

Chapter 2

David Wilkerson: A Voice Warning America

*A jealous and avenging God is the LORD;
The LORD is avenging and wrathful.
The LORD takes vengeance on His adver-
saries
And He reserves wrath for His enemies.
The LORD is slow to anger and great in
power,
And the LORD will by no means leave the
guilty unpunished. — Nahum 1:2-3*

Peter Marshall spoke his concerns about the future of our nation in 1944, and just as he feared, we as a nation became captivated by materialism in the Post War Years. This obsession, in turn, fueled a spirit of rebellion against God and His Word.

For many years we had been overwhelmed by the sufferings of the Great Depression, and living through that time, we had felt a great dependency on God. But now, we were able to stand on our own, and God and His Word receded into the background.

This led to the morally disastrous decade of the 1960s and the Sexual Revolution it produced. And that, in turn, resulted in God sending us the prophetic voice that Peter Marshall had yearned for.

That voice arrived on the scene in 1974, exactly 30 years after Marshall had called for it. The voice was that of a remarkable man named David Wilkerson.

David Wilkerson

Wilkerson started out as a Pentecostal preacher in rural Pennsylvania.



**Dave Wilkerson arrives in
New York City in 1958.**
(Wikipedia)

In 1958, at age 27, he felt the Lord's leading to pull up stakes and move to New York City to minister to its violent street gangs. Through many trials and tears, he succeeded in establishing a ministry to the gangs, and in 1962 he published a book about his experiences which was titled, *The Cross and the Switchblade*.¹ It made him nationally famous, and even more so when it was converted into a movie in 1970.²

The Vision

As a result of the book and the movie, Wilkerson became the darling of the Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements — until he published another book in 1974 called *The Vision*.³ It was advertised by the publisher as “A terrifying prophecy of Doomsday that is starting to happen now.”

This book presented a very negative prophecy about the future of our nation, warning that because of our rebellion against God, we were headed toward major judgments and ultimate destruction.

The world, as would be expected, wrote the book off as “insane.” But what proved tragic is that the Church also dismissed the book as the ravings of a radical.

The Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements responded with strong condemnation. They were full of pillow prophets at the time who were prophesying a great end time revival that would renew and refresh America as a Christian nation. They did not want to hear a negative message from anyone, especially from their best known spokesman.

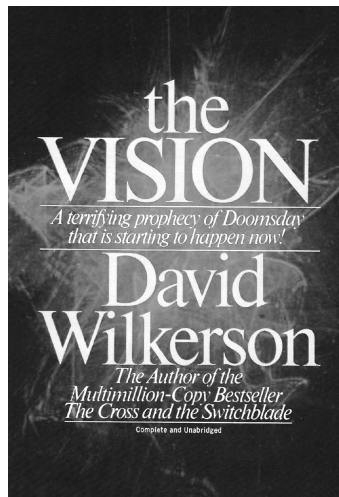
Accordingly, Wilkerson became a pariah overnight. His books were removed from the church bookstores, and he was personally condemned as a “fear-monger.”

In like manner, mainline churches — both Evangelical and non-Evangelical — also denounced the book, arguing that Wilkerson must be a “false prophet” because “God no longer speaks in visions.”

Wilkerson had anticipated this response because he addressed it at the beginning of his book by pointing out that the Scriptures say that in the end times, God will give His servants visions and dreams. Here is the passage from Joel chapter 2:

28) “It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

29) “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”



Notice verse 28 says, “It will come about *after this* . . .” After what? The previous verses indicate that it will be after the re-establishment of the nation of Israel.

In accordance with this passage in Joel, Wilkerson revealed that his prophecy for America had come from a vision given to him in April of 1973, and for that reason, he titled the book, *The Vision*.

Wilkerson also pointed out at the beginning of his book that he did not believe that most of the prophecies in his vision would be fulfilled in his lifetime, and that proved true when he was tragically killed in an auto accident in East Texas in 2011.⁴

A Review of Wilkerson's Prophecies

However, many of the prophecies contained in his vision have been fulfilled since 1974. Let me give you an overview of them.

