

Hi Pastor Ash:

I was happy to hear you say that the LCMS is becoming aware of the so-called "*New Apostolic Reformation*," which I call the "*New Apostate Revolution*." It is not reforming anything. It is changing everything. (Either way, I use "N.A.R." to label them.)

As a retired attorney<sup>1</sup> and former missionary with a long background in Bible study, I recently became aware of this movement and began to examine its theological core. What I have discovered is more than disturbing; it is *shocking*. Cleverly veiled behind its orthodox declaration of faith is a non-Christian belief system that is consuming traditional Christianity from within like a parasite.

Authentic church leaders are starting to realize that the N.A.R.'s beautiful music—as with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir—is a crafty "come-on" to lower resistance to their heretical doctrinal foundations. However, because the N.A.R. so craftily clothe their heresies in traditional Christian form, they are far more dangerous than Mormonism because the N.A.R.'s heresies are less obviously non-Christian. All true historical churches must eschew the N.A.R.'s music more vigorously than they would eschew a Mormon hymn from their services. The same goes for the N.A.R.'s so-called "Passion Translation" of the Bible (discussed below); as a precaution, our clergy must be reminded that it is not acceptable to read it, much less to quote from it, at any time.

As detailed below, the N.A.R. desires to do to Protestantism what the Protestant Reformation did to Catholicism. They want to form an entirely new branch of Christianity that will come out of the historical Protestant religion which, they believe, has become corrupted by traditions developed by men as did Catholicism before it. Catholicism, of course, developed traditions (man-made doctrines) that were extra-Biblical. Protestantism has not done that; our "traditions" are not corruption—they are a stubborn adherence to true doctrine from the Bible.

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<sup>1</sup> I have loosened my professional standards a bit, at times relying on citations given by others due to my lack of access to the source materials, having terminated my costly contract with LEXIS/NEXIS. I would like to thank Holly Pivec for assistance with citations. Quotes from NRSB.

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It is the N.A.R. that is developing extra-Biblical doctrines. As discussed below, they believe that truth changes, and their doctrines are more in line with "new truths" that have fallen upon "this generation" in the "last days." We, by comparison, have a faith that has become "dead" because we live "out of our heads" instead of "out of our hearts" by insisting on sound exegesis. They are confident their new doctrines are not of men, but are doctrines from God, which He has revealed to them, and which have the same level of authority as did the revelations God gave the original apostles. God has started this "new work" to "wake up" His people in those "dead churches" and fill them with "passion" for Him and His work. The N.A.R. is "activating" faith in God's people, imparting "authority" to them, so they can do greater "signs and wonders" than did Jesus Himself.

The startling severity of their threat is they can convert people out of Christianity without that person realizing that this is what has happened. These converts not only think they are still in Christianity, but they believe theirs is an even more authentic version than historical Christianity. Thus, by discovering "*new*" truth for *today*, the N.A.R. believes they are more like the *ancient* disciples than are those who stubbornly refuse to leave the historical faith. The N.A.R. seems to be living in the same world as the original disciples, who might see Jesus in a vision or get an authoritative revelation, thus bringing ancient Christianity back to life. So the net result is that the way to "restore" life and power to Christianity is to abandon its true theology. This is one of many logical paradoxes in the movement.

According to their new truth, in 2001 God "restored" the "lost offices" of apostle and prophet. As the original Church was built on the foundation of the apostles, these "new" apostles and prophets seek to build a new foundation for the church, and have been stealthily luring traditional churches to "affiliate" with them and submit to their apostolic doctrinal authority. Because their new doctrines have become so bizarre, they re-wrote the Bible to sound as if these bizarre new doctrines and practices were what God had intended all along.

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Given the severity of the N.A.R.’s heresies at its core, the seductive persuasiveness of its teachers, and their extremely successful recruitment techniques, it is very important for authentic church leaders to know more details about the specifics of their heresies so that we can more fully explain to our flocks *why* we must not allow *any* aspect of their influence to spread into our congregations.

**Accordingly, I have prepared this primer for our senior leaders**—not only to provide a framework of the movement—but also to submit some broadly outlined suggestions as to how the LCMS should respond to this prominent phenomenon, which is unlike anything the Church has ever faced before. (For further information, I recommend starting with [Rev. Justin Peters](#) and [Rev. Mike Winger](#) and [Holly Pivec](#).)

Be sure to **click** the [links](#) (*left click while pressing CTRL*) which I have embedded in the text (with [squiggly underlines](#)) to verify citations to authority and to see actual video examples of the N.A.R. exhibiting their amazingly sincere-looking personae and sincere-sounding doctrinal presentations, as well as their extremely bizarre and shocking “worship” behavior.

## **PART I: THE N.A.R. IS A NON-CHRISTIAN BELIEF SYSTEM**

That is a radical alarm to sound, I know. But it is important to appreciate how distinctly different the N.A.R. is from any true form of Christianity, lest we be complacent in the face of lethal danger. The thief who steals in by night looks like a bad guy and you immediately sense the danger. These folks are just as dangerous, but they ring the bell and smile at you with their Girl Scout cookies filled with poison.

Christian Scholar Francis Schaeffer used an excellent analogy to distinguish mere “theological differences” within a true Christian belief system from doctrines that no longer carry the characteristic of being “Christian.” He talked of “circles and cliffs.” Imagine a tall butte. The top is a flat circle, but the sides are cliffs. You can stand on the top at different places within the circle and be okay; but at some point, if you go too far, you fall off a cliff.

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In order to classify a group as a "non-Christian belief system," one must identify a core doctrinal approach so unorthodox that one is no longer in the circle but has fallen off the cliff. For example, the Jehovah's Witnesses deny the deity of Christ, and wrote a bible that says "the Word was a god" instead of "the Word was God.

I have identified an equally unorthodox doctrine at the core of the N.A.R. Just as the deity of Christ is so essential that if you deny it that means your belief system is no longer truly Christian, the following doctrine is just as essential to being a true Christian:

**THE INERRANCY, INFALLIBILITY, AND IMMUTABILITY  
OF GOD AND  
OF GOD'S WORD.**

These are core attributes of the God of the entire Bible. Any other god is a false god. There are gobs of verses that talk about the fact that God does not change, but one should suffice for now:

**...the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.**

James 1:17

As I will show below, the N.A.R. rejects this core doctrine in shocking, flagrant ways.

Indeed, I suggest when a group starts to write articles on the topic of how they are "[Not a Cult](#)," you can be all but certain they are, in fact, precisely that, especially when they talk about their "paradigm shifts." In their own words:

**"The N.A.R. represents the most radical change in the way of doing church since the Protestant Reformation..."**

**Most of us have long track records of service within "traditional" Christianity, and we have needed to go through paradigm shifts to get where we are now.**

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***Keep in mind that one of the affects [sic] of every paradigm shift is that some people get pulled out of their comfort zones. One of the reasons for opposition to some of the more radical ideas of N.A.R. is that certain people have decided not to change and they are upset with those who have chosen to change."***

C. Peter Wagner, N.A.R. founding leader

Here, the N.A.R. boldly declares the movement is **not a part** of "traditional Christianity." This means the N.A.R. has declared itself a non-Christian belief system which teaches that traditional Christianity may have been true at one time, but now it no longer is. The only way to believe that this new Christianity—this changed Christianity—remains true Christianity in today's "end times" is to believe truth changes, which itself is a non-Christian concept.

The core distinctive between the N.A.R. and an authentic Christian belief system is this epistemology of changing truth, which is decidedly anti-Christian. It is the epistemology of man, of humanism, and of every other worldview that denies the existence of an eternal, sovereign, unchanging God. If your epistemology is wrong, your ontology is wrong as well, even if it has a few common points with true ontology. Given that the N.A.R.'s epistemology is wrong, all of their doctrines are wrong as well, even the ones they point to in order to show they believe the Apostle's Creed and so forth. Tree bad? No fruit good.

The N.A.R.'s primary error isn't that its leaders have come up with new interpretations of the Bible. It is that they believe *truth itself* is changing. The idea that the "reality" of Scripture changes is behind their idea that God is now revealing His true "message," which is different from the literal meaning of old Bible.

Note in the quote below how craftily they express this "paradigm shift" (as they call it) in ways that seem to call us up into "greater growth" and "greater intimacy" and "greater obedience" toward Christ. Note also how it incorporates an occultic view

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of knowledge and a gnostic view that knowledge is the route to salvation:

**"Truth is progressive and multi-dimensional. It constantly evolves as we grow, though it never evolves into something that contradicts its foundations. There are measures and levels of anointing THAT CAUSE THE REALITY OF THE SCRIPTURE TO CHANGE for us."**

**"A generation is forming now that will walk in an anointing that has never been known by mankind, including the original 12 disciples. This generation won't need natural illustrations to help them understand what their spiritual task is. They will move into spiritual territory that defies the natural order."**

**"God wants to give us revelations and experiences of Heaven that have no earthly parallel. Jesus told Nicodemus, "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" (John 3:12) He longed to talk about things that His disciples were not ready to receive."**

Click to jump to items below in this paper:

**They claim they will "exceed Jesus' high-water mark" in the miraculous.**

**And that their miracles will be so great that people will barely even remember the parting of the Red Sea.**

Bill Johnson, in Chapter 10 of:

"Shifting Shadow of Supernatural Power: A prophetic Manual for Those Wanting to Move in God's Supernatural Power"  
(pp. 190-191)

How does our growth have an effect on truth? What does it mean for the "reality" of Scripture to change? (Note "levels" of anointing, which is *esotericism*.) Note how craftily they plant the idea that the "new truth" of today was something God had planned to reveal all along, but none of His followers back then could handle it (*hidden knowledge*). It remained for this "end times" generation who somehow are superior to those original disciples/apostles and can handle things they just were not ready for (*elitism*). If the new truth God is revealing to this generation is more advanced than what he revealed in the first century, not only are we superior disciples than the

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originals, but the apostles and prophets to whom this has been revealed are superior to the apostles who laid the Church's "first" foundation (which now needs renovation).

The N.A.R. is trying to hold the position that the original Bible *was* infallible, but that it no longer is today. To paper over this obvious *non-sequitur*, they have developed the sophistry that the old Bible was infallible as to its "*message*," but not its "*meaning*." While the supposed "message" of the old Bible has been infallible all along, the ancient languages were too limited in their range of meaning to convey it.

So the true "message" of the Bible had to be revealed to us now, by revelation, so that the "meaning" of the existing translations could be amplified into it. So while the "message" is infallible and unchanging, the "meaning," which never fully captured that hidden message, was *not* infallible. Voilà! So the Bible is infallible, but it also changes, all the while retaining its infallibility! Allow me to introduce you to Alice in Wonderland, the new Queen of Theology.

People are debating about whether the N.A.R. "bible" is consistent with the Bible. They need to see the big picture. If truth itself is changing, then the truth upon which the old Bible rested is not the same as the truth today. So, if N.A.R.'s new bible rests on a different truth than did the old Bible did it is, by definition, a different bible. In other words, their altered bible is a *symptom* of an even *deeper* problem, which is the notion that truth is not the same yesterday, today, and forever.

This concept destroys the very notion of Christology. The "old" Bible says Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Yet the N.A.R. says truth is not the same yesterday, today, and forever. Yet the "old" Bible says Jesus *is* the Truth (John 14:6). So if truth is not the same yesterday, today, and forever, then if Jesus stays the same, at some point He must find Himself out of sync with truth.

On the other hand, if Jesus continues to be the Truth, and if truth changes, that means Jesus changes in order to remain in sync with it and still "be" the Truth. And that means that any Christology based on the idea of truth "evolving" teaches a

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changing Jesus, which makes the N.A.R.'s jesus a different jesus than the Jesus of the Bible, and thus a false messiah. You can't believe in a different christ and still be a true Christian:

***I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.***

***But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed!***

Galatians 1:6-9

The very notion of truth itself being like shifting sand completely eviscerates the idea of a God Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), and Whose Word is infallible. All doctrinal errors described below find their origins here.

