

Dominionism

Christian International and Personal Prophecy

Part Two

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MORE ON THE FIFTH DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

The Super Righteous

The church will literally be and act as Christ as Lord upon the earth. This action of the church, according to Hamon, will surpass even the righteousness imputed by faith: “This righteousness will be nothing short of conformity to the image of Jesus Christ. The Church will be taken beyond imputed righteousness for justification to Holy Spirit-accumulated righteousness for transformation into the very nature and character of Christ.”¹

Remember that this transformation is to take place, according to Hamon, before the literal appearance of Jesus Christ on earth. This level of working “righteousness” and “conformity to the image of Jesus Christ” is not possible before the coming of the Lord and the resurrection of the dead:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. . . . Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure (1 John 1:8-10; 3:2-3).

¹ Bill Hamon, *The Eternal Church*, 1981, 328-329.

Hamon's phase-one glorification is the beginning of events that will lead the church into dominion over the nations, resulting in the release of Jesus to return and translate his church.

Ye Are Gods

How much power will the church accrue as the exact "image" of Jesus Christ and God?

The President of the United States and heads of nations will begin to seek out the Christian prophets and prophetic ministers to find out what is really taking place and to know what to do. World conditions will come to the place that human hearts will be failing for fear.

The manipulators that control the economy, stock market and world banking systems will lose their control. God will cut their puppet strings and take things out of their hands. Only those who know how to hear and speak the true mind of Christ and the Word of God will have the answers.

The Joseph and Daniel prophetic company will arise with the supernatural answers for the needs of the Egyptian Pharaohs and Babylonian empires of this world. The prophetic Church will finally demonstrate fully that Jesus Christ really is the answer for the world — not only to save them from their sins, but to bring peace on earth and goodwill toward all people.²

It may be argued that Joseph was a Messianic figure, but not that he is the Christian church! Notice that through a hegemony of political and economic information the church gains dominion over the world. Notice particularly that *the world comes to the church* to hear "the true mind of Christ and the Word of God." Then notice Hamon's next paragraph:

God has forever established that there is only one door to heaven and one mediator between God and humanity, and that is the man Christ Jesus (1 Tim. 2:5). If anyone, New Ager or otherwise, tries to come through any other way, he or she is looked upon as a thief and robber (Jn. 10:7, 9). There is only one means of communication between God and humanity, heaven and earth, natural realm and spiritual realm.³

² Hamon, *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 1990, 166.

³ *Ibid.*

The door and mediator is called “Jesus Christ,” but in practical application it is the apostles and prophets, *and only the apostles and prophets*, who will be dispensing wisdom regarding the “economy, stock market and world banking systems” if Hamon is to be believed.

These and many other positions will be occupied by the “present-truth” church if Hamon’s vision of “a restorational wave of . . . incomprehensibly gigantic proportions — like a thousand-foot tidal wave” comes to pass.

Pat Robertson, founder of Christian Broadcasting Network, has apparently caught the vision:

Now what do you do? What do I do? What do all of us do? We get ready to take dominion! We get ready to take dominion! It is all going to be ours — I’m talking about all of it. Everything that you would say is a good part of the secular world. Every means of communication, the news, the television, the radio, the cinema, the arts, the government, the finance — it’s going to be ours! God’s going to give it to his people. We should prepare to reign and rule with Jesus Christ.⁴

The Dominionist church claims, “It is all going to be ours — I’m talking about all of it.” But according to Hamon, even that is not complete dominion. The church has one more appointment to keep before Christ’s return.

The Army of the Lord Conquers Death

Hamon’s concept of the Army of the Lord spans both the mortal and immortal stages of the church. The struggle of the church-army today is preliminary to a greater battle to come:

The Church is being prepared and equipped with the revelation and power to go against the most formidable fortress Satan has ever built.

Satan’s last stronghold is death. When the Church and Jesus take Mt. Zion (victory over death) then Jesus will set up His kingdom over planet Earth and His saintly warriors will rule and reign with Him.

⁴ Pat Robertson, videotape of speech at Dallas ’84, on TBN.

The Holy Spirit will soon cause the cry to arise within the Church. "Let's go up to Zion, let's go up to Zion, the city of our God!"⁵

When and how this event will happen is not clear. Hamon's Army of the Lord, however, hardly needs to conquer death: the pre-immortalized army appears in heaven as an invincible super-race⁶ battling the spirits of darkness:

While natural Israel and other mortal world nations are engaged in mortal combat on Earth at the Battle of Armageddon, the Church will be warring against Satan and his host in the Heavens. (It is possible that the Church-saints may wage their part of this warfare during their mortality in Christ's supernatural *Resurrection Life and Power*.) The Church-Army and angelic-army will win their war against Satan and his host thereby enabling natural Israel and her allies to win their war.⁷

It is not so stated by Hamon, but it can easily be conjectured that the pre-immortalized super-church will shout and blow the last trumpet and *raise themselves from death!* If this statement seems facetious, please read the following from Paulk's book *Thrust in the Sickle and Reap*:

The book of Revelation makes it clear that John wrote his letters to the angels of the Church. Who are the angels that God will use? They are ministers called by God to boldly proclaim the Word of God. They will sound the trumpet. One should never separate prophecy of the New Testament from prophetic Old Testament Scriptures. The trumpet sounded in the Old Testament as a warning. Today the trumpet sounds from the angels of the Church, God's ministers who cry out, "It is harvest time!" Witnesses to God's power will shine as never before. God will gather righteous people together to raise up a witness of Jesus Christ and judge the kingdoms of this world.⁸

Paulk believes the angels who carry out God's plan are the ministers of the church, not the angels of heaven. These ministers will "sound the

⁵ *The Eternal Church*, 374-375.

