

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION: THE PROBLEM, PREDICTION, & PREMISE

**A**re you one of the many loyal and sincere church members who faithfully and cheerfully attend, support and participate in a local church, but have a nagging, persistent inward “thought” that “something is just not right here?”

Each time it rises within you, you peer around the room at the faces of fellow worshipers caught up in seemingly heartfelt worship, you tune your ear to the soothing, melodious music crescendoing upward, and listen intently to the inspiring exhortations flowing from the lips of the various leaders on the platform who have verbal participation in the service. Then, once again you begin to chastise yourself, and “take authority” over those terrible carnal, negative thoughts, and command them to leave your mind. Now! There! No more of that! Right? Right!

That is, until the next time...and it happens all over again! You are enthralled in blissful worship and praise, focusing entirely on the Lord and His Magnificence. You begin to feel that familiar, but awesome sensation of His Presence filling the room and settling gently upon you, and then...BOOM!...there it is AGAIN!—that still, small inner voice, telling you He is pleased by your expression of love, adoration, and praise; it is a sweet savor which He has received from your heart to His, but still He wants you aware there’s something wrong here—with the leadership—their teaching, their “leadership” mindsets and methods, their motives and ambitions, their personal life-styles, their earnestness regarding ministering on His behalf to the needs of the hurting, needy for whom He died, who come to this House of the Lord looking for and seeking Him.

Is it possible this really **IS** the Lord speaking to you? Is that possible? And, then you go through the drill once again, looking, listening, analyzing. “But,” you reply inwardly to the voice, “look at all these people here, the volunteer workers, the ministers, the musicians and choir! They can’t all be wrong! And, there wouldn’t be this many people here if it were not of God! Look at this wonderful building, its furnishings and decor, the instruments, all the resources, all the money it all cost—God has to be endorsing this, otherwise the money for all this would not have come in! Listen to the inspiring music and messages by the leaders! Look at all the

people who've been blessed by this church! This can't possibly *not* be of God! "God, what's wrong with me? Why do I think such horrible thoughts?" you cry silently within.

Then, you begin realizing that somehow, somewhere along the line you began losing your joy, your zeal for the Lord. It *used* to be you could hardly wait for the services and to be involved; now it is drudgery to go at all. You *used* to have such a light and blissful feeling as you worshiped the Lord in the services; now you just go through the motions, feeling heavy, staring placidly toward the platform, sometimes wishing you were somewhere else. You *used* to be able to "look past" the leaders, and focus only on the Lord; now, all you see during the service is people, people behind the pulpit, people on the platform, and people in the pews. You *used* to feel God's love and pleasure with you; now it seems all you feel is unworthiness, guilt, and that nothing you do is ever enough or pleasing to Him.

"What on earth has happened to me? What's wrong with me?" you ask yourself, "Is it just me?" Then, you begin to look around the room and study other long-time members. You compare how they are now to how they were when they first came. Is their life, as it should be, appreciably better, or have they and their family experienced an inordinate amount of tragedies, seemingly inexplicable difficulties, and reversals? By and by, you begin to realize that many of the other members have lost their "first love" too, their zeal, their enthusiasm, their joy in serving the Lord, and that, though Christians, like everyone else, certainly experience adversity, many of these members' lives have been on a gradual, downward spiral, instead of advancement and blessing.

Does this scenario sound familiar to you? If so, don't think you're alone—it's repeated several times every week by a great number of sincere, faithful, and trusting believers. They've had this persistent inward intuition for quite some time that something just was not right at their church or in their group, but just couldn't put their finger on precisely what it was. The teaching "sounded" right, all the right things were being said, good things were happening, many members were being "used" in various "ministries" of the church. Still, this nagging sense that something is awry persists.

Often, these are the symptoms of a church or group laboring under the heavy-hand of hyper-authoritarianism. That is to say, the leadership is dominating, controlling, and manipulating their members—exploiting them for their own personal gain and private kingdom building.

