nevertheless become increasingly vulnerable to the seductive draw of a works-over-grace mentality that wants to see results and, childishly, wants to see them “now!”

One way to exacerbate the situation when confronted with “strong delusion” that is introduced within Christianity is to draw a false line of demarcation between the Church, its beliefs and practices, and what in reality is a falsified approximation of Christianity. In this way, a Gnostic-like excoriation of the faith “once delivered” to the Church seeks to break, redefine, and remake the Church in the image of its counterfeiting imposter.

For example, this assault on the faithful is implicit in making spurious distinctions through the strawman argument that “casual prayer” is inferior to “travailing prayer” that brings “restoration,” “revival,” and a “fresh outpouring of the spirit.” By thus blindly tilting at unseen windmills, the false prophets of the NAR create a vacuum for those under their influence. Subsequently, this vacuum is only filled by appropriating their methods, their agenda, and their Latter Rain-based doctrines and eschatological goals.

With these sorts of superficial distinctions made to the unwitting denominational churches, whispers of the spiritual pride to be gained by becoming one of the “super” Christians who is a step ahead of the rest of the pack are made. In this way, the roles of the humble sinner and the arrogant hypocrite are played out. In other words, the repentant sinner who beats his chest in prayer is heard. The “elite” hypocrite, however, with vain repetitions frothing from his mouth, receives the “reward” of being seen, heard and honored.

## ***EARLIER LATTER RAIN “PROPHETS” THAT HAVE INFLUENCED THE ESCHATOLOGY OF THE NAR***

### ***FRANKLIN HALL***

Franklin Hall was one of the most influential figures at the onset of the Latter Rain. His *Atomic Power with God Through Fasting and Prayer* (1946), later renamed *The Fasting Prayer*, became the standard for the prolonged fasts of Latter Rain advocates seeking “revelations” from God. On p. 13 of his *Miracle Word* (circa 1946), Hall said that “the unrighteous have to be exterminated.” The “time of judgement is very close to the world now,” when those who are “taken away will be killed. Taken away, mind you, with death.” This is because “as a group from the church take up their authority and rulership of the planet that God gave them, they will be able to choose whom they will to occupy it.”

## **BILL BRITTON**

In his *Jesus the Pattern Son* (1956), Britton said God is “preparing” his “firstfruits” who “will be the instruments” of “God’s judgment and wrath upon the world” which will, as he puts it, usher in the “new age.” In *A Closer Look at the Rapture* (circa 1957), Britton said that “from 50 to 100 million civilians will die,” for the “wicked shall be judged and taken away” while the “righteous shall inherit the earth.” On p. 13 and 14 we are told that God’s wrath was “powerful enough to kill every man or beast that was not” covered by a “shelter,” which Britton says is “symbolic of the judgments of God upon this wicked world” to be “administered by God’s army” who will bring about “the destruction of God’s enemies.”

Britton’s right-hand man, associate pastor David Tice, told me that on the “Great and Terrible day of the Lord,” one would be “taken in death,” while the other would be “left to inherit the Kingdom” and that this would be carried out by the human agency of the “manifest sons of God,” before the physical, literal, personal return of the individual Jesus Christ.

Britton’s associate pastor Roy Ralph told me that “the enemies of God will be destroyed by the brightness, the shining forth of His appearing first and foremost through his saints” since “Jesus Christ is going to come in His saints.” He adds that they will do this “under the anointing and headship of Jesus Christ” since we are “the Body and all that we do is follow the directions of the Head.”

## **ROYAL CRONQUIST**

In a phone call I made to Cronquist’s church in Spokane, Washington, I asked if the “manifest sons of God” would “physically remove” the “ungodly” in death after “taking dominion.” I was told by an associate pastor at Royal Cronquist’s church, with nervous laughter, that “yes,” that was the message on which Cronquist had just recently preached. She then went on to quote him, saying that we should “be prepared to live, or be prepared to die,” and that I should order a copy of the taped sermon.

In keeping with this Latter Rain-based eschatology, according to Cronquist’s “Christ,” in EPISTLE 61 – 1982 “If you are not set” in “My theocratic government” then “you will not remain alive.” In EPISTLE 171 – 1987 we are told that “millions of improperly informed Christians will be killed” along with “the ungodly.” In EPISTLE 206 – 1990 Jesus-through-Cronquist warns us that the “present Church” “shall be reduced by two-thirds before My final coming.” We are told “I shall come in My Corporate Man,” in the “Sons,” to “initiate and execute My

vengeance and wrath.” In EPISTLE 240 – 1995 we learn that “they will be physically killed by the coming judgments” executed by God’s “vengeful ones,” the “manifest sons of God.”