His first category was “**Worldwide Economic Confusion.**” He wrote:⁵

It is not really a depression I see coming — but a recession of such magnitude that it will affect the lifestyle of nearly every wage earner in America and around the world.

This, of course, was fulfilled in the outbreak of the Great Recession in 2008.

Wilkerson further asserted that “some of the nation’s major corporations will declare bankruptcy.”⁶ This began in 2001 with Enron and PG&E, California’s largest utility company. Ten more huge corporations collapsed during the Great Recession, including such giants as Lehman Brothers, General Motors and American Airlines. In fact the 12 largest bankruptcies in U.S. history have occurred since 2001.

Wilkerson predicted that the recession would have major political ramifications: “Fear generated by the economy will lead to a revolution at the polls.”⁷ This is precisely what happened when the stock market crashed in September of 2008 and Barack Obama was elected in November.

Wilkerson further predicted that because of the recession, “The auto industry is going to be hurt badly.”⁸ This was fulfilled when the government took over both Chrysler and General Motors during the Great Recession.

Concerning gold, Wilkerson predicted that “the price of gold is going to rise astronomically but will not be sustained over a long period of time.”⁹ When Wilkerson published his book in 1974, the price of gold was \$183 per ounce. At the end of 2014 it was \$1200 per ounce.

Wilkerson’s last economic related prophecy was this:¹⁰

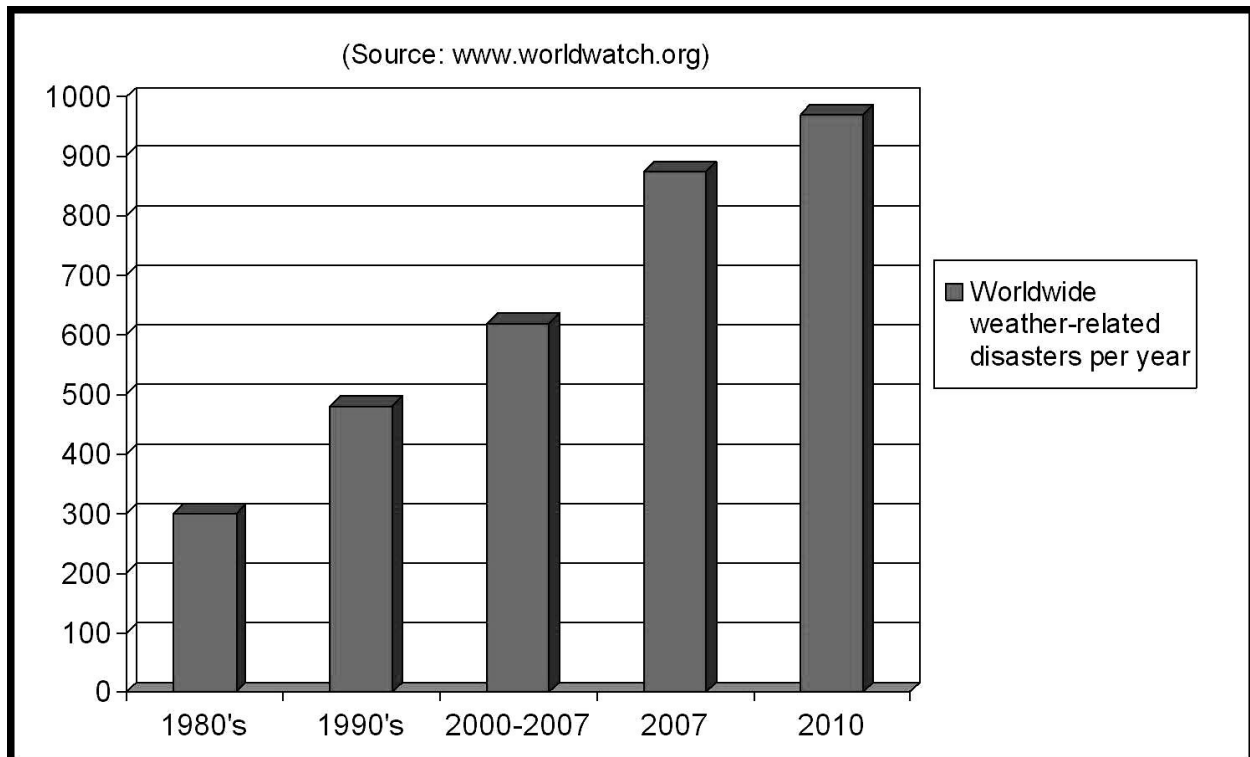
A revived Roman Empire will eventually become the power base for a super world leader who will arise to restore economic order.