Multitudes of sincere and trusting believers are caught in the virtually invisible web of religious predomination, or "Charismatic Captivation,"

in Charismatic and other Neo-Pentecostal, as well as some Pentecostal churches, and don't know it. They are unaware victims of authoritarian abuse and exploitation under the heavy-hand of hyper-authoritarianism. What do I mean by "hyper-authoritarianism?" Hyper-authoritarianism is when the leadership of a church-group or ministry employs predominance, control, and manipulation as a means of exploitation for the achievement of personal ambitions that are self-aggrandizing and self-enriching rather than Christ-exalting and Kingdom-advancing.

From time to time, isolated incidents of authoritarian abuse have erupted in news stories parochially publicized within Christendom, with only a scant few of them reaching the level of secular publication, rendering the false impression that such psychological predominance and exploitation is rare or rarified. But, the real truth of the matter is that those publicized cases really are only the tip of the iceberg and ecclesiastical enslavement and exploitation is widespread to the extent of becoming prevalent within a large, ever-expanding segment of the Christian Church, nationally as well as internationally. Moreover, it is vital to understand that it is *not* merely in fringe, radical religious sects and cults where this hyper-authoritarianism is taking place, but rather in well-regarded certified Christian churches and para-church entities espousing otherwise orthodox Christian beliefs, with memberships comprised of a cross section of mainstream Americans—individuals and families—of every race, education level, economic status, and walk of life.

Though it is by no means limited to the modern Pentecostal and Neo-Pentecostal segments of the Church, authoritarian predominance has especially flourished in the Charismatic and so-called "third and fourth wave" groups since it was originally introduced by a five-member alliance of ministers who rose to prominence in the early- to mid-1970s, and spawned what became known as the "Discipleship/Shepherding Movement." Through the persuasive influence of those highly regarded teachers, the fallacious hyper-authoritarian doctrines and practices they promoted were widely accepted and in time systematically infused into the very fabric, foundation, and functions of the Pentecostal/Neo-Pentecostal Church, where they remain yet today.

This elite ministerial Quintumverate had somehow concluded that the newly-created and burgeoning branch of the Church generated by the Divinely-orchestrated Charismatic Movement birthed in 1960 was in disarray and needed some human organization. They also somehow determined it was they whom God had appointed to accomplish the task of "organizing" the Charismatic Church. The purportedly inspired and biblical organizational structure they advocated and instituted was virtually identical to the multilevel marketing structure so popular and prevalent today.

The "Fab-Five" placed themselves at the top of the pyramid of interrelated Charismatic leaders across the country, which quickly expanded into a "downline" of thousands of "submitted" ministers.

In the mid-1970s the entire matter of this "Movement" erupted into a highly-publicized international controversy. The public maelstrom that ensued culminated in the debunking and repudiation of the relevant doctrines and practices as well as the disrepute and denouncement of their originators and promoters by numerous prominent Christian personalities and ministers.

However, initially, despite the controversy and the public chastisement, those ministers and their followers remained unbowed and undeterred. They defended themselves, as well as the hyper-authoritarian teachings and practices and philosophies of spiritual leadership they advocated. For many years afterward, they continued to teach those patently false and unscriptural doctrines, though increasingly covertly, and to develop what came to be an expansive multilevel "network" of ministers and churches, one segment of which is still spearheaded by the only remaining unrepentant originator.

Many church-leaders today, ostensibly, do not realize their leadership methodology is actually a hybrid form of the hyper-authoritarian Discipleship model, and amounts to domination and control. The proper role of human under-shepherds is to lead people to the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ, and teach them how to be His followers, in submission to *Him* and *His* authority. Hyper-authoritarian leaders, instead, "*draw away...disciples after them(selves)*," (Acts 20:30) and dupe them into surrendering their personal autonomy and submitting to *them* and *their* absolute authority. Predominating pastors teach adherents that *they* are their followers' de facto Lord, Master, and Savior. They indoctrinate congregants to believe the church leaders are the members' "spiritual covering," and any member who departs the church will be "out from under" that covering, be without any spiritual covering, and experience terrible curses and consequences as a result. From the pulpit often come "horror stories" about what happened to such-and-so person or family, who were so spiritually bereft or rebellious as to leave the group without the blessings and approval of their "spiritual authority."