This "fluid" theory of the nature of truth (i.e., truth changes over time) has several corollaries:

- 1.** The N.A.R. proposes to lay a "new foundation" for the end times Church. Although the fluid theory of the nature of truth allows for a new foundation, the fluid theory of truth also means that **the new foundation is itself subject to further "evolution" and change**, making it inferior to the original foundation which was unchangeable, like rock. New construction in Manhattan, for example, requires extensive geological analysis to find subterranean rock and extremely deep anchors into that rock before construction can begin. After having done that, **why would you consider moving your foundation from rock to sand?**

***Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.***

***And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.***



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Matthew 7:24 & 26

See Also: Hebrews 18:8

Malachi 3:6

Numbers 23:19

2. If truth “constantly evolves,” then Jesus must evolve too. Jesus said, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6). If truth “constantly evolves,” then so must Jesus—who *is* the Truth. And given He is part of a trinity, the Father and the Holy Spirit must change too. And we know the devil is the one who, more than anything, wants God not to be who He is. All of this is his idea.
  
3. The fluid theory of the nature of truth also **denies the immutability of the Word** of an immutable God. While a fluid truth allows for the “revealing” of a “new translation” of the Bible with a “message” different from the literal meaning of the original, it also proves that the “new translation” is absolutely NOT compatible with the “original message” of the real Bible, whose original “message” was that God’s Word will never change:

**The grass withers, the flower fades; but *the word of our God will stand forever.***

Isaiah 40:8

**Heaven and earth will pass away, but *my words will not pass away.***

Matthew 24:35

Changing God’s Word so that the supposed “original message” of “my Word shall not pass away” is that we *are* allowed to change God’s Word is to pull yourself up by your own bootstraps. You first have to change it before it permits you to change it.

And, indeed, the fluid theory of the nature of truth actually did result in the N.A.R. publishing its own “translation” of the Bible.

By “translate,” I don’t mean like the New World Translation by the Jehovah’s Witnesses. That cult changed the Bible, but at least they tried to make a showing of linguistic plausibility. The N.A.R. meaning of “translate” is more akin to Joseph Smith

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supernaturally translating some divine tablets nobody has ever seen. The N.A.R. "translator" who has produced their so-called "Passion Translation" claims to have had mystical encounters with Jesus that enabled him to translate supernaturally. (I discuss that in more detail in **PART II**, below.)

The major tenets of the N.A.R.—without which there would *be* no N.A.R., are as follows:

1. We are living in the end times.
2. God prophesied that in the end times He would pour out His Spirit in a "Second Age" of apostles and prophets with mighty anointing and authority to build a new foundation for the Church, including receiving authoritative revelations of "new truth" directly from God.
3. The N.A.R. is the fulfillment of these prophecies and, as such, they will manifest amazing signs and wonders such as the Earth has never seen before.

The N.A.R. insists that *all* of the Bible's prophecies about the end times will come true. So let's examine the above three tenets according to the following prophecies of Jesus, all of which the N.A.R. agrees are true:

***Jesus answered them,***

***"Beware that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am the Messiah!" and they will lead many astray.***

***For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce great signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Take note! I have told you beforehand."***

Matthew 24:4-5 & 24-25

The N.A.R. has not "taken note" of this warning—but **we** should. Even more so, the movement's leaders have never identified anybody today who they feel, based on

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their theology, is a false apostle or a false prophet nor, if asked, would they likely be capable of doing so. (Since *they* are false prophets, all the *other* false prophets seem true to them.)

Perhaps they might hazard the Mormons or Jehovah’s Witnesses as the fulfillment of this prophecy of coming false apostles and prophets. However, those two groups have existed since long before 2001, which the N.A.R. believes was the year in which the end times Apostolic Age began. Moreover, Jesus predicted the false apostles and prophets He was referring to would lead “many” traditional Christians (“the elect”) astray, and neither of those cults has made a noticeable dent in traditional Christianity. Finally, neither the Mormons nor the Jehovah’s Witnesses purport to have any anointing to perform signs and wonders.

Yet the N.A.R. agrees Jesus prophesied that during the end times (and the N.A.R. insists that is where we now are) there will be false apostles and false prophets who will draw “many” out of traditional Christianity (“the elect”) using signs and wonders. This means **the N.A.R. agrees that those false apostles and false prophets Jesus predicted are right now present *somewhere* in the Earth.** Hence:

**CONCLUSIONS — BY VALID, IRREFUTABLE LOGIC:**

- 1. Premise 1:** The N.A.R. insists we are in the end times.
- 2. Premise 2:** The N.A.R. insists that all end times prophecies of Christ will come true, which would include His prophecies in Matthew chapter 24 that the end times will be characterized by the emergence of false apostles and false prophets who will lead astray many traditional Christians (“the elect”) with signs and wonders.
- 3. Conclusions:**
  - A. ASSUMING THESE **ARE** THE END TIMES: If the N.A.R. **cannot identify by name any others** (in fact, “many” others) who are fulfilling Jesus’ prophecy by being false apostles and prophets who are leading “many” traditional Christians (“elect”)

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astray with signs and wonders, **then that means in that prophecy Jesus was talking about the N.A.R., because they would be the only ones left on the list of possibles.**

- B. ASSUMING THESE ARE NOT THE END TIMES: Then Jesus' prophecies about false apostles and false prophets leading many astray from traditional Christianity with signs and wonders do not apply to today, so Jesus was not talking about the N.A.R. **However**, the N.A.R. would **still** be false apostles and false prophets (even though not the specific ones Jesus was referring to) **because the N.A.R. say God has revealed to them that these ARE the end times which, under this scenario, is false.**

Thus, by valid and irrefutable logic, unless the N.A.R. can identify any other groups or individuals who are false apostles and prophets, the N.A.R. itself admits its leaders are, indeed, false apostles and prophets, which makes their teaching a non-Christian belief system.

Oh, yes, and there is this: Jesus never predicted ANY "true" apostles would come in the last days.

Most shockingly, they go beyond claiming to be apostles and prophets; they actually claim that they are (in their corporate expression) the Messiah Himself, who now has come again! Indeed, they teach that the Christ who is in heaven now is just a man but, through the N.A.R., He is *becoming* the second coming of the Messiah here on Earth. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Brian Simmons gave [a sermon in which he said](#): "We are the Word made flesh again. We are the Reincarnation of Jesus Christ. **Christ is NO LONGER a man. He's A PEOPLE THAT** you and I carry like Mary...and it will be as though the second coming has come. **We will bring forth the Christ. The Second Coming is the Becoming of the Lord...The New Jerusalem is not a place you are going to, it is a people you will become...as the Christ** comes forth and emerges on the earth in a **corporate expression.**" (Interestingly, all

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Of course, Jesus **did** predict a true Messiah would come in the last days, but He was not referring to the N.A.R.! Perhaps they simply mean stretch the idea of the "body of Christ" being Christ's representation on Earth into the idea of the Church being the Messiah. But the *returning* Messiah is an individual coming from heaven.

## **PART II: THE SO-CALLED "PASSION TRANSLATION" OF THE BIBLE**

The primary differentiator between the N.A.R. and true Christianity is their **denial of the inerrancy, infallibility, and immutability of God's Word, and of God Himself**. This non-Christian heresy is seen in their idea that truth itself is malleable, and in their resulting publication of a "new translation" of the Bible, which is just as foreign to the true Bible as is the Book of Mormon or the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses.

The primary impetus behind the "Passion Translation" is the assumption that the existing Bible is not (or perhaps is no longer) sufficient to "express God's heart." For too many years, they say, Christians have relied on the meanings of the ancient language words, holding "rigidly" to "theological tradition" partly because, to this point, they have never had available the originally intended *message* which those meanings (unsuccessfully) sought to convey. So now, in these last days, Jesus finally decided to do something about it:

***"I said Lord if you really have called me to do this, I want you to speak to me and I want it to be so clear to me that I have no doubt it was you. Well, that night after laying it out before him I had a visitation and I was given a commission by the Lord as he breathed on me and released me and called to translate the Bible."***

[Start Watching at 11:10](#)

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of the New Age movements that refer to Christ always use the term "the" Christ. *How intimate and passionate!* I have never heard a traditional Christian refer to Jesus as "the" Christ.) Also, again, we see they believe **Jesus changes**.

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The so-called "Passion Translation" claims to rely on *both* the literal meanings of the ancient language *and* the so-called "original *message*" of the Bible (that was supernaturally revealed to N.A.R. leader, Brian Simmons, based on the literal meanings of the ancient language words which also were supernaturally revealed to Brian Simmons because Simmons is illiterate in those languages). The publishers claim it is a "balanced translation that TRIES to hold both the essence of Scripture's literal meaning, and original message, in proper tension, resulting in an expansive, fresh, fiery translation of God's Word."

But since Jesus is the actual translator—revealing the translation to Simmons—why does Jesus' translation "try" to do anything? If Jesus is the One revealing the message, why does He have to work so hard to figure out how things should be balanced?

If their bible is in "tension" with the Bible's literal meaning, it is a different book than the Bible. (Notice it does not even claim to be in harmony with the literal meaning, only the "essence" of the literal meaning.)

A "fresh" translation? I was not aware the Bible had become stale.

A "**fiery**" translation—*really*? Recall what happened previously to those leaders who promoted the use of "unholy fire" among the people:

***Now Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, each took his censer, put fire in it, and laid incense on it; and they offered unholy fire before the Lord, such as he had not commanded them.***

***And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.***

Leviticus 10:1-2

What is so pathetic, of course, is that—as seen when the N.A.R. publicly attempted to raise a little girl from the dead and failed—they don't actually *have* any

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fire at *all* (see page 39, below.) Even their "*unholy* fire" buckets are empty! They can't even produce a *genuine* fake like Pharaoh's magicians did (*i.e.*, Exodus 7:11).

**[A] NOT A "TRANSLATION"**

N.A.R. leader Brian Simmons has [greatly embellished his biography](#). He has absolutely no linguistic training, and he is [lying about his prior translation work in South America](#). His work is neither a translation,<sup>3</sup> nor is it a Bible. Therefore, I call his work the "passion book."

The passion book does **not** claim to carry the original "**meaning**" of God's word, but rather the original "**message**" of God's Word. Simmons claims to have been given inspiration from God as to what God *intended* to say in His original Word, but somehow He didn't quite get it right. So, like Joseph Smith translating his supposed gold tablets by special revelation, Simmons is claiming to translate the original texts (which he cannot read) into the original *intended* text by special revelation. He is changing the literal meaning into a different meaning that better captures the message, which cannot be done without adding to or subtracting from the original texts. ([Click Here to see five examples of ideas Simmons added that change the meaning.](#))

Please do not take any interest in the evaluations of the passion book by various ancient language scholars. To look at an ancient language word and compare it to what Simmons has written is meaningless because Simmons did not look at that ancient language to produce any of his words. He claims Jesus revealed the ancient languages to him, as well as the way those ancient languages failed to capture God's original "message."

The very fact that Simmons admits he *needs* Jesus to "reveal" the ancient language meanings proves that Simmons himself is illiterate in those languages, which

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<sup>3</sup> How could an honest translation come from someone who said: "Stop being in love with your tradition, opinion and *understanding of the Bible that's so shallow*, and so, like, feeble." ([Start watching at 4:05.](#))

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makes one wonder why the N.A.R. works so hard to paint him as a scholar in the first place. So scholarly analysis of the supposed link between the ancient language and the English word Simmons used means nothing because scholarship was not involved in the process Simmons used.

There absolutely should not ever be a scholarly analysis of the words in the passion book. Simmons claims he understood the words by divine revelation. How can you evaluate revelation using scholarship when revelation is not the product of scholarship? So the first step to evaluating the book is to decide whether or not Simmons' linguistic choices were directly revealed by God:

- 1.** Do you **believe** that God did, in fact, give Simmons the meanings of ancient language words for use in the passion book by special divine revelation?

If so, scholarly analysis is silly. In this situation, you are critiquing the ancient language skills of God, not Simmons. Regardless of how advanced your scholarship may be, who are you to critique God's linguistic skills?

- 2.** Do you **believe** that God did **not**, in fact, give Simmons the meanings of ancient language words for use in the passion book by special divine revelation?

If so, then you would be critiquing Simmons' ancient language skills, not God's. Yet by declaring he is unable to understand the ancient words without special divine revelation, Simmons has admitted he is unable to make scholarly linguistic choices himself. Therefore, you are critiquing ancient language skills that do not exist—because neither Simmons nor God used any such skills.

