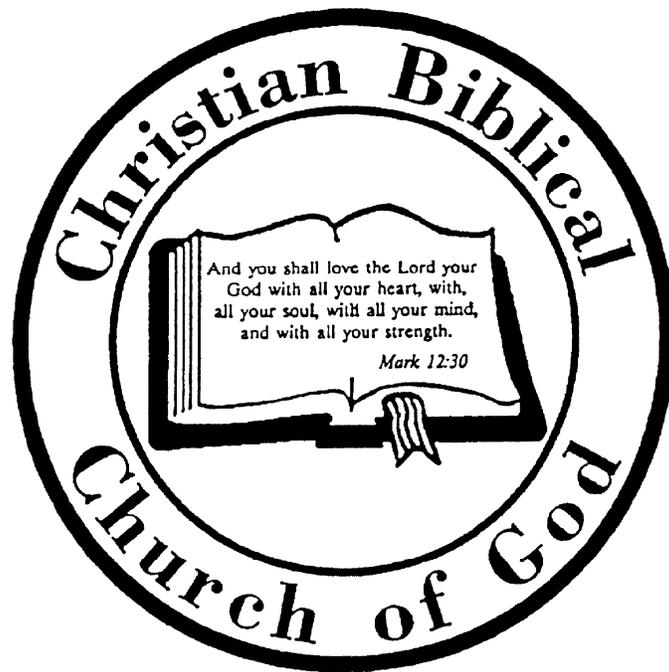


Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For



Transcript Book

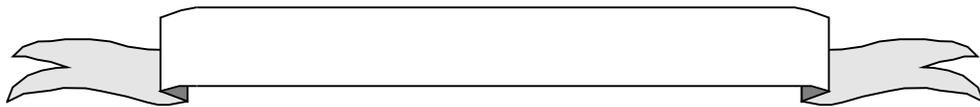
By Fred R. Coulter

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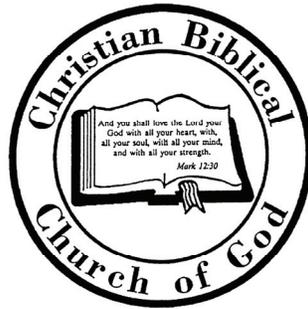
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14 Things in Prophecy to Watch For

Series of 6 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

14 Things in Prophecy to Watch For #1

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14 Things in Prophecy to Watch For #6

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- Tracks 3 & 4 Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For II
- Tracks 5 & 6 Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For III
- Tracks 7 & 8 Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For IV
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- Tracks 11 & 12 Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For VI

Study Package 10

Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For

Forward

You will find in the first sermon transcript “Fourteen things in Prophecy to Watch For I”, the framework in the Bible that prophecies given by God are found. There are two frameworks that you can find prophecies in that God has causes to be written in the Bible. The first framework to look for prophecies are the Passover Day and the Holy Days of God. The second framework is composed of seven items that are as follows:

1. Israel
2. Jews
3. Jerusalem
4. The coming of Christ
5. The Church of God
6. The world
7. The Kingdom of God

Additionally, this first transcript shows that to understand the prophecies that are found in the book of Revelation one must know of the prophecies that are found in the book of Daniel.

The second sermon transcript is “Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For II”. In this transcript you find covered an example of fulfillment of the phrase “No man knows the day or the hour!” Also, all the 6,000 year periods (that man was supposedly given to rule over the earth) that men can come up with have passed. This makes the idea of that there are 6,000 years since man was created until the return of Christ discredited.

This second transcript really emphasizes that in looking for the time of the return of Jesus Christ to rule the world the key is to watch for the prophecies of the end-time that are associated with the city of Jerusalem. When these are fulfilled or are being fulfilled the return of Christ is near.

The third sermon transcript is “Seven Churches—Church Wars I”. This sermon transcript notes that many people who study the Bible are not aware that what happens in the world and what happens with the people of God are very similar. The transcript also focuses on how the Bible verse II Timothy 2:15 applies to people who are inside the Churches of God and those people who are outside of the Churches of God. Additionally, there are four politics that occur in the Churches of God and these politics are studied.

The fourth sermon transcript is titled “Seven Churches-Church Wars II”. It is a continuation of the third sermon transcript. But the reader will find in this transcript the beginning of an in-depth discussion of the Churches of God mentioned in the book of Revelation. This discussion of the Churches of God in Revelation is continued in the fifth sermon-transcript.

The fifth sermon transcript is titled “Fourteen This in Prophecy to Watch For V”. The reader will find in this transcript a review of the sermon transcripts already previously covered. The important points are noted and briefly discussed. Also, there are more thoughts regarding the Churches of God.

The sixth sermon transcript, “Fourteen Things to Watch in Prophecy VI—Control of the World”, covers the super-elite who control what and what does not happen in Satan’s world. The mark of the beast, as mentioned in Revelation, and how it will come about, is studied. Also noted is that whatever the elite of the world want to do, even though they have authority and power given them by the ruler of the present world, Satan the devil—nothing can be done unless Satan receives permission from God. More about the Churches of God is further revealed in this last sermon transcript.

Special thanks goes to Bonnie Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For I

Greetings, everyone; welcome to Sabbath services! Today we're going to talk about prophecy. Let's get an overall framework to look at. There are a couple of frameworks that we can see:

1. The Passover and Holy Days

That's why we have the book, *God's Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days*. That tells us the framework from the Holy Days. They also give us some prophetic understanding as we go through and understand the prophecies. Here's the other framework that's important for us to understand:

2. There are seven things:
 - 1) Israel
 - 2) Jews
 - 3) Jerusalem (everything is centered on Jerusalem)
 - 4) Christ, His coming
 - 5) the Church
 - 6) the world
 - 7) Kingdom of God

So all prophecies hang on these two frameworks. And then within the first framework we have:

- The commandments of God
- Old Covenant
- New Covenant

All of these things then fit in with the framework and the Bible itself is laid out in seven divisions of the Bible, like we have in the *Holy Bible in its Original Order*:

- the Law
- the Prophets
- the Writings
- Gospels and Acts in the middle
- General Epistles
- Paul's Epistles
- Revelation

Now everyone likes to start out and they want to know about prophecy. 'Let's read Revelation.' But if they don't know the rest of the Bible, they can't understand it, because you need to know an awful lot about the rest of the Bible in order for you to understand Revelation.

Another thing concerning understanding Revelation is this: The first half is Daniel; the second half is Revelation. You can't understand Daniel without Revelation and you can't understand Revelation without Daniel, and then all the rest of the Bible. That's why it starts out in Rev. 1 that Jesus says, 'I am the First and the Last, the

Beginning and the End, Alpha and Omega.' There's a reason for that. So let's look and see how many of these things are incorporated right here in Daniel.

Why is Daniel in the Writings? *Because it was written outside the land of Israel!* I'm not going to go through the first part of it where he has his confession and repentance. We'll cover that at a later time, but I suggest everyone read that and then apply it not only to themselves, but also to the Church. And all church leaders everywhere better read this and understand what's happening so they can also be in an attitude of repentance like Daniel was.

Let's see how everything is tied up—all the things that I just mentioned here—because his whole prayer is about Jerusalem, the children of Israel, the children of Judah, the rebellion that they had been in, why they were in captivity. It's very instructive for us to understand, because people today like to think, well, they can just go along their merry way and they'll be just fine. If you think that's so, then you better read Matt. 25, the parable of the ten virgins. Because when these things suddenly come upon us, it's too late to say, 'Oh, what do I do? Where is this in the Bible?' You better know it first, as it comes along. Let's see how all the seven things that we have here tied up in it, and also in relationship to the Passover and Holy Days of God. See, everything comes together.

Daniel 9:24: "Seventy weeks are decreed upon your people... [Who are the people? *We just named them, Israel and the Jews—correct? Yes!*] ...and upon your Holy City... [What is that? *Jerusalem.*] **...to finish the transgression and to make an end of sin, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.**"

Now, that is what you might say a statement that covers everything from the time that this was given to Daniel, until the Kingdom of God, when you really understand it. There are many segments involved here. Has there been:

- a 'finish [of] the transgression' yet? *No!*
- 'to make an end of sin'? *No!*
- 'to make reconciliation for iniquity'? *Yes! Began with Christ.*
- 'to bring in everlasting righteousness'? *Yes! With Christ and with those who have the Holy Spirit to be born into the Kingdom of God, but not yet complete.*
- 'to seal up the vision and prophecy'
- 'to anoint the Most Holy.'

Now, let's look at the segments that we have after this, because this is important to understand, v 25: "Know therefore and understand *that* from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem, to Messiah the Prince... [Now, in the book that we'll have coming out this next spring, *The Appointed Times of the Messiah*, we will have in there completely covering the entire 70-weeks prophecy.] (time period): ...shall be seven weeks, and **sixty-two weeks**...."

Now when it is put that way it means that these are *two separate segments of time*. Likewise with the last week, and this shows that there is time periods in between as well. Now the way this is written in the Hebrew, it means this: Every week then is seven years, leading up to a Jubilee [year]. If you start out and you have seven weeks—forty-nine years to rebuild Jerusalem (and we'll have that whole chronology, we will have the decrees, we will have the historical understanding as to which came when)—who gave the decree, etc., and sixty-two weeks?

Now 62 weeks is a very interesting one to look at, because the way that you figure the 62 weeks, then you have to know

- when the Messiah came
- when He was born
- understand about John the Baptist
- when he began his ministry
- when Jesus began His ministry

—because that's the end of the sixty-two weeks.

Now since all of these involve a Jubilee, after every 7-week segment, then the end of the 62 weeks has to be a Jubilee. And we find the year that Jesus began His ministry was in fact the Jubilee. Now, we won't get into any more of it there except to say that this shows that that prophecy is accurate and on time.

So the city: "...It shall be built again with streets and the wall, even in troublous times.... [You can read Ezra and Neh. and see the troublous times they had in doing it.] (Now here's another thing that is very important to understand): ...And **after sixty-two weeks**... [It doesn't say when the 62 weeks were finished. When the 62 weeks were finished that's when the Messiah was to appear.] ...**after** sixty-two weeks... [And how long after was it? *Three and a half years*.] ...Messiah shall be cut off but not for Himself... [Then there's another break, right here.] ...And the people of the prince who shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.... [This is not talking about Jesus, this is talking about the coming *beast power*.] ...But his end *shall be* with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined" (vs 25-26).

Now here's how the *prince of the people* or the *people of the prince* comes in, 27: "And he shall **confirm a covenant** with many **for one week**... [There is the 70th week. So this is one of the main things to watch also in prophecy. Then notice what he says here:] ...And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the offering to cease... [Middle of seven days, or seven years—is what? *Three and a half years*. That also fits into prophecy. How long is the Tribulation then? *The second three and a half years!* The first three and a half years are going to be quite phenomenal.] ...and upon the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate even until the consummation.... [he's going to be to the end of the age] ...And the fully determined end which is decreed shall be poured out upon the desolator."

Now, all of those will take place the way that God wants them to take place. We will see how all of these fit in, in the end time, but let's look at one that has not taken place yet; 1-Thessalonians 5. This is very interesting when we read it and look at it, because there are many things that can happen with this. The things that transpire are going to be what the Scriptures say, and in some cases that's not what we have been taught or have believed. This also tells us something important concerning what we are to know and we will see that, no, this does not conflict with what Jesus says in Matt. 24.

1-Thessalonians 5:1: "Now then, concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, there is no need that I write to you." Jesus said, 'No man knows the day or the hour' (Matt. 24). But the *day and the hour* is different than the *times and the seasons*. What are the times? *Those are the Holy Days!* And the seasons? *Seasons in which they occur!*

Then he makes this statement here, which is, when you look at the way that things are right now, the way that the world is right now, we will see that vs 2-3 have not been fulfilled and there will be quite a few other things that will lead up to it. But there's going to come a time when they will say this (v 3).

I. Peace and Security

"For you yourselves understand perfectly that the day of the Lord will come exactly as a thief *comes* by night.... [How can that be with all the signs and wonders that take place before the return of Christ? There will be a lot of them.] (Here's the catch; this has not yet been fulfilled): ...For when they say, '**Peace and security**'..." (vs 2-3). Can we say that today? Can we look back through the history of mankind from the time of Christ until now and say really that there has been peace and security?

Let's put it this way: worldwide, because all the prophecies at the end-time affect the whole world. They affect

- Israel
- the Jews
- Jerusalem
- Christ
- the church
- the world
- the coming of the Kingdom of God

"...then sudden destruction will come upon them..." (v 3). How's this going to happen? We'll see this a little later as we go along. But there has to come a time when there is peace and security. What did we read back in Dan. 9? That 'in the 70th week the prince of the people is going to make a covenant for one week or seven years'—right? The time leading up to the beginning of the Tribulation will be preceded by a time of unprecedented peace and security. That tells us that that's quite a ways down the road—right?

What we're going to see, this is quite a ways down the road, so what we want to do is let's kind of grade all of these like I did last time when I gave this sermon two years ago. This will be different than the sermon I gave two years ago. The first one I gave on *Fourteen Things to Happen in Prophecy* was in 1967, so that is 45 years ago. At that time—and some of you have been in the Church a long time—we were told that the Church is going to flee to a *place of safety* in 1972. That's when the Tribulation is going to begin. Well, what did Jesus say? '*No man knows the time or the hour; the day or the hour.*' And just because there are troubles out there, that are cyclical, they happen, that repeat, does not mean that the day of the Lord is near. You have to have all these things take place.

So here's how it's going to come: "...then sudden destruction will come upon them, as travail *comes* upon a woman who is with child; and they shall by no means escape" (v 3). We will see when that time begins.

Let's say that for 1-Thess. 5:1-2, peace and prosperity, we're going to grade these on a tipping-point scale. *Zero* meaning there's no indication of it happening. Closer to *ten* meaning it's imminent; ten meaning it has been fulfilled. The tipping point is *five*, just like a teeter-totter. Sometimes with a teeter-totter, it can go back and forth until there is a final disposition taken care of.

To give you an example, right now we have the tipping-point financially for the financial system in many countries of the world teetering on the tipping-point. When it happens, it's going to happen suddenly. If the new Congress in the United States or in the parliaments in the other countries go ahead

and enact austerity programs, that is not going to really, really work, because the accumulation of interest they have to pay will soon eat up all the savings they are able to legislate and incur.

So with this one here—1-Thess. 5:1-2—let's give it the tipping-point scale of *zero* right now.

II. The King of the North and the King of the South

Daniel 11:40: "And at the time of the end..." The time of the end and the event in the period called *the time of the end*, has to be interpreted by what takes place. First, the *king of the north* comes in and we have peace for three and a half years. So the beginning of that is the beginning of the time of the end, but it not the end of violence. When does the Tribulation begin? That becomes the question.

"And at the time of the end, the king of the south shall push at him. And the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind with chariots and with horsemen and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries and shall overflow and sweep through. He shall also enter into the glorious land... [the Holy Land or Palestine.] ...and many countries shall be overthrown" (vs 40-41). Then it lists all those that escape out of his hand for the time being.

Where is the *king of the south* and the *king of the north*? *Nowhere on the scene!* There is a weak-kneed president of the European Economic Community, or EU, the European Union, but he has no power. How many years have we said, well, watch Europe rise, watch Europe rise, watch Europe rise. I remember an article that a man wrote and said, 'Well, the ten kings of Revelation, looks like it's going to be fulfilled this way: five kings in western Europe and five kings in eastern Europe.' Woooo! Well, what happened? *The wall came down!*

Now you look at Europe and all the associated nations with it and what do you have? *You have the exact area that Adolph Hitler conquered for his Reich!* Has anybody thought of that? *All of Europe!* Not North Africa; His excursion into North Africa was a failure, very short lived. But it includes: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Slovenia, Czech state, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Luxemburg, Holland, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece. Then there are, as some states yet in the Balkans, which may come in.

Almost overlaid exactly. So take a look at that. If you can get a map of the full extent of the Hitler's conquests—he went into Russia, but he couldn't conquer Russia. I don't know why Hitler didn't learn from Napoleon. *You never attack Russia in October!* They have winters there. So you read the account, or if you can watch it on the History

Channel, when Napoleon was coming back from his defeat from trying to conquer Russia. They had the earliest and coldest winter they had in a long time. The men were just falling over frozen to death. The only way they could get any food was take and cut a slice off a walking horse and it was so cold that it froze the blood immediately, so they would munch on the hide as they were going along. Eventually that was the worst disaster that ever took place; same way with the disaster with Hitler when invaded Russia.

But I think it's very interesting, *king of the north*: we have to watch what Europe is going to do. How is Europe going to survive all of these economic problems? We had in mind, this is going to start out, the euro is going to be wonderful and it's going to be glorious. It's going to be prosperous. The Euro is going to be the world currency. What happened? *Debt!*

King of the south—there's no *king of the south* even on the horizon, though I've covered several of these things before. There is an economic block for North Africa and on down into the oil states, and so forth, but watch Turkey. It's starting to build up in power even more.

Let's look at the *king of the north* and the *king of the south*, because it says that they will have to be on the scene—right? Can the *time of the end* begin before there is definitely the *king of the north* who then makes a covenant with the people, who then has to protect his standing in the Holy Land? *Not there!*

King of the south: We can understand the Muslim problem, but they're all even fighting each other, as it were. So it's going to take some time for the *king of the south* to develop. So let's put this on the tipping scale of 2-3; it has quite a ways to go.

Now let's look at something else that I didn't put in here with that, but this is over in Daniel 12:1—this shows how the *king of north* then is going to come against Israel and the Jews: “And at that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands for the children of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even until that time....” We will see that Christ talks about the Great Tribulation, ‘such as a time never was.’ So it's talking about exactly the same time. So keep that in mind when we get there.

“...And at that time your people shall be delivered—everyone who shall be found written in the book” (v 1). This shows there's going to be a deliverance of the people, deliverance of Israel. Some of those details are in Isaiah, some are in Jeremiah, some are in Ezekiel, some are in Hosea.

So you have to get all the other Scriptures there to put those together.

Then it talks about the resurrection. “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life... [That's the first resurrection.] ...and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” (v 2). That's the second part of the second resurrection. So you see how there is ‘precept upon precept and line upon line,’ and you've got to have the framework in which to put these precepts and lines so they all make perfect sense.

Verse 3: “And they who are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever.” That ties in with what God told Abraham, when He told him to count the stars, ‘if you are able to number them, so shall your seed be.’ This is what Jesus said that ‘the children of the kingdom shall shine as the sun’ (Matt. 13).

Verse 4—this is very interesting, because this helps us to understand a principle in the Bible concerning prophecy, which is this: How much does God fulfill what He has prophesied? Is 10% adequate for God to act? 20%? 50%? 60%? 70%? 80%? Well, here's a good example right here, v 4: “But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end....” So at the *time of the end* we're given a promise that we shall understand.

Come over here to v 9 where he repeats it again: “And he said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for the words *are* closed up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall be purified, and made white, and refined. But the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand”” (vs 9-10).

Now I'm also doing on *Church at Home* some segments on prophecy. We're right at that point—who are the wise?

- the ones that love God
- the ones that have His Holy Spirit
- the ones who understand His Word

Then you tie that in together with the parable of the ten virgins in Matt. 25 and that helps put it together. In every one of these things we can take a verse that tells us something and bring so many other verses to bear on it, it will give us the whole picture.

Now here's one statement, 4: “...Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” Now let's say you read that 200 years ago. You couldn't say that it even had started being fulfilled—right? But finally, when they developed the steam engine, they began to go a little faster than horses

and donkeys, because that's all they had up to that point—right?—rivers and boats.

Go 'to and fro'—many—*many* means the majority. It doesn't say 'shall walk.' *They run!* It's not that people are running, they are using vehicles to run to and fro. Are we going to come to the point of 100% fulfillment of that worldwide? *Think about it!* If you want to watch something very, very interesting, you watch a special on India and China.

They are being, as I've mentioned before, westernized, but let's just do it this way: Babylonianized, because the whole world is Babylon the Great. I saw a statistic last night that of the 1.5-billion people in China, guess how many are on the Internet? *450-million, one-third!* So that adds into going 'to and fro'; and adding 'knowledge shall increase.' Look at how much information we get off the Internet.

I came in here today and I had three articles given to me off the Internet. *Knowledge shall increase.* It increases in many different ways:

1. technological increase
2. Biblical increase
3. all of the other scientific information about human beings, about animals, and so forth

I've got a whole sermon that I need to bring on how the brain is affected by minute magnetic frequencies. They can even alter your moral decisions. So we need to think about how that's going to tie in to the *mark of the beast*. So, there are a lot of things.

Would we say then that we are reaching a point where we are going to have the nth-degree fulfillment of going 'to and fro' and 'knowledge increased'? *Yes!* Knowledge is doubling every six months. Pretty soon it'll be five months, then after that four months. Pretty soon you will walk into Best Buy and buy your latest technological thing, you get it home and use it for one week, and it's already out of date. Something happens somewhere in the world and we know it right away—right? *Yes, indeed!* We're going to see that's important for understanding Matt. 24 when we get there. So, with the *king of the north* and the *king of the south*, let's put there for the tipping point 2-3.

Now, any one of these things can come up all of a sudden and be fulfilled right while we're standing there looking at it. So, just because it's 2 or 3 doesn't necessarily mean that it's a long, long way off.

Here's another thing that I think is really astounding. Matthew 24:1: "And after going out... [out of the temple area] ...Jesus departed from the temple; and His disciples came to *Him* to point out the buildings of the temple.... [We're going to see a

beginning point right here. Then we will see an ending point in another verse.] ...But Jesus said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, there shall not be left here even a stone upon a stone that shall not be thrown down'" (vs 1-2).

Where the temple stood, that is exactly what happened. Where the Wailing Wall is today and the Mosque of Omar, that's not where the temple was, because those huge stones are still standing there. The reason the stones were all knocked down was because when Jerusalem was captured and the temple destroyed, the troops set it on fire and all the gold melted and went down. They had storehouses of gold. That was the banking center of all the Jews. So in order to get it, they kept heating the stones and cracking them and prying them apart in order to get it. So all the stones were taken down. The place where the temple is going to be built is not where the Mosque of Omar is, but it's south over the Spring of Gihon. That was fulfilled; so in a tipping point we can say 100%.

However, we have to add in something else, because here's something we need to realize with prophecy. There is a first fulfillment and a second fulfillment. In some cases there are repeated fulfillments. So the first fulfillment was in 586_{B.C.} when the temple was destroyed. All the Jews went off into captivity to Babylon. The second fulfillment was in 70_{A.D.} and we're going to see here a little later that there must be a temple built in Jerusalem again. So those stones will be replaced back there. Very interesting.

Verse 3: "And as He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples came to Him alone, saying, 'Tell us, when shall these things be? And what *shall be* the sign of Your coming, and of the completion of the age?'" So they understood there was going to be a completion of the age. But Jesus never told them *when*. Let's understand something about the events in the Bible. We have some timeframes specifically given to us. Other ones we only have event sequence that take place. So we look to the events rather than the time.

Notice, v 3, again: "...And what shall be the sign of Your coming, and of the completion of the age?'" So this prophecy in Matt. 24, the whole thing, begins with where the disciples were at that point on the Mount of Olives talking to Jesus. This was just before He was arrested and crucified, and it brings it to His coming and the completion of the age.

After going through many things, Jesus said, v 32: "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branches have already become tender, and it puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. In like manner also, when you see **all these things...**" (vs 32-33). Notice: "...all these things..." Pertaining to what? ***His coming and the completion***

of the age! He lists out the things that are going to take place. But “...**all these things**...”

- Do we have some things as we will see from Daniel? *Yes!*
- Do we have some things from Isaiah? *Yes!*
- Jeremiah and Ezekiel? *Yes!*
- The minor prophets? *Yes!*
- Do we have things also in the book of Revelation that come back and verify what He said? *Yes!*

So when He says: “...when you see **all these things**, know that it is near, even at *the* doors. Truly I say to you, this generation shall in no wise pass away until all these things have taken place” (vs 33-34).

A lot of scholars have looked at that and said, ‘This generation, well, that was the generation from the beginning of Jesus’ ministry in 30_{A.D.} to the destruction of the temple in 70_{A.D.} and that’s 40 years and we know a generation is 40 years, because the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until all that older generation died out. So therefore a generation is 40 years. So therefore, this generation applied to the time from Jesus’ death until the destruction of Jerusalem.’ We will see not everything that is listed in Matt. 24 took place at that time.

(go to the next track)

Let’s look at Matthew 24 again through the eyes of today, from this point of view. All the things that Jesus said requires instant communication to know. They wanted to know when these things would be (v 3).

Matthew 24:4: “Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, ‘Be on guard, so that no one deceives you.’”.... [Now that’s an ongoing cyclical thing, from that time to this.] ...For many shall come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ”; and they shall deceive many.... [That has happened. We have more Christianity than at any time, but it’s all the deceitful Christianity.] ...And you shall hear of wars and rumors of wars.....” (vs 4-6).

How are you going to hear of wars and rumors of wars? If you’re close to where there is a war or a possible war, you can hear about it. But what if, before modern communication, living over here in a peaceful part of the world, and transportation is by donkey or horse or boat, and maybe the information doesn’t get to you until two or three years after the war already started. Today modern communication, we know instantly—right? So they hear of wars where? *In the Middle East, in Iraq, Afghanistan, in Darfur*, and looks like Hugo Chavez is planning to do a little warring himself down there, so we can know those things.