These false hypotheses of "spiritual covering" and "absolute submission" are the bedrock of hyper-authoritarian doctrines, and coupled with the enslaving organizational authority structure employed in groups espousing these unbiblical doctrines, are the fountainhead of the effectuality and effectiveness of the mechanisms of manipulation associated with them. Moreover, the unfortunate fact is that the psychological problems

and spiritual needs of adherents is the primary point of vulnerability to the exploitation of which they are victims.

These practices of psychological predomination are virtually identical to those employed by certified cults, and indeed the stark truth is that many of the entities employing these methods are themselves at the very minimum quasi-cults, and in some cases, bona fide cults. They come in various shapes and shades, but overall the “dumb sheep” are taught they cannot trust their own judgment or ability to receive direction from the Lord for even the most mundane decisions of their lives, but must rely instead upon the supposed transcendent wisdom and superior spirituality of their human “Shepherds.” Typically, submitted members must obtain the approval of their group-gurus regarding virtually all domestic matters and decisions; matters of romance, such as who members date and marry; health and insurance matters, employment and career matters, and most of all, regarding the details of members’ personal finances, which requires their leaders’ approval for practically every significant expenditure.

Relentless programming with this premise of false “discipleship,” coupled with constant bombardment with belittling derision causes spiritual and psychological paralysis for submissive adherents. Gradually, as the hidden web of religious witchcraft is woven, and their natural resistance to such domination and control is dissipated, docile submitted members eventually become the unwitting and helpless psychological slaves of self-aggrandizing church-leaders and their grandiose plans for the building of their private, personal, earthly kingdoms.

In these groups, the “authority” of the “shepherds” is absolute, sacrosanct, and inviolable, that is, without reprisal. Any semblance of anything other than total and unquestioning obedience to the desires and counsel of the church’s leadership chain is considered rebellion and insubordination, and simply is not tolerated. Members live under the constant threat of being branded with the Scarlet Letter “R” for “rebel,” openly denounced and shamed from the (bully-)pulpit, and consequently shunned by the “covenant-community” for failure to comply with the unwritten, unspoken rules and expectations established by the leadership. An oppressive performance-based approval and promotion system keeps members in constant internal turmoil and fear as they jump through all the hoops the spiritual taskmasters put before them, in an attempt to seek their leaders’ approval and favor. Moreover, members are indoctrinated and compelled to accept the leadership-set agenda of the group, regarding which they have next to no real say, as their personal burden and responsibility, and thus to commit their time, talent, and, most importantly, their **tithe**, to its successful completion. Sadly, most never see past the spiritual smoke and mirrors to realize that the so-called “church” to which they have sworn

allegiance and promised their wholehearted and unflagging support, is nothing more than the personal “business” of its leaders, and not only are they free labor, but they actually pay out of their own resources for the privilege of being a participant, i.e., member.

The oppressive maltreatment and mistreatment to which members of these cult-like groups are subjected is the spiritual equivalent of the “hard-taskmastery” of the Israelites during their centuries-long captivity under the Egyptian Pharaohs.

So what are the consequences and effects we are talking about here—a scant few slightly disillusioned people with their feelings a little hurt, as the scoffers would allege? **Far from it!** We are talking about an immense number of broken and destroyed families, marriages, and friendships, multitudes of unpretentious, formerly trusting people who are now psychologically traumatized and marred, and spiritually shipwrecked, potentially for life. Added to that are substantial numbers of failed businesses, bankruptcies, lost fortunes, nervous breakdowns, contracted health maladies, suicides, and premature deaths by various related causes, and the like, just to name some of the consequences experienced by victims. Indeed, the details of the havoc and decimation wreaked upon victims’ lives is far too extensive and, frankly, morose to possibly be able to relate here, but suffice it to say it is sweeping, mind-boggling, and, sadly, in some cases, barring the miraculous, irreversible.

