

A Bible Examination of the
Book called The
Late Great Planet Earth
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In the introductory page of my copy of Hal Lindsay's book called THE LATE GREAT PLANET EARTH, is the information that the first edition was printed in May 1970. Since that time no less than twenty-seven editions have followed bearing evidence of immense circulation and interest. Two initial statements indicate the purpose and the premise of the book. He begins with, "This is a book about prophecy -- Bible prophecy." He also says, "And all this would be around the most important sign of all -- that is the Jews returning to the land of Israel after thousands of years of being dispersed. The Jew is the most important sign to this (present) generation."

Let us examine a few of these statements in the light of the plain teaching of the Word of God. First of all there is the name of the book. When we speak of the "late" John Doe, we indicate that we are speaking of one who has passed away. As far as planet earth is concerned, it is very much alive. What will happen to it in the future is yet to be revealed when it becomes history, therefore the name of the book is based on a hypothetical surmise of conjecture and assumption.

On the cover of the book we find it says, "A penetrating look at "incredible" prophecies involving THIS generation. The word "incredible" means "unbelievable; seeming too unusual or improbable to be possible." Webster. Prophecy is not incredible, unbelievable or impossible. As far as his references to the Jews are concerned, the information came predominantly from the newspapers rather than the Bible. The last place in the Bible where the Jewish nation is mentioned is in Acts 1:6 to which Jesus replied with the promise of the Holy Spirit. After the giving of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, the Israelitish Kingdom is never mentioned again. "This 1973" generation is appropriately inserted into

the narrative to suit the interpretation of events similar to the manner that other writers have done in years past, and whose glowing forecasts failed to materialize. Somehow this does not prevent others from falling into the same pitfall of confusing Bible prophecy with human predictions. Let us investigate some of the assertions made in "The late great planet earth" and verify them with Bible facts.

On page 32 he says, "Sometime in the future there will be a seven year period climaxed by the visible return of Jesus Christ." Is that so? No Scripture is given for this prediction for the simple reason there is no such Scripture in the Bible. Try to find it! If he is referring to the so-called Seventieth Week of Daniel as future, the Bible says: "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..." Deut. 18:22. Everyone agrees that the Sixty-ninth week of Daniel came to pass many centuries ago during the ministry of Christ. Now if the seventieth failed to follow it consecutively, which is the only way time can be measured, then the Lord did not utter it at all. The writer seems to think he can lightly charge the inspiration given by the Holy Ghost with an obvious error by suggesting this postponement of the seventieth week to the indefinite future. Furthermore, if Christ is to come during a mythical future "Seven year period" then we shall know when He is coming. Christ very definitely said that no man will know when His coming will be. Thus there are two flagrant contradictions in that phrase.

The errors at this point are too numerous to mention them all so we shall pass on to: "Third, each one of these spheres of power will be judged and destroyed for invading the new state of Israel, but the personal return of the JEWISH MESSIAH, JESUS CHRIST." Again no Scripture is given and none can be given. It is most nauseating to imply that the Saviour of the world shows racial discrimination. Where in the Bible is Jesus Christ referred to as the JEWISH MESSIAH any more than He is everyone's Messiah. What Scripture anywhere indicates that Jesus Christ as a Jewish Messiah will destroy nations because of hostilities against the new State of Israel? None whatsoever.

If we focus attention a moment on the State of Israel, she does not call herself a "nation" and vastly more Jews live in other parts of the world than those who have returned to Palestine. There are some estimates that more Jews live in New York City alone than the aggregate of those that have returned to Palestine. This would be irrelevant except for Mr. Lindsay's oft repeated statement that Christ will not come until the Jews return to Palestine. Which Jews? How many Jews? If "the Jews" mean all the Jews, then prophecy will be a long time off. If it just means the handful of Jews now resident in Palestine, then they have been there since 1948 as a State.

This is several seven-year periods. When does it begin IF the conditions are already long past fulfilled? This kind of treatment of prophecy makes a mockery out of real Bible prophecy.

