**‘End-times Warning – False Prophets/Teachers, Be Watchful!’**

Recently I’ve come across some “new” teachings. The first came through a question in a comment. The commenter asked me if the writer of the Book of Revelation was Jesus’ disciple John or John the Baptist?

John the Baptist died soon after Jesus’ ministry began, so how could he have been the one to receive the message of the Book of Revelation.

No, the Scriptures give us the answer. The text clearly states,

*“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.”****[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/12/" \l "_ftn1)***

Amazingly, the one commenting argued with me about this very clear Word.

The next shocker for me was a video I noticed on the new website platform called Brighton.com.[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/12/" \l "_ftn2) The title given to the video is, *‘Jesus was a Usurper, John the Baptist was the True Christ.*’ The presenter is Lynn Picknett who is espousing the Johannite Tradition, which apparently has some connection to the Mandaean tradition. I haven’t watched the video. I did search online to see what these people claim to be the truth. I found the following,

Johannite refers to a spiritual tradition carried in part through the initiatory tradition of John the Baptist, exemplified in the relationship between Christ and the Apostle John, brought to fruition in the community addressed by the Gospel of John, the Gospel embraced by early Gnostics, and which produced the Revelation to John the Theologian. We strive to embody this tradition today.

We share a commitment to freedom of thought and an insistence that the fullness of the Divine is known both in the hidden secrecy of the individual heart and in the loving connection of community.

We hold the same lines of spiritual lineage as older, mainstream churches as well as some less common, mystical lineages like the Gnostic succession of Jules Doinel. We treasure the fullness of mystical Christian teaching whether orthodox or “heretical” as informative.

Mandaeans are a closed ethno-religious community, practicing Mandaeism, which is a monotheistic Gnostic religion (Aramaic manda means “knowledge,” as does Greek gnosis) with a strongly dualistic worldview. Its adherents revere Adam, Abel, Seth, Enosh, Noah, Shem, Aram and especially John the Baptist.

Let me be honest with you. Every time I see the word ‘gnosis’ or ‘Gnostic,’ red flags begin to fly in front of my face. Jesus’ first disciples were already dealing with Gnosticism in the first century. Gnostics claim to have “a special knowledge, an esoteric[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/12/" \l "_ftn3) knowledge” which enables the redemption of the human spirit (redemption here meaning the separation of the spirit from the body, for the Gnostics believe that the body is evil). I have considerable issue with the words “special” and “esoteric” in connection with the word “knowledge.” Wasn’t the serpent peddling knowledge in the Garden of Eden? Didn’t he contradict the word God had given to Adam and Eve when he told them that they would NOT die but that, in fact, they would be “like God, knowing good and evil”?

Who was it that was ultimately revealed as the one speaking the truth on this occasion? It certainly wasn’t the serpent. **It was God.** The fact is this: the serpent (the devil) has been peddling lies since the beginning. Jesus even called him the ‘father of lies’ in John 8.

You may be wondering why I am writing a blog about Mandaeans and Johannites. **I write to warn.** We are living in the last of the last days and false teachers and false prophets are coming out of the “woodwork” so to speak. I am astounded with the things being said openly by clergy IN THE CHURCH! I shouldn’t be surprised. Peter wrote nearly two thousand years ago,

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. (2 Peter 2:1-2)

And Jesus taught,

15“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. 19Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20Therefore by their fruits you will know them. (Matthew 7:15-20)

As far as I am aware, there is only one sure defense against our falling for the teachings of those who peddle falsehoods as truth and that is this: **WE MUST KNOW GOD’S WORD**. It isn’t really enough to have sat in a church pew week in and week out throughout one’s life and to have listened to ministers and teachers preach the Word. Every person needs to read and study the Word themselves. It needs to be buried deep within us so that it can be an encouragement to us in the days ahead, AND so that it cannot be stolen from us by anyone.

It is late. Arm yourself with God’s Word. It is the TRUTH!

*Kathleen*

[[1]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/12/" \l "_ftnref1) Revelation 1:1-2

[[2]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/12/" \l "_ftnref2) [www.brighteon.com](http://www.brighteon.com) is a new website platform where many of the alternative news sources have gone to since being removed from YouTube and Facebook and other more “mainstream” platforms. I have begun to upload the weekly messages I give on to Brighteon because YouTube is making changes to their video policies. My channel there is, <https://www.brighteon.com/channel/kathleen655>

[[3]](http://yourbibleblog.com/2019/12/" \l "_ftnref3) Esoteric – synonyms are obscure, mysterious, abstruse, impenetrable, cryptic