

“Bob Jones Follow-Up”

John McClure, Newport Beach Vineyard Christian Fellowship

Sunday Morning Service, April 30, 1989

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLDmDIR8ffQ>

Source: Auto-generated YouTube transcript (Charlton W, “The Hope” channel, uploaded 2012-08-05)

Report language: English — Level 2 (no diagnostics)

Background

This is an audio recording of John C. McClure, Senior Pastor of Newport Beach Vineyard Christian Fellowship (VCF), speaking at the Sunday morning service on April 30, 1989. The meeting took place in the gymnasium of a Newport Beach high school, the congregation’s regular venue at the time.

The occasion was a “follow-up” to the previous Sunday (April 23, 1989), when Kansas City Prophet Bob Jones had appeared unannounced and ministered to the congregation. McClure uses the sermon to explain who the Kansas City Prophets are, relay the prophetic message they are delivering to the Vineyard, and call the congregation to repentance. He states he had been skeptical for months but is now convinced of their authenticity after meeting Paul Cain, Bob Jones, and John Paul Jackson personally.

The tape was obtained at the time by the uploader and preserved since. The relevant content begins at approximately 9:40.

Summary

Thesis

The Kansas City Prophets are authentic prophets of God who are bringing an urgent word of judgment, shaking, and coming revival to the church and especially to the

Vineyard. The Vineyard must repent, or face being passed over; those who humble themselves will be prepared for an extraordinary coming harvest.

1. Who Are These Prophets?

McClure opens with a biblical framework for the prophetic office, tracing it from Abraham and Moses through the NT apostles and figures such as Agabus. He draws a sharp distinction between the prophetic office (a direct divine calling, rare) and the broader gift of prophecy (available to many). He affirms that prophets can “read your mail” — know secrets of a person’s life, thoughts, and future — and that when operating under the anointing they “behave like God.”

He acknowledges that he had heard about the Kansas City Prophets since the previous summer, had been deliberately keeping them at arm’s length, but has now met three of them personally: Paul Cain, Bob Jones (who stayed at his home for three days), and John Paul Jackson. His verdict: all three are “clean,” have an “abhorrence of sin, pride, and worldliness,” and show no interest in money, sex, or glory. He treats their moral character as the primary criterion for discernment.

2. What Are They Saying?

A. Judgment and Shaking (Church-wide and Vineyard-specific)

The prophets’ first message is that 1 Peter 4:17 is being fulfilled now: judgment is beginning with the household of God. The whole church is being shaken — visible in the recent collapse of large international ministries under moral scandal — and the Lord himself, not the enemy, is moving through the churches in evaluation.

For the Vineyard specifically, 1989 is designated a year of judgment. Paul Cain confronted John Wimber in December 1988, accusing him of “sinning the sin of Eli” (failing to discipline pastors who had entered into immorality and materialism). Wimber was told he must choose between the ministry of Eli (lax, leading to destruction) and the ministry of Samuel (holy, leading to lasting fruit). When Wimber chose Samuel, the judgment process was activated.

Bob Jones told McClure that the “Vineyard Angel” — an archangel who oversees the movement — now moves through it with a sword inscribed with the Vineyard’s core values (worship/praise and signs-and-wonders compassion). Those with “heads up” will lose them; those prostrate in repentance will be spared.

McClure also shares a personal prophetic encounter: Bob Jones, while sitting beside him in a traffic jam, told him that “the Lord intends to put you to death” — meaning the death of his fleshly ministry, to be followed by resurrection as a “silverfish” shining with the Spirit. McClure treats this as true and is actively living in repentance.

Mike Bickle is described as having twice been taken in a trance before the Judgment Seat of Christ (in May 1974 and October 1978), where he heard the

verdict “saved as though by fire” because he had done his ministry for himself. These experiences are presented as the formation of his intense dedication.

B. The Results of Judgment Will Soon Be Revealed

Those who continue in open rebellion, sensuality, greed, and materialism will be “ripped down.” Those who remain neutral will be “passed over” and gradually decline. Those who humble themselves and repent will receive extraordinary blessing. The decisive point for each person in the Vineyard will be reached by the time Wimber addresses the movement at the next national gathering in August 1989.

C. Why Is God Doing This? The End Is Near

God is doing this to raise up a “new breed of leadership” across the body of Christ: people of deep repentance, holiness, intercession, authority, and signs-and-wonders ministry. More broadly, the end of the age is approaching. Bob Jones had linked the rise of abortion to the enemy trying to kill “children of the promise” (a parallel to the killing of children at the births of Moses and Jesus), implying that the generation now being born will usher in the return of Christ.

The prophets do not see the end as immediately imminent, however. They lay out several seasons: the 1990s as an extraordinary decade of growth, culminating around 1994 in a major Vineyard expansion. After the turn of the millennium, a second great move of God will come.