“...See *that* you do not let *these things* disturb you. For it is necessary *that* all these *things* take place, but the end... [See how it talks with the end. It brings things to the end.] ...but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in *different* places.... [Again, this requires modern communication for all the people in the church of God to understand this—right? So, here we’re talking about worldwide things.] ...Now all of these *things are* the beginning of sorrows” (vs 6-8). There’s another thing that is missing here—the beginning of sorrows. How long is the beginning of sorrows? *I do not know!* How long is the period of sorrows? *Don’t know!*

“Then shall they deliver you up to affliction, and shall kill you; and you shall be hated by **all** nations for My name’s sake” (v 9). Well, we’re getting close to that. On this verse we could say we’re probably reaching about, as far as Christians, who call themselves Christians in general, we’re probably at about 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 on the tipping scale. In some Islamic countries it’s 10! So it depends where you live.

Let’s look at one thing interesting concerning martyrdom. It just didn’t dawn on me until several years ago, but it’s interesting how this is phrased. It’s talking about *the harlot and the beast*.

Revelation 17:5: “And across her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints... [Those are the ones who have been converted—right? *Yes!*] ...and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus....” (vs 5-6). Another category of people who defend the name of Jesus and are killed, but are not counted as saints. Now these will probably undoubtedly be in the second resurrection. It’s like Jesus said, ‘Even if you give a cup of cold water to one of the disciples, you shall receive a reward.’ Again, that doesn’t tell us when. So here those who are killed who are numbered as Christians could be a tremendous number of whom also are included within that the saints.

Matthew 24:10: “And then shall many be led into sin... [Boy, that’s certainly happening today—right? *Yes!*] ...and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another... [more so than ever before] ...and many false prophets shall arise, and shall deceive many” (vs 10-11). We have more ministers than ever before—right? And we have more religions preaching events at the end. We have the Islamists doing it, we have the Hindus doing it, we have the Catholics doing it, we have the Protestants doing it,

we have the Churches of God doing it. Even though all these things are taking place, look what it leads to, v 12: “And because lawlessness shall be multiplied...” As I’ve mentioned, lawlessness comes in two ways:

1. the throwing out of law altogether; that is an abandonment or a posture of anti-law
2. you take your own laws and traditions and substitute them for the laws of God

So those are the two main things that take place in producing lawlessness. “...the love of many shall grow cold” (v 12). You can’t trust people. What do we have?

- locks
- bolts
- alarms
- chains
- fences

Tell you what, watch some of these specials on the secure of prisons. They now have it that it is impossible to escape, because they have sensors built into the cyclone wire fences with the laser wire at the top, barbed wire. So if there is pressure put against any part of the fence, they don’t have to electrocute them anymore, just pressure against it, it will automatically light up on a computer and they’ll know where exactly where it is, exactly where to go. They have this thing now that they’re going to put you away.

But look at all the people who are in prison as a result of the lawlessness. And what will they do when they can’t feed them or guard them any longer? *Be just like Saddam Hussein did in Iraq.* Just before the invasion of the U.S. troops he let all the prisoners out of prison and they wrecked havoc.

Verse 12: “...love of many shall grow cold.... [v 13, tells us also how this is talking to up the end time]: ...But the one who endures to *the* end, that one shall be saved.” Now there are two ways to endure to the end:

1. of your life
2. of the end of the age

Verse 14: ““And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world for a witness to **all** nations... [worldwide, all the world, to all nations] ...and then shall the end come.” You have to have the event as we read there in Dan. 11 leading up to the time of the end. You have to have the *king of the north, the king of the south*, and the Gospel has to be preached in all the world. And how is that going to be done?

Well, there are many facilities to do it. One of the best ones today is the Internet. I can just tell you this, looking at the state of the Churches of God,

none of them are in any condition to preach the Gospel, let alone set an example that would inspire people to want to follow them. We’re at such a Laodicean age, and we’ll talk about that a little bit later. But we have another thing that goes with it here. ‘And this Gospel shall be **published** in all the world’ (Mark 13). Now we have more Bibles than ever before and more languages that have ever been and God is causing them to be printed in such a tremendous way.

Here’s something that really is the key as to when the Tribulation will begin. So this will kind of get things out of order, but we’ll go ahead. We’ll bypass the rest of this for the time being and we’ll come back to it.

So far we have: (I) **Peace and Security**, and (II) **King of the North and King of the South**.

III. World Trade, World Currency

Now we know that there’s coming a time with the *mark of the beast* (Rev. 13) that you will have to have the *number of the beast* and the *mark in your right hand* or in your *forehead*. And without that you cannot buy and sell. And in the end-time is the only time in the history of the world that we now that the ability to do what the *mark of beast* says here. Every one of us has checking accounts. Every one of us has credit cards. They all have numbers, but none of them are part of us.

Revelation 13:16: “And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, to receive a mark in their right hands, or in their foreheads; so that no one may have the ability to buy and sell unless he has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (vs 16-17).

I remember when the first report came out of digital angel. How many heard that sermon? Probably a lot of you did. I started out by saying, ‘The *mark of the beast* is here.’ Some people really got all excited, and I said, ‘Whoa, whoa, whoa, this has to be developed. This is the start.’ They had such a reaction to it. They didn’t want to put it in their right hand or the forehead, so they put it in the left upper arm. Now they found out that the digital angel floats around in the system and it’s not very reliable and can also cause cancer. So they’ve been working on other ways of doing it.

Now the latest thing that they are working on is this: an invisible tattoo, the right hand. And this fits exactly with what the Greek says there. Because the mark is going to be *upon*, but *in*—becoming a part of you. Now the only thing that they haven’t completely perfected is this: How can they track this with the global positioning system that they have? *They can track almost anything right now!*

We're going to see there's going to come a time when this will be enforced. How is this going to come about? Well, what do we see in the world today. You see world trade, mammoth trade, trillions of dollars every day being exchanged. It is almost unbelievable thing. We see the whole banking crisis right at hand—don't we?

Now the only way this can be done is if you have the banking system changed to a single-world banking system, which we will probably see enacted in the next, I would say, two to three years. But they're not going to enforce the *mark of the beast* at that time. When it comes about with the world banking system—I think Glenn Beck had a good program on what was it, fifteen days to the new world order. How many saw that television program? His radio program is really kind of funky, but his television program is really quite good.

Will there come a day when all the banks will be closed? There will be a banking holiday worldwide. What are the chances of that? I would say on a tipping point, 7-9 right now. The only way it can be done, is if all the banks close down or fail at the same time. Can't be done any other way. All the fiat money, all the paper securities, all of the stocks, all of the bonds, and everything will then lose most of their value.

Could they do that? *Well, I can see where they can very easily!* That's when I gave the two sermons on *Fulfilling End-Time Prophecies* and I went through what the Federal Reserve is and what it's done, and so forth, you can see the potential there is very close. So we're between 7-9 on this. World trade, world currency and then subsequent to that, the *mark of the beast*.

IV. The Mark of the Beast

Let's come over here to Revelation 14:6, and let's see that it gives us an indication when the *mark of the beast* will be enforced. "And I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting Gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth... [Could that also be part of fulfilling of Matt. 24, 'this Gospel shall be preached in all the world.' *Very likely!*] ...and to every nation and tribe and language and people." Will they all be warned? *Yes, an angel is going to do this!* That's in addition to the two witnesses; that's in addition to Elijah.

"Saying with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him Who made the heaven, and the earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.' Then another angel followed... [And this is what the Seventh Day Adventists call the three angels' message.] ...saying, 'The great city Babylon is fallen... [the city Babylon means the whole world system, because the whole world has been built on

the model of Babylon the Great.] ...'The great city Babylon is fallen, is fallen, because of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, which she has given all nations to drink'" (vs 7-8). So this is the warning that it's going to fall. Then we get into other prophecies in Revelation to show how that's going to take place.

Verse 9: "And a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives the mark in his forehead or in his hand, He shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed undiluted in the cup of His wrath; and he shall be tormented in fire and brimstone in the sight of the Holy angels, and of the Lamb'" (vs 9-10).

Now when do you give warning to not take the *mark of the beast*? *Do you do it before it's enforced or after it's enforced?* Let's look at it this way: If a person is about to have a wreck, you say, 'Watch out!' and they avoid the wreck—right? But what good would it do if you came upon the scene where there was a wreck, and say, 'Watch out, there's a wreck! Wreck is going to happen.' *Hey, dummy, it's already happened!*

So these messages have to be *before* the Tribulation begins. It has to be *before* the enforcement of the *mark of the beast*. Now this ties in with what we've been reading back there in Matt. 24.

- 3) World trade, world currency: We would have to put that say between 5-7 on a tipping point.
- 4) Mark of the beast: We would have to put that likewise the same, but the enforcement of it under the pain of death does not come until just before the Tribulation.

And when does the Tribulation begin? We'll see that in just a bit. However, the *king of the north* is the one who's going to start it off.

V. Rise of the Kings of the East and the North

We've covered some of that. I gave the one on Afghanistan, why are we in Afghanistan. Someone just gave me a report off the Internet that says the reason we're in Afghanistan is for the very reason I said we're in Afghanistan. So that's going to have to happen. We've covered that with the army of 200-million. That's going to take a lot. Let's look at why a lot of these things are going to take time to develop:

1. you don't raise an army of 200-million over night
2. you've got to have all the supplies for them
3. you have to have a giant economy going to do it

They're going to have to have an extended period of peace and security and peace and safety. Now think about China. China is tremendous, but keep this in mind: two-thirds of the 1.5-billion are still living in a poverty level, and they are the ones that are from the central to the far western part of China. China has some economic problems that it needs to resolve yet, because it's having a lot of inflation.

But all those nations have to develop. So as I pointed out in the sermon with Afghanistan, Afghanistan is right smack in the middle. To the north you have Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, all the other stans. To the west you have Iran. To the east you have China. To the south you have Pakistan and India.

What is the big thing economically that a lot of people are investing in? In the Chinese market and in the Indian market, and Southeast Asian market—right? *Yes!* So this is building them up. You can't build up an army unless you have a tremendous economy behind it. Now you could if you use clubs and stones and things like that, but that's not what it's talking about there in Rev. 8 & 9.

So number five the rise of the kings of the north and the east, what should we put that at? Let's put it at about 5.

VI. The Fall of Israel

Now we're talking about the ten tribes of Israel, the modern descendants, and the fall of Israel. Let's come to Leviticus 26; here is another version of the covenant warnings that God gave in Deut. 28.

Israel is on its way down. That's why the most worrisome thing in the world is the demise of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, as well as northwestern Europe. And all of us are in trouble. How many read the book by Pat Buchanan, *The Death of the West?* Because of the Muslim population that they have invited in! The blessings are given for obedience, and we will get on to the things of the cursings and see how these things are here.

Leviticus 26:11—here's the promise that God gave: "And I will set My tabernacle among you. And My soul shall not abhor you.... [*If they would keep His covenant.*] ...And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be My people. I *am* the LORD your God Who brought you forth out of the land of Egypt from being their bondmen. And I have broken the bonds of your yoke, and made you go upright. But **if** you will not hearken to Me and will not do all these commandments, And **if** you shall despise My statutes or **if**... [notice all these conditions]: ...your soul hates My judgments, so that you will not all My commandments, so that you

break My covenant; I will also do this to you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and burning fever, consuming the eyes and causing sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it" (vs 11-16). That could happen to us very suddenly. A lot of these things are already taking place here.

Verse 17: "And I will set My face against you... [How close have we come now to where God sets His face against us? *We don't know, but we're getting close!*] ...and you shall be slain before your enemies. They that hate you shall reign over you." A lot of people think that describes the current President and many of those in government. Is that the reason we have all of these silly regulations and things? Is it not true that if we are the borrower, we are the slave of the lender? Don't we have that? *Yes, indeed!* **"I will set My face against you..."**

Verse 18: "And if you will not yet for all this hearken to Me... [So He gives them chances. Will they repent if these things happen? 'Will they come back to Me?'] ...then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power..." (vs 18-19). What is the pride of our power? *Not the army, the dollar, our financial position!* And we're sitting right there. How close are we with this? Well, 5-1/2? 6? Maybe 6-7? on a tipping-point scale. *Don't know!*

Verse 17: "And I will set My face against you, and you shall be slain before your enemies. They that hate you shall reign over you. And you shall flee when none pursues you. And if you will not yet for all this hearken to Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heaven like iron and your earth like bronze" (vs 17-19).

And you read in other places it's going to rain here, and drought over, it's going to be cold here and heat over here. And that's exactly what we're having. The weather is against us, tremendously. And as I mentioned before, let's have the alternate fuel of ethanol.

- What happens if there's blight in the corn?
- And what happens if you can't harvest it out of the field?
- And what happens if you can't plant it?
- And what happens if you have all of these specialized grains that they have for corn now, what happens if all of that goes bonkers and you don't get a crop?
- Not only just for ethanol, but what are we going to eat?

Verse 20: "'And your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, neither shall the trees of the field yield their fruits. And if you

walk contrary to Me and will not hearken to Me, I will bring seven times more plagues on you according to your sins” (vs 20-21). I’ll let you read the rest of it.

But how close is Israel to collapsing? *Really quite close!* We’ll talk about the Jews, because that ties right in there, the fall of the Jews. We’ll tie that in when we get to the temple.

Scriptures Referenced:

- 1) Daniel 9:24-27
- 2) 1-Thessalonians 5:1-3
- 3) Daniel 11:40-41
- 4) Daniel 12:1-4, 9-10, 4
- 5) Matthew 24:1-3, 32-34, 4-9
- 6) Revelation 17:5-6
- 7) Matthew 24:10-14
- 8) Revelation 13:16-17
- 9) Revelation 14:6-10
- 10) Leviticus 26:11-19, 17-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 1
- Matthew 25; 13
- Mark 13
- Revelation 8; 9
- Deuteronomy 28

Also referenced:

Books:

- *God’s Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days* by Fred Coulter
- *The Appointed Times of the Messiah* (coming spring 2011)
- *The Death of the West* by Pat Buchanan

Sermon Series:

- *Fulfilling End Time Prophecies*
- *The World Financial System*

Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For II

Greetings, everyone; welcome to Sabbath services! This is the second part of the fourteen things to watch for in prophecy—see how they're building up, see how they're developing. The first time I gave this was in 1967 in Boise. The reason that we gave it is because it was becoming apparent in 1967 that in 1972 we were not going to a *place of safety*. We didn't learn the lesson. **No man knows the day or the hour!** God has made it very, very evident now, that we have passed all the 6,000-year periods that different men can scheme up looking at chronologies in the Bible, from 4023, 4025_{B.C.}, 404_{B.C.}, we have passed all of them. It's not set in timing that we understand. Rather, for us God has set it in events and then after we reach certain events, then we can understand the timing a little more, but not until then.

As I mentioned, here's the framework on which all prophecy in the Bible hangs, in addition to the Holy Days. That's why we have the book, *God's Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days*. But it hangs on these seven, so you might want to write these down:

1. Israel—which then goes back to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
2. the Jews—because there's the house of Israel, the house of Judah
3. Jerusalem
4. Christ
5. the Church
6. the world
7. the Kingdom of God

Those are the seven things that are the framework for all prophecies. Now we covered Dan. 9 at the beginning of the *14 Things in Prophecy to Watch For #1* where we showed that it was for the people of Judah, the people of Israel. Let's look at the prophecy concerning Israel. Then we're going to look at the Jews and Jerusalem, because all the prophecies in the end-time are sooner or later going to circle around Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 31:31: “Behold, the days come,” says the LORD, “that I will make a new covenant with the **house of Israel and with the house of Judah.**” ... [And that is the thing that most of the Protestants totally miss.] ...Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant of Mine they broke, although I was a husband to them,” says the LORD; “But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days,” says the LORD, “I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God, and

they shall be My people” (vs 31-33). When the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost in 30_{A.D.} that was the start of it for the firstfruits, but not all of Israel. That will happen after the Kingdom of God is set up and the return of Christ. So let's see how it is with the Jews.

Luke 21:20: “But when you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, then know that her desolation has drawn near.... [The *desolation*, we're going to talk about as one of the key things that is the *trigger* for the Great Tribulation.] ...Then let those who are Judea flee to the mountains, and let those within her go out, and let not those in the countries come to her; for these are the days of vengeance, so that **all these things** that have been written may be accomplished” (vs 20-22). *All things*, just like it is where we read *all nations*, the *whole world*, it means **all** of them, not some little local event.

Zechariah 12:2: “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people all around, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem.... [Who is in that area of the country? Well, the tribe of Manasseh is not; the tribe of Joseph is not, but *the tribe of Judah*—correct? *Judah and Jerusalem!*] ...And in that day I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people.... [That's one of the central points of the problems of the world today—Jerusalem and Judea.] ...All who burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces...” (vs 2-3).

Now you know why there has been no peace. There's not going to be any peace until a certain event happens and then there will be peace for a short time. But I can guarantee you this: *the Jews will not have any peace with the Arabs until they have permission to build the temple*. Now they're not going to have to take the Mosque of Omar. That's sitting on what used to be Fort Antonio. Down over the Gihon Spring, which is south of Fort Antonio, is where the temple will be built.

When the Palestinians and Arabs hear, ‘We will negotiate to build the temple away from the Mosque of Omar,’ then they will agree to it. If you go online, look up The Temple Institute and see how much they already have ready. They have priest garbs and hats. They have the shovels and the sensors and they have the incense, and they have the altar of incense all ready to go. They've got a lot of things ready to go. Because we'll see one of the next things that we'll cover is there has to be a temple. We'll see that in just a bit here.

Verse 5: “And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, ‘The people of Jerusalem *shall be* my strength in the LORD of hosts their God.’ In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire among the sheaves. And they shall devour all the people all around, on the right hand and on the left hand...” (vs 5-6). Boy, have not the Jews done that?

Remember the 1967 war? The great Egyptian army was wasted in two days. Then he says, v 7: “The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first...” Did not also with the salvation through Christ go to the Jews first? *Yes!*

Revelation 7:4—the 144,000—notice who is listed first of the tribes of the children of Israel: “And I heard the number of those who were sealed: one hundred forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the children of Israel. From the tribe of Judah...” (vs 4-5). *First!* It’s exactly like God said it’s going to be, 12,000; then the tribe of Reuben, because he was the firstborn. Then it lists all of them right on down to Benjamin, who was the last born.

Zechariah 12:7: “The LORD also shall save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the people of Jerusalem may not be magnified above Judah. In that day the LORD shall defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And it shall be, he who is feeble among them at that day *shall be* like David; and the house of David *shall be* like God, like the angel of the LORD before them. And it shall be in that day *that* I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem” (vs 7-9).

Now, notice what this is going to do. The people have wanted to know when would the Jews repent? *Here it is right here*, v 10: “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the people of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplication. And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced... [Think about that statement right there. Who is giving this statement? *The Lord*—right? *The God of the Old Testament*—correct?] ...they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced... [What does this tell us? *Christ was the Lord God of the Old Testament*—right? *Yes!*] ...and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for his only *son*, and shall be in bitterness over Him, as the bitterness over the firstborn.”

Now notice what’s going to happen here in how this repentance is going to occur. It talks about the “...great mourning...” (v 11) Jerusalem all the way down to Megiddo. Verse 12: “And the land shall mourn, every family apart: the family of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart... [Who was Nathan? *Nathan was the son of David!* The line did not come down through Mary from Solomon because of his sins and

the sins of the other kings. But it came down from David to Nathan (Luke 3).] ...and their wives apart; The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; All the families who remain, every family apart and their wives apart” (vs 12-14). So that’s the way that they are going to repent. God looks at Jerusalem and the Jews.

The first six things that we covered *14 Things in Prophecy to Watch For #1*:

I. Period of Peace and Security

Which begins at the beginning of the last seven years. When that begins, you better, if you find yourself in a poor spiritual condition, you better seek God with all your heart, because in three and a half years the Tribulation is going to begin. So don’t be fooled when this comes in.

II. King of the North and King of the South

There has to be a *king of the north* and a *king of the south*, because Dan. 11:40 says, ‘the king of the south pushes at him, the king of the north comes against him.’

III. World Trade and World Currency

We also put all of these on a tipping scale zero to ten, or a tipping point, five is flat.

- peace and security—zero
- king of the north, king of the south—2-3—
a lot has to be developed there

Europe right now is going in, in a low downturn economically. They’ve got problems with the Muslims. They have a whole lot to solve before they can become a world power like they want to be. They’re finding that it’s pretty hard to compete against the United States, much harder than they figured. And as I gave in the sermon recently, in order to bail out some of those countries, even the European Central Bank had to borrow from the Federal Reserve. *Hello!* What does that tell you.

- for world trade/world currency—5-6—but it’s sitting there kind of teeter-tottering back and forth, but it will have to come suddenly.

Now, how many have watched Glenn Beck’s afternoon show? You ought to watch it. His radio show is kind of ‘ding-dong,’ but his television show is really good. There’s a book coming out about the fifteen days to the New World Order (*The Day After the Dollar Crashes: A Survival Guide for the Rise of the New World Order* by Damon Vickers) It gives a really good scenario, so I’m going to give a sermon on it when I get the book. It’s not going to be printed until February. But the New World Order will be a *new world currency*. So I would say 5-6 on that right now and it could go to 10—BANG! *Overnight!*

IV. Mark of the Beast

How many remember the sermon I gave: *The Mark of the Beast is Here*, when the digital angel came out. Remember that? And I got letters, ‘Oh, what do I do, what I do?’ I said, ‘This is just a start. It’ll take quite a few years.

Now just to update you on what they’ve been able to do. They have not perfected an invisible tattoo that they can put on the right hand or on the forehead. Can’t you imagine the persuasiveness? ‘No one will see it. It won’t hurt. Don’t you have credit cards? Don’t they have numbers?’ *But they don’t tell you they’re going to perfect it in such a way that they can control the mind!* So when you take the *mark of the beast*, not only will you not be able to buy and sell, you’re going to give up your personal choice.

Now I’ve got another sermon I’m going to bring showing how that low-levels of magnetism against the brain can change the way that you think and also the way that you make moral decisions. So it’s quite something.

- the *mark of the beast*—6-7

V. The Rise of the Kings of the East and the North

You’ve got Russian, you’ve got China, you have Southeast Asia. I gave a sermon on that on Afghanistan. Just today someone gave me a report that this things come off the Internet, BANG! BANG!—that you get the information real quick. It’s exactly what I said in Afghanistan—what are we doing there. So that’s going to happen.

- I put that on a scale between 5-6, somewhere in there, tipping down for more power toward them

VI. The Fall of Israel, the Ten Tribes

- I think we’re at about 6-7

When the world currency comes in, as I pointed out, and this is where I ended up back in Lev. 26, ‘I will break the pride of your power’ and what makes us powerful. Not just the armies—that’s part of it—but the armies are supported by what? *By dollars!* And *the pride of our power is the almighty dollar*—which will be an almighty failure! And they have to make all other currencies go down, too, in order to bring in a world currency.

Matthew 24 is very interesting from this point of view: I want you to read it from the perspective that this chapter is made for today. It starts out with the time of Jesus, as we pointed out, but where does it end up? *With the second coming of Christ!* It covers that whole period. But the things

that are talked about here have to be known only by rapid communication.

Remember last week there was an earthquake in New Zealand? BANG! ‘News Alert! Earthquake in New Zealand’; pictures right away; same thing with virtually anything that takes place. So you think about it now. Since this applies to the whole world and all Christians everywhere, this could not be way back in the days when messages came by horseback, or donkey-back, or by foot, or by boat. You wouldn’t know about wars for two or three years after they started; some of them you would never know. But today you hear everyone immediately—right? *Yes!* So there it is.

Also, He says Matthew 24:13: “But the one who endures to *the* end, that one shall be saved.” There are two ends:

1. you die or put in the *place of safety*—called *the grave*
2. you endure to end and you are changed at the last trumpet

Verse 14: “And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world for a witness to all nations...” This doesn’t tell us how much, how long, anything like that. But there are more means to preach it today than before and also there is the first of the three angels in Rev. 14 and he preaches the Gospel, the everlasting Gospel to all the nations. So are we going to have an angel going around preaching to the people? Now, they’re not going to be able to shoot it down. They’re not going to be able to stop it; and his message is going to go to all nations in all of their languages.

Then we have the two witnesses on top of that, and so forth. Then He says: “...shall be proclaimed in **all the world** for a witness to **all nations**, and then shall the end come” (v 14).

VII. The Temple and the Abomination of Desolation and the Beast Power

This is a key; we’ll see what has to happen in order for this to take place, v 15: “Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy place... [we see that in Dan. 12. This is not necessarily the one in Dan. 8. But what I want you to do, I want you to look at the rest of this statement here] ...standing in the holy place’ (the one who reads, let him understand).”

Now if you have a red-letter Bible, you will see the words in parenthesis are not in red letters—right? Jesus did not say this, because He wasn’t writing something, He was speaking. So how did this get in there? This had to be put there by the Apostle John and those with him when they canonized the Scriptures, because of two things:

1. the temple was destroyed in 70_{A.D.}
2. they were working on canonizing the New Testament in about 95-96_{A.D.}

They could look back and see there's no temple. Yet we know that Jesus said the Gospel's going to be preached and 'then the end shall come.' Then He talks about the 'abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet.' So in order for those who would receive the New Testament later, John put this statement in there. And here is why he must have put the statement in there, because it has to do with the temple. 'The abomination of desolation standing in the Holy place.' Where is the Holy place? *In the temple!*

Now back to Revelation 11:1—this was a vision given to John by the angel: "Then *the angel* gave me a measuring rod like a staff, saying, 'Arise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship in it.' ..." A vision of the temple, but the temple had been destroyed. Now what does that tell us? *That tells us there has to be another temple built!* Unless there's another temple built, there's no Holy place in which the abomination of desolation to stand in—right? John has this vision and then he tells us he knows that something has to happen with the temple, so he puts that parenthetical statement in here, 'The one who reads, let him understand,' because he didn't.

