



# Chronicles of Diversity

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Chronicles of Diversity  
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## Thesis 3: Prophecy

One of the more interesting articles that I read recently concerned a gentleman's opinion of what was about to happen to the church. This was unusual because it wasn't just written in the mode of "Thus says the Lord." but included evidence from his work to support his thesis. Because it was written about the future, the evidence was of inductive rather than deductive in nature, but was interesting in that the arguments were tempered with educational evidence to support his cause.

The basic construct of his writing was that the Lord was about to bypass the established church structure and deal directly with "His called out ones," as in the meaning of the original Greek. In other words, Jesus was about to call his people out from the corruption that now is called the church.

Part of the man's basis for this stupendous change is that the word translated church in our Bibles, really isn't the Greek word for church at all, but really

traces church roots back to cultic and pagan traditions. So in other words he was trying to make a case, that the church really does not describe what Jesus was talking about when he said in Matthew 16:18: And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

This is somewhat akin to the discussion of telling Christians why they should not celebrate Christmas, Easter, Halloween, and other pagan celebrations because of their ties to the occult and non Christian beliefs. I personally have some sympathy for this line of thinking, but I also believe that if the body of Christ decides to adopt a pagan day or period for some celebration, she is operating in the power of her ordination as the bride of Christ. If that be true, the problem is not with certain dates per se, but that the dates have been further corrupted into idolatry, making them ends in themselves and not



as times to celebrate the richness that sinners have in Jesus Christ.

What I found really interesting however, was when this article was written, the means to bring about this bypass did not readily exist. It would not have been that impossible to make those predictions either based upon man's inherited rationality, or by illumination from God, but the fact was that the technology was not then in place for this to actually happen. Now this was not some monk in a cave on the back side of the desert, but written in the late 20th century when the internet is not what it now allows the individual to do and to be.

Today, we virtually have available at our finger tips, the best theology, the worst theology, and the theology of no theology. All we need to do is to do a search, and that information is available for your perusal, downloading, forwarding to your friends and enemies, beating your pastor over the head with the hard copy, or gossiping behind his or her? back.

Based upon the truth that historic orthodox Christian theology believes that God is sovereign in all things, then it must follow that He can direct His sheep to the concept that "theology is necessary" and to find that "good theology" and keep them from being converted by "bad theology."

All this does not bid well for those who teach partial truth, are not transparent in their finances, or in their dealing with other people. This is true for those sitting on their well padded behind, sitting on well padded pews and personal seating, as well as those in leadership, whether pastor or laity. Today, someone with time and inclination from God can be educated beyond the seminary, without having to go to a church cemetery.

Now for those really expecting some prophesy that fits within the modern evangelical mold, with the initial draft completion of the word cemetery in the above paragraph, I glanced at the processor word count and it stood at 666. I suppose that could be spun to say that this article is from God, or from the devil, depending upon your personal temperament and your desire to find some hidden truth in just an interesting

occurrence, which as the author I just find mildly amusing. However, anything deeper than that is beyond my shallow understanding.

So the technology is in place for God to by pass the structure of the current church with its prophesied corruption. Does that mean that this is going to happen? I suppose the only answer is that the future rests with God's sovereignty. How that affects and effects you depends upon your understanding of the wisdom of good theology, your reading of the actual signs of the times, and your willingness to make required changes in your current lifestyle in faith. In other words to make you more adaptable to a life where God holds the future. Are you truly living by faith in God's grace alone, or are you passing the buck to others who say they have your interests at heart. 888 word count, I guess I just flew by 777.

There is a major problem with the prophesy that we have been discussing that makes it all suspect. That is the concept of community. People were not designed by God to get their church on television or the internet. Men and women are not to be lone wolves, neither were they created to spend most of their lives as spectators at the NFC Championship Game at QWest Field this Sunday. As I drove past the stadium to walk around Green Lake this morning with an old friend, I couldn't help but think of Noam Chomsky's concept that professional athletics are "opiate for the masses." Praise the Lord, those of us with or without tickets can still go to church Sunday and still be available for the 3:30 local time kick. Those Christians willing to attend the early service can be home in time to even watch the AFC Championship, which begins at noon, to see who the Hawks will face in the SuperBowl.