Therefore, there is no scenario under which scholarly comparison of the words in the original ancient language texts with words in the passion book has any relevance. (The next section on **corollaries** of Simmons' supposed "methodology" makes this irrelevance even more striking by considering grammatical considerations.)

If the only way Simmons could work with original language texts is by divine revelation, why would God have used the methodology He supposedly used to



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provide that revelation? Why would God first reveal the ancient language and the correct way to translate it into English and *then* reveal how to “unveil” those English meanings to more accurately capture the “message” of the original language text, when He could have skipped a lot of steps and just revealed to Simmons in English what it was He wanted to say?

The answer is easy: Optics. Christians will be more willing to accept the authority of words that come by some miraculous revelation when the revelation supposedly involves the original manuscripts, because the Bible’s authority is based on those original manuscripts. However, if a man claimed that God directly gave him a new bible that is not based on original manuscripts, Christians would never accept that—especially when the new bible admittedly has a different message than the existing translations, all of which were based on the original manuscripts.

Traditional Christians are comfortable with paraphrases. A paraphrase seeks to overcome historical linguistic modulations by using hermeneutics to express a message that will have the same effect on modern readers as the original did on the original hearers. It is interpretive, but the meanings of the original words are used as the only basis, which again requires the paraphraser to be a linguistic scholar. Since Simmons claims God was the one who revealed the words to him, one might suggest that his “translation” essentially is a paraphrase with God Himself as the paraphraser.

However, a paraphrase—even one by God—does not add new ideas. The passion book FAQ website claims the passion book is doing no more than did Martin Luther, quoting him as follows:

***This was the basic philosophy Martin Luther used when he translated God’s Word into German for his people:***

***“I must let the literal words go and try to learn how the German says that which the Hebrew expresses. . . . Whoever would speak German must not use Hebrew style. Rather he must see to it—once he understands the Hebrew author—that he concentrates on the sense of the text, asking himself ‘Pray tell, what do***

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***the Germans say in such a situation?' . . . Let him drop the Hebrew words and express the meaning freely in the best German he knows."***

However, Simmons does not merely try to express the original language in a way modern English speakers can understand; he adds a lot of words, all of which are N.A.R. buzzwords. ([Go to 1:35 on this video and Mike Winger presents a chart.](#))

The passion book is not about conveying the ideas relayed in the original languages, because Simmons says those ideas are inadequate. The passion book claims to start the flight at the original manuscript but then make a connecting flight with revelation before arriving at the final destination in English. Simmons says he:

***...named it the Passion Translation because HE {Simmons} saw a need for a translation that restores the Bible's potency, "unfiltered and unveiled."***

He stated Jesus personally showed him what to say:

***"Downloads instantly came...I got a connection inside of me to hear him better, to understand the scriptures better. Jesus says 'it is a translation project that I'm giving you to do.' And he promised that he would help me, ... he would give me secrets of the Hebrew language."***

[Let Us Reason ministries](#)

A language has "secrets?" That's saying a lot from somebody who has absolutely no training in the *regular* meanings of the Hebrew language! (Interestingly he never mentioned Greek or Aramaic, which he has been working with extensively thus far.)

In another place, Simmons said Jesus not only gave him the "secrets" of the Hebrew language, He also gave him the secret *meanings* of Scripture that God has hidden from His church until now:

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***And He promised me that, that He would give me help, that He would stand with me and give me secrets of the Hebrew language, [secrets of the Bible](#) that would be for this Last Days awakening.***

The N.A.R. distorts the truth that Christians should relate to God and Jesus with the heart into the idea that relationship is more important than truth and, indeed, for them relationship *defines* truth:

***“God refuses to meet us only in an intellectual way. God also wants to meet us heart level, so we must let the words go heart deep—which is what we’re trying to do with this project. There is a language of the heart that must express the passion of this love-theology.” Through “downloads,” Simmons received “a new, heart-level translation that expresses God’s fiery heart of love to this generation.”***

[Brian Simmons Promo Video \(Start at 1:20\)](#)

Note several Freudian slips here: “What we are trying to do with this project...” It is a human effort. “We” are doing it, not Jesus.

It is not based on translating words, it is based on some unknown language, the “language of the heart,” which God has never used before because, apparently, He does not know how to express His feelings in our languages. So Simmons had to discover this new language in order to “unlock” God’s “fiery heart of love,” which He somehow was unable to express in those other languages. Somehow, God does not seem to understand our languages well enough to express Himself to us in them, even though He was the One Who created those languages in the first place, way back at the Tower of Babel.

Finally, note how God supposedly gave this new translation (in the “language of the heart”) to “this” generation. This phrase reflects the underlying theme of the N.A.R. that God is doing a new work in these last days, and that is why He “restored”

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the offices of apostle and prophet because this generation of believers is super special; it is more loved by God, it is to be used more powerfully by God, and it is to know God more intimately—than any other generation that has ever existed before.

Interestingly, speaking of languages, Simmons said Jesus promised to give him the secrets to the Hebrew language. Yet Simmons is now saying the best language for conveying the Bible’s original “message” is Aramaic, because it is more expressive, more passionate, than all of the other original languages. I guess Jesus hadn’t realized this finer linguistic point when He decided (apparently tentatively) which language to reveal the secrets of (or which one to write the Bible in the first time).

Again, however, Simmons has no training in any of these languages, so how would he know which language is better? Besides, since God is supernaturally revealing to him the “message” of the text, cannot God translate that message as well from the Greek text as He can from the Aramaic text? Regardless, [in the five examples below](#), **I do provide Aramaic translations**, and none back Simmons up at all.

Indeed, though I am not a linguist, even at the layperson’s level it seems Simmons is simplistic in his understanding of language in general. He constantly talks of word definitions, but never discusses grammar. Anybody can use a lexicon!

Simmons and the N.A.R. love to cite verses that talk of “mysteries” to support their supposed supernatural experiences which they claim involve Jesus revealing new truth in these last days. For example, Simmons claimed he was caught up into heaven where Jesus took him to a library and showed him (but would not “yet” give him) [the supposed 22nd chapter of the Gospel of John](#).

The primary appeal the promoters of the passion book use is to argue that as long as Simmons’ additions to the text are consistent with the original “message” of the text, this is not “adding” to God’s word. However, God did not say “Don’t add new text to my Word—unless what you add is consistent with the original text and helps you better understand the message of the original text.”

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He said "Don't add a **single word**."

Period. ([Go to 1:35 on this video and Mike Winger presents a chart of added words.](#))

Obviously, Simmons just skimmed English words off of other English translations for his base, and then added other English words himself. You could critique that, but no scholarship is required as, again, no scholarship was employed in that process to begin with. Ironically, however, without actually touching those ancient manuscripts, Simmons is still able to destroy them.

**[B] COROLLARIES OF "FILLING IN" THE "FULL MESSAGE" OF A TEXT**

It is quite apparent Simmons merely looked at English translations of the Bible and borrowed those words, then added his own words and ideas to those English passages. ([Click Here for five examples of adding words and ideas.](#))

⇒ **NO ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS: THIS SO-CALLED "METHODOLOGY" ACTUALLY DESTROYS THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE PASSAGES HE CLAIMS TO BE "TRANSLATING" FROM:**

- ✓ In the original text, you can point to an ancient language word and describe its meaning.
- ✓ But that same word, when copied over to the passion book, cannot be exegeted because much of any word's original meaning is derived from grammar, and grammar depends on sentence structure. And the sentence structure was in the ancient language original manuscript. Adding another word (especially another word from another language) changes the sentence structure, **rendering those words carried over from**

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**the original text meaningless as to their ancient language when they appear in the passion text.**

- ✓ Thus, none of the words as they appear in the passion text have any meaning in the ancient language.
- ✓ The meaning of every English word in the passion book is completely detached from any ancient language word from the original manuscripts. **So, the "original language" of the entire passion book is English!**
- ✓ **So it is rather silly for scholars to perform any linguistic analysis relative to the ancient languages.**
- ✓ Since none of the meanings from the ancient languages continue to exist in the passion text, the passion text has actually erased the very ancient language documents it purports to be translating from.
- ✓ **But the doctrine of Bible inerrancy applies only to the original manuscripts in the ancient languages. Since we no longer have such texts, we no longer have any Bible at all.**
- ✓ Brian Simmons is like someone who goes into the Museum of the Dead Sea Scrolls and sets the place on fire.

⇒ **BOOK OF A DIFFERENT CHARACTER: SO IT IS NOT LIKE WE HAVE VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS ON A TABLE SUCH THAT A PERSON CAN PICK UP ONE, PUT IT DOWN, AND PICK UP ANOTHER.**

- ✓ If you pick up a legitimate translation, you can set it back down with the others and still pick up one of the others to view.
- ✓ But, because the passion book **destroys the original ancient**

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**language texts**, the minute you pick it up, the other Bibles—which depend entirely upon those original ancient language texts—burst into flames and vanish.

### **PART III: THE N.A.R. AS A MOVEMENT**

The N.A.R. actually seeks to establish a [Fifth Branch within Christendom](#) distinct from Catholicism, Protestantism, Oriental Orthodoxy, and Eastern Orthodoxy. Just when it progressed from pushing the charismatic movement to extreme lengths to developing a unified vision of changing all of Christianity is difficult to assess. Then again, from its inception, the N.A.R. proposed to play the role of apostles, establishing a new foundation for the entire “end-times” Church.

The movement largely appeals to charismatic (or at least non-cessationist) congregations and seeks to “affiliate” with them. As these affiliated churches become more and more excited about the N.A.R.’s new “fire,” they begin to submit to the authority of the N.A.R.—appointed apostles. N.A.R. pioneer leader C. Peter Wagner considers the year [2001](#) to be the beginning of the “**Second Apostolic Age,**” and the N.A.R. movement holds that the “lost” offices of prophet and apostle were “restored” in that year.

The N.A.R.’s ideological point of origin is that the present mainstream Church of the “Old Order” has [become corrupt and lost a true relationship with Jesus](#) through Pharisaical adherence to “dead traditions.” They believe **the biggest enemy of truly knowing God is “religion.”** God wants us to “**return to our first love.**” In these end times, God is now “restoring” the Church by “restoring” the “lost” offices of apostle and prophet in order to “rescue” Christians from traditional churches which have inflicted upon them an “orphan spirit” by killing their life experience of a personal, intimate, and passionate relationship with Christ, filled with power and authority. They claim God’s promise in Malachi 4:6 to restore the hearts of the parents to the children, is [actually a curse](#) in the sense that it predicts the “loss of the spirit of sonship” that

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would have to exist for this promise to make sense.

Of course, in order to throw away all traditional churches while still keeping Christians interested, one must have three things. If you don't have **all** of these in spades, you don't have what it takes to be a successful New Age ("end times") heretic:

- 1.** A false—but coherent—theological core that, when fully assembled, totally undermines the essential tenets of true traditional Christianity.
- 2.** A way to make this completely modified worldview sound like it still belongs to the traditional thing, but just happens to be an enhanced (or advanced) version of it.
- 3.** A way to make all of it appeal to true Christians by tapping into their unconscious hunger for more powerful faith experiences.

The most convincing way to do these things, of course, is to spring up from within the traditional thing, to move to the edge of that thing, and then push the edge yet further. The N.A.R. did this by starting at the charismatic edge of the Christian tradition and pushing past that edge and over the cliff.

The charismatic movement began by rejecting cessationism which, by itself, is not enough to remove them from Christianity. Unfortunately, charismaticism progressed into the "Prosperity Gospel," which debatably might already have evolved into a non-Christian belief system. One of its chief proponents is Kenneth Copeland, whose "ministry" of bilking people out of their money I despise. The N.A.R. took the Prosperity Gospel's errors yet further to such extreme lengths that they broke even beyond the borders of charismaticism itself (thus, they have been called "hyper-charismatics" or "neo-charismatics").

The resulting strange soup of doctrines is so permeated by manmade (demonic) theology that the real Bible could no longer be stretched sufficiently to contain them. At first they tried concealing their heresies behind authentic Christian terms. Those who adhere to orthodox understandings of those terms will hear Christian ideas, but



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their own followers would hear the heretical meanings. **This is what makes their music so dangerous.** It conditions people to morph toward their heretical ideas.