Perhaps there is no better place to define just what is meant by the term Jews than here. Webster has this to say: "One belonging to the tribe or kingdom of Judah after the return from the Babylonian captivity; any member of the new Hebrew state, hence any one of the Hebrew race or people, or anyone whose RELIGION is Judaism. The Jews of today do not uniformly reveal a pure Semitic type but show evidence of intermixtures in various countries where they dwell. As a rule they are shorter than the native populations and in northern Europe, more brunette." Observe then that the term Jew includes primarily the religion of Judaism rather than the State of Israel. Citizens of that State are called Israeli. There is a difference between a RACE and a RELIGION. If Dispensationalists really believed what they prophecy, namely that God was going to deal preferentially with the Jews, why do they not become Jews? It is easy according to Gen. 17:12. "And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in thy house, or bought with money of any stranger WHICH IS NOT THY SEED." Thus in the very beginning those who were NOT THE SEED of Abraham came under the covenant by simply complying with the faith of Abraham. The same route is open for anyone even to this day. If Dispensationalists really believed what they predict they are surely missing out on the blessings themselves for they are open to them. The fact that they do not avail themselves shows how lightly they REALLY believe it themselves. They can still be proselytes even as in Bible times. In the last analysis they evidently believe more in salvation by God's GRACE than in salvation by belonging to any RACE. Far better to heed Paul's penetrating insight: "They please not God and are contrary to all men...for the WRATH OF GOD IS COME UPON THEM TO THE UTMOST." 1 Thess. 2:15b,16b. "Utmost" does not permit a future reversal of Divine dealings.

Let us pursue another statement. Quote p 33: "This seven year period we have called the 'count-down,' is a period of unique events. There is more prophecy concerning this period than any other era the Bible describes." It is not difficult to challenge this statement. In the first place the prophecies concerning the birth of Christ and His ministry and death far out number any mythical future seven year period. Second, it is possible to state exactly what the Bible prophecies are concerning the period under discussion. There are exactly six things and they are clearly enunciated in Daniel 9:24 as follows: "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, (1) to finish the transgression; (2) and to make an end of sins; (3) and to make reconciliation for iniquity; (4) and to bring in everlasting righteousness; (5) and to seal up the vision and prophecy; (6)

and to anoint the most Holy." The reader will observe that no reference to a restored Israel is mentioned whatsoever. It is also clear that each one of these prophecies were fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Christ. Prophecy never fails. Man's predictions invariably fail. Thus another of Lindsay's statements is merely a vagrant opinion having no means of Scriptural support.

We call attention to p 41, "The phrase 'latter days' ALWAYS refers in the Old Testament to the time of Israel's final and complete national restoration and spiritual redemption." No example is given for such proof is absent in the Bible. We quote now from Deut. 31:29..."Evil will befall you in the latter days..."

In Jer. 23:20 we read, "The anger of the Lord shall not return until He have executed, and till He have performed the thoughts of His heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly. V.21, I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran..." Not much reference in these O.T. quotations related to Israel's restoration as a nation or spiritual redemption is there? Jer. 30:24 is almost a repetition of Jer. 23:20. In Dan. 2:28, we read, "But... What shall be in the latter days..." What follows relates to the captivity of Israel in Babylon and has no reference to the statement given about Israel's restoration as a nation in the last days not her redemption. Out of ten references in the Old Testament, seven of them have no reference that can possibly be construed to have anything to do with a restored nation of Israel or her redemption, yet we are told unabashed that the phrase "latter days" ALWAYS refers to the final and complete restoration of Israel as a nation and her redemption. This can in no way be reconciled with the facts of the matter. It is only by twisting the phrase to mean what they have interpreted it to mean, that it could be applied to any future of Israel. Seven out of ten references definitely refute the writer's claim.

Let us now call attention to page 44. The writer makes the following assertions based on Zech. 12:14. Item 3: "The personal revelation of Jesus Christ to the remnant of Jews in Jerusalem." Item 4: "The repentance and faith which occurs at this personal revelation." It is strange indeed how Dispensationalists can be so blind to present facts, and yet so gullible about future "phantasies." Peter declared the answer on the day of Pentecost as follows: "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ (personal) for the remission of sins..." Acts 2:38. "Unto you FIRST God, having raised His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning everyone of you from his iniquities." Acts 3:26 Thus the "remnant" was SAVED by the personal revelation of the Christ, that is the Messiah. When He comes again, it will not be a revelation to a few Jews around Jerusalem, for EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM. Item 5: "The opening of the fountain of forgiveness to repentant Israel." The Scripture reference given is Zech. 13:1 which reads: "In that day there shall be a fountain

opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." It would be a mistake to equate "The House of David" with the State of Israel or to limit repentance to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. For one thing there are about as many Arab inhabitants in Jerusalem as there are Jews - if this offer is to inhabitants it must include them. We do not have to guess for the Bible is explicit in telling what is meant in Luke 1:69, "And hath raised up an horn of SALVATION FOR US in the house of His servant David." We are told that Joseph was of the house of David in Luke 1:27. Under the New Covenant we are told, "Their is neither Jew nor Greek..." God is not a tribal deity.. Salvation is for all, but it was opened at Calvary through Christ who according to the flesh was of the lineage of David. Paul said, "Remember that Jesus Christ of the Seed of David was raised from the dead ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL." 2 Tim. 2:8. It is a travesty indeed, to reverse God's universal plan of Salvation and limit it to a small group of unbelievers. Salvation is by GRACE not by any RACE.

