

## **A Letter to the BFI Network of Churches and Affiliates**

### **To Bethel Fellowship International,**

Greetings from your distant cousin reaching back to the days of our founding father, W.H. Offiler and his protégé, W.W. Patterson—men upon whose shoulders I stand from their teachings.

I came into the Bethel Temple DNA camp in 1973 through Dick Benjamin's church in Anchorage, Alaska (Abbott Loop Christian Center). Dick was saved at Bethel Temple in Seattle and sat under Offiler and Patterson's teachings on end times. He later taught these truths in his own Bible School in Anchorage, which I attended before I left to plant my first church in January of 1976.

During those days in the Anchorage Bible School, Kevin J. Conner, academic dean of the Portland Bible College in Oregon, came for several weeks to teach classes on hermeneutics and other subjects. Brother Conner is also a cousin of the BFI network through the teachings of Ray Jackson, also a protégé of Offiler who brought Offiler's teachings to the South Seas and Australia.

When Kevin was a young man, he sat under Brother Jackson's teachings from Bethel Temple. Kevin became a personal mentor to me when I met him as a student in 1975 in Anchorage. Kevin took the foundation of eschatology he received from Offiler's teachings to a greater depth in textbooks he's written for Bible Colleges; books such as *The Tabernacle of Moses*, *Interpreting the Scriptures*, *Daniel's 70 Week Prophecy*, and detailed expositions on the books of Daniel and The Revelation, just to name a few. I've read and studied all of Kevin's books, and attended his seminar on hermeneutics on two separate occasions.

In addition to Kevin's literature, I've also had the opportunity to read all the literature written by Offiler and Patterson on end times. I learned early on about Brother Offiler's encounter with the Lord he had on an extended fast. This was when he was shown significant truths about the Book of Revelation. Before W.W. Patterson passed away in 1984, I spent two wonderful afternoons at his home where I asked him many questions about scriptures in Daniel, Ezekiel and Revelation.

My greatest teacher and mentor on eschatology, however, has been Kevin Conner who, in my estimation, has had the greatest grasp on the way the end times plays out. I believe this comes from a strong foundation of applied hermeneutics on his part. I've been blessed to be able to spend many personal hours with Kevin, and have corresponded with him over four decades of teaching on this subject. Whenever I came across questions on eschatology, that needed more insight and clarification, I would ask Kevin, just as he did Brother Patterson.

Over the years I've spent thousands of hours in study to understand and teach the books of Daniel and Revelation. I developed and taught many class courses on it, and I've also developed a seminar called, "An Overview of the Revelation." Because I've always tried to help people grasp the entire flow and themes of Revelation in the easiest way possible, I wrote and published a novel in 1997 called, *The Unveiling*. In it I presented a fictitious account of the unfolding events

in Revelation through characters that live through that time. I am currently “on hold” rewriting the second edition of *The Unveiling* until I complete the writing of my discipleship series of workbooks (I’m on book four out of six total). You may still be able to find a copy of my first edition of *The Unveiling* through Amazon.com. I hope to create a weekly blog someday for my novel, providing a new chapter every week of the new and revised edition I’ll publish in the future.

Having said all that, I have been asked by Nils Olson to present you with my best take I can on how I see things happening in the last days. I began to do that by providing a short, quick overview to send out in an email. As I began, I was drawn into writing the book many of you now have. I’ve done my best to give you the events as they unfold, and I credit much of the tools, foundation, and seed thoughts in my book to what I learned from brother’s Offiler, Patterson and Conner. Of course, there will be a strong presence of my own thoughts and insights that has developed over four decades of my personal studies in eschatology.

As you read my book, keep in mind that Offiler, Patterson and Conner all hold a post-tribulation view, so you will not be seeing a pre-tribulation picture in what I present. I invite you to read with an open heart and mind, just as I have done from the writings and teachings I’ve pondered from my teachers.

All of these men have contributed to my studies and the understanding I possess today. I have done my due diligence of examining and testing their teachings as I would expect from any of you as you read my book.

In our learning we are all a tapestry of ideas and thoughts woven together from those who have gone before us. So I stand on the shoulders of these men, my floor is their ceiling, and to them I give honor for their love and patience in helping me to discover my own convictions.



Dr. Jay Zinn