The two greatest problems with deception is that the deceived are deceived about being deceived, and their ego and pride make it difficult for them to accept the fact they are in deception. In the case of many of those who do finally accept the fact they have been duped, for years afterward they reel in varied degrees of anger, embarrassment, resentment, disillusionment, and distrust.

No one wants to be a “sucker,” which is one of the primary reasons that most victims of authoritarian abuse and exploitation simply don’t want to hear anything suggesting they may have been duped and deceived, or that their “beloved” church and its leaders to which they have become so dependent could possibly be involved in any kind of deception or error. Even when confronted with proof-positive these unscriptural and cult-like teachings and practices are an integral, albeit covert, part of their own church’s operations, many indoctrinated adherents react with angry and vehement denial, staunchly refusing to accept even the remotest possibility that such could be the case.

Moreover, astoundingly, instead of desiring liberation, such “deniers” opt to remain captive in what has become to them the familiar and “friendly confines” of the institution of which they are a member. This

sad scenario is strikingly similar to that of many “career criminals” who prefer and choose institutional incarceration over the liberties and latitudes of a normal life of freedom. The constant and abiding prayer of all believers should be that God may grant the captives of all these groups the “repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will” (2 Tim. 2:26).

Fortunately, though, there are those who, despite their considerable chagrin and pain, *do* want to be liberated from the witchcraft of domination and control, regardless of the cost. Somewhere in the psyche of most sound-thinking humans is an intense desire to be free, along with an utter disdain for any form or degree of illegitimate predominance and exploitation. For those people, there are signs of hyper-authoritarianism that are readily detectable when you know what they are. That is to say, there are a number of common control mechanisms employed within groups in which hyper-authoritarian doctrines and practices are espoused and implemented that are identifiable by those who are informed about them and know what to look for. Unfortunately, they aren’t always simple, overt, and obvious, but are often sophisticated, covert, and hidden. The purpose of this book is to identify the signs of authoritarian abuse and the common control mechanisms employed to implement it, to explain why they are wrong and unscriptural, to offer some tools to minister to victims, and to present to victims some steps of recovery from the psychologically traumatizing and spiritually damaging effects of years of subjection to it.

### **A Prophetic Prediction of the Discipleship Movement**

It was America’s Bicentennial Year—the two-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence—an extraordinary year fraught with an abundance of celebratory festivities across the country commemorating that momentous event in the history of the greatest nation on Earth. It was in the midst of that remarkable year of 1976 that an unusual and unusually poignant prophecy came bursting forth totally unexpectedly in a South Florida church service, stunning and astounding the relatively small congregation. It warned of an impending cataclysm that would wreak unimaginable devastation and destruction to the state of Florida and adjoining states. A monstrous tidal wave generated by a ferocious wind that had formed in the eastern extremity of the Atlantic Ocean would strike with full fury on the southeast coast of Florida, flooding much of that region of the state. The raging hurricane that propelled the wave, the prophecy predicted, would traverse the entire breadth of the state, subsequently turn northward, and rip into the

northern panhandle region. The colossal cyclonic system's swath of destruction would not end there, however, but rather continue churning still farther northwestward to impact an adjoining southern state, where it would ultimately rest and gradually dissipate.

Extensive decimation and ruin would lie in its wake. Somehow the impact of this killer wind and wave, the prophecy foretold, ultimately would be felt across the width and breadth of the nation and even the world. It warned that a multitude of lives would be destroyed and thousands would be left *shipwrecked*, many of who would never fully recover, and some of who would end up forever lost.

The profound prophetic pronouncement certainly was dramatic, to say the least; some would say, *melodramatic* and even bizarre. No doubt its sensational nature contributed to the wide and speedy dissemination it received. Reports and transcripts of the prophecy quickly circulated from Miami to Jacksonville, Key West to Tallahassee, particularly in the relatively young "charismatic" realm made up of churches embracing the "charismata," or gifts of the Spirit, producing controversy and debate wherever it was recounted.

