

# The Great Awakening – The Grand Deception

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God clearly defined how the last days would play out, in the Bible. In fact, the book of Revelation provides the best overview of the transition from the age of grace into the seven-year Tribulation, which ends with the inauguration of the millennial kingdom. However, the primary focus of the book of Revelation is the Tribulation, during which all governments succumb to the one world: government, religion, and economy of the antichrist (Rev 13). This suggests that all nations will be in a state of decline at the end of the age of grace, an end which is clearly upon us. Therefore, trying to revive the United States is akin to warring against God's plan. This means those who are procreating the great awakening have fallen for a grand deception that will leave them hopeless when the delusion crumbles.

This article will attempt to shed light upon the grand deception of the great awakening while simultaneously proving that believers are actually to be occupied with fulfilling the Lord's will while looking for that blessed hope called the rapture.

Everywhere you turn, someone is proclaiming that a great awakening is taking place in America. Indeed, the call for revival is rising to a crescendo as the voices of many spiritual and political leaders converge into a plea for the impossible, the resurrection of a once great nation. Sadly, America, once the greatest beacon of hope to ever exist, is now fallen and writhing as a blind one in death throes. The brilliant light of this nation, which was founded upon Judeo-Christian principles, has been extinguished because of continued rejection of God.

Now, incredibly, even this call for revival is a sign of America's departure from the true light provided by walking in the will of God. You see, the great awakening is not about following the biblical mandate of the Great Commission and reaching out to lost souls (Matt 28:19-20). Instead, it is about reviving a lost nation. This is not what God called the church to do. Throughout Scripture, the church is charged with being about His business of making disciples and told to 'look up' when the signs of the times became what they are now as the great falling away manifests. With this in mind, it is paramount to understand what is behind this grand deception known as the great awakening: the 'Kingdom Now' heresy.

Briefly, the 'Kingdom Now' adherents allege that new apostles and prophets have brought forth new revelation from God, which changes the end God so laboriously set forth in Scripture. They believe the kingdom of God will manifest in those who adhere to 'kingdom now' beliefs. Thus, doing away with the messy aftermath of the rapture and the subsequent Tribulation. There is just one major problem with their belief system; it is not biblical.

Here are the Scriptures that validate the viewpoint that the church purifies the world through a great awakening and establishes the kingdom now: Chirp...Chirp...Chirp...Crickets. That's right; there are none. Therefore, this idea is completely man-made. This is one of the many ways false leaders have drawn men unto themselves. [1] They simply depart from the sound doctrines of Scripture (1 Tim 4:16; Titus 1:9), make up their own doctrines, and disperse their errant beliefs to the masses who, because they have itching ears, want to hear the message put forth (2 Tim 4:3). [2]

Proponents of the kingdom now theology believe that Jesus will not return until the earth is conquered by the ever-expanding 'Kingdom of God' built by men. In reality, consulting God's Word on the kingdom depicts a 'coming' kingdom rather than a 'now' kingdom. Perhaps the best place to look for defining information on how the final kingdom actually comes about is from the aforementioned last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, which is a panoramic view of the last days.

Close study of the entire book of Revelation establishes the fact that the authentic church does not usher in the kingdom of God into the world by infiltrating its systems and rising to supremacy. Instead, this most magnificent book describes, in great detail, how the kingdom of the antichrist is built and used to destroy those who come to

true belief in Christ during the Tribulation, and the Kingdom of Christ will not ‘come’ into existence until Jesus returns at the very end of the seven-year Tribulation (Rev 20:1-6).

Sadly, many who have been led astray are unknowingly building the faux kingdom of the antichrist, and they will even, without repentance, inadvertently worship the antichrist, believing he is the Christ they had so diligently built the kingdom for. [3] They will even fall for the mark of the beast, believing it is the seal of God. [4] Worse yet, they will also become so zealous that they are the very ones who pursue, persecute, and slay the Tribulation saints. [5]

Throughout history, many of the greatest persecutors have been those who are the most zealous adherents to errant religious belief systems. *Fox’s Book of Martyrs* provides great detail about these instances. [6] Unimaginably, the coming Tribulation will cause all former persecutions to pale in comparison, as it will be global in scale:

### **Revelation 13:15**

“And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause **all** who do not worship the image of the beast to be killed (NASB).” emphasis mine

Contrary to kingdom now theology, the church is clearly absent from the earth during the Tribulation. In fact, this absence coincides with John being called up to heaven in Revelation 4:1, which many believe is indicative of the rapture. By way of proof, the next time the church is mentioned as the church is in the closing statements of the book in Revelation 22:16, when Jesus reiterates the fact that the entire message of the book of Revelation is to be testified to the churches. This means those who spread the false doctrine of the ‘kingdom now’ are doing so in direct opposition to God’s Word, which is very dangerous.

The specific dangers associated with changing the way God depicts the end are varied and should be emphasized. First, the book of Revelation contains a specific warning about how it is to be preserved and shared:

### **Revelation 22:18-19**

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.”

This warning is serious indeed. Think about it for a second; changing what the Lord said about how things are concluded, according to His plan, causes ...

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