⁶ Hamon, *Prophets and Personal Prophecy*, 1987, 12.

⁷ *The Eternal Church*, 391.

⁸ Earl Paulk, *Thrust in the Sickle and Reap*, 104.

trumpet” and cry, “It is harvest time!” These angel-ministers, the apostles and prophets, will proceed to judge the kingdoms of this world.

Paulk quotes Matthew 13:40-43:

Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!⁹

Whatever Paulk means (!), he appears to agree in spirit with Franklin Hall, who greatly influenced William Branham and the Latter Rain movement. In Hall’s book *Subdue the Earth, Rule the Nations*, the man-child of the sun-clothed woman represents the church:

The man-child company will have dominion of this planet first. Those who possess a house may decide who shall occupy it. In the same manner, as a group from the church take up their authority and rulership of the planet that God gave them, they will likewise be able to choose whom they will, to occupy it.¹⁰

Paulk “Will Not Die”

Returning to the church’s victory over death: Hamon seems lacking in details, but his mentor Bishop Paulk speaks more boldly. His vision, though long, deserves our attention:

Jesus Christ Himself overcame death individually, and **when the church becomes so conformed to His image that those who die do not pass through the grave, but become instead gloriously changed in the twinkling of an eye, it will be that** church which will bring the Kingdom of God to pass on the earth.

We have received the earnest of the **expectation** through the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but we must move on to the **possession**, which is overcoming the last enemy, death. Sometimes the interpretation has been made that Jesus Christ conquered death, but if that were so, why would Paul’s epistle to the Corinthians, written at least ninety years later, say that the last enemy that **shall** be

⁹ *Ibid.*, 103.

¹⁰ Franklin Hall, *Subdue the Earth, Rule the Nations*, 11.

destroyed is death (1 Corinthians 15:26)? **Jesus Christ conquered death individually, but it is left to the church to conquer death on a corporate basis.**

Is it possible that there will be a people who so possess the authority of Almighty God, as Elijah did, that they, as a group, will say to death, hell, and the spirit of Satan, “We will **not** die. We will stay here and be changed, and we will call Jesus Christ to return to this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords”? Yes, that is what I believe the church must do! But it will not be easy, because **God is looking for the manifestation of a mature church who can speak with the authority Jesus had when He stilled the winds and called Lazarus forth from the grave.**

An exciting prospect? Oh, yes! We are God’s people, called to do the will of God in the world today and to see the King of Glory return to establish His Kingdom on earth! Jesus Christ had the authority to say “No” to death on earth, and He is waiting for us to come to that same authority He had so we can say, “The last enemy — death — has been conquered!” . . .

Jesus Christ, as the firstfruit of the Kingdom, began the work of conquering death on an individual basis, but we, as His church, will be the ones to complete the task. Jesus said (Matthew 28:18), “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth,” and the church today has that same power. Death will not be conquered by Jesus returning to the earth. It will be conquered when the church stands up boldly and says, “We have dominion over the earth!” How else will God be able to show Satan a people for whom death holds no fear, over whom death no longer has any power? When God can do that, Satan’s hold on us will be broken forever!¹¹

Military and Political Church

Hamon calls for the “evangelization of the world” in order that “whole nations may be turned to God.” The tactics which may be used, however, to gain and keep dominion of the nations — other than overwhelming spiritual demonstration — are often cloaked in military terminology:

The Joshua Generation. When Christians receive a revelation and vision of Christ’s restorative purpose and the things that the Church is to accomplish before Jesus returns, that reality stirs up faith and the zeal of the Lord with a militant spirit to leave the wilderness, cross over Jordan and drive out all the “ites” from the

¹¹ Paulk, *The Proper Function of the Church*, Atlanta: K Dimension Publishers, n.d., 13.

promised land that God has promised the Church. The Church has as great a commission and predestined purpose as Israel to possess and occupy till Jesus comes (Lk. 19:13).

