

# MESSAGE: "GETTING DOWN TO BASICS" *JUDE 1-4*



Matthew 7:15

This past year has been a difficult year. Many of us had hoped and prayed for different outcome. Some leaders in the Christian community claiming God's authority had proclaimed a different outcome than has happened. While I believe that many, if not most were sincere, they were sincerely wrong. This does not shake my faith in God. Nor does it make me re-evaluate my conclusions about the circumstances of the events of the last year. I know there are difficulties ahead.

I continue to have confidence in Christ and His purpose in the world and I trust him with my future.

What troubles me is that many of these leaders proclaimed that they were speaking prophetically. I believe in prophecy. In fact, I take it very seriously.

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Matthew 7:15

In Deuteronomy 18:14-22, God promises to send prophets among His people but indicates that beside these prophets there would be 3 classes of people who will claim prophetic authority falsely:

1. Those who claim prophetic authority to elevate or enrich themselves.
2. Those who speak presumptuously out of their own desire or to please others.
3. Those who have evil intent – idolatry, theft, power, etc.

What troubles me even more are the desires within me that want to ignore clear warning signals and accept them at their word.

## JUDE 1-4

- 1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:
- 2 Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.
- 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.
- 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.



Alisa Childers, part of ZOEgirl

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Alisa Childers was born into a founding family of Christian Contemporary music, her father was Chuck Girard of the group Love Song. She loved music and was active in music ministry and evangelism with her parents at an early age. In 1999 she with two other musically talented women formed ZOEgirl. The group became the fastest selling premier Christian band in the nation. They continued to tour as a group until 2007. They had all started families and wished to pursue solo careers.

Alisa and her husband Mike drifted from church to church trying to find a church home. She found a church that was cutting edge.



Alisa Childers, part of ZOEgirl

**Series: New Year**

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She was invited by the pastor to join a leadership Bible study. The Bible study explored cutting edge theology. Alisa's faith was almost destroyed when the pastor revealed that he was an "agnostic searcher". He maneuvered this leadership group to question basic Christian doctrines with the intent of moving the church toward the "Progressive Christian Movement". The Progressive Christian movement is a "syncretic" movement that attempts to establish common ground with other faiths [not Christian] even if that means surrendering basic Christian doctrines [the atonement, divinity of Christ, etc.] and ethics. They often focus on the emotional and relational aspects of church life. *2 Corinthians 11:1-4; 13-15*

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## 2 CORINTHIANS 11:1-4; 13-15

1 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly — and indeed you do bear with me.

2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ.

3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!

...

13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.



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Alisa's struggle led her to study her faith and has directed her to become an apologist for the Christian faith. She has a podcast and a Youtube channel. She has joined a growing group of young apologists who are rebuilding the Christian faith in this generation.

**Christian Apologist:** "One who offers a defense of the Christian faith." Here are 4 others on Youtube.



Mike Winger  
"Biblical Thinker"



Dr. Bobby Conway  
"One Minute Apologist"



Melissa Dougherty



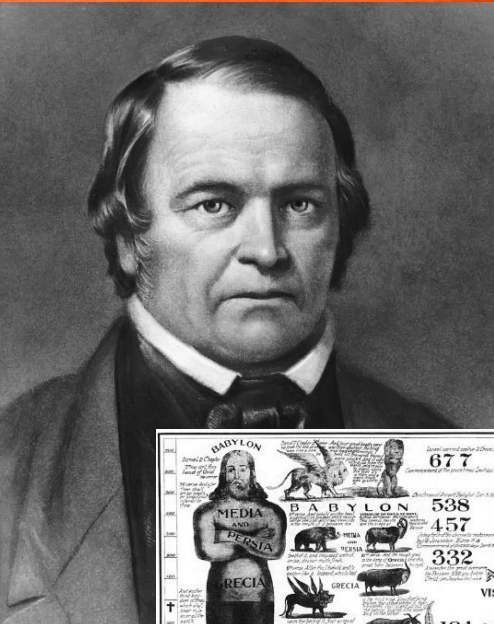
Todd Friel  
"Wretched"

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As Christians we struggle with false ideas, false teachers and at times false Christs. Apologetics can help us ground our faith against false ideas.

