



PROPHECY SEMINAR

EXHIBIT 1

For Daniel Lesson 25

COUNTERFEIT GIFTS

Today we are beginning to witness the astonishing fulfilment of Revelation 13. Modern spiritual Babylon is being formed today. Protestants and Catholics are uniting as never before. They are being united by the spiritualistic phenomena of miracles, signs, tongues and wonders that Revelation 13 predicted. The Bible clearly states that God still performs miracles, that He still heals people, and that there is the genuine gift of tongues today. However, Revelation 13 predicts that modern spiritual Babylon will be particularly identifiable because of its overemphasis of signs, wonders, healings and tongues. There is the genuine, and there is the counterfeit. Our religion today cannot be based on signs, wonders, tongues or miracles. Rather, it must be based only on the Word of the living God. The Holy Scriptures are our only safeguard in the distressing times in which we live.

Again, let us look at the picture. Revelation 13 describes a time when Protestants and Catholics will join hands and form an image to the beast (an American union of church and state) which will then enforce the mark of the beast, passing the death decree and allowing no one to buy or sell unless they have the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:15-17). Revelation 13 indicates that miracles, signs, and spiritualistic phenomena will accompany this power in order to cause people to worship the first beast and to give credence to its claim to be the depository of the truth of God. It even brings fire down from heaven—the manifestation of a false holy spirit. Scripture indicates that fire fell from heaven at Pentecost when the disciples spoke in tongues, so we could expect that the counterfeit holy spirit movement of the last days will emphasize tongues, miracles, signs and lying wonders, all calculated to deceive people into worshipping the first beast.

There is a genuine gift of tongues: however, as it appears in the book of Acts, the gift of tongues was always used for the spreading of the gospel. The first disciples received the gift of tongues in order that they might speak the languages of the people to whom they ministered, and the gospel of Christ could thereby be implanted in the many nations of earth.

The apostle Paul indicates that tongues are not a sign to believers, but for unbelievers. Tongues have no place in the church where there is a common language, but are for usage in the marketplace, where an individual can communicate the gospel to people in languages that they themselves don't naturally understand. Paul emphatically states that the gift of tongues should not be used in the church among believers. Yet in the modern tongues movement the gift is primarily used in the church among believers, and not for the express purpose of reaching unbelievers.

finally has the influence and credibility to form an image to the beast. The beast was a union of church and state. The image to the beast will be an American union of church and state. Revelation 13 states that it is these miracles, signs and tongues that bring this about. It is extremely important for Christians to watch the ever-increasing developments as the current charismatic revival seeks to become more political.

Having said all this, we must still remember that this is unfulfilled prophecy. Until the prophecy is completely fulfilled we cannot speak with full certainty. However, the Biblical picture of Spiritism, uniting Protestants and Catholics into the final great apostasy, **will** happen. In light of what we see happening in the charismatic world today, Christians would be well advised to watch the developments carefully as they help bring about the final fulfilment of Revelation 13.

The issue that will separate the true from the false in the last days will be obedience to the Word of God and its truth, or acceptance of this false spiritualistic power. They will say that God is with them when they keep Sunday because of the gift of tongues and the miracles which give them credibility. But the solemn warning is that those who accept physical manifestations without following the plainly revealed will of God in Scripture will be deceived. Matthew 24:24 indicates that if it were possible these false signs and miracles would deceive even the very elect of God. That is why we must stick so closely to the Bible. God's people, the saints of Revelation 14:12 who keep the commandments of God in spite of the tongues and the miracles, must say "Thus saith the Lord" or "It is written." Their defence is Biblical revelation and not supernatural physical manifestations. Which revival of the last days will YOU accept?

The true Holy Spirit is given for the purpose of leading God's people into truth (John 16:13). All genuine manifestations of the Holy Spirit will lead to an elevation of Scripture above the Spirit. Any revelation that exalts the Spirit above Scripture and Christ is a false or counterfeit manifestation and not genuine. When the true Holy Spirit comes, He does not speak about Himself, but instead He glorifies Jesus Christ (see verses 13 & 14). As one listens to the tongues advocates today, one hears a constant elevation of the Spirit above Jesus Christ. The true Holy Spirit does not speak about Himself. There is, however, a spirit that speaks about himself. In Isaiah 14:12-13 Lucifer said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." Christians ought to be very cautious about a power that continually exalts the Spirit, when Scripture has told us that the Holy Spirit does not speak about Himself; but the devil's spirit constantly speaks about himself.

Again, there are genuine healings and a genuine gift of tongues, but these always occur when God's people follow revealed truth and keep all the commandments. If they appear among those who are knowingly breaking God's commandments, they are a false or counterfeit manifestation. God never gives the Holy Spirit to substantiate error. The true evidence of Spirit possession is not the physical phenomena of shouting, dancing, falling prostrate, speaking in tongues, or even miracles. The true evidence of the Holy Spirit is seen in the lives of transformed individuals:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Galatians 5:22, 23).

The presence of these characteristics, not speaking in tongues, indicates that a person is baptized of the Spirit.

