

David Gates "Converging Crises" review

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David Gates is one of my personal heroes of faith and action ever since i learned about him from the book "Mission Pilot" which i was handed to read in Cambodia in 2006. Many of his sermons have inspired me and strengthened my faith and prodded me to do more for my Master.

In August 2007 in Bangkok, he was a speaker at the ASI convention which i attended. His dynamism was contagious, and he really exemplified the pattern of Jesus – giving your all to save souls. He did make a few comments which concerned me – comments denigrating the leaders of the United States government, and a few odd conspiracy theories. I politely warned him about this in a couple of emails, to which there has never been a reply.

I hadn't listened to any of his sermons for about half a year, when, in October i think, i noticed that there was some bruha on audioverse.org about the removal of his "Converging Crisis" audio. Reading the reasons given, and knowing Brother David's conspiracy comments before, i sent a email encouraging the webmaster at audioverse. But actually, i should have carefully listened to the content first before doing that.

What has prompted this review, is that last week a strong SDA friend in India said two of his closest church Brothers had stopped attending church because of this sermon, saying that "Jesus is going to come back before 2031 anyway, so what need is there to go to church now"? Fortunately my friend did not follow them.

The above is the background on this review. I hope everyone reading this understands that i do love and respect Brother David Gates very much. I also hope everyone understands that we must point out error wherever it raises its ugly head – because no error can stand with the truth. I have graded it "F" because it is mixing truth and error. The spiritual message in this sermon is so very powerful and straight, that it deserves a A+++ . But Bible-contradicting error is also included – including dissing our government leaders, and setting dates for when Jesus has to return by. The economic information given also is laughably wrong, thus turning away many intelligent minds from the spiritual truths that are contained.

What is in blue below is exactly what he says in the sermon, or is a summary of what he says. What is in black is my response.

All of the forecasts they make are totally unpredictable, because the future is unpredictable.

Brother David, your "forecast" about their "forecasts" is totally wrong, and you know it. In looking at the median economic growth forecast for example taken from a large sample of economists, you usually get something quite close to the actual figure, with a few of the forecasters hitting the nail on the head. Weather forecasts have been getting more and more accurate, and with the increase of knowledge and use of computers etc., the accuracy of economic forecasting has been improving as well. This accusation is just false.

Nobody is making long-term plans anymore.

This statement is completely false as a 2-second search on the internet will prove.

Things are changing so fast, that there is no way you can possibly know. So people are trying to figure out what to do just for today and tomorrow, they aren't worried about ten years from now anymore. People used to make ten-year plans. Very few companies today will have a ten-year strategic plan, it is very difficult.

Flat out wrong David. Why are you making such outrageous claims? What are you reading or watching to get to this bent shape of mind?

It is totally impossible to make an accurate ten-year plan.

No it isn't.

Now it's my word against David's. Who is right?

That's one of the points i'm trying to make in this whole exercise of making a review of this sermon – there are many things that are quite ridiculous, that cannot be proven, and that have absolutely nothing to do with the Three Angels' Messages. They are "scare" phrases often used by speakers to get the audience to believe that everything they have been taught is wrong.

This is not a good way to reach normal, thinking people. This is what is usually done to reach people who are interested in theories such as aliens/illuminati/zionists/George Bush etc. etc. is behind every bad thing that happens in the world, and these groups are trying to take over the world. These conspiracy theories are driving away the true-in-heart, and attracting dross to the Little Flock. Enough! Just preach the straight truth, and let the truth cut to the heart without all this falsehood being mixed in with it.

-----Sin entered the world after 31 years, because Jesus died exactly 4,000 years later.-----

Ha ha. Not supported by inspired writings Brother. You are guilty of reading something into the text that is NOT there.

2031 is the outside limit of the period allocated, the maximum period allocated for this world's great controversy..... Jesus will not come back after 2031.... This is absolutely, positively the last generation.

