

Foreword

This is a *beneath the surface* look at some Biblical prophecy. I don't expect that all who read or listen to this will comprehend all that is said, but if you would, please just receive it as commentary which is directed toward Bible prophecy students. Some familiarity with the different prophetic scriptures is necessary in order to comprehend what I am saying, as well as a pure heart toward God, desiring true knowledge from Him. After all, I'm not your teacher. God teaches his people by his Holy Spirit. I'm just sharing what I feel God has laid on my heart. You'll have to use it, or exclude it, or ponder it, as God directs you. However, there is a significant possibility that your first response will be to throw it all out because it is so different from most of the main line 'end times' teaching. But if you act too hastily, you may bypass something that God is trying to show you. In any event, don't be too hasty to discard it, but don't just take what I say, 'hook, line, and sinker'. GOD has to reveal it to you, not me. But I would like to point out, that in all that God does through scripture, there is **both** the physical event and the spiritual event. 1 Corinthians 15:46, says, "Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and **afterward that which is spiritual.**" **The most important part for you, the listener,** is to realize that I am not denying the physical signs of prophesied events, which many students of prophecy can easily foresee. There are far too many preachers out there who try to indicate that all Bible prophecy is just spiritual or conceptual, and has no real basis as a physical happening or result. That is not true, for if it were, how could we look to the soon return of Jesus? However, my purpose in this article, rather than to concentrate on the future physical fulfillment of prophecy, is to point out the *beneath the surface* events that are taking place NOW. These are the *hidden* events. The scripture, "to him that has ears, let him hear," was not put in the Bible for no purpose. If you are a student of Bible prophecy, you already know how important it is to 'discern' the truth from within the written word.

The word Revelation, comes from the root word, 'reveal'. Revelation is a 'revealing'. How sad that the shepherds of God's people so often fall short of instructing the people, and the people, like sheep, perish because they lack vision, because they lack understanding, because they have no restraint to keep them on the straight and narrow path. But the truths of God are hidden from those who care little, or not at all, for *revelation* knowledge. Bookshelves are overloaded with commentaries on prophecy which use facts and logic to discern the scriptures. To those who rely on these methods, the end result of their endeavor will be a physical or literal interpretation. However, only those who realize the importance of the *symbolic*, will look beneath the surface of scripture for the *hidden* mysteries of God. The scoffers will see only the surface of the prophetic, the physical portrayal of the word. Those who truly seek Him, and pray for knowledge and understanding, to them God will reveal the hidden mysteries, and, as referred to in Daniel 11:33, they, in turn, will teach many.

So, as you listen, or read the transcript, please try to understand that what I say isn't just my opinion, but as a fire that burns within me. Because of this, it may seem as if I am being a "know it all." When you listen, please realize that I am very much aware of my own fallibility, and that it is not my intent to offend anyone. I tried at first to present this in a form that indicated it as being only my opinion, but that resulted in destroying my ability to express my heartfelt conviction of its truth. When you come to parts where you think I sound arrogant, please forgive me, and try to realize how difficult it is to put all of this together in a manner that might be understood.

Above all, I desire that God be glorified in this, and that his people might receive of him that which they have long desired to know. This much I know; the things that you and I are beginning to see are causing a significant change in lives everywhere. I am eagerly looking forward to where this will lead.

[CD 1, Track 2]

Now, if you would, please turn to Revelation, chapter 13. In this series of messages we're going to cover information concerning the first beast that comes up out of the sea, and the second beast, that comes up out of the earth. We are also going to be talking about what the beast is, how the beast was developed, what the impact of the beast is on people today, and what it means for you.

One of the things you should consider, is that you will not understand the symbolic things of Revelation, or Old Testament prophecy, unless you're ready to search beneath the surface. It's like digging for gold. If you want to find gold, you usually don't look around on top of the ground. Most of the gold you find is under the surface. It's the same thing when it comes to finding hidden treasure in God's word. This does not mean that you have to throw away all the surface concepts either. But by setting them temporarily aside and look a little deeper at God's word, and then when you see what lies under the surface covering, you can go back and compare the two layers of information and finally build a more accurate picture of that which God wants to show you. But you will have to suppress your initial tendency to reject that which is below the surface when it seems to be contrary to what you already know, because the two only go together and make sense when you see both sides, or should we say, both levels, of the picture. If you really want the good stuff, then you're going to have to dig for it, for God has determined that only those who truly want to see, and those who will diligently search for it, will find it. Let me give you an example.

In Matthew 16:6-7, it says, "Then Jesus said to them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. 7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread."

The disciples of Jesus reacted to his parable by looking at the surface. He said leaven, and they automatically assumed that he was talking about bread. After all, you put leaven in bread, don't you? It seemed to be a logical conclusion to them. After all, they were intelligent people. They knew enough about making bread. They weren't stupid or anything. But Jesus explained to them that he wasn't talking about bread, but about the *doctrine* of the Pharisees. The words of Jesus were in the form of a parable. The true meaning was hidden within the words Jesus used. The words he used were symbolic, and their meaning was not meant to be taken literally, but the disciples were expected to perceive the actual meaning, which was hidden within the spoken words. They needed to know what the key words represented conceptually, rather than literally. Seeing the key words represented, would *reveal* something to them that was not apparent on the surface. Yet, it was something just as real as if he had spoken it plainly. In fact, Jesus did speak it plainly after the disciples inquired of him as to what he meant. Just because something is conceptual, and given in symbolic terms, does not mean it has no reality. Many things in scripture are given in symbolic terms, in order to describe a heavenly meaning. Yet, only those who come to understand the spiritual things of God can comprehend them, for they are spiritually discerned.

The true meaning that Jesus wanted his disciples to understand, was that they should be careful when listening to the Pharisees because the Pharisees' doctrine was full of errors. To put it plainly, their doctrine was full of lies and deception. Jesus had used the word 'leaven' as a symbolic term that stood for 'doctrine'. When the apostles asked Jesus why he taught in parables, he responded by saying that it was for the purpose of keeping those who were wicked from understanding, lest they should hear with their spiritual ears and understand, and as a consequence, he would have to forgive them when they repented, and would have to heal their land. In essence, he was telling them that he did not want the Pharisees to understand. What he wanted was for the righteous to understand.

Jesus knew that the heart of the righteous would receive the leading of the Holy Spirit. He also knew that because the righteous had hearts which were unhardened by the world, and open to the true things of God, that they would understand, if only they took just enough time to think about what was being said, and to let the hidden meaning come to the surface of their minds. But it would take the principle of 'contemplating', or 'pausing to think about it', before they could understand. That's why King David, writing in the Psalms, so often said the word, 'Selah'. Selah means to 'pause and think about this'. David was a man of understanding. He knew that the deep things of God had to be considered deeply in order to bring out the full essence of the thought.

In the time of Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, generally, were so selfish, so prideful, so greedy of gain and glory for themselves, that they had no true relationship with God. If they had, they would have recognized God when they saw and heard Jesus. They asked him to reveal the Father, but when he replied, he basically said, "You're looking at Him." But they couldn't see the Father in Jesus because they were looking through physical eyes, rather than

through their spiritual eyes. God is a spirit, and cannot be seen with physical eyes. Even Jesus, as the image and glory of God on the earth, could not reveal the Father to them because the wickedness within them blocked the truth from coming through. If we are going to see God, then we have to be able to see with spiritual eyes, and not just with logic and diagnostic tools.

And just a note here for you experienced Bible scholars. Diagnostic tools for the interpretation of scripture, which is called 'critical exegesis', can only work to bring to order that which is already discerned. The reason for this is that you will use a certain diagnostic tool to apply to a certain type of fact. But what if the fact is not fully understood yet? The result will be that you will interpret incorrectly, because the tool will only interpret according to known values. It is better to trust the Bible when it says that the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth, than to trust a set of rules. Critical exegesis is a good way to look at the surface, but not a very good tool for digging.

Now let me give you another example of a hidden meaning. In Matthew 6:3, Jesus gives us the parable concerning the giving of offerings. It says, "But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand does." Now this is an interesting parable. It is extremely difficult to take this parable at absolute face value and to miss the fact that a deeper meaning is implied. As anyone can plainly see, a hand has no brain. It has no eyes to see, nor brain to comprehend what the other hand is doing. This leaves the listener without the option of taking the statement at face value. That the statement is clearly a parable and requires that the listener must discern the true intent of the statement, is a fact that cannot be ignored, even for Pharisee type people.

We know from the scripture accompanying this parable, that Jesus was trying to tell us not to let our flesh person get in the way of what our spirit man is attempting to do, and that what you do will be judged by what is in the heart, rather than what you may try to imply by your physical actions. The Pharisees of Jesus' day would give great offerings, trying to imply that they were exceedingly righteous. However, when they made such a showing of their giving, it was plain, at least to those who could discern the spirits of the Pharisees, that they wanted the praise and glory of men, not the satisfaction of being obedient to God. Their pride was the factor that controlled them, and pride is the flesh side of man, not the spirit within man that is in tune with God's Holy Spirit.

The parable Jesus spoke was a lesson on doing what God wants you to do, and doing it for the sake of glorifying God, not glorifying self. But, we might ask the question, "Why did Jesus refer to the right hand and the left hand in order to point out the difference between the actions of the flesh and the action of the spirit? If we look in Ecclesiastes, chapter 10, verse 2, we will see an interesting statement which gives some insight into the reason for this. It says, "A wise man's heart is in his right hand, but a fools heart is at his left."

If you look at the words used in the original language of the Old Testament for ‘right hand’, it means ‘that hand which is the dominant hand, or the hand that usually takes’. The King James translators translated this as ‘right’ hand, in that most people are right handed. If you are left-handed, it would still mean the same thing because your left hand would then be your dominant hand, that hand that you usually use to take things with. I’ll use the ‘right’ hand term for my explanation, in keeping with the King James style. We know that a ‘right-handed’ person will use their right hand more than their left hand. We also know that the right hand would be more dexterous than the left hand. A right-handed person can do many things easily with their right hand, but if they attempted to do the same things with their left hand, they would be very clumsy at it. Writing, is a good example, or even feeding yourself. As the writer of Ecclesiastes knew, the hand that usually takes, the dominant hand, should be the hand that was assigned to the task of providing for things of the heart of man, or in other words, the things of man that pertain to God. The left hand, that hand which is not dominant, and is used more sparingly, should be assigned to the things that pertain to the fleshly things of this world, to the physical needs of man. Solomon knew that if a man was to be what God intended him to be, then he needed to spend more effort feeding his spirit man concerning the things of God, than in feeding his flesh with things that build up the fleshly man. Solomon’s statement of the right hand and the left hand was also a parable that is only comprehended by looking beneath the surface. He was actually saying that we who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior should be occupied with our Father’s business, just as Jesus was occupied with his Father’s business. At least, as Solomon taught, and as Jesus confirmed, the righteous man must let the spiritual side of him be strong, and not let the flesh side of him destroy what God intends for him to be.

The Pharisees of Jesus’ day were trying to show themselves as being super spiritual, but in actuality, their flesh side, symbolized by their left hand, was active in the ‘giving’ process, rather than their right hand. The wickedness of the Pharisees was dominant. In essence, they had been feeding their fleshly man with their right hand. That hand which usually took was responsible for giving their flesh so much provision, that the flesh became dominant over the spirit. They were fleshly; they were carnal; they were worldly, instead of being led of the Spirit of God. They had ceased to be men with understanding, and had sunk to the level of animals. They were only concerned for their own greedy lusts, their own evil desires. They had lost the ability to comprehend the wondrous things of God.

Now let’s go on to Revelation and see what we find. But keep this concept of the right hand and the left hand in mind, for it will come in handy as we eventually discuss Revelation 13’s ‘mark of the beast’.

[CD 1, Track 3]

I’m going to read now out of Revelation, chapter 13, starting with verse 1, and reading through verse 9. It says, “And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of

the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like the feet of a bear, and his mouth was like the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his ruling seat, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as if it was wounded unto death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshiped the dragon which gave power to the beast: and they worshiped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given to him to continue for forty two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given to him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindred, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all who dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. 9 If any man has an ear, let him hear.”

The first thing I'd like to explain is what the beast really is. We know that in one sense he is the embodiment of evil, working in the world through the wickedness of Satan. That's already a common accepted thought. But where I want to take you with this is a more specific definition of this beast, for it is the SPECIFIC definition that brings us to understanding the whole intent of Revelation 13. Specifically, this beast is the animal nature itself, or the beast nature, if you would. Satan was the instigator of a mass movement among the angels of heaven to revolt against God by choosing an alternative power source to follow. They chose the course of disobedience, ceasing to be subservient to God, refusing to acknowledge God as supreme. They chose to leave reason behind, replacing reason with that which has no reason. They chose to leave the absolute truth of God, and to accept the lie in place of it. In this manner, they made themselves as animals, for animals have no ability to reason. Proper reasoning will bring you into the truth of God. When you leave reason behind, you do stupid, ignorant, and foolish things.

In Jude 1:10, it says, “But these speak evil of those things of which they have no knowledge: but only what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.”

This says that these brute beasts corrupt themselves because they speak without knowledge. The term 'brute' means, 'without reason'. Animals, unlike human beings, have no soul. They do not view the universe, and the concept of God, with reason. They only react by instinct. They make decisions, but not by using reason, common sense, or conceptual thought. They just react. What we just read in Jude was concerning men who were base, who were low, like animals. They were brutish, in that they didn't stop to consider the wisdom of God, nor could they understand the goodness of God. They were 'brute beasts'. Their nature was animalistic, and they were acting like animals.

If we back up into Revelation 12 for a moment, we see that in verse 4 Satan accomplished his successful temptation with a third of the heavenly angels, with a most interesting tool. The

tool was his tail. That's what it says. He drew a third of the angels away from God with his tail. Animals have tails. Humans don't. Sure we have a tail bone, which may have some symbolic indication of how close flesh and blood is to being animals, at least in nature, but only animals have tails. In Genesis we see where Satan deceived Eve, posing as a Serpent. Actually, the Bible calls him a serpent, and says that he was more subtle, that means, more deceiving, than all the other ANIMALS. Genesis is actually saying that a snake was talking, and not only talking, but being absolutely deceptive. The reason it shows Satan as a serpent is that the animal is perfectly representative of that which is outside of the realm of God, and of His wisdom. Satan, as a serpent, was ALL TAIL. Basically, a serpent is made up of a head and a tail. Yes, you can scientifically break it up into head, body, and tail, but essentially it is a good symbolic representation of Satan, who's power is in his tail. The other forms of Satan, used in scripture are, Dragon, the definition of which is a great monstrous serpent, and Leviathan, the definition of which is a monstrous sea dragon, or monstrous sea serpent, the epitome of the beast who's home is in the sea of destruction.

Notice that the Bible uses symbolic terms for Satan. The word Satan, means great enemy. When the Bible uses the term Lucifer, it is referring to Satan as Light Bearer, in that he brings his own form of doctrine and presents himself as an angel of light. But his light is deceptive. When the Bible uses the term Devil, it refers to Satan as that evil spirit, for Satan is a being which was originally an angel, and therefore was a heavenly being. Satan is not flesh and blood, but a spirit being, just as all the other angels are spirit beings. When the Bible uses the term serpent, it refers to Satan as the animal which is so much lower than God, that it must go on its belly. It is all tail, symbolizing the essence of the animal nature. When the Bible uses the term Dragon, it refers to Satan as that serpent that is the most ferocious serpent there is. The term 'dragon' means great monstrous serpent. When the Bible uses the term Leviathan, it refers to Satan as that monstrous serpent who's abode is in the seas, for the waters on the face of the earth represent the lying deceptive doctrine of Satan. These last three terms use animals as the descriptive method, for the animal nature in Satan and in man, is opposed to that which God originally intended Satan and man to be. Man still has the opportunity to rise to the occasion, but in spite of this, many men will choose to be beasts rather than to be born again in the spirit.