Could this possibly be a bona fide prophetic warning from God? Was its content worthy of serious consideration, or should it simply be dismissed? Or, was it so outlandish that it should be considered merely an outburst of vain babbling and product of some sincere but overzealous and misguided religious zealot's vain imaginations? The very tenor of the prophecy and the unction with which it came, coupled with the fact that the validity and accuracy of the prophetic gifting of the person who heralded the audacious admonition had been attested to over and over again, made it nearly impossible for the spiritually astute to summarily dismiss it out of hand, however. Would that be prudent, moreover, considering the thousands or millions of lives potentially at stake if it indeed were a genuine message from God?

Reaction was swift and varied. Within hours, telephone calls were pouring in to church offices across the state from concerned members wanting to know their pastor's reaction and advice regarding the prophecy. Response by churchgoers hearing about the message ranged from complete dismissal and mockery to fear and panic. Soon, frightened groups who believed the warnings were from God were hurriedly making plans to leave the state, and others hastily began storing up provisions and making preparations to ride out the impending cataclysm in their homes.

So poignant and powerful was the content of that prophecy that its gist is indelibly imprinted on the pages of my mind. Though no one at the time could have comprehended its full import and significance, as it



would be revealed in the process of time, the moment I heard the prophecy I recognized the Words of its message as having the reverberation of genuine Rhema emanating from the very Throne of God. I have never forgotten it. The answer to the host of questions and concerns the sensational prophecy generated would soon be manifest. The decades-long cataclysm it accurately predicted is the focus of this book.

### Prophecy Validated, Prophetess Vindicated

In the end, Roxanne Brant's prophetic prediction, to which I've been alluding, proved to be accurate, and she was in that regard vindicated. There indeed did come a violent tidal wave of gigantic proportion that impacted the State of Florida, wreaking immense destruction statewide. Its broad and far-reaching swath of devastation did indeed commence in South Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, to be specific. Indeed, the true amount of the decimation it inflicted upon individuals, families, groups, and the purposes of God is yet to be fully calculated. But, it is a certainty, I am convinced, that very few people have comprehended the extensiveness and pervasiveness the effects and impact of this wind of false doctrine upon the Body of Christ.

Though maligned and even ridiculed by some right up until her untimely death concerning this prognostication by the Spirit, Roxanne Brant was right. Only that which she foresaw and predicted was not a *natural* tidal wave, but a *spiritual* one. The language of her prophecy was not natural, but spiritual. The words used by the Holy Spirit in the prophecy, of which Roxanne was only a human conduit, are spiritually appraised, and therefore cannot be properly understood by the carnal mind. It was the same terminology used by the Holy Spirit to speak to us through this God-inspired, canonized text penned by the Apostle Paul:

*As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by WAVES, and carried about by every WIND OF DOCTRINE, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking THE TRUTH.... (Eph. 4:14,15)*

What hit the state of Florida wreaking untold damage to the peninsula, and in turn reached far beyond the borders of the southeastern-most corner of this nation, was a **SPIRITUAL TIDAL WAVE!** A tidal wave of heresy propelled by a wind of false doctrine from which the Body of Christ has not yet even begun to recover in earnest.

### Hurricane Andrew: Coincidence?

No tidal wave or wind of the magnitude and caliber predicted by the prophecy was ever forthcoming in the natural realm, until sixteen years

later in August of 1992, when Hurricane Andrew indeed did strike the southeastern coast of Florida in the region of Metro-Miami. The most ferocious Hurricane ever measured and recorded, Andrew packed sustained winds of over 185 M.P.H. and maximum wind gusts in excess of 200 M.P.H. During its record-speed traversal across the Atlantic from its origination just off the shores of Africa, it maintained an eerie and unprecedented straight and undeviating path that never varied more than two degrees over its entire two-thousand miles trek. Only minutes after it slammed mercilessly into the southeastern coast of Florida at dawn, the largely residential communities of Kendall and Florida City lied in utter ruin and virtual annihilation.