"But leave out the court that is within the temple *area*, and do not measure it because it has been given *up* to the Gentiles; and they shall trample upon the holy city *for* forty-two months" (v 2). Now forty-two months is approximately three and a half years.

Matthew 24:15: "(the one who reads, let him understand)... [vs 16-20 are all statements made for the local area first, and beyond after that.] ...Then let those who are in Judea flee into the mountains.... [Where are the mountains? *East!*] ...Let the one *who is* on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house... [you better make it fast] ...and let the one *who is* in the field not go back to take his garments. But who to those *women* who are expecting a child, and to those who are nursing infants in those days! And pray that your flight be not in *the* winter, nor on *the* Sabbath" (vs 15-20). It isn't going to take place in the winter and it's not going to happen on the Sabbath.

Now, if you get the chart that goes with series of *Daniel and Revelation*, you will see that I have this part of it beginning some time about one month after the Feast of Tabernacles. So that's not in the winter, it's not in the spring, it's not in the summer—it's *before* winter. That's why He's saying, 'Don't let your flight be in the winter.'

Verse 21: "For then... [Those two words: *for then*, answers the question: When? When will the Great Tribulation begin? '***When you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing in the Holy place.***'] ...For then shall be Great Tribulation, such as has not been from *the* beginning of *the* world until this time, nor ever shall be *again*." Now what I want you to notice is this:

- has to do with Jerusalem
- has to do with the Jews
- has to do with the world
- has to do with all nations

—and that can only be a global society. The abomination of desolation is spoken of by Paul in 2-Thess. Also, in John canonizing the New Testament he also had the writings of the Apostle Paul with him—didn't he? Which means, *he read and he understood the second chapter*, which is why he said, 'Let the one who reads, let him understand.' When Paul wrote 2-Thess. in 51_{A.D.} the temple was still standing. But before it was destroyed in 70_{A.D.}, there was no 'abomination that made desolate,' because the event in 2-Thess., the second chapter, had not yet occurred. This will occur at the end-time and we will see by what is given here that it could only happen in the end time, *no other time!*

2-Thessalonians 2:1: "Now we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him... [we're gathered together at the resurrection—correct? *Yes!*] ...That you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by epistle, as if from us, *saying* that the day of Christ is present" (vs 1-2).

Didn't Jesus say the same thing? Matthew 24:23: "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here *is* the Christ,' or, '*He is there,*' do not believe *it*." That agrees exactly with what Paul wrote.

2-Thessalonians 2:3: "Do not let anyone deceive you by any means because *that day will not* come unless the apostasy shall come first... [That's on a scale of about 10, if you want a tipping point on that, though it's not listed here; let's say 9-1/2 to 10, because we are a scale that the world is apostatizing from God terribly, and even in the Churches of God there is some grave questions about their behavior as well.]

"...and the man of sin shall be revealed—the son of perdition" (v 3). We are going to see that this *man of sin*, the *son of perdition* is the one who makes the Holy place an abomination. This is worse than what Antiochus Epiphanes did in offering swine on the altar, because here's what he does. Now this is *the beast*. So we'll get into *the beast and the false prophet* here in a little bit, but *the beast*

shows up in many different areas. This is the one person who is going to be the leader of the final world government. “The one who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is an object of worship; so that he comes into the temple of God and sits down as God, proclaiming that he himself is God” (v 4). So that tells us

- there must be a *temple*
- there must be the *Holy place*
- there must be the *beast power* to come in and do this

—and that would be the *king of the north*. So we’ve covered part of it. You can take each one of these and expand it out even more. Let’s see that it’s for the end-time.

John is looking at this when he’s canonizing the New Testament, and he says, ‘Well, the temple has been destroyed, but I was given a vision of the temple and told to measure it.’ Now Paul writes that ‘there is one who is going to come and sit in the temple of God,’ but it didn’t happen during our day, and the temple is gone, so it must be for the future.

Verse 5: “Do you not remember that when I was still with you, I told you these things? And now you understand what is holding *him* back in order for him to be revealed in his own set time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already working; only *there is one* Who is restraining at the present *time* until it arises out of *the* midst. And **then the lawless one will be revealed...**” (vs 5-8). That’s *the man of sin, the son of perdition*. You can’t have anyone having a greater sin than claiming, ‘I am God,’ and go into the temple of God, and say, ‘I am God, I am above every other object that is worshiped on earth.’

Let’s add to the temple and Jerusalem, number seven, let’s add the *beast power*. Rev. 13 is the only other place that we have language similar to 2-Thess. 2. Rev. 13 talks about *the beast*, seven heads and ten horns, and so forth.

Revelation 13:5: “And a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given to him... [That sound a lot like 2-Thess.? *Yes!*] ...and authority was given to him to continue *for* forty-two months.... [Similar to what we read over there in Rev. 11—correct? *Yes, indeed!*] ...And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. And he was given *power* to make war against the saints, and to overcome them; and he was given authority over every tribe and language and nation. And **all who dwell on the earth will worship him...** [Now that’s something—isn’t it? You talk about us being left on the outside.] ...whose names have not been written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from *the* foundation of *the* world” (vs 5-8). That’s why there’s going to be martyrdom.

Let’s see his fate. Let’s see that this takes us right up to the end again, the return of Christ. 2-Thessalonians 2:8: “And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth, and will destroy with the brightness of His coming)... [*Second return of Christ—yes?*] ...*Even* the one whose coming is according to *the* inner working of Satan, with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are perishing because they did not receive the love of the truth, so that they might be saved.... [So that’s why it’s imperative that we receive the love of the Truth.] ...And for this cause, God will send upon them a powerful deception that will cause them to believe the lie” (vs 8-11).

The whole world is going to go after *the beast*. The whole world is going to worship *the beast*. He is the *king of the north* who comes down and goes into the Holy land, and then goes into the temple.

- there must be a *temple*
 - there must be the *king of the north*
 - there must be *the beast*
- in order for these things to happen.

VIII. False Prophet

Let’s come back to the book of Revelation again. Now just to show you it doesn’t take a lot of repetition to make it so, but there are only three places where the words ‘false prophet’ are written. It talks about many false prophets back there in Matt. 24, but ***the false prophet***, the first one we find in:

Revelation 16:13: “Then I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the **false prophet**.”

We also find a fulfillment of what happens to *the beast*. Revelation 19:20: “And the beast was taken, and with him the **false prophet** who worked miracles in his presence, by which he had deceived those who received the mark of the beast...”

Now the other one, it doesn’t say *false prophet* or it doesn’t say *the false prophet*, but it describes him. The *beast and the false prophet* are together all the time. Revelation 13:11: “And I saw another beast rising out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.” Very interesting—isn’t it?

Now someone wrote me an email the other day, as a matter of fact it was on Thursday saying, ‘I was watching a past filming of the funeral of John Paul II and I noticed that there was a cross that was hung upside down. And then I saw it again in another location hung upside down.’ And she said

that she looked up what does it mean to have a Christian flag or cross hung upside down—what does that mean? *Satan worship!* So I told her, ‘That’s really a good observation.’ *Spoke like a dragon!* False prophets come in what? *Sheep’s clothing*—two horns like a lamb.

Verse 12: “And he exercises all the authority of the first beast... [Which is worldwide authority.] ...and he causes the earth and those who dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.... [The whole world worships Satan and worships *the beast*.] ...And he performs great wonders, so that he even causes fire to come down to the earth from heaven in the sight of men” (vs 12-13). You know when you look at the world’s religions, it’s going to take a great reformation of Islam in order for it to work. There is going to have to be some real changes there. Now it’s possible. I don’t know how quickly it will come.

How many saw a special during the lead up to Christmas season on television, that in the Arab country of Dubai—that’s the most westernized Arab nation. That’s where they have that big 2700-story tower that they built and the buildings and it’s also known as the gold exchange capital of the world. In one of their huge hotels, all catering to rich westerners, guess what they had right in the atrium in Abu Dhabi, Dubai? *A Christmas tree all decorated!* I saw that and I said, ‘Uh-hum.’ I wonder if the miracles from the false prophet will be enough to tip the scale for the Muslims to agree for a while? *We don’t know!* So there has to be the false prophet.

(go to the next track)

IX. The Two Witnesses

Now I don’t know exactly when the man Ron Weinland—who is supposed to be a minister in a Church of God—decided that he was one of the two witnesses. He led everybody on with letters for a long time and said, ‘Well, I’ll let you know who the second witness is going to be in a little while.’ Well, lo and behold, it turned out to be his wife. Now I don’t know when it started, but we will see that we can declare him not only a false prophet now, but definitely when we reach a certain point, we can declare him by the Bible and by time limitation, he is a liar.

It’s like another man, I forget his name, he was minister in the Church of God down there in the Pasadena area and he said he was one of the two witnesses and that Herbert Armstrong would be resurrected and they would be the two witnesses. About two years after he had died, he hadn’t been resurrected, so he said, ‘Well, I guess I’m the only one left, so I have to do the duty of both the witnesses.’ One man is the two witnesses. ‘Hello, hello, who are you? I’m me, I’m you.’

Let’s see about the two witnesses (Rev. 11). Let me tell you what I believe is an error in interpretation. And you will see this mostly in commentaries. You will also see other people preach it. Actually we’ll talk about three errors.

One we find in Revelation 11:2: “...and they shall trample upon the Holy city *for* forty-two months.... [42 months! Now it is interpreted in most commentaries as three and a half years. And they equate it with the next verse as being identical.] ...And I will give *power* to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth” (vs 2-3). So they say 1,260 days is the same as 42 months. If it’s the same, why didn’t God use the same identifying term?

We read of 42 months in Revelation 13:5: “And a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given to him; and authority was given to him to continue *for* forty-two months.” That is after the deadly wound was healed. So we have 42 months over here. Forty-two months has to do with evil and trampling upon the Holy City and the abomination of desolation. Why the difference—42 months vs 1,260 days? A prophetic year is not 360 days, because in the fulfilling of prophecy God uses the calculated Hebrew calendar.

When did Christ die? *At the appointed time!* What day was that? *Passover day!*—according to the calculated Hebrew calendar, not according to a year with 360 days, because today the solar year is 365-1/4 days. In the Hebrew calculated calendar you have two averages of years:

- a common year, which is 355 days
- a leap year, which is 385 days

In months, you don’t necessarily have to have an entirely whole month. What if it’s missing a day or two, would you still say it’s a month in that month? *Yes!* Now what about the 1,260 days? In both of these, both the case of *the beast*, we read where he was cast into the Lake of Fire—right? When he’s cast into the Lake of Fire, that’s the end of the 42 months—right? *He’s gone!* When is he cast into the Lake of Fire? *On the Feast of Trumpets*, pictured by Trumpets, when Christ and the saints come back to the earth. *The beast and the false prophet* are cast into the Lake of Fire. So you count back 42 months and this is what I have on that *Daniel and Revelation Series*, you count back 42 months from there and where do you come on the calculated Hebrew calendar for the seven last years and then the three and a half years? Forty-two months, *you come to Passover*, right around that time.

Now what does he do with the sacrifices? Once we have gone through it, now we can begin to add other things to it. What does he do with the

sacrifices when he comes into the temple around Passover time? *No Passover lambs will be offered*—correct? *No offerings will be given there!* Now can you imagine what this is going to do to the Jews? I've often thought, if they had a hit squad for Paul, you know they're going to have one for *the beast*. That's probably why he receives the deadly wound. So there's a difference between the 42 months and the 1,260 days.

When does the 1,260 days end for the two witnesses? They're finally overcome and die. They view their bodies. Revelation 11:11: "Then after the three and half days, *the* spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, 'Come up here!' And they ascended into heaven in a cloud; and their enemies saw them *rise*" (vs 11-12). What did Jesus say many times in the Gospels? *The last shall be first!* Here are the last two martyred and the first two resurrected.

Immediately after that, v 14: "The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming immediately. Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet; and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become *the* kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity'" (vs 14-15). Christ hasn't yet come to the earth to take possession, but now they officially belong to Him at the resurrection. When does the resurrection take place? What day pictures the resurrection? *Pentecost!* In the case of *the beast*, you're counting back from Trumpets 42 months. In the case of the two witnesses you're counting back from Pentecost. And where does this come? One month after the Feast of Tabernacles, the two witnesses come on the scene.

Now that's going to disturb *the beast power*, the very air. First of all, let's read about the two witnesses here and then we'll ask: Who are they? Now let's look at the two witnesses here, and then we'll ask and find out who they are according to the Bible.

Verse 3: "And I will give *power* to My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." We have the twelve hundred and sixty days—right? So if someone could let me know when Ron Weinland started, then let's find out when the 1,260 days happens. Does he drop dead for three and a half days and after that is he raised into heaven? If so, he's one of the two witnesses. If his wife is included in that, then she has to be included in it.

But v 4 gives us another identification: "These are the two olive trees, and the two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth...."

[Now we'll come back to that in just a bit. But notice the power and the authority that they have. No two men ever like it on the face of the earth.] ...And if anyone attempts to harm them, fire will go out of their mouths and devour their enemies...."

'Don't get near him, he's got the hottest breath in the world!' It's probably speaking and the fire comes out. Doesn't say they call it down from heaven. The false prophet calls down fire from heaven in the sight of *the beast*. The two witnesses who were on the scene first, fire comes out of their mouth and devours the enemies. That's a little different proposition—isn't it?

"...For if anyone attempts to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have authority to shut heaven so that no rain may fall in *the* days of their prophecy; and they have authority over the waters, to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague, as often as they will" (vs 5-6). Now that's a lot of power. Isn't it something, someone stands up and says, 'I'm one of the two witnesses.' That could seem a little greedy for power. Be careful what you say!

"And when they have completed their testimony, the beast who ascends out of the abyss will make war against them, and will overcome them, and will kill them. And their bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.... [*Jerusalem!* Notice its spiritual condition.] ...Then those of the peoples and tribes and languages and nations shall see their bodies three and a half days, for they will not allow their bodies to be put into tombs. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, and will make merry, and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets had tormented those who dwell on the earth" (vs 7-10).

Those are the peoples and tribes and languages and nations (v 9) shall see their bodies three and a half days. How are they going to do that without modern technology? I imagine when John was given this vision, he couldn't understand how that would be. I imagine down through time when people read the book of Revelation, some of these things they couldn't make heads or tails of. How is the whole earth going to see them? They didn't even know that the Indians inhabited South America and they had great cities down there. They also discovered, just as a side bar here, the Indians in the Amazon Forest had a way of taking that acidic soil and they made soil to grow food in that was topsoil six feet deep. And today they can't figure out how they did it. You know, they were just Indians down there. It has to have the modern technology for that to take place.

Who are the two witnesses? Remember we saw where there has to be a temple, which then has a Holy place, which then there are offerings that are being made. The Bible tells us who the two witnesses are. I can tell you unequivocally, it is not going to be any church minister from any Church of God! It's going to be who Zechariah 3 & 4 tell me.

Zechariah 4:11, because we read back in Rev. 11 that the two witnesses are called 'the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the God of the earth.' Now in the past, someone interpreted that and said, 'Well, the Church is the lampstand (Rev. 1 & 2). So the two lampstands back there have to be a representative from two churches.' *Not so!* The lampstands of the churches are one set of lamps. The two lampstands by the God the whole earth are these right here:

Zechariah 4:11: "And I answered and said to him, 'What *are* these two olive trees on the right side of the lampstand and on its left side?' And I answered again and said to him, 'What *are* the two olive branches beside the two golden pipes, emptying the golden oil out of themselves?' And he answered me and said, 'Do you not know what these *are*?' And I... [Zechariah to the angel] ...said, 'No, my lord.' And he said, 'These *are* the two anointed ones who stand by the LORD of the whole earth'" (vs 11-14). So these are the two olive trees.

So, let's read who they are. First, we're going to talk about here in Zechariah 3 a high priest at the coming temple in Jerusalem. Zechariah 3:1: "And He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the LORD said to Satan, 'May the LORD rebuke you, Satan! May even the LORD Who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you!.... [There we go again, the end-time prophecy centering on Jerusalem.] ...*Is* this not a brand plucked out of the fire?... [rescued from sure death] ...Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel" (vs 1-3).

When they start the things of the temple again it's going to be overlaid with all the traditions of the Jews. So here is going to be an absolutely instant conversion, just like with the Apostle Paul when he was Saul. BAM! He was knocked down on the road going to Damascus. Well, here's the high priest, angel's going to come and he's going to strip away the blindness, reveal who he is.

"And He answered and spoke to those who stood before him, saying, 'Take the filthy garments from off him.' And to him He said, 'Behold, I have caused your iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with ceremonial robes.' [Give him the priest robes! Later, as one of the two witnesses, he's going to be wearing sackcloth.] ...And I said, 'Let them set a clean mitre on his head.' And they set a

clean mitre on his head and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by. And the angel of the LORD charged Joshua, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My charge, then you shall also judge My house, and shall also keep My courts, and I will give you places to walk among those who stand by"' (vs 4-7). Now there was a high priest called Joshua, the son of Josedech' he was the type.

"Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, you and your fellows who sit before you; for they *are* men wondered at, for behold, I will bring forth My Servant the Branch!.... [Who is that? *That is Christ!* Because a 'Branch shall come out of the root of Jesse'—right? *Yes!*] ...For behold, the stone that I have set before Joshua: On one stone *are* seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its engraving *upon it*,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'you shall call, each man to his neighbor, to sit under the vine and under the fig tree'" (vs 8-10). So then it blends into the type of the Millennium.

So, one of the two witnesses is going to be the high priest from the coming temple in Jerusalem. It's not going to be a minister out of the Church. The Jews would never listen to *anyone* other than their own. Just to give you an example: The head of the Worldwide Church years ago when he was traveling around the world, he helped get a park for the Jews in Jerusalem. He donated \$200-thousand for the park. Well, one of the members went over to Jerusalem and was looking for the park and finally found it. It was a little four-by-four square of land with a little fence built around it and a dedication that this was the dedication by Herbert W. Armstrong. And what was he supposed to be? He was supposed to be the *only apostle on earth* to talk to people and let them know about God. Did the Jews listen to him? *Oh, no, they flattered him, took his money and took his gifts!* Told him he was a nice man, 'We really enjoy you and we'll let you fly your jet from Jerusalem straight on in to Cairo, Egypt, so you can visit Sadat. Isn't that wonderful, aren't we nice people. Thank you for the \$200-thousand and the park.' I don't think it cost more than maybe \$1-2,000 to get the ironwork done and put in place and make the plaque. It was certainly so small nobody could play in it.

I bring this out to show you *the Jews will not listen to anyone who is not a Jew*. Will they listen to the high priest? *Yes!* That's the one they'll listen to, especially if they understand that he has power from God.

We'll find out who the other one is, Zechariah 4:1: "And the angel that talked with me came again and awakened me, as a man that is

awakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see, and behold, a lampstand, all of it gold, and a bowl on its top, and its seven lamps upon it, and seven pipes to the seven lamps on its top... [Now this is what you see at the temple]: ...And two olive trees beside it... [This is symbolic of the oil coming directly from heaven to the two witnesses. What did we read back in Rev. 11 concerning the two witnesses? *These are the two olive trees—right? Yes!*] ...And two olive trees beside it, one on the right side of the bowl, and the other on the left side of it.’ And I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, ‘What *are* these, my lord?’ Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, ‘Do you know what these *are*?’ And I said, ‘No, my lord.’ Then he answered and spoke to me, saying, ‘This *is* the Word of the LORD to Zerubbabel...’ (vs 1-6).

Who was Zerubbabel? Just like Joshua was the high priest at the temple when they came back out of the Babylonian captivity, the very first one, so likewise *the governor of Judea who was there at the time to do it was Zerubbabel*. So who do we have has the two witnesses? ***The coming high priest at the temple and a coming governor of Judea!*** Will the Jews listen to them? *Yes!* When we get done with this, we’ll answer the question: What about Elijah, how does he fit in?

“This *is* the Word of the LORD to Zerubbabel, saying, ‘Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.... [And isn’t that exactly what they were empowered with to do their ministry as we read in Rev. 11. By God’s Spirit, ‘not because of who you are or what you are, it’s because what I’m going to give you to do.’] (And here is the challenge then): ...‘Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel...’” (vs 6-7).

- Who is the great mountain? *Mountain is a type of government!*
- What is the great government on the earth then? *The one-world government!*
- Who is the head of that? *The beast!*
- And who is his partner in crime? *The false prophet!*
- Where are they? *In Jerusalem!*
- Where are the two witnesses? *In Jerusalem!*

Boy, what a clash that is going to be. They can go in everyday like Moses and Aaron, ‘Thus says the Lord.’ *Get them!* POOF! disintegrated on the spot. It’s not going to be any smart-aleck, power-seeking minister from the Church of God. So whoever proclaims to be one of the two witnesses, you better find some sackcloth now and find some ashes, and go find a quiet, private place and put the sackcloth and cover yourself with ashes and repent to the deepest part of the soul of your being. Otherwise,

you’re going straight into the Lake of Fire to be so presumptuous to say, ‘I am one of the two witnesses and, oh, my wife is the other one.’

Verse 7: “Who *are* you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you shall become* a plain; and he shall bring forth the head stone with shoutings, ‘Grace! Grace unto it!’.... [That has to be preaching the gospel of the coming of Christ—right? So this tells us who the two witnesses are.] ...And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house....’” (vs 7-9).

Whoever dedicates the first stone to the temple, that is going to be the one! Do you think that it would be a Church of God minister invited over there to help lay the foundational stone of the temple—‘a dirty Gentile’ as the Jews would look at it? *Nonsense!*

“...His hands shall also finish it.’ And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ‘For who has despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel. These seven are the eyes of the LORD which run to and fro through the whole earth’” (vs 9-10). So God has his eyes—that’s another one.

If you don’t have the sermon, *The Seven Spirits of God and the Holy Spirit of God*, you need to listen to that one, because God has seven spiritual apparatus’ that are like eyes going through the earth. He knows what’s here all the time. If you think we can put a global-positioning satellite up there and we can, from how many ever thousands of feet in the air, zero down on a car and read the license plate and say, ‘Aha, we got you,’ don’t you think God has even better than that? ***He knows what’s going on, on the earth!*** There isn’t going to be any happenstance.

“And I answered and said to him, ‘What are these two olive trees on the right side of the lampstand and on its left side?’” (v 11).

What about Elijah? Let’s look at another one here, Malachi 4:5: “Behold, I *will* send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.” Can one man be the only apostle on earth? be Ezekiel’s watchman on the wall? be the prophet Elijah? and be one of the two witnesses? *NO!* Now you know why the Church was punished and scattered. That kind of carnal exaltation and lifting up in pride God is not going to countenance.

“Behold, I *will* send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the sons, and the heart of the sons to their fathers,

lest I come and strike the earth *with* utter destruction” (vs 5-6). That means *eliminate the earth entirely*.

What about John the Baptist? We know John the Baptist Jesus said was the Elijah to come. But this one talks about another Elijah before the ‘coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.’ Was the ministry of Jesus Christ the ‘coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord’? *No!* It was

- peace
- grace
- mercy
- forgiveness

So there is another one who is coming, another Elijah. Where do we look for this Elijah to come from? Since Jesus identified John the Baptist as Elijah, let’s ask who John the Baptist was? Who was he? *The son of a priest*—right? So, if the parallel follows the same, ***then the coming Elijah is also going to be a priest!*** What is he going to do? *You’ve got the two witnesses, witnessing to the whole world, fighting back and forth between the beast and the false prophet.*

Boy, that’s going to be something to see. You can just almost watch the nightly news and here is Christiane Amanpour and she has a special report from Jerusalem. What happened today? ‘Well, I’m standing right next to this pile of dust and this was the great general of the great, great army, and look, there he is. How did that happen? Well, he was sent to kill these two witnesses and all of a sudden out of their mouth came fire and poof, there he is.’

It’s not going to be anyone from the Church of God. Listen, I think if we’re just honest and look at what’s happening in the Churches of God, it’s all we can do to overcome our sins and get rid of our selfishness and petty fights and stupidity and draw close to God and set all the carnality aside. We don’t need what’s going on now. But what’s going on now is because of pride and vanity and neglecting the brethren, and all kinds of things like that. I think we need to step back and just say, ‘Hey, let’s not look for titles. If you’re a minister, fine, serve the brethren of God. Take the test of John 21 and Peter.’

‘Do you love Me? *Feed My sheep.*’ Three times. If that were done, then all the problems could be solved, but it’s going to take some humility and repentance to do it. We don’t know if it’ll happen, but at least we’ve eliminated three positions from any of the Churches of God today.