Prophetic Evangelism. This term “occupy” implies more than a passive resistance. It refers to a militant occupying force enforcing the rule of the conquering king.¹²

The New Testament does make use of military terminology without implying literal military power. In fairness, it cannot be definitely implied that Hamon foresees the need for military enforcement of Christian policy over the nations. However, it cannot go unnoticed that many Dominionist brethren realistically foresee that very need, and are ready to wield the “rod of iron.” According to Dager:

It is an essential ingredient of dominion theology (particularly among the Charismatic Dominionists) that the “overcomer” attain immortality. If the dominionists are to be God’s instruments of destruction upon not only unbelievers, but believers who do not submit to the authority of the apostles and prophets, they will need immunity from reprisals. This, it is believed, will result from their living a perfect, sinless life, and will make them impervious to injury and death.¹³

Cain Can’t Be Killed

Paul Cain, well known in charismatic circles, substantiates Dager’s observation by stating:

If you have intimacy with God, they can’t kill you. They just can’t. There’s something about you; you’re connected to that vine; you’re just so close to Him. Oh, my friends, they can’t kill you.

If you’re really in the vine and you’re on the branch, then the life sap from the Son of the living God keeps you from cancer, keeps you from dying, keeps you from death . . . Not only will they not have diseases, they will also not die. They will have the kind of imperishable bodies that are talked about in the 15th chapter of Corinthians . . . this army is invincible. If you have intimacy with God, they can’t kill you.¹⁴

¹² *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 34.

¹³ Albert James Dager, *Vengeance Is Ours, The Church in Dominion*, Sword Publishers, 1990, 99.

¹⁴ Paul Cain, “Joel’s Army,” cited in *Documentation of the Aberrant Practices and Teachings of Kansas City Fellowship*, Shawnee, KS: Full Faith Church of Love, 1990, 218.

Royal Cronquist, an apostle of the Manifest Sons of God movement, says:

Jesus cannot, will not return, until there literally exists this kind of church, body of Christ. This Church (remnant) is to be . . . executing deliverance and judgment, in all authority and power, to all the people of the earth, first to and in the Church, then to all the nations of the earth.¹⁵

The kingdom of God is now ready to appear, now ready to be literally established in all its fullness within the earth. The first-fruits people will be counted worthy to escape the things that are to come to pass upon the earth. They will have absolute immunity to destruction and death in any form. Even vengeance and wrath which is about to come will not touch them, but they themselves will be the execution of this vengeance and wrath.¹⁶

The Gospel of the Kingdom?

Is this the gospel of the kingdom of God? Are these the marching orders of Jesus Christ to the church? Hamon and other Dominionists have assigned to the church the *work* of Jesus Christ at his revelation. The church will not be in dominion, but rather in very different circumstances when Christ comes to her rescue:

Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials [tribulations, KJV] you are enduring. All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble [tribulation, KJV] to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you (2 Thes. 1:4-10, NIV).

¹⁵ Royal Cronquist, *Your Daily Cross Is Giving Up the Throne of Self*, 4.

¹⁶ Cronquist, "Why the Feast of Tabernacles?" Spokane, WA: Love Ministries Newsletter, Aug., 1984.

The church is not destined to rule the earth before the return of Christ (1 Cor. 13:1-7), but is destined rather to experience tribulation and persecution until “that day” of his revelation. Only then will the Lord Jesus and his mighty angels elevate the church’s position. But Dominionism contradicts the Word at every turn:

In Matthew 24:14, Jesus clearly says that He cannot return for His Bride until she has demonstrated the Gospel of the Kingdom to all the nations of the earth. Until the church can demonstrate the alternative Kingdom, Jesus cannot come again. God no longer has the authority to send Christ back to earth, because He will not circumvent His eternal plan. While no man knows the day or hour, I can say with the authority of God that **Christ cannot and will not come back until we have demonstrated the Gospel of the Kingdom to the nations of the earth.** That task demands a mature church, which will have become an alternative to the kingdoms of the world. **That is what the church is all about and Jesus Christ’s return is up to us.**¹⁷

Much has been said by Dominionists about Matthew 24:14 and the “mature” church “demonstrating” the kingdom to the nations. It is time to meet this theory head-on by examining the context of Matthew 24:14, which follows below. *No commentary is needed.* Only ask yourself, as you read, if Jesus here describes a Christianized utopian world which enthusiastically welcomes a “glorified, unified, and matured” church under the leadership of mighty apostles and prophets of God acting as *Christ* over earth’s affairs:

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?” Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the

¹⁷ Paulk, *The Great Escape Theory*, 14.

faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come* (Matt. 24:3-14).

Indeed, it might seem possible that the corrupt earth will welcome, and manipulate, deluded false prophets in order to persecute the true church. If you are a non-dispensational posttribulation premillennialist, this passage should answer any question concerning the validity of Dominionism. If you are a dispensational pretribulation premillennialist, you should wonder how the earth could be in such a state after the church has taken the reigns.

Before the church gains dominion over the world, however, the new prophets and apostles must gain dominion over the church.