William Miller had come to salvation from Deism sometime around 1818. He returned to the Baptist roots of his family. As part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening he was fascinated with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus. He began to study the book of Daniel in earnest and thought he could predict the coming of Jesus. In 1831 he began to teach that Jesus would return in 1843 or 1844. The movement was propelled by copies of Miller's prophecy chart. This fast growing segment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening became the Millerite movement reaching 500,000.



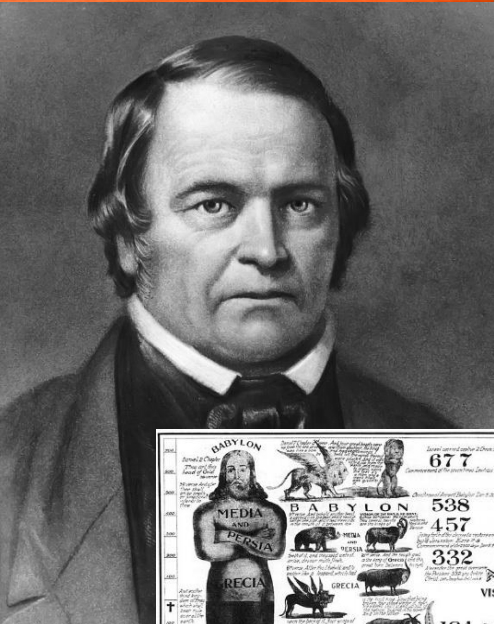
William Miller

[1782-1849]

Series: *New Year*



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Many evangelists joined the movement and it dominated the press in the New England area. By 1843 it reached fever pitch in large outdoor meetings anticipating the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. When Christ did not return in 1843, Miller recalculated his formulas and predicted that Jesus would come no later than April of 1844. Many charlatan prophets and teachers moved among the "faithful" and convinced them to sell all they had and give it to "ministries".

After April of 1844 Miller publicly apologized and admitted he had been mistaken. However, other evangelists convinced many that October was the real date. This led to the "Great Disappointment" of 1844.

*Jeremiah 28*



William Miller

[1782-1849]

*Series: New Year*

# GRAND ASCENSION OF THE MILLER TABERNACLE!

Miller in his Glory, Saints and Sinners in one great CONGLOMERATION!



Cartoon in a 1844 New York newspaper lampooning the Millerite movement and casting contempt on the revivalist movement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Awakening. Conservative and Holiness Evangelical were pilloried in the popular press due to association with the movement.

**Series: New Year**

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The "Great Disappointment" had dramatic impact on the Christian community coming out of the Awakening.

Most of the Millerites that had "come out" of their churches were so discouraged that they left Christian faith. A few did return to their churches.

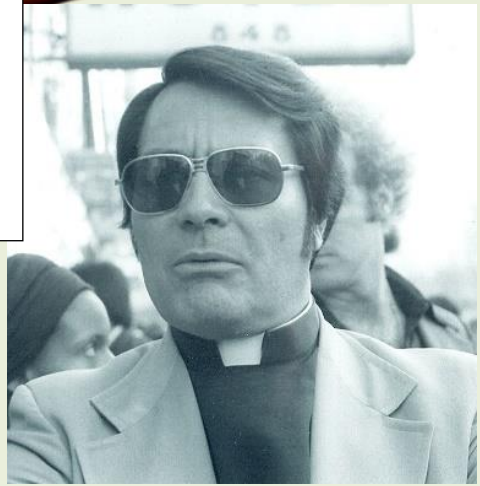
Those who remained convinced Millerites divided into 3 organizations:

1. The Adventist Christian Church
2. The Jehovah's Witnesses
3. The Seventh Day Adventists.

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Bahá'u'lláh  
[1868] d.  
1892  
founder of  
Bahá'í Faith



Jim Jones d. 1978.  
People's Temple.



Ahn Sahng-hong [d. 1985]—  
proclaimed  
Christ by  
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God



Alan John [AJ] Miller and Mary  
Luck of "Divine Truth" claim to  
be Jesus Christ and Mary  
Magdalene.