The deception of man lies in the animal nature. Man's nature is continually evil unless he dies out to the animal nature, the carnal nature, and becomes born again as a spirit man. The process of regeneration must take place for a person to be saved from the eternal fires of hell. If the process of being reborn doesn't happen, then there is no alternative for them except to be destroyed in the lake of fire, for the scripture plainly says in 1 Corinthians 15:50, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven. It is the spirit man, that comes up out of the baptismal waters, that will inherit eternal life with God, not the animal nature, the carnal man of flesh. It is one thing to start out with a carnal nature; everyone does. But anyone wise enough to apply reason to their thoughts will find that it is in their best interest to reject a life without reason, to reject that spirit of disobedience to God, to reject that instinctive beast nature, and in place of it, to embrace God and all that he stands for. Man's animal nature

leaves reason behind, and attempts to lift himself up by the strength of his own hands, rather than trusting in God, and letting God be in control. The beast nature is a nature of self-centeredness. It is survival of the fittest. It is dog eat dog. Man was placed in the world to overcome the world; to rise above the base animal nature of man and to take on the nature of God. Satan, and a third of the angels, became convinced that there was another way. They chose the beast nature as their course instead of the spirit nature of God, determining to lift themselves up by their own strength, by their own abilities, rather than submitting themselves to the power and authority of God. This is completely outside of the realm of good reason, and is patently brutish, it is explicitly beastly in nature.

In Isaiah 14:12-14, it says, “How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, who weakened the nations! 13 For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will also sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

Satan’s offering to the angels was the same offering that he makes to mankind. It is an offering to reject God as the supreme authority, and to turn to the strength of your own hands to accomplish your desires instead of God’s desires. This is the beast nature, the animal nature. God is a spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit, and in truth. We don’t worship God in mechanical or logical ways, but in spirit, with our hearts. We don’t pray mechanically, but we pray as we are moved in our spirit. We worship him in truth, the fulness of his word, not in the twisted truth, the lies and deceptions of Satan, born out of a lack of applying reason. If we truly know that which comes from God, then anyone who is wise would consider us to be without reason if we rejected it. We would be brutish, acting like beasts, like animals.

Think of this. Plants have a body. That’s all they have. Animals have both a body and a spirit. You can see the spirit aspect in animals, such as in a spirited horse, or a vicious dog. But animals don’t have the ability to reason, which is only a human characteristic. Human beings have a body, a spirit, AND a soul. They were made higher than the animals, they were made with a soul. They can apply reason. They can understand concepts. They can comprehend the existence of God. And they can comprehend their OWN existence as well. That’s why man is triune, as God is. They have all three persons, or parts, to make up the one being.

[CD 1, Track 4]

Now, let’s get back to Revelation 13, and see what verses 11 to 15 give us.

It says, “And I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spoke like a dragon. 12 And he exercised all the power of the first beast before

him, and caused the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 13 And he does great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceives those who dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to those who dwell on the earth, that they should make an image of the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and lived. 15 And he had power to give life to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.”

The second beast of Revelation’s chapter thirteen is the symbolic equivalent of the “little horn” of Daniel, chapters seven and eight, and has value, not only in the physical sense of the historical figure, Antiochus Epiphanes, a ruler out of Syria, but also as a representative symbol affecting our current world situation. Or, in other words, this account in Daniel seven and eight is both a physical event and the foretelling of another future event which was to be played out in a much broader perspective at a later point of time. That time is now, today, your world and mine. But the original *physical event* occurred as Antiochus Epiphanes desecrated the Jewish altar in approximately 167 B.C. by offering a sow upon it. He also took the altar away, installing his own, and set up an image of Zeus, his sun god, the supreme God of the Syrians, in the Jewish temple.

The basic symbolic equivalent of this little horn, is the people of Earth who have taken God’s word and applied their own twist of doctrine to it. Instead of the altar of God being used for the sacrificing of clean animals, the people of Earth have given a sow, a swine, as a sacrifice to God. In essence, the sacrifice that people have come to give to God is not a true acceptable sacrifice at all. They have lost the understanding of what it means to be a living sacrifice to God, and have given the sacrifice of their own choosing, and of their own definition. If you look in Leviticus, chapter 11, and Deuteronomy, chapter 14, you will see that of all four-footed beasts, only those domesticated animals that both chewed the cud and had a divided hoof were considered clean animals. Israel was not to eat of the unclean animals, nor were they to sacrifice unclean animals to God. Let me give you the symbolic concept of clean and unclean animals, as they apply to us today. Keep in mind as we go through the explanation, that we are talking of clean and unclean animals as being representative of how Christians should act, and how they should not act. The essence of this explanation is that you must give yourself as an acceptable sacrifice to God, and that God only accepts those sacrifices that conform to HIS specifications, not ours.

Remember that a clean animal, under the Law, both chewed the cud, and had a split hoof. In essence, this means that Christians who are giving themselves as a sacrifice to God, must conform to what the clean animals represent. The Christian who dies daily, can be representative of the daily sacrifice performed under the Law of Commandments, only if they have the two CLEAN animal traits, the chewing of the cud, and the divided hoof. The underlying implication is that man was created with a fleshly nature. An animal nature, which must be overcome, so that man would rise to become a spiritual being; born-again; born of the

Spirit. But the mind of an animal cannot comprehend God. A brute beast does not use reason. Therefore, if you are not a brute beast, and truly are seeking God, then in your progressive walk with Christ, you will seek to transform your mind into that which can comprehend spiritual things. Therefore, when you hear or read the word of God, you will not just read it or hear it and lay it aside, but you will contemplate it. You will 'ruminate' on the word. You will chew your cud. As King David frequently says in the Psalms, Selah. The word, Selah, means to pause and think about that. In Christian circles this separates the men from the boys. Christians who never progress past the surface layer of Scripture, don't spend much time pondering the word of God. As we progress from our animal nature, we must be like clean animals of the Old Testament, in that we get the most out of our food.

In the other perspective, a clean four footed animal was required to have a split hoof. Four footed animals with split hooves were designed by God to walk on solid ground. They were not designed to walk in mud and mire, nor in low land swampy areas. Neither are Christians. The Bible makes many references to miry clay, and that God's people should stay out of it and on solid ground. But the animal nature in man, the beast nature, is very strong, and the temptation to go down into places you should not go is difficult to resist. Why? What does the miry clay symbolize? We know that the solid rock is Jesus Christ. Well, the opposite of solid rock is to be drowned in the waters of destruction. Miry clay and swamps are the place where Satan wants Christians to go. He entices them to leave their solid footing and go to the middle ground which borders the deep waters. The water of the sea symbolizes the destructive doctrine of Satan's lies in the earth.

If you're a Christian, then you should be acceptable to God. You should be as a clean animal, one which is designed to walk on solid ground. You should attempt to stay as far away from the muck and mire of the world as possible, and to plant your feet on solid rock, for that's what they were designed for. When you feed on the word of God, it should be like sheep which are made to eat the lush grasses of the pasture. You should also be like the sheep that ruminate. You should ruminate on the word of God. You should think about what you hear and what you read, so that you may clearly understand what God wants you to apply to your life.

The 'little horn' of Daniel 7 and 8, refers to the offering of a sow upon the altar of God. Swine, in Old Testament scripture, was considered especially abominable, especially wicked, in God's eyes, for it symbolized the especially wicked persons who call themselves Christians, and who were designed to walk on solid ground, having the split hoof, but in spite of this, they choose to wallow in the muck and mire of the world. That's where they are the most contented. In addition to this, these people who call themselves Christians, and an acceptable clean offering to the Lord, do not ruminate, just as swine do not ruminate. This means they go to church, and may read their Bible, but they never try to ponder the meaning so that they can apply the truth of it to their lives. This kind of sacrifice of so-called Christians is abominable in the eyes of God.

Another aspect of the ‘little horn’, is that the altar of God is removed, and another altar was put in its place. This is representative of these same people who call themselves Christians, and claim to be giving themselves to God, but in truth they sacrifice themselves on another altar; the altar of the world, and give themselves to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Their lives center around these three general categories of sin, for their altar is Satan’s altar, not God’s altar.

Another symbol of the ‘little horn’ is that Antiochus Epiphanes sets up an image of Zeus in the temple, which is the sun god, the supreme god of his nation of Syria. This is also representative of the people of today who call themselves Christians, but do not look to God’s Holy Spirit for their understanding, but try to use the logic of the world for their truth. They, like the scribes and Pharisees in the time of Jesus, can only see the physical side of things, and the parameters of their lives are formed by physical eyes and ears, for they have no spiritual understanding. That the ‘sun god’ is the god of the ‘little horn’ is not just coincidence, for just as the sun is the physical light of the world, the physical sun is the only light these people of today can comprehend. But, true Christians need the true light from heaven, not the world’s light. False Christians are worshiping the sun, s.u.n., not the SON, S.O.N. Jesus is the light from heaven. Jesus is the truth. As you ponder the different aspects of the ‘little horn’, you should make an effort to look beneath the surface, so that your understanding is fruitful, and you can avoid the mistakes of those who claim to be Christians, but are, as referred to in Matthew 7:21, “workers of iniquity.”

[CD 1, Track 5]

Now, let’s go on with our study. In Revelation 13:12-14, it says:

“And he exercises all the power of the first beast before him, and causes the earth and those who dwell there to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he does great wonders, so that he makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceives those who dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to those who dwell on the earth, that they should make an image of the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and yet lived.”

There are some specific points from verses 11 through 14 that we should look at, and these specific items will give us a general outline for our course of study.

- 1st, The second beast rises up out of the earth, not the sea, as did the first beast.
- 2nd, He, the second beast, causes the earth AND those who dwell on the earth to worship the first beast.
- 3rd, This first beast, which had seven heads, was wounded with a sword as unto death, yet lived.

- 4th, The second beast does great wonders. He brings fire down from heaven in the sight of men.
- 5th, He deceives those who dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles.
- 6th, His power to do these miracles were only with the power of the first beast, not some other power, and
- 7th, He convinces the people of Earth to build an image of the first beast. He doesn't build it himself.

Let's take a look at the first point on the list, where it says, "The first beast comes up out of the sea, and the second beast rises up out of the earth." The initial beast rising was the animal nature taken on by Satan who, with a third of the angels, left his first estate, his first existence with God. He rose up out of the sea, in the sense that this original beast nature was born out of the doctrine which destroys life. To explain this, we must look at the term, 'waters', as used in scripture, which indicate either that which is truth, the living waters from heaven, and quenches the thirst for the knowledge of God, or, that which deceives, those waters that are impure, undrinkable, full of lies, and consequently leading the listener to their destruction, by being overwhelmed with the waves of deceit, drowning in the waters of the sea. These two types of water in scripture represent the truth of God and the deception of Satan.

In the beginning, God created the heavens, and also the earth. It says that the earth was without form, and it was void of substance. There was nothing on the earth. There was no trees, no grass, no dry ground, let alone birds, fish, or animals. The earth was empty of all life. The only thing on this giant ball was the mass of waters which covered the earth. God's first act of creation was to create light. This initial light was not the sun nor the moon, but just plain light. The sun and moon were not created until the fourth day. The light created that first day was light from God. Man, who would be created on the sixth day would need the light of heaven in order to overcome the world and make his eternal abode with God. But we know that the light from heaven must illuminate knowledge, for the thing that man would need most was the true knowledge of God, so that he could come to know God. On Earth, in the beginning, there were two kinds of waters, which are symbolic of the two kinds of doctrine in our world. The one kind of water is the water of the word of God, which gives life. The other kind of water is the lies of Satan, which drown men in destruction.

The light could illuminate, could reveal what was there, but there was still a problem. Although the light illuminated both kinds of waters, they were, as yet, combined. They were not separate from one another, and this would hinder man's comprehension. Man needed to see a distinction between the two waters in order to compare them with each other. However, God, in his wisdom, had a plan to reveal the truth of himself, and to expose the deception of Satan which had already taken its toll on a third of the angels. God had a plan that would allow man to see the difference between the truth of God and lies of Satan.

The initial chapter of Genesis reveals that God's second act was to make a separation between the water from above which would give life eternal, and the water from below which would

drown men in destruction. He created what is called, a 'firmament'. Now, a firmament is nothing more than an expanse, an opening, a visible separation between two objects. At first, the waters were combined. There could be no comprehension of the two kinds of waters, for, originally, there was just one mass of water, some being pure, and some being impure. Confusion reigned, concerning the knowledge of God. Anytime you combine truth with a lie, you have a lie; you have confusion. In order to have truth, you have to separate the truth from the lie, make a clear distinction between the two, and then you can determine which is which. After you determine which is lie and which is truth, you can choose which one to accept. The firmament was God's way of making a distinction between the truth of God and the lies of Satan, and thereby giving man a PLACE on the earth in which to live his life in contemplation of good and evil. Once the firmament was in place, then the light that God had first created, would expose the qualities of each kind of water, and reveal that the truth was of God, and the lies were of Satan; and that the lies were foolishness, without reason, brutish, animalistic, beastly.

Unless God was to make a way for truth to be recognized as good, no one could serve God by faith in God. If confusion reigned, those who served God might only do so out of loyalty, and not out of knowledge of the truth. After all, God tells us that he, God, is the truth, but Satan tells mankind that he, Satan, is the truth. Any being, including angels or mankind, or anything else that exists, must be able to comprehend the knowledge of the truth for themselves, and make a determination of whether God truly IS good, as he says he is, or whether he isn't.

Of course, God is all powerful, so he could easily FORCE man to serve him, but God's intent is far above that. He recognizes that man must be able to come to him in his own free will. Otherwise God would not be loved, but only served in dutiful obedience. Service to him must come because the person fully recognizes the inherent goodness of God, and not because the only alternative is hell. If it is only force that causes man to serve God, and not true love for God himself, God would be unable to find pleasure in that service to him.

I know that we, as humans, could enforce service to ourselves in a given situation where it was necessary, but our pleasure of being served would not be complete unless the servant served us out of genuine love for us. To be served against the servant's will can never give the pleasure of being served out of acceptance and love.

Now let's look again at the first beast. This first beast rose up from, was born out of, the waters UNDER the earth; or in essence, the lower waters. It is the lower waters that drown men in perdition, which means, to their destruction. The waters from above bring the showers to water the seed of the earth and to make it grow. Seas are large bodies of water, and for the most part are salty. Mankind cannot drink saltwater, but must have pure water to drink. Man must also refrain from drinking water that is contaminated with impurities. Therefore, any water which is tainted by impurities, or contaminated by salt or excess chemicals, or both, will destroy man. Satan's abode is, symbolically speaking, the sea, for it is the sea which will kill mankind if he partakes of the waters. In essence, Satan's abode is in the great mass of lies

which contaminate the truth of God, and rather than quenching man's thirst for true knowledge, causes man's death and destruction.

The Dead Sea, at the southern end of Israel, is especially contaminated, for it is the lowest point on Earth, and it has symbolic significance in reference to Behemoth, mentioned in Job, chapter 40, where it says that Behemoth is confident he can drink up Jordan. This refers to the pure waters coming down from the lofty heights of Mt. Herman, which sits at the northern end of Israel. The waters are both from pure underground springs and from the snow which falls on the mountain's top. Both sources of this water, whether from underground springs, or waters from above which come down as snow, rain, or dew, are initially pure. As the springs bring forth pure water, and as the snow melts from the top of the mountain, the waters meander down the northern and southern river valley and eventually flow into the Dead Sea. This symbolically indicates that the lies of Satan continue to contaminate the truth of God, and eventually, if the doctrine of Satan is not checked, the waters will end up in the Dead Sea, or in essence, completely swallowed up by the lies, the doctrine of error. This is Satan's intent, his purpose on the earth, to completely swallow up the truth of God and replace it with his own form of doctrine. This is a reference to Matthew 24:22, and Mark 13:20, which tell us that the days of God's set time table must be shortened in order that Satan's lies do not completely destroy the truth of God on the earth and all men be lost. But when that time is cut short, and the truth is finally revealed concerning Satan's waters of destruction, his lies and deceptions, then the people of Earth will be lifted up in victory; at least those who recognize and accept God's true word, and drink deeply of the pure waters from heaven.

[CD 2, Track 1]

Now, in addition to these concepts, we need to look at Job, chapter 41, where we read about Leviathan, the sea monster. Leviathan is another symbolic name for Satan, and is used to describe his work in regards to the waters of destruction. Leviathan is that first beast of Revelation 13, the beast nature, which was chosen and exalted by Satan. Behemoth is also described in Job, chapter 40, and is representative of the second beast; but we'll get to that later. By first coming to an understanding of the significance of Leviathan, you will be able to see the significance of Behemoth.

