

The Purpose of the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:17–25)

By Pastor Jeff Alexander (12/13/2020)

Introduction

“Also it [the beast out of the sea] was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain” (Rev. 13:7–9).

Revelation 13 describes an anti-Christian entity that is given governing authority over all the earth and will be worshiped by everyone whose name is not recorded in the book of life. So—

1. Is the *Illuminati* and the New World Order a conspiracy theory?

Fiction often reflects reality. Many fictional books and Hollywood films, such as *1984* by George Orwell, depict a New World Order ruled by an invasive socialist state. According to the History Channel, “Secret societies have flourished throughout history and count Founding Fathers and royals among their ranks.”

2. What does history show?

- a. The term, *Illuminati* (the people of the light), refers to important and enlightened internationalists who secretly influence the modern world through various organizations.
- b. Thomas Jefferson, the third US President, advocated for Weishaupt’s illuminated freemasonry and its objective to create a New World Order. While Jefferson excused Weishaupt’s secrecy, the simple fact is that it was a subversive effort to establish world domination. God sovereignly and graciously spared the newly formed nation from the control of secret societies.

3. The question before us: Are current elitist and secret organizations the modern expressions of the ancient conflict between the Son of God and the usurper, Satan? A second question involves the connection between these secret orders and Paul’s letter to the Corinthians.

Here is good news in the face of all the bad news we are getting lately. Paul tells the Corinthian saints and us that God intends to destroy the wisdom of the wise (1:18, 19). Citing Isaiah 29, Paul argued that the gospel of Christ was God’s sovereign means to destroy both the rebellion of Judaism and the satanic-inspired pagan religions of the Gentiles.

I. The conflict of the Jews with Jesus.

1. Background mostly from John’s Gospel

- a. Sometimes the term *Jews* refers to the people of Judah, contrasting the people with their rulers (John 11:42).

People (usually translated *crowds*) translates the Greek *ochlos*, which means the common people as opposed to the rulers and leading men (Mark 12:37; John 6:2).

- b. John uses this term more when the leaders have turned many people against Jesus (John 7:31, 32, 33).
- c. John uses the term *the Jews* to refer primarily to the rulers and leading men (John 1:19; 5:18).

2. The Jews rejected Jesus from the beginning of His ministry and sought to kill Him, a rejection that Jesus attributed to their relationship to Satan (John 8:17–19; 21–24; 28–30; 42–45).
3. The Jews rejected Jesus because they rejected God’s Word to pursue their formal religion.
 - a. They thought themselves to be wise in their understanding, but they only fooled themselves (Isaiah 29:9, 10, 13; Jesus repeated the charge in Mark 7:6, 7).
 - b. However, it is a glorious truth that among both Jews and Gentiles God’s plan is to take out of them one people for His name, and He will accomplish this goal through the Gospel. This is the glorious truth alluded to as Paul cites Isaiah 29 in verse 14: “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.*”

The Lord promised that because the people would “*hide deep from the Lord your counsel, whose deeds were in the dark*” (Isaiah 29:15), He would again “*do wonderful things with this people and wonder upon wonder*” (v. 14).

II. The Plan of God

1. A brief exposition of Isaiah 29
 - a. The chapter begins with a pronouncement of judgment against Jerusalem under the symbol of an altar (vv. 1–4). Israel’s formal religion blinded their eyes to their standing with God, which incurred His fiery judgment against them.
 - b. Verses 9 through 16 demonstrate how far into the darkness the backslider can go. God exclaims in sorrow, “*You turn things upside down!*” (v. 16).
 - c. The Lord declares that He too would turn things upside down (vv. 17–21). Using figures of speech, the Lord declares that forests of Lebanon will become fruitful fields, and the fruitful fields will become dense forests. The deaf will hear the words of the book, and the blind will see light out of darkness and obscurity.
2. The *meeek* and the *poor* in spirit (v. 19; see Matthew 5:2–10) will exalt in the Holy One of Israel and inherit the earth.
 - a. The time when these will inherit the earth will come when “*the terrible one,*” the man of sin, will be cut off. The *scorner* is consumed; the one plotting evil (the illuminati and deep-state perverters of justice) is destroyed.
 - b. In their place the “*Holy One of Jacob*” will see the work of His hands—His children who sanctify His name and stand in the fear of the God of Israel.

Conclusion

1. We may be living in the final hour when God will bring to nothing the wisdom of the supposed wise (2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8; 1 Corinthians 1:24).
2. With this glorious hope, we must stay the course, faithfully following our blessed Savior (Revelation 3:9–11).