

Kingdom Report

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Azusa, the Earthquake and the Deception

In 1906 there was the Azusa street Pentecostal revival, in Los Angeles, the great earthquake in San Francisco and the great deception in 1909. We are still blessed by the one and deceived by the other.

Last week I introduced you to a key spiritual truth. Whenever the Lord moves in a great way to move His Kingdom on earth forward the enemy must counterattack. Sometimes it will be violence and persecution. Other times it is infiltration and deception.

With the great Protestant Revolution of Martin Luther in 1517 it was both violence in the form of Catholic and protestant wars, and it was also the Jesuits Ribera and Lacuna with the counterattack of deception and infiltrating the "end times, future Antichrist, future Millennial Kingdom" into the Church. Propagated by Irving, the Millerites, Plymouth Brethren and Darby (adding the pre-tribulation Rapture).

This deception however never really got anywhere in the Protestant churches. But the seeds were sown. The one who sowed the seeds into the Pentecostal movement was Cyrus Schofield and his Schoefield Bible with notes.

Which brings us to Azusa Street revival and the great San Francisco earthquake. The greatest and next great move of God to pour out His Spirit on all flesh was started in a little black marginal congregation in Los Angeles by a group of mainly black worshippers who were praying earnestly for revival.

The first instance of speaking in tongues, a key event marking the revival's beginning, took place on **April 9, 1906**. The group, led by William J. Seymour, held its first meeting at the now-famous 312 Azusa Street mission in LA. There had been a small manifestation of this phenomenon in 1899 in Topeka Kansas under Charles Parham but it struggled to take hold.

But then something dramatic happened that shook California and the nation. The great San Francisco earthquake occurred in the early morning of **Wednesday, April 18, 1906**, at approximately 5:12 AM. The Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles had already begun its foundational events just days *before* the earthquake.

The revival leaders interpreted this great earthquake that flattened San Francisco as a sign of God's judgment. Frank Bartleman, an influential journalist and participant in the revival, chronicled this connection. Bartleman felt compelled to act. He believed the earthquake was God's "voice" and that the revival was the corresponding spiritual answer. He wrote and distributed tens of thousands of tracts titled "The Earthquake!" which framed the disaster as a divine call to repentance and righteousness. According

to his accounts, this message resonated deeply with a fearful public, and the earthquake "opened many hearts" to the revival's message. The timing of the cataclysmic event, created a climate of spiritual urgency that contributed mightily to the growth and intensity of the burgeoning Pentecostal movement at Azusa Street. The revival lasted 3 years and attracted thousands in LA and derision from LA newspapers. Thousands from all across America, including the leaders from Topeka Kansas came to see and participate. And spread the new Pentecostal experience to churches across America and eventually all over the world.

Satan and his demonic hordes were in deep panic mode. They saw this before. In 33 AD in the Upper Room after the ascension of Jesus who promised to send His Spirit to endue His disciples with power. This was frightening. Satan knows from Eden the seed of the woman is destined to crush his head. He knows from scripture the Church has authority to crush them under their feet (Romans 16:20).

Satan could not stamp out this new Holy Spirit outpouring by violence like he tried with the New Testament church. This time this powerful and dangerous movement had to be redirected into a side track dead end. 3 years after the start of the great Azusa street revival began and by then spreading all across the nation and the world, in 1909 there appeared the first edition of the soon to be famous Scofield Reference Bible.

The seeds of deception that the Catholic Jesuits had sowed years before into a small cult movement could now be spread straight into the mainstream of this new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Mysterious Origins of Scofield and His Bible

First published in 1909 and revised in 1917, the Scofield Reference Bible became one of the most significant books in the hands of American evangelicals. Its genius lay in its format. By placing theological notes, charts, and cross-references directly alongside the sacred text, it blurred the line between God's inspired Word and one man's interpretation. For millions, the notes became as authoritative as the Scripture itself, providing a comprehensive—and seemingly biblical—framework for understanding God's plan for the ages. The publication by the prestigious Oxford University Press gave it an Ivy-League credibility that made it attractive to pastors and laypeople who might have otherwise been sceptical.

However, the origins of this incredibly influential work are troubling. The man behind it, Cyrus I. Scofield, was a man with a checkered past, including arrests for fraud. He passed himself off as a lawyer but with no credentials, no theological credentials, abandoned his wife and three children. Yet, he found himself welcomed into the exclusive Lotus Club in New York, a hub for the city's political and financial elite. The Lotus Club was by invitation only and was the meeting place for the top financial and political elite of New York. (Andrew Carnegie et al)

Behind Scofield stood influential political Zionists—most notably Samuel Untermyer, a New York lawyer and financier deeply involved in both American politics and the Zionist movement. Through elite networks like the Lotus Club,

Scofield was connected to patrons like Jacob Schiff and Bernard Baruch, who provided him funds, publishing access, and international support.