According to the book of Job, Leviathan's abode is in the sea. It's a ferocious beast. It is totally destructive, and the only one who can tame it is God himself. God created it, therefore he has power over it. The Bible uses the symbolism of Leviathan to explain the tremendous destructive power of the beast nature. It is a monster. It will destroy any man who comes near to it. It cannot be tamed. It cannot be caught and killed, except by God himself. Jesus, as the man-God, aptly demonstrated this by overcoming man's sinful fleshly nature, thereby giving one more proof that he was indeed God.

But the animal nature is powerful to destroy men, and what it destroys is the spirit man. The carnal nature will rise up and war against the spirit. And the only hope man has of not being destroyed by this beast is to stay away from it, and turn to God for help. Man, in his own strength cannot fight it. The only way man can be victorious over this beast nature is through the power of God himself. Any other hope is soon dashed in pieces. The only person who was ever able to defeat the beast nature was Jesus Christ, who is God. We can have hope to overcome the beast nature through him.

Leviathan is said to dwell in the sea, because the beast nature only flourishes in the midst of Satan's lies. If there were no 'waters of perdition', no 'waters of destruction', no satanic doctrine, no twisted truth, then the spirit man would have no trouble overcoming anything in the world. But man cannot overcome that monster with his own strength, for the beast nature operates through flesh and blood to destroy man. Fleshly man, carnal man, is subject to earthly desires, and the flesh welcomes anything that will stimulate it. Satan, as Leviathan, the sea beast, uses the sea, his lying doctrine, to deceive man and thereby corrupt him unto death.

And this brings us to the second beast, which is the animal nature developed in man. It is also symbolized by the term, 'Behemoth', used in Job, chapter 40. Man has succumbed to the temptation of Satan. Just as the serpent beguiled Eve, deceived Eve, all mankind has been deceived and has entered into sin by leaving the perfect obedience to God and giving in to the animal nature in one form or another. From the time that sin entered the world through the sin of Eve, that flesh nature has been prevalent in man. Man, from that day on, is born into sin, born into an existence where the beast nature is in him. To enter into sin is to set aside 'reason', and thereby act as an animal acts, as beasts act. Man was not put on Earth to act as animals, and to throw reason out the window. Man was meant to see the different concepts of knowledge, to contemplate this knowledge, and eventually come to the understanding of who God is, and what he wants from us. Man's destiny is to make a decision to serve God. However, if man caters to his flesh, as his beast nature wants him to, he will never rise above the level of animals. He will never be born again as a spirit man.

In Job, chapter 40, Behemoth is described as a huge beast which lives in the swamps and mire. This is symbolic of where man lives if he caters to his fleshly nature. In the Bible, God warns us to keep our feet on solid ground, and not to walk in the mire. Psalms 40, verse 2, says, "He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." The symbolism tells us that we must stay away from waters of destruction. Even more than that, we need to stay away from low places where the waters of destruction are so prevalent that it will make the ground unstable; it will make the ground soft, and we would sink into the mire and get stuck there. This just means that we should stay as far away as possible from the sinfulness of the flesh. We must stay away from the lies and deceptions of Satan, and we must stay away from the stimulations of the flesh which entice us to come close to Satan's waters of destruction, for they will lure us to our destruction. Eventually, we would be dragged into the deep waters, and the lies of Satan would overwhelm

us, destroying our faith in God. Without faith in God, we would have no hope, and would experience eternal death, and in essence, will have drowned in Satan's sea of destruction. But man, because of the pull of the flesh, has embraced the animal nature, the beast nature. The second beast of Revelation has risen up in man. And that beast nature, which so corrupted Satan and a third of the angels, has risen up now out of the earth. It is now, man, who has also embraced that beast nature. Although man tries not to go directly into the deep sea of Satan's lies, the waters which will drown him in destruction, still, because man's beast nature loves the things that Satan uses as temptation, he leaves his solid footing and tries to live as close to the dangerous waters as possible, in order to get all of Satan's merchandise he can get.

An extension of this symbolism is that the merchants of Earth ply their trade to humans. Their merchandise is anything which stimulates the flesh rather than the spirit of man. The Bible uses the symbolism of ships as the merchant's mode of delivery, to accompany the symbolism of Satan's sea of false doctrine. This is why Tyre and Sidon, the two principle port cities of scripture, are included in Bible prophecy. They are the liaisons of trade connecting the people of earth to the sea of destruction. Therefore, the symbolism of Behemoth is used to denote man's beast nature that loves to reside as close to the sea as possible in order to be near the worldly stimulations of the flesh.

Even Christians, and not just the wicked of the earth, tend to embrace the beast nature, letting the lure of the flesh dominate their lives. Instead of living as far from the lies and deceptions as possible, they keep going into the lowlands, keep going into the mire, thinking they can get back out onto solid ground any time they want to. Satan, by his lies, continues to lure them into the mire, knowing they will eventually be sucked in deeper and soon be drowned. The lure of the worldly nature is strong. The desires of the flesh are strong. The only hope for man is to turn from the desires of the flesh and to desire the things of the spirit; to desire the things of God. God is a spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit, and in truth. There is no alternative if man wants to live forever with God instead of being condemned to hell. Man cannot continue to play in the swamps and glens. He can't continue to dabble in the flesh, for the beast nature will continue to draw him. The lies will continue to deceive him, and eventually he will be overcome with them.

[CD 2, Track 2]

Now let's look at the concept in Revelation 13:11-12, where the second beast is said to do three things. It speaks like a dragon, it exercises all the power of the first beast, and it causes the earth and those who dwell on it to worship the first beast.

The definition of a dragon is a monstrous serpent; a huge snake. Satan's nature is ultimately deceptive, and is absolutely opposed to God, or anything of God. His words are lies, intended to destroy the truth of God, which would destroy God himself as a power. Satan's determination is to distort the truth, for truth is the essence of God, and therefore God's image

would be distorted. Everything that Satan's nature is, is opposed to God. The second beast, the beast nature that was developed in man, follows this same pattern, which echoes the lies of Satan.

The beast nature in man, without the lies of Satan, would soon cease to exist. That's why the great whore of Revelation, referred to in Revelation 17 and 18, who is also called, Babylon the Great, is seen riding the beast. It is the beast nature, first developed in Satan, and afterward developed in man, that supports those who would prostitute themselves for the carnal things of the world. If man shuns his human nature, his carnal nature, and is reborn a spirit man, and strives to acquire all that is God, then the animal nature would be put to death. However, the lure of the flesh is strong, and the beast nature that has risen up in the earth through flesh and blood emulates the beast nature that was developed in Satan. This second beast, that has risen up in the people of the earth, goes after the selfish pursuit of power, just as Satan went after power. The only difference between the two beasts is where they live, where they play. The second beast gives out the same doctrine as the first beast. All it's doctrine is a lie of Satan; the twisted truth. The second beast's power is the same power as that of the first beast. It is the power of the animal nature. It is the power of control of your own destiny, rather than trusting in God. It is power that is directed by the desires of the flesh, rather than being directed by the desire for the spiritual things of God.

The second beast also causes the earth and those on it to worship the first beast. Worship is the act of giving glory, which means the illuminating of someone or something. It is like shining a spotlight on the object of worship so that everyone around you will see the greatness or goodness of the object. Our earth, the earth of today, has become a testimony, not to the original creator of it, but to the power of the beast nature, to the power within natural man.

The earth gives glory to man rather than to God. It is filled with man's technology, with man's inventions, and with man's sins. The earth gives witness to the power and might of man, rather than to the Holiness of God. Man worships the beast nature, and continually pours out praise to natural man's ingenuity of science, technology, and the arts. Almost everywhere we go in this world we see and hear testimony to the nature of carnal man. Everything in this world shouts out the sins of man and the lusts of man. Man loves the world so much that it continuously worships the base animal nature of man, and encourages everyone to embrace more of the world. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life are rampant in the world, and it is the beast nature that encourages man to seek after the things of this world in a quest for power, and in a quest for more stimulation of the fleshly desires. This is nothing short of a continual declaration of love for the world, and a continual rejection of the higher, loftier, things of God. Yes, God is praised to some extent in the churches, but the things of this world are praised to great extent every other place and time. And actually, even in the church you hear lots of praise and admiration for that which stimulates the flesh. Christians are pretty much double-minded. They have dual vision most of the time, and then all they end up with is confusion, as the things of God and the things of the world overlap and the truth becomes blurry.

[CD 2, Track 3]

Now, Revelation 13:13, also refers to the miraculous ability of the second beast. Once again, it is only within the scope of Satan's beast nature that the second beast operates. This one verse is one of the most significant verses in all of Revelation. When it talks of the miraculous, notice that it only gives one example. The example it gives is that the second beast has power, within the parameters of the animal nature', to bring fire down from heaven. Again, note that this is the only example given. We need to understand the symbolic meaning of this representative miracle, and also to comprehend the extent of its effect on mankind.

This miracle, although described by the Apostle John over 1900 years ago, could not be comprehended until these last days, for it wasn't until man was able to harness the power of the fire of the heavens that man's power took such a gigantic leap forward. When man developed the ability to use electricity, he, essentially, harnessed lightning. Lightning is a giant bolt of electricity which can light one end of the sky to the other. It is made up of electrical fire. It is not spiritual fire, as from our Lord's heaven, the third heaven, as referred to by Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:2, but physical fire from man's heaven, the first heaven, the sky. Man's ability to bring this fire down from the sky catapulted man into a realm of science and technology which was unheard of in the history of the world. Man looks at this as just a general progression of man's knowledge, but it is actually equivalent to the prophetic statement in Daniel 12:4 where it says, "But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even until the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge will be increased."

With the advent of electricity, man's human powers have increased beyond measure. Anyone who stands back and looks at recent history can certainly see that we are living in a completely different environment than was common for people of past ages. It is this increase in knowledge which is, in these last days, revealing that spirit of antichrist which is prevalent in the world. This spirit of antichrist even sits in the body of Christ, which is the current temple of God on the earth, and he displays himself as if he were God. Yet, it is not God that most people are worshiping, but Satan. Many are deceived into thinking they are worshiping God, but the beast nature within themselves is so strong, that what comes out of them as testimony, gives more testimony of the wonders of the world, than to the wonders of God. But their deception is brought about because they do not have a love for the truth, but rather, they love the unrighteousness of the world, and live only to stimulate the fleshly man, that beast within.

This is brought out fully in 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, where it gives some insight into what is taking place in our world today. In order to understand it though, we need to take a quick look at the history of the Israelites. In the Old Testament, the Israelites were chosen of God to be a separate people, and were given the Law of Commandments, written in stone, plus other ordinances and rules to live by. Israel then went for several hundred years being, quote, God's people. I say, quote, because they really didn't act like God's people most of the time. What

they did do, was to vacillate between serving God with all their hearts, and serving their own self interests. For awhile, they would be a good people, observing all the laws and commandments which had been handed down to them. Then, little by little, they would stray from the path of obedience, to more and more disobedience. After a few years, their wickedness would become great, and God would do something to get their attention. He would either bring in an enemy to harass them, or catastrophes to plague them. When they finally woke up to the realization that they had not been what God had asked them to be, they repented, and turned from their wicked selfish ways, and God forgave them. Then the process would start all over again. This was a cycle during all the history of Israel.

The cycle is no different for Christians, as God's elect, his chosen people of today, than it was for the Jews. We go in cycles, initially serving God with all our hearts, all our soul, and all our strength. But then the lifestyle of others, signified in the Old Testament by those idolatrous nations which surrounded Israel, start to pull us away from God. As we succumb more and more to the pull of the natural man, as we begin to give place for the devil to work on us, our minds begin to lose the ability to comprehend the DEEP HIDDEN things of God, and this causes our understanding of the things of God to wane, and soon we lack the power of God that the knowledge of God brought in the first place. We lose our place with God, because, as it says in 2 Thessalonians 2:10, we did not have a love for the truth. We allowed ourselves to slip closer and closer to the 'sea of destruction', and began to wallow in the muck and mire of the world, thinking that we could pull ourselves out at any time.

This is what happened over and over to Israel. They began at first to interact with the other nations, then pretty soon they intermarried with the other nations, then they took the false gods of the other nations to worship alongside with the God of heaven. Soon, they were living a lie. And all the time that their wickedness was increasing, they still thought they were the elite, the chosen people of God, which they were in a sense, but God was getting ready to let them be taken into captivity. Israel soon became oppressed by the other nations, and eventually came into bondage, and it was a long time before God delivered them. Yet, in each cycle, when they would listen to the prophets that God sent to them, and then would repent of their sins, turning back to God and to his laws, God would forgive them and heal their land. This happened many times in the kingdom of Judah, but very little in the northern kingdom of Israel. You might compare the two Jewish kingdoms of the Old Testament with the church of today which is made up of sheep and goats. In essence, the church is made up of the northern kingdom of goats, and the Judean kingdom of sheep. And if the time is not shortened, as Jesus promises in Matthew 24:22, even the sheep would be lost, just as the kingdom of Judah was finally destroyed and its people carried away into captivity to Babylon.

Most of the church today has followed the same path, the same history, of the Jews, and has been taken into bondage. The bondage of the church is not a physical bondage that the Israelites experienced, but rather a bondage that is spiritual. It is a bondage that can be seen with spiritual eyes if you have eyes that can see below the surface. On the surface of today's church, everything looks rosy. Christians generally believe that they have their act together,

and are just waiting for the rapture of the church. Yet the spirit of antichrist permeates the church, and Christians don't even know it is there. But, as spoken in 2 Thessalonians 2, this antichrist sits in the temple of God, and shows himself as if he were God. Most Christians of today can't tell the difference. And they won't for a while yet, because the events leading up to the coming of the Lord are still forming.

And just a note here. The temple is you and me. 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, "Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" Satan is blinding eyes to the fact that the antichrist is here by telling Christians to look on the surface of prophecy and expect another physical temple. Therefore, Christians are sitting back and taking it easy because they can't see any danger yet. They think that because the physical temple hasn't yet been built in Israel, that the antichrist can't be here. If this was so, why would John say in 1 John 4:3, that antichrist is already in the world? Antichrist is already sitting in the temple, and Christians are ignorant of the fact. It would be a good idea to re-read 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2.

When we look at that book and chapter, and especially at verses 7 and 8, we see that this spirit of antichrist is hindered from working to its fulness until such time as the hindrance is removed. At this time that spirit of antichrist is allowed to act in power greater than previously allowed, which will eventually cause him to be revealed.

What I would like you to consider is that the hindrance has already been removed, and this was accomplished just prior to the time of the science and technology explosion which was initiated in the 1700's, at the approximate time when it was discovered that lightning could be harnessed and transformed into a much simpler form; electricity, which in turn could be used to create extravagant inventions of man. This was the beginning of the end, when the wickedness of Satan, coupled with the sinful animal nature of man, would bring about a means to exalt man to the heights of God himself. At least, this is Satan's intention. The antichrist nature of science and technology is becoming more and more apparent to those who can discern between spirits. Eventually, as the culmination of this era approaches the end of the world, there will finally be no one on the face of the earth who will not realize that science and God are two forces which are opposed to each other. No, not because science is bad in itself, but because the beast nature that Satan adopted, coupled with the beast nature that man also adopted, is being used in an attempt to exalt mankind above the throne of God.

[CD 2, Track 4]

The original endeavor to exalt man above the clouds of heaven, and to create a name for man without subjecting himself to God, was described in Genesis, chapter 11. Looking at Genesis, chapter 10, verse 25, and verse 32, I suspect the building of the tower of Babel took place approximately 131 years after the flood, in the days of Peleg, whose name means, 'division'. You can investigate this portion if you like. But whenever the actual building of the Tower of

Babel occurred, it is certain that the people had once again become disobedient to God, in that they were not ready to disperse throughout the earth and replenish it, but wanted to group together and make a name for themselves. Their intent was to build a tower that would reach to heaven. The material at hand existed of sun baked clay, and slime, or bitumen, a tar-like substance which acted as mortar. These were pretty shabby materials for a scientific endeavor of such great magnitude. However, notice what God's response was to their crude creation. In Genesis 11:6, God, after coming down to see the city and tower, said, "This they begin to do, and now nothing will be withheld from them, which they have imagined to do." This was God speaking, and so we can't say he was crazy to say that they could accomplish anything now if they could conceive of it. If you or I had said this, everyone would have thought WE were crazy, but if God said it, then we have to take the statement at face value, because if there is anyone who can see beneath the surface layer of the facts, it is God himself.