V. POWER AND GLORY OVER THE CHURCH: TYRANNICAL HIERARCHY

Apostles and Prophets: The Foundation of the Church

In *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, Hamon equates the latter-day prophets and apostles of the Charismatic Dominionist movement with those of the first-century church:

Apostles and Prophets the Foundation. In the New Testament Church Paul declares that prophets along with the apostles are foundational ministries upon which the Church is built: “You are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the Chief Corner Stone” (Eph. 2:20).¹⁸

Some theologians, however, improperly interpreted this Scripture to say that the Church and its whole age of activity were built upon the ministry of the apostles and prophets, so that as soon as the Church, as a whole, was established (some time within the first century), then the ministry of the apostle and prophet was finished. Therefore, those ministries were dispensationally depleted.

It was not until the restorational Latter Rain movement in 1948 that revelation and teaching was given concerning apostles and prophets. And even though those restoration brethren taught that there are prophets and apostles today, they never were willing to

¹⁸ *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 199.

give public acknowledgment to those who had the gifted ministry of apostle or prophet.¹⁹

Jesus and his chosen apostles and prophets truly laid a foundation upon which to build the church. Paul the apostle, however, would brook no pretenders. He derisively referred to false apostles as “super-apostles.” A present-day church wanting to go beyond the book of Acts on into dominion of the earth certainly earns the appellation “super-church.”

Paulk discusses the foundation: “Ephesians 2:20 says the Church is built not on Jesus (a lot of folk don’t know that), but it’s built on the apostles and prophets, and Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. He’s the cornerstone, but the apostles and the ministry of the prophets is the foundation.”²⁰

Paulk has laid his foundation for the foundation. Next, he removes Jesus as the Rock upon which the church is built, substituting his ministers:

The fourth issue at stake is the true unity within the Body of Christ. To build upon anything less than the true Rock, the only lasting foundation, would be only to see the entire building fall. Paul made it clear that the Cornerstone had been “rejected by the builders.” The only solution was to bring forth new builders — whom Paul defined as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers — to build up a people fitly joined together whose head is Jesus Christ Himself. We are further given the warnings as to how we build on the foundation. To talk of unity without truth is to build with wood, hay and stubble (1 Corinthians 3).²¹

Dager comments on Paulk’s assertions:

Some logical, deductive reasoning would assume that Paulk is calling the five-fold ministries the Rock of our salvation: Jesus is not the foundation, He is the Cornerstone; the five-fold ministries comprise the foundation; the Rock is the only lasting foundation; ergo, the Rock is the five-fold ministries. In Roman Catholicism, a direction in which Paulk is heading with his latest teachings, the chief apostle, Peter, is believed to be the Rock (Matthew 16:18) upon which the Church is built.²²

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 45-46.

²⁰ Paulk, “Praise the Lord” program, TBN, March 4, 1986.

²¹ Paulk, *The Betrothed*, Atlanta: K Dimension Pub., 7.

²² Dager, 111.

Paulk does his best to corroborate Dager's insights by installing the latter-day apostles and prophets into the office of "God in the flesh." This introduces the second issue.

Apostles and Prophets: God in the Flesh to the World

Paulk:

How else will God speak today other than by written revelation in His Word and prophetic voices? Anointed teachers interpret revelations so God's people can understand. But prophetic voices of God must take the lead in speaking as God in the flesh. In 1 Peter 2:2, Peter refers to this as ". . . the pure milk of the word," which brings life, direction and healing.

For that reason, God has placed in the Body of Christ not only apostles who establish churches under His anointed direction, but also prophets. Prophecy is not teaching revealed truth. Prophecy opens up to revelation, insight and direction. It moves God's people to spiritual levels of maturity they have never known before. The Church can never become the glorified Church God intends it to be until its ears are opened to hear God's prophetic words.²³

Hamon:

Believe and Receive God's True Prophets. Believe God and be established in the present truth; believe in and receive God's **prophets** and you will prosper and find yourself a friend of God.

To reject Christ's gift of Himself to the Church as the **prophet** is to reject Christ Jesus. To fail to recognize the prophets, or to keep them from speaking, is to refuse God permission to speak and minister in this capacity.²⁴

Apostles and Prophets: Giants in the Earth

Hamon issues a stern warning which includes an image of the lake of fire which will consume the enemies of Jesus' prophets:

Jesus Wants to Return Soon! Jesus deeply desires to return for His Church and to see all wickedness removed from His earth. For the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. He earnestly longs for the day when all enemies of righteousness are cast into the lake of

²³ Paulk, *The Wounded Body of Christ*, Atlanta: K Dimension Pub., 43.

²⁴ *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 15-16.

fire and His Church and planet earth are conformed to His image and purpose with Him as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The true prophets being activated today are ordained to play a vital role in bringing that divine purpose into reality. This is a serious matter to Jesus, and He will deal severely with anyone who hinders those who are making the proper preparation for His soon return. His eternal decree still stands today: “Touch not my anointed and do my prophets no harm” and “Despise not prophesying.”²⁵

Whole nations may rise or fall depending on their response to the Dominionist prophets, declares Hamon. He exhorts Christians to recognize the seriousness of this situation:

Response to the Prophets Is Critical. Christians must recognize the seriousness of accepting or rejecting God’s prophets. It has always been true — and in this Prophetic Movement will be especially true — that the way we respond to God’s divinely-established prophets will determine our success or failure, life or death, captivity or freedom. Whole nations have arisen or fallen based on their response to God’s word through His prophets.