► [Click here](#) for a lexicon of N.A.R.'s theological term twisting.

Eventually, however, church people began to put things together and noticed that the cumulative effect of multiple definition-stretchings had actually created a new core of doctrines foreign to traditional Christianity. So the N.A.R. had to come up with a way to bring their heresies back under the banner of "Christianity."

What better way do this than to encapsulate their heresies in a new bible? Thus, we have the passion book. It provides an "expansive" new translation sufficiently big enough to encompass their theological errors, nestled all nicely together like an Easter bunny in pretty Easter basket grass in a leather-bound basket titled "Bible."

Key congregational streams from which this movement emerged are Bethel Church in Redding California, the International House of Prayer in Kansas City, and Hillsong church in Australia. These three streams recently joined together to coordinate their efforts under a single movement, with Bethel being the center of gravity. However, **the N.A.R. movement craftily avoids becoming an official organization** so they can deny being outside the Church.

Key leaders in the N.A.R. include Bill Johnson, the pastor at Bethel. He took the 1990's "Toronto Blessing" movement (a/k/a the "Latter Rain" movement), and revved it up into the N.A.R. The "Toronto Blessing" had perverted the true idea of revival—in which the Holy Spirit deals with sin in the church and calls His people to holy living—into a false revival in which supernatural manifestations define your relationship with God. There is no discernment (or care) about which spirit is behind these manifestations. Instead of calling God's people to humble themselves before the Lord, their "revival" movement tells God's people how "anointed" they are, and how God is giving them special spiritual powers and authority to take over the world by performing signs and wonders and by holding religious services in which they

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experience demonic manifestations (which they say are from the Holy Spirit).

Johnson's book "[\*When Heaven Invades Earth\*](#)" is a sort of N.A.R. manifesto and is required reading of all N.A.R. followers. It is very articulate, persuasive, and a well-crafted sheep's garment for the demonic doctrines that pervert their expression of the Scripture. (I refer to the book as "When Hell Invades Heaven.")

Another key leader is Brian Simmons, the cursed soul who re-wrote the Bible. I don't have to tell you all the things God has said He would do to such people!

The founding leader is C. Peter Wagner, who first coined the term "New Apostolic Reformation." He has a long *bona fide* history within traditional Christianity, lots of academic credentials, years of recognized service at high levels, and lots of persuasiveness. He is the one who first tied together the various strands that were forming into one coherent ideological core and gave it credibility.

Some folks debate whether the N.A.R. started with good motives and got carried away, or whether they started bad from the beginning. Either way, where it is right now is clearly a non-Christian place.

A clever way Bill Johnson uses to convince people to stray from traditional doctrines is by saying that "Jesus is perfect theology." Then he says something about Jesus that is not accurate to the Jesus of the Bible. (Recall, the N.A.R. believes truth changes, which means Jesus also changes.) So, because this inaccurate thing is supposedly true about Jesus—who is "perfect theology"—that means it must be theologically sound no matter how strange it may seem. This type of casuistry makes it easy to lead people over the cliff.

Similarly, Brian Simmons says that nothing God reveals to us will contradict the Word of God, but it will always contradict *our opinion about* what the Word of God has to say. ([Start watching at 13:35](#))

Anyone who challenges their questionable doctrines using sound biblical

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exegesis is castigated as being "corrupted" by "tradition," of being "religious" and hobbled by "head-knowledge"<sup>4</sup> instead of having a "relationship-based" faith. They can even be accused of blaspheming the Holy Spirit (who supposedly revealed these doctrines to their apostles). They pervert the Scripture that says "love *believes* all things" to mean that if you question their teachings, you are breaking Christ's command to love one another, ([Start watching at timestamp 6:38](#)), which means that you are working against "Christian unity."

In a nutshell, the N.A.R. is made up of craftily disguised false teachers infiltrating the church to challenge core doctrines, the exact problem about which Paul and the other true apostles warned us against sternly and commanded us to point them out and resist them.

As for true Christians who have come into their movement, many eventually have an epiphany and leave...some of them from as high up in the movement as to have been an "apostle." Others remain within, and continue to be pulled deeper and deeper into it.

At what time does a person drink so much of their Kool-Aid that their true faith

---

<sup>4</sup> Ironically, if you put together some of the broader strands of their worldview, it **IS knowledge** that saves us. But it is "spiritual" knowledge, not Biblical exegesis. That is why they are so focused on dreams and revelations. So what the N.A.R. is actually "restoring" is first-century Gnosticism, which Dr. Revecca Denova [defined as follows](#):

*"Gnosticism is the belief that human beings contain a piece of God (the highest good or a divine spark) within themselves, which has fallen from the immaterial world into the bodies of humans. All physical matter is subject to decay, rotting, and death. Those bodies and the material world, created by an inferior being, are therefore evil. Trapped in the material world, but ignorant of its status, the pieces of God require knowledge (gnosis) to inform them of their true status."*

The N.A.R. have transplanted Christianity from its old foundation (the Apostles specifically rejected Gnosticism) into a modern gnostic container. (The "god within" idea resonates with the "little gods" doctrine; "ignorant of its status" becomes the need to "activate"; and of course, the saving gnosis is spiritual revelations of the apostles and prophets. What the N.A.R. has added is the idea of the "language of the heart" as the vessel for the gnosis' transmission.

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dies of theological poison? That question requires another paper much longer than this one. But rather than figure that out, we should rather figure out a way to get folks out of the movement before that point—wherever it may be—is reached.

**PART IV: HERETICAL ELEMENTS OF THE N.A.R.**

The N.A.R. makes a point of declaring they accept the Apostle's Creed. They declare they adhere to the major tenets of the Reformation: the authority of Scripture (*right!*), justification by faith, salvation by faith in Christ's atoning death, etc. without telling you about the stuff they add to (or distort from) orthodox theology. They insist that the new theological "revelations" of their "prophets" do not conflict with traditional Christianity, but simply add to it. But simply having some common elements does not make it the same thing. Adding cyanide to the traditional elements of Kool-Aid makes for an entirely different type of communion, as we all saw at Jonestown.

**[A] "RESTORATION" OF THE "LOST" OFFICE OF APOSTLE**

The beginning of the N.A.R. movement was the "revelation" that God is, in these last days, "restoring" the office of apostle so that He can build His church upon the "foundation" of these modern apostles, just as He built the early Church on the foundation of Paul, Peter, John, James, and etc. But these apostles are different, and the foundation they are laying is different from true Christianity.

⇒ **FALSE APOSTLES: THE N.A.R. APOSTLES ARE OF A DIFFERENT CHARACTER.**

- ✓ The N.A.R.'s first argument is that offices (like spiritual gifts) never ceased. However, if that were the case, the offices would operate today the way they did back then. But the apostolic office they are claiming now is nothing like the God-appointed apostleship upon which the true church was founded.

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- ✓ The 13 genuine apostles upon which the true church was founded didn't have the authority to appoint other apostles by their own will. The N.A.R. has usurped such a power, and has appointed *hundreds* to this office simply for completing an N.A.R. sponsored "training."

⇒ **FALSE FOUNDATION:** IF THE CHURCH'S FOUNDATION HAS ALREADY BEEN LAID, AND THE CHURCH HAS SUCCESSFULLY RESTED UPON IT THESE LAST TWO THOUSAND YEARS, WHY WOULD WE WANT ANOTHER FOUNDATION BASED ON "NEW" REVELATION SUPPORTED BY A "NEW" BIBLE RELIED UPON BY "NEW" APOSTLES AND PROPHETS?

- ✓ Their idea of a "new work" in God's end-times church is actually a "new *doctrine*" which isn't consistent with the historical church. It is not a new *foundation*; it is a new *religion*.
- ✓ This supposed "new foundation" is like digging up your house and loading it on an oversized load truck and replanting it on a different piece of land. The house *looks* the same, but it now rests on a false foundation within a different jurisdiction which, as we now know, is the Kingdom of Darkness.
- ✓ As a famous hymn so beautifully put it:

***How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word.  
What more can He say than to you He has said,  
To you who to Jesus for refuge have fled?***

⇒ **REVELATION-BASED THEOLOGY:** THEY LEGITIMIZE THIS RADICAL FOUNDATION SHIFT BY MISINTERPRETING PASSAGES ABOUT DIVINE REVELATIONS COMING IN THE

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**LAST DAYS TO MAKE THEM JUSTIFY REVELATIONS THAT ESTABLISH "NEW TRUTH"  
THAT GOD HAS "HIDDEN" FROM HIS PEOPLE UNTIL NOW.**

True churches should take proactive steps to inoculate their members from the surprisingly effective seduction techniques used by these "apostles" to lay a "new foundation" for the modern Church.

**[B] "RESTORATION" OF THE "LOST" OFFICE OF PROPHET**

Next, the office of prophet also has supposedly been "restored," and each "apostle" has a "prophet" assigned to him. Together, each pairing takes authority over affiliated churches that fall within their "realm" (or "apostolic network"). Cessationists obviously will have left the room by now. However, even for legitimately Christian non-cessationists, the N.A.R. concept of a prophet is completely out of their bailiwick.

The N.A.R. has started schools for their "prophets" which many mainstream churches allow their congregants to attend. When these students return to their original churches, they are enthusiastic proponents of subtle N.A.R. heresies. Churches who allow their members to attend these schools are like innocent families whose children pick up bedbugs at a motel and unknowingly introduce the pests into their homes when they return.

The N.A.R. "prophets" are nothing like the true prophets in the Bible.

⇒ **MAN-APPOINTED AND TRAINED: YES, THE OLD TESTAMENT TALKED ABOUT THE "SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS," BUT THE N.A.R.'S SCHOOL SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE OCCULT AND AGAIN, THEY INVOLVE MAN APPOINTING PEOPLE TO "OFFICES," NOT GOD.**

✓ "School" has a different meaning today than it did when God's prophets hung out together. In a modern school, you choose

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to enroll by your own will. With the N.A.R., it is not about verifying you heard a "call" from God to be a prophet. It is about your ability to pay a tuition and then to swell the ranks of influencers they send out to infiltrate mainstream congregations.

- ✓ They actually send their students to occult conventions with their own "Christian Tarot Cards" and lure occultists into their tents to talk about just the "Spirit" instead of the "Holy Spirit" (to hide the idea of a Trinity) in order to turn people who came to see occultists towards their occult version of Jesus. Not surprisingly, the "prophets" who have thus been recruited tend to have revelations from Jesus that sound very New Age.
- ✓ The "Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry" is a three-year program that includes "developing" your prophetic "gift" and a thorough indoctrination into N.A.R. theology. They also have a week-long immersion experience to "train" you to be a "prophet," as well as a series of videos for continued "development" of your "gift."
- ✓ The first day, they tell students to pair off and try to see if the Holy Spirit reveals the first name of the other. Of course, it is only about 50 percent accurate, which is the same percentage paranormal researchers have found the occult to produce.

⇒ **FALSE PROPHETS: THEIR "PROPHETS" DO NOT PASS SCRIPTURAL MUSTER.**

- ✓ God said the way to tell if a prophet is from Him is to test whether their prophesies come true:

***But any prophet who speaks in the name of other***

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***gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.***"

***You may say to yourself,***

***"How can we recognize a word that the Lord has not spoken?"***

***If a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord but the thing does not take place or prove true, it is a word that the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; do not be frightened by it.*** Deuteronomy 18:20-22

- ✓ The N.A.R. teaches that the "new style" of prophets today are not subjected to that same standard. They argue that some New Testament prophets were not always right. But these examples are of prophecies to individuals. Based on the context in Deuteronomy, however, when a prophet proposes to speak in the Name of God to the entire nation or the entire church, the zero-tolerance test continues to apply.
- ✓ Even using the looser standard under which the N.A.R. places themselves, they still utterly fail:
  - The "success rate" of their "prophets" is nowhere near as high as the occult. It appears to be close to 0 percent.
  - For example, although they study extensively during the three-year school curriculum to "develop" the "gift," all of their "prophets" predicted Trump would win the 2020 election, and none of them foresaw the coming of COVID.