But it was not in what they had to work with, nor their then current knowledge base, that caused God to say this, but God knew that he had created man with abilities that could accomplish anything that the imagination of man could conceive of, only given enough space and time. God put an end to it, and Satan's attempt to get man to totally exalt themselves against God was stymied. In a sense, one head of the beast was wounded, as unto death. Yet, Satan had 6 more heads to go, for there are 7 heads which are attached to the beast. He was not finished yet.

In these last days, man is once again building this great city and tower, and in essence has caused the people of Earth to create a tower which is meant to exalt Earth's people to heaven. Lucifer is still attempting to use man for his own purpose, which is to exalt himself above the throne of God.

Now, I know that it is very easy to discredit the Tower of Babel attempt, and assume it was an isolated incident of the Genesis period, but if we do, we miss the symbolic point of the story. God showed us this initial example as a symbol for those of us who would live at the end time of the world. We would do well to take a closer look at the current attempt by the wicked people of the earth to reach heaven by the strength of their own hands. Let's take a moment here and consider this from another angle.

Lucifer is not omnipotent (all powerful), as God is. His attempt to exalt himself above the throne of God is not by the same power that God uses. Whatever God does, all he has to do is **speak the Word**. But Satan's ability to empower himself is based on the natural, physical elements of the cosmos, using the people of the earth as pawns. The cosmos, which refers to the physical world and universe, is his area of power for the purpose of manipulating people. The word World, in scripture, means cosmos, the natural orderliness, or logical progression. The world has been placed in space by God, and continues to follow the orderliness of the universe, just as all objects of the universe do. This is according to the natural laws of the physical forces, however, and is NOT according to the spiritual laws. Satan, because of his rejection of God and the realm of heaven, has been bound to the earth, which is not spiritual,

but physical in nature. Satan, and his angels, are spirit beings. But humans are not. In order for Satan to bring about an all out total rejection of God, he must work within man's natural human boundaries. Satan may have been a heavenly being, but man has not yet attained heavenly status. Satan, working through man, can only work within man's capabilities.

The Bible refers to Satan as the prince of the power of the "air," and the prince of this "world." Satan is referred to in this way because his attempt at replacing the power of God lies in the arena of that life form and its environment that cannot exist without air. It is air (oxygen) that sustains natural man's life. A spiritual being, which is what we must become, does not have "air" as the breath of life, but rather, the Holy Spirit. We, as born again Christians, have life because the Holy Spirit has given us the knowledge of God, His Word, which is life to us; not temporary physical life, but eternal life. This is where the battle of good and evil is fought, between trusting in God, who is a Spirit, or not trusting in God, and instead, relying on that which our own hands can do. If we are born again, we will be born of the Spirit. A man that is not born again will remain a natural fleshly man. The spiritual man will trust in God. The natural man will trust in that which is natural, that which the world offers, in might and power, as it says in Zechariah 4:6, instead of by God's Spirit.

Man was made subject to air. He was created by God, made a natural man, with the breath of life breathed into him by God. Without the natural things of the universe, man would die. Even man's attempts at leaving the realm of Earth by means of space travel, requires him to take an air supply with him. The air is the natural boundary of natural man. It is not a barrier to man who becomes a spirit being. Therefore, the only future for man is to become a spiritual being (be born again). Satan, who is the **prince of the power of the air**, uses the natural things of God's creation to exalt himself. He does this by lying to people, and deceiving them into believing that they can trust in the physical strengths of the universe, the self-empowered works of the flesh. He uses the same force to deceive man that he used to deceive a third of the angels. He uses his tail, his animalistic nature, his beast form. Instead of trusting in God, and looking to him as supreme authority and power, man gives in to the temptations of worldly powers and delights and begins to believe that he can trust in the natural powers at hand to meet all his needs.

Satan offers man the power of the universe, even though he cannot possibly deliver all he promises. He has made an all out effort to sway men into thinking that they do not need God, but now have other means to empower themselves. The world has accepted this lie to great extent. Man now thinks he can "climb up to heaven" by building the "Tower of Babel" all over again. Most people of this world have set their sights on goals **this** world has to offer, and are hard at work developing their powers in the natural, and have given up the quest for the powers of God. Natural man is now beginning to think that his future lies in space travel, long life medicines, and cloning. His needs are met by an ever increasing dependence on study, jobs, banks, loans, physicians, scientists, etc. They move mountains, not by faith, but with gigantic bulldozers and trucks. They heal the sick, not by faith, but by manipulation of

chemicals. They perform feats which appear to be almost miraculous, but use the forces of the natural laws rather than faith.

The Tower of Babel today is not a pyramid of clay bricks and slime, but the tools of science and technology much more greatly enhanced. Its bricks and mortar are transistors and diodes, nano-biology, bio-technology, computer generation, gene manipulation, and cloning. The hindrance to Satan has been removed, and the last onslaught has been in progress for over two hundred years. The result is that most people on the earth are sick of Christianity, and many Christians are also rejecting Christ, even in the seminaries of many denominations.

[CD 2, Track 5]

But the greatest problem the world faces is Satan's deception of the people of Earth with these 'miracles' that are accomplished through the knowledge of man. All the 'wonders' of science and technology are miraculous when seen through man's natural eyes. Man is being brainwashed into rejecting the power of God, and turning to science for his trust. The intent of Satan is to finally cause man to reject the concept of an Almighty God, and to embrace the powers of Earth; trusting that eternal life and eternal happiness can come to man through the strength of his own hands. And in the last few years, with the advent of bio-technology, cloning, etc., man is quickly being swayed into believing that this may actually be possible. If this trend continues long enough, and becomes the accepted thought on a world-wide basis, then man would no longer have to worry about being pleasing in God's sight. God would be quickly rejected by all, as if throwing out an old garment which was no longer needed for a covering, for man would no longer consider himself to be naked. He would no longer be aware of his own shame. He would be as the Great Whore of Revelation 18, who thinks she has a husband, but is actually a widow, and therefore destitute and naked.

Let me take just a moment here and further explain this concept. A woman, without a husband, would have no one to provide for her. Without any means of clothing herself, she would be destitute and naked. When the woman becomes a bride, and marries the man, she comes under the covering of his robe, thus taking away the reproach of her nakedness. This was symbolized in the story of Ruth and Boaz, when Boaz covered Ruth with his own covering when they were on the threshing floor, the night that he promised Ruth that he would become her kinsman redeemer husband. He was saying, in essence, "Here is my covering, which symbolizes my intent to become your permanent covering, and take away the reproach brought upon you by your widowhood. I will be your covering."

In the same sense, when we become the bride of Christ, who is our spiritual kinsman redeemer, we receive a robe of righteousness which eradicates the reproach of sin. Before Adam and Eve sinned, they had no need of a covering. They had no reason to be ashamed to come before God, because they were confident that he accepted them just as they were. As soon as they disobeyed God, they were aware that they were no longer acceptable, and that

God would be displeased with them. At this time the symbolism of human nakedness was brought to light as a means for non-spiritual humans to recognize that they were no longer in a right relationship with God. Because Adam and Eve had disobeyed God, they could not go before him in confidence, believing that he accepted them just the way they were. They realized that God would look upon them and see that which was displeasing to him. This caused them to be ashamed of what they had become. Because the symbolism of nakedness was born at that time, therefore the symbolism of a covering for their nakedness to take away their reproach, followed it.

We humans must have a covering, but it will not come from Satan. He is a liar, and although he promises that man's beast nature can still find eternal happiness through the laws of mathematics and science, he knows that it is only an illusion. But he is only too willing for us to be destroyed along with him. Man has no hope without God, and no hope without Jesus Christ as our kinsman redeemer. The only one who can take away the shame brought about by sin, is Jesus.

[CD 2, Track 6]

Now, let's take a moment and consider why the Bible mentions that the second beast can do miracles, but that these miracles are only done in the 'sight of the beast'. The 'sight of the beast' is an important term. It doesn't mean that the second beast can only perform miracles when it is within seeing distance of the beast, or where the first beast can see him, but rather it is saying that the second beast can only work within the same parameters that the first beast could, which is according to the sight of the beast; the beast's visual, or conceptual understanding, which is within his animalistic nature. It is carnal sight. It is the sight of carnal man, rather than the sight of a spiritual God. Therefore, the miracles are those that are miraculous within the standards of physical laws. Miracles, according to the power of the Holy Spirit of God, can be performed by God's people, but the people of Earth, when not going to God, can only work outside the realm of God's power. Satan must also adhere to these parameters, for he has rejected God, and has blasphemed the Holy Spirit. In addition, he is working with humans, and has no ability to empower them himself, except with that which can act within man's carnal nature.

In realizing that the beast is the humanness of man, his carnal nature, as opposed to his spirit nature, the miracles that man is able to do on the earth fall into the category of human abilities which use the physical attributes of the world to accomplish the works of man. Here again, that's why Satan is called, 'The Prince of the Power of the Air'. Because man's nature is also animalistic, humans can only do that which falls within the aptitude of the carnal nature. When humans reject the spiritual nature of God, their only avenue to self-exaltation is by the might and power of this physical world. Because man is the worker of these miracles, and God is not the power behind them, the only power that man can use is that which is of the same beast nature that was first formed in Satan. The second beast, which is the nature of

carnal man, can only see, can only comprehend, through the same carnal eyes as the first beast. Because the second beast is like the first beast, and has been developed out of the same beast nature as the first beast, the miracles can only be accomplished in the same carnal sense.

But now, in these last days, there is one final tool of Satan that has been created, in order to completely destroy any semblance of the Holy Spirit in man. This tool is Satan's greatest device with which to destroy the souls of men, including those who claim to trust in Jesus Christ. It is, therefore, the most deceptive tool that was ever deployed against the people of Earth. This is the tool that would bring about the complete collapse of God's church if the time were not shortened. Satan has been able to get the people of Earth to build an image of that first beast that rose up out of the sea.

[CD 2, Track 7]

Let's read Revelation 13:14-15. It says, "And deceives those who dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to those who dwell on the earth, that they should make an image of the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and lived. 15 And he had power to give life to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed."

As I've already said, the first beast is the embodiment of the beast nature, and Satan chose this avenue rather than to submit to God, who is a spirit. Also, remember that Satan drew a third of the angels away from God with his tail, and that his tail symbolizes the animal in him, rather than the spirit, and therefore he is without reason, as an animal is without reason. In referring back to Behemoth, notice that his tail is described as being huge, as being like a cedar tree. This is emphasizing that Behemoth is an extreme example of the beast nature, and also the reason that his abode is not on solid ground, but as close as possible to the temptations that Satan sends out of the deep.

When the image was created, it was an image of this beast nature. It was an image of this animal nature. Man created this image with the tools of science and technology, and the image is carried to the ends of the earth mostly by the methods of television, movies, and computer graphics. I refer to these three basic modes of the image of the beast because Revelation 13:15 says that the image is not just an image, but it also speaks.

Certainly, the image that portrays man's animal nature, his base, antichrist nature, both speaks and is also a major cause of failure for anyone who might steadfastly resist other forms of temptation to worship the flesh nature. Almost everyone recognizes the destructiveness that comes from these forms of entertainment, and it isn't too difficult for even non-Christians to comprehend how the image is an image of the flesh nature. A Christian might resist the actual things of the flesh, but then be taken in by television and movies, just because they think they

aren't actually doing anything wrong. But worshiping the flesh nature is the same thing as worshiping the beast, for the beast is that flesh nature which is opposed to the Holy Spirit of God. This form of temptation destroys unbelievers and believers alike. In fact, it kills the moving of the Holy Spirit in God's people. Satan knows that if he can get the people of Earth to ignore the spiritual and concentrate on the natural, then God, who is a spirit, will also be ignored. And that is generally being accomplished at this very time.

Think of this: An image is a graphical representation. Whether it is three dimensional or two dimensional, makes no difference. It is still an image. No, the television itself, or the movie projector, or computers are not the image, but are the technological hardware, and the means by which the image is presented. In this case, the image is a picture of that beast nature. No, not the real thing, but just its image. When you watch the screen and see someone killed, it's not actual death, but only acting out a death. The actors and actresses may fall down, and you may see the blood flowing from their wound, but then the director yells, "cut," and the people get up and dust themselves off. What you see is the IMAGE of the beast. The beast nature is everything that is evil. It embodies everything in man's carnal nature, including killing, lying, cheating, illicit sexual imagery, greed, anger, lustful desires, etc. But these are images, and not the actual beast itself. Even if you see a recording of an actual event, it's not the event you see, for the event has already taken place. You are just seeing an image of the actual event. If you see pictures of nudity, you are only seeing the image of it, for the persons are not there at that time, and you are not seeing them in the actual flesh. You are only seeing a representation of the real thing. However, the damage to the soul can be just as devastating as if the person was actually physically involved. The reason for this is that the battle we fight against evil is a spiritual battle, and is fought in the mind. It is the mind that must be protected, and Satan knows that. Therefore, his chief weapon is aimed at the mind.

The thing that makes this tool of Satan so absolutely devastating is that everyone will watch the portrayals, in one form or another. If not certain shows, then they will watch others. Eventually they will become desensitized, and will watch what they originally refused to watch. I know of men who call themselves ministers, who think very little of setting down and watching "R" rated movies, saying that they aren't involved in doing the sin, they just see it happen, but they ignore the parts that are improper. And Satan is laughing himself silly, for what these men do not realize, is that they are allowing evil spirits to come into their minds through their eyes and ears and make suggestions. And it is a fact, in anyone's book, that what goes into the brain has to be dealt with. If the lie comes in, the only thing that will dispel it is the truth of God. Eventually, the brainwashing techniques of TV, movies, internet, or video games overcome the spiritual senses. At the very least, the worshiping of the beast, the animal nature of Satan and carnal man, is accomplished. Wherever you go to work or play, you hear people exalt the powers of science and technology, glorify the actors and actresses, and tell how they can't wait for the next movie or the next television season. You hear MUCH more testimony from Christians about the glories of TV and movies than you hear testimonies in church which glorify the attributes of God..

[CD 2, Track 8]

I once heard a minister on the radio say that he wished they would make televisions with a button that cut out sex scenes and the language that blasphemed the name of God. When I heard this, I thought to myself, “but sir, they already do. It’s called an ‘off button’.” But Christians are not willing to let their TV’s go. They will fight tooth and nail to keep them. Myself, I don’t have a TV. I can’t afford one. No, not because of the amount of money they cost, for they’re pretty cheap nowadays. But what I can’t afford, is to suffer the destruction that the image of the beast will do to my soul. I only have one soul. I plan on protecting it as much as possible. Ephesians 4:27 tells us not to make a place for the devil to operate. By not having a TV, nor going to movies, nor surfing the web, I am refusing to make a place for Satan to come in and do his work of deception. Watching the image of the beast is actually giving place to the devil.

No, not everything on TV or in the movies, or on the internet, is evil. If it was 100% evil, then no Christian would have anything to do with it, and then it wouldn’t be the most deceptive tool in Satan’s arsenal. But there is just enough good in the images to cause people to accept it. Sure, there is a lot of complaining about things that should be censored out, but in the end, TV, movies, and computer graphics get more and more evil each passing year. And if not the programs themselves, then the commercials alone will destroy a man’s best intentions for righteousness.

And, yes, I know many of you may be saying to me right now that I don’t know what I’m talking about. But I do know what I’m talking about. The image of the beast is here, and very few people, including Christians, realize it. They are deceived. They cannot see that the evil has permeated the whole world. Of course, if the people of Earth could easily see the truth of this, then Satan’s tool would not be the greatest deception in the history of the world. Neither would it be a destruction to every kind of person on the face of the earth. But most people cannot believe that just watching that which is not spiritual can destroy the work of the Holy Spirit in man.