The destiny of individuals, churches, denominations, businesses, nations and world empires rise or fall according to the word of the Lord. And most of His personal words spoken concerning specific people and places come through His prophets. So Jehoshaphat’s admonition to his people applies to all people today: “Believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established; believe his prophets, so shall you prosper” (2 Chr. 20:20).²⁶

Apostles and Prophets: The Higher Powers of the Church

The latter-day apostles and prophets of Hamon’s reckoning are seeking to lead the church into “present-truth” maturity and dominion. Should the church follow them?

The greatest decision that the church is going to have to make in these days ahead (and especially the ministries in the body of Christ) is to have to face that there are apostles of God, and that they must submit to that authority and to that office; they must submit to that foundation as though it was Jesus Christ, and whoever will

²⁵ *Ibid.*, 219.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, 222-223.

not submit to that authority shall be destroyed from among the people.²⁷

The church is that body that supports the latter-day prophets and apostles. They will be completely dependent upon the apostles and prophets. These men wish to be gods:

Apostolic Cloud and Prophetic Fire. In the wilderness journey the people were covered and protected by a cloud by day and warmed, enlightened and directed by a fire by night. But for the Prophetic Movement in Canaan, the Apostle is the covering and protecting cloud and the Prophet is the enlightening and directing fire. That is one reason why apostles and prophets must be restored before the Church can fulfill its predestinated end-time purpose on earth.²⁸

On October 1, 1953, Bill Hamon received these words of personal prophecy concerning his ministry:

Yea, is not this the day that thou shalt go forth in His might and His power? Have I not said in My Word concerning My own children, “Ye are gods,” and yea in these last days ye shall go forth as gods? Thou shalt go forth as gods with power in thine hands, and minister life and faith unto those that are desolate. Yea, I say unto thee, thou shalt be a leader of leaders. Yea, thou shalt see multitudes running unto thee, for as a light upon a tall hill shalt thou be. Yea, fear shall be in the hearts of those round about thee, yet thou shalt stand as one full of courage, saith the Lord.²⁹

No mention is made by Hamon that God was speaking derogatorily to the judges of Israel when he said “ye are gods.” Furthermore, He did not subsequently bless them with “power in their hands.”

Apostles and Prophets: The Heads of the Church

Lesser ministers of the church must fall into step with the “present truth” church:

²⁷ Cronquist, ad for speaking engagements, Love Ministries, 2.

²⁸ *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 57.

²⁹ *Prophets and Personal Prophecy*, 7.

A Serious Matter. This is how serious [sic] I am convinced the Holy Spirit is about this matter: I believe He has said that the churches and ministers who do not work with Him to fulfill this commission from Christ will decline. If pastors refuse to equip their saints in the gifts, then either they will be removed from the pastorate, or the people who desire the gifts will be removed from their congregations and given to other pastors who will do the will of God.³⁰

Ministers are playing with *hell fire* if they think their own conscience toward God's Word can dictate their beliefs. Hamon states:

The Holy Spirit must be allowed to deliver us from self-righteous, narrow-minded, argumentative attitudes. We must allow Him to deliver us from the theological and philosophical reasons which we have used with pet Scriptures to justify our divisive, exclusive, and separatist actions and attitudes. We have slipped by in times past and God has winked at our ignorance and immaturity, but not any more. God is demanding manhood of his ministers. Many will become sickly and die an early death because they will not rightly discern the Body of Christ, nor work for its unity.

Ministers separated from Bride. Denominational pride or an independent self-willed and proud spirit will separate a Christian minister from the Bride of Christ just as it separated Lucifer from being a minister of God in His heavenly domain. God sacrificed Jesus for the formation of the Church and its perfection in unity. How much more will God sacrifice any minister who is hindering the perfection and unification of His Church? No individual is indispensable.³¹

Apostles and Prophets: Terrors to Members of the Church

It isn't only ministers who will feel the wrath of the apostles and prophets. The church will be publicly "purged" of individual members' secret sins. Denials will receive swift retribution:

Last-Day Ministry of Prophets and Apostles. Prophets will be raised up in the Church to purge the ministry and the believers. There is a great lack of the reverential fear of God within Christendom. Christians, even Charismatic Christians, come to church services with all types of sin in their lives, ranging from

³⁰ *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 65.

³¹ *The Eternal Church*, 333-334.

sexual immorality to gossip, jealousy, and party spirits. They sing, praise, rejoice, prophesy, and testify as though there were nothing out of order in their lives. Anointed ministers and especially prophets will move into a new realm of prophecy, word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits. They will expose this hypocrisy and cause the reverential fear of God to fall upon the congregations. Christians will come to the place where they examine their lives in prayer and with the Word of God before entering the church building to make sure every sin and selfish act is under the blood of Jesus. The religiously proud who try to justify themselves by lying to the Holy Ghost who is speaking through these ministers will receive the same judgment of God as Ananias and Sapphira did when they lied to the Holy Ghost speaking through the Apostle Peter.³²

The latter-day prophets claim the same authority as the apostles of the first-century church. Yet, although sins may have been exposed in isolated cases, it was not the norm for apostles and prophets of the early church to publicly purge congregations. Such operations would indeed move the church into “a new realm of prophecy,” an unbiblical system of intimidation.