Revelation 13 pictures for us a time when this false, miracle-working power and this false use of the gift of tongues will eventually become worldwide and deceive nearly the whole world as it unites spiritual Babylon. There are good people in this false revival, sincere people, but the movement is false, and eventually it will permeate nearly all churches and will give life or power to the papacy by appearing even in Romanism. These churches that have become so formal and dead in their worship are suddenly brought to life by the infusion of this false power. Romanism has always accentuated its claim to truth by its performance of miracles. This was its consistent emphasis throughout the Dark Ages. And once again today we're seeing it happen, whether it be the weeping statues of Mary, the apparitions of Mary, or the cures wrought at the various shrines of Romanism throughout the world. Miracle-working powers are reappearing today in Romanism, in an attempt to deceive people into

thinking that this power operates under the power of God. Obviously, Mary cannot appear in all these apparitions, for Mary is dead like all the saints of God (see Lesson 17).

Just as ancient Babylon appealed to the spirits of the dead to accentuate its claims to genuineness, so we find modern spiritual Babylon utilizing spirit communication in an attempt to establish her claims to being the depository of God's truth today. Furthermore, modern Romanism has moved beyond the stage of spiritualistic miracles to also include the usage of the gift of tongues in order to further accentuate her claim to genuineness. In fact, it is especially in the area of tongues speaking today that Roman Catholics and Protestants are coming together. It began in the summer of 1967 at Notre Dame University where many priests, nuns and lay people came together to pray for the Holy Spirit, and received what they felt was the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues. From that episode the tongues movement has spread within the Roman church, until today hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholics have participated in the movement. But the movement has not been limited to Romanism; it has become truly ecumenical in character. People of all denominations are meeting together, praying together and receiving the so called "spirit."

Vinson Synan, professor at Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia and author of **A History of the Pentecostal Holiness Movement**, stated that the 600 million member Roman Catholic Church could become the greatest vehicle for the evangelization of the world if its charismatic movement grows (reported in **Ministry** magazine, December, 1972, from Religious News Service). Today it has grown, and this charismatic revival of tongues and miracles has united Pentecostals, mainline denominations, and Roman Catholics. Revelation has predicted that modern spiritual Babylon will be brought together by spiritualistic tendencies. Please note the similarities between the experience of the tongues speaker, the spiritualist medium, and the faith healer.

1) The Tongues Speaker: "As my friends began to pray over me, felt a strange physical sensation start in my hands and feet, and gradually spread over my whole body. It was like an electrical current or as though the inside of my body were shaking against my skin." — Roger Alexander, "The Holy Spirit at Michigan State," **Acts, Today's News of the Holy Spirit's Renewal**, Sept.-Oct. 1967, p. 23.

2) The Spiritualist Medium: "in entering the trance condition, your hands and body may twist and jerk, as if you were being treated to a series of galvanic shocks. When the spirit enters, in the arms are felt peculiar tingling sensations like needles and pins, something akin to a current of electricity passing through from head to

foot." Vishita, Bhakta Swami, **Genuine Mediumship**, Chas. T. Powner, Publisher, Chicago 1941, p. 37.

3) The Faith Healer: "I felt physical contact with God's presence in my right hand. It was a tingling sensation like an electric current. I felt a strange and glorious sensation like an electrical current flowing through my hands. It seemed like 10,000 volts of electricity were passing through my body." — Oral Roberts, *Life Story*, p. 110.

Amazingly, the tongues speaker, the spirit medium and the faith healer describe nearly identical experiences when the so-called "spirit" enters. Certainly Christians should be very cautious about a movement that has so much similarity to Spiritism, in view of Revelation's prediction that spiritualistic phenomena will unite Babylon in the last days.

James Beshires, Jr., a former Pentecostal preacher, in his book **Praise the Lord**, tells a couple of experiences that helped him see that the source of much tongues speaking was Satan rather than Christ:

"But," someone might ask, "didn't the interpretation of the tongues benefit the church?" To answer that, let me tell a couple of incidents with which I am personally familiar. In one meeting I was in, a certain person spoke in a tongue and another gave the interpretation. Then a third person stood up, a visitor. He said, "I am a Jew. I have heard of this gift of tongues and I came to see what it was all about. That was Hebrew that that person was speaking, but he was not praising God as the so-called interpreter said he was doing. Instead he was cursing God."

On another occasion when I was present, a local member gave an utterance, and he was interpreted as saying, "I am God, give me your worship and praise." But there was a couple visiting that night from New York. The man stood and introduced himself. He said, "I have visited Pentecostal meetings several times, but I have never before heard anyone speaking in tongues. I came tonight because I wanted to hear what it was like. I am Italian, and that message was in Italian. But instead of 'I am God,' as the interpreter said, the message actually was, 'I am Satan — I am your lord and master.'" — pp. 108, 109.

This should make Christians extremely cautious about having anything to do with a movement with such a heavy emphasis on spiritualistic phenomena, in light of what the Bible has predicted Satan will attempt to do in the last days.

Revelation 13 continues by stating that these false miracles, signs, wonders and tongues will give authenticity to the movement until it