However, this is the very thing that makes the weapon so diabolical. Just think of how many Christians wouldn’t ever rob a bank, cheat their neighbor, kill someone, or take part in illicit sexual conversation, let alone take part in the illicit acts themselves. But what they WILL do is to set in front of the screen and WATCH it and LISTEN to it. They say, “I’m not doing anything wrong. I’m just watching and listening, and I don’t pay any attention to the bad parts.” What a joke on them. If you set and watch, you are partaking, because you are allowing the suggestion of evil to enter into you. The only way evil can exist is by the work of evil spirits. If you are watching evil, then the evil spirits are coming into you through your eyes and ears. In order to counteract the evil, you have to dispel it with goodness. It is still a battle of the mind, and the minds of people everywhere are inundated with wickedness.

So, am I telling you that you can't watch TV? No, I'm not. I'm telling you that God wants to reveal the truth to his people, but his people have to be searching for it. What you do is between you and God. But what I speak is between me and God. I have to speak it, even if no one listens. My job isn't to make people listen, nor to make people see. But my job is to tell the people what God has shown me. The rest is up to God and up to you. Remember, this is a study. I teach, you study, then you do with it what you want. It's that simple. But I must warn you. There were many in the days of Jesus who could not see that God was standing right in front of them, and they could not recognize the Father through the Son. If you just automatically reject this out of hand without making it a matter of prayer, you are on dangerous ground.

And one last point along these lines. If there is a great amount of wickedness coming across all the screens of Earth, don't you think this should be a sign to you that something is not quite as it should be? It is interesting that so many Christians so adamantly defend their watching of television and movies, yet admit that these things are very very wicked. But then, they always say, "But I only watch the good programs, and ignore the nudity, violence, and the taking of God's name in vain." You see, the deception is great. No wonder the Bible says that the serpent was more deceptive than any beast of the field. But then, it is only by deception that most Christians would be drawn into the adamant defense of an evil thing, just so they can be 'entertained'. In these last days Christians are more interested in being entertained, than in getting down to the business of serving. Well, so much for that.

[CD 3, Track 1]

Let's get back to Revelation 13. And I encourage you to have your Bible turned to this passage and follow along closely, for there's a ton of information available, but you will have to pay close attention. And also, if you are listening to this on the radio rather than on CD, and are having a difficult time following the train of thought, remember that the CD's and transcripts are available should you have questions and want to go back and study this further. And we have made them available free of charge as long as the Lord enables us to do so, in order that you might benefit as much as possible. Instead of marketing them for money, we pray that God will in some way bring in the finances we need to continue his work, and to expand it as he sees fit. So if you can benefit from them, listen at the end of each program for the details. One more thing. If you're listening to this on CD, but for some reason you don't have the transcript available, please feel free to contact us. We will include the transcript for each portion of this message with every set of CDs, but the complete transcript of this whole series can be obtained separately at no cost. Our purpose is not to make money from you, but to provide you with the information you need.

Now, turning to Revelation 13:16-18, it says, "And he (referring to the second beast) causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: 17 That no man might buy or sell, except he that had the mark, or the name

of the beast, or the number of his name. 18 Here is wisdom. Let him that has understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of man, and the number is Six hundred and sixty six.”

I’m going to break these verses down quite a bit so that complete understanding might come through. These three verses are packed with so much information that they can easily overwhelm people with questions to the point they want to give up trying to understand.

First of all, let’s look at the first phrase of verse 16, where it says, “And he causes all . . .” When the word ‘all’ is used, it doesn’t mean every person on the face of the earth, as in all the people. If it did, it would include every perfect child of God. What it is saying, is that the image of the beast will cause ‘every kind’ of person on the earth to receive a mark, either in their right hand, or in their forehead. It will affect ‘all’ kinds of people, every class of people, whether rich or poor, free or slave, high intelligence, low intelligence, doctor, lawyer, or ditch digger, etc. No person will be exempt from its deceptive power. If any person allows the influence of the image of the beast to reach their eyes and ears, they will be affected by it. This is because its power over people is not by force, but by manipulation of the mind. Anyone who watches audio and visual imagery, which gives a representation of the basic human nature of mankind, will be affected because they let the words and images of carnal man come in through their eyes and ears, and into their minds.

It doesn’t make any difference if you’re an important person, or an unimportant person, the affect will be the same, because the influence reaches the brain. The real damage is not by outside force, but that which is allowed to come in and bring confusion. Confusion is the automatic result of those concerned with the doctrine of Satan and the disobedience to God. It is confusion, as in the Tower of Babel, and the reason for this is that everything in this world that pertains to flesh and blood is only temporary, because it opposes all things of the Spirit of God. If you are watching the screen and see an act of murder, you will be affected. If you are watching a situation comedy on television, and hear them make inappropriate sexual references, your mind must immediately process that information. If any reference is spoken and acted out in a display of the carnal nature of man, which is not specifically something that God approves of, there is a spirit of evil involved in it. If anything does not appeal to the righteousness of God, then it appeals to man’s flesh nature. That’s all that Satan intended the image of the beast to accomplish. He just wants the people of Earth to be stimulated by the things of the flesh rather than the things of the Spirit. The image of the beast is Satan’s tool that is for the purpose of turning the mind away from the things of God, and focusing on that which is the base nature of man.

And once again, remember that the power of the image of the beast is not by force, but by subtlety, by deceiving, by convincing man that watching and listening is harmless, convincing them they are not really partaking of the evil, but just watching it. But it isn’t participation in the acts that is destroying the love of God within the person, but just the witnessing of the acts that allows the knowledge of evil to enter into the mind. Once evil has penetrated the mind,

the work of Satan is accomplished. He can't force people to serve him, so all he does is tempt men with his earthly nature, and the earthly nature of man does the rest.

Let me take a minute here to present a concept, an example that you might see more clearly. Imagine what your response would be if a stranger came to your door and asked permission to speak to your children about murder, rape, incest, nudity, drugs, sexual immorality, etc. Suppose they told you they would be occasionally using words that used the name of God without honor, and that they also might sit before your children in skimpy attire, and would generally express values and perspectives which oppose the righteousness of God. Yet, they promised you they would not touch your child, or do anything to force his or her attention. Suppose they said that they wanted to come in on a daily basis and just spend some time with your children concerning the above-named subjects. What would be your response? I think I can safely answer that question for you. You would be appalled that anyone would attempt to do such a thing. Your response might even be one of extreme anger or fear, and you would probably slam the door in their face, and then head for the phone to call the police.

But then, parents allow this all the time. But the people who want to talk to your children don't come to your front door, they come into your home through television, movies, the Internet, and even video games. They talk to your children, and show them pictures of things that have no eternal value, and things that God cannot look upon, for Scripture says that God cannot look upon sin. It's bad enough that we have to be in this world, let alone bring the world into our homes. A long time ago God dealt with me about what was in my house. He told me that when I come into my house, it should be as my sanctuary, the place where God dwells with me and my family. He told me that I could not escape all things out there in the world, but that in my home I could have a sanctuary unto the Lord.

This is a very difficult concept for Christians today, because they are so afraid to come out from among the people of the world and be separate. God showed me that Christians make excuses for going after the stimulations of natural man by quoting the Scripture that says that we must be in the world, but not of the world. They claim that this means we can't possibly separate ourselves to such a great extent. But God has called his chosen ones to be a peculiar people. He has called his people to be a testimony to the things of God. He has called his people to be a light to the world, but his people are so busy entertaining themselves with things of this world, the things that pertain to man's animal nature, that they can no longer comprehend the deep hidden things of God. They only see things if they are very plain. But concepts are very difficult for Christians. That's why the Bible says things like, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Let me take a moment to give an example. If I asked you where the true church was in this world, I think you would probably respond that no one denomination is the true church, but that the true church is made up of people from all areas of the globe, and from this denomination, and that denomination, and even from some churches that are not a part of ANY denomination. The true church is made up of God's true children, wherever they are in

the world. There may be 5 in one church, 3 in another, 24 in another, and so on. Not everyone in a church is truly what they claim to be. Those who are in the kingdom of heaven make up the true church. And it's the same concept for understanding the symbolic meaning in scripture. When the book of Joel talks about the invading army, Bible scholars try to figure out which country of the world has an army to fit the description. But the army isn't one country's army, but an army made up of 'forces' in the world. The men of that army might be the person in the lunch line next to you, or the next desk over, or someone on the board of directors in a company. Put all these people together, and you have a force, an army that moves with spiritual weaponry, rather than tanks. HmMMMM! Think about it. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says, "But the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

[CD 3, Track 2]

Humans see in human terms, unless they get their spiritual eyes open. God sees in spiritual terms. That's why the Little Horn of Daniel, chapters 7 and 8 has two eyes of a man. Yet, in Zechariah 3:9, Zechariah 4:10, and Revelation 5:6, scripture refers to the seven eyes of the stone, which is Jesus Christ, the Rock, and the seven eyes of God. And in Ezekiel 1:18, it refers to the wheels being covered with eyes. To see in the spirit realm is to understand all the things of God. Man sees with man's eyes, until God gives him heavenly vision. Certainly, as it says in Proverbs 29:18, that where there is no vision, or no seeing, the people perish. They perish because they cannot see the truth. And, because it is the truth that sets us free, to not see is to perish. This is what Satan does with the image of the beast, and this is why people end up being designated as to who they belong to, by the mark. The mark of the beast is the result brought about in great measure by the image of the beast. First the image, then as people are mentally programmed to conform to the image because they love it so, then the mark follows. And here we come to the question, "what is the mark of the beast?"

First of all, we need to talk about the concept of marking, before we talk about the specific mark that comes from association with the beast. If you are following along in your Bible, notice that Revelation 13:17, shows that it isn't just a mark of the beast that can be received, but is also referred to as the number of the beast, or the name of the beast. In essence, the hand or forehead of the worshipers of the beast will receive a designation showing who or what they worship, meaning who they belong to. Who owns you is determined by who you give yourself to. If you give yourself truly to God, he owns you, and your designation will be in your forehead that you are a child of God. If you give yourself to Satan by worshiping the beast nature, your designation will be in your forehead or right hand that you are a child of the Devil.

Now, in order to fully comprehend a person receiving the mark of the beast, we need to take a look at some scriptures which refer to God's people receiving the mark of God. Look at Ezekiel 9:4. It says, "And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through

the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry because of all the abominations that are done in the midst of it.” Notice that this scripture makes mention of God’s holy people receiving a ‘mark of God’ in their foreheads. Now look at Revelation 3:12. It says, “He that overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go out no more: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.” This scripture makes mention of God’s people receiving the ‘name’ of their God in their foreheads, as well as the name of the city of God.

Now look at Revelation 9:4. It says, “And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which do not have the seal of God in their foreheads.” This time it mentions a seal in their foreheads. Revelation 14:1 mentions 144,000 having their Father’s name written in their foreheads. And Revelation 22:4 refers once again to God’s name being written in the foreheads of his righteous people.

What we see then, is that God’s people receive a mark, or the name of God, or at least some kind of designation showing that they belong to God. They are God’s children, his chosen ones, and are marked as belonging to him. In the same way, the children of Satan, those who have chosen to follow him, are marked as belonging to Satan. The mark is a designation, and distinguishes who the owner is. If you have the mark of God, you belong to God. If you have the mark of the beast, you belong to Satan. The mark, or name, or number will either be God’s mark, name, or number, or Satan’s. You don’t even have to look beneath the surface to know that if you end up with a mark in your forehead or right hand, which is from Satan, that you are in a whole lot of trouble. However, everyone should desire to have God’s name, number, or mark in their forehead.

[CD 3, Track 3]

Now, the next thing we have to look at, is why God’s people receive a mark only in their forehead, but Satan’s people can receive the mark of ownership either in their forehead, or in their right hand. Refer back to our earlier discussion of Ecclesiastes 10:2, concerning a wise man having his heart in his right hand. Remember that we discussed this in regards to the parable of giving offerings where the left hand was not supposed to know what the right hand was doing.

If you remember the discussion, the reason that the writer of Ecclesiastes said that a wise man’s heart is at his right hand and a fool’s heart is at his left hand, is because the right hand, or dominant hand, takes things more often than the left hand. Also remember that this means that if the right hand is assigned to care for the things of the heart, the things of the spirit man, then the heart will get fed more than the fleshly man, which represents that part of man that is concerned with things of the world. So if the right hand, which is taking much more often, is

feeding and caring for the heart, than the heart will be strong, and the carnal man, that man of flesh, will be weaker. And here's what this implies. The man who claims to be a Christian, but takes more often of the things of the world than he takes for the things of the heart, will be deceived. He may call himself a Christian, but by feeding his carnal man more than his spirit man, he will be exposed for what he really is.

Now, think of the forehead as indicating the place on the body that the mind occupies, and that the mark is placed there because, with the mind, a conscious decision has been made. If you stop and think about it for a minute, that's what Christians do who will be designated as sons of God. They make a conscious decision to serve Jesus Christ, and will be marked in the forehead with the mark or name of the Lord. Now, think of the right hand as the location on the body where the mark of ownership is placed when the right hand made the decision to serve Satan, even though the mind was claiming to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Yes, I know the right hand can't make a mental decision, but what Revelation 13:16 is saying, is that the mark of the beast must be placed there because it is the location that reveals the person's true choice. The mind says they choose Jesus Christ, but their hand is continually taking of the world, which is not going to help the spirit man. The person is going to strengthen their carnal man, because the things of the world don't strengthen the spirit, they weaken it. The right hand, meaning the hand that is dominant, that hand which takes more often than the other hand, is so busy taking of the world, that the things of the spirit don't come into the heart enough to keep the heart healthy. The carnal man is healthy and robust, built up from all the stimulations of the flesh that Satan tempts us with. But the spirit man is weak, and has fallen down. The flesh reigns over the spirit, yet the man claims to be a born-again spirit being. Not so! You can't be a born-again spirit being while you're busy taking of the world all the time. Your heart will starve to death. And if your heart starves to death, your lips can claim to be a Christian all they want to, but your heart will still be dead.

You have to see the symbolism of the right hand/left hand concept in order to see that there has to be a right hand designation for the mark of the beast, as well as a forehead designation. When you see this, you will understand Matthew 7:21-23 where it says, "Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but only he who does the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in your name have cast out devils? And in your name have done many wonderful works? 23 And then I will profess to them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity."

It is only those who reach out as much as possible for the things of God, and as little as possible for the things of this world, who will end up having a true heart for God. The rest will be designated as liars, for their hand reveals what they really love. There is another set of scriptures which confirm this concept. Look in Zechariah 5:1-4. These four verses describe a curse which goes forth against two kinds of people. The two kinds are those who are thieves, and those who swear falsely by the name of the Lord.

To help with our understanding of this, we must also read John 10:1-9, where Jesus speaks the parable of the sheepfold. He explains that he, Jesus, is the door to the sheepfold, and that all who enter must enter by him. He explains that thieves try to climb up and enter by some other way. This represents all those who try to gain heaven through their own power, and not by trusting in Jesus Christ. The curse of Zechariah 5 applies to these people. The others who are under the curse are the people who swear allegiance to Jesus Christ, but according to scripture, they swear falsely. These are the people who claim to be Christians, but the way they live their lives proves that they are actually children of the Devil. These are those who will receive the mark of the beast in their right hands, for their right hands prove that the confession, which they make with their mouths, saying that Jesus is their Lord and Master, is actually false. Their swearing of allegiance to Jesus is a false swearing.

The two-edged sword, mentioned in Revelation 1:16, which proceeds out of the mouth of Christ, is also representative of this concept, in that the sword has two edges with which to kill. It kills both those who are the evident enemies of God, and also those who claim to be on God's side, but actually are enemies of God and disguised as Christians.