David Gates – you have sinned with these words. God's messenger says in CEV p.25: "The Lord has shown me that the message of the third angel must go, and be proclaimed to the scattered children of the Lord, and that it should not be hung on time; for time never will be a test again. I saw that some were getting a false excitement arising from preaching time; that the third angel's message was stronger than time can be. I saw that this message can stand on its own foundation, and that it needs not time to strengthen it, and that it will go in mighty power, and do its work, and will be cut short in righteousness."

No doubt you did not intend to lead anyone astray by making this statement, Brother David. But by this statement, i know of 2 Brothers in India who are prone to fanaticism, who have stopped attending church because of what you have said here. They see no reason to go to a sleeping church, because Jesus will come back so soon anyway. You see, by mixing in lies with truth, your whole message becomes a corrupt mass, leading to things that none of us could possibly imagine. Whereas if we stay on the path of truth alone, these people may fall off at some point anyway, but at least their blood is not on our hands. Now will you repent and not repeat this error again? Please David, don't create a "false excitement" on time again.

If you really believed Jesus was coming back soon, you would spend your time and money differently.

AMEN!

Just type in "bankruptcy 1971 united states" and boom, you'll find it on the internet. In 1971 the United States, all of its assets was equivalent to all of its debts. And when you have 10,000 dollars in cash and you owe 10,000 dollars to your university how much money do you have? Your net worth is? Zero. That's called "bankruptcy", when there's nothing in the bank.

This is quite funny, but perhaps not in the way Brother David intended. Typing this in and going to the first hit landed me at a page that was pro Congressman Ron Paul, the goofiest "right-wing" member of congress. In fact, he is so goofy, that many left-wingers like him too, resulting in a very interesting phenomenon – a convergence of the far-right and far-left. At least one person on the internet (Charles Johnson at littlegreenfootballs.com/weblog) has started calling this the "Moronic Convergence". This has an eerily similar-sounding ring to the title of this sermon.....

In 1972 the Federal Reserve chairman said...Americans will continue to borrow and borrow and borrow. The United States government will continue to borrow, and eventually, in about 30 years there will be no assets of any kind, we will have consumed everything we own and the entire nation will collapse like a house of cards.

The ball is in your court to prove this quote Brother David. I've searched on the internet, and cannot find anything remotely close to this. Please show your source, and not just what you heard on the radio in 1972. BTW, many people believed that aliens had attacked earth because of what they heard Orson Welles say on the radio :)

Arthur Burns was the Federal Reserve Chairman when this statement about the US being "bankrupt" was supposedly made in 1971 and/or 1972. Searching on the internet reveals nothing regarding this supposed saying. Now if the Federal Reserve Chairman said such a thing, don't you think the financial markets – like the Treasury Bond market or stock market would show some kind of reaction – a huge reaction? But it is not there. Yes, the United States did stop allowing foreigners to exchange their dollars for gold in 1971. Some pundits at the time probably did refer to it as "the end of capitalism" or even worse. But until you can prove this, David, i must say that your recollection is faulty.

If you owe 57 trillion, and you own nothing, you are a slave.

The US owns "nothing"?

He talks about some French economic publication by a semi-closed group.

If this is the GEAB report group that you tout in your emails David, i have warned you before, they do not believe in God's word, and are making predictions directly contrary to the Bible, even saying that Asia and Europe are "decoupling from the US", and that the US will wane in influence in the world. But Revelation says America will cause all the world to make a Sunday law.

If the government took 100% of everything you make, it still could not pay the interest.

Total baloney. This is the total interest expense on America's national debt in 2008: \$451,154,049,950.63 (source: http://www.treasurydirect.gov/govt/reports/ir/ir_expense.htm)

451 billion usd is a lot of money, but the GDP the same year was 14.33 TRILLION dollars (source: cia

factbook). So you can easily see, the interest on the national debt is much less than even 5% of what the country as a whole earned!