Andrew wreaked the greatest catastrophic financial loss in American history. Large segments of Metro-Miami's financial infrastructure were decimated. Homestead Air Force Base was literally obliterated. Instantaneous, monstrous, and long-lasting governmental deficits were created. Scores of insurance companies and conglomerates were immediately rendered insolvent and were soon defunct. Financial markets around the world were immediately impacted and still reel in the after-shocks of Andrew.

Was this the killer wind and tidal wave that was predicted sixteen years earlier? Perhaps. Certainly, the similarities of Andrew and the prophesied wind/wave are, if nothing else, interesting. Coincidence? Perhaps it is. However, there is another thing about all this that is quite interesting to me, though I may be the only one who finds it so, and that is that it was precisely three months before Hurricane Andrew struck the state of Florida that I finally acknowledged the leading of the Spirit and first began writing this book. Merely more coincidence? I know in advance my critics will accuse me of vainglory to imply otherwise, and maybe they're right. Perhaps it is nothing but coincidence. But then again, perhaps not.

### **The Prophecy's Fulfillment**

Regardless, beyond the matter of the similarity of the occurrence in the natural (Hurricane Andrew) and the monstrous wind/wave predicted by the prophecy is the weightier matter of its *spiritual* significance. Many prophets and prophetic Bible expositors today postulate that often the events that take place in the natural are a precursor of spiritual occurrences and phenomena (See, 1 Cor. 15:46, e.g.). Personally, I concur with that postulation. In this volume I will offer what I believe is convincing proof that the destructive tidal wave and wind foretold by the prophecy, though it may have had a *natural* fulfillment as well, was

primarily a *spiritual*, demonically-inspired tidal wave and wind of doctrine, and that wave was the Discipleship/Shepherding Movement, and the wind that propelled it was a false doctrine of hyper-authoritarianism alluded to in and condemned by the Word of God.

In the mid-1970s an alliance of five ministers was formed, out of which would be spawned a spiritual wind and wave of destruction and devastation in the spiritual realm of no less ferocity and magnitude as that of Hurricane Andrew in the natural. It originated in Africa, gained strength in the Atlantic island of Puerto Rico, and eventually entered the U.S. at the southeastern coastal town of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. It speedily cut its swath of destruction across the breadth and length of the state of Florida, even impacting several other southern states. Ultimately, this spiritual tidal wave and wind of doctrine shook spiritual foundations and institutions around the world. Some two score years later, Christendom (though unnoticed by many) is still reeling and struggling to regain its balance.

In these pages, I chronicle the history of the Discipleship/Shepherding Movement, past and present, and the adverse and pervasive impact the hyper-authoritarian doctrines and practices associated with it had and continue to have within much of Christendom. Unfortunately, conventional thought among the majority of Charismatics is that this matter is basically now a moot issue and has little or no bearing in the Church-At-Large, in that the Movement, per se, is defunct, purportedly only a smattering of unrepentant fringe groups spawned by it remain, that the associated doctrines have been repudiated, the principals have been discredited, and the Church has been disabused of its residual effects. *Charismatic Captivation* challenges and disproves that assertion, presenting credible and convincing evidence that much to the contrary, the erroneous and errant Discipleship/Shepherding doctrines as well as the unscriptural authority structures and abusive practices they engender very much remain a viable and integral, albeit latent, part of the very fabric, foundation, and functions of the mainstream of the Pentecostal/Neo-Pentecostal Church.

Indeed, authoritarian abuse remains to be one of the most widespread and troubling problems facing the entire Church today, and its reach was greatly extended by the Discipleship/Shepherding Movement and the ministries that were spawned by it, not just in the Charismatic/Pentecostal branch but also into virtually every faction of the Church at large. Many of the proponents of these doctrines and practices of predominance are prominent and respected leaders, and they are being espoused and imposed in church-groups espousing otherwise orthodox Christian beliefs, and whose membership is comprised of a

cross section of average Americans—individuals and families—of every race, education level, station, and walk of life, rather than radical, fringe religious sects and cults as most people would suppose.