### **GEORGE HAWTIN**

Hawtin is often considered the “founding father” and “apostle of the Latter Rain at its inception. I corresponded with Hawtin for a period of a couple of years. He would send me instalments of his Jane Lead-influenced *Treasures of Truth* along with, to my surprise and disgust, several racist tracts, including *Living Creature: Origin of the Negro*, which claimed that black people were actually sub-human “beasts of the fields” who had been created for a life of servitude to white people. According to Hawtin, on p. 38 of *Treasures of Truth* 34 “the sons of God become the Son of God.” These “inChristed saints will reign” and “slay the wicked.” In *CHAPTER THREE: THE PREPARATION OF THE SONS OF GOD*, the ministry of “judgment shall be given to the saints” who will go “through the city and smite.” They will neither “spare” nor to have “pity” as they “slay utterly old and young, both maids and little children and women.” In this way, the “wicked” will be “taken away” and the “sons of God” will be “left to enter into the new age.”

### **J. PRESTON EBY**

According to Eby, on p. 1, 3 and 7 of *HEAVENS DECLARE, PART 38 TAURUS-THE WILD BULL*, the “manifest sons of God” will be charged with “taking vengeance on them that know not God” and the land “shall be soaked with blood.” These “judgments of God shall be executed” by his “glorious CORPORATE CHRIST.” On p. 4 of *HEAVENS DECLARE, Part 32* the “judgment day” is a “purging” event that gets “rid of unwanted and unnecessary material.” Therefore, “I can assure you that there are vast numbers of preachers who will be eliminated in that day.” The precedent for this was set when “Hitler instituted a purging of the government” in which “they were not just relieved of their responsibilities, they were executed.” Likewise, “only the ones who have completely surrendered” to God’s agenda “will remain alive to reign with Him.”

It is also interesting to note that on p. 7, 9, 10, and 11 of *HEAVENS DECLARE*, Eby, like Latter Rain “prophet” William Branham, states that we are “no longer held to the age of Pieces” aka the “church age,” since the “new age lies directly before us.” With the aplomb of any self-described Esotericist, Eby declares that “THIS IS THE DAWNING OF THE AGE OF AQUARIUS” in which the symbolic “Feast of Tabernacles” will be become a reality and the “manifest sons



of God” will be made “perfect” in order to “execute judgment” and “rule and reign.”

## ***CULTS WITH LATTER RAIN-BASED ESCHATOLOGY***

### ***THE “PROPHET” WILLIAM BRANHAM AND JIM JONES***

Branham said “you're going to see the church of God begin to get its place” when it starts to exercise its “mighty power” as was exhibited to “Ananias and Sapphira.” God is getting “His church in order” so that “they,” the “manifest sons of God,” can “enter the promised land” after “all the enemies” have been “drove out.”

Jim Jones shared a mutual admiration with Branham. In his *Father, The Hour has Come* (1956), Branham told his congregation that they should be “Happy to see” our “host pastor, brother James Jones from Indianapolis.” Fittingly, Branham launched Jones into “ministry” through a “prophetic” “word of knowledge” from the “Holy Ghost.” Jones makes reference to the “judgments of God” spoken of by “the prophet Joel,” which he says must be understood in the context of achieving “the Godship degree” at which point you realize that “ye are gods.”

### ***THE “PROPHET” SAM FIFE***

In a letter to Sam Fife’s right-hand man, “Buddy” Cobb, I was told that the “sons of God” would have the “responsibility” of carrying out the judgment day. In keeping with this Latter Rain-based eschatology, according to Fife, the “power” to decide who lives and who dies “will not be given to the Sons AFTER Jesus returns,” it “will be given to the Sons of God” before he returns. The “angel” that gathers the “vine of the earth” and “casts it” into the “great winepress” of the “wrath of God” will create a great river of “blood” that comes “out of the winepress.” This, according to Fife, represents the ministry of “the angel of the Sons of God” who “come into perfect union with Christ.” Through this “judgment,” the “kingdom” will be “purged” and the “new age” will be ushered in.