This has been partially fulfilled in the formation of the European Union which became a supranational political organization in 1992 with the Treaty of Maastricht.

Wilkerson’s second category of predictions related to what he called “**Drastic Weather Changes and Earthquakes.**” He summed it up by saying:¹¹

The world had best prepare for weather changes that cannot be explained by any other word but ‘supernatural.’ The world is about to witness the beginnings of great sorrows brought about by history’s most drastic weather changes, earthquakes, floods — terrible calamities . . .

As you can see from the chart below, worldwide weather-related disasters have increased from an average of 300 per year in the 1980s to almost 1,000 per year in 2010.



The third category of predictions in Wilkerson’s vision he labeled “**A Flood of Filth.**” Again,

keep in mind that he was writing in 1974:¹²

We are facing a moral landslide . . . Satan is going to open the floodgates of Hell and seek to baptize the world in erotic filth, smut and sensuality.

The evidence of this is all around us and in our homes through the invasion of television filth. And the corruption of entertainment is exactly what Wilkerson predicted: “Movies and TV programs will feature the exploitation of every sex theme, with an emphasis on blood, violence and occult practices.”¹³ Movies like *Pulp Fiction* and television programs like *Criminal Minds* are doing this today.

Further, Wilkerson warned that “there will be movies glamorizing rape.”¹⁴ The recent film, *50 Shades of Grey* just did this. He also predicted that “thousands of newsstands across the nation will soon be selling explicit sex magazines that will make *Playboy* seem almost puritanical.”¹⁵ This, has become a reality with the publication of sleazy magazines like *Quicky*, *ADHD Sex*, *Carnival* and *Hustler*.

Wilkerson declared that “students will be told that homosexual love is normal.”¹⁶ In recent years several school systems all over the nation have incorporated teaching units designed to portray homosexuality as normal — even at the elementary school level. This effort has even infiltrated books and magazines aimed at children.

Again, keep in mind that Wilkerson wrote about his vision in 1973, and the book was published in 1974. Continuing with his focus on homosexuality, he asserted: “The homosexual community will become so militant and brazen that they will flaunt their sin on network talk shows.”¹⁷ Just tune into the late night interview programs or any afternoon to Ellen DeGeneres’ show and you will witness the fulfillment of this prophecy.

In the Church world, Wilkerson predicted that “homosexuals and lesbians will be ordained and given places of authority.”¹⁸ The Episcopal Church elected its first homosexual bishop in 2003, and since that time, many of the mainline denominations have sanctioned the ordination of practicing homosexuals.

Commenting further on the Church, Wilkerson asserted: “Divorce and immorality will become more and more commonplace among ministers.”¹⁹ This problem was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine in April of 1987 when the magazine focused on the problems of Jimmy Swaggart and also commented on the controversies surrounding Jim and Tammy Bakker.