The "apostles" also get authoritative "revelations" and dreams. If you listen to these dreams, visions, and supernatural encounters, they are usually ridiculous. One of their "prophetesses" claims just about every new week to have been once again



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"taken up into heaven," each time coming back with the oddest of stories. Before the 2020 election, another "prophet" claimed that Donald Trump visited him in person during the night and asked him to be his vice-presidential candidate. Seriously? Donald Trump is still *alive!* He is not a spirit that can "appear" in your bedroom while he is at the same time asleep in the body hundreds of miles away.

One Bethel pastor said that after another pastor said something to him that hurt his feelings, Jesus came to him, held him, cried, and asked his forgiveness for the way His other servant had hurt his feelings! (I just can't restrain myself—just *typing* that hurt! I just *have* to cry out: "**Blasphemy!**" )

Every time their "prophets" give revelations, their heads always shake back and forth rapidly in some weird form of ecstasy. Their services typically involve a brief mention of a Scripture or two—always on the supernatural or on something about how God is anointing them for some never-before-seen move of God—followed by several "prophets" sharing dreams or revelations. Extensive time is then spent exegeting these supernatural experiences, with very little time exegeting the Word, and what time they do spend exegeting the Word is *always* false exegesis.

**[C] THE FRUIT OF THE N.A.R.'S DOCTRINAL TREE**

Jesus said you shall know the tree by its fruit, and that either the whole tree is good or the whole tree is bad. In spite of many appearances of similarity to the fruit of the true church, the N.A.R. has many bad fruits as well. This means all the fruit on that bad-fruited tree which *appears* similar to the true fruit of the church is nevertheless bad fruit as well. So don't be impressed that they swear by the Apostle's Creed and all of the other traditional Christian doctrines.

The N.A.R. falls into what I have dubbed the "Third Logical Step" principle, in which someone comes along and says God is still revealing Himself to humanity and He is now revealing the next step. Just like the Jews could not imagine a religion like

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Christianity could be true, so Christians could not imagine a religion like *[fill in the blank]* is true. And, just as Christianity was a legitimate next step to Judaism, *[blank]* is a legitimate next step to Christianity, the third (and final, of course) step.

Islam claims to be an extension of the Bible by saying the Old and New Testaments were indeed God's true revelation, but now He has extended His revelatory process to the next logical step by revealing it to Muhammad. Mormonism claims their revelatory books take Christianity to the next revelatory step, and they also claim their new revelations do not contradict the Bible. In like manner, the N.A.R. also claims to be the next logical extension of true Christianity while also saying that their new revelations are not inconsistent with the traditional doctrines.

Note the commonality between the N.A.R., Islam, and Mormonism with regard to magical linguistic powers and messages received by angels. Joseph Smith founded Mormonism after a supposed visitation by an angel named "Moroni" who showed him the meaning of some gold tablets written in an unintelligible language. Simmons claims the Lord told him that an angel named "Passion" would be with him and help him to write a new Bible. Like Joseph Smith, Simmons had no linguistic training but God supernaturally revealed the meaning of the Bible to him. Muhammad also received his book from an angel (who appeared to him in a cave). Muslims claim that God Himself must have given Muhammad the words of the Qur'an because Muhammad was illiterate. (See Galatians 1:8 for a warning about any new Gospel revealed by a so-called "angel.")

Several defining heretical doctrines and practices that God has "revealed" to the N.A.R.'s "apostles" and "prophets" are as follows:

⇒ **REDEFINING THE CHURCH: OF COURSE, THEIR REVELATIONS CONFIRM THEIR SELF-APPOINTED POWERS, WHICH POWERS GIVE THEM THE AUTHORITY TO REDEFINE THE CHURCH SUCH THAT THEIR SELF-APPOINTED POWERS ARE AUTHORITATIVE, ETC.**

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- ✓ The revelations that have come to these apostles and prophets have completely changed what the church is and how it works. So, to bolster an appearance of continuity, they name-drop.
- ✓ They N.A.R. love to use traditional names like Spurgeon, Tozer, Wesley, Finney, and so forth to put some shine on their bad fruit. But what they won't tell you is that their admiration for these leaders is yet another perversion. They pay no attention to the actual teachings of these people; rather, they simply revere them for the "powers" they possessed. They practice called "grave soaking" (also called "[grave sucking](#)"), in which they lie on top of the graves of these "anointed" men to ingest their spirits and absorb the "mantle" of their powers. Like other practices for which they are questioned, [the N.A.R. denies doing this](#), but they really do practice it. (See [here](#) and [here](#).)
- ✓ As seen in the "grave sucking" example here, so it is that with *all* of their heretical beliefs and practices that they never hesitate to tell outright lies, and they do it flagrantly with such apparent sincerity. Their cleverness knows no bounds. **Other key lies are:** that Bill Simmons and his so-called Passion "Translation" (i.e., re-writing) of the Bible are not associated with the N.A.R.; that Bill Simmons is an expert linguist; that the N.A.R. is not a "movement," etc.

⇒ **THE "LITTLE GODS" DOCTRINE: THEY HAVE A GRANDIOSE UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR OWN AUTHORITY.**

- ✓ The prosperity Gospel's "word of faith" teaching has been extended to the extreme with their "[little gods](#)" doctrine. (Note in this clip how Creflo Dollar says God "submitted

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Himself" to the "principle" that each propagates "after its own kind." They *love* to talk about things that God "submits" to.) Under the "little gods" doctrine, as "children" ("sons") of God, we supposedly possess the same powers that Jesus, the Son of God, had.

- ✓ Of course, as always, they (mis)quote Scripture to legitimize their arrogant beliefs, here quoting the "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you" passage in Psalm 82:6, and the verse that says we are Jesus' "brothers" (Hebrews 2:11).
- ✓ The "little gods" doctrine blends with their false Christology that when Jesus became flesh, he divested Himself of all divinity. Their modern version of kenotic Christology goes way further than prior versions within the crypto-kenotic controversy.
- ✓ He did not do His supernatural works as God; He did them as a regular human who called on the Holy Spirit. As normal men, **we can do the same.** We are, in effect, "little Jesuses."
- ✓ **In fact, we can even do better.** Again they pervert Scripture, citing the passage where Jesus promised that we can do even greater works than He did (John 14:12). (So, I suppose, they feel they are not really "little" Jesuses; actually, they are *greater* Jesuses than was Jesus Himself!)
- ✓ How else could they say that God would be anointing this new generation of last day apostles to walk in greater anointing than even the "original" twelve apostles (see above page 6)? How else could they say:

***"Jesus' prophecy of us doing greater works***

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*than He did has stirred the Church to look for some abstract meaning to this very simple statement. Many theologians seek to honor the works of Jesus as unattainable, which is religion, fathered by unbelief.*

*It does not impress God to ignore what He promised under the guise of honoring the work of Jesus on the earth. Jesus' statement is not that hard to understand. Greater means "greater." And the works he referred to are signs and wonders.*

*It will not be a disservice to Him to have a generation obey Him, and go beyond His own high-water mark.*

*He showed us what **one person** could do who has the Spirit without measure. What could millions do? That was His point, and it became His prophecy."*

Bill Johnson,  
"When Heaven Invades Earth" (page 185)

[Click here to go back to discussion of truth changing](#)

And just *how high* do they expect to go "beyond the high-water mark" of this "one person" as a way of "honoring" Him? Doug Geivett [describes it this way:](#)

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***They believe their miracle-working power will increase so that N.A.R. apostles and prophets will work greater miracles than even Jesus did. This claim is based on an N.A.R. interpretation of John 14:12.***

***Rick Joyner is a leading prophet in the N.A.R. movement. He says:***

***“Parting the Red Sea will hardly be remembered as a significant miracle after the things that will be done by those who serve the Lord at the end of this age.”***

**How do you spell *blasphemy* ?**

**“N. A. R.”**

[Click here to go back to discussion of truth changing](#)

- ✓ Leading “apostle” Ché Ahn actually said: “Right now, God is on the move...I believe we're living in the most exciting time in church history the most exciting time. The apostles wish that they were living in our generation because we're going to see the greatest revival” ([start listening at 11:56](#)).
- ✓ Comments like Rick Joyner’s and Ché Ahn’s show that the N.A.R. representatives are simply mouthpieces for the ancient cry of satan’s own heart:

***You said in your heart,***

***“I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly on the heights of Zaphon; I will ascend to the tops of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.”***

***But you are brought down to Sheol, to the depths of***

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***the Pit.***

Isaiah 14:13-15

- ✓ In fact, it would appear that, in spite of predicting they will have an even greater anointing than the true apostles and that they will do the most amazing miracles ever seen on the planet, *not a single miracle has ever actually occurred.*
- ✓ I have no idea how they can intoxicate their crowds into ignoring their innumerable blatant failures, such as when they held a *continual prayer service for almost one week to "resurrect" a little girl* who had recently died, *only to fail,* which is reminiscent of the false prophets of Baal who were **unable to call down fire:**

***So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, crying,***

***"O Baal, answer us!"***

***But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made.***

***At noon Elijah mocked them, saying,***

***"Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened."***

***Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them.***

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[watch  
N.A.R  
raving](#)

*As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.*

I Kings 18:26-29

Gee...sorry guys—*hate to disappoint*—but I still seem to remember the parting of the Red Sea.

⇒ **DOMINION THEOLOGY:** A KEY REVELATION OF NEW TRUTH IS THE "DOMINION" CONCEPT OF "THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."

- ✓ They believe the new powers that God is giving His church allows them to "take authority" over the devil by the power and authority of their *own* words.
- ✓ Even those genuine Christians who are non-cessationists believe they only have the power to cast out demons with words from the Holy Spirit, not by the authority of their *own* words.
- ✓ However, the N.A.R. teaches that because God created the universe with a word, we also have the power to create and destroy things in the spiritual realm with our own words.
- ✓ Do you see the irony here? The N.A.R. teaches that because God spoke the universe into existence with a Word we, as "little" gods, also have the power to birth and destroy things in the spiritual realm with our own words—exactly as we speak them.
  - But now they are saying that God's original words do not have authority exactly as He spoke them.



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- His original "message" as He intended it didn't come through. The literal meaning of His Word is in "tension" with the original "message."
  - So, our words have authority, but *His Word is* flawed! The "little" god is greater than the Big One! The clay knows better than the Potter!
- ✓ The N.A.R. would do well to read the *entire* Lord's Prayer, which in addition to "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" also says "**For *Thine* is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.**" God has made it clear He will **not** give His glory to another (Isaiah 42:8)!
- ✓ If satan is the father of liars, he is also the father of those who wish to usurp God's Power. Indeed, Brian Simmons speaks the very words of satan in a sermon.<sup>5</sup>
- ✓ This idea of the Church taking dominion over the earth also pairs with their **perverted notion of "impartation."** They teach that God has "imparted" authority to us and we use that authority to take dominion for God however we see fit.
- ✓ By contrast, the way Jesus used *His* authority was that **He only did those things He saw His *Father* doing** and He **had no authority of His own.**

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<sup>5</sup> One of satan's primary mantras is: "Light is darkness and darkness is light." Compare to [Brian Simmons in a sermon](#) saying: "**The horizon filled with darkness is not a storm of judgment, it is the coming Glory Cloud that has yet to be perceived as it really is.**" Darkness is light that is (for now) not "perceived" as the light that it really is. The "angel of light" *looks* dark, but relax, everything is okay, you can trust him. Just work on your "perception."

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- (As is so often the case, they quote Scripture to make it look like they are relying upon it, but examination shows they do not really act according to that scriptural principle.
  - In fact, they use this language to show Jesus was not really God while He was on Earth.)
- ✓ Indeed, they feel that the authority God imparted to them is greater than the authority God had to begin with. They teach that prayer is us "giving God permission" to work on Earth, which is a frank rejection of the true doctrine of sovereignty. (Note, Tony Evans is associated with the N.A.R.) This article he entitled "Holding God Accountable."
- ✓ This error comes from their heretical definition of "faith" as a **Force**, a power, which believers supposedly wield by their ability to believe in their own powers that were "imparted" to them through the word of an N.A.R. "apostle."