So with that, we’ll pick it up next time with the rest of the fourteen things. *So that brings us up through number nine.*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-33
- 2) Luke 21:20
- 3) Zechariah 12:2-3, 5-7
- 4) Revelation 7:4-5
- 5) Zechariah 12:7-10, 12-14
- 6) Matthew 24:13-15
- 7) Revelation 11:1-2
- 8) Matthew 24:15-21
- 9) 2-Thessalonians 2:1-2
- 10) Matthew 24:23
- 11) 2-Thessalonians 2:3-8
- 12) Revelation 13:5-8
- 13) 2-Thessalonians 2:8-11
- 14) Revelation 16:13
- 15) Revelation 19:20
- 16) Revelation 13:11-13
- 17) Revelation 11:2-3
- 18) Revelation 13:5
- 19) Revelation 11:11-12, 14-15, 3-10
- 20) Zechariah 4:11-14
- 21) Zechariah 3:1-10
- 22) Zechariah 4:1-11
- 23) Malachi 4:5-6

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Daniel 9
- Luke 3
- Zechariah 12:11
- Daniel 11:40
- Leviticus 26
- Revelation 14
- Daniel 12, 8
- Revelation 1, 2
- John 21

Also referenced:

Sermons:

- *14 things in Prophecy to Watch For #1*
- *The Mark of the Beast is Here*
- *The Seven Spirits of God and the Holy Spirit of God*

Sermon Series:

- *Daniel and Revelation*
- *Fulfilling End Time Prophecies*
- *The World Financial System*

Books:

- *God’s Plan for Mankind Revealed by His Sabbath and Holy Days* by Fred Coulter
- *The Day After the Dollar Crashes: A Survival Guide for the Rise of the New World Order* by Damon Vickers (coming in February)

Seven Churches—Church Wars I

I don't know if you've been watching the news or reading the newspaper, but there are a lot of things going on. In the world we're marching down toward the time when the crisis is going to come financially. But let's understand this: *what happens in the world and what happens with the people of God is very similar*. There's a lot going on politically and in the nations. There's an awful lot going on in what we would call the 'Christian world.' Not only in what we call the Churches of God, but also in every aspect of it.

We've been going back and forth on the cover for the book, *Lord, What Should I Do?* and we just about have it ready. That book will go right along with Church at Home. So what we're going to do is advertise, *Lord, What Should I Do?*, because with Church at Home we get people saying, 'Boy, I can understand the Bible!' We get people listening who would not listen before. So we're happy that that is so. I had one man call me and said, 'I've been checking you out for three years.' I said, 'Well, I hope we passed.' And he said, 'You are not a cult.' What is God doing to get everyone's attention—who considers him or herself a Christian—whether they're Sunday-keeping, Sabbath-keeping, Holy Day-keeping? And why is there such turmoil in the Church? And what is going to be the bottom line of it all?

Well, let's come here to 2-Timothy 2:15 and let's see a command here that we all need to follow. This is for everybody. Many times in the Churches of God and those who are Sabbath-keepers, you have those who are in the inside—those who attend the assemblies for those who keep the Sabbath; those who are on the outside—that is for those who are in the world. And then, in the world there's another category of people—Sunday-keepers. Is God aware of all of that? *Of course, He is!* He's aware of every one of us. He's made us unique, He knows the number of hairs we have on our head and He can know every one of our thoughts and He is a *heart knowing* God.

Now, before there are crises to take place, God always gives warning. So today we're going to look at some of these. Here's what we need to do with the Word of God, 2-Timothy 2:15: "Diligently *study* to show yourself approved unto God..." Not only ministers and elders and teachers, but everyone who has the Word of God today, because never before in the history of the world have we had it so convenient with it. Here we have a lady who is using her laptop. That's terrific. She can do a lot with her laptop. I suppose one of these days, we'll have a

whole Sabbath service with everybody with their laptops out here. But just think of the things that you can do with the computers today, like Albert has done. He's going to show us tomorrow in our class, he's going to show us how you can use a computer to really study the Bible. And also, you have how many translations on it, 15? *More!* So we have to rightly divide the Word of God.

Come to Proverbs 30. So let's apply this today to everyone; this is quite a Proverb here, Proverbs 30:4: "Who has gone up to heaven and has come down? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in His garments? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What *is* His name, and what *is* His Son's name, **if you know?**.... [Isn't that interesting? *A little prophecy involved here!*] ...Every Word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him" (vs 4-5). This is why, when you have troubles and difficulties and you study the Bible and you pray, and with God's Spirit He's able to comfort you and help you and help you overcome the traumas and difficulties that you may be experiencing.

Verse 6—very important: "Do not add to His words, lest He correct you and you be found a liar" Now that's quite a message—isn't it? There are a lot out in the Protestant world and the Catholic world that need to read this, because they add to and they take away from. And what has happened to Christianity? *They've turned it into a lie!* But that doesn't mean that God endorses it. *God won't stop sin!* If people want to sin, they go sin. God will preserve His Word, but if someone wants to add to it or take away from it, they're going to suffer the consequences of it. That's why there's so much confusion in the world concerning Christianity today. That's why the book, *Lord, What Should I Do?*

Then it gets down to a personal thing and I think this is interesting, v 7: "I have asked two things from You; do not deny them before I die: Remove far from me vanity and a lying word; give me neither poverty or riches; feed me my portion of bread, lest I be full and deny You, and say, 'Who is the LORD? Or lest I be poor and steal, and violate the name of my God'" (vs 7-9). Isn't that something?

What we're going to do—come back here to 2-Timothy 2—what we're going to do today is we are going to do a study through the seven churches in the book of Revelation. Let's do a little background first. This is some of the background, because it doesn't necessarily apply to those who are

under an umbrella of the Church of God, or Sabbath-keepers, but it applies to everyone in the world as well.

So, with this epistle to Timothy, this is what God has given to the ministers and how they need to guide their lives in the Word of God. Remember what Jesus told Peter. Jesus asked him, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said, ‘Yes, Lord, I love you.’ He said, ‘*Feed My sheep.*’ He asked him again, ‘Peter, do you love Me?’ He said, ‘Yes, Lord, you know I love You.’ He said, ‘*Feed My lambs.*’ Then He said the third time, ‘Peter, do you love Me?’ And he got exasperated, and says, ‘Yes, Lord, you know I love You.’ He says, ‘*Shepherd My sheep.*’ Peter did learn that lesson. But that’s one of the big problems.

Here are some of the words necessary on how to preach and teach and so forth. 2-Timothy 2:16: “But avoid profane and vain babblings because they will *only* give rise to more ungodliness... [What he’s saying here is this: Everything has to be grounded in the Word of God—*rightly divided, rightly interpreted*—so you understand what God is telling us.] ...And their words will eat away at the body like gangrene; of whom are Hymeneus and Philetus” (vs 16-17). Well, does that not describe the current condition of many of the Churches of God, churches in the world? And that also describes what’s going on with other Sabbath-keeping groups, like Church of God Seventh Day and Seventh Day Adventists. So we’re going to look at the whole situation as to how it applies.

Verse 19: “Nevertheless, the foundation of God stands firm, having this seal: **‘The Lord knows those who are His’**... [We all have the Holy Spirit of God and God knows you. Now we have to turn the question around the other way and ask it this way: ***Since God knows you, do you really know God?*** We’ll just let that question hang there for a while.] (Here’s what needs to be done): ...and, **‘Let everyone who calls upon the name of Christ depart from unrighteousness.’**” This is the message that God has for His people today.

How many have gone through church wars? *You need some salve for your wounds!* Now there’s one minister, elder, who’s gone through five church wars. And I hope from it that he learns something, but too many of the ministers follow the payroll. Someone asked me, ‘Well, what’s happening in the churches today?’ And I said, ‘Whatever begins with politics, ends with politics.’ God gives plenty of space for repentance. There are many kinds of politics:

- doctrinal politics
- monetary politics
- friendship politics
- political politics

—and so forth: the climbers and pullers. What do you do when you end up in the middle of a contention?

Remember what happened to Paul and Barnabas back in Acts 15. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with him, but Paul didn’t. They had a contention that was so bad that Barnabas took John Mark and went his way and Paul took Silas and went his way and both prospered. Sometimes there are contentions that arise, not because it’s sin, but because God wants to do something. So in those kinds of things, you need to settle it the best you can and don’t get involved in the middle of a church war. Because like it says in the Proverbs: ‘If you intervene with a dog fight, you’re going to get bit.’

So you need to look to God. Now there are other battles and fights that we need to confront which are realistic. So, let’s see one of the most important that we need to understand. Now the book of Jude here tells us that some of the battles that we need to fight are coming from outside in, and yet, *the problem is within.* There are also problems within the church or within a congregation as a result of this. The New Testament tells us something very important, that the Church of God, the one that Christ founded of Whom is the Head—Christ is the Head of the church—always has those from without trying to get in and even those from within rising up. We will see both combinations here.

What is God doing with these things? Jude 3: “Beloved, when personally exerting all *my* diligence to write to you concerning the common salvation, I was compelled to write to you, exhorting *you* to fervently fight for the faith, which once for all *time* has been delivered to the saints.” That fight we’re all engaged in. That’s what we need to stand for.

- stand for Christ
- stand for the Truth
- stand for
 - ✓the love of God
 - ✓the faith of God
 - ✓all the attributes of the Holy Spirit

That is what we are to fight for. Now these fights can be anywhere from mild to quite vicious, depending on who the foe is. But notice how it was even with the apostolic church.

Verse 4: “For certain men have stealthily crept in, those who long ago have been written about, condemning *them* to this judgment. *They are* ungodly men, who are perverting the grace of our God, *turning it* into licentiousness, and are personally denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.” This is directed to anyone who would add to or take away from within the church and

teaching, regardless of where they are. We've also had three Protestant ministers repent of Sunday-keeping and the holidays to keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days. We need to understand that as well, because God sends the Spirit of Truth to those who are seeking the Truth to fulfill His promise that *it will lead us* into all Truth—right? So those who are in the Sunday-keeping churches, they need to understand what they have been doing, and they likewise need to repent to God. You can see some like Charles Stanley, he does a very good job preaching things about personal living; that is good, but we have to—if we name the name of Christ—depart from *all* unrighteousness. God is going to deal with them. Whoever names the name of Christ, God is going to deal with them.

Let's look at some others. Paul said in Acts 20, let's turn here, and we've seen this, too. Have you been in a church organization where a minister seemed faithful for decades, then all of a sudden one day, like a switch turned on, and everything's different. So we have this. In some of the fights that we have to fight we're confronted with this difficulty, too. Everyone who is a minister, elder, teacher, whatever, you need to understand that you have to police yourself before God; this is important.

Acts 20:28, talking to all the elders here, and he says: "Take heed therefore to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers... [God has chosen to work through men. Therefore the men have to be faithful. They have to stand for the Truth. They can't come in and years later change their mind to follow after power, prestige, or a paycheck, or whatever it may be.] ...to feed the Church of God..." And how do we feed the Church of God? *With the pure Word of God!*

Let's understand something about the people of God, wherever they are: *They do not belong to any man. They do not belong to any organization.* When we assemble together, we are a congregation, but every single one of us ***belongs to God!*** This becomes of paramount importance to realize. "...which He purchased with His own blood" (v 28). What do we have here? If we start these things, like we read there in Prov. 30, whom are we fighting against? *Jesus Christ!*

Let's see how Peter learned the lesson concerning feeding the flock. This is what he writes to the elders that were under his care, close to the end of his life. If you think you've been in the Church a long time and you've had a lot of disappointments, think about the apostles who originally thought that Jesus was going to return within their lifetimes. Think about how the Church felt when they saw all the apostles die off one after one another, one after another. Remember, a lot of

them thought, 'Well, Jesus will probably return before the Apostle John dies.' Remember that? (John 21). And what happened when John died? What we're experiencing and what the Christian world in general is experiencing has been experienced before. So we need to learn from those lessons.

But here concerning feeding the flock, 1-Peter 5:1: "*The elders who are among you I exhort, even as a fellow elder...*" He didn't say 'an overruling apostle.' Need to understand that. All those who have been associated with Worldwide Church of God, I need to ask all the ministers—wherever they are, whoever may hear this—why, if it's your desire, do you want to *remodel* it according to WCG? Did you not get the message that God punished the church and took it all away, because of the problems that we're going to cover today? Why would you want to remodel what you're doing after that model, and then to have the audacity to say that only one man, the apostle on earth, was the only one who understood the Bible. *That's not true!* And for all of those who have been involved in that, that's why you've been through repeated church wars. God wants the model to be Christ, not a man. God wants all of us to learn how we need to serve the people of God *in humility and in truth.*

1-Peter 5:1: "*The elders who are among you I exhort, even as a fellow elder, and an eyewitness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker of the glory that is about to be revealed: Feed the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight not by compulsion, but willingly; not in fondness of dishonest gain, but with an eager attitude... [this applies right today as we are studying]: ...not as exercising lordship over your possessions... [Remember, Jesus purchased the Church with His blood.] ...but by being examples to the flock of God"* (vs 1-3). In other words, you are to live the way God wants you to live as found in the Scriptures, and led by the Holy Spirit of God, not going after any of these things, no politicking, but in purity of heart, in love and in service.

Harry just passed on a little booklet to me showing manmade government, top down. God's government—like we say to every elder we ordain, this is a demotion, not a promotion. You're to serve the people of God. And you do that through teaching, through the way you live, with your personal life.

Peter learned that lesson, now here's the reason, v 4: "And when the Chief Shepherd is manifested, you shall receive an unfading, *eternal* crown of glory?" (v 4). So we have those fights.

Let's see where the brethren also have to be on the ball. All the brethren need to know the Word of God as well. So let's come to 2-Corinthians 11

and let's see that many of the brethren also have their own faults mixed in with it.

Whenever you hear someone who's a minister of God speaking, what is it that you are to hear? *You are to hear the words of God*—right? What did Jesus say in John 10? *'My sheep hear My voice and they follow Me.'* So, that's what should be taught. *'And a stranger they will not follow.'* Now that's also part of the some of the church wars—correct? Let's also understand that the most important people that Satan wants to get at are not the ones he's already got cornered, but *the ones who have the Spirit of God*. This is why we need to have some diligence here.

Now think of this with the Apostle Paul, 2-Corinthians 11:1: "I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ" (vs 1-2). And that means

- pure spiritually
- pure with the Word of God
- no spiritual fornication
- no adding to the words of God
- no taking away from the words of God
- no traditions of men

—all of that. Verse 3: "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from *the* simplicity that is in Christ.... [When we get to Rev. 2 we will see that, and we will see how that comes about.] ...For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you did not receive, or a different gospel, which you did not accept, you put up with it as *something* good" (vs 3-4).

Just like on Mars Hill when Paul went up to Mars Hill and here were the stoics and epicureans and those all arguing about different philosophies, and so forth. They wanted to hear different things so that they could compare it. But what was happening here was the same thing that Paul ran into there, was the philosophies of men. So here comes someone in preaching and people say, 'Oh, that's interesting.'

We can go back and we can apply this to anything, but I'll apply it to what we understand. Remember the man who was the 'Greek philosopher' within the WCG? And remember when he came in and started preaching all the philosophies of men and mixing it in with the Truth? What happened? Most people came away and said, 'I can't understand that.' Others came away and said, 'Hallelujah, this is great stuff!'

- What do we have?
- Doesn't that happen in every church?
- How do you think the Protestants got where they are?
- How do you think the Catholics got where they are?
- How do you think there are troubles within the Churches of God, Seventh Day Adventists, Church of God Seventh Day? —all because of that. That is also another thing.

In reading any Scripture, you can have a right application of Scripture and you have a wrong application of Scripture. And where does a wrong application of Scripture start but where a minister is teaching, *presumes to take to himself* prerogatives that are not his. And *presumes to say* that he is something special from God when he is to be just a servant of God. That's happened over and over and over again down through the history of the Church.

Here we find what was happening in Galatia, and Galatians is one of the hardest books to understand because they don't understand Judaism. And that's why we have book, *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?* This has caused great confusion because people want to do away with the law of God or add to it the traditions of men, whether they're Judaism or whether they're paganism. We have both branches of that—don't we? Out there? *Yes!*

So Paul said here, Galatians 1:6: "I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him..." How would people be turned away from Christ? *By presenting something slightly contrary to the Scriptures!* And always remember this: Satan comes as an angel of light and what does he bring with him? *A package of benefits*—right?

Look at it this way: We just went through the Christmas season—right? Here is a Christmas tree, pictures the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The draping going around it, that's the serpent; the star on top is Satan, and beneath it are all the presents. The presents are benefits from Satan. Now he calls what he traps people into *benefits*, instead of sin. For example, misreading Galatians, people say, 'Oh, the law's a curse; we don't have to keep it anymore. Oh, that's a benefit; I can do whatever I want.' Or like they translated the *NIV* in Mark 7, 'Jesus declared all meats clean', so 'therefore, I can eat anything. Isn't that wonderful?' Sin results in death, but Satan says it's a benefit.

So when Adam and Eve decided to choose for themselves what was good and evil and right and wrong, Satan said, 'I'll give you a benefit.' And it cut them off from God. That's why today we need to go to God, let Him through Jesus Christ define for us

what is right and wrong, good and evil, and so forth, rather than taking that prerogative to ourselves. Because just like Proverbs 30 said, ‘if you add to it and you be found a liar’—isn’t that what happened? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 6 again: “I am astonished that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel, Which *in reality* is not another *gospel*; but there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ” (vs 6-7). And this has happened over and over and over again—hasn’t it? *Yes!* That’s why we need to stick with the Scriptures; we need to stick with the Truth.

Now notice, here’s a warning. So everyone who teaches, everyone who’s a minister, all those out there in Christianity of the world, if you’re an evangelist, if you’re a pastor, if you’re a priest in the Catholic Church, yea, even if you are the pope, you better read this, v 8: “But if we, or even an angel from heaven should preach a gospel to you *that is* contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!” The sentence is already out there for all of those who want to do that, but God has set before us the choices of good and evil, right and wrong. But today we have the whole Bible.

Verse 9: “As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!.... [Here’s where we all have to make a stand. And here’s where we need to examine the fruits of those who are doing what they’re doing, even today right now while we’re speaking]: ...Now then, **am I striving to please men, or God?**.... [You get a lot of back-patting if you please men. But what is going to be said to you when the time of the resurrection comes? *‘I don’t know you!’*] ...Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.... [We’ll talk about how you can please the brethren of God, and you can. We’ll get to that in a little bit.] ...But I certify to you, brethren, that the gospel that was preached by me is not according to man” (vs 9-11). *It came from Christ!*

Let’s come to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3. This becomes a very important understanding of the people of God. Why are there seven churches? Why is this the only place in all of the New Testament that contains the prophetic history of the Church? And just as an aside, for all who are struggling with Roman Catholicism, why is Rome not mentioned? If it was the center of Christianity, it should have been mentioned first—correct? So keep that in mind.

What we are going to see is this: There were seven churches to whom this letter was dictated by

Christ to send to the seven churches in Asia, which existed back then. But also within this, is contained a prophetic history of the Church of God, the people of God, and all the difficulties that they would experience in the world, both from within and from without.

We’ll also find this pattern in the book of Revelation, which is very interesting: There are lot of things that have seven to them—right? The first one we come across, seven churches. What do we have? *We have the seven seals, out of which come the seven trumpet plagues, out of which come the seven last plagues*—correct? *Yes!* Then there are the seven thunders that thundered and it was so awful that the angel told John, ‘Don’t write that down.’ So I’ll give you one clue. If anyone says, ‘I know what the seven thunders are,’ *avoid them*, because it wasn’t written down. We will see the very first thing that begins to cause problems with the people of God.

(go to the next track)

Now let’s begin right here in Revelation 2 and 3, and the first thing that I want to cover is this, this phrase, since it has to do with the Churches of God: Do they have God’s Spirit with them and in them? *Yes!* Does God know us? *Yes, indeed!* Let’s just do a little overarching survey of two things that Jesus says to five of the seven churches:

1. I know your works
2. repent

Revelation 2:

- v 2—to the Church at Ephesus: “I know your works...” God knows all the works that we do.
- v 9—to the Church at Smyrna: “I know your works...”
- v 13—to the Church at Pergamos: “I know your works...”
- v 19—to the Church at Thyatira: “I know your works... and your works; and the last *are* more than the first.”

Revelation 3:

- v 1—to the Church at Sardis: “I know your works...”
- v 2—“...I have not found your works complete before God.”

Revelation 2:26, this is very interesting: “And to the one who overcomes... [If you’re overcoming, that means there are difficulties, there are problems, and those difficulties and problems can be from without the Church, from within the Church, and from within your own self, and even among other brethren. So you have to overcome.] ...**and keeps**

My works unto the end... Very interesting statement—isn't it? *Yes, indeed!*

Revelation 3:

- v 8—to the Church at Philadelphia: “I know your works...”
- v 15—to the Laodiceans: “I know your works...”

So all seven of the churches have works, but notice something else because *conversion is a process*. So therefore, in the process of being perfected, we have to get rid of the things that are imperfect—correct? You would agree to that? *Yes!*

Now let's see what He says to the churches here. Come back to Revelation 2:5: “Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent...” *There has to be repentance*. Christ is the One Who is saying repent and He is the One Who will help you correct yourself. It's one thing to see a fault and you change. Well, then, that means you have repented. It's another thing for someone to see a fault that you have and come to you and say, ‘Well, did you know this?’ You say, ‘Yeah, you're right.’ You change. That's repentance. It's another thing for a minister or teacher to see a fault, and the biggest mistake that they make—which should never be done—is to correct from the pulpit when it only involves one or two people. Ministers are bound by Matt. 18 to go to the individual first—wouldn't you say? *Yes, indeed!* What God wants, He wants correction from within by your repentance and by your choice.

Now notice what He says here: v 16: “Repent!...” vs 21-22: “And I gave her [Jezebel.] time to repent of her fornication, but she did not repent. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their works.” *So repentance is important*. That's what we need to understand.

Revelation 3:3 we find the same thing. He says: “Therefore, remember what you have received and heard, and hold on to *this*, and repent...” v 19: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent.” Those follow all the way through.

The error that is made is when someone pits group against group and minister against minister, and justify it politically so they can do what they want to do. Like I said in the beginning: *that which begins in politics, ends in politics*. So, Christ is the Head of the Church and we are to listen to Him, and we are to get all the correction that comes from Him.

Church at Ephesus

We will see the very first problem that comes along that opens the door for other things.

Revelation 2:1: “To the angel of the Ephesian church, write: These things says He Who holds the seven stars in His right hand... [those are the seven angels] ...Who walks in *the* midst of the seven golden lampstands.”

You have seen what is called the menorah and there are the seven lights before the Holy of Holies before you enter into it. A lot of people think these seven lamps are a fulfillment of the type of the menorah. *But they are not!* Those are the seven spirits of God as you read in Rev. 4 & 5. ***These are lampstands that are in a circle and He is in the midst of them.***

Verse 2: “I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil; and *that* you did test those who proclaim *themselves* to be apostles, but are not, and did find them liars.” This is why we're to ‘prove all things and hold fast to that which is good.’ I would have to say this, that I think it's far better for whatever we do in the way of teaching to say, ‘I'm an elder and a teacher,’ rather than some other exalted title.

“And *that* you have borne *much* and have endured, and for My name's sake have labored and have not grown weary; nevertheless, I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love” (vs 3-4). Now what does that mean? A lot of people think, ‘Well, that's the zeal that you started out with when you first came into the Church.’ That could be part of it, but is there more to it than that? What is the first love, and can people in the Church get so busy doing church things that they leave their first love? Need to think of it that way.

Let's see what the first love is. because this is what Jesus said is the first love, Mark 12. Of course, there was a scribe who came to Him and he said, ‘Master, which is the first commandment of all?’ And the Greek there is ‘protos’—meaning *the first or the primary*.

Mark 12:29: “Then Jesus answered him, ‘*The first of all the commandments is, “Hear, O Israel... [Why don't you put your name there, because this is a personal message to you from Christ. And the Church is what? *The Israel of God*—right? *Yes!*] ...Our one God is *the Lord, the Lord. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.*” This is *the first commandment*’” (vs 29-30).*

So the losing the first love is: not loving God this way. What is the goal? ‘Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness’—correct? *Yes!* What is that to result in? Jesus said, ‘Become perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect.’ And the first major

thing to do, that which you always have to have, is this: **To love God with all your heart and mind and soul and being!** That's what it is. We know this, that if we do that and keep that as the foremost thing, this will help us to stay out of church wars, help us stay out of trouble, help us to understand to see when trouble is coming and avoid it. This will also do something else for us that we need to see always.

This we find in John 15. This will help us so we do not fall. Because remember He said to the Church at Ephesus, 'Remember from where you have fallen.' John 15:1, Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.... [We have the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Christ in us. That's the combination of the power of the Holy Spirit within us.] ...He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit... [Just like Jesus said back there to every one of the seven churches, 'I know your works. I know what you're doing. I know your heart, I know your mind, I know your attitude. I know your thoughts.'] ...He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit; but He cleanses each one that bears fruit, in order that it may bear more fruit" (vs 1-2).

That's the purpose of tests and trials. I like what William Tyndale said. He said, 'If everything just went so perfectly smooth'—after we understand about Christ and are converted—'we would of all people be most presumptuous.' So that's why, as Tyndale says, 'if He bids you to go on a journey on the sea, He will send a tempest to see whether you trust Him or believe Him or not.' So we're going to have tests. We're going to have trials, but look at all of those as an opportunity to prune away the things that interfere with our conversion process. Don't look at it and say, 'I haven't quite yet come to the point yet where I count it all joy for every trial that comes.' But we need to look at it this way: It is an opportunity to change and to grow and to overcome.

Verse 3: "You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you.... [What is the washing of the water by the Word? That becomes important, too, because that is a continual cleansing. God cleanses with His Word and how does it work? *God's Spirit in us revealing the sin within so we can repent!*] ...Dwell in Me... [rather than fall away] ...and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can* you bear fruit unless you are dwelling in Me.... [Christ in us, we in Christ] ...I am the vine, and you are the branches. The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing" (vs 3-5).

Isn't it interesting, you can cut a branch from a tree or you can cut some flowers and you can put it

in a pot of water. It'll stay fresh for a while—but what happens? *It begins to diminish*—doesn't it? So, if you were separated from Christ, you don't lose everything all at once, but gradually, *gradually*, and then Satan will come along with *new enlightenment*. We've seen it over and over again. **We have to dwell in Christ!** That's what happened to the Church at Ephesus; they lost their first love, so they weren't dwelling fully in Christ. You might say that they substituted the works that we should be doing, that God wants us to do, for *works of things to people* which are not wrong to do, but when that becomes so overwhelming that you forget to do what God wants you to do, then you have busyness within the Church: this committee, that committee, this work, that work, the other work. Not that those are wrong, but those should never become primary.