In talking about printing money to pay for the Iraq war and Homeland Security:

[I can give Cheney a contract to help him and Bush and other things.](#)

This again is another direct sin, contrary to the Bible, Brother David. Please repent and learn to follow God in all you say and do. Talking like this really disgusts lots of intelligent people, while at the same time, encourages conspiracy-theorists to "fanaticise" the Little Flock.

1 Peter 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.
Does making a jibe at the leaders of the country obey God's word to "honor the king"?

2 Peter 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.
Is this the group of people you are aiming to join, Brother David? I pray not.

[Then he preaches the gold standard, and says we are on no standard.](#)

What does this have to do with our precious Three Angels' Messages? Nothing. Dross.

[That's where we are right now in our nation, the paper is worthless.](#)

Ridiculous as you well know. Now some may say "he is just using hyperbole to make a point". But the point is, the words are false, and the impression they give is false.

[Bank runs talked about – If they run out of cash in any way....](#)

[The banks don't have cash anymore.](#)

I'm really concerned for you Brother David. You are speaking you know not what.

[We are living in the last months before the final collapse.](#)

But Brother, you yourself just said earlier that: "All of the forecasts they make are totally unpredictable, because the future is unpredictable." Of course that would include your stab in the dark totally unpredictable also. What foolish to waste all our time on something you have no clue about?

[The gas prices will continue to go of course \(meaning "up"\). They are having to pay for their oil in euros.](#)

Hello? David? You said what?

[You have control of a massive source of fuel \(saying that the US is getting oil from Iraq\).](#)

Again Brother, you have absolutely no facts to back up your outrageous claims. This is standard far-left fare, and you seem to have bitten off a big chunk of it, just as you have bitten off a big chunk of far-right fare as shown earlier. The facts are, that a very few US oil companies have been granted rights to explore for

deposits and/or purchase oil from the Iraqi government. There is absolutely no one anywhere that i know of with any evidence at all of the US taking any oil out of Iraq without paying for it.

There's going to be a whole new set of laws....

Scare tactics. Maybe true, maybe not.

He basically says that America will become a police state and they will kill everybody in the cities.

Again, scary scary – with absolutely no proof.

He basically says: The publishing of the economic indicators were abolished in March.

OK, this remark is totally way over the top, as the US govt. continues to publish untold numbers of economic indicators, but probably David, you are talking about the M3 money supply figures. If so, here is the explanation from Wikipedia: “When the Federal Reserve announced in 2005 that they would cease publishing M3 statistics in March 2006, they explained that M3 did not convey any additional information about economic activity compared to M2, and thus, had not been used in determining monetary policy for years. Therefore, the costs to collect M3 data outweighed the benefits the data provided”.

Many countries around the world do not provide this data either. Does that mean that all these countries that don't provide M3 data including now the United States are in some kind of secret arrangement to deceive all their citizens? Hardly. Why are official statements so hard to believe? Here again, it is interesting on the Wikipedia site that Congressman Ron Paul is mentioned as a vocal opponent of the Fed's decision to quit publishing M3 figures.

He basically says no one in Bolivia takes US dollars – even the moneychangers don't take it.

This has nothing at all to do with the value of the US dollar, as you should well know, having traveled even more than myself. The USD is accepted in every country where the government is not anti-US. This is what the Lonely Planet has to say about exchanging usd in Bolivia. “Visitors fare best with US dollars (travelers have reported that it's difficult to change euros).”

You'd better have some seeds you can plant... Start growing now.... You'd better get some rice and beans.

You are again directly contradicting God, who said thru his messenger in Broadside #2: “For two years past, the Lord has shown me in vision, repeatedly, that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints have food laid up by them, or in the fields, in the time of trouble when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it will be taken from them by violent hands and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and he will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water would be sure at that time, and we should not lack, or suffer hunger.--The Lord has shown me that some of his children would fear when they see the price of food rising, and they would buy food and lay it by for the time of trouble. Then in a time of need, I saw them go to their food and look at it, and it had bred worms, and was full of living creatures, and not fit for use.”

We are approaching...months from national ruin.