It's kind of scary to think that Chomsky might be right in his prophesy. Professional sports give men and women an outlet for their aggression, so that they don't actually kill their urban neighbors and those people who drive in the car pool lane with only one person in their vehicle. Could it be the reason you have not shot or beat the stuffing out of your boss, or your wife, or your pastor, or some perfect stranger who just happened to be in your path, is that you got a big enough fix out of the Hawks vs the little kitties from Carolina?

Is fair and balanced argumentation and conflict, on news channels, reality TV, and video games part of that same fix, or is it part of the continuing decay of our civilization? A topic beyond this week's thesis.

Being one or two amongst the seventy thousand in attendance at the football game may provide a bandaid on your suppressed, regressed, and depressed personality, but it really does little to fill your need to belong, to share the love, fellowship, and intimacy with others. The hundred plus players and coaches on the field however, do provide a model for positive and effective community. Yes, that's right, those 200 to 300+ pound men, many of which have shaved heads, trying to run over, pass over, run around the other team, is about as perfect a model of successful natural and human communities and competition, not aggression as exists in the world.

On offense you have five offensive line men, five back/receiver guys, and one quarterback that is supposed to lead the two groups to success and a touchdown. On the other side of the ball, you have normally, four defensive linemen, three linebackers, and four pass defenders, cornerbacks and safeties. The defense's goal is to keep the offense from scoring a touchdown. It is just a competitive job, that someone has to do, and be extremely well paid for the opportunity.

This organizational structure is similar, in basketball, baseball, and all military. You have groups of three to five individuals selected for certain characteristics, led by someone trained to bring unity into these diverse groups into teams of tens, in multiples most effective with numbers of twenty five to thirty, but which break down much beyond fifty. They also lose their community effectiveness, depending upon the overall design, below about fifteen.

So on the large side of the opiate spectrum you have the football team, which has virtually an offense with thirty, and defense with thirty, with backups at the starting positions filled by a group that functions as special teams. In basketball you have a squad made up of about fifteen, of that, five are held in reserve, or injured. Baseball fits right in the middle, with

infielders, outfielders, pitchers, and a catcher who basically leads the team on the field.

So why don't churches operate that way when our successful teams, so called primitive peoples, and even wolf packs do? Perhaps, because churches think they really have a word from the Lord, when they ignore everything that naturally surrounds them. We have the written Bible that dates back in it's earliest form for about 3500 years. The Christian canon about 2000. How did God organize and manage His people from there back until the creation, whether that be in 4004 BCE or some other historical date not deemed central to God's written word. God knows well that man would make an idol of such a date and take their focus off of Him and His grace.

I have been interested in small, or cell groups since early in my move from the church's liberal denominationalism, to evangelicals with a more literal Bible understanding. What really got my interest however, was a book I read by a Roman Catholic priest in the Philippines. These dirt poor peasants, with a little supervision from their pastor, were able to work together to significantly increase their meager subsistence life, by virtually following the Seahawks formula for success. Or maybe the Seahawks followed theirs. Then perhaps, no I know it is a God thing.

If I have such a thing as a calling this type of team building is its essence. Any gift that I may have in writing I believe flows toward that goal. Regardless of when or how Jesus returns, there is nothing that precludes helping all organizations, both religious and secular work better, more efficiently, and effectively. The time has come to move people from being observers in their lives into participants. I am currently working towards building a team building team, if you or someone you know would like to get out of the stands and participate I would like to hear from you.

As we look at the recorded history of the Jewish Christian heritage, we see God continually bringing change. About every 500 years or so, some of that change has been stupendous. Whether we are living in such a time as that I shall leave with the prophets. But I am reminded of what happened in those times, and the modern saying can be paraphrased into: Lead, follow, or be: A. Left along the way. B. Swept away. C. Moved out of the way.

Just another spin on the concept of being  
Left Behind.

## Our last two issues:

Thesis One: No heavy lifting?; PDF link:  
[http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/  
thesisone146.pdf](http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/thesisone146.pdf)

Thesis Two: Movements, PDF link:  
[http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/  
thesistwo116.pdf](http://www.wondersprings.com/2006pdffiles/thesistwo116.pdf)