Verse 6: "If anyone does not dwell in Me, he is cast out as a branch, and is dried up; and men gather them and cast them into a fire, and they are burned." This is part of the church wars. Christ is getting rid of that which does not produce fruit. Our part in some of that is this: If we know someone who is drifting that way, please go to them and encourage them to pray and to see what they're doing and how they can return to God. But nevertheless, God is the One Who is doing what is going on in all of Christianity out there in the Sunday world and in the Sabbath world and everyone who names the name of Christ—so that we can do what? *Be righteous!*

Now here's a promise, v 7: "**If you dwell in Me...** [we've covered a lot of the *if* statements] ...and **My words dwell in you...** [that also ties in with the washing of the water of the Word.] ...My words dwell in you... [What does that mean? That means written in your heart and written in your mind so that the words of Christ, with the Spirit of God in you, direct your paths, direct your thoughts. *That's the process of conversion.*] ...you shall ask whatever you desire, and it shall come to pass for you." If that is happening, you're not asking selfish things for yourself—are you? What is the first thing you ask for?

- Oh, God, help me to love you
- Oh, God, help me to be faithful to you
- Oh, God, give me understanding of your Word

All of those are spiritual things. It's not like, 'Oh, God, bless this winning lotto ticket.' Remember where we started in Prov. 30, 'Don't give me too much lest I forget You and don't make too poor lest I steal and get caught.'

Through your spiritual life as you're growing and overcoming, you will see that God answers prayer over and over and over again.

Sometimes you have to be praying continuously concerning it. Now let me just mention this concerning repetition. There are *needed* repetitions and there are *vain* repetitions.

- *vain* repetitions are just rote prayers
- *needed* repetitions are prayers that need to be prayed until you receive the answer

Those are not vain repetitions. You ask a blessing on your food. You think that's a vain repetition, you do it for every meal? *Of course not, it's needed!* You pray for help and strength and guidance everyday. *That's not a vain repetition; that's needed!* Knowing our human nature, we need that everyday—don't we? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 8: "In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples." What happens when you love God first? Here's how it comes back around to you and then to the brethren. The second commandment is 'love your neighbor as yourself,' and the third commandment is 'love each other as I have loved you'—right?

So, if you have the primary commandment and you don't let that slip like the Ephesians did, then it's going to come back where then there is love among the brethren. Instead of church wars, instead of church fighting, instead of the little huddles over in the corner and say, 'Well, where do you stand on this? and do you know who did this?...' Remember those things? Remember all the dark days and all the lies from the hierarchy, and then all the underground truth that was spreading the knowledge of what was going on. 'That was dirty gossip, you should never indulge in.' There was no other way to get the truth at the time—right? How did you feel? *Miserable! Yes!*

Notice what happens, v 9: "As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; **live in My love.**" Remember Jesus said, 'As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.' Now if you get discouraged and you're having a trial and things are difficult for you, we'll change what Zig Ziglar said. How many have heard of Zig Ziglar? He says, 'Well, the way to success is get up every morning, look in the mirror and say how great you are.' Well, if you don't have any straps on your boots, it's not going to do too much good. You look in the mirror and remember *God loves you! God loves you!* The most important Being in the universe has

- called you
- given you His Spirit
- He loves you
- He sent His Son, Christ, to die for you

Christ is the Head of the Church. *He wants you to attain to the resurrection and be born into the*

Kingdom of God, the family of God and He loves you! So if you're having a bad day, remember that—*He loves you!* And remember this, with Christ in you, He is likewise going through the problems and difficulties *with* you. So keep that in mind.

"...live in My love. If you keep My commandments, you shall live in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and live in His love. These things I have spoken to you, in order that My joy may dwell in you, and *that* your joy may be full.... [that's from the inside out; not entertainment from the outside in] ...This is My commandment: that you **love one another, as I have loved you**" (vs 10-12). And He said that at least three times.

There is the blessing that comes. If you keep the first love of loving God with all your heart and mind and soul and being, then you will also love the brethren. And where there is love, then what do you have? *You also have a desire to overcome!* Isn't that correct? *Yes!* Where there is love, then you inspire people to change and you don't have to judge them and condemn them thinking that you are going to institute change because of what you say.

What happened when Galileo was dragged before the pope? The pope said, 'Say the earth is flat.' *Okay, the earth is flat.* As he is walking out the door, he said, '*Nevertheless, it's round.*' A good example that correction from outside/in does not take; it has to come from God *from the inside.*

We have to test the apostles. Whatever work we do, God knows it. Revelation 2:5: "Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works... [Have you ever thought of that? Loving God is a work? What kind of work is it? *A spiritual work, motivated from the Spirit!* And that's between you and God.] ...for if *you do not*, I will come to you quickly; and I will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent."

Let's learn a lesson here. What happens when you have a church that has left its first love, that has quit doing what they should be doing, and all of a sudden they have problems and church wars within it? Who is behind it? *God is!*—right? He wants to wake them up so they return to Him—is that not correct? *Yes, indeed!* So in this church war, you don't choose sides. Remember: in every church war you never choose sides, you choose

- God the Father
- Jesus Christ
- the Word of God
- the Truth of God

That's what you always choose. Now sometimes that may leave you standing alone! But don't worry, there are others somewhere else standing alone.

So what I want to do with this in going through is say, okay, wherever the problem is in your life, in the life of those that you know, in the church that you may be attending, then handle it in a Christian and mature way. Don't get in the middle of the fight because it may not be your fight. It may be Christ's fight; let Him handle it, and we draw close to God spiritually so that we can have

- eyes to see
- wisdom to help
- understanding to keep out of trouble

Nevertheless, we stand for the Truth regardless of what happens.

Verse 6: "But this you have: that you hate the works of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate.... [We'll talk about that when we come to Pergamos, a little bit more. But the Nicolaitanes is basically hierarchy from the top down. That's the main thing. The other one about Nicolaitanes is this: You're already so righteous that you cannot sin. That you are so converted that you can be in the midst of sin and never be tempted. However, the one that we've come across mostly is the hierarchy from the top down. We've all experienced that—right?] ...The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches...." (vs 6-7). So it's all the churches. Remember where we started: 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from unrighteousness'—correct?

"...To the one who overcomes I will give *the right* to eat of the tree of life that is in *the* midst of the paradise of God" (v 7).

Let me just say this: Everyone wants to be a Philadelphian. Mostly those who profess themselves to be Philadelphian generally end up not being Philadelphian. I remember one time when I was doing my loan brokering, I was driving down the street in San Francisco and I saw this sign, Seventh Day Adventist, Philadelphia Church. I thought, 'Everyone wants to be a Philadelphian—why?' *Because God found no fault with them!*

Church of Smyrna

The Church at Smyrna and the Smyrneans, God didn't find fault with them, but I haven't seen very many church signs saying the Church of Smyrna, because they're all martyred, thrown in jail.

Verse 8: "And to the angel of the Church of the Smyrneans write: These things says the First and the Last, Who was dead but is alive, I know your works and tribulation and poverty... [at the end we're dealing with riches—right? *Yes!*] ...(but you are rich)... [Don't look at physical blessings as a sign that you are spiritually rich with God. They're rich because they're *spiritually* right.] ...and the

blasphemy of those who declare themselves to be Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.... [organized movement to come and take away the Truth of God] ...Do not fear any of the things that you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison... [How many have been in prison because you keep the Sabbath? *Not yet!* The next time you have a problem and you think, 'Oh, I can hardly bear this. How can I get through the day?' Just remember, you weren't arrested and carried off to be killed.] ...that you may be tried... [our trial today is different] ...and you shall have tribulation ten days...." (vs 8-10).

Remember what Jesus said? He said, 'Have courage. In the world you'll have tribulation, but in Me you'll have peace'—which means this: ***Regardless of the tribulation you are going through with Christ in you, you can have peace of mind and understanding knowing that this is part of something that God will work out for good.*** Now while you're going through it, it doesn't seem like it, but when you get to the other side, you'll understand.

So He says, v 10: "...Be faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life. The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death" (vs 10-11).

Now we have a very interesting thing that takes place, and this is a different kind of church war than just men against men, church against church. This is Christ against His own church. Not many people think of it that way, but that's what Jesus says.

Church at Pergamos

Verse 12: "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos, write: These things says He Who has the sharp two-edged sword." Which is what? *The Word of God!* Remember what it says there in Heb. 4? That 'nothing is hidden from Him, but all is naked and laid bare and that the Word of God is a sharp two-edged sword dividing asunder the soul and spirit and the joints and the marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and the intents of the heart'—correct? *Yes!*

Verse 13: "I know your works and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan *is*... [They had a big temple there dedicated to Zeus. If you ever get a chance, do a little Google search online, look it up. That was a tremendous thing. But did you know that the king of Pergamos legally sold the whole system to the Roman Empire. The staircase is still there.] ...but you are holding fast My name... [here they were keeping the bare minimum] ...and did not deny My faith... [we'll see the period of time in which

they didn't deny it] ...even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells" (v 13).

What happens when you are close to the world and you're not really close to God? *You look at what the world is doing and how successful they are in doing it and you begin adopting their ways of doing things.* That's what happened with the hierarchical government. You adopt the ways that the pagan religions run their religions. And it's always been with the pope at the top, regardless of what his name is called. And it comes down.

"But I have a few things against you because you have there those who hold the teaching of Balaam..." (v 14). *Twisting the Word of God!* You can't get them to sin directly, so you do it indirectly and what was his advice? Just set up shop over there with all these nice looking women and have a feast and invite them over. Now these people have been travelling in the wilderness, thirty-eight and a half years and they're about ready to go in the 'promised land.' They haven't had any bread, because they couldn't eat any bread. All they had was manna and they hadn't had very much meat, so if you have a big feast over here and some nice sounding music and good looking women and you invite over the princes, you know, the ones who are in charge. And they partake of this (Num. 25). 'It's okay to go out and do things on the Sabbath. It's okay to mix in with the world and their activities. It's okay if you participate in their religious activities.' *That's the whole lesson of Balaam!*

"...who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication" (v 14). That comes right down to the central basic thing that is in the Bible. What is the most central important thing that we do every year? *The Passover!* We've got a big thick book on it, *The Christian Passover*, over 500 pages. One man said, 'Well, why couldn't you do it in a simple pamphlet?' *Because it ain't simple!* What is the one central thing that renews the covenant with Christ? *The Passover!* What then would be the first doctrine and teaching to attack and destroy? *The Passover!* That's why that book is over 500 pages thick, because there are attacks from Judaism, there are attacks from Catholicism, there are attacks from Protestantism. If Satan can get the people to not take the Passover, it takes them away from Christ!

So we have two things going here, v 15: "Moreover, you also have *those* who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate.... [Here's a war you don't want to get in the middle of. This is where you step aside and stand alone with God.]: ...**Repent!** For if you do not *repent*, I will

come to you quickly, and will make war against them with the sword of My mouth" (vs 15-16).

God is going to punish them with the judgments that He said would come upon those who would pervert the Word of God, those who would rule cruelly over the brethren in a dictatorial way. That's what Ezek. 34 is all about. They rule them with cruelty! People would come into the Church and be beaten down, abused verbally. People would ask, 'Well, where's the love of God?' *Oh, you better have the fear. You better fear the hierarchy.* No! You better love God. ***Jesus Christ does not like those tactics which take away the love of God and take people away from the renewing of the New Covenant with Him.*** That's the whole covenant of eternal life. This is a war, don't get in the middle of this, because Christ is the One Who is doing the fighting.

So not all church wars are what they seem to be. And after there is a church war and after there is a separation, stand back and look at the fruits and see what's going to happen, because unless a person takes drastic action to love God, keep His commandments and hold fast to the Truth. Your church war may be in vain and you may be yet headed for another downfall. It's all right here in Rev. 2 & 3. Isn't that amazing? We're going to see that some of the church battles are not just disagreements between men, but ***the hand of Christ is there to correct and to guide and to bring His church back to Him.***

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Timothy 2:15
- 2) Proverbs 30:4-9
- 3) 2-Timothy 2:16-17, 19
- 4) Jude 3-4
- 5) Acts 20:28
- 6) 1-Peter 5:1-4
- 7) 2-Corinthians 11:1-4
- 8) Galatians 1:6-11
- 9) Revelation 2:2, 9, 13, 19
- 10) Revelation 3:1-2
- 11) Revelation 2:26
- 12) Revelation 3:8, 15
- 13) Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22
- 14) Revelation 3:3, 19
- 15) Revelation 2:1-4
- 16) Mark 12:29-30
- 17) John 15:1-12
- 18) Revelation 2:5-16

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 15
- John 21; 10
- Mark 7

- Matthew 18
- Revelation 4, 5
- Hebrews 4
- Numbers 25
- Ezekiel 34

Also referenced:

- Sermon Series: *IF Statements of the Bible*
- Books:
 - ✓ *Lord, What Should I Do?* (coming soon)
 - ✓ *Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or Religion of Men?* by Philip Neal
 - ✓ *The Christian Passover* by Fred Coulter

Seven Churches—Church Wars II

Let's go back to 2-Chronicles 32, because here is an example of how God *causes* things to happen, which is not just *allowing*. What do I mean by that? *God takes a certain action to see how we will react!* Now this is the case of King Hezekiah. God performed a tremendous miracle destroying the whole army of 180,000 of the Assyrians and rescued the Jews in Jerusalem. Then the Babylonian ambassadors came over to find out what had happened.

He told them and then he showed them all the wealth that all the kings of Israel had gathered together since the time of David, plus all of the trophies, all of the spoil from the Assyrian army after they had plundered the various countries and just plundered Egypt when they came back set to conquer Judea. Now that was a grave mistake, because all of those treasures belong to God.

Let's pick it up here in 2-Chronicles 32:24: "In those days Hezekiah was sick unto death and prayed to the LORD. And He spoke to him, and He gave him a sign.... [That was the sundial going back and he lived. But, now notice this, this is very important in our behavior as individuals and also as an assembly or Church of God]: ...But Hezekiah responded not again according to the good *done* to him... [When we receive blessings from God, we're to respond back to Him.] ...for his heart was lifted up...." (vs 24-25).

Now we will see what God did and I think you will see something very similar happening as we come back to Rev. 2 & 3, and what is happening in the Church. And why I say that it is the hand of God, but not necessarily that He is out there with His hand doing something. Rather, that His hand has been withdrawn to see what the different ones will do.

"Therefore, there was wrath upon him and upon Judah and Jerusalem. Notwithstanding, Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart..." (vs 25-26). So he did repent. But remember when the sentence came from Isaiah—do you remember what the sentence was? *Isaiah came and he said, God says, 'All this that you showed the ambassadors is going to Babylon. Everything that you worked for, because you betrayed Me, is going to Babylon, but it won't happen in your day.'*

And what was Hezekiah's response? *I'll just paraphrase it, perfect Laodicean response: 'Well, I'll have peace in my day, that's good.'* So what happened after that? Who succeeded him? *His son Manasseh*, the worst one of the kings of Israel and Judah!

This is how God causes things to be done by withdrawing His hand. This becomes very important. We never individually want to get ourselves in this situation. So with what's going on in the churches today, we need to:

- make sure that we are close to God
- make sure that we don't get into this condition
- make sure that we don't enter into a fight that is not ours to enter into
 - To stand for the Truth? *Yes!*
 - To believe what is right? *Yes!*
 - To help others who are in trouble? *Yes!*

Here's how God does it, v 31: "Nevertheless, in *the business of* the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent to him to ask about the wonder that was done in the land, **God left him in order to try him, to know all that was in his heart.**"

This is an important thing to understand. There comes a time when God will pull back, not leave you alone and destitute, but pull back because He wants to know what choice are you going to make? Will you always choose God the Father and Jesus Christ under all circumstances, or what is it that you will do?

Now we will see how this applies to the other churches in Rev. 2 & 3. I know in the *Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For* that I started last week, what I'm going to do, because in the fourteen things I have point number ten Laodiceans and point number eleven Philadelphians, I'm going to replace point ten and eleven with the two sermons that I'm giving today, which then is the *Seven Churches—The Church Wars*, where is it fitting into prophecy, because it does.

Church at Thyatira

Now let's look at Thyatira. How many have seen *Israel of the Alps* (DVD) put out by the Seventh Day Adventists? That's very good. I think it's interesting that the Seventh Day Adventists identify themselves with *Israel of the Alps*. That's very interesting, because in talking to John, the other SDA minister who was here this morning, I mentioned to him that I thought that the fulfillment of Thyatira today could very well be the SDA's.

There was the literal Church of Thyatira there, but how does it fit in the end-time? As we've noted, there were the literal churches, there were the seven churches down through time, and then at the

end as God views His churches, do we have seven categories of Churches as God looks at them? Not the corporate name, but as God views them. And if so, then we have those who fit into the Thyatira era here.

Revelation 2:18: “And to the angel of the Church in Thyatira write: These things says the Son of God, He Who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet are like fine brass. I know your works... [God knows the works of every one of us.] ...and love... [so, they have love] ...and service, and faith, and your endurance, and your works; and the last *are* more than the first.... [They’re busy, they’re active, they’re doing things.] (But here’s their problem, and this is so really, really true): ...But I have a few things against you, because you allow the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce My servants into committing fornication and eating things sacrificed to idols” (vs 18-20).

Who was Jezebel, the literal woman? *Wife of Ahab*, who was the daughter of the priest of Baal. And the Christian succession of the priest of the Baal is the Roman Catholic Church. How many have seen *The Jesuit Agenda?* (DVD) What they have done to the Seventh Day Adventist Church in filtering in, bringing doctrines, bringing in things like the trinity, bringing in things like the immortal soul. Also, they do not keep the Passover. They keep the Lord’s Supper, first Sabbath every quarter, is that what most of them do? And remember, when, if you are God’s people, you are not keeping the Passover properly, you set yourself apart from God’s blessing to a certain degree.

Another thing happens when you start down that road, then you don’t understand the teachings, whether they are from God or whether they are counterfeits coming in. We’ve also seen that in Pasadena, haven’t we? Did they bring in Catholic doctrines? *Yes, beginning with the hierarchy!* Did they bring in other teachings that caused them to shift from the Sabbath and Holy Days over to Sunday and the holidays? *Yes!* What did God do to it? *He left them alone and it disintegrated!*

Notice here historically, and this ties right in with the *Israel of the Alps*. “And I gave her time to repent of her fornication, but she did not repent” (v 21). So even with the Catholic Church, God gave time to repent. What was the time of repentance for the Roman Catholic Church? *It was the Protestant Reformation and the Council of Trent!*

Now the Council of Trent ran for forty-some years. Believe it or not there were a large number of priests and cardinals and bishops that wanted to go ‘sola scriptura’—*Scriptures only*. And they were divided. That’s why it took forty years for the Council of Trent to go. The Protestants—and this

also happened to the Church of Thyatira for a time—they accepted Sunday by saying that it was church tradition. So, in the final session of the Council of Trent it was decided—because they were arguing back and forth between Scriptures only and tradition and Scriptures—the one who was leading the final session, I forget his name, but I’ll paraphrase what he said: ‘The Protestants have said Scriptures and Scriptures only. We say Scriptures and tradition. However, the Protestants really do not practice what they preach, because they have said that Sunday was established by the church, which was established by us—the Roman Catholic Church—and they follow the tradition of the church. Therefore, the Protestants follow Scripture and tradition, just like we do.’ That ended the Council of Trent.

So they had their opportunity to repent, the Protestants have had their opportunity, many opportunities to repent. And with every generation, there’s an opportunity to repent—right? How many times have you heard us discuss about repentance where we have concluded this: ***Where there’s life, there’s hope!*** As long as you’re alive, you can still repent— isn’t that correct? *Yes!* God looks at it that way, too. Go back and look what happened to Manasseh, who was the worst king of Israel. He did the most evil things and for 55 years. Think of that! How would you like to have Bill Clinton or Barak Obama for 55 years? But what happened? When the king of Assyria carried him off to Babylon, that’s when the time the Babylonians were conquered by the Assyrians, he put him in prison there—and what happened to Manasseh? *He repented!* Quite an amazing thing— isn’t it?

How bad was he? *The worst king possible!* But what happened after he repented? God gave him grace and favor in the eyes of the king of Assyria. He lifted him out of his captivity from the dungeon, sent him back to Jerusalem to be the vassal king under him—and what did he do? *He cleaned out the temple, he got rid of all the idols, he got rid of all the priests right there in Jerusalem!* He didn’t cleanse the whole land. So there’s a good example of how someone can really repent. Likewise with this: In every generation there’s an opportunity for repentance. ***As long as there’s life, there’s hope!***

But if you don’t repent, notice this very carefully, v 22. She did not repent. “Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation...” Now is that the Great Tribulation at the end? *It could mean great tribulation at the particular time that this judgment came down*, but it also could indicate at the end as well. So if the SDA’s trace their roots back to Israel of the Alps and Thyatira, it’s talking about today.

“...unless they repent of their works. And I will kill her children with death... [If you kill someone, they’re dead—right? How do you kill someone so there’s no death? *You don’t!* So what is this talking about? *With the lack of repentance, the Lake of Fire!* Kill with the death.] ...and **all** the churches... [See how this applies to everyone?] ...and all the churches shall know that I am He Who searches *the* reins and hearts...” (vs 22-23). God is always doing that, testing us. That’s why you’ve heard it said how many times:

- prayer
- Bible study
- relationship with God
- loving God

—and all these things. That’s an ongoing thing that you need to have daily with God. That keeps you in contact with God and God with you.

“...Who searches *the* reins and hearts; and I will give to each of you according to your works. But to you I say, and to the rest who are in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, and who have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will not cast upon you any other burden” (vs 23-24).

They had their trials. Have we had our trials? Have we had this similar in our experience? *Yes!* It’s like you think you’re standing on firm ground, but you’re really on a carpet and someone comes along and jerks that carpet right out from underneath you, and you tumble and fall down and wonder: What happened? What happened? And then you look around and see everything is upside down, everything is in turmoil. Remember when it first started? Even the leading evangelists’ were down there in supposedly the house of God on the campus and they were actually fist-fighting each other, slugging each other. God withdrew His hand to see what they would do. In those kinds of fights, you don’t want to get into those.

- you stay right with God
- you stand firm with the Truth
- you keep the love of God

—and pray for them that God will bring them to repentance. We should take no joy at all in any of the problems and difficulties within the Church of God or within Seventh Day Adventist, or even the churches of the world. God is dealing with them, too. Pray that they’ll repent. Pray that they’ll yield to God.

Verse 26: “And to the one who overcomes... [we just discussed how to overcome] ...and keeps My works unto *the* end... [What are the works that God has given us to do? That’s in our daily lives and that’s what we do together.] ...I will give authority

over the nations.” *Keep your mind on the goal!* God is going to give us authority over the nations

- if we *yield to Him*
- if we’re *faithful to Him*
- if we *stand for the Truth*
- if we *love Him*

“And he shall shepherd them with an iron rod, as vessels of pottery are broken in pieces; as I have also received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star” (vs 27-28). Now what is the morning star? *The morning star is eternal life!*

I call your attention to Dan. 12. What does it say there? *Those who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever—right?* So the morning star is *eternal life with glory!*

Let’s see what Jesus says. We need Scriptures like these to inspire us. If someone is down in the dumps and someone is discouraged and depressed; we all get that way—don’t we? We all have those things. But how is it you come into church and minister stands up there and says, ‘A lot of you are down at the mouth, a lot of you are discouraged and depressed. Now you ought to get out of that.’ *Yeah, that makes you feel real good—doesn’t it? No!* God wants you to be inspired out of it, because of what He is going to give us. That’s why we are to keep our minds on the goal.

Notice what He says here, Matthew 13:43: “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father....” The sun is a star— isn’t it? *Yes, indeed!*

- Are we going to be in the family of God? *Yes!*
- Are we going to see Christ as He is? *Yes!*
Are we going to see the Father face to face? *Yes!*

So when you get down and discouraged, don’t let it pull you down into the dumps. But you let the Spirit of God and the Word of God *lift you* out of that and be inspired. That’s how you overcome. You don’t overcome by being beaten with a whip. You overcome by seeing God the Father and Jesus Christ and what He is doing and His whole plan. And then you’re inspired to overcome and change—right? *Yes!* So that’s what God wants us to do.

Revelation 2:29: “The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” This is to *all*. This is why, in talking about the difficulties within the Church, don’t get involved in a fight that is not yours. What you have to do is this: ***Discern the truth and where you stand before God in your life.*** God is going to hold you responsible for

your decisions, for how you love Him and how you serve Him. Step aside and let things fall where they may. Let God handle it! That's His fight!

Church at Sardis

After you go through all of chapter two and you come to the time of what a lot of people like to say the Church in Sardis. I've talked to different Sardis ministers. There are even some of them that keep the Holy Days. Here's a good one, maybe a lot of you didn't know: Remember when HWA went to Dugger and Dodd about the Holy Days back in the early 1930s; He wrote of that in his autobiography. Well, I'll give you a little fill-in on the history here. When I was in Eugene as a ministerial assistant, the father of the Cole brothers—Raymond, Wayne, and Leroy—was a deacon in the Church that HWA was in when it was Church of God Seventh Day; then when it became independent.

When I would go out and visit, he would come with me and for hours we would talk about what had gone on in the transition period of what took place and it was very, very interesting, because there were some of Sardis—and you always heard they were 'dead.' They always pointed to Stanberry, Missouri, which was abandoned as a headquarters and it was in West Virginia and it was in Denver. And at the time that they were accused of being 'dead,' guess how many people were in Church of God Seventh Day out of Denver, with all their conferences? *70,000!* Well, they're not quite 'dead.' They still have a pulse.