**"Trust the Force, Luke!"**

**"I am your Father!"**

⇒ **THE CENTRALITY OF MIRACLES: "A GOSPEL WITHOUT POWER IS NOT A GOSPEL."**

- ✓ Miracles as the method: The N.A.R. teaches that the purpose of miracles is to wow people into believing the Gospel.
- ✓ No discernment of spirits. Anything supernatural is from God.
  - I saw a video that shows what appears to be one of their leaders casting a demon *into* a follower. The follower fell down jerking around and screaming horribly in what sounded like pain while the leader cried, "Hallelujah! More,

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Lord, more! More power! More fire! More, more, more!"

[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE.](#)

- They love to waive a hand and "blast" the Holy Spirit over the congregation. There is a shocking video of the Hindu devotees of the "Kundalini" spirit, a false god, shown side-by-side with a video of N.A.R. ecstasy manifestations, and you can clearly see the N.A.R. is actually controlled by this same false god. [WATCH THE VIDEO HERE.](#)

⇒ **CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM: THE "LITTLE GODS" IDEA COMBINED WITH DOMINIONISM EXTENDS FURTHER INTO THE "SEVEN MOUNTAINS MANDATE."**

- ✓ The N.A.R. teaches that the church is destined to use these new authorities and powers to conquer the Earth and thus "release" Jesus to return.
- ✓ Christians are supposed to infiltrate and dominate the seven spheres of influence in society, specifically: religion, family, education, government, media, arts & entertainment, and business. Again, they pervert meanings, quoting:

***"But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."*** (Dan. 7:18).

Johnny Enlow,  
"The Seven Mountain Prophecy:  
Unveiling the Coming Elijah Revolution"

- ✓ Of course, this domination also includes Christians coming to possess all of the wealth of the world as well. How convenient. That will be certain to keep the Prosperity Gospel in the camp.
- ✓ Apparently, Paul's warnings that the last days would be

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dangerous times for the church, and Jesus' predictions that the end times would involve persecution, carry less weight than their own "new vision" of the church's future.

- ✓ God has supposedly delegated His work to us to accomplish by exercising the powers He "imparted" to us, as led by the "prophets." The Bible teaches that Jesus will take over the Earth and set everything straight upon His second coming, but the N.A.R. teaches that the church is destined to do that now and, in fact, He cannot come back until the Earth reaches a state where His "will is done on earth as it is in heaven."
- ✓ This is a good example of using familiar Christian terms to refer to entirely different theology than those terms mean to us.
- ✓ For example, when they use the term "spiritual warfare," they mean using dominion theology and the "seven mountains mandate" through the authority and powers of the apostles to enable the Church to turn the Earth into heaven now, so that Jesus will want to come back to it.

**PART V: THE MASSIVE THREAT OF THE N.A.R.**

The "New Apostolic Reformation" shockingly employs the title "Reformation" in its fullest sense. Their stated intention is to change Christianity to the same degree that the Protestant Reformation did. They seem to believe they are some kind of collective embodiment of a modern-day Martin Luther, calling true believers out of a church which has been corrupted by years of false tradition.

The N.A.R. is a radical theological reformation in the sense that while the Protestant Reformation emphasized *sola scriptura*, the N.A.R. claims a Second Apostolic Age is returning the church to days of authoritative revelations of

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God's truth. This dramatic version of the term "Reformation" is not my imagining: Leading "apostle" Ché Ahn stated this precisely (Listen from 41:49 to 45:00). Ahn also says that apostles are 82 times more important than pastors (42:00 to 42:26).

Worse, unlike the Protestant split, they can convert you without your realizing you have changed religions. Not only is that the scariest thing I have ever heard of, it is also an entirely new phenomenon in the history of Christianity. No ideological movement in the history of our planet has ever been as crafty as these people.

Indeed, the N.A.R. they are (in their corporate expression) the returning Messiah. This type of false claim is exactly what Jesus predicted would happen "at the end of the age" (Matthew 24:3).

True, our own LCMS denomination is very stout and solid in its adherence to historical theology, and thus our people are not likely to be susceptible to the N.A.R. (Indeed, the N.A.R.'s main appeal is to charismatics.) Nevertheless, we should educate ourselves about this movement and we should, as a precaution, inoculate our congregations against the N.A.R. in the same way that wise people get vaccines to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, even though they have only a small likelihood of being exposed. Moreover, the N.A.R. is a threat to true Christianity *itself*, and any threat to Christianity itself is not something the LCMS should leave unchallenged any more than Martin Luther himself would have remained silent about such a threat in his day.

Therefore, I suggest the LCMS should take an active part in exposing the N.A.R.'s heresies, and should announce a formal stand against their primary heresies (not them, but their heresies). The Lutheran church—having been birthed in the forge of confronting massive theological error and fearlessly pronouncing scriptural truth in its stead—should today step up once again and take a leading voice, hopefully inspiring other denominations to take their own stands as well. We might even consider augmenting our statement of faith to clarify our rejection of the N.A.R. heresies.

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Please do not be lulled into complacency by the idea that these are just a bunch of whackos that will never really gain traction in the true church, least of all the Lutheran Church. Recall that, when the gay movement first proposed that homosexuality and Christianity were compatible, the idea was so far-fetched that, at first, pretty much nobody in Protestantism took the threat seriously.

Look how *that* went!

The N.A.R. is even more dangerous than the gay threat because the ideas they open up with don't sound so plainly far-fetched to mainstream believers as did the idea of gay ministers and gay weddings in the church.

The N.A.R. craftily presents a posture of being focused on loving Jesus more, worshipping Him more fully, putting our faith into action, and bringing the influence of Jesus more to bear on contemporary culture. By the time a person gets pulled in by these orthodox-sounding overtures, resistance to the more extreme doctrines and practices these overtures encapsulate has been subconsciously worn down.

Another thing that makes the N.A.R. unlike any false Messiah that has ever come before is that its leaders seem to have so little interest in money. Unlike Kenneth Copeland and so many televangelists who have become fabulously rich with their false teachings, the N.A.R. leaders appear to live in modest houses and wear modest clothes and live a modest lifestyle. Thus, they seem sincerely devoted to their message itself, not to any benefit they may derive from it.

Nor do they portray the inflated egos of prior false teachers. Yet that ego is there! It is seen in their grandiose understanding of their own spiritual power and authority as "apostles" and "prophets," which is the *real* illicit benefit they derive from their message; yet their convincingly humble and earnest personae are amazingly seductive to sincere people.

The N.A.R. seems to be satan's strategic move to prepare mankind to accept the Beast and the anti-Christ which, in the Revelation, obtain power by working

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miracles. Miracles is the N.A.R.'s first principle. To this point, they have not been able to perform real miracles; however, by developing in believers such a **hunger for the miraculous**, all that has to happen is for real miracles to start occurring and people will be amazed and flock to the source of that power (Revelation 13:11-15):

***Then I saw another beast that rose out of the earth; it had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.***

***It exercises all the authority of the first beast on its behalf, and it makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound had been healed.***

***It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in the sight of all; and by the signs that it is allowed to perform on behalf of the beast, it deceives the inhabitants of earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that had been wounded by the sword and yet lived;***

***and it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast so that the image of the beast could even speak and cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.***

There has never been such a dangerous threat to the Church in its **existence**. Like the watchman on the wall, God might find our denomination deficient if we didn't vocally articulate what is truly at stake here and sound the alarm to all true believers that the N.A.R. is based on heresies; in fact these are the heresies that Jesus and the apostles warned would start to arise at the end times.

While Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses and other false messiahs seek to convert people from outside of their theological spectrum, including the non-churched, the N.A.R. focuses primarily on converting existing Christians into their movement while keeping them based within their own churches, completely unaware they have just changed to a different religion, and thus spreading the N.A.R.'s heresies throughout their entire congregation.

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Just as our congregants should be able to explain to people why Mormonism or Jehovah’s Witnesses do not represent true Christianity, so they should also be able to explain why the N.A.R.—in spite of its cleverly deceptive “Christian-speak”—is just as heretical, if not worse. Indeed, the N.A.R.’s zeal for finding new members is probably double the zeal of the Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses put together.

One of the “affiliated” ministries that has come on board with the N.A.R. is Kenneth Copeland’s “Prosperity Gospel” movement, the perverted doctrines of which are beyond the scope of this paper. Suffice it to say that the N.A.R. is absorbing various other Christian-looking heretical movements under one banner, while at the same time extending its tentacles into true churches and pulling them under the same omnibus web of false doctrines. What could be more dangerous than that? Nothing of this sort has ever happened before in the history of the Church.

The N.A.R. is not a harmless offshoot or a flash in the pan. Over the last **thirty years**, they have **imperceptibly consumed** so much of the Christian community that they now comprise the [largest non-Catholic segment of world Christianity](#), and recently the rate of the movement’s *rate of* expansion has begun to accelerate dramatically.

**The enormous challenge of the N.A.R. movement cannot be ignored. It absolutely must be discussed openly in our churches, and we must not delay.**

**CONCLUSION: SUGGESTED LCMS RESPONSE**

The N.A.R. movement is not simply a Christian movement that has embraced some heretical teachings. It is a non-Christian belief system. Yet it has all the trappings of a legitimate denomination or church; their sheep’s clothing is immaculate. Because so many legitimate churches have welcomed N.A.R. wolves to their pulpits, and have even become affiliated with the N.A.R. movement, **the N.A.R. is the biggest threat to the true church *in its existence*.**



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**[A] THE N.A.R.'S THREAT GOES FAR BEYOND MUSIC**

Their music sounds like a passionate deep relationship with Jesus and deep worship of Him. This is because they actually refrain from putting their most obviously heretical ideas into that music so it will sell among true Christian crowds. Their music is a major lead-in to introduce N.A.R. influence into mainstream churches.

The New Testament warns of false teachers "creeping in" amongst the true believers. **Here, however, the false teachers are not creeping in; they are announcing themselves boldly as the true leaders of the Church.** Remember, these false "apostles" claim total authority over God's work on Earth, so these affiliated churches are being wooed into submitting their decisions and their direction *and their doctrine* under the N.A.R.

Their passion book is being promoted as superior to the "Old Order" translations and, shockingly, is now somewhat accepted within true church circles. It is offered by mainstream Christian book distributors, is included in the authoritative Logos Bible software, and many pastors of various denominations sometimes read selections from it in the pulpit.

It is not enough to simply warn our congregations to avoid the N.A.R.'s music. We should also tell them that the N.A.R.'s so-called "Passion Translation" is just as heretical as the Book of Mormon or the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses, and that the N.A.R.'s major doctrines are just as heretical.

The N.A.R. is extremely clever and successful at converting whole congregations into their movement. One of the reasons they are so successful is because they are such crafty experts at veiling their heresies in "Christian-speak."

***Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say..."***

Genesis 3:1

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Although the LCMS is very stout and solid in its theology and our people are not likely to be susceptible to the N.A.R., we should be educated about the N.A.R., and we should take an active part in refuting them, as well as informing other true denominations and individual Christians of any true denomination about their dangers.

**[B] ANYTHING THAT ATTACKS THE TRUE CHURCH ATTACKS THE LCMS**

Honestly, I can't see any solid, active member of the LCMS being drawn into a group of people who twitch and sway their heads and crawl around barking like dogs. But that does not mean the new wave of alternative Christianity that is sweeping around the globe is something we can ignore. Indeed, the N.A.R.'s sense that these **are** portentous times—while their approach to that is wholly erroneous—may actually be valid.

For decades, various Christian preachers have declared we are in the “last days” or the “end times,” many of them attempting to cast news headlines into fulfillments of some biblical prophecy. The truth is, there have *always* been “wars and rumors of wars” and other things Jesus predicted. However, what is unheard of before our time is the development of **things that are associated with the end times which mankind has *not* seen in the past:**

- A. **THE GLOBAL NORMALIZATION AND APPLAUSE FOR HOMOSEXUALITY** (Romans chapter 1). Recently, when it legalized same-sex marriage, the United States Supreme Court enshrined into the Constitution of the world's leading democracy a new definition of marriage and of humankind that overthrew the human race's history of marriage which has existed since the foundation of the world.
- B. **A HERETOFORE UNHEARD OF LEVEL OF HATRED FOR AUTHORITY.** Witness the rioting and the festering hatred of police (click [here](#) and [here](#)).