Ministers will not escape scrutiny. According to Christian International’s Greg Pharis, opposers are automatically under suspicion of secret sin:

Do you know what the greatest fear, do you know what the greatest resistance is to the Prophetic Movement? Pastors who are in sin. I mean, if you’re sleeping with the secretary, you’re not really hip on having a Prophet in. Just turn over and read the story of Nathan and David; those pastors read that daily. [They say,] “No prophets in this house, thank God!”³³

Apostles, Prophets and You

How would Dominionist leaders have a member of the church react in their presence?

The Nature of a Prophet. First of all, who is a prophet and what is his or her ministry? A prophet is just a person who has been divinely gifted with the nature and ability of Christ the Prophet.

³² *Ibid.*, 347-348.

³³ Greg Pharis, “Introduction to the Prophetic,” tape, Christian Educational Services, Fall Fellowship 1993.

Jesus was able to receive the mind and purposes of God His Father and know what was in the heart of human beings through His office of the prophet. His ability to know the counsels and purposes of God for an individual life, such as He revealed to Peter (Jn. 21:15-23), was an ability that came from His ministry as a prophet.³⁴

Therefore, any latter-day prophet, a person “divinely gifted with the nature and ability of Christ,” may speak authoritatively concerning the “counsels and purposes of God for an individual life.” Hamon’s statement literally gives a prophet *carte blanche* to manipulate individual lives, relationships, families and communities:

Personal Prophecy Defined. Given this distinction between the Logos and the rhema, we can now define a **personal prophecy**. When we use this term, we mean God’s revelation of His thoughts and intents to a particular person, family, or group of people. It is specific information coming from the mind of God for a specific situation, an inspired word directed to a certain audience.³⁵

The prophet, when ministering with his or her gifted office and prophetic anointing, has the same authority for reproving, correcting, directing and instructing in the rhema word of the Lord as the other four ministers have in their teaching, counseling and preaching with the Logos Word.³⁶

The *rhema* word spoken by a prophet to an individual has the same authority as the preached *logos* word. The prophet, therefore, speaks as “God in the flesh.”

The influence the prophets have on an individual’s life is total. According to Greg Pharis: “You’re not going to mature without the office of a prophet speaking into your life.”³⁷ Therefore, the issue of prophetic accuracy becomes paramount. That will be examined in the next section.

VI. PROPHETS AND PROPHECIES: BY THEIR WORDS

To establish our biblical orientation, let’s review the well-known standard for accuracy in prophecy set forth by the prophet Moses:

³⁴ *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 169.

³⁵ *Prophets and Personal Prophecy*, 32.

³⁶ *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 170.

³⁷ Pharis, “Introduction to the Prophetic.”

But the prophet which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath 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 (Deut. 18:19-22).

The inspired words of Moses set forth a rigorous test unmatched by the latter-day prophets of Dominionism: one hundred percent accuracy.

The Dominionist Prophets

If Dominionism is false, then it should not be surprising to hear Hamon rationalize the inaccuracy of its prophets:

In fact, it is possible for a true prophet to speak an incorrect word, since all human beings are fallible and prone to make mistakes.

Many claim that the law of Moses must still be in effect in regard to prophets, and they require prophets to be one hundred percent accurate or else be stoned (blackballed in ministry). However, we see that the other offenses worthy of death in the Old Testament are no longer in force either. Jesus, according to the law, should have stoned the woman brought to him caught in adultery. Yet he told her “go and sin no more.”³⁸

Jesus’ active word, however, was “sin.” Whatever the penalty, there isn’t any more justification in the church for false prophecy than adultery. Both are sins.

Rick Joyner and Bob Jones are familiar figures in the Charismatic Dominionist movement. They both contend that false words of prophecy are due simply to the “immaturity” of the “prophet” rather than sin:

Bob [Jones] was told that the general level of prophetic revelation in the church was about 65% accurate at this time. Some are only about 10% accurate; a very few of the most mature prophets are approaching 85 to 95% accuracy. Prophecy is increasing in purity, but there is still a long way to go for those who walk in this ministry. This is actually grace for the church now, because 100% accuracy in this ministry will bring a level of accountability to the church

³⁸ *Prophets and the Prophetic Movement*, 143.

which she is too immature to bear at this time; it would result in too many “Ananias and Sapphiras.”³⁹

Where does the Bible allow for “increasing purity” in a “maturing ministry”? Anyone more comfortable with Joyner’s statement than Moses’ is free to argue the point. But it must be conceded that Joyner has different standards. The following proves that Hamon does as well:

INFALLIBILITY AND FALSE PROPHETS

At the same time, we must not be quick to call someone a false prophet simply because something he said was inaccurate or did not seem to apply to us. The man may be honest, righteous, and upright, yet immature in his prophesying. He may have misinterpreted what the Lord was saying.