Otis Cole's father was an elder in Church of God Seventh Day and Otis Cole's father in 1917, before Herbert Armstrong ever came in contact with the Church of God Seventh Day—which is where he got all of his doctrine, by the way—Otis Cole's father went to Dugger and Dodd and guess what he brought up? *The Holy Days and Israel in prophecy!* Irony of ironies, Dugger moved his headquarters to Jerusalem and when he got to Jerusalem he began keeping the Holy Days and preaching the Holy Days. So there are a lot of things that we don't know anything about. This just gives you kind of a little sampling that we need to trust God and what He's doing and we need to look to God to do what we need to do and understand it's one small part of what God is doing in carrying out His work.

So here is the Church at Sardis and they were anything but totally dead. I think some of them you could say were Philadelphia, some of them were of Sardis that they were dead, some of them in the various categories of the seven churches just like in going through today we can relate to all the problems in all the seven churches with what we've experienced—correct? *Yes!*

Revelation 3:1: "And to the angel of the church in Sardis, write: These things says He Who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your works, *and* that you have a name as if you are alive, but are dead.... [After you go through so much you just kind of sit back and you're just exhausted and you say, 'Hey, no more.'] ...Be watchful, and strengthen the things that remain, which are about to die.... [There are some people that's about all they can do—hold on to the little bit that they have, don't let that go out.] ...For I have not found your works complete before God. Therefore, remember what you have received and heard, and hold on *to this*, and repent...." (vs 1-3). Even when they're is as close to spiritual death as this, God says '*Repent!*' That's the whole key for all of us. We're to repent.

"...Now then, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you shall by no means know what hour I will come upon you.... [That can refer directly to judgment at any time. That does not necessarily mean the second return, although it can include that.] ...You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with Me in white because they are worthy. The one who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments... [the righteousness of the saints] ...and I will not blot out his name from the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels" (vs 3-5).

So here, even those that have been looked down upon and disdained by other Churches of God, God is there saying, 'Look, repent! I love you! I want you! You just have to understand the things that you need to change.' So then again He says, He says this all the way through to all seven churches:

"The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (v 6). So that means we need to be willing to listen to all the Word of God, what He has to say.

I've been recently reading in the book of Jeremiah and boy, there are some tough things in the book of Jeremiah. Man, even Jeremiah said, 'Oh, God, you sent me out to do this and everybody's against me and everybody hates me. Why did You send me to these people who won't hear, who won't listen?' So He virtually said, 'Now, now, Jeremiah, I'll take care of you. It's going to be tough, so I'm going to make you like a brass wall and I'm going to make you like iron and no one is going to be able to come against you and take you down.' We need to realize that we can trust God for the same thing in this day as the very same punishments are coming upon this nation.

X. Church at Laodicea

I'm going to jump ahead to the Laodiceans. You've heard many sermons about the Laodiceans. Let's understand this: *God loves the Laodiceans!* But He wants their full cooperation with Him. I think as I've said many times before, that all of us in this experience in this age—the one we're living in today—we're all Laodiceans because we have so many physical things.

And even the poorest of us have more than people have had down through history. For example, those who are considered in poverty in the United States generally live in a house; have a television; have a car, maybe two cars; they have electricity; they have a lot of amenities—these are the ones that are in poverty.

You go to Pakistan or you go to Southeast Asia or you go to Africa and you look at their poverty, far different than ours. So even the ones who are in poverty here—viewed from those in those lands that I just mentioned—they're rich and increased with goods. Here is the difficulty. When God blesses us with physical things, which He does, *don't look upon those blessings as verification that you are spiritually right with God.* The way you're spiritually right with God is with your heart and with your mind and with your attitude. So let's read the Laodiceans here first. Now we're going to be kind to you. We won't beat you up, we'll just nail you to the wall, that's all (said with humor).

Revelation 3:14: “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans, write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginner of the creation of God. I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot... [Isn't that something, we're lukewarm.] ...I would *that* you be *either* cold or hot” (vs 14-15).

God can deal with you if you're unconverted. God can deal with you if you're on fire for Him. But the in-betweeners, or the tweeners, are those hard to deal with, because you're neither/nor. You know about God's way.

- You know you ought to pray, *but don't!*
- You know you ought to study, *but don't!*
- You know you ought to keep the Sabbath the way that God wants you to, *but you don't!*

It's like what they call in supply today, which is 'on-time inventory.' In other words you never keep a big inventory, but the shipment comes in just in time. The problem is if you do that spiritually and you're not going to God, the spiritual shipment from God doesn't come in. Then you're going to find yourself saying, 'What'll I do?' When

you're lukewarm and a trial comes upon you, you don't know how to handle it.

So here's what happened here. Here's where God does where we started off (in 2-Chro. 32); v 16: “So then, because you are lukewarm, and *are* neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth.” Now when God spews the Church out of His mouth—which may be what we're seeing happen again today; it's happened many times, because there's more than one generation of Laodiceans, here's why.

“For you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy...’” (v 17). That means there was a time when you weren't rich and there was a time when you weren't wealthy. We look back on the history as we view it, through the WCG. There was a time when they were small, when they were right with God, when everyone was zealous, when everyone was doing what they should be doing. Then gradually, in rather a short fashion, all of these tremendous blessings came. At one time, the height of the income was \$140-million in one year. ‘Whoop, God is blessing us, look at all that money.’ BANG!

So since we live here, and I do this every once in a while when I come down, I drive around the campus and I look at that and take it as a warning. And I say to myself, ‘Fred, don't ever let this happen to you’—be spewed out of the mouth of God.

“For you say, ‘I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’; and you do not understand that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (v 17). Without prayer, without study, without staying close to God, you can't see yourself as you are. And if you get in the midst of a church war and you're fighting for this person or that person or this person against that person, then you're ending up in carnality and God is backing away from you even further. You become more blind and you can't see what you're doing, where you're going. We shouldn't be involved in that either.

(go to the next track)

Let's come to 1-Corinthians 4 and let's see something that Paul said for us not to get into. So in the church problems and church wars that go on, don't get into this, because they had little mini church wars in Corinth. One wanted to follow Apollos, another one wanted to follow Paul, another one wanted to follow Cephas, and others said, ‘Well, we're better than you all, we're going to follow Christ.’

What they were doing—and they had these fights back and forth within the congregation and

Paul said, ‘Where do divisions and things come among you, is it not that you’re carnal?’ He said, ‘I tried to talk to you as spiritual, but I couldn’t do it.’ So he follows up with this.

1-Corinthians 4:1: “So then, let *every* man regard us... [Paul, Apollos, Cephas, world, life, death, and so forth (1-Cor. 3:23).] ...as ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” Now this is important for every minister to understand, everyone who’s teaching or an elder is this: ***You have not been granted a position above the brethren!***

We all need to understand: What is a steward? Today we don’t think much of it, but *a steward was a position of trust*. You were given sole authority over another person’s possessions to make them grow and increase. None of it belonged to the steward. As we saw earlier what Peter wrote, you’re not to rule over the brethren as if they are your possessions. They don’t belong to any minister. They don’t belong to a corporate church that they attend to. That’s just where they happen to meet. They belong to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

So, we need to view this as God’s possession, God’s heritage. And He’s chosen men to do the teaching. He’s chosen men to lead them, to teach them—for what? *That we can all become like Christ!* Isn’t that true? *‘It’s sufficient that the disciple become as the teacher’*—right?

So in church wars, all of that’s thrown out the windows and Paul is trying to bring them back to their senses here. “...and steward of the mysteries of God. Beyond that, it is required of stewards that one be found faithful. But to me it is an insignificant matter that I am judged by you, or by man’s standard; and neither do I judge myself.... [He did by God’s Word, but he himself didn’t judge himself.] ...Now I am not conscious of anything against myself, yet I am not justified by this; for the one Who is judging me is *the* Lord. Therefore, do not judge anything before *the* time...” (vs 1-5). That’s what happens when you get into church wars. You’ve got to judge this, you’ve got to judge that. Where do you stand for here, where do you stand for that?

Well, it’s like we were discussing about the Mayan calendar during lunch. Everybody’s going to get all excited in 2012 and the Mayan calendar. Gil, who’s doing some translating into Spanish for us, said he was talking to some brethren in Mexico and they were all excited about the Mayan calendar and they said the Mayans quit counting at 2012. You know what his answer was? ‘Jesus hasn’t quit counting.’ We don’t judge things before the time. Don’t get caught up into who’s right and who’s wrong, pray for them that everyone of us will get

right with Christ. Isn’t that the whole goal? *Yes!* So it’s a shame that these things have to happen.

“Therefore, do not judge anything before *the* time; *wait* until the Lord comes, Who will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the motives of *all* hearts; and then shall each one receive praise from God. Now these things, brethren, I have applied to Apollos and myself for your sakes; that in us you may learn not to think *of men* beyond what is written... [don’t get exalted in personality] ...so that no one among you is puffed up on behalf of one *of us* against the other.... [God doesn’t want that. That’s what was happening there in Corinth.] ...For what makes you superior *to others*? And what do you have that you did not receive?... [Everything in life we have comes from God—all the physical, all the spiritual, everything.] ...But if you also received *it*, why are you boasting as if you did not receive *it*?” (vs 5-7).

Now notice how this fits in with the Laodiceans, v 8: “Now you are satiated. Now you have been enriched. You have reigned without us.... [You’ve already made it into the kingdom. No, that’s not true.] ...And I would that you did reign, so that we might also reign with you.... [notice what he says about the apostles]: ...For I suppose that God made us apostles last, as it were appointed to death; for we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men” (vs 8-9). So that gives us an insight on what we need to do here.

Let’s come back to the Laodiceans, Rev. 3. Whenever we get puffed up concerning anything, then we start walking down the road of trouble. Now my wife Dolores has burned in my brain one little spot back here—because she said we’ve lived through enough of the vanity of ministers strutting back and forth and we don’t need that any longer—so she always tells me, ‘Fred, just talk—just talk.’ Because people can be instructed and we can all learn.

The whole thing is we are all to be uplifted with the Spirit of God, built on Christ. We want to have everyone built so that they have the character of God that is like gold. Isn’t that what we want? That’s the best thing? *Yes!* And you can’t do it on vanity. And you can’t do it by thinking how good you are. And you can’t do it by thinking how wealthy you are. You can’t do it like Hezekiah did and said, ‘Well, look, boy, all of this happened. Now I’m going to show them everything that there is.’ God says that’s being puffed up. Well, Laodiceans are puffed up.

So here’s what God is telling us when we have the troubles, Rev. 3:18. Some of what is going on in addition to what we’ve covered with the church wars, is God is *spewing them out of His*

mouth, doing to them exactly what He did to Hezekiah. Put them out there on his own to see what he would do. Well, Hezekiah humbled himself. That's what's happening today. 'Put them out there, let them fight among themselves, and let's see who comes to Me and let's see who humbles him or herself.' That's what it's all about. God loves them. God wants them, but there are lessons we all need to learn. So pray for them.

- ask God to help them
- ask God to help bring those who rule with an iron fist over the brethren to repentance
- ask for those who add to the Word of God to repent

The whole thing is repentance and our relationship with God! That's what He's saying here to the Laodiceans.

Revelation 3:18: "I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire so that you may be rich; and white garments... [the righteousness of the saints] ...so that you may be clothed, and the same of your nakedness may not be revealed... [Isn't this all nonsense that's going on? *Yes!*] ...and to anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see."

That requires repentance and getting close to God. 'God, help me to see,' because when we get carried away with our vanity and we get carried away in personalities, and we get carried away in justifying of the self, we get carried away in fighting back and forth, and memos and letters and 'you didn't do this, you didn't do that'—what happens? *We get all puffed up* and God says, 'Hey, I'm going to back off and let you work it out, see what you're going to do.' So we all need eye salve to see correctly.

"...So that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent" (vs 18-19). This is what we need to do.

- come back to Christ
- receive of His Spirit
- humble yourself before God

Now, here's the sad thing of it, v 20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock.... [the door of your mind] ...If anyone hears My voice... [you have to make yourself to hear] ...and opens the door..." You have to come back to Christ and say, 'Oh, God, here I am, forgive me for my foolishness and my laziness and all the things for being rich and increased with goods and thinking that this made me spiritual, fighting one person against another, taking sides here, rejecting over there,' and all of this sort of thing.

Open the door and let Christ come in. He says, v 20: "...I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with me." Now I can also take that and say this applies to the Protestants—right? Isn't God working in the churches of the Protestants to tear it down? *Yes! So that they may seek God!* So He's there knocking on the door.

- Why are you keeping Sunday?
- Why are you keeping the holidays?
- Why are you doing away with the Word of God?

To bring them back to Him!

Remember where we started, 'Let everyone who names the name of Christ, depart from unrighteousness'—correct? Do the Protestants name the name of Christ? *Sure they do!* Has God rejected them? *As long as there's life, there's hope!* Can they repent? *Yes!* Does God want them to repent? *Yes!* Will they repent? *That's their choice!* Same way with the Churches of God.

Verse 21: "To the one who overcomes will I give authority to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and sat down with My Father in His throne.... [Isn't that something? Jesus had to overcome; He can help us to overcome.] ...The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (vs 21-22).

Now during the break Ryan came up and brought a couple Scriptures to me, which I think fit in real fine right here. Let's come to Isaiah 58. One of these days I'm going to give a New Testament sermon from Isaiah. Remember what Paul told Timothy? 'That you have known the Holy Writings'—which are the Old Testament—"from a child which are able to make you wise unto salvation through Jesus Christ." So I'll bring that one of these days. This applies to:

- the people of God, *all the Israelites*
- the people who name the name of Christ and think they're Christian
- the Churches of God

It's very broad and it does apply very directly to the Laodiceans.

Isaiah 58:1: "Cry aloud, do not spare, lift up your voice like a ram's horn, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." That has to be part of the Gospel that we preach.

And oh, by the way, with Church at Home we have what, 106 or 107 online now. Randy has been really improving and getting the editing up and really running good. We went over some of them

yesterday. We want to reach out to those who are wondering in the world, ‘Lord, what should I do?’

How many saw that latest ad about Doritos chips? The non-denominational minister and he’s sitting there at the desk and his assistant comes in and he says, ‘Oh, look at all these bills. We don’t know what to do and how to pay for them.’ He says, ‘I got an idea.’ So for communion services, instead of just a little bread, they had a bag of Doritos, and a lot of people came in, Doritos are good. One man said, ‘Where is the other bread?’

God wants them to repent, too, v 2: “Yet they seek Me daily, and seem eager to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and one that did not forget the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; they seem eager to draw near to God.... [But how? *Their way! Has to be God’s way!* Remember where we started, ‘lest you add to the Word of God and you are found to be a liar.’] ...*They say*, ‘Why have we fasted, and You do not see? Why have we afflicted our soul and You take no knowledge?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you pursue your business and exploit all your workers. Behold, you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness; you cannot fast as *you do* this day, and expect to make your voice to be heard on high” (vs 2-4). *You have to come to God with repentance!*

That’s why all the way through Rev. 2 & 3 He says what? *Repent!* “*Is not this, rather, the fast that I have chosen—to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed ones go free, and that you break every yoke?*” (v 6). You can apply that in many ways. You can apply that to

- the government
- churches
- dictatorial governments within the Church of God

—and everything like that as well.

“*Is it not to give of your bread to the hungry, and that you should bring home the wandering poor? When will you see the naked and cover him; and not hide yourself from your own flesh?*” (v 7). Now, if you do that, notice what he’s encouraging in all of these things. *Repentance!* That’s what He says to the Laodiceans. ‘*Repent, I love you, open the door, I will come in.*’

Notice what happens, v 8: “Then shall your light break out as the dawn, and your health shall spring out quickly; and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD shall answer; you shall cry, and He shall say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take the yoke away from among you, the

pointing of the finger, and speaking malice... [Does that not describe church wars? *Yes, indeed!*] ...And if you draw out your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall your light rise in darkness, and your gloom *shall be* as the noonday. And the LORD shall always guide you and satisfy your soul in dry places...” (vs 8-11)—etc., etc., etc. Then it gets down to how do you do it? *You start keeping the Sabbath the way that it should be kept!*

XI. Church at Philadelphia

Let’s come back to where everyone likes to go to and let’s see that this is the goal that all the churches need to aim at. Now we’re ready to talk about the Philadelphians. This shows us what we need to be doing and shows us that we are living in the end-times when these things are going to develop.

Revelation 3:7: “And to the angel of the Church in Philadelphia, write: These things says the Holy One, the one Who is true; the one Who has the key of David...” And *the key of David is the understanding of the Word of God because you have a right relationship with God.* Remember what happened when David sinned? God had to punish him after that.

“...Who opens and no one shuts, and Who shuts and no one opens” (v 7). God is going to make it possible to do what He wants us to do. God doesn’t want us running down the road saying, ‘Oh, this is the work of God. You’ve got to bless it because I say it’s the work of God.’ God may look down here and say, ‘Who are you? Did I send you?’ *No!*

Let’s just expand a little bit on the key of David. Let’s put it this way: *The key of David is a right heart toward God, which then gives understanding for the Word of God.* That would be the best summary I could make of it here. And as a result of that, then God opens and no man shuts and God shuts and no man opens.

Verse 8: “I know your works.... [Every one of us has works.] ...Behold, I have set before you an open door, and no one has the power to shut it because you have a little strength... [We understand who we are. We’re no big mucky-mucks, we’re just the people of God.] ...and have kept My Word... [That’s the important thing—keeping the Word of God, keeping the sayings of Jesus Christ, keeping all the things that God tells us we need to do.] ...and have not denied My name.” How do you deny the name of Christ?

Titus 1:5: “For this cause I left you in Crete, so that you might set in order the things that needed to be done, and might ordain elders in every city, as

I commanded you: If any man be blameless, *the* husband of one wife, having faithful children, not accused of debauchery or rebellion. For it is obligatory that as God's steward an overseer be blameless, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not a bully, not greedy for material gain; but hospitable, a lover of good, sound-minded, just, holy, self-controlled" (vs 5-8).

If anyone wants to be an elder or teacher, start looking at the qualifications here. And if you already are, then make sure you're living up to the standards. This is for the start, but it's also all the way through your whole life—is it not? *Yes!*

"But hospitable, a lover of good, sound-minded, just, Holy, self-controlled. Holding steadfastly to the faithful Word... [And that's what the Philadelphians do. *They keep the Word of God and they hold fast faithfully to the Word.*] ...according to the teachings of *Jesus Christ*, so that he may be able both to encourage with sound doctrine and to convict those who are gainsayers. For there are many rebellious and vain talkers and deceivers, especially those from *the* circumcision party, Whose mouths must be stopped; who are subverting whole households, teaching things which *they* ought not, for the sake of selfish gain. One from among them, *even one* of their own prophets, said, 'Cretans *are* always liars, *and* evil, wild beasts, *and* lazy gluttons'" (vs 8-12). These are really big-time Laodiceans here.

"This testimony is true. For this reason you *must* rebuke them severely, that they may be sound in the faith; not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men, which turn away from the truth. To the pure, all things *are* pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing *is* pure; rather, both their minds and consciences are defiled. They personally profess to know God, but in *their* works they deny Him... [It's not the profession, *it's how do you live.* It's not what you think, *it's how you do.*] ...they deny Him, being abominable and disobedient, and reprobate unto every good work" (vs 13-16).

What did Jesus say to all the churches? '*I know your works*'—correct? *Yes!* So it says back here to the Philadelphians, Revelation 3:8 "...and have not denied My name.... [That means not only verbally, but that means *in action*, that means *in deed*. This is very interesting—isn't it?] ...Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who proclaim themselves to be Jews... [they are the ones who have the insight to God] ...and are not, but do lie—behold, I will cause them to come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you" (vs 8-9).

That doesn't necessarily mean they're going to worship us, but they will come before our feet and worship God. Who are these people? *Says there the synagogue of Satan!* These are the super international elite today and that's their god. These are the ones who are formulating all things leading to the world government. Can you imagine this: George Soros, 'Uncle' Ben Bernanke, Rockefeller, Geithner, whoever you want to put in there, whoever is over in Europe, whoever's over in China, or whatever nation they're in—because they're in all nations—they're going to come before us and they're going to have access to God through us. Isn't that something?

We—the ones who were despised; *we*—the ones who were rejected; *we*—the little pawns of the world whom they used to lift themselves up to their high positions. Isn't that going to be something? So, don't feel oppressed by the elite. Remember this, their day is coming. Christ knows all about it. He'll take care of it. We stay right with God. You don't get mad and run off like people do and say, 'Well, we've got to get rid of these people, we have to get rid of those people, we have to get rid of the other people.' Christ has to take care of it. He will when He returns. So the answer is: We be faithful and we'll be there to do it.

Now notice what He says here, the reason this is going to happen is so *they will know*: "...**that I have loved you**" (v 9). God loves us. Remember that. You get up in the morning, your hair all in a frazzle, your eyes hardly open, and you look in the mirror and you say, 'Is that me?' The older you get the more often you say that—right? **God loves you!** Now you have to clean up and all that sort of thing, you do, but God loves you regardless. So remember that. Never ever, *ever, ever* get down and think there's no hope; get down and think that God doesn't care for you; get down and think that God has rejected you. Maybe you're going through a trial, but He hasn't rejected you. Just remember **He loves you!**

- You pray to Him and ask for a way out.
- You pray to Him and you ask God,
 - ✓ Help me!
 - ✓ Give me direction!
 - ✓ Show me what I need to do!
 - ✓ Help me to think, help me to do what I need to do!

God will! He'll answer that prayer, because He loves us.

Our response to God, v 10: "Because you have kept the Word of My patience... [always keeping the Word of God continually] ...I will also keep you from the time of temptation which *is* about

to come upon the whole world to try those who dwell on the earth.”

This is a worldwide event. And what is that going to be? *That will be the mark of the beast, not the Tribulation!* The mark of the beast comes right at the beginning of the Tribulation. But God is going to keep us from that. Exactly how He’s going to do it, we don’t know, but He’s going to.

Verse 11: “Behold, I am coming quickly; hold fast that which you have so that no one may take away your crown.” There are men out there who are not working for God, who are pretenders, who want to come and take your crown. That’s why not to get involved in church wars. Let God take care of it! Let Christ take care of it! He is the Head of the Church! ***He will do it!***

“Behold, I am coming quickly; hold fast that which you have so that no one may take away your crown. The one who overcomes... [notice this blessing; notice how great this is going to be] ...will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall not go out any more; and I will write upon him the name of My God...” (vs 11-12). Rather than the *name of the beast* and the *number of the beast*, and so forth, there’s a direct parallel here. There are three things with the *mark of the beast*:

1. you have to have *the mark*
2. you have to have *the number*
3. you have to have *the name*

Three things—right? Notice three things here, v 12: “...I will write upon him

1. **the name** of My God
2. the **name of the city** of My God, the new Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from My God, and
3. My **new name**.”

Those three things, that’s what God wants to do. So when we look about and we see all the things that are going on, ***let’s remember the message to the seven churches***. When we are looking at prophecy what is yet to be fulfilled, ***remember the seven churches***

- so that we can take all of the admonitions to change and correct and repent
- so we can take all of the encouragement so we can draw close to God so we can be faithful in everything we do.

Then at the resurrection, because a lot of us there’s going to be more time, and a lot of us are going to find our places of safety in the grave. Either way, when the resurrection comes, what do we want to hear? ***‘Well, done, good and faithful servants. Enter into the joy of your Lord.’***

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2-Chronicles 32:24-26, 31
- 2) Revelation 2:18-28
- 3) Matthew 13:43
- 4) Revelation 2:29
- 5) Revelation 3:1-6, 14-17
- 6) 1-Corinthians 4:1-9
- 7) Revelation 3:18-22
- 8) Isaiah 58:1-4, 6-11
- 9) Revelation 3:7-8
- 10) Titus 1:5-16
- 11) Revelation 3:8-12

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Daniel 12
- 1 Corinthians 3:23

Also referenced:

DVDs:

- *Israel of the Alps* (produced by The Seventh Day Adventist Church)
- *Jesuit Agenda* (produced by The Seventh Day Adventist Church)

Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For V

I want to finish up the *Fourteen Things to Happen in Prophecy* before the end. In the two sermon on *Seven Churches-Church Wars* I covered all seven churches. Let's go back and review the 14 things :

I. A Time of Peace and Safety

There's going to come a time of peace and safety. Then sudden destruction comes upon them. So on the tipping scale, we can say that's zero. And when that happens, it's only going to be three and half years of peace and safety.

II. King of the North and King of the South

On the tipping scale, the *king of the south* maybe 1; the *king of the north*: 2-3—a lot has to happen in Europe for it to develop. There are some reports that the German pope is getting together with the German nation. And now they're going to try and get their alliance again, like Rome has always had with Germany and Austria and Hungary, and so forth, to try and rescue the Catholic faith, which is virtually non-existent anymore in Europe. They're overrun with the Muslims, so that's another big problem they're going to have to solve.

III. World Trade

World trade on a tipping scale, we're about 5 or 6. I just got another report warning about what's going to happen with the dollar. Right now the big boys are trying to push down gold as far as they can, because they're worried about all of these bonds they're selling in Europe and America. So they need to drive down gold to a certain point so people will get out of gold and get into bonds. When that happens gold is going to go right back up again.