Over the years, multiplied thousands at the minimum have been caught in the death-grip of this “*snare of the trapper*.” Still today multitudes are bound in the tormenting throes of this vile (albeit, incredibly, to many, innocuous) form of religious captivity, having been indoctrinated to accept the abusive and oppressive domination of their shepherd-taskmasters as being proper, normative, and even beneficial. Families, fraternal relationships, and whole churches, and even worse, the faith and trust of many, have been destroyed through this dastardly and diabolical machination of the devil.

By no means is this merely wild conjecture on my part, but rather, as a forty-three year resident of the state of Florida as well as pastor and itinerant minister in the Pentecostal/Charismatic church-realm for more than twenty-five years at the time of this edition, I have witnessed firsthand the incalculable and pervasive spiritual devastation wrought by this wave and wind of strong delusion, having personally known hundreds and known of thousands who have been captivated by this subtle scheme. Yet, my profound personal passion regarding this matter is augmented even further by the agonizing pain of having beloved family members who have been duped by this dastardly, demonic, but cloaked deception. The resulting pangs and problems have made this matter much more than a mere abstract theological issue to me, but rather one to which I am strongly compelled by the Spirit to bring attention in order to make some contribution—no matter how small—toward its correction.

Moreover, beyond the personal anguish, the motivation for the penning of this poignant message and to join the battle against this spiritual wrong, emanates also from a prophetically confirmed Divine call to trumpet forth to the many “Pharaohs,” i.e., predominating leaders, in Churchdom the Divine Demand to “Let My people go!” and to cease from the predomination and control they have been exercising over God’s sheep, for “*with force and severity you have dominated them*” (Ezk. 34:4). To these self-aggrandizing shepherds and predominating pastors for selfish-gain is directed the strong denunciation of Ezekiel:

*Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel. Prophesy and say to those shepherds, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Woe, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock? “You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fat sheep without feeding the flock. “Those who are sickly you have not*

*strengthened, the diseased you have not healed, the broken you have not bound up, the scattered you have not brought back, nor have you sought for the lost; but with force and with severity you have dominated them. "And they were scattered for lack of a shepherd, and they became food for every beast of the field and were scattered. "My flock wandered through all the mountains and on every high hill; My flock was scattered over all the surface of the earth, and there was no one to search or seek for them."'" Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock has become a prey, My flock has even become food for all the beasts of the field for lack of a shepherd, and My shepherds did not search for My flock, but rather the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock; therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: "Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will demand My sheep from them and make them cease from feeding sheep. So the shepherds will not feed themselves anymore, but I will deliver My flock from their mouth, so that they will not be food for them."'" For thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out." (Ezk. 34:1-11)*

### **Primary Purpose: Dispelling Darkness with Light**

I will be forthright and upfront concerning this work. *Charismatic Captivation* unabashedly and straightforwardly challenges certain aspects of the conventional, the traditional, the institutional—i.e., the status quo—prevailing in much of the Church-realm, not for the mere sake of challenging or criticizing the ecclesiastical establishment, which would be a hollow and fruitless endeavor, but because absolutely essential Divinely-inspired reproof regarding what I address herein is greatly needed and long overdue, as well as because the lives and even eternal destiny of affected multitudes are at stake. *Charismatic Captivation* is a medium of advocacy on behalf of untold multitudes of innocent sheep of God's flock who are being subjected unknowingly to exploitative enslavement by unscrupulous and self-aggrandizing leaders for their personal advancement and the expansion of their personal kingdoms.

The primary purpose for the writing of this book is to dispel error. For that I make no apologies and have no qualms or regrets. Dispelling error, as propounded in various ways throughout this volume, is an absolutely essential and intrinsic part of God-appointed and -anointed ministry. One of the primary motivations necessitating the writing of the vast majority of New Testament Epistles was the correcting and dispelling of error. Indeed, a major, albeit latent, thrust of the Bible itself is the publication of Truth, which by its very nature defines and dispels, exposes and corrects, error.