***Bold and willful, they are *not* afraid to slander the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in***

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***might and power, do not bring against them a slanderous judgment from the Lord. These people, however, are like irrational animals, mere creatures of instinct, born to be caught and killed. They slander what they do not understand, and when those creatures are destroyed, they also will be destroyed, suffering the penalty for doing wrong.***

2 Pe 2:10–13

- C. **THE N.A.R. ITSELF.** Jesus predicted a defining characteristic of the last days would be false prophets. While there have always been cults such as Jonestown, David Koresh, and even Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, there has never been anything like the N.A.R. **It directly targets the "elect,"** which Jesus emphasized in Matthew chapter 24 as an identifier. The N.A.R. claims to be God's voice in the last days. The N.A.R. claims the authority of the Messiah Himself to issue Scripture and to appoint apostles. It claims to be the head of the entire Church. Nothing anywhere close to this has arisen before.
- D. Reading between the lines, based on the almost certainty that the N.A.R. is being used by satan himself as his own mouthpiece, it would seem that satan himself believes these are the last days. You can see a hint of this in a sermon in which Simmons seems to be conditioning Christians to accept the mark of the Beast (Revelation 13:16-17) on their forehead as though it were the crown of Christ. ([Watch Anti-Christ as Christ](#), at video half way down the page.)

Although our faithful congregants are not likely to succumb to the N.A.R. and join their crazy ranks, our congregants' children and grandchildren might be more vulnerable than we may think. The LCMS already faces a decline in numbers and a tendency of our younger generation to go out into the world, forgetting their baptism and (if applicable) their confirmation. And now, at the same time that we have been

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finding ourselves needing to rebuild our denomination, we suddenly find the Gospel threatened from without. This is a wake-up call. Satan is on the move! Great effort and great labor lie before us if we are to be triumphant—and that we shall be!

***“For still our ancient foe  
does seek to work us woe  
His craftiness and power are great”***

***“Yet though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us.”***

***“That Word above all earthly powers  
no thanks to them abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!”***

The N.A.R. threat is a major event in human history affecting all of God's people of all denominations. We should consider being open to engaging in inter-denominational dialogue on fighting this threat. We should consider reaching out to those denominations who—though perhaps not correct in all aspects—adhere to the core of orthodox Christian beliefs, what many would call “mainstream” Protestant denominations. We should stand with—and perhaps coordinate with—all true

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Christian denominations against all Church-wide threats to the very Gospel itself.

**Question:** Who in the world cared least about the Lutheran denomination?

**Answer:** Martin Luther

**Question:** What did Martin Luther care about more than his own life?

**Answer:** Combating error and bringing the truth of God to his generation!

The defining characteristics of Martin Luther were that he understood the times in which he lived and he understood what God wanted to do within the Church in those times and he sacrificed everything to get that done! Martin Luther would be deeply gratified to see his followers—half a millennium later—understanding the times in which they lived and understanding the real threats to the Church in our times and sacrificing everything to combat that error and bring truth to our generation, which generation quite possibly is entering into the actual beginning of the Last Days. What a momentous time in which we live!

And so it is that the LCMS, in these remarkable times in which we live, should undertake a massive twofold effort. We must take a stand against this false "Reformation" and, at the same time, we must revitalize our own true Reformation so as to return to our roots and change the world as Martin Luther did before us!

As our example in times past, the re-builders of Jerusalem worked with a tool in one hand and a sword in the other:

***The burden bearers carried their loads in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and with the other held a weapon. And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built.***

Nehemiah 4:17-18

So Lutherans today should both fight the false revival and cry out to God for

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Him to truly revive us. I discuss what each of these prongs mean below:

**[C] THE LCMS SHOULD TAKE A FORMAL, PUBLIC STANCE ON THE N.A.R.**

Paul instructed Timothy to expose and confront heretics. I believe this should be done at the denominational level with clarity and firmness.

⇒ **ASSESSMENT: THE LCMS SHOULD INITIATE A THOROUGH STUDY OF THE N.A.R.**

- ✓ Due to the severity and universal church-wide nature of the threat the N.A.R. poses, I recommend that the LCMS senior leadership jump off from this paper and initiate a more thorough, authoritative, study to fully scrutinize the N.A.R. **(Perhaps by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations?)**
- ✓ This study should distinguish between LCMS amillennialism and N.A.R. amillennialism. It also should involve an exegetical and hermeneutical analysis of the theology in Bill Johnson's book *"When Heaven Invades Earth"* by a recognized theological scholar. Other books to scrutinize might include:
  - *"Apostles and Prophets"* (C. Peter Wagner)
  - *"Shifting Shadow of Supernatural Power: A Prophetic Manual for those Wanting to Move in God's Supernatural Power"* (various)
  - *"This Changes Everything"* (C. Peter Wagner)
- ✓ However, this study should NOT involve any linguistic analysis of the passion book, knowing that some have, in fact,

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defended the passion book linguistically, in spite of the ("slightly" troubling) "flawed methodology." The problem with getting into debates about Simmons' linguistic qualifications, whether certain texts remain true to the original texts, etc. is that it legitimizes the passion book. Seeing such debates, lay people might think this is just one of many complex theological issues that Christians talk about within their own faith family and, while they may not be competent or interested to analyze the minutia, they might just think the issue of adding words to Scripture is open for discussion. The LCMS should denounce the "methodology" (which involves questioning whether it is really forbidden to change God's Word) as a bad tree whose fruit need not be examined.

- ✓ The idea that people are discussing whether it is okay to add to God's word (through whatever "methodology") is to ask a stupid question that should never be discussed. Can you imagine an Israelite gathering some other men after Moses presented the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments trying to get a discussion started as to whether it is a good idea to make an idol of another god and worship it? Such a discussion itself is an unquantifiable evil that perfectly mirrors satan himself in Genesis chapter three:

***Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman,***

***"Did God say,***

***'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?"***

***The woman said to the serpent,***

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**"We may eat of the fruit of the trees  
in the garden; but God said,**

**'You shall not eat of the fruit of the  
tree that is in the middle of the  
garden, nor shall you touch it, or you  
shall die.'** "

**But the serpent said to the  
woman,**

**"You will not die;**

**for God knows that when you eat of it  
your eyes will be opened, and you  
will be like God, knowing good and  
evil."**

**So when the woman saw that the tree was good for  
food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that  
the tree was to be desired to make one wise...**

- ✓ Notice how satan first asked if Eve she was not allowed to eat and got a discussion started. That led to him saying it is okay to do what God forbid, ("you shall not die") and that interested Eve in a discussion of the benefits. Our point should be that even if some benefit might theoretically result from adding to God's Word, He said not to do it so—END OF DISCUSSION!
- ✓ Note how the benefits satan offered to Eve are the exact same benefits the passion book supposedly offers to us:
  - **"Did God say?"** In other words, "You should look for possible loop holes in Scriptures that forbid adding to God's Word."
  - **Thou "shalt not?"** In other words, maybe He meant, "Thou shalt not unless adding the words changes the message; but so long as it does not change the



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message, that is not the thing God was forbidding."

And how do we know it does not change the message? Because it comes from God through Brian Simmons, a new "apostle." And how do we know there are such people today? Because Simmons' "message" tells us so!

- **"Your eyes will be opened."** The passion book promises new truth that others have never known before. It will "unlock" secrets of the Bible that were "hidden" from previous generations.
- The result of this new "truth" is that: **"You will be like God."** This idea of hidden knowledge underscored Gnostic cosmology, which the true apostles who laid the true "foundation" of the church pointedly refuted in the Scripture. We have already seen how the "new" truth the N.A.R. offers is intoxicated with the idea of the powers and authority God is now supposedly giving to his more "advanced" followers.
- **"It was a delight to the eyes."** The passion book website drips with flowery language about a more passionate relationship with Jesus, seeing His true love for you "unveiled," having a "fiery" Bible (Jesus said His Word is "living," not "fiery."
- **"To make one wise."** The passion book promises to make you wise in ways that all of the other translations cannot do.

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⇒ **ACTION:** THE LCMS SHOULD PUBLISH AND PUBLICIZE A FORMAL STATEMENT.

- ✓ If the findings of the study agree with me about the severity of the N.A.R.'s threat, the LCMS should publish an official declaration that the N.A.R. and its passion book are heresy. [Others are interested in doing this.](#)
- ✓ This formal statement might also reach out to those who are beginning to come out of the N.A.R., having now realized it is heresy, and invite them into the LCMS for true Word and Sacrament. The number of [true Christians starting to come out of the N.A.R.](#) is significantly increasing, and we should reach out to them because they, like the one sheep who went astray, will appreciate true foundation of Word and Sacrament perhaps more fully than the ninety and nine who never strayed.
- ✓ Finally, this formal statement must be directed to the Church at large, not just our own faith house. Given the amazing breadth of the N.A.R.'s worldwide influence, we should be intentional of **publicizing a statement that calls out the N.A.R. as heresy to the entire world, especially to the entire family of true Christian churches.** That might mean hiring an advertising consultant to help us make it terse, clear, and compelling and then marketing the statement. I think the point about writing their own Bible should be featured prominently because all of their other doctrines will be debatable to some, but *all* true Christians should recognize that preaching a changeable God and a changeable Scripture is heresy.

***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.***

Hebrews 13:8

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[D] THE LCMS SHOULD "RETURN TO OUR FIRST LOVE"

Recall the original draw of the N.A.R. It craftily fills a genuine vacuum in the church. One thing they are correct about is that we in true Christianity have lost our passion. We are wondering why our denomination is declining. Some have proposed that our pastors need to start visibly "engaging" our culture with open discussion of difficult issues relevant to today's society. Others have suggested Lutheran couples having more children. Others have suggested working harder to keep confirmed children involved with the church.

I propose that the best way to fight false revival is with true revival. I believe the answer is to start making Christ *in us* more visible to the world and to have more children *in the faith* through evangelism. But that can only happen when we reinvigorate our congregations.

⇒ **REKINDLING THE FIRE OF LUTHERANISM: RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS.**

- ✓ Martin Luther was ready to pay with his life if necessary to restore God's truth to his generation. In the early days of the Reformation, the congregations were vibrant and deeply focused on God's Word and on their personal relationships with Christ. We need to "revitalize the Reformation" by going back to our roots:

***"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:***

***"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false.***

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***“I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary.***

***“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.***

***“Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.***

***“Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.***

***“Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.”***

Revelation 2:1--7

- ✓ Jesus said He is the vine and we are the branches. That means the LCMS can only thrive if the denomination abides in Christ and as his “sap” flows between each of us and through each of our veins (*and that “sap” is His love, John 15:9 below*).

This is what will make the people of the world see that we are His, and that will glorify Him as a *good* God, to Whom people naturally will be attracted. Jesus said that when He is the distinctive quality of His people’s lives, God will be honored by the way His love is seen among us:

***“I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.***

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***“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.***

***“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”***

John 15:5, 8, & 9

⇒ **ABSORBING THE WORD:** OF COURSE, PART OF “ABIDING” IS ABIDING IN THE WORD, WHICH IS THE TRUE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.

***If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.***

John 15:7

- ✓ I recommend that all LCMS pastors should be encouraged to commit to reading the entire Bible once a year, and to challenge their congregations to join them in this process.
- ✓ I recommend a Bible called the [Every Day Bible](#). It is divided into 365 sections for just that purpose. Each day contains one reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, one from Psalms, and one from Proverbs. It only costs \$19 USD.

⇒ **APPLYING THE CATECHISM:** WE SHOULD ALSO STRENGTHEN OUR ROOTS IN THE CATECHISM.

- ✓ Going through Confirmation once as a youngster does not mean we will remember the Catechism until we are eighty. I suggest we should have regular refresher courses.
- ✓ One of the things that will bring revival to the LCMS is to focus on Luther's approach in the Catechism. With every theological point of doctrine, he always included how that should be applied in our lives.

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- ✓ Refresher classes should include pointed discussions of how to apply these application points tangibly in our daily lives. It will be a challenge to translate these principles into our modern cultural arena. But that is exactly the thing Lutherans should be thinking about in these most unsettling times.

⇒ **WALKING IN LOVE: WE SHOULD BUILD STRONG LOVING RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR CONGREGATIONS.**

- ✓ Society needs to see a loving Christian faith, not an obnoxious political one that loves to "cry out in the streets" (Isaiah 42:2). I doubt people associate Lutherans with some of the more cantankerous Evangelical politics going around lately, but just as a precaution, we should remember that politics in general is man's thing. Love is God's thing.
- ✓ Love is the central commandment of the Bible. Indeed, God *is* Love.