D. Specific Words for the Vineyard

Four clustered words for the movement: (1) total transformation and capture by Christ; (2) becoming a “prophetic church” that reveals the Father in the world; (3) doing the “ministry of Samuel” — Wimber is cast as a king-maker who will help release 12 major streams of church blessing across America; and (4) 300 “dread champions” are being raised up within the Vineyard to minister across the earth.

3. How Should We Respond?

The third strand of the sermon is pastoral application: genuine repentance (not neutral), early and attentive worship (McClure rebukes tardiness), a new fear of God, and submission of mind and abilities to the Holy Spirit. McClure urges the congregation to judge the prophets for themselves when they come to minister at an upcoming regional Vineyard gathering in the third week of September 1989.

Specific Testable Predictions

The following are concrete, time-bound or circumstance-bound predictions relayed by McClure in this sermon. All are attributed either to Bob Jones, Paul Cain, or “the

prophets” collectively. Direct quotations are from the auto-generated transcript; minor transcription artifacts (dropped articles, phonetic misspellings of names) are preserved as they appear.

Prediction 1 — All Prominent Sinful Ministries Destroyed by End of 1989

Source: Bob Jones — Timestamp approx. 00:43:00

“Bob Jones made the statement he said by the end of 1989 every Ministry of prominence that is based on Pride that is bra based on fleshly determination and sin the Lord himself will rip it down it they’ll be it’ll be gone destroyed”

This is one of the most specific and falsifiable predictions in the sermon. The claim is that by December 31, 1989, every high-profile ministry built on pride, ambition, or sin will be destroyed by God. McClure appears to receive this without reservation. The 1988–89 collapse of PTL (Jim Bakker, 1987) and Jimmy Swaggart (1988) presumably provided background validation for the claim in the hearers’ minds, but the prediction itself extends it as a general principle to be completed within a fixed calendar year.

Prediction 2 — The Vineyard Will Grow Ten Times by 1994

Source: Bob Jones — Timestamp approx. 00:47:48

“Bob Jones prophesied last week ago Saturday night that the vineyard will increase 10 times by 1994”

A quantitative, date-bound prediction. At the time of the sermon (April 1989) the Vineyard movement had roughly 200–300 congregations in North America. A ten-fold increase by 1994 would have meant approximately 2,000–3,000. The actual growth over this period was substantial but fell well short of ten times. By the early 1990s the Vineyard numbered around 400–500 churches in the US.

Prediction 3 — A Billion-Soul Harvest After the Turn of the Millennium

Source: “the prophets” collectively — Timestamp approx. 00:48:14

“during that first decade of of of the Millennium there will come a second great move of God that they are saying is going to gather a billion people to Christ”

A sweeping eschatological-demographic claim: the first decade of the 2000s will produce an unprecedented global harvest of one billion conversions. The move of

God in the 2000s was real (significant growth in the Global South), but no credible estimate approaches a billion new Christians within a single decade. The prediction also carries an implicit assumption that the 1990s Vineyard growth is preparatory seed for this harvest.

Prediction 4 — Every Vineyard Person Will Have Made Their Choice by August 1989

Source: Bob Jones and Paul Cain — Timestamp approx. 00:44:01

“Bob Jones said that this will be decided in the vineyard by the time John Wimber stands before the vineyard again Paul said the same thing when you stand before the vineyard again which our next national meeting is in in August it will be done and every person in the vineyard will have made their choice as to what they’re going to do”

A quasi-decisive moment-of-sorting prediction: by the time Wimber next addresses the national Vineyard gathering (August 1989), every person in the movement will have spiritually committed one way or another — toward repentance and blessing, or toward neutrality and decline. The prediction implies a visible outcome after the August meeting, though the criterion (“made their choice”) is internal enough to resist clean external verification.

Prediction 5 — 300 “Dread Champions” Being Raised Up in the Vineyard

Source: Paul Cain — Timestamp approx. 00:52:28

“God is now in the process of raising up dread Champions and he said these these dread Champions cause B dread to the heart of the devil and they are champions for the things of Christ and he said there are 300 of them right now being raised up in the vineyard just remarkable champions of the things of the kingdom of God and they will Minister over the whole earth”

A specific number (300, a figure with obvious biblical resonance — Gideon’s army in Judges 7) attached to a defined group within the Vineyard. The claim is that these 300 individuals are identifiable now and will eventually minister globally. No mechanism for verifying or identifying the 300 is provided.