Another forecast that by Brother David's own admission is unpredictable. Another problem should now be evident. All this "shock and scare" talking has numbed the audience, and outrageous, ridiculous statements have little impact at this point.

He then talks about secret meetings to get the Sunday laws into action in America. In connection with this, he says Bill Knott's editorial in the Review is "one of the most aggressive editorials i've ever read".

Perhaps Brother David is getting his information from Hal Meyers and Bob Gregory at Hartland, both of whom are deep into conspiracy, anti-US govt. talk of which i have warned them both about in the past. This supposedly "secret" meeting isn't very secret is it? Why, the people behind it must be a bunch of morons if they can't even keep such a hush-hush thing secret from some amateur people.

This conspiracy theory stuff is really hard to get out of a person – i know, i used to believe junk like this myself up until about the time of the Waco debacle. Conspiracy theories make the holder of them feel superior to everyone, and make them suspicious of everyone. There is absolutely nothing in conspiracy theories to lead one to become more like Jesus. Let's throw them all away, and just spread the straight truth.

The Sunday Law will probably pass this year. Everything the pope asks Bush, he gives it to him – everything....Our US President will sign anything that Rome wants. And they want to do it before he leaves office.

Dissing the govt. leaders is contrary to the Bible. And this did not happen.

===“Bankrupt” What does this word mean? Does it really mean as David says that “your debts equal your assets”? This sounds possibly true to someone not thinking carefully – after all, you are “broke” when you are at zero. But in fact, is this the definition of “bankrupt”?

Merriam-webster.com defines it as:

- 1 a: a person who has done any of the acts that by law entitle creditors to have his or her estate administered for their benefit
- b: a person judicially declared subject to having his or her estate administered under the bankrupt laws for the benefit of creditors
- c: a person who becomes insolvent
- 2: a person who is completely lacking in a particular desirable quality or attribute <a moral bankrupt>

Well, this means we need to know what “insolvent” means:

- 1 a (1): unable to pay debts as they fall due in the usual course of business (2): having liabilities in excess of a reasonable market value of assets held b: insufficient to pay all debts <an insolvent estate> c: not up to a normal standard or complement : impoverished

Now this is very easy to understand, and actually, i'm surprised i haven't seen lots of comments on this one glaring error – You are not “bankrupt” until you have no way to repay your debt.

If Brother David's definition was true, then everyone who has taken out a mortgage on their home, with home's value declining below the payback amount of the mortgage (assuming no other debts or assets) is suddenly “bankrupt”! And the young teenager who gets his first job, buys a new car with a loan, and drives it off the

dealer's car lot is suddenly "bankrupt"! (again assuming no other debts or assets). You see, it doesn't work like that at all. You are bankrupt when you CANNOT pay back your debts.

Isn't this what Jesus referred to in his parable of the two debtors also? The one owed equivalent to many billions of dollars. He was "bankrupt". The other owed just a little. He was "in debt". The "bankrupt" one was forgiven his huge debt, but then tried to squeeze the one not in such a bad condition.

=== Mortgage I don't know why Brother David's father took out the first loan on his property, but probably it was because he saw the need for a fairly large sum at once, and this was the easiest way to obtain it. Praise God the financial system was there to allow him to do this. But to do it a 2nd time? – And then a 3rd time? Well, the financial system is making money on processing the loans, that's for sure. From my perspective, the father would be able to give more money to support missionary work if he would put the income he is earning into some income-producing fund or interest-drawing savings to RECEIVE more, rather than using it to PAY the lender interest on his mortgage until it is paid off.

I got the feeling from listening to this, that the father is planning to "stiff" the bank when money becomes worthless, and just "walk away" as David puts it, from the farm when the time comes. – Not a good Christian witness, but i hope i misunderstand what he is saying.

Brother David, please delete all this economic and conspiracy nonsense from your sermons, and you will have the straight truth, just what is needed for God's church, the Seventh-day Adventist church, in this time of shaking.