We will pass on to page 45 and read the following: "There remains but ONE more event to completely set the stage for Israel's part in the last great act in her historical drama. This is to build the ancient temple of worship on its old site. Obstacle or no obstacle, it is certain that the Temple will be rebuilt. Prophecy demands it." Help! Only ONE thing remains! The rebuilding of the Temple! But then the author includes more other things than can be enumerated. He says the ancient Roman Empire will have to be revived in its Ten Kingdom form. This he links with the Common Market, as if the amalgamation of an economic group of Europeans could be identified with the long defunct Romans! The writer concludes that this entente will eventually have the Antichrist as its head. He goes on to portray wars involving Russia and China and Africa. It would be easier to name the ones left out of catastrophic bloodshed than to delineate those involved. Yet he says, "There remains but ONE thing..." Then why are all the other things mentioned if but one thing remains? Another thing, although he declares that prophecy demands the rebuilding of the Temple, no Scripture is supplied to support the statement. Why? Because there is none.

Next we quote from page 46, "...Paul speaks of this person as one "Who opposes and exalts himself as being God...who is called the "Antichrist." 2 Thess. 1:4. Suffice to say that Paul makes no mention whatever of the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel, nor does he refer to the Antichrist in the passage quoted. Read it and see. It is easy to discern how wrong this interpretation is by turning to 1 John 2:22, "Who is a LIAR but he that DENIETH that Jesus is the Christ? HE IS ANTICHRIST THAT DENIETH THE FATHER AND THE SON." Of the four references in the Bible to Antichrist, all emphasize his denial of God and of Jesus as the Christ. How could Paul be talking of the "Antichrist" when he is described as showing himself that he IS GOD? Such a contradiction is too obvious to merit

attention. Yet this kind of handling God's Word is very typical of all Dispensational writers. If you look up their references you can discover this for yourself.

We pass over the weary guess-work of Russia and China; plus all the postulations of their future activity as utter nonsense. On page 79 however, we read, "The seventh chapter of Daniel, written before the coming of Jesus of Nazareth, was known by the Scribes as the greatest chapter in the Old Testament. Jesus and His apostles referred to it directly or indirectly many times." Typically no Scripture is given and no example is cited. There are many references to Jesus' encounters with the Scribes, and considering what He said of them, they would not be much of a recommendation to assess the greatest chapter in anything. Jesus said they "Make the Word of God of none effect." Mark 7:13. Just where Jesus and the disciples referred to Daniel 7 is not revealed by the writer, probably for the same reason an example is omitted in other statements given.

While sufficient has been said about the mythical "Antichrist" to satisfy most seekers after truth, we submit this further misinterpretation given by the author on pp86 and 98, "At the time that this Roman Empire will begin... Heading the revived Roman Empire will be a man of such magnetism, such power, and such influence, that he will for a time be the greatest dictator the world has ever known. He will be the completely GODLESS, diabolical future fuehrer. ... p. 98, "The Antichrist will deify himself -- just like the Caesars did. He will proclaim himself to be God." Observe first of all the impossibility of a "completely GODLESS man, proclaiming himself to be GOD!" This is an absolute contradiction and utterly absurd.

History records the downfall of the Roman Empire and its disintegration into ten kingdoms. Italy is not Rome. Rome cannot be revived because it doesn't exist to be revived. It can only be recreated, and since the ten kingdoms form of Rome was historically merged into the Holy Roman Empire under Charlemagne, it is useless to delve into this further. Suffice to point out that the stone that struck the image on its feet in Daniel 2, struck an image that was then standing. It did not strike a reconstructed or revived image. There is no way any future amalgamation of any existing nations can fulfill prophecy such as would require the recrudescence of the Roman Empire, for it was not a REVIVED Roman Empire the prophecy applied to. Dispensationalists ought to read history more carefully before they misapply the Word of God in such careless manner.