Prediction 6 — Wimber Will Become a King-Maker for Twelve Major Church Streams

Source: “the prophets” — Timestamp approx. 00:57:17

“the prophets foresee Across America the emerging of 12 major streams of blessing all across this nation and 12 minor streams and Johnn Wimber has a very special call or role in ministering to the the release of these major streams”

“they are saying that Wimber is going to become a source of incredible blessing and Leadership to the totality of the body of Christ in the world today”

Wimber is cast in the role of Samuel: not a king himself but the anointer of kings. The prediction is that he will facilitate the emergence of twelve major renewal streams across America. McClure is careful to note he does not want to seem boastful on the Vineyard’s behalf, but reports this as the prophets’ genuine word. Wimber’s actual trajectory after 1989 included significant Ecumenical bridge-building (his involvement with Catholic charismatics, the Signs and Wonders conferences), but he also suffered major health problems from 1993 onward and died in 1997. The “12 major streams” did not materialize in any identifiable way.

Prediction 7 — McClure Himself Will Minister to Tens of Thousands in Europe

Source: Bob Jones, personal word to McClure — Timestamp approx. 00:26:27

“the Lord showed me a vision of you ministering in Europe and tens of thousands of people and you’ll be so exhausted I and the Lord wants you to know that at those times that you need to get your rest”

A personal prophetic word given by Bob Jones on the final morning of his stay at the McClure home, describing a future large-scale European ministry. McClure narrates it with a mix of awe and humor. No follow-up on whether this materialized is available from the tape itself.

Prediction 8 — The 1990s as the Most Extraordinary Decade in Church History (to That Point)

Source: “the prophets” — Timestamp approx. 00:47:29

“the '90s are going to be the most incredible decade in in in the in church history to this point but not the most incredible to come”

A sweeping comparative claim: no previous decade in all of church history will surpass the 1990s in significance — though the millennium will ultimately exceed even that. The claim is deliberately hedged (“to this point”) and difficult to falsify cleanly, since “incredible” is not operationalized.

Prediction 9 — McClure’s Fleshly Ministry Will Die and He Will Be Raised as a “Silverfish”

Source: Bob Jones, personal word to McClure — Timestamp approx. 00:39:54–00:41:20

“Bob I know I I I know that that’s true and he said the lord gave me a vision of two catfish remember I told you his life was a parable has constant Parables thousands of them he said the Lord showed me uh you and and Brent Rue there a couple of catfish in shallow water wounded wounded fish trying to hide out and the Lord sent me here with a with a silver Gaff and I’m supposed to come here and Gaff you and pull you out and leave you on the on the shore to die”

“he said the Lord is going to put to death all all of your fleshly ministry all of your mental Ingenuity all of whatever giftings you have and abilities you have the Lord is putting that all to death but he’s going to raise you from the dead as a little silverfish I said oh praise God”

A personal transformative prophecy couched in extended metaphor. Notably, McClure immediately assents (“I know that’s true”), indicating he had already felt spiritually compromised. The prediction is experiential and internal, making external verification difficult, but it documents the kind of pastoral-prophetic dynamic at work in these encounters.

Sources

Primary Source

McClure, John C. “Bob Jones Follow-Up.” Sermon, Newport Beach Vineyard Christian Fellowship, April 30, 1989. Audio recording uploaded by Charlton W (“The Hope”), YouTube, August 5, 2012.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLDmDIR8ffQ>. Duration: 58:33.

Persons Referenced

Jones, Bob. Kansas City Prophet; stayed at McClure’s home for three days prior to the sermon. (Explicit, central.)

Cain, Paul. Kansas City Prophet; confronted Wimber in December 1988. (Explicit.)

Jackson, John Paul. Kansas City Prophet; met personally by McClure. (Explicit.)

Wimber, John. Founder, Association of Vineyard Churches. (Explicit; subject of multiple prophetic words.)

Bickle, Mike. Kansas City Fellowship pastor; facilitated the KC Prophets’ Vineyard contacts. (Explicit.)

Mills, Dick. Southern California prophetic figure cited by McClure as endorsing the KC Prophets. (Explicit.)

Scripture References in Sermon

1 Peter 4:17 — “Judgment begins with the household of God” (central proof text for the prophets’ message).

Exodus 3–4 — Moses at the burning bush (model for prophetic calling).

Matthew 24 — False prophets and signs and wonders at the end of the age.

1 Corinthians 14 — Exhortation to prophesy (distinction between gift and office).

Luke 12 — The returning lord who comes at an unexpected hour (interpreted as cyclical divine visitation, not only final parousia).

1 Samuel 10:6 — Samuel’s word to Saul about being changed into a different person (applied to Wimber and the Vineyard).

1 Samuel 2–4 — The sin of Eli and his sons (applied to Wimber’s situation).

Judges 7 — Gideon’s 300 warriors (implicit resonance with Paul Cain’s “300 dread champions”).

Exodus 1–2; Matthew 2:16–18 — Enemy killing children at births of Moses and Jesus, parallel drawn to abortion and the “children of promise” currently being born.

End of report.