**God is love.**

1 John 4:8

***Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.***

1 Peter 4:8

***Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart.***

1 Peter 1:22

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- ✓ The early Christians were *defined* by the fact that they loved one another:

***"...and they love one another."***

Aristides of Athens

Also quoted in some authorities as:

***"Behold, how they love one another!"***

- ✓ Which is as Jesus Himself declared:

***"By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."***

John 13:35

- ✓ As people see a hotter passion for the true Christ and the warmth of true love for each other flourishing within our true Church; as they see us returning to our first love and lifting up Christ in our hearts, they will be more attracted to coming over to us than to going after the outlandish N.A.R.

***"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself."***

John 12:32

- ✓ As the apostle John said, the genuineness of the true Christ inherently takes authority over the false appeal of a false Christ:

***The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.***

John 1:5

So the answers—both for fighting the false lies of the N.A.R. **and** for revitalizing our denomination are to: (1) take a stand for the doctrine of the True Gospel; (2) seek revival within our own walls; and, (3) reach out to those in our secular world, as well

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as those ensnared within the N.A.R., by means of true evangelism, Word, and Sacrament.

This is the only correct approach to combatting false revival, and the only workable approach to reinvigorating our own denomination and so fulfilling the Great Commission within our generation.

Respectfully Submitted,  
D. Stanley Ferguson  
First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wellsville, NY

[Doug@MorrisSon.Org](mailto:Doug@MorrisSon.Org)



# FIVE EXAMPLES OF ADDING WORDS AND IDEAS

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[\[Click here to return to “Corollaries of ‘Filling In’ the ‘Full Message’”\]](#)

[\[Click here to return to discussion of Aramaic\]](#)

## [A] MATTHEW 10:2

### **“The Passion Translation”**

Now, these are the names of the **first** twelve apostles: first, Simon...

### **All Other Translations** † [\[Click for Versions Consulted\]](#)

It is just “the twelve apostles: first, Simon...”

None of them place an *additional* “**first**” in front of “**twelve.**”

### **Ancient Aramaic Texts**

#### **The Leading Three Translations from Original Aramaic New Testament (Called the Peshitta)**

Dr. John W. Etheridge	Now, of the twelve apostles the names are these: the first of them, Shemun...
Dr. James Murdock	And the names of those twelve Legates are these: The first of them, Simon...
Dr. George Lamsa	The names of the twelve apostles are these: The first of them Simon...

### **Reason the N.A.R. Added This Material**

The addition of “**first**” in front of the title “twelve **apostles**” suggests that there are more apostles to come after the first twelve. Jesus appointed some in His day, but others would come along later...*the N.A.R.*, of course! This is why God said not to add one single word. The Jehovah’s Witnesses added one tiny word “a” before “god” in the opening of the Gospel of John. *One* word, simply changing away from the anarthrous, knocked out two Persons of the Trinity!

# FIVE EXAMPLES OF ADDING WORDS AND IDEAS

## [B] EPHESIANS 3:12

### **“The Passion Translation”**

...we have boldness through Him, and free access **as kings before the Father** because of our complete confidence in Christ’s faithfulness.

### **All Other Translations** † [\[Click for Versions Consulted\]](#)

Not a single one has the word “kings” or Father or any associated idea or words.

### **Ancient Aramaic Texts**

Simmons says in a footnote: “The Aramaic text can be translated “we have kingship.” However, the Aramaic texts have no words or ideas associated with kings or kingship.

### **The Leading Three Translations from Original Aramaic New Testament (Called the Peshitta)**

Dr. John W. Etheridge	by whom we have freedom and access with the confidence of the faith of him.
Dr. James Murdock	through whom we have boldness and access, in the confidence of his faith.
Dr. George Lamsa	In whom we have freedom of access with confidence in his faith.

### **Reason the N.A.R. Added This Material**

The N.A.R. loves to exalt themselves in their grandiose view of their own authority and rank. They want to be “kings” with their own “realms.”

# FIVE EXAMPLES OF ADDING WORDS AND IDEAS

## [C] REVELATION 20:6

### **“The Passion Translation” (2017 version)**

Wonderfully blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection! The second death holds no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of the Christ. And they will **reign as kings** with him a thousand years!

### **All Other Translations** † [[Click for Versions Consulted](#)]

Not a single one has the word “kings” or any idea associated with that word.

### **Ancient Aramaic Texts**

#### **The Leading Three Translations from Original Aramaic New Testament (Called the Peshitta)**

Dr. John W. Etheridge	Blessed and holy is he who hath part in the first resurrection: upon them the second death hath not power; but they shall be priests of Aloha and of his Meshiha, and shall reign with him the thousand years.
Dr. James Murdock	Blessed and holy is he that hath part in this first resurrection: over them the second death hath no dominion; but they shall be, [nay] are, priests of God and of his Messiah; and they will reign with him the thousand years.
Dr. George Lamsa	Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection: over them the second death has no power, but they shall be the priests of God and of his Christ, and they shall reign with him a thousand years.

## FIVE EXAMPLES OF ADDING WORDS AND IDEAS

### **Reason the N.A.R. Added This Material**

The N.A.R. loves to exalt themselves in their grandiose view of their own authority and rank. They want to be “kings” with their own “realms.”

### **Drastic Significance of This Specific Addition**

Potentially, one could argue that God’s commands to never add to or subtract from His Word do not apply to the entire Bible. The command is mentioned in Deuteronomy, but that could be taken to refer only to the Old Testament. And the command appears in the Revelation but, by its terms, the Revelation command applies only to the book of Revelation:

***I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book; if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.***

Revelation 21:18-19

Here, however, Simmons has without any doubt crossed the ***unpardonable*** line: He has **added a word to the Revelation!** So, unfortunately for Simmons, God is not going to add “king” to his resume on Judgement Day, but *instead* God will impose upon him the *plagues* in the Revelation (I wonder if he added to *those?*). Already, God has **blotted Simmons’ name out of the Book of Life** and shortly will throw him into eternal hellfire. At this point, it is too late; there is nothing he can do about it. You can’t unbreak a command. It is **done!** Brian Simmons is now an **apostate**:

***For IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO RESTORE AGAIN TO REPENTANCE those who have once been enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, AND THEN HAVE FALLEN AWAY.*** Hebrews 6:4-6

and it is now impossible for him to overcome (conquer):

***IF you conquer...I will NOT blot YOUR NAME OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE.*** Revelation 3:5

# FIVE EXAMPLES OF ADDING WORDS AND IDEAS

## [D] EPHESIANS 3:8

### **“The Passion Translation” (2017 version)**

Even though I am the least significant of all his holy believers, this grace-gift was **imparted when the manifestation of his power came upon me. Grace alone empowers me** so that I can boldly preach this wonderful message to non-Jewish people, sharing with them the unfading, inexhaustible riches of Christ, which are beyond comprehension.

### **All Other Translations** † [[Click for Versions Consulted](#)]

Not a single one has anything about “imparting,” or “manifestation,” or “power” coming upon anyone, or about God “empowering” anyone.

### **Ancient Aramaic Texts**

#### **The Leading Three Translations from Original Aramaic New Testament (Called the Peshitta)**

Dr. John W. Etheridge	To me, who am the least of all the saints, is given this grace, that I should preach among the Gentiles the riches of the Meshiha, which are not searched;
Dr. James Murdock	To me, who am the least of all the saints, hath this grace been given, that I should announce among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of the Messiah,
Dr. George Lamsa	Even to me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ

### **Reason the N.A.R. Added This Material**

The N.A.R. loves to exalt themselves in their grandiose view of their own authority and the powers specially imparted to them from God.

# FIVE EXAMPLES OF ADDING WORDS AND IDEAS

## [E] PHILIPPIANS 1:2

### **“The Passion Translation” (2015 version)**

**We decree over your lives** the blessings of divine grace and supernatural peace that flow from God our wonderful Father, and our Anointed Messiah, the Lord Jesus.

### **All Other Translations** † [[Click for Versions Consulted](#)]

None of them talk about “decrees” over anybody’s lives; they *start* with “Grace...”

### **Ancient Aramaic Texts**

#### **The Leading Three Translations from Original Aramaic New Testament (Called the Peshitta)**

Dr. John W. Etheridge	Grace be with you and peace from Aloha our Father, and from our Lord Jeshu Meshiha.
Dr. James Murdock	Grace be with you, and peace from God our Father, and from our Lord Jesus the Messiah.
Dr. George Lamsa	Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from our LORD Jesus Christ.

### **Reason the N.A.R. Added This Material**

“**Decreeing**” things over people’s lives shows authority, which ties in with the “little gods doctrine,” and the idea that our *own* words direct the forces of the universe and bind God to do what we say.

It also ties in with the doctrine of “impartation,” namely, that apostles and prophets can issue “decrees,” which are authoritative grants of God's power toward others. In other words, **a decree is not a request for God to do something, but a declaration that He will do so because the apostle has authority to “release” God's power** by his apostolic command.

## FIVE EXAMPLES OF ADDING WORDS AND IDEAS

THIS IS THE MOST SHOCKING EXAMPLE OF THE FIVE. THE 2015 EDITION (THE ORIGINAL) WENT WAY TOO FAR, AND SIMMONS WAS CRITICIZED FOR IT.

SO IN THE 2017 EDITION, HE PULLED BACK AND RETRACTED THE “**DECREE OVER YOUR LIVES**” LANGUAGE:

### **“The Passion Translation” (2017 version)**

**May** the blessings of divine grace and supernatural peace that flow from God our wonderful Father, and our Messiah, the Lord Jesus, **be upon** your lives.

THIS HUMAN EDITING PROCESS (ESPECIALLY DUE TO POLITICAL PRESSURE) IS ABSOLUTE PROOF THAT THE MODIFICATIONS IN THE PASSION BOOK COME FROM SIMMONS’ HUMAN MIND AND EFFORTS, NOT BY SPECIAL REVELATION FROM JESUS.

THE IRONY! FIRST, SIMMONS DECLARES THAT JESUS IS CORRECTING THE ORIGINAL “MEANING” OF HIS WORD TO NOW REFLECT THE ORIGINAL “MESSAGE,” WHICH HE DIDN’T GET RIGHT THE FIRST TIME. NOW, IT APPEARS, JESUS HAS TO *EDIT* HIS NEW REVELATION BECAUSE, YET *AGAIN*, HE DIDN’T GET *THAT* RIGHT EITHER!

APPARENTLY, NOT ONLY DOES JESUS CAVE IN TO PEOPLE’S REACTIONS, HE FAILS TO *PREDICT* SUCH REACTIONS IN THE FIRST PLACE. (Or was it *Simmons* who did that?)

INDEED, BY SIMPLY SCRUBBING UP THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE WITH NO COMMENT, SIMMONS AND THE N.A.R. ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY ROUTINELY LIE AND DECEIVE ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE REALLY DONE, AND WHAT THEY ARE REALLY UP TO.

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<sup>†</sup> **Versions Consulted:**

1. **New Heart English Bible**
2. **Expanded Bible**
3. **Amplified Bible (shows multiple word choices)**
4. **Mounce Reverse Greek Interlinear**
5. **Literal Standard Version**
6. **Young's Literal Translation**
7. **Berean Literal Bible**
8. **Disciples Literal New Testament**
9. Berean Study Bible
10. New International Version
11. King James Version
12. New King James Version
13. KJV-BRG Bible
14. Living Bible
15. New Living Translation
16. Good News Translation
17. GOD'S WORD Translation
18. J.B. Phillips New Testament
19. Evangelical Heritage Version
20. Contemporary English Version
21. Common English Bible
22. Lexham English Bible
23. World English Bible
24. Worldwide English New Testament
25. English Standard Version
26. Christian Standard Bible
27. Holman Christian Standard Bible
28. International Standard Version
29. American Standard Version
30. New American Standard Bible (NASB)
31. New American Standard Bible (NASB 1977)
32. New American Standard Bible (NASB 1995)
33. New American Bible (Revised)
34. New Revised Standard Version
35. New Century Version
36. Wycliffe Bible
37. Douay-Rheims Bible (1899 American Edition)