Through these connections, Scofield received funding for extensive European travel and, remarkably, gained access to Oxford University Press for the publication of his Reference Bible. This was a major venture requiring a huge amount of money to publish and major political connections to get Oxford University Press to even consider putting their publishing name on it. This was extraordinary for a travelling preacher of modest means and raises serious questions about the motivations behind his sudden rise to influence.

Why would political financiers back a Bible study tool?

Because Scofield's notes which repeated Darby's Dispensational theology, infused a political agenda—Zionism—into the theology of millions of evangelical Christians. His interpretations presented the establishment of a modern Jewish state in Palestine as a prophetic necessity, creating a “two-people” theology: Israel for the earth, the church for heaven.

The result was a study Bible whose notes championed a specific theological system known as Dispensationalism, with a particularly strong emphasis on a political future for the nation of Israel. This was no mere academic exercise. The timing of the revised 1917 edition was impeccable. It appeared just as the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, which pledged support for a "national home for the Jewish people". The synchronicity was powerful: as political momentum for Zionism grew on the world stage, millions of evangelicals were reading study Bible notes that presented this very political movement as the centerpiece of God's end-time prophetic plan. A political agenda was effectively sanctified and absorbed by a huge segment of the Church as biblical fact.

The Theological Consequences

The Scofield system introduced several problematic teachings that have profoundly affected evangelical Christianity:

The Two-People Theory: Scofield divided God's program into distinct destinies for Israel (earthly) and the church (heavenly), contradicting Paul's clear teaching about "one new man" in Ephesians 2:15. This artificial separation has led many Christians to view themselves as secondary players in God's plan, merely keeping the lights on until Israel takes center stage again.

Replacement Theology: Schofield introduced the first and real :Replacement Theology - Israel was destined to replace the Church as God's great end times vessel for manifesting the Kingdom of God on earth

Escapist Theology: Perhaps most damaging has been the emphasis on the rapture as an escape from earthly responsibility rather than preparation for greater authority. Instead of training believers to overcome, this teaching has encouraged a mentality of retreat and abandonment.

Political Entanglement: The notes fostered uncritical support for modern political movements, sometimes eclipsing the Great Commission and redirecting Christian energy toward earthly political goals rather than spiritual victory.

From Conquest to Escape

Jesus declared, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18). He then commissioned us to go and make disciples, promising His presence with us always. This is not the language of retreat but of advance.

We have been given authority to "bind and loose" (Matthew 18:18), to "cast out demons" (Mark 16:17), and to "destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). These are present-tense realities, not future possibilities.

Spiritual Warfare, Not Political Alliance

Our warfare is indeed spiritual, not carnal (2 Corinthians 10:4). This means our primary weapons are prayer, worship, the Word of God, and the demonstration of His love and power—not political lobbying or military support for earthly nations.

When Paul described the armor of God in Ephesians 6, he emphasized truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. These are spiritual weapons for spiritual battles against spiritual enemies.

The Great Commission, Not the Great Escape

Our primary mission remains unchanged: to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything Christ commanded. This mission requires our presence on earth, our engagement with culture, and our demonstration of Kingdom power in every sphere of society.

We cannot fulfil the Great Commission from a distance or through escapist theology. We must be salt and light right here, right now, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” – Romans 16:20

In every generation, the church faces deception—clever, subtle, often disguised as truth. Scripture repeatedly warns us that the enemy of our souls is not idle. He prowls, he schemes, and he sows tares among the wheat. And one of his most enduring tactics is *doctrinal deception*.

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, this blog is a call—not to anger or division—but to sober discernment, humble re-examination, and joyful re-alignment with the victorious gospel mission given to the church: **to crush Satan underfoot through the power of the cross, not to chase political dreams or escape fantasies.**

From the beginning, God made the battle lines clear:

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head...” (Genesis 3:15)

This was not only a promise about Christ’s ultimate victory on the cross—it was a prophetic commission for the church, the Body of Christ, to enforce that victory in every generation.

Paul echoed this when he wrote to the Roman believers:

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Romans 16:20)

Not under heaven’s feet alone—but under the church’s feet. Christ, the Head, is in heaven. His feet are on earth—*in us*. The church’s mission, then, is militant and spiritual: to war against deception, sin, and darkness—not to advance geopolitical causes, nor to await escape from the battlefield.

Dispensational deception tells you otherwise. The church will not crush Satan. The church must be taken out of the world so that Satan and the Antichrist can rule the world. And when the Kingdom does eventually come it will be through the Jews.

This is what Paul described as "Jewish fables" and "doctrines of demons" Because this is the deception that demons are desperate for the church to believe before we rediscover what our mission and authority is in Christ.

There is another great "earthquake" coming in world politics, the Middle East and world Babylonian money power. It will result in a great Holy Spirit Restoration of All Things movement world wide.

But It will first blow up Dispensationalism, the false prosperity gospel and church as Sunday morning religious entertainment. Which is why I have been doing these blogs to prepare you for what is coming and what the new Restoration of All Things agenda will be all about.