We shall make but two further observations. On page 131 we quote: "During the tribulation the spotlight is on the Jew - in the Book of Revelation the Jew is responsible for evangelizing the world AGAIN." Rev. 7:1-4. The Jews are only mentioned twice in the book of Revelation. It is the last time they are mentioned in the Bible so the verdict must be very final. In Rev. 2:9 we read, "I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews and are

not, but are of the synagog of Satan." In Rev. 3:9, "Behold I will make them of the synagog of Satan, which say they are Jews and are not..." One cannot expect much world evangelism to stem from the synagog of Satan. Moreover, it is interesting that the writer observed that the Jews referred to are to evangelize the world AGAIN. This infers it has already been done once. Did Christ authorize a future proclamation OF THE GOSPEL after this age? Where? Silence! Heb. 1:1, 2 has the answer. God spoke through the prophets and now speaks through the Son. There is no other gospel possible for THIS is the LAST TIME NOW. Rev. 7 says nothing about the Jews evangelizing the world. It does say that 144,000 were sealed of ALL the tribes of Israel - but two tribes, namely Dan and Manasseh are omitted. Why are these two tribes missing? A full explanation of this is given in my book called THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING. I hasten to say that there is no contradiction when rightly understood.

Our last observation is taken from page 164. This reads, "A frightening picture, isn't it? Has it occurred to you that this is exactly what happens to those who are in a thermonuclear blast? It appears that this will be the case at the return of Christ...Most ministers and religious leaders today reject even the possibility that Christ will establish an actual physical kingdom of God on earth...from the throne of David out of Jerusalem." The writer fails, as usual, to give any Scriptural support for this statement. Can any pre-millennialist show one Scripture in the entire Bible that clearly states that Christ will reign over a physical kingdom from Jerusalem for 1,000 years? There is absolutely no Scriptural support for such a claim. Try to find it. Is it too much to ask for this proof when so much is assumed?

But the issue is more serious. The writer says a thermonuclear blast APPEARS to coincide with the return of Christ. Any Scripture?... Of course not. This diabolical act rests only on the slender thread of "it appears." What an admission of vacuity and what a surrender to conjecture! After all has been said about the certainty of prophecy, in the last analysis it just "appears to be the case." The reader only has to choose whether he wants to rely on Dispensational guesstimates or on Bible certainties.

We confidently direct you to 2 Pet. 1:19 which says: "We have a MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY; where-unto ye do well to take heed...knowing this first, that NO PROPHECY OF THE SCRIPTURE IS OF ANY PRIVATE INTERPRETATION." Dispensational interpretation is private interpretation from start to finish. It is contradictory to itself and to the Word of God. When Christ stood before Pilate He said, "My kingdom IS NOT OF THIS WORLD; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight..." Dispensationalists disregard this plain statement of Christ and portray Him in a role of slaughtering on a scale unequaled by any previous despot in history. They arrive at this conclusion only by private interpretation. They cannot command any plain Scriptural support.

I believe the Bible. I accept it. I believe prophecy. I disagree with the Dispensational interpretation of the Second Coming because in the interests of "rightly dividing the Word of truth." (their way) they have to resort to wriggling themselves through a Rapture, an appearing, a Second Coming, several resurrections, numerous judgments, at least four gospels, hair splitting differences between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, and finally end up with a battle weary Christ whose victory is gained in war instead of on the Cross. They proclaim an Everlasting Kingdom but they tell us it will only last 1,000 years and it will end in further declension, rebellions and catastrophic wars. Dispensationalism does not honor Christ nor the Cross. It portrays Christ as a warmonger opposing Russia, and then all other nations who oppose Israel. It minimizes the Cross by suggesting that the Jews who are listed in the Book of Revelation as belonging to the synagog of Satan, will evangelize the world AGAIN after Christ comes. This is another gospel, which Paul pronounced to be under the curse. Gal. 1:8.

It would be impossible as well as needless to submit all the errors of interpretation given in "The Late Great Planet Earth." We believe sufficient evidence is given to brand it as a false attempt to mislead God's people. All that is necessary in order to prove this statement is to resort to the Bible and demand what Scriptural evidence there is for such sensational assertions. History reveals prophecy. The book Late Planet Earth will go into oblivion like all its predecessors when history is written. "We have a more sure word of prophecy... *no prophecy* of the Scripture is of ANY PRIVATE INTERPRETATION."

Someone has said, "There are no BAD ways in coming to God..." People make their peace with God in innumerable ways. Conviction for sin and desire to be right with God depends more upon the attitude of the heart -- "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness..." Rom. 10:10a. As Paul has testified, "I know WHOM I have believed..." We are not saved by WHAT we believe but on WHOM we believe. While we do not subscribe to Hal Lindsay's conclusions nor his prophetic speculations delving into the future, we do concur that his book has caused many people to be convicted of sin and to turn to Christ as Saviour and find acceptance with God. We are, naturally, gratified with such results. We regret, however, that so much emphasis is placed on speculative elements forecasting political events and uncertainties which time will refute, while dwelling so little on Divine realities that are eternal. Where the emphasis in the book we are examining is placed on getting right with God, we heartily approve, support and earnestly urge everyone to repent and come to Christ as Saviour and Lord.