In that report, he also said that there would be a world currency. And he also mentioned the same thing that I did, that probably the international trade will be done in the world currency first, and all nations keep their regular currency for the time being. Could be, I don't know exactly how that would work. But what they're finding out is the dollar, even though they say it's weak, which it is, even though it is vulnerable, which it is, it's a whole lot stronger than they ever figured.

And the reason is because the dollar is an international currency for all trade. And the Federal Reserve has no limit on how many dollars they can print. So that's why in my latest letter I said they're going for super-hyper inflation. Be ready! It's going to come. Everything is going to go up.

IV. Mark of the Beast

And as I explained in the letter that I wrote, the *mark of the beast* will not be enforced until just before the Tribulation. Now let's review that again. Let's come back here to Revelation 13 & 14 because this becomes important to understand.

Once that is enacted, there is no way that anyone's going to buy or sell. You will be a non-person. It's like this. You may exist standing in front of me, but if you're not registered on the computer, you don't exist. The book of Revelation is hard to understand if you read the commentaries of past history. It can bring certain things out, which are true, but it doesn't look upon it as a whole worldwide, global-scaled thing, and that's the key to understanding Revelation. We'll see that mentioned again with the Church of Philadelphia as we review that just a little bit.

Revelation 13:16: "And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free and the bond, to receive a mark in their right hands, or in their foreheads." Who does *all* include?

Verse 7: "And he was given *power* to make war against the saints, and to overcome them; and he was given authority over every tribe and language and nation. And all who dwell on the earth will worship him..." (vs 7-8). When it says *all*, we have it defined here—*all who dwell on the earth*—worldwide. And never has there been a time like we have today with the capacity to do that.

Verse 17: "So that no one may have the ability to buy and sell unless he has the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name." And the Greek for *or* carries it as the equivalent *and*. So there are three parts to the *mark of the beast*, not three marks of the beast, but three parts to it.

Does God always give a warning before something takes place? *Yes!* Each angel has a message. Revelation 14:6: "And I saw another angel flying in *the* midst of heaven, having *the* everlasting gospel to proclaim *to* those who dwell on the earth..." God's going to intervene and let it be known, there is no way that people are not going to be able to say, 'Lord, you didn't tell me.' Why is He going to send out angels to do that? Because there are probably not very many men able to get up and really preach out the way they ought to because of the restrictions of the beast upon human activity. So an angel is going to do that. Now that also ties in to Matt. 24:14 that 'the Gospel will be preached as a witness in all the world.' So then this is—notice what it says.

“...having *the* everlasting Gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and language and people... [a worldwide thing] ...saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him Who made the heaven, and the earth, and *the* sea, and *the* fountains of waters’” (vs 6-7). Will people respond to that somewhere down in the Tribulation? *Yes!* We have the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude.

Now we read great innumerable multitude, Revelation 7:9—talking about the same thing; everything in Revelation is on a worldwide scale. “After these things... [the 144,000 from the children of Israel] ...I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one was able to number, out of every nation and tribe and people and language, was standing before the throne and before the Lamb...” That’s probably a result of Rev. 14:6.

A lot of these things are not in sequence. It’s like other things in the Old Testament, you have to put them together. *When* is that going to be given? *This is probably going to be given just before the mark of the beast is enforced.*

Revelation 14:8: “Then another angel followed, saying, ‘The great city Babylon is fallen, is fallen... [The great city Babylon expands into the whole world, because the whole world is a Babylonian system, and all the cities of the world look the same. They’re all Babylonian.] ...because of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, *which* she has given all nations to drink.’” So then that ties in with Rev. 17 and the whore that’s riding the beast—right? *Yes!*

Notice the third angel, what he says; this would have to be immediately before the *mark of the beast* is enforced, v 9: “And a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *the* mark in his forehead or in his hand, He shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed undiluted in the cup and His wrath; and he shall be tormented in fire and brimstone in the sight of the Holy angels, and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment... [Because they’ll be burned up.] ...the smoke of their torment ascends into the ages of eternity... [And it’s true. Once you get something up in space, it’s there forever. It’s like some of these satellites we send out, they’re still going off in space. They’re out doing the energizer bunny.] ...and all who receive the mark of his name, have no rest day and night’” (vs 9-11).

So there’s going to be a tremendous penalty that comes from receiving the *mark of the beast*. This has to be given *before* the *mark of the beast* is enforced. God’s not going to do it afterwards. Too late—right? When is the *mark of the beast* enforced? Speaking of the beast, Revelation 13:5: “And a

mouth speaking great things and blasphemies was given to him; and authority was given to him to continue *for* forty-two months.” That’s three and a half years *by months*. Twelve hundred and sixty days of the two witnesses is three and a half years *in days*. It ends at a different point and begins at a different point than this forty-two months. If you want to know about that, then go online and download our Daniel/Revelation series and the charts and if not, write in and ask for it and we’ll send it to you.

So the third angel’s message and the second angel’s message and the first angel’s message have to be given *before* the 42 months begins. Otherwise it would be a warning in vain.

V. Rise of the Kings of the North and East

I’m going to give a sermon on that here pretty quickly. It’s very interesting that the Chinese have had a lot of dealings with Afghanistan over the years and that’s the reason that we are there for all of the minerals, the rare earth. How many noticed on the news even last night it said China is cutting back by one-third all rare earth minerals. Did you see that on the news? They’re cutting back the export by one-third.

So if you’ve got a Toyota Prius, look out. For you to repair it and for you to keep the battery going, for you to keep the generator motors going, and everything, it’s going to cost you ‘an arm and a leg’ and whatever you have saved by driving a hybrid car is going to be lost in the maintenance you’re going to pay for it. You’re going to go in the hole, big time! But China’s doing that to control. I believe that that is being done to give them leverage to have the permission of the other nations to come in to Afghanistan and to do the mining. They already have the biggest mine already locked up, the big copper mine. They already have that. Now they can’t start extracting all the minerals out of there by making a big pit, because there’s a huge Buddhist temple which much be preserved first.

They’re going to run railroads, oil lines, gas lines, and they’ve already concluded with Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and India a huge natural gas pipeline that comes down through Afghanistan, down to Pakistan, and down to India.

So, *kings of the north and the east* on a tipping scale—where are we? *I’d say about 4 or 5!* We can be guaranteed that 2012, the end is not going to be here. A lot of people are hung up on the Mayan calendar. And as one man told Guilibaldo Elizondo, ‘Well, the Mayans quit counting in 2012.’ And he said, ‘Well, Jesus hasn’t.’ ***No man knows the day or the hour!***

Now we know the times and the seasons based upon what the framework of the Holy Days

tell us. But even then that gives us an outline, it doesn't tell us the exact day. The reason no one knows the exact day is because the sun and the moon and the earth and all the things that happen to it is going to shake its orbit 'katty-wampus' and you're not going to know when the sun is rising, when the sun is setting. Remember it says a third of sun will not shine, a third of the moon will not shine. How do you know when the day begins and ends? *You don't!* So God has to determine it. *No man can!*

So kings of the north and the east, let's give it a 4 or 5 on the tipping scale.

VI. The Fall of Israel

The ten tribes of Israel, also including the Jews; the Jews will be handled separately because of Jerusalem. On a tipping scale we give that a 6 or 7, because the United Kingdom's going down before us. You know how much gas is in the United Kingdom right now? *Nearly equivalent of \$8.00 a gallon, U.S.* It's going to happen to us. We're not coming out of this recession because there are just too many things going on, the downside. When we come down, and when the dollar finally is demised, then we will be oppressed.

Now it doesn't tell us how long we're going to be oppressed. And in a lot of these things, when it states something without a timeframe, we don't know how long it will be. If you go back and read in the book of Judges you find that the Midianites oppressed the children of Israel for 18 years. But we don't know if we could transfer that over into helping understand how long we're going to be down. But when the dollar goes down, and they finally switch to a world currency, things are going to be absolutely different. Now I want you to think upon this: *'The stranger in your midst will rise high above you.'* Did you know that de facto in Arizona, the United States government has already ceded part of that state to Mexico? *De facto!* That means *it's not official.*

Going into this national park it says, 'Warning, Do not go beyond here because of drug trafficking and drug gangs.' What does that tell you? They've just given free rein to the drug gangs down there to control the territory, so they do. They have bands of scouts that look for all of the border patrol people, any sheriffs that come in there, and so forth.

Someone will say, 'Well, we really haven't done it.' Well, what have you done? Why? *Because, the population of America is becoming so absolutely sinful in God's eyes that His judgment has to come.* It's not a matter of getting good people to do better, like Glenn Beck says. And by the way, Glenn Beck I said was a 'watchman on the wall' for financial things, but I also said *beware of his religious things.*

And sure enough, he's coming out now as a Universalist New-Ager in his latest book. I suspect, just like everything that the establishment does, when there is someone who gets too powerful and too popular, they send someone to control him. I think that man is Keith Ablow the psychologist that helped write his new book—*The 7*. Now they've got Glenn Beck controlled. So here what we have is a classic thing, you expose one conspiracy to bring in another.

Deuteronomy 28:43: "And the stranger dwelling among you shall get up above you very high, and you shall come down very low." What does *very high* mean, what does *very low* mean? *There are degrees in between—correct? Yes!*

Have you ever walked into a department store and you haven't heard English? You ever tried calling a federal government agency and have such an accent that you tell them that you can't understand them, please get me someone who can speak English?

Verse 44: "He shall loan to you, and you shall not loan to him... [That's where we are right now.] ...He shall be the head, and you shall be the tail."

This is a process that happens and so we don't know how far along it really is because we don't know the severity of what it means. 'You shall be brought very low and he shall be brought very high.' We do understand about the lending, because we've seen it—right? *Yes!*

So, number six, the fall of Israel on a scale of ten, let's put that at 6 and 7.

VII. The Rise of the False Prophet

We'll put that at about 4, because that whole Babylonian system has to rise including all religions. What is going to be the tipping point to make it all happen and even bring the Muslims in for that short period of time? Let's show you what it will be. You get a message from Satan saying, 'Everybody come together.' Let's look at the second beast of Rev. 13.

Revelation 13:11: "And I saw another beast rising out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, but spoke like a dragon; and he exercises all the authority of the first beast before him... [over the whole earth] ...and he causes the earth and those who dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he performs great wonders, so that he even causes fire to come down to the earth from heaven in the sight of men" (vs 11-13). That will do it, the signs and the wonders and the miracles.

Of course, on the other hand, you're going to have the two witnesses in Jerusalem—right? So the

false prophet, on a tipping scale let's put it 4 to 5 because there's an awful lot that has to happen before it takes place. Maybe 3-1/2 to 4 might even be better. Because when he comes on the scene it's going to be all of a sudden! So it's going to be like I said with a tipping scale on a teeter-totter, it's going to be like if you're teeter-tottering with someone, going back and forth, and then all of a sudden when he's down and you're up high, he slips off the end—bang and you come crashing to the ground. That's how the tipping scale is going to be with that one there.

VIII. The Temple

Showed how there has to be a temple to be built.

IX. The Two Witnesses and Elijah

X. Laodiceans

XI. Philadelphians

Now let's come to the last three that we haven't covered. So when you get the *Seven Churches—Church Wars*, that covers all the churches and I end up with Laodicea and Philadelphia. Now remember, the seven churches of Rev. 2 & 3 are a prophetic projection of the Churches of God through history as God views them. That's what's important to understand.

So it began with the seven literal churches there when John wrote his letters. And actually they were letters from Christ, because Christ said, 'Write and send to each of the churches.' Then we can see down through time it gives an outline of the Churches of God and their history. Then at the end I think that as God looks at His churches, all seven are there again in attitude, and so forth. So this is why we're having the scattering of the Church right now.

XII. Hating of Christians

Let's come back to Matthew 24, and let's look at what is building right now, and let's see if we can put this on a scale that will make sense. The next thing to happen is the hating of Christians. We see that more and more—don't we? *Yes!* Let's view Matthew 24 from this point of view: That all of these things in the end-time have to be, plus the fulfilling of the other prophecies. Because if He mentions Daniel, which He does, then you have to consider all the prophecies in Daniel that have to do with the end-time—correct? And if He mentions Daniel, then you've got to consider all the prophecies in Revelation, because they tie together. Daniel is the first half and Revelation is the second half. So you have to put them together. So when He says, 'When you see *all these things* know that it is near.' So there's a lot that has to be.

Matthew 24:8: "Now all these *things are* the beginning of sorrows.... [We don't know how long the time of sorrows is going to be, but it has to be before the tribulation, leading up to it.] ...Then shall they deliver you up to affliction... [Now this happened back then. It's happened down through time, so this is cyclical, as well as end-time.] ...and shall kill you; and you shall be hated by all nations for My name's sake" (vs 8-9). That's interesting—isn't it? *All nations!* This also ties it in to make it a worldwide event, because never in the history of the world has it been possible to have true believers in all nations who are living at a time when they can all be subject to being killed. Even though the event is cyclical and this happened in the past.

Let's come here to John 15; let's see what Jesus told the apostles concerning being hated. You're going to be hated. And we have it in a small manner—don't we? When some of your relatives find out that you keep Sabbath instead of Sunday. Oh, then you find out their true emotions—don't you? When they find out you don't keep Christmas, whoopee! Then it really comes unglued. 'Oh, you don't love me.'

John 15:17: "These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you.... [In other words, don't worry about it. That's what separates you from the world.] ...If you were of the world, the world would love its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have personally chosen you out of the world, the world hates you for this" (vs 17-19).

'Who are you to say all these other people are wrong?' Well, I'll give you an instructive lesson to find out. Read the whole book of Jeremiah. He was the only one.

- Did they have a lot of false prophets? *Yes!*
- Did they have false teachers? *Yes!*
- Had they corrupted everything that there was? *Yes!*
- Did Jeremiah warn them? *Yes, for over thirty years!*
- Did they believe him? *No!*

So, we'll experience the same thing.

"Remember the word that I spoke to you: a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also. If they kept My word, they will keep your *word* also. But they will do all these things to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him Who sent Me" (vs 20-21). Isn't that interesting? We'll talk about that. This year I'm going to cover a lot concerning the Passover and the New Covenant, and so forth. So we'll cover that when we get to it.

Verse 22: “If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now they have nothing to cover their sin. The one who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no other man has done, they would not have had sin; but now they have both seen and hated both Me and My Father” (vs 22-24). So, that’s going to happen on a worldwide scale, especially when the one-world religion comes in and we say, ‘Uh-huh! No, no!’

Verse 25: “But this has happened so that the saying might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’”

Then He says down here in John 16:1: “I have spoken these things to you so that you will not be offended... [when the time comes] ...They shall cast you out of the synagogues... [Today it’s whatever religious assembly it would be.] ...furthermore, the time is coming that everyone who kills you will think that he is rendering service to God.... [Why would they do this to good people?] ...And they shall do these things to you because they do not know the Father, nor Me.” (vs 1-3). So hating Christians—well, look what’s happening to even those who call upon the name of Christ. ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from unrighteousness.’

There are a lot of people who name the name of Christ? *Yes, indeed!* Are they despised? *Yes, indeed!* Go to a Muslim country. Try and talk about even a Protestant Jesus to a Muslim. You may be arrested or killed or beheaded. Look what the Muslims are doing to the Orthodox Christians or worldly Christians in Nigeria and Darfur and Somalia, in the old area of Yugoslavia, Serbia and Kosovo, and so forth. They’re going to hate you and kill you.

XIII. Preaching Gospel to the Whole World

- Angel is going to do it
- Two witnesses are going to do it
- The Churches of God are going to do it

So how long would that be? What will be the degree of it? I remember a time when they were producing 8-million *Plain Truth*’s a month. Remember that? And what happened?

They said, ‘We have witnessed to the world.’ Now, here we are 43 years later and the world is still going on. And what has happened since that time, the ability to preach the Gospel, the cost of it, has gone down dramatically. To be able to print things and distribute them has gone down dramatically. Now we can do it digitally. So how thorough does it have to be? *I don’t know!* What constitutes a witness? Having a Bible in your house? *That’s one form of witness!* If you don’t read it, it’s

your fault, not God’s fault. You’ve got it there. We’ll have to wait and see how that would be. But if we put it on a scale here, if we consider the publishing of the Bible as we covered, if we consider preaching of the Word—and I need to mention here something that’s important to cover:

Evangelicals are having great success in foreign lands. A lot of people think, ‘Oh, well, they’re preaching the Gospel.’ *No, they are not!* They’re preaching another Jesus, but what are they doing? *They’re preparing the way for when the false prophet comes with the one-world religion—* ‘we’re all together.’ They are not preaching the Gospel. Just because they call themselves ‘Christian’ does not mean they are preaching the Gospel.

So on a scale of what does it mean to preach the Gospel to the world for a witness as Jesus said—let’s give it a 3 or 4. We don’t know. But one thing about the Internet and one thing about doing it that way, whatever you have on the Internet is there 24/7. And then you look at all of those who have many of the correct doctrines and there is a lot going on in preaching the Gospel. You look at the result of the scattering of the Churches of God and what do you have? *It went from 150 organizations to 1500 organizations.* Now how they relate to God and how faithful they stay to God is up to them. So we’ll see what happens with that.

XIV. No Truth, No Faith

Now, that doesn’t mean total absence of Truth, it means that it will be so miniscule that it will be hard to find. This may sound like its contradictory of the one before, but then how do you explain it, because Jesus said this:

Luke 18:8: “I tell you that He will execute vengeance for them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, shall He find the *true* faith on the earth?” It’s going to be rare; going to be few.

- This would have to be a time when they don’t allow the Truth to be preached any longer.
- This will be a time when it will be difficult to find the true doctrines and teachings (Luke 18:8).
- This will be a time when it will be hard to find those who believe in the true Christ, with the true Gospel.

That also lays a lot of responsibility on all of us who do teach and preach. But Jesus spoke this. So on a scale of ten, where are we on this? Let’s give this about a 7 or 8. Hard to find the Truth unless you go on the Internet, then when you get there, you’ve got to filter it down to who has the greater degree of Truth. Then you have to filter it down to who believes it and lives it.

So all of those things create quite a set of circumstances as to how we know when the end is coming. So those are the fourteen things in prophecy that have to be done or be completed before the end comes. So as you can see with that, it's very evident there's quite a few more years down the road, so don't say that the Lord is delaying His coming, and say, 'Oh, well, God isn't doing what He said.' That's not the case. *He's doing exactly what He said.* Remember this:

- God is never late!
- God is never early!
- ***He's always on time!***

So you take these things and use them as a guide to help you to understand what you need to do with your life. Realize there's a lot more time than we had figured.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Revelation 13:16, 7-8, 17
- 2) Revelation 14:6-7
- 3) Revelation 7:9
- 4) Revelation 14:8-11
- 5) Revelation 13:5
- 6) Deuteronomy 28:43-44
- 7) Revelation 13:11-13
- 8) Matthew 24:8-9
- 9) John 15:17-25
- 10) John 16:1-3
- 11) Luke 18:8

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 24:14
- Revelation 2-3

Also referenced: Sermon Series:

- *Daniel/Revelation*
- *Fourteen Things in Prophecy to Watch For*
- *Seven Churches—Church Wars I & II*

14 Things to Watch in Prophecy VI Control of the World

Control of the World

Here's an interesting report sent to me from *The New Scientist*:

Revealed, the Capitalist Network That Runs the World

(newscientist.com/article/mg21228354.500-revealed—the-capitalist-network-that-runs-the-world.html#.UshUHMKA2M8)

I've talked about the super-elite, the power brokers of the world. After running an analysis of all the corporations in the world and their inner-locking boards of directors and banks' holders of stocks and bonds, it has been reduced to 147 companies, less than one per nation in the world. He lists all 50 of them. I'm not going to read all 50, but it's quite a thing. These are the ones who control everything that is going on in the world.

When I said that Target Store is losing the 40-million, and they found out later that they didn't have the security code, was not an accident. What they are trying to do is prepare the world for what they are going to bring. The way you prepare the world for what you're going to bring without telling them what you're going to do, you soften them up. You get all indignant, because 'how dare they let my identity be taken!' Then they will demand a full-proof system. As we saw, they're working on a full-proof system, called *the mark of the beast*.

Just a little bit about China. Let's go to Luke 4, because we know that Satan is the 'god of this world.' How did he become the 'god of this world'? That was the test of Adam and Eve: Would they follow God or not? When they decided to choose for themselves what is right and what is wrong, they put themselves under the authority of Satan the devil. God did not entirely cut them off from Him, but now they were expelled from the Garden of Eden. They could come to the east gate where God would meet them.

It's very interesting. That is a foretaste or a fore-example of what the temple and tabernacle is. When people worship God at the temple, they face west, because God comes from the east, the east gate, and fills the temple. When men worship east and worship the sun, *they are turning their backs on God!* The first thing that Jesus had to do after His baptism was to be tempted by Satan the devil,

Luke 4:3: "Then the devil said to Him, 'If You are *the* Son of God, command that this stone become bread.'" The reason that he wanted to do

this was because if he could get Jesus to go against the command of God, then he would have caused Jesus to sin.

Remember, *no man*—not even Satan the devil—*can change the Word and will of God!* That becomes very important. Jesus quoted the Scripture; He didn't rely on His own thoughts, v 4: "But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God."'"

What's the first thing you hear from the pulpit in the Protestant denominations? *The law is done away!* That's not from God. You can apply that to all the religions of the world: Protestantism, Catholicism, Buddhism, Hinduism, whatever 'ism' you want, especially Muslim.

Verse 5: "Then the devil led Him up into a high mountain *and* showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'I will give You all this authority, and the glory of them *all*; for it has been delivered to me, and **I give it to whomever I desire.**'" (vs 5-6).

There's one requirement to be in this top rung of the super-elite of the world, v 7: "Therefore, if You will worship me in *my* presence, all things shall be Yours." There are people who worship Satan the devil and *know* that they do. In exchange for that, they receive wealth, privilege and rulership, all of those things that Satan controlled.

When this talks about the 147 companies that control everything, there is nothing done that they don't control. That's why they don't like the American system, because they can't control the American people the way that they can in other countries. God can use that to forestall their plans. I hope with the coming election that's what happens, so they will change their tactics.

One of the things they wanted to do a couple years ago was to establish the 'global warming congress,' so they all met in Denmark in December. They should have gone there in the summer. Even Obama was going to go, but what happened? God had a little surprise for them—3 feet of snow. How are you going to declare global warming with 3 feet of snow? So, they've had to change their plans.

Whenever God allows Satan to do something, he must get permission from God, just like he did in bringing upon Job his trial. So likewise, they have to change their plans. But they are always in control.

I want you to think on this for just a minute. What is a bank that is called the World Central Bank? Do you know what it is? *The central bank of the central banks of the world!* There are 58 central banks, and that bank is called The Bank of International Settlements. All major trades and money going here and there in the world, and it's trillions every day, finally comes through the Bank of International Settlements.

All western world central banks are extensions of the Rothschild's, including Russian and also China. Who was the Secretary of State that had secret negotiations with the communist Chinese before President Nixon went over there? *Henry Kissinger!* He belongs to that elite. The central bank in China is an extension of the Rothschild's banking control.

I was thinking this the other day because there are a lot of problems coming up with China, they are printing money like crazy. They have debt, in some cases, 250% of GDP. Think on this for a minute: All the gold that the Chinese are buying and putting into kilogram bars, instead of ounce bars or pound bars, are sent to Switzerland, melted down, and sent on to the new vaults that they are building in China.

Who owns, literally, and controls all that gold? *The Rothschild's and the Bank of International Settlements!* It's under no nation, though it's in Switzerland. No one can audit it; no one can know what it does, just like all the central banks. Not very many people know that American banks, through the Federal Reserve, loaned Europe \$16-trillion to bail them out.

- Is it time to take down America?
- or
- Is it time to let there be a short revival in America?

It depends what these 147 elite want to do. That depends on what God wants and what Satan is allowed to do.

In order to bring about a world currency, which they must do first, all currencies have to fail at the same time. Are they ready to do that, yet? Let's take it one step further. Has Satan gotten permission from God to do it, yet? *I think the answer is no!*

What they are doing now, few people realize it, but Japan, England, United States, and China are all printing money as fast as the presses can run. That's necessary to bring down all the rest of the banking system when they want to.

I want you to hearken back to one thing, if you could, please. What happened in 2008? Just

before the election to insure who would be elected—Barak Hussein Obama—there was a sale of bonds that dropped the market in hours 500 points and sent all the banks into disarray. That was a test! We recovered from it and because of that one thing: Obama was elected. Nobody asked: Who started the selling? *Never answered! because of the 147!*

They got bailed out, the Federal Reserve started printing money, and we're still printing money, still buying the U.S. bonds—it's called now QE4—as well as Japan and England and China. So, they know that in order to collapse the entire system worldwide:

1. They've got to have a plan to rescue it, which then will be the world currency; it'll be paper, coin and digital at first
2. It has to be so that it's going to affect everyone in the world

Living in the society that we live in, people are going to demand immediate relief. So, we just need to keep up on these things and see how they are going.

Let me read a quote from Albert Einstein: 'A foolish faith in authority is the worst enemy of the truth.' ***Unless that authority is God and it was wise!*** You can take that and you can apply it to many things, even the Church of God.

In Germany they have a little program in their credit cards, in the chip, that each transaction is separated from past and future transactions. We don't know what will happen in the way they are going to bring this out.

Now let's continue on with the 14 things to happen in prophecy before the end comes. As we look at these, we see them building up, but what is going to be the maximum of it? *We don't know!* How long will it take? *We don't know!* Some of the projects that they have online to do, such as the one I discussed last week with the canal through Nicaragua by the Chinese, they plan about 8 years to build it.

Once that is done, that gives deep-sea access straight to America. There will be no restriction or no inspection by Americans of what they do or what they bring in. We don't know exactly how long that is going to be.