Wilkerson’s fourth category was “**Problems with Youth.**” Since this had always been the focus of his ministry, he had more predictions in this category than any other. To summarize:

- He said he saw youth hating their parents and rebelling against them, even to the point of betraying their parents.²⁰
- He saw them enslaved to alcohol and drugs and predicted the legalization of Marijuana.²¹
- All of which would be magnified by an astronomical divorce rate.²²

Wilkerson’s fifth and last category of prophecies contained in his vision was what he called “**Persecution Madness.**” He predicted the growing persecution of Christian believers:²³

I see an hour of persecution coming such as mankind has never before witnessed. This will be a persecution of true Jesus believers that will soon arise like a many-headed monster out of the sea.

Wilkerson even predicted that Christian harassment would become official government policy:²⁴

An antichrist spirit will enter the hearts of certain men in high places in government and in the judicial system, causing these officials to engage in legal maneuvers designed to harass independent churches, missionaries and ministers.

We can see this antichrist spirit operating at all governmental levels today.

Wilkerson stated that the entertainment industry would focus on demeaning portrayals of Christians and Christianity, and would blaspheme all that is sacred:²⁵

TV comedy shows will become bolder and bolder in poking fun at Christ and true Christians . . . Television programming will become absolutely blasphemous .

Need I bother to say this has been fulfilled?

Unfulfilled Prophecies

And yet, despite the fulfillment of these very specific prophecies contained in Wilkerson's vision, some have continued to claim he was a "false prophet" because some of his predictions have not yet been fulfilled.

But the same could be said of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel because all of them made prophecies 2,500 years ago that still have not been fulfilled. How do we know they are not false prophets? Because they made prophecies about their day and time that were fulfilled and they also made prophecies about the first coming of the Messiah that were fulfilled. So we can be confident that their unfulfilled prophecies concerning the end times will also be fulfilled.

The Bible says the test of a prophet is whether or not his prophecies come true (Jeremiah 28:9): ". . . when the word of the prophet comes to pass, then that prophet will be known as one whom the Lord has truly sent."

Thus, if I were to prophesy that America will be destroyed by a nuclear attack, you would have to wait until our nation was destroyed to determine whether or not I was a false prophet — and you might have to wait several hundred years.

But, if I were to say America will be destroyed by a nuclear attack before January 1, 2016, and that did not happen, then you would know I am a false prophet.

Wilkerson did not give dates for any of the prophecies in his vision, except to say that all the predictions would not be fulfilled in his lifetime. Therefore, it is impossible to declare him to be a "false prophet" at this point in time.

Some of the unfulfilled prophecies are very ominous. They include:

- The U.S. will experience the worst earthquake in its history in a place least expected.²⁶
- The taxation of churches, ministries and Christian schools will be instituted.²⁷
- TV will feature full nudity and X-rated porno movies.²⁸

The Point of No Return

But for me, the most ominous statement in his book was this one:²⁹

I believe we have passed the point of no return.

Again, that was 1974.

I underlined that statement in red and put a question mark after it. That's because I was not ready to say that in 1974. ***I am now.***

The Bible clearly teaches there is a “point of no return” when a nation is in rebellion against God. It is the tipping point where God decides to deliver the nation from remedial judgments to complete destruction. In the Bible it is referred to as “when the wound becomes incurable” (Jeremiah 30:12).

I will cover this concept in detail in chapter 14.

Conclusion

David Wilkerson was a modern day prophet of God who boldly declared an unpopular message that no one wanted to hear — neither believers nor unbelievers. He was written off as a quack.

But time has validated his message and God's grace in giving it to us. We cannot say that we were not warned. Unfortunately, we turned a deaf ear to Wilkerson's warning, and God has since raised up other voices in His effort to get our attention.

Jeremiah 30:12-14

- 12) “For thus says the LORD, ‘*Your wound is incurable* and your injury is serious.
- 13) ‘There is no one to plead your cause; no healing for your sore, no recovery for you.
- 14) ‘All your lovers have forgotten you, they do not seek you; for I have wounded you with the wound of an enemy, with the punishment of a cruel one, because your iniquity is great and your sins are numerous.’”