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False Christs: All 4 of these people are proclaimed to be Christ.

**Bahá'u'lláh** – founder of Bahá'í latched on to Miller's prophecy and stated that Bab who was his predecessor in Shite Islam was "John the Baptist" and he was Jesus Christ. **Jim Jones** came to believe he was Christ establishing his kingdom in Guyana calling it Jonestown and leading his followers in a ritual murder suicide.

**Ahn Sahng-hong** was a radical Adventist pastor whose followers came to believe was Christ



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Alan John Miller was a Jehovah's Witness elder. He and Mary seem to be essentially con-men.

David Koresh was a Seventh Day Adventist.

Charles Manson originally joined a cult with a leader who proclaimed himself Christ and was assassinated by disgruntled cult members in a suicide bombing in 1955. Charles Manson would go on later to proclaim himself Christ.



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Alan John [AJ] Miller and Mary Luck of "Divine Truth" claim to be Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene.



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In all over 42 prominent people in the last 300 years have proclaimed or been proclaimed Christ. That does not count 1000s who are not noteworthy. Jesus in Matthew 24 and Mark 13 predicted that many would come proclaiming themselves to be Christ. *Mark 13:5-6 and Matthew 24:23-27*



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Alan John [AJ] Miller and Mary Luck of "Divine Truth" claim to be Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene.

## Matthew 24:23-27

23 “Then if anyone says to you, ‘look, here *is* the Christ!’ Or ‘there!’ Do not believe *it*.

24 “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

25 “See, I have told you beforehand.

26 “Therefore if they say to you, ‘look, he is in the desert!’ Do not go out; or ‘look, *he is* in the inner rooms!’ Do not believe *it*.

27 “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

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C. Peter Wagner d. 2017,  
founder of New Apostolic  
Reformation

In 1996 C. Peter Wagner coined the term New Apostolic Reformation and brought together disparate Charismatic movements from Apostolic Prophetic Movement [developed from the Kansas City Prophets of the 1950s]. His reputation as a scholar in "Missionology" gave credence to the movement. His platform as a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary gave him the ability to reach various groups throughout the movement.

Bethel Church in Redding CA and Pastor Bill Johnson are the primary movers in the NAR now. Bethel Music and Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry are the primary vehicles for transmitting this teaching.

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C. Peter Wagner d. 2017,  
founder of New Apostolic  
Reformation

Wagner in 2011 articulated the characteristics of this movement in Charisma News:

- Apostolic governance – The Apostle Paul's assertion that Jesus appoints apostles within his church continues to this day.
- The office of the prophet – There is within the church a role and function for present-day prophets.
- Dominionism – "When Jesus came, He brought the kingdom of God and He expects His kingdom-minded people to take whatever action is needed to push back the long-standing kingdom of Satan and bring the peace and prosperity of His kingdom here on earth."



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Wagner in 2011 articulated the characteristics of this movement in Charisma News:

- Theocracy – Not to be confused with theocratic government but rather the goal to have "kingdom-minded people" in all areas of society. There are seven areas identified specifically: religion, family, education, government, media, arts & entertainment, and business.
- Relational structures – church governance has no formal structure but rather is by relational and voluntary alignment to apostles.

*Summary by Wikipedia of: Wagner, Peter (24 Aug 2011). "The New Apostolic Reformation Is Not a Cult". Charisma News. Retrieved 2013-02-20.*

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Ezekiel 13:1-3

# **Ezekiel 13:1-3**

**1 AND THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME, SAYING,  
2 “SON OF MAN, PROPHECY AGAINST THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL WHO  
PROPHECY, AND SAY TO THOSE WHO PROPHECY OUT OF THEIR OWN HEART,  
‘HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD!’ ”  
3 THUS SAYS THE LORD GOD: “WOE TO THE FOOLISH PROPHETS, WHO  
FOLLOW THEIR OWN SPIRIT AND HAVE SEEN NOTHING!**

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Matthew 7:15

As we face the uncertainty of the upcoming year we as Christians must certain of our faith. This means that we must dig into Scripture, use our discernment and trust Christ.

## Matthew 7:13-20

13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

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