So, there are three groups of people who will receive the name, number, or mark which designates ownership. One group will be designated in their foreheads as belonging to Satan. Another group will be designated in their foreheads as belonging to Jesus Christ. Another group, the third group, will be designated as belonging to Satan, but will have the mark placed in their right hand instead of in their forehead, because that's what demonstrates their true choice of who they will serve. It wasn't a conscious decision they made, but an unconscious one. They don't even know they have chosen to serve Satan. The devil is very good at deception, even though most Christians believe that it is only other people who can be deceived, never themselves. Hmmmmm! Think about this. Everyone, to SOME extent, is deceived. Otherwise we would be perfect, and we're not. So, . . . ask yourself this question. "In what ways am I deceived, in what areas does Satan have me mixed up?" Of course, the answer is very simple. You can't know how you are deceived, because if you knew how you were deceived, then you wouldn't be deceived!

The thing we have to accept, whether we like it or not, is that deception is Satan's game, and we are his target. The image of the beast is Satan's greatest deception, for it makes even so-called Christians accept the image, and they never even realize they are worshiping the beast. They think the beast represents a country, or nation, or conglomerate group of nations, but never realize that it is the brute animal nature in Satan, and the brute animal nature in humans, that destroys the spirit man. That's why man must be born again as a spirit man, and why the man of flesh must be crucified daily. There is only two choices in this world. Either choose to serve the God of heaven, or choose to serve the god of this world. Either accept the rewards of God which are spiritual wonders, which last for all eternity, or, accept the rewards of Satan which are physical wonders, and which only last for a very very short time until eternal torment takes their place. The choice is yours. But Satan has put his best weapon on

the block for these last days. Church goers are dying like flies because they are deceived. They don't even know what has hit them, especially our children.

In Matthew 24:19 it warns us that the end time tribulation will be especially devastating for those who are in the womb and for those who are newborns. Those in the womb symbolizes those people who are very close to accepting Jesus Christ as Savior, but have not yet made the commitment to serving him. Those who are newborn, who are still nursing on the milk of the word, are also in great danger. This symbolizes new Christians who are still being milk fed, and have yet to become mature. They are extremely susceptible to Satan's lies and temptations, for they have not yet been established firmly in the faith. This can also refer to Christians who have been in the church for years, but who also are still sucking the milk instead of eating meat.

[CD 3, Track 4]

Well, I hope you are beginning to see at least some of this. Anyway, if you're still with me, let's go on to explain the number of the beast. In Revelation 13:18, it says, "Here is wisdom. Let him that has understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of man, and the number is Six hundred and sixty six." Now, try hard to get your mind off all the teaching that tries to figure out some alphabetical code that fits some man's name. Understanding of these scriptures does not come by some gimmick, but it comes to those who have the wisdom and understanding of God. It comes to those who have their spiritual ears open. The original Greek does not imply that a specific man has a number of 666, but rather that any man's number is 666. It is the number of man, period. If you're going to understand the 666, you're going to have to have what Revelation 13:18 says, "Wisdom and understanding." There is no logical diagram for the discerning of spiritual things. Remember what we just spoke about in the previous section, the reference of 1 Corinthians 2:14, "But the natural man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness to him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." Codes are not even remotely comparable to spiritual discernment. Codes are mathematical. Revelation knowledge comes by the Holy Spirit.

Now, I'm going to explain this as plainly as possible. The number 666 is made up of three sixes, one six for each part of man's triune being. The designation of 666 implies that there are three witnesses to the fact that the person is a servant of Satan, and therefore deserving of death. Let me explain. First, let's talk about why there are three sixes, and then we'll discuss what the number six means itself.

Man is a triune entity, like God is. Man has a soul, that part of him that represents the true inner man. The soul is who the man really is, down deep inside where nobody else can see. A soul is the part that flesh and blood humans cannot see, and therefore cannot be known except by the soul itself, or by the man's spirit which searches out the deep hidden things within him, and then moves the body to act or speak accordingly. That's why when someone looks at you,

and says that they know you, you understand that they only know you to the extent they have seen your true self displayed outwardly by your words and actions. But no one really knows another person like the person knows themselves.

The second part of man, his body, is the part of him that handles the words and actions. The body is the image of the man that people actually see, which displays some of what is in his soul. Even then, they still don't know what the soul of the person is really like, except according to what they hear and see as the body acts and speaks. This requires the third part of man, the spirit, to enter into the picture. And as I just mentioned, the spirit of man searches the heart of man, and acts as liaison to the body. The spirit of man is the power of the human, for it moves the body to act and speak. It only does this according to the soul's inner convictions and beliefs. Man's triune existence is like God's triune existence. God's soul is called the Father, that part of him which is who he really is. His image is called the Son, that part of God which displays what God wants displayed.

The third part of God is his spirit, which is called the Holy Spirit, which searches out the deep things of God and reveals them to his body. But there is one clear difference here. The Spirit of God moves his body. That body was Jesus Christ, and that body is also the church, God's children, who are now the body of Christ, and therefore the image on Earth that displays what God wants displayed to the world. But unless God's children allow the Holy Spirit to lead them, God will not be known in the Earth.

Man was made in the image of God, also being triune; three parts which make up one being. And because each triune part can be recognized and described independently, each part can also give expert witness as to whether the man was a child of God or a child of Satan. When the man stands before Jesus Christ on the day of judgment, there will have to be witnesses which testify as to his guilt or righteousness, in order to condemn him to the 'second death', or to reward him with eternal life. And because the death is the second death, rather than the physical death, and the righteousness is rewarded with heaven's eternity, the testimony must be by witnesses which can ACCURATELY testify concerning the man. The testimony won't be concerned with physical things, because God looks on the heart. Therefore, the witnesses which stand for or against the man must be witnesses that can give testimony to whether the man's heart was good or evil. Hearsay evidence will be useless at this time. The witness of friends or acquaintances will be useless. References from notable people will be useless. The only testimony that will stand in this final court of judgment is the testimony as to the condition of the man's heart. And only those witnesses that can give this kind of testimony will be allowed to testify. Because of this, man will give three witnesses of himself. It will be the testimony of triune man that seals his fate.

In the scope of the number 666, man's conviction of serving Satan deserves death. However, the Bible is very clear in telling us that a man cannot be convicted and put to death unless there are two or three witnesses. No man can be put to death on the basis of only one witness.

Deuteronomy 17:6, says, “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”

This is an absolute fundamental truth, for it applies for all time. It even applies to the testimony as to the deity of Jesus Christ. In John 5:31-37, Jesus shows us that even his own witness of himself is not true unless it is accompanied by the other two witnesses; the Father and the Holy Spirit. He even states that John the Baptist’s testimony concerning him is not acceptable. The reason for this is that John is a man, and the testimony of deity must be by deity.

In the same sense, in order for man to be condemned, it can’t be just by the testimony of Jesus, because the testimony that man is wicked and deserving of eternal death must be by witnesses that are qualified to testify to the fact of man’s guilt or innocence. The three witnesses that CAN testify to this is the three parts of the man; his soul, his body, and his spirit. And just a note here. If you can comprehend the concept of two or three witnesses, you will be able to apply it to Zechariah 4 and Revelation 11, and be able to see that the two witnesses that these verses speak of, which stand before the Lord of all the earth, is Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the two who reveal the word of God, which is God’s witness of himself. We will discuss this in more depth later.

Now, as to the testimony of the soul, body, and spirit, it can be described this way. Think again about John 5:31-37 where Jesus said that his testimony of himself alone was not true. He needed the witness of the Father and the Holy Spirit, and coupled then with his own testimony, he had three witnesses that gave testimony to his absolute perfection, that he was indeed the actual manifestation, the actual outward physical showing, of God.

In the same sense, the testimony from man will come from the three parts of him. First, from his soul, as the portion of the entity that is who the person really is. Second, from his spirit, which searches the deep things of the soul and moves the body to speak and act. And third, from his body, which manifests, which outwardly shows what comes to it from the soul, by the spirit.

In essence, it’s like this. Everything you do is written in the books that will judge you. If you sin in the flesh, there will be something down deep inside you, in your soul, that likes to sin. If this desire for sin is greater than your desire to serve God and be obedient to Him, then your soul is a testimony against you, for it loves the things of the world more than the things of God. And because your spirit searches the deep hidden things of man, just as the Holy Spirit seeks the deep hidden things of God, your spirit will find that which it agrees with. When your spirit is in agreement with evil, and not in agreement with the Holy Spirit of God, then your spirit will move your flesh to speak or act accordingly. Your spirit then is a testimony of your wickedness within you also. This concept is found in Proverbs 20:27, where it is stated that the spirit of man reveals what evil is within the carnal man. The third and final testimony comes from your body as it acts and speaks, revealing to men and to God what the soul feels,

and what the spirit is in tune with. Together, these three parts of man have testified of the wickedness of man, and he will be condemned. This is why there are three sixes.

[CD 3, Track 5]

But the last question to answer, is why is the number six used. Why not seven, or three, or two? The answer is that six is the number of man, because man, carnal man, man subject to the flesh, and therefore potentially sinful, was created on the sixth day. Therefore, carnal man is a six. To explain, let's talk about the seventh day, which followed the other six days of creation. On the seventh day, God rested from his work. The term used here does NOT imply that God was tired. The actual translation of resting, implies a ceasing from labor, but does not imply ceasing from labor because of being tired. This is a major obstacle to God's people. People always try to make the rest of God a time of laying around or of taking a nap. But God intended his rest to be something much much more than that.

In the Old Testament, the rest of God was established as a symbol, as a shadow picture of that which was to come. Just as the tabernacle in the wilderness was designed after the pattern of the heavenly, the seventh day rest of God was representative of the heavenly. Just as the Law of Commandments was intended to bring men to a knowledge of man's sinfulness, and to a knowledge of Christ, the seventh day rest of God was intended as a means of bringing man to an understanding of what it meant to cease from the carnal nature of trying to do everything by the strength of your own hands. God wants us to come to that place where we put all our hope for eternal salvation into his hands. We cannot work our way into heaven. We cannot make it into eternal bliss by our human attempt at righteousness. Righteousness comes through Jesus Christ, through his blood. We receive the righteousness of God by free gift, not by the works that we do. The Sabbath rest of God pointed to the time when man would cease his attempt at pleasing God by his own righteousness, and allow Jesus Christ to accomplish that for him.

In Hebrews 4:1-10, we have further explanation of this rest. Notice that in verse 6, it says that the Israelites, to whom the rest of God was given, did NOT enter in to his rest. Yet we know for certain that they did keep the seventh day Sabbath, and the other feast day Sabbaths. So, how can the writer of Hebrews say that no one under the Law of Commandments had entered in, and that there remained a need for some to enter in? Actually, the answer to that question is that they did not combine the keeping of the Sabbath, with faith, as is mentioned in verse 2 and 6. Their unbelief hindered them from entering into the rest of God. They ceased their physical work, but could not comprehend how they could cease trying to bring about their own righteousness. Because they were under the Law of Commandments, they could not comprehend being saved by the grace of God. They could not comprehend a Savior who would take away their sins and give them the everlasting peace which they desired.

But coming to righteousness by faith is the key concept concerning the rest of God. The covenant established with Abraham required this, but until Jesus fulfilled the Law of

Commandments, thereby freeing man from the bondage of the Law, man could not believe unto salvation, for there was still, at that time, an obligation to strive for righteousness by the works of the Law. When Jesus fulfilled the Law, finishing its purpose, man was then able to escape the bondage of the Law and find acceptance in the sight of God through faith in Jesus Christ, alone.

Man is inherently wicked. He is physical, human, animal in nature. The animal nature of man ALWAYS encourages man to trust in his own power and might. If man wants anything, his human nature tries to take CONTROL of any given situation instead of turning control over to God. With the advent of Jesus Christ as Savior to the world, man finally had opportunity to cease from his own attempt at being righteous. Now, because Jesus rose from the dead, man could believe in him for his deliverance from sin instead of trying to work it out through the Law.

The Law of Commandments was basically a shadow picture; just a glimpse of the real intent of God. With the coming of Jesus, a transformation occurred for man. He would no longer have to work his way into righteousness. He would no longer have to physically cease from work on a given day in a futile attempt to be righteous in the eyes of God. At that time, man came one dispensation closer to the true heavenly concepts. 1 Corinthians 13:12 says, “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.” When Jesus returns for us, and we are finally rescued from this earth, then we will finally see the completed picture.

Now, think of the concept of creation. Six days of creation, and then the final day, the seventh day, a day of ceasing from labor. This is a shadow picture of the COMPLETE, and I do mean complete work of God on the earth. God is not still working out his plan for our deliverance from the beast nature of man, but has already accomplished it in 7 days at the beginning. Within the creation of Genesis, every last bit of God’s plan was put in motion. Every day of creation was complete, and the whole plan would continue to unfold throughout the history of mankind. When Jesus came to Earth, it was already foretold, already a done deal, already planned outright from the beginning. God doesn’t have to tweak his world to get it to fulfill his plan. He created it in the beginning, and it is unfolding before our very eyes. When we finish here on Earth, then we will see the completeness of God’s wondrous work.

And this brings us to the explanation of why man’s number is 666. He was created on the sixth day, but must enter into the seventh day rest in order to change from animalistic man into a born-again spirit man. To enter into God’s rest, as we’ve discussed previously, man must give up self control. Man must give up the quest to exalt himself by the power of his own hands. He must submit himself to God, freely setting his own might and power aside and accept God as his authority. When he does this, he enters into the rest of God by ceasing from his own works, just as God ceased from his own works.

[CD 3, Track 6]

But whether man has actually ceased from his own works and has turned control over to God must be determined by a final judgment. Man cannot be accepted into heaven, or condemned to hell, just by the testimony of his own lips. When a judgment will determine the outcome of a matter of life and death, then, as I have previously stated, there must be two or three witnesses which support the judgment. Because the judgment will determine eternal values, the witnesses which testify of man's fitness for heaven or hell must also be qualified witnesses. Therefore, the three witnesses which will testify of man will be his soul, his body, and his spirit. This is the same manner of testimony that Jesus referred to in John 5:31-37, for proof of his own testimony.

In order for man to be sentenced to eternal death, there must be at least two witnesses which support the death penalty. What the two or three witnesses must testify of, is that the whole man, all three parts of him, the soul, body, and spirit, have set aside man's own might and power, and has turned control over to God through faith in the saving blood of Jesus Christ, which, in essence, is the entering into the rest of God. Whether the entering into the rest of God has really taken place or not, must be proven. Man can always confess Jesus Christ with his lips, but it is possible that his heart may not be in tune with the confession of his mouth.

Now it is evident that a true Christian will testify with his lips, and the works which are outwardly shown in his body will also give testimony that God is truly in him. When this happens, it is proof that his spirit is in tune with God's Holy Spirit, and this is the third and final witness.

But what about the person who either rejects God outright, or confesses him with his mouth, but has no actual heart for God's ways? This is how the testimony would occur. Let's start with the outright rejection. First, the lips reject God. Second, the man's spirit, everything that causes emotion in him, is opposed to the things of God, and open to the things of the world. And third, the man's body gives ample evidence of sin without the sorrow of repentance. When this happens, there are three witnesses of the man that he is worthy of eternal death.

Now, what about the man who claims to be a Christian, but isn't. What happens is that there is testimony of his lips, which says that in his soul, he loves God. But then the testimony of his works that follow, give other evidence. The actions of his outward man demonstrate wickedness instead of righteousness, and there is no sorrow of repentance. This means the man's body is testifying contrary to the testimony of the man's lips. So we have one witness that says the man is a child of God, and one witness that says the man is a child of the Devil. What is needed then is another witness to break the deadlock. The third witness is the man's spirit, which demonstrates emotion for wicked things, and moves the man because of what is truly in the man's inner soul, no matter what the lips are trying to say. When a good spirit is in a man, it will bring forth good things from the soul of man, and will move the man's body to display these good things. When there is an evil spirit in a man, it will bring forth evil

things from the soul of man, and will move the man's body to display these evil things. When the man's spirit is always reacting positively to the things of the world, but negatively to the things of God, the final witness by the man's spirit is that the man is apposed to God. So, two witnesses have testified against the man, which actually proves that the first witness of the man's lips was a false witness. The man is condemned to eternal hell.

Actually, what the man truly is, will be proven by the three witnesses, his soul, spirit, and body, and the man will be proven completely false or completely true. Two out of three witnesses does not mean that the man can be a third good and two thirds bad, or vice versa. It just means that one third of the man's testimony testifies differently than the other two testimonies, but that the one part is proven to be a false testimony by the other two witnesses, and therefore must be thrown out. The final end is 100% certainty that the man is guilty of death.