In this case we should say that he gave an inaccurate word or a false prophecy, but we cannot properly call him a false prophet unless we can prove that *the man himself* is false. Missing it a few times in prophecy does not make a false prophet. No mortal prophet is infallible; all are liable to make mistakes.⁴⁰

The Prophets’ Dilemma

Hamon does not agree that his philosophy concerning prophets and prophetic accuracy undercuts all prophecy, including the written Word which claims to be God-breathed. Yet if mortal, fallible prophets penned the prophecy of God’s Word accurately, it follows that mortal latter-day prophets should be able to speak with the same integrity. Yet Hamon bemoans their dilemma: “Prophets are usually placed in a difficult dilemma. If they were to claim infallibility, they would be denounced as heretics. Yet as soon as they demonstrate their fallibility by making a mistake, they are labeled false prophets.”⁴¹

Agabus

Agabus took Paul’s girdle, wrapped it around his arms and legs, and stated: “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this girdle” (Acts 21:11). The Dominionists assert that Paul was chained by the Romans, not the Jews, thus Agabus’ prophecy was not 100% correct. It

³⁹ Rick Joyner, “1990,” Morning Star Prophetic Newsletter, Oct.-Nov., 1989, 4.

⁴⁰ *Prophecy and Personal Prophecy*, 158.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

is apparent, however, that at least two things come into play here: (1) Agabus was speaking and acting metaphorically, and (2) Agabus was steeped in the ancient custom of thinking of the messenger or agent as the sender.

Agabus spoke metaphorically. He did not literally mean that Paul would be bound with his own girdle. He would be bound with chains. Likewise, Agabus did not mean the Jews themselves would literally bind Paul. Instead they would be the cause of Paul's bondage.

There are two records in the Gospels of the centurion who sent for Jesus to heal his servant. In one account it appears as if the centurion himself was pleading with Jesus (Mat. 8:5). In the other account, it is revealed that it was not the centurion himself, but his agents who came to Christ (Lk. 7:1-8). The agents acted on the centurion's behalf insomuch that they were considered an extension of the centurion and were treated and spoken of as the centurion himself.

This "agent" mind frame of the ancient world is revealed in other biblical circumstances; for instance, the angel of the Lord is often addressed as "my LORD" as if he were God Himself.

The Jews were not the Romans' masters. Yet the Romans reacted in response to the Jews' accusations against Paul. Agabus could not have been more correct.

Claims and Disclaimers

Hamon makes the claim: "When the **prophet** lays hands on and prophesies gifts and callings to a person, his words have the Christ-gifted creative ability to impart, birth and activate that ministry into the member."⁴² Along with this statement comes a disclaimer:

If the person receiving the prophetic words does not receive it in faith, it will be a birthing, but it will be stillborn. If the person does not minister to that word of prophecy it can become malnourished and never reach maturity and life within the individual. There are many other things as well which can hinder a true anointed **prophet's** prophecy from coming to pass in an individual's life and ministry.⁴³

⁴² *Ibid.*, 27.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

“Personal prophecy” not only carries a disclaimer, it can fail at the most critical times:

I have heard many personal prophecies concerning individuals being healed and delivered which were confirmed by miraculous healings and miracles. Yet, sad to say, I have heard more personal prophecies and rhemas about people getting healed and being raised from their deathbed that failed to come to pass than those which did. So I am very careful about prophesying that a sick person is going to get well and not die, or that a cripple is going to walk, unless I receive a definite rhema word from the Lord.⁴⁴

More personal prophecies fail to come to pass than those which do? The prophet must be more careful with some prophecies than others? Is he less careful with some prophecies? Hamon asks how so many “uninspired personal prophecies” come forth in this area of health. He continues:

The main cause of this problem is that the person often prophesies from the Logos and not from the rhema. In other words, they prophesy their doctrine and strong convictions in the Bible, which gives God’s general will that divine healing is for all. We can preach, confess, quote and stand on the Logos, but we cannot make it into a personal prophecy to an individual unless the Holy Spirit has quickened it into a rhema.⁴⁵

“Personal prophecy” can be right and it can be wrong. That is not prophecy according to the standard of Deuteronomy 18. According to Hamon, however: “The main problems are mindset, soul blockage and doctrinal domination that keep us from being Holy Spirit-directed.”⁴⁶

Marriages and Births

Considering all the problems with inaccuracy, “immaturity,” “soul blockage,” and other irritants, it is surprising that “personal prophecy” is promoted at all. Yet it is; it is the most important Dominionist tool for reconstructing the church to “usher in the Return of Jesus Christ,” and Hamon encourages receiving a rhema word for births and marriages:

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 39.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, 41.