XI. Hating Christians and Martyrdom

We see that happening more and more and more, which then will be not only hating Christians but martyring Christians. I think we see a little bit of this with the *Duck Dynasty* controversy going on.

Isn't it interesting, who is pushing to get rid of the statements that Phil Robertson made? *One of the 147 great corporations of the world!* 'We cannot allow that speech. We must be tolerant, but we won't tolerate that.' In the name of tolerance, they become intolerant. That's called double-speak. That's the way Satan works.

There are people who even threatened to kill him. There are more and more groups that want to kill Christians. Look at what's happening in the Sudan and in Egypt right now—killing Christians.

Matthew 24:8: "Now, all these *things*... [that happened in v 7] ...*are* the beginning of sorrows." As we go through this, let's understand something important. How long is the time of sorrows? *We're not told!*

Verse 9: "Then shall they deliver you up to affliction, and shall kill you; and you shall be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then shall many be led into sin, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another" (vs 9-10).

That's how all totalitarian governments work. Let's see how Jesus also prophesied of this a little later. Of those who are hated, as we found out in part 5 this series in Rev. 17 that there are two classes of martyrs:

1. the saints of God
2. the martyrs of Jesus

This becomes important for us to understand. Let's call to remembrance what the Apostle Paul said, that the Gentiles who do not have the law, if they keep the things in the law, are a work of the law unto themselves. In Rev. 17 we find an application of it. There are people who will be following a lot of the precepts of Jesus Christ, howbeit even called Christian in the world, but will not be Christian, because the saints are a distinct category.

Revelation 17:6: "And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints..." The saints are those who have the Spirit of God. Saints means *the ones who are Holy* and we are Holy brethren.

"...and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus..." (v 6). Who are these people in the second category? They are going to be martyred, but that doesn't mean that they are going to attain to eternal life, because they have been martyred. They will qualify for the second resurrection. Let's see this category of people and there are a good number of them in the world. You can divide the Protestants into two groups:

1. those who are *for* Jesus
2. those who are actually *against* Jesus

Let's look at what Jesus says concerning the ones who are *for* Jesus.

Mark 9:38: "Then John answered Him, saying, 'Master, we saw someone who does not follow us... [the apostles were *chosen* by Christ] ...casting out demons in Your name, and we forbid him because he does not follow us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not forbid him; for no one who does a work of power in My name can easily speak evil of Me. And the one who is not against you is for you'" (vs 38-40). There are those in the world in that category; those are the ones who will be the martyrs for Jesus.

Let's see those who are *against* Jesus, who claim to be doing things in His name as well, Matthew 12:30: "The one who is not with Me is against Me... [those who are *for* Jesus, but are not the called-saints, have to be the ones who are the martyrs of Jesus (Rev. 17)] ...and the one who does not gather with Me scatters."

Let's see some other things where Jesus warned us, where we will be hated. People don't like to be told the pure Word of God. They may be *for* Jesus, but they don't belong to Him because of this:

John 15:16: "You yourselves did not choose Me, but I have personally chosen you..." A saint is defined this way in Rev. 19: *called, chosen and faithful!* That's a saint.

- *called*—you have to answer the calling of God
When you answer the calling of God:

- you are *chosen*
When you are chosen:

- you come to *repentance* and are *baptized*
After that you have to be:

- *faithful*

Those are the ones who are the saints!

"...I have personally chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go *forth* and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain; so that whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He may give you" (v 16).

- How is that last statement qualified?
- Is it the will of God?

Verse 17: "These things I command you, that you love one another. If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you" (vs 17-18). We're seeing that. Look at how the Muslims treat Christians. Look at how the atheists treat Christians. This will build, especially when we preach the Gospel *in truth* and in power, it's going to magnify many, many times over. Why?

Verse 19: "If you were of the world, the world would love its own..." I don't know how

many saw Rick Warren who was asked, ‘How do you explain Christmas?’ In the first place, *you can’t build the Truth on sand*. There is no foundation; **Christ is not there!** So, he explained it and made it sound very plausible. If someone at that interview would have stood up, and said, ‘You are absolutely wrong, Jesus was never born December 25th’—if you were in the audience—they would shout you down, but that would be the Truth.

What we believe that is contrary to the world is why we are not of the world. We’re not of the world because of what we do. We are not of the world because we have the Holy Spirit of God the Father. **We belong to Him!** We are under the jurisdiction—not in it yet—of:

- the Kingdom of God
- the laws and commandments of God
- the Truth of God
- the Word of God

While we have to be in compliance with the laws of the land, where they are not contrary to the laws of God, **we don’t submit to the world as being part of it!** So that’s why we are not of the world.

“...However, because you are not of the world, but I have personally chosen you out of the world, the world hates you for this” (v 19). Try this on for size: There is no salvation in the Roman Catholic Church; the pope is not the representative of God; your religion is vain. Try that in St. Peter’s Basilica Square.

Verse 20: “Remember the word that I spoke to you: a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you also, if they kept My word, they will keep your *word* also.” Your word is what I’m [Jesus] going to tell you to say.

Verse 21: “But they will do all these things to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him Who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now they have nothing to cover their sin. The one who hates Me hates My Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no other man has done, they would not have had sin; but now they have both seen and hated both Me and My Father. But this has happened so that the saying might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause’” (vs 21-25).

What is going to sustain us in the time of difficulty and trouble? *It will come!* Unless you know and have proved the Word of God to be true, everything about what you believe and practice to be true, not because someone said to do it, but because it was the Word of God, and you do it because it is

the Word of God. You have the Holy Spirit. That will strengthen you. When you are brought before councils to give an answer, what will happen? *The Spirit of the Father will give you in that hour and time exactly what you need to say!* We can say, *provided that you have been faithful and know and have studied the Word of God.*

Verse 26: “But when the Comforter has come, which I will send to you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of the Truth, which proceeds from the Father, that one shall bear witness of Me. Then you also shall bear witness because you have been with Me from *the beginning*” (vs 26-27).

It’s exactly this way. When God created Adam and Eve, He put in them all the process genes and chromosomes and variations for all the coming human race, the beginning of it. Because of procreation, God is the One Who gives life, God is the One Who is creating, though it is born of the mother. Down through every generation, God is the One Who is doing this.

Likewise with the Word of God; we have the Word of God. We are to know the Word of God. If God has said it, and we say what God has said, then we are speaking *for God* on His behalf His Word to them and that is as good as God telling them. Do you understand that?

John 16:1: “I have spoken these things to you so that you will not be offended. They shall cast you out of the synagogues...” (vs 1-2). They did that back then.

If you read about Chrysostom in the last part of the 4th century, 390s_{A.D.}—his hatred toward true Christians—he was giving sermons against those who kept the Passover, kept the Holy Days, kept the Sabbath, railing against them, and told them that if you go where they had their meetings—the Christians had meetings, he said—‘They’re going to the Jewish synagogues.’ No, he called them synagogues. That’s what has brought about concerning how they will persecute us. They were cast out of the churches because they wouldn’t keep Sunday.

“...furthermore, the time is coming that everyone who kills you will think that he is rendering service to God” (v 2). This was the whole basis of the Inquisitions—correct? *Yes, indeed!* They killed millions. Read the account of the Waldensians:

- they refused to believe the trinity
- they refused to submit to the authority of the pope
- they refused to keep Sunday
- they refused to keep the Eucharist

They slaughtered them, many other groups like that, all in the name of Christ, same way with the Crusades.

Verse 4: “But I have told you these things so that when the time comes, you may remember that I said *them* to you. However, I did not say these things to you at *the* beginning because I was with you.” *That time is going to come!*

(go to the next track)

When we were baptized, we pledged our lives unto death to God in exchange for loving God, obeying Him and overcoming, so that we can receive eternal life. When the time comes, God will give us that kind of attitude that we need that there is nothing that they can do to us to take away eternal life. If Christ died for us, and we died to Him in the watery grave of baptism, and if we are martyred, then that is a guarantee.

XII. Preaching the Gospel to the World

We know, what did Jesus say about the Gospel? It would be preached in ‘all the world to all nations, then shall the end come.’ Here in the book of Revelation, let’s see that when it gets down to the time that the Church can no longer preach the Gospel directly, that something else is going to happen.

First of all, let’s come to Rev. 14 and this takes place before the two witnesses. We know the two witnesses will be preaching the Gospel. The two witnesses will preach the Gospel, the Church will preach the Gospel until the time that they are shut down. Then what is going to happen?

Revelation 14:6: “And I saw another angel flying in *the* midst of heaven, having *the* everlasting Gospel to proclaim *to* those who dwell on the earth... [God is going to give warning] ...and *to* every nation and tribe and language and people.” This is going to be a blanket event really when you understand it.

Look at it now from this point of view of what’s happening now with the number of Bibles, those who are preaching about Christ—whether in truth or whether in contention—and of course, every Church of God needs to be doing their part to preach the Gospel to the world as well as feeding the flock. When none of those things are operative, and this is probably before the two witnesses come on the scene.

Here’s the basic message, v 7: “Saying with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give glory to Him, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him Who made the heaven, and the earth, and *the* sea, and *the* fountains of waters.’” Instead of

the beast who says he is God! So, there are going to be some big dramatic things take place.

Verse 8: “Then another angel followed, saying...” This is when Babylon the Great reaches its highest point in controlling the whole world, getting rid of those who preach about Christ. Some are taken to a place of safety, as we have already covered.

“...‘The great city Babylon is fallen, is fallen... [ready to come] ...because of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, *which* she has given all nations to drink.’” That ties right in with Rev. 17 & 18.

Think about this for a minute: When do you give warning of something that is going to happen? After it happens or before it happens? *You have to give warning before it happens!* It’s like driving your car down the road and all of a sudden something happens and then your wife or your husband says to you, ‘I meant to tell don’t do that.’ Thank you.

Verse 9: “And a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast... [who is proclaimed *God on earth*] ...and his image...’”—which is idolatry and a source of *martyrdom*, for those who will not worship the image of the beast, they would be killed. This has to happen before the fact. What we are seeing is the three angels’ messages are *before* the beginning of the Tribulation. Otherwise they would be of no affect. They are *before* the enforcement of *the mark of the beast*. At first it will be voluntary.

“...and receives *the* mark in his forehead or in his hand, he shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed undiluted in the cup of His wrath; and he shall be tormented in fire and brimstone in the sight of the Holy angels, and of the Lamb” (vs 9-10). How all of that works out, the only way we are going to know is to be there.

Here’s one that they used to say the human being can be tormented forever, but that’s not what it really says. You have to read it carefully:

Verse 11: “And the smoke of their torment ascends into the ages of eternity...” It doesn’t say they are tormented into the ages of eternity. The smoke ascends. What happens? *They are killed!* Wherever there is fire, wherever there is death—however you want to put it, especially with tormented with fire—they die. The smoke rises. Where does the smoke go to? *It goes into the atmosphere!*

They just discovered in recent years that what covers the atmosphere of the earth is kind of like a shield, in addition to the magnetic shield. They

didn't understand what was happening until they saw where the satellite was taking pictures of when lightning comes down on the earth. They never knew that lightning also went up through that covering of the earth way beyond the atmosphere. As the lightning is coming down, it is going up at the same time.

After that event happened, they saw that this cover over the earth kind of opened up like a little door and radiation from the earth, bad radiation escaped and went out into space. Once it goes into space, it goes on and on. It is the smoke, which are actually little particles, that goes out into the universe. Of course, all of that will be dissolved when God makes the new heavens and the new earth.

"...and those who worship the beast and his image, and all who receive the mark of his name, have no rest day and night.' Here is *the* patience of the saints... [during all this difficulty that we just covered with the three angels] ...here *are* the ones who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus" (vs 11-12). This tells us something else, as well. In order to keep the commandments of God, it takes *faith*. It takes no faith to not keep the commandments of God.

Verse 13: "And I heard a voice from heaven say to me, 'Write: Blessed *are* the dead who die in *the* Lord from this time forward. Yes, says the Spirit, so that they may rest from their labors; and their works follow them.'"

If this were at the end of the Tribulation, this verse could not be true. But if this is at the beginning, just before the Tribulation, then this verse becomes true. This shows that these whole sections of verses applying to the three angels, and they will be preaching the Gospel, they will be warning the world when the Church cannot do it. They could do it to a certain extent, but there comes a time when it takes something greater.

Right after they start, then I believe that's when the two witnesses begin. How long the three angels continue their messages we are not told. We are not told if this is an introduction to what the two witnesses will do. Could very well likely be, but we don't know. Even at the last minute, those who are of the Church are going to have to continue preaching the Gospel wherever they are.

When will the famine of the Word come? *I think that will come when the churches can no longer preach as they do now!* This is how God is going to take care of that. Obviously the two witnesses' mission in preaching is going to be preaching the coming of Christ, the power of God, but it is not going to be like the Church preaches to

repent and be baptized. This is going to be, 'You better pay attention because this plague is coming on you because you reject God.' The message will be essentially the same, but a totally different emphasis at that time.

Sidebar on Rev. 10: There are the seven thunders. John was told not to write the seven thunders. No one knows what they are. One way to tell a false prophet, if he tells you he knows what the seven thunders are, you can know that he is a false prophet because no one knows.

Revelation 10:8: "Then the voice that I heard from heaven spoke to me again, and said, 'Go, take the little book that is open in the hand of *the* angel who is standing on the sea and on the earth.' And I went to the angel, *and* said to him, 'Give me the little book.' And he said to me, 'Take *it* and eat it, and it shall make your belly bitter, but in your mouth it shall be sweet as honey.' Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it; and it was sweet as honey in my mouth; but after I ate it, my belly was bitter. And he said to me, 'You must again prophesy against many people, and nations, and languages and kings'" (vs 8-11).

I don't know exactly how this is going to be done. Could it be that some of those who are in a place of safety must go and preach the Gospel? *Could be*, because this is just down into the Tribulation, getting close to the end of it. There are going to be different ones going out and preaching the Gospel, and so forth. That will be done. We find the Gospel to be preached is from

- the Church
- the two witnesses
- the three angels
- again the Church, probably with those who are in a place of safety

XIII. The Churches of God

We've got a lot of material on the Churches of God. Let's take an overview of the layout from Rev. 1, which is related to the death of Christ and His resurrection, that is the Passover and Unleavened Bread.

Rev. 2 & 3 are the letters of Christ to the seven churches. What takes place beginning right during the Feast of Unleavened Bread? *The counting toward Pentecost!* How many weeks are there? *Seven weeks!* This is symbolic of the seven weeks leading up to Pentecost.

Revelation 4:1: "After these things... [after the seven churches] ...I looked, and behold, a door opened in heaven; and the first voice that I heard *was* as if a trumpet were speaking with me, saying,

‘Come up here, and I will show you *the* things that must take place after these things.’” What did he do when he got up there? *He saw the throne of God, four living creatures, twenty-four elders!* This is symbolic of the resurrection, or Pentecost, the 50th day.

Let’s see the same kind of language that we have in Rev. 4; this is when the two witnesses come back to life: Revelation 11:11: “Then after the three and a half days, the spirit of life from God entered into them and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. And they heard a great voice from heaven, say, ‘Come up here!’....” (vs 11-12). Exactly the same wording as we have in Rev. 4. What are the two witnesses, but the first resurrected from the dead, the last to be martyred. We have a type of Pentecost.

Let’s look at the seven churches. I’m not going to belabor and beat upon the Laodiceans. If we don’t know we’re Laodiceans and are repenting, then we are missing the point. Never has the Church of God lived in a time when it has available to it and the people in general everything they need, where you could say, ‘I have everything I need.’

But let’s look at the warning, because the seven churches are direct prophetic references to the history of the Church down through time. Think of this for a minute.

- Does the Bible give us the history of Israel down through time to the return of Christ? *Yes!*
- Does it give us the history of the Gentile nations through the Babylon system from the time of Nebuchadnezzar down to the return of Christ? *Yes!*
- What is the most important organization in all of them, as far as God is concerned? *The seven churches!*

This letter goes to the existing seven churches. What if it starts out:

- week #1 with Ephesus
- week #2 it goes to Smyrna [transcriber’s correction]
- week #3 it goes to Pergamos
- week #4 it goes to Thyatira
- week #5 it goes to Sardis
- week #6 it goes to Philadelphia
- week # 7 it goes to Laodicea

We have within that seven-fold meaning a type of counting toward Pentecost and the final harvest. You all follow that?

What we find is the Bible is multi-layered in its presentation and in its fulfillment. Unless you understand about the Holy Days of God and keep

them and have done so for a long time, it’s hard to come to understand that what I just said is undoubtedly true.

Where does all the difficulties start? *When the churches don’t do what they are supposed to do!* The seven churches that were received the letter directly. Then down through history we have the seven churches in type as it comes along to the end. Then in the end, I think it’s most likely that as God sees the churches on earth, not as the corporate organizations that are necessary for men to organize themselves into, but as God looks down on the earth there are seven churches wherever God’s people are.

With that said, how does it start that the Church begins to slack off and not follow God the way that they should? I’m just going to hit on the steps that caused the problems.

Church at Ephesus

Revelation 2:4: “Nevertheless, I have *this* against you that you have left your first love.” They don’t give up on God, but they don’t love Him with the intensity that they ought to. This is very akin to what happens at the end of being lukewarm. But what happens when you lose the first love to God, and we can see this in the Protestants, then you substitute *your* works in helping people and not preaching the Gospel as you ought to.

What keeps you intense in preaching the Gospel? *The love of God and the Spirit of God!* God says to *repent*. The result of that is, this gives an opportunity for the synagogue of Satan as pictured here:

Church at Smyrna

There is nothing that God has against the Church at Smyrna. This also shows that loving God unto death, unto martyrdom, and being cast in jail and being faithful to God at all times *is more important than doctrine!*

In our age, when we have the whole Bible and everything, doctrine becomes very important, because now we have all the Scriptures. This was not completely afforded to all the Churches of God down through history.

God commends them and promises them eternal life because they have been faithful unto death. What happens when the Church is a weakened state like that?

The next step, Satan comes along, or you go to where Satan is, or you are already there where Satan is:

Church at Pergamos

They remained faithful as long as Antipas was faithful, but after that what happened? *False doctrine!* Doctrine that leads you away from God is important, because it will cause you to sin. What happened here? *They lived right in the city where there was Satan's great cathedral!* There was a big altar to Zeus, and that's where Satan lived.

What happened? *They saw how it was organized and those who believed in a hierarchy*, the Nicolaitans, took over, which is what God says He hates. They began eating things sacrificed to idols. Now this is not animal sacrifice. What is the main thing in Satan's counterfeit 'Christian' church? *The Eucharist*, which is called the Sacrifice of the Mass performed before the idols in the Roman Catholic Church and in the Orthodox Church. That's why you get right back to the whole basis of everything; ***the Passover is the key!*** He corrects them for that.

Let's see how important it was that they repent, Revelation 2:14: "But I have a few things against you because you have there *those* who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication."

What was the last thing that the Apostle John wrote in his first epistle? *Flee idolatry!* They succumbed to idolatry and the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Verse 15: "Moreover, you also have *those* who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate."

Sidebar: Everyone likes to say the love of God is unconditional. That is not true. The love of God is everlasting. The love of God, even some people say, is going to cover the sin of Satan the devil. That is a devil's or Satan's doctrine. Not true! Never happen! There are things that God hates. Here's one of them: the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, the doctrine, *which thing God hates!* Because you have the love of God and you have the judgment of God and the sentence of God.

If God is perfect and righteous, which He is, then He cannot love sin, which Satan is. He can forgive sin upon repentance, but concerning Satan, has Satan repented? *No!* What was his sin, the greatest sin of the universe? *Wanting to take over the throne of God the Father!* ***God's love does not cover his sin!*** Furthermore, there is no indication that he has ever slightly begun to even think about repentance.

God will correct His Church and we have lived through this—haven't we? Someone asked recently, 'Why are there so many Churches of God?' *You have to get rid of all the false doctrines and teachings!*

Verse 16, God says: "Repent! For if *you* do not repent, I will come to quickly, and will make war against them with the sword of My mouth." You can't go bringing any doctrines of Satan, doctrines of demons. If they repent, then it can be forgiven. If they don't, there is no forgiveness.

Church of Thyatira

We have something very similar, only now it has grown into a greater problem because of the one who calls herself a prophetess, named after Jezebel. Jezebel was the daughter of the priest of Baal, whom Ahab the king of Israel married.

God tells them to repent. He will not tolerate this. What happens? *You see a progression of sin!* You let sin come in and be accepted. What is the principle of sin that we're taught during the Days of Unleavened Bread? *A little leaven leavens the whole lump!*

That's why Satan puts in a little leaven and pretty soon you pick up on it. Satan uses human beings. Look what happened to WCG (Worldwide Church of God) because they did not repent. Did the sword come against them? *Yes, the sword of the Word of God!* Where is it today? *No longer exists!* What is left of it is called Grace Communion Fellowship. *Blasphemous, indeed!* Every false doctrine has replaced every true doctrine and that's because the Church did not stay alert.

What happened after Thyatira we get down into the Middle Ages here, and then with Sardis we're getting into the time when the Waldensians were just being rescued, actually they were rescued by the Protestants.

Church of Sardis

It is so beaten down that it has very few works, and Jesus said their works weren't complete. He also told them one thing: *strengthen what is left!* In other words, whatever you have left, don't give up on that, and 'I will not blot your name out of the Book of Life,' which tells you Sardis is the bare minimum to qualify for eternal life.

Church at Philadelphia

We covered in part 5 this series, which is faithful to the Word of God in everything.

Church at Laodicea

We find that here it's not so much a mixture of satanic things, as the start of their problems, but a mixture of lukewarmness and lackadaisicalness by equating the blessing of physical things with spirituality. Then not putting Christ first, but the

things first. We've experienced being spewed out of the mouth of God. We have seen that. He tells them to repent. This is what needs to happen with the Churches of God.

- Is there ever a day living in this age that we do not have to repent?
- How many things do we see just watching the news that are sin indeed?

That in many cases is getting pretty close to medium core pornography, to say nothing of all the programs and all the movies and everything that there is which are varying degrees of lies and fairy tales and satanic indoctrination.

I know, for myself, I pray every day for *the washing of the water by the Word*, to cleanse my mind from all of those things that my eye picks up, which I am not intending to watch, but it comes right there on television; same way with all the advertising for the movies.

- Are they not occult?
- Are they all not involved in world domination?
- world wars?
- aliens from outer space?

Yes, it is all occult!

I've never run a survey of it, but maybe someone might want to, if you just watch the news. I watch none of the soap operas except to see they are nothing but sexual, brain washing to accept sexual depravity, homosexuality and domination by women. So you can eliminate all of those. But just on the so-called good channels, news channels: would be interesting: How many of the advertisements are focused on the areas of the private sexual parts of men and women, though they are clothed and some very scantily? I think when they blurt that on you can't sit there with your remote and all of a sudden go to a blue channel. You'd be watching the blue channel all the time.

That's why we need to *ask God to wash our minds with the washing of the water by the Word* and to cleanse those images out of our minds.

The Laodiceans need to repent and that what I hope we are, repenting Laodiceans. I would also hope that we are really Philadelphians. But I have seen this down through time. Any group that claims to be Philadelphian never ends up loving the brethren; so they can't be Philadelphia, because Philadelphia means *brotherly love*. Look what's happened to the city of brotherly love where the Constitution was signed. It is a cesspool of hatred and racial division.

Whatever your problem is, you have to decide how you are going to handle it. The truth is, it's not the Church that saves you, *it is God!* The Church is to feed you the Word of God so you can have a relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. *God alone can save you!*

XIV. No Truth, No Faith

Luke 18—we're getting close to this time, especially when you see what's happening in the Protestant churches. Did you know that in some of them they have ecumenical movements, not just with Catholics, but with Muslims, and they read out of the Koran and the Bible and the Catholic traditions. And 'we're all goody-goody wonderful; we lovey-dovey everybody.' But how much Truth is there?

Remember when I showed you a number of years ago the annotated world Bible where they take from the Bible, from Sanskrit, from Buddhism, from Muslim, from Hinduism, *wisdom* and this replaces the Bible.

Luke 18:8: "I tell you that He will execute vengeance for them speedily... [for the saints who cry out to Him day and night] ...Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, **shall He find the true faith on the earth?**" That's what we are going to be facing somewhere down the road. That will happen, and this probably ties in with the question about when is the famine of the Word.

- Will He find the true faith?
- Where is the faith to be found?
- In the Bible?

or

- In us?

In us! That's where it's to be found.

This is why *we need to be alert* to all of these things that we're going to be facing. We can say we have finished with this year's *14 Things to Watch in Prophecy*. I've given this sermon about three or four times and each time it's a little different. I don't know what it will be like if I give this again in another three years—2017, if we all live that long. What will it be like at that time? I hope we live long enough to see, but if not, it's for another generation.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Luke 4:3-7
- 2) Matthew 24:8-10
- 3) Revelation 17:6
- 4) Mark 9:38-40
- 5) Matthew 12:30
- 6) John 15:16-27
- 7) John 16:1-2, 4

- 8) Revelation 14:6-13
- 9) Revelation 10:8-11
- 10) Revelation 4:1
- 11) Revelation 11:11-12
- 12) Revelation 2, 4, 14-16
- 13) Luke 18:8

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Matthew 24:7
- Revelation 19, 18; 3

Also referenced:

- Booklet: *Why Christianity Has Failed in America* by Phil Neal
- Article: *Revealed, the Capitalist Network That Runs the World*
(newscientist.com/article/mg21228354.500-revealed--the-capitalist-network-that-runs-the-world.html#.UshUHMKA2M8)

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