In the previous examples the soul, the body, and the spirit of man, have testified to whether or not the man has given up control of his own destiny and turned it over to God. In each testimony, if the man's soul, body, or spirit has retained the authority over himself, it is admission that they have not entered into the rest of God and ceased from their own works. Their soul, body, and spirit each receives the continued designation of either the sixth day animalistic, self-exalting creation, or the spirit man who has been reborn and entered into God's rest by turning over control to him and trusting in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. If a man is guilty in his soul, his soul is designated as not having entered into the seventh day rest of God, and his soul retains the number six, the number of carnal man. It is the same concept for the body and the spirit of man, if those parts of man testify in like manner. They will also retain man's carnal number six. When man is convicted of wickedness by the testimony of his own three parts, his final designation is 666, or in essence, he has the name or mark of Satan, for he has refused to give himself over to God. His god of choice has been established.

[CD 3, Track 7]

This may be an appropriate time to take a few minutes and talk about being beheaded for the witness of Jesus Christ. Christians are adamantly refusing to be beheaded in these last days. They would rather keep their own heads and be in control of their own situations. No, this beheading is not by guillotine, as surface scholars have assumed. It is a concept which is plainly described in 1 Corinthians 11. In verse three it says that the head of the woman is man, the head of man is Christ, and the head of Christ is God. This refers to God's intended plan of authority. Man must give up control, and turn it over to Jesus Christ who is his only possible avenue of salvation. But man doesn't want to give up control. It is a hard thing to do. But Jesus did it. He was beheaded for the witness of God. He gave up control of his own destiny in order that the world might come to know God the Father. He set his own head aside in order to do this.

The head is that symbolic part of the body which is the controlling factor. Everything the body does is directed by the head. When we turn control of our destiny, and in fact, turn control of each and every particle of our lives over to Christ, we have, in essence, taken our own head off and replaced it with Christ's head. He now rules our body. If this has truly happened, then at this time, and only at this time, we become the body of Christ on Earth. This is what it means to be beheaded. When you read Revelation 20:4, realize that the beheading which has taken place was not being killed because you confessed Christ, but a beheading in order that you COULD confess Christ, and that others would see Christ in you instead of seeing you.

[CD 4, Track 1]

Now, let's return to the concept of man's three witnesses which give testimony as to his righteousness or his wickedness. Man is carnal natured. Man is able to comprehend the existence of God, but is unable to comprehend it enough to gain heaven. His beast nature prevents it. So what does he do about it? He chooses one of two avenues in his quest to get to heaven. In the one instance, he accepts God, and his son Jesus, places his trust in him by faith, just as Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him as righteousness. However, if man's carnal nature, his brute beast nature, is stronger than his spirit nature, he will choose to trust in the strength of his own hands. This is the beast, the animal that supports him, that strengthens him in his quest for self-preservation, and self-exaltation which was so aptly demonstrated at the Tower of Babel. He does not have faith in God, cannot believe in God or his Son, so he turns to his own carnal nature for the power to lift himself up.

Man, in this state of mind, will attempt to lift himself 'up'. In essence, he will attempt to escape the threat of death by seeking eternal life with the tools of the world. In these last days, when looking at the overall picture of the science and technology of man, we see that man has finally been allowed to pass the barrier of ignorance, and begin to construct a 'conglomerate system' of technology that holds some promise of gaining eternal life. In essence, the gaining of eternal life would catapult man into the realm of God by becoming eternal, just as God is eternal. If you think this would not be possible to accomplish, refer again to God's statement in Genesis 11:6, which said that 'nothing' would be withheld from them that they imagined to do. Certainly the imagination of man has progressed to the point that he is actively seeking a scientific means of eternal life through the bio-technology of gene manipulation and cloning. And this is just the beginning of man's plan, which is actually the plan of Satan. Man just thinks it is his own plan.

This brings us back to the previous reference we made concerning the Tower of Babel. The initial tower was constructed of clay and slime. The current construction of a platform that would allow man to reach the heights of God, is not clay and slime, but a much more sophisticated form of technology. The steps and ramps leading upward are not a physical building, but they are physical 'structures', none the less. Each time science discovers and

develops new technology, it is a building block which can be applied to create a 'Modern Tower of Babel'. This tower is not found in a single location, but is constructed of knowledge and a network around the world which brings man in an upward trend toward the goal of godhood.

Lightning, that fire from heaven, the notable symbolic reference in Revelation 13:13, has given him an earthly power which is the basis to EVERY scientific endeavor. Because the universe is based on positive and negative charges, electricity is the most significant tool in manipulating the elements. And it is the elements of the universe that are rearranged to create every device imaginable to man. The initial Tower of Babel was nothing compared to where man is going today. But God knew then that the Tower of Babel was significant. That's why the destruction of the first tower was only temporary. It was death of one head of the beast, but the directing power of that head has revived in these last days to put the 'Tower' back on track as Satan had originally intended.

Notice that this tower is called the Tower of Babel, not just A tower. It is, specifically, the tower of Babel. The word Babel, in the original writing, means 'confusion'. That's interesting and useful for consideration of the overall Bible concept of the warfare going on behind the scenes, but even more interesting is that the word for Babel is also the word for Babylon. The translators of scripture gave the two words, Babel, and Babylon, but the direct translation is the same for each. Therefore, when you read Babel, you can read Babylon, and when you read Babylon, you can read Babel. In the original language there was only one word. The only place the word Babel is used is in Genesis, chapters 10 and 11. All other scripture references translates the word as Babylon. This is interesting when reading references to Babylon in the Old Testament Prophetic books, and especially in Revelation 17 and 18 in reference to the Great Whore, called, 'BABYLON THE GREAT'. Babylon The Great is a reference to what might also be termed as, "The GREAT Tower of Babylon," in that this current day tower is the final display of self-exaltation of the flesh nature of man.

The Great Whore refers to a woman, who is seen as riding on a great red, or scarlet colored, beast. The red symbolizes sin, as in Isaiah 1:18, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." The nature of man is a sinful animal nature, and man's animal nature supports his quest for self-empowerment. The woman is called a whore, or harlot, because she has gone after lovers that are not her husband. This portion of scripture can be easily misunderstood, so I'm going to take a few minutes here and explain some things. See if you can follow along with me and see the symbolic connections.

The woman symbolizes all people of the earth who have been created to serve God, and in essence should be the 'bride of Christ'. Bible scholars attempt to label her as the false church, America, or even Russia. But I think that narrows the concept too much. The real essence of Babylon the Great is that she prostitutes herself, and this applies to every person on Earth that refuses to be part of the Bride of Christ. If you look in Jeremiah 51, you will see multiple references to Babylon. This is a layered reference.

By layered, I mean it applies to Israel's time in the history of their nation under the Law of Commandments, but it also applies to Babylon as the stronghold of those who reject the rewards of God, and go after the rewards of Satan. Jeremiah 51 applies not only to Israel in Old Testament times, and to physical Babylon of their day, but also to us in these end times. This multi-layered reference is found throughout the Bible, and is not recognized by the majority of Bible scholars. They usually look at the surface meaning, and unless it is spelled out for them in easily recognized descriptions, they really can't see it at all.

[CD 4, Track 2]

Anyway, let's take a longer, slower look at Babylon the Great. There are many nations, secular rulers, or religious cults which clearly fit the concept of Great Babylon. But although they fit within the scope of The Harlot's description, they are only forms of her. Wicked nations, wicked rulers, false Christians, and cults, are definitely part of the whoredom committed by her, for every wicked entity is driven by the ultimate desire for the power and might of man's beast nature. But rather than being just a nation, or just false Christianity, or a certain religious cult, she is more than that. Many Bible scholars make the mistake of recognizing that one particular entity fits the description of Great Babylon, and then fail to see that there are many other entities that also fit her description.

And in looking beneath the surface, we don't want to just pick out one 'evil empire' and zero in on them, but we want to get to the very core of the apple. Therefore, as I have just stated, the woman is all people of the earth who were created to be the bride of Christ, but have gone to bed with Satan because of all the earthly trinkets he has offered. They are in bed with the world, because they love everything that is given them to stimulate their fleshly desires. And yes, Christians are included in that category. One of Satan's deceptions is to make Christians look at one false cult, or one wicked person, or one wicked nation, in order to draw attention away from the fact that they themselves are entwined in a passionate embrace with the world in order to stimulate their own beast nature. Satan wants you to point your finger at something or someone else so that you won't be looking at yourself in the mirror.

Well, let's look at Jeremiah 51:49. It's clear that this verse is speaking of more than just Babylon of the Chaldeans in the time of the Old Testament, for it says that as the city of Babylon caused Israel to fall, so shall Babylon cause all the rest of Earth's slain to fall. Certainly, when you look at this verse and it says that all the slain of the earth will fall at Babylon, it is referring to more than just that ancient city, and to more than those who would be affected by a single wicked entity in the last days, or even to the false church which spreads its wickedness over a 2000 year time span. When it uses the word 'all', as in ALL the slain of the earth, it is referring to those people of the earth that lost their faith in God and gave up. They died a spiritual death at the hand of spiritual Babylon because of the wicked temptations

for the things which stimulate the flesh of man. Therefore, spiritual Babylon will experience utter destruction at the hand of God when Jesus returns.

The Babylon of Jeremiah 51 is both the physical city of Babylon, and also 'BABEL', the Babel that exists now in these end times. Remember, the same word in the original was translated sometimes as Babel, and sometimes as Babylon. The Babylon that we want to talk about is that Babylon, or Tower of Babel, that is not seen as a physical city, such as Los Angeles, or Tallahassee, but rather a designating term that describes the place that the wicked people of the earth have chosen to reside. Think of it this way.

Jerusalem, is the city of our God. Jerusalem exists in the country of Israel today, as well as for many, many past centuries. But Jerusalem above, in heavenly concepts, is not the same city as Jerusalem in the country of Israel. Jerusalem above is like the kingdom of heaven, which is within us. Jesus said so in Luke 17:20-21. Those that belong to Jesus are in the kingdom of heaven, and the city of our God is Jerusalem, but not earthly Jerusalem, but Jerusalem from above. You who truly seek the Lord Jesus Christ reside with him now in a spiritual sense. The Pharisees and scribes of Jesus' day wouldn't believe him because he wouldn't prove himself to them by setting up an 'earthly' kingdom. But the kingdom of our Lord is just as real as if it were a physical city on Earth. In fact, it is more real than anything of earth.

Now, look at Babylon with the same concept. Try to envision Babylon existing as the realm of those who reject the absolute authority of God, and that it is referred to as a city, but that the city is really just a term which designates the dwelling place for the people who have placed their trust in Satan. This means that they have placed their trust in the strength of their own power, placed their trust in the beast nature, the animal nature, instead of trusting in God and giving all power and authority to him. The wicked people of Earth, as it says in Jeremiah 51:12-13, 'dwell' in Babylon, and the righteous people of Earth dwell in Jerusalem. When Jesus returns in the clouds of heaven, all those who rejected him and have made their choice to dwell in Babylon rather than to serve the King of Heaven, will meet their destruction. Whether they are dead, or whether they are still alive when Jesus comes, will make no difference. Their utter end will be their complete destruction, that second death, which is referred to as a Lake of Fire.

Now, let's refer again to Babylon the Great in Revelation 18. In verse three, it refers to the 'wine of the wrath of her fornication'. The word 'wrath' used there means, 'to pant', as from shortness of breath because of extreme activity. Her activity is one of harlotry, and the purpose of this activity is to immerse herself in those rewards of her harlotry, which are listed in verses 12 and 13. They are, "The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all fragrant wood, and all kinds of vessels of ivory, and all kinds of vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odors, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men."

Once again, the harlot represents all people of the earth who refuse to keep themselves pure for their coming bridegroom, who is Jesus Christ. It is any man or woman who will not be content with that which God provides or promises. They don't want to be pure, but are 'in bed with the world'. They 'pant' after all the trinkets that Satan offers. They want anything that comes within the category of lust of the flesh, or lust of the eye, or that which allows them to have the pride of life. The niceties and dainties of the world stimulate their flesh, and the carnal man becomes strong. The quest for the things of God are shunned, and they 'worship' the things of this world, and revel in the strength of their own hands, in their own abilities to exalt themselves, rather than to exalt the Lord of Heaven.

This group of people includes both those people who call themselves Christians, but aren't, and also those people who ARE Christians, but are in danger of being ensnared by the rewards of the flesh. Their beast nature is what carries them toward their quest for self-exaltation. They actually 'ride' the beast to their destruction, while trusting in their own abilities.

That's why Jeremiah 51:6, and 45, warns us to flee out of the midst of Babylon and deliver our souls. It also says this same thing in Revelation 18:4. The warning is for everyone, but only those who receive a 'love for the truth of God' as referred to in 2 Thessalonians 2:10, will recognize the deception before it is too late. But the hour is already late, for we are currently in the time referred to in 2 Thessalonians 2:9, which tells us that the coming of Jesus follows Satan's time of working with all power and signs and lying wonders. Satan is doing that now, for the hindrance to him has been removed.

[CD 4, Track 3]

The people of earth are experiencing the most destructive time period in the history of the world. There is not one moment of history that can even come close to the death and destruction which is current. No, the current death and destruction is not physical death, or physical suffering in the plainest sense, but rather, it is death and destruction of the souls of men. In these last 200 plus years, Satan has been allowed to work his signs and wonders to an extreme extent. If you don't see this, just look at the history of the world and realize that horse and buggy or oxcart and wagon days presided in the world until the time that it was discovered that lightning, the fire in our heaven, could be brought down to the face of the earth and be put to work for man. Then notice that the technology explosion started immediately, and has continually increased at a faster and faster pace until we are now unable to even keep up with what is currently available. Before many of the ideas can be put into place, they are outmoded by new knowledge and new science, and by new gadgets. Even the computer I'm working on is outmoded, and it is only about five or six years old.

Satan has been able to stir the people of earth to create an image that speaks, and which accurately reflects the beast nature of carnal man. The people of earth love it, and spend hours and hours and hours watching it, until their brains are fried, and the brainwashing technique of

the image has become complete. Our children are ruined before they are out of kindergarten, and our teenagers are so hardened by the time they graduate from highschool, that their hearts are as hard as a stone. They will only allow themselves to be taken to church if the church offers them significant stimulation of the flesh. If there is no rock music, no pizza, no 'cool' stuff, they complain until mom and dad change churches. We won't go into this subject here, but this is the meaning of 'children will rise up and put their parents to death'. Kids rule today, not with their adult authority, but with their attitudes which are strengthened by social pressures against parents to conform and not be too strict. Parents capitulate continuously, and the children get worse and worse. Surely, if the time were not shortened, none of God's elect would be saved.

And this brings us to another concept. The Bible promises that in the end time, our Lord will rise up, and the sword will proceed out of his mouth. This means that truth will begin to come out again. The sword is the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Because the sword comes out of the mouth, you know it is referring to truth which destroys the lie. This is referred to in 2 Thessalonians 2:8. I believe that now is the time when God is beginning to bring understanding back to the church. If not now, it would soon be too late.

[CD 4, Track 4]

So, what are the implications of all this for you? It depends. First, if you think all this is just so much hogwash, then you must set it aside and continue to seek God the best you can. However, if you can see some of the concepts, and think that the body of this presentation has some merit, then you need to prayerfully seek God's help in understanding it, and continue to study the prophecies of the end times using the concepts presented here. I'm fairly certain that most people will have to listen to or read this presentation more than once or twice to really begin to comprehend the fulness of it.

But if God has revealed these things to you, and you see how this all fits together, then ask God to reveal even more of it to you. Share it with others who also have been thirsting for more understanding. And if you would, write to us. We'd love to hear your responses, and even some questions.

But mostly, what the implications are for the church of these last days is that most Christians are terribly deceived into thinking that all is well in the Christian church, and that we are all just waiting around to be raptured. But the truth is that the church is about to be drowned by all the lies of Satan, which create an earthly environment that is incompatible with the truth of God. God never intended his people to be placed in front of a screen while images displayed and described the animal nature of man. God never intended his people to be preoccupied with sex, preoccupied with sports, preoccupied with crafts, or preoccupied with entertainments. It is the fleshly nature of man that is preoccupied with the things of this world. It is the born-again spirit nature of man that is preoccupied with the things of God.