“But each Christian considering marriage needs a personal rehma from the Lord to bring assurance and peace concerning his or her mate.”⁴⁷

Personal prophecy is breaking new ground in the church. In which direction will it grow next?

Business and Money

According to Hamon, “now is the time for the army of the Lord to arise and possess the wealth of the world.” The mechanism to achieve this hegemony is prophecy:

Rhemas, personal prophecy, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit should certainly be active in the business endeavors and financial prosperity of Christians. Numerous testimonies have been given about supernatural understanding and divinely directed decisions that brought about profitable business deals for ministers and Christian businessmen.

For the businessman needs the ministry of the prophet to bless his business just as a pastor needs the prophet to establish, bless, and prosper his church.⁴⁸

What if the businessman or woman should fail to reap the promise of their personal prophecy?

People with wrong motivation and improper principles will never fulfill their personal prophecies, even if they were spoken by a mature, major prophet under the direct influence of the Holy Spirit. The soil of their soul is shallow and hard, and the deeper soil of their soul is filled with weed seeds of unrighteous practices.⁴⁹

Major Decisions and Geographical Moves

Hamon claims “all the guidelines for personal prophecy must be observed before taking action to buy, sell, move or make a major decision in any field.”⁵⁰

Conditionality

Personal prophecy often fails due to disobedience on the part of the receiver, according to Hamon:

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 78.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, 105.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 114.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 163.

All personal prophecies are conditional, whether or not any conditions are made explicit. The Bible records many examples of this fact, such as God's prophecy to Moses in Exodus 6:6-8. At that time the Lord declared seven times "I will" with regard to Israel's liberation and possession of Canaan. No conditional wording ("I will . . . if you will . . .") was included in this prophecy. Yet it was fulfilled for only two men out of the six hundred thousand who received it. The prophecy was cancelled by the disobedience of all the others, so that the promise failed for more than a million and a half of the Israelites (Num. 13:26-33).⁵¹

Yet, according to latter-day prophets, one who is disobedient to personal prophecy may only have a 35% chance of being disobedient to God. And if the personal prophecy is received from a novice prophet, the receiver has as much as a 90% chance of not offending God. Yet Hamon warns his readers against being disobedient to their personal prophecy as Saul was disobedient:

Because Saul disobeyed, personal prophecy was annulled.

Rebellion against a prophetic word, Samuel said, is like the sin of witchcraft. Stubbornness in not following a prophetic word exactly is iniquity and idolatry (1 Sam 15:23). This sin was so serious that even though Saul confessed it and repented, asking for forgiveness, the promise to his posterity was annulled.

Clearly, then, personal prophecies requires *faith to fulfill and obedience to obtain*.⁵²

Samuel, however, was held to the same standard that Moses set for himself and all future prophets: 100% accuracy. That cannot be said for Hamon or any latter-day prophet.

VII. CONCLUSION

"Thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Deut. 18:22). The prophets would have you believe that to deny them is to deny the very foundation of your life. To deny them, they say, is to deny God and Christ. Once you accept that premise, then you will be ready to take the next step *beyond the written Word of God*:

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 152.

⁵² *Ibid.*, 153.

And so we are going to have to be willing to let our mind be changed by the Holy Spirit in the way that we think and the way we understand. He did promise that “albeit when He, the Spirit of Truth is come, He will guide you into all truth.” In 2,000 years no one has ever been guided into all truth. Why? The only thing I can think of — and I don’t know everything yet because I haven’t yet become glorified, but I believe that God is now beginning to remove the seals from the secrets that have been hid from the foundation of the world. I believe that He is now going to begin to reveal unto the holy apostles and prophets the foundation of the kingdom that will unfold the truths of God to His people so that they can literally become the very divine substance of Jesus Christ in their spirit, soul, heart, mind, and body.⁵³

Don’t you want to be the “very divine substance of Jesus Christ”? Don’t you want to be like God? “Now, however, we are being asked to believe that men who cannot rightly divide the Word of Truth where its meaning is obvious even to babes in Christ, are going to give us “new truths” by which they will direct our paths toward perfection.”⁵⁴

But don’t the prophets have “a heart for God”? Are they not sincere, loving people? Yes, “but evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:13).

Outward honesty, purity, and sincerity are not relevant. It is a sin to deceive. But it is also a sin to be deceived, because the truth is available. The deceivers are themselves deceived. But the truth is still available:

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou has learned them; And that from a child thou has known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:14-17).

The Scriptures are “all truth” for the church today. To go beyond good works, to attempt to possess the kingdoms of this world before the King appears, to be tempted to take what belongs to the church before the Day of Christ, is to face the same temptation that Christ faced:

⁵³ *Your Daily Cross Is Giving Up the Throne of Self*, 7.

⁵⁴ Dager, 115.

And the devil, taking him up into a high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve (Luke 4:5-8).

If deceived mortals attempt to take the kingdom ahead of the King, are they not usurpers to the throne?

“For thou hast said in thine heart, 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: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit” (Isa. 14:13-15).