THE CONNECTION WITH DAVID

By Jaime Castillo

Our First Meeting

As the night approached and 6pm came around, I got my Thomas Guide out of my truck and wrote down the location of where I was to drive to. I got in my truck to the Pomona area. The location was near the Pomona fair grounds which I was somewhat familiar with. When I arrived in Pomona, I came off the main highway which was near to the address I was given. As I found the address, I noticed this weird looking house that was made out of Boulder rocks! It reminded me of a Grizzly Adams home, which I thought was neat. I got out of my truck and ran the door bell a few times. After waiting awhile, this pretty looking woman answered the door. She said "yes" I asked her if Vernon (David) was in, she said "hold on a minute, Vernon (David) someone wants you at the door". He came to the door and said "so your the drummer," and shook my hand. He invited me into the house and began to introduce me to a few individuals. He had shown me a lot of hospitality for our first meet in consideration that I had spoken to him only once on the phone.

My first impression of Vernon (David) was his height. My last guitarist was about 6'3. Myself being 5'7, I was sort of uncomfortable playing with musicians that were taller than me. I noticed that Vernon (David) was about 6', I thought to myself that it wouldn't matter to much as long as I felt comfortable with the guy. His hair was about shoulder length at the time, most of the musicians I had come in contact with had hair down to their waist. His personality was a bit different from other musicians, he seemed more sure of himself and was more the communicable type. Most musicians had the attitude like, you have to have long hair and look cool to play in my band! Vernon (David) was more of a person to person individual and seemed like a serious musician, which got my attention.

As he invited me into the house, I noticed a few more individuals than I had expected to see. I then sat down on the couch and Vernon (David) began to introduce me to the people. I met a couple of guys by the name of Mark and James, who were the keyboardist and bassist of the band. I was also introduced to another named Paul Fatta and a few girls by the name of Sherri Jewell, Lisa Ferris, Nicole and Jenine. Vernon (David) began to relate to me were the individuals were from and giving some back round, which I thought was strange.
I was wondering where the girl who answered the door went. She apparently was in the kitchen making dinner and later came out into the living room. Vernon (David) then introduced her as Robin, Jeanine’s daughter.

I began to express my views as to my personal beliefs and what I was trying to accomplish as far as my musical goals with relation to my religious beliefs. As the topic of religion got started, Vernon (David) asked me if I had brought my Bible with me, I told him I did and went to retrieve it from my truck. He then asked me if I would like to have a study to better understand what he was doing with sharing the truth through his music. I told him “sure thing”, which was a slang word I used with the courier company I was working for.

We began to study the book of Revelation, which is the last book of the Bible. I was not familiar with the Revelation, or any other book for that matter, but I had read the first few chapters on a few occasions. We began to study, I told Vernon (David) that I didn’t like this book because I couldn’t understand all the symbolisms used which made it hard to understand. After telling him this, he said “if you hang with us, you’ll know that Bible backwards and forwards!”.

Vernon (David) began asking me questions in regards to the subject we were studying. I was kind of thrown off because I wasn’t really paying too much attention at the time. I had been looking at the words, but in my mind I was waiting for some good feeling or some spiritual experience to happen. The feeling never came, but I began to pay close attention as to what he was teaching.

After sitting through the first five chapters of Revelation, he was ready to go into the sixth. I looked up at the clock and noticed it was almost eleven o’clock. I told Vernon (David), “I had to get going, he said “this is the last chapter although he had said that a few chapters back. I wasn’t really use to sitting down for two and three hours for any sort of Bible studies, which was a change of things. I decided to hear a little more while I was trying to figure out this guy and where he was coming from. I had gone to church once in awhile, but I had never heard any of the information that this guy was teaching. I was curious as to where this guy got this information he was sharing.
We continued our study and he had read in the second verse "And I saw a white horse; and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him, and he went forth conquering and to conquer. When he read that passage, he made the comment; "when the Lamb opens the first seal, Christ is going to go forth conquering and to conquer". I told him "well isn't this the anti-christ!" he said "well let's find out according to scripture!". We continued our study as Vernon (David) made reference to New and Old Testament writings. I was still trying to figure out the statement he had made about the anti-christ. My church, along with many other churches, teach, that the man on the white horse represents the anti-christ. This is Christian theology that is widely excepted and taught in the churches. He then went to the nineteenth chapter in the eleventh verse which read, "And I saw heaven opened, and beheld a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war". When we read that passage, I was like, "wait a minute hear"! If what I had just read was true, then I was bull-shitted by my church about this subject! The connections he made were there in front of me in my Bible. That had blown my personal little theory and what I understood about the anti-christ.

I questioned Vernon (David) and asked him, "so why are all these churches teaching that the one who rides the white horse is anti-christ?" He replied and said "it's like this Jaime! there's alot of uninspired men in the world today. You have all these Bible thumping teacher's and preachers claiming they have a personal connection with God. All these guys are giving their own man made theories and opinions taught by the traditions of man, when it comes right down to it Jaime, the only connection these men have is with their personal feelings and emotions which they perceive to be of God". He also said "there's alot of people like yourself Jaime, who go to church once or twice a week, but alot of people go to church as if it's some sort of social club of some sort!" "Most people listen to a sermon and never bother to question or investigate what's being taught as in your case". This made alot of sense in relation to what I had just experienced, I couldn't argue about that.

Vernon (David) continued and said, "next time you go to church, the only sermon you'll hear is how much more money the church needs for this or that". At this point in our study, he had confirmed alot of things to me based on my experience in the church and why I never went to church in the first place. I had sort of been a bench warmer, so to speak! and never investigated what was being taught. I just took it for granted that the preacher was telling the truth.
After coming to the conclusion that the man on the white horse was not the anti-christ, I realized I had been duked! I was abit upset because, here was an event that I was suppose to be watching for as a believer, and if and when this event took place, I would of wound up believing that Christ was the anti-christ! I was glad in that Vernon (David) had brought me to an awareness of what I thought was the truth, and showed me my error in the scriptures.

As the night continued, I looked up at the clock once more; It was 12pm. I figured I wasn't going to be able to make to a friends house like I had planned, I decided to hang out a little longer and hear some more. At the close of the study, we began talking about the music again. Vernon (David) asked me when I could be available to do some drumming so I could get the feel of his music, I told him I would come back the following day and we called it a night.

On my drive back home, I was thinking of what all this guy had showed me in the Bible about the anti-christ and other subjects. All I knew was that he had sparked a few lights in my head which made me do alot of thinking. It all fit together what I had just learned, and the impression that was left on me that night I felt to be like, "this is the truth!" It effected my perspective of religion because I had come to an awareness as to my personal condition at the time and my persuit for truth.