God wants his people to be preoccupied with him. He wants us to be about the Father's business just as Jesus was about his Father's business. God wants us to turn off the sex and violence, and to turn off the sound of the TV or movie or video game that uses the name of God in a vain context, that uses it as swear words. No, we can't leave this world, and must be in the world, but the world must not be in us, nor in our homes, nor be allowed to be in our children.

The three categories of sin; lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life are rampant in the Christian life. Lust means, an unbridled desire. Yes, maybe lust of the flesh is controlled to some extent in many Christian households, but what about lust of the eye? Lust of the eye means an unbridled desire for things just to look at. They aren't the same as lust of the flesh, which is the partaking of things which require physical activity. The lust of the eye is just surrounding yourself with things that you like to look at, such as things mentioned in Revelation 18:12, of gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, purple, silk, scarlet, precious or rare wood, vessels of ivory, brass, iron, and marble. These items are just the things which appeal to the eye of carnal man.

The pride of life is the attempt at appearing to be more than you really are. It is like wearing a gold chain, because it makes others look at you as being a class above other people because you appear to be rich. You are prideful when you drive around in an expensive automobile because you want to look cool. You're prideful when you dress in fancy or costly clothes, rather than dressing just so as to look appropriate. Anything which is used to make you look like you are greater than you really are, can be used to create self pride. And think of this. The word 'cool' is freely thrown around in today's society, and many Christians want to be 'cool'. This just means that you want to be looked at as especially accepted because you dress or act in a way that exalts you above what you would be without the 'cool' things. This is pride of life. Cool is just another form of bringing attention to yourself.

But our purpose here in this world is not to bring attention to ourselves, but to bring attention to Jesus Christ. Our purpose is not to stimulate the eye or the flesh, but to stimulate our spirit into being about our Father's business. Satan wants us to stimulate the flesh, because it is the animal, the beast, that is his answer for man instead of submission to God. Man is being deceived so badly that if God's established time table were not altered at the last day, man would ultimately drown. And I do mean every last man on the face of the earth. No, all those who have gone before would not be lost, but all those alive on the face of the earth in the end times would eventually be so completely deceived that they would reject the truth of God and accept the lie of Satan. We are already coming dangerously close to this even now.

[CD 4, Track 5]

Consider, if you will, the concept of the two witnesses of Revelation 11, where it says that they are killed. We have already talked about the concept of two or three witnesses, and have

referred to the words of Jesus in John 5:31-37, where he said that the testimony he gave of himself would not be true if there was no additional testimony. He said, though, that there were two others which testified of him; the Father, and the Holy Spirit. In the same sense, God's witness of himself would not be true without the testimonies of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. God has testified of himself by creating not only the earth and the universe, but by causing his word to be written for men to read. But God's testimony of himself must be accompanied by other qualified witnesses. Jesus, as the body of God, is a witness of God by outwardly showing, by demonstrating in human form, the word of God. The Holy Spirit also testifies that God's word is true, by bringing signs and wonders to pass through Jesus Christ and others. These complete the three testimonies.

In Zechariah 4, at the end of the chapter, we read that there are two witnesses which stand before the Lord of all the earth. These two witnesses are the body of Christ and the Holy Spirit which are witnesses of God in the earth. When you read chapter 4 of Zechariah, you see the symbols presented of a lampstand and two olive trees. The lampstand represents the word of God, which in this case is the Old Testament. If you look at Revelation 11, you will see that there is then two lampstands, indicating that there was now a New Testament of God's word. In Zechariah, the greater clarity of the word, as evidenced by the gospel of Jesus Christ, had not yet been given to the world.

The lampstand holds the lamps, but the lamps, without oil, cannot shed light. This means that the written word of God cannot give light to a dying world unless there is further witness that will reveal the truth of it. The two olive trees represent the two witnesses which stand before the Lord of all the earth. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are these two witnesses which reveal the written word. In essence, they are the olive trees, which are the avenue through which the oil, which symbolizes the power of God, flows. The oil works in combination with the lamps, and the light of the word shines forth.

In Revelation 11, we see there is now two lampstands, and now the light is twice as bright as it was from just the one lampstand. This means that the gospel of Jesus Christ brings a much clearer understanding of God's word than what was had with just the word of the Old Testament. The two olive trees are still the two witnesses of God, and continue to do the work in the earth as they are empowered by God, symbolized by the oil. In essence, the gospel of Jesus Christ, carried forward in the church age, accompanied by the signs and wonders performed by the working of the Holy Spirit, bring light to the world.

This is not such a hard concept to understand for most people, except for when it comes to Revelation 11:7. Here the scripture refers to the two witnesses being killed, and immediately the Bible scholars assume that the two witnesses cannot be Jesus and the Holy Spirit because Jesus and the Holy Spirit can't be killed. But before you jump to this same conclusion, try to see it this way.

The life of Jesus, whether through his manifestation on earth, or by the church, who is now the body of Christ on the earth, has given, and is giving, continual testimony to the authenticity of God's word. In the same sense, the Holy Spirit, either by working through Jesus Christ, or by working through Christians in this age, is also a continual testimony to the authenticity of God's word. It is the witnesses that give testimony, and when the scripture says that the two witnesses are killed, this does not imply a physical death for either Jesus or the Holy Spirit. The reason I can say that it is not a physical death, is that you and I know for certain that a spirit cannot suffer physical death. Yes, Jesus could, and did, but not a spirit. Therefore, the death that occurs is a death of the witness, or in other words, the death of the two testimonies.

Look at it this way. In this world, since the time of Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven, the word of God has gone forth. There has been times that the word has been greatly hindered, and much that should be revealed has been hidden. In these last days, specifically since the science and technology revolution began, the word of God has suffered a continual onslaught by the army of Satan. What has caused such a destructive assault is the amplification of knowledge in the earth. This is referenced in Daniel 12:4, where it says, "But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even until the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge will be increased." The increase in knowledge is the natural knowledge of this world, not the true knowledge of God. As the ability of man's animal nature continues to increase in power, the spiritual understanding of the things of God decrease. Satan knows that man will trust in that which he knows best, so he works very hard in giving incentives to man which will encourage him to strive for more and more of earth's sciences.

[CD 4, Track 6]

At this current time, the natural science of this world has reached a mind boggling state. The spiritual things of God are being clouded over by more and more of earth's science and technology. At the time when Jesus was on this earth, there was very little in the way of man's science and technology, and therefore people would gladly reach out to Jesus who was doing such wonderful works. But today, the signs and wonders of earth's knowledge is fast approaching its destination of becoming equivalent to the power of God. There is now a growing population on earth which is willing to openly reject God, and this has come to the point that even Christians realize that the world is no longer controlled by the concepts of Christianity. Instead of Christianity being at the forefront of civilized nations, it has become a byword and a curse word. There is currently strong advocacy for ridding the world of Christian influence. And this is where we come to see the concept of killing the two witnesses.

In order to kill their testimony, the wicked people of the world only need to convince the people of earth that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not true. If you can convince people of this, then the testimony of Jesus and the Holy Spirit have no credence. In order for testimony to

stand in any court, the credibility of the witness must first be established. If the witness has no credibility, the testimony will be discarded.

The credibility of the Holy Spirit has already been undermined, not just by the wicked people of Earth, but also by Christians. Some Christians have made a mockery out of the moving of the Holy Spirit until other Christians are afraid of it. This has resulted in many Christians resisting any move of the Holy Spirit because they are afraid of being caught up in a false emotionalism. Another way that the testimony of the Holy Spirit has been quenched is by lack of faith. As the understanding of God's truth dwindles, faith dwindles, and soon there is very little faith to believe that the Holy Spirit will bring about any signs and wonders at all, or that Christians can really be led by the Holy Spirit. Actually, the church, in general, has not been led by the Holy Spirit for a very long time, even though Romans 8:14 specifically tells us that this is a necessity for anyone to call themselves sons of God.

Secondly, in order to kill the witness of Jesus, he must also be proven as untrue. This looms very near in our future. The people of earth have become emboldened by their increased power, and what they intend to do is convince the world in general that Jesus was not truly the Son of God, but just a man, just a prophet; a good one, but nevertheless, just human. There are many attacks aimed at accomplishing this feat, but they have as yet been unable to reach sufficient momentum. But there is currently a strong battle being waged through books, magazines, and movies. In the spring of 2006, we saw a vigorous assault by Hollywood as they brought forth a film adaptation of the book, "The Da Vinci Code," which, although it claimed to be fiction, it was a cleverly disguised offensive against the veracity of Jesus Christ. All it sought to do was to discredit Christ. It just raised questions. And because most of God's people have very little true understanding of the deep things of God, they have very little ability to withstand the onslaught. It comes down to this simple thing. If you have very little truth, then with what will you fight the lie?

The two witnesses of God will be killed, and then the earth will rejoice, for they will no longer be convinced that Jesus is true, or that the Holy Spirit is real, and therefore will not believe God's word. For if they believe God's word is not true, then what do they have to fear? They would be free to be as wicked as they want to be, without having to worry that God will punish them. The people of Earth will be ecstatically happy. As it says in Revelation 11:10, they will rejoice over the fact that the two witnesses have been killed, because they are no longer tormented by the threat of punishment in the lake of fire.

And just a quick explanation here of Revelation 11:9, where it says that the people of earth will not permit their dead bodies to be put in graves. They, the wicked of the earth, will not want the witnesses to receive the honor of being buried, in the sense that to bury them infers that they were real, and had finally stopped being real. But their intent is that they are actually claiming that they never truly existed. To give burial to someone is to give honor. To leave a body lying in the street is an act of dishonor to the dead. Besides, Satan already experienced putting Christ in the grave once, and he couldn't keep him there. He doesn't want to make the

same mistake twice. He wants the witnesses to lie out in the street where everyone can plainly see that they are dead, so that they will no longer attempt to believe in them.

But Satan will be very disappointed, for the end result will be the same as when Jesus rose from the dead and ascended up into heaven. Death has no power over God. Satan is doomed for evermore.

[CD 4, Track 7]

Now, there's one more concept to cover in Revelation 13. It says in verses 16 and 17, that no man can buy or sell without having the mark of the beast. To buy and sell means to enter into trade. The provisions which spiritual man needs to have are the things of God. He needs to have the truth, for it is the truth which will free him from the bondage of Satan. Man needs not only the Old Testament and the New Testament, symbolized by the two lampstands of Revelation 11, but he also needs the oil and the wine, which symbolizes Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit which are the two witnesses which testify of God, and reveal God by revealing the word of God.

Today, there is a famine in the world. No, I'm not referring to a famine for physical food, but a famine, as Amos 8:11 refers to, as a famine for the word of God. This is equal to Revelation 6:5-6, where it talks of the black horse, which is famine. In those verses it says that approximately three quarts of barley will cost a denarius and that the same denarius will purchase only one quart of wheat. The historical value of a denarius can be equated to the wages of a common laborer for one day's work. This means you work all day just to be able to buy three quarts of barley grain, or one quart of wheat grain. It doesn't mean you starve to death, but that your diet is very meager. Barley is a coarser meal which makes bread which is of lesser quality than bread made from wheat. The barley symbolizes the Old Testament, which gives some understanding of the true meaning of the word of God. The wheat, because it is a grain of higher quality than barley, symbolizes the New Testament which gives greater understanding than the Old Testament did.

In these end times, there is a famine for the word of God. Yes, we have the reading of the Old and New Testaments, but our understanding is largely unfruitful. The deep hidden things of God are not understood, and although man searches far and wide for more of God, he never gets all he hungers for, for the revelation knowledge of God's word, symbolized by the oil and wine, which is Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. It is a common desire of every true Christian to have a greater understanding of the things of God. Yes, we search the scriptures and pray fervently, but never feel that we have been completely filled with all we want to know about God and his ways. We have learning, but never enough knowledge. We have faith, but never enough to meet our needs abundantly.

But on the other hand, if you want things of the flesh, you can go get your fill. You can eat as much as you want, you can drink until you're drunk. You can splurge on new clothes, and you can buy another car. Sure, you can't have everything, but Satan's purpose is that there is plenty of the things that the beast nature desires in this world, and the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life can be had, in one form or another, to the full. Because of the beast nature in man, man has created the image of the beast, which creates a social system in line with human nature instead of being in line with the spiritual things of God. Satan's purpose is that no man might be able to enter into trade with the things of God, but might be so focused on the things of this world that there is no other lifestyle available except one which is Godless.

Even the church is immersed in the worldly concepts and the stimulations of carnal man. We are so far from comprehending the deep things of God, that the things of God can no longer be found. Man is immersed in the waters of Satan's lies, almost to the point of drowning. There is a famine for the word of God, but no famine when it comes to the lusts of the flesh. You can buy and sell as much of it as you want. And the image of the beast is at the heart of the plan of destruction.

So, are Christians deceived? Is the church deceived? Yes, they are. What can they do about it? Do what 2 Corinthians 6:16-17 says, and come out from among them and be separate. No, we must be in the world, but we do not have to take the world into our homes, nor do we have to trust in the power of man's knowledge rather than trusting in God. As God gives you insight into what is really happening to Christians, then tell others. Spread the word. Be the watchman on the wall that spots the enemy and warns the people. We need more of the word of God, more understanding of the deep things within God's word. But contrary to what many Christians believe, we can't have this knowledge just by reaching out for it. What we will also have to do is to separate ourselves. And this will hurt. It isn't easy. To even contemplate getting rid of the television is frightening, let alone doing it, and adjusting to it.

But TV, movies, video games, and surfing the web are not helping you be a better warrior for Christ. The church is lying back on their couches and waiting for Jesus to rapture them out of here. But there isn't going to be a rapture of the church until Christians have gone through the great tribulation. No, we won't go through the wrath of God, but we will go through the tribulation. Christians have always gone through tribulation, and always will. Tribulation is warfare of the wicked of this earth that is aimed at Christians and their faith in God. Wrath is what comes upon the wicked by God when he pours it out on them in righteous judgment.

Matthew 24:29 clearly shows us that the Lord will not return for us until right directly after the Great Tribulation. It says that at that time, immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon shall not give its light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and that then we will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven.

No, it's not time to lay back and relax until Jesus lifts us out of here, but it is time to get busy and start doing what Christians were created to do in the first place. It is time to stop being deceived and start separating ourselves from all the wickedness around us. As it is, the image of the beast is taking its toll on Christians everywhere. Christians barely have their heads out of water, and are in danger of being drowned. If you think you're O.K., and that you're so secure that nothing will happen to you, then at least think about what you're going to say to the Lord when he comes back and asks you, "What did you do to save all those other lambs that didn't have as firm a footing as you did, and were drowned?"

We, the church, must not only think of ourselves, but if we are truly of God, and if we have truly taken on the aspect of Christ, then it's time we started fighting against the forces of Satan. No, not going to court or trying to change the laws, but by actively starting to separate ourselves from the world and all its lusts. It's time to wake up and realize that Satan has deceived us into being complacent. The church is so caught up in the lifestyle of the world, that we've forgotten how to live the lifestyle of Christians. It isn't time to get comfortable, but time to get bold. John the Baptist, in his camel's hair coat, and his diet of grasshoppers and wild honey, was a wonderful example of someone who was not in bed with the world. I'm not suggesting that we all need to live like him. But then, neither am I suggesting that we should be living like we are. John the Baptist was in the world, but was not of the world. And he was crying for the people of that land to get ready for the coming King of Israel. That's what God's church needs to be doing also, repenting, and getting ready for the King of Israel. For the kingdom of heaven is very near at hand.

Now, I'll close this series with one last thing. If you understand this, if God has given you eyes to see and ears to hear, we would like to hear from you. We would love to know there are more out there to whom God is giving revelation knowledge. We here, at Preparation Ministries, believe the time is short, and are hoping that God will bring together those of us who see, so that we can learn from one another, and be encouraged by one another.

In any event, may God give you eyes to see and ears to hear. And may he bless you as you seek him with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.