### ***THE “PROPHET” “MOSES” DAVID BERG***

While helping an ex-member of Berg’s “Children of God” counsel others out of the deception and manipulative influence they were under in the cult, I came into contact with some of their leader’s epistle-like “Mo Letters.” In one of these

letters titled *They Can't Stop our Reign!* (1970), Berg demonstrated his Latter Rain-based eschatology. For example, he said that the "Overcoming" "manifest sons of God" will go forth "Like a terrible army...taking over the whole earth." He said that "You are the REAPERS of Revelation 14." Corporately, you are "the angel" that will swing "his sickle to the earth" to gather "the clusters from the vine of the earth" and throw them into "the great wine press of the wrath of God" from which "blood" will flow "rising as high as the horses' bridles."

### **THE "PROPHET" JOHN ROBERT STEVENS**

Woodrow Nichols is the author of *EXPERIMENT IN END TIME APOSTASY: THE WALK Of JOHN ROBERT STEVENS, The History, Beliefs, and Spiritual Dynamics of a Christian Cult* (1980). In a phone call on 1/12/21, I asked Mr. Nichols if it was true that members of the Latter Rain-based cult "The Walk" were collecting guns to bring about the literal, physical removal of "the ungodly." I asked him because Nichols had warned of the possibility of this in his paper, citing their Latter Rain eschatology and the influence of George Warnock's *The Feast of Tabernacles*.

In his response to my question, Nichols said that Tony Cox, an ex-member and the producer of an excellent 1986 documentary about "The Walk" titled *Vain Glory* (available on YouTube), told him something that went beyond chilling. Cox told Nichols that some of the elders of "The Walk" said that when they became "manifest as sons of God" they were going to "succeed where Hitler had failed."

Accordingly, in a worship service, Stevens' follower Mr. Hargrave said, "We release the Vengeance of God!" Stevens' disciple Mr. Littleton followed with "Prepare for his sons a place of slaughter against the sons of Lucifer!" Stevens addresses this issue of "going" for "violence" by saying, "You better go for it because this is a time of violence," it is "a time of the Sons coming forth." He wrapped up by saying, "We're just agents in the hand of God, instruments in the hand of God."

### **THE ESOTERIC-INFLUENCED 17th CENTURY MYSTIC AND "PROPHET" JANE LEAD**

And so we end where it all began, with Jane Lead's "prophetic" teachings that inspired the Latter Rain "apostles" and "prophets" and influenced their eschatology on "taking dominion" and "executing judgment." The Latter Rain "prophets," in turn, have had a significant influence on the eschatology of the "prophets" of the present-day NAR, such as Mike Bickle, Rick Joyner, Gwen Shaw, Bob Jones, Bill Hamon and Cindy Jacobs. And, as has been stated above, the NAR

has its sights on the denominational churches in an effort to bring them into the fold.

In her *Alarm to the Lamb's Holy Warriors* (1700), Lead provides clear insights into the role she played as the predecessor, guiding light, and godmother of those who were to later follow in her footsteps in the Latter Rain movement. For example, her eschatology prompted her to say that the “the Holy Warriors here upon earth” will “take vengeance on all those that have usurped the Dominion and Kingdom from Him, whose right it is in His Saints to reign.” These “Holy Warriors” will “smite on this hand and on that hand.”

In her *Now Follows the VISION of the Seven Churches* from her *A Message to the Philadelphian Society* (1696), Lead said that Christ is “held in the heavens,” and that He must “first be brought forth in some chosen” “Vessels” before his literal, “distinct and Personal Appearance”

In her *The Enochian Walks with God, Found out by a Spiritual – Traveller, Whose Face Towards Mount – Sion Above was Set* (1694), Lead said that these elite members of the Church will “turn the World upside down.” This “Reign in the Spirit” will be “before Christ in His glorified Person will come distinctly upon the Earth.”

In her *The Ascent to the Mount of Vision* (1699), Lead said that some “shall be counted worthy to Personate his Reign upon the Earth” as the “inChristed” who are “all godified.” They will “overtop all the Kingdoms of the Earth” and have the power to heal or kill using “special Endowments and Spiritual Gifts” such as those the Apostle Peter had when he “perceived the perverse design of Ananias and Sapphira” and caused them to die.

## **Conclusion**

If you read this far, my hope is that you now have some awareness that the legacy of Jane Lead’s eschatology is not one that benefits the Church in any way, and that the ramifications of putting this faith into practice are potentially dangerous to society.