

Message #29, 30 & 31 of Scripture Beneath The Surface
“Current and End-Time Events - Parts 1, 2, and 3”

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Part 1 (Track 1)

Hello! Thanks for being with us. Today I'd like us to talk about what our current situation is concerning end-time events, and what our imminent future appears to be. What we're going to be dealing with are the events associated with the seals of Revelation, chapter 6, and the events which will take place up to and including the return of Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven. Some of the information we will cover will be specific, and some of it will be general. But what we cover should be helpful in shedding light on your concepts of the end-time events and how our future is soon to unfold. No one knows everything that is prophesied to come to pass in these last days, even though many claim to know the exact interpretation of every prophetic scripture. It would be nice to know everything, but God doesn't reveal everything to us, but only those things which he deems is appropriate for our situation. Sure, we can use logic and assume what will probably take place, but the actual events are not here yet for the most part, and we will have to wait until they unfold to see what God really brings to pass.

However, we can get a general idea of our current situation if we look closely at the scriptures, and we can also get a general idea of what will soon come to pass. Probably the most important thing we have to remember when endeavoring to comprehend scripture concerning end-time events is to remember that the scriptures are not revealed by logic, nor by devices, nor by mathematical equations or codes. God does not use man's fleshly ways to accomplish his works. God speaks, and his power is manifested by his spirit. Therefore it is only by his Spirit that we can know what is the mind of God. This means that we have to discern the scriptures, by allowing God's Holy Spirit to reveal them to us. And when God does reveal his word to us, we still cannot prove that he revealed it, nor prove that what we received it true. The proof is just in

knowing down deep inside that God has shown you something, and therefore it is only proof to you. Others must get their own proof just the same way you did, by allowing God to make it real in your heart. In order to receive spiritual understanding from God, the thing to remember is that it is the very same concept as believing in Jesus Christ for your salvation. It was also revealed to you by God's Holy Spirit, and there's no way you can prove it to anyone else, you just know it down deep in your heart.

This is how you discern the scriptures. You just search the scriptures, pray that God will reveal them to you, and then continue to search the scriptures and pray some more. As you continue to do this with a sincere heart, little by little God will reveal them to you. But God tells us that he gives understanding of his word to us a little bit of a time, and then builds upon that little bit of information until such time as you have a strong foundation of information. Then God continues to build on that strong foundation as long as you continue to seek prayerfully for understanding and guidance. The Bible tells us that God reveals his word to his people by line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little. When you search the scriptures, and listen to the teaching of others, and then pray that God would give you just the truth, you have done everything that you can do to get understanding except one thing. That one thing is to receive what God gives to you. As soon as God gives you something, Satan will come and try to take it away from you. Sometimes he is successful. Sometimes he is not successful, and you are able to retain what God has shown you. It is a continual battle between good and evil. God gives as you seek and pray, then Satan attempts to take what you receive away from you or to twist the understanding of it until it makes no sense. But even then, if you continue to seek and pray, the end result will be that you will learn. I can testify from personal experience that understanding will never come fast enough or be great enough, to satisfy you, but the knowledge God gives you will be just what you need for your current level of faith and time of your life. Just don't make either of two mistakes that are common to Christians.

One mistake is to believe your pastors and teachers because they teach things that sound good and seem to make sense. When dealing with the word of God, it is the Holy Spirit that will guide into all truth, not some human being. To seek for confirmation from God is your responsibility. The second mistake Christians make is to sit back and leave it up to God to reveal knowledge and wisdom when he is ready. This approach includes the necessary patience, but lacks the persistent pursuit. Just as in the story of the unjust Judge, and the woman who would not let that Judge alone until he acted upon her request, God will not give things to you without your diligent search for truth. That's why Jesus spoke the words found in Matthew 11:12 which says, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." In essence, this scripture says that the kingdom of heaven is not just given to those who happen to have been born an Israelite, but now the kingdom of heaven will only be entered by those who will pursue it with all their might. Jesus equates this pursuit with someone who storms a city with battering rams and catapults, in order to finally gain entry. This is what we as Christians must do if we are to get anything other than surface understanding of God's word. Babies are content with milk. Meat is for those who have had their senses exercised

to discern between the evil and the good. If you only drink milk, you will remain a baby. And when things get really hard, you will not be able to stand.

So, as we look at our current situation and the upcoming end-time events, try to remember that what I tell you is only my perspective, and is only something for you to consider and pray about. I don't reveal anything. It is God, by his Holy Spirit, that gives you understanding.

Now, for the moment, I would like you to consider the scripture in Amos 8:11, which says, "Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will send a famine into the land, not a famine for bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord."

We have a famine for the word of God at this present time. No, maybe you can't comprehend this, but it is true. Think of it this way. When Jesus returns, the earth will be full of the glory and the knowledge of God. At this present time the earth is not full of the glory and the knowledge of God. In fact, you can easily see this if you just stop and think and ask yourself this question. "When was the last time you saw someone raised from the dead?" We could ask ourselves any number of questions concerning the miracles of God, and would realize that at this present time you see many things in the world which appear to be miraculous in the respect of man's physical nature, but you see very few things in the world which are miraculous in the realm of heavenly things.

Let's look at Revelation 6:5-6. Let me read this to you. It says, " And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I saw, and lo, a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. 6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a denarius, and three measures of barley for a denarius; and see that you hurt (sell) not the oil and the wine (Jer 24:10; Joel 1:4-12; Zech 9:17; Am 8:11; Mic 6:15; Hab 3:17; Hag 1:11).

First of all, a denarius represents a days wages for a common laborer. This means that a common laborer would have to work all day to get three quarts of barley or one quart of wheat. This is describing a famine, but this is not talking about a famine for bread, but a famine for the word of God. Make a note to for yourself to look at Revelation 6:5-6 some time, and look closely at the symbolic concept described here. The barley stands for that grain which is first harvested, according to Israel's harvest timetable, but is a coarser grain for making bread flour. This symbolizes the Old Testament, which was the first word of God, that bread from heaven. The Old Testament is not as clear in its description of heavenly things as is the New Testament. The wheat mentioned in these verses represents symbolically the New Testament. Wheat was a grain that was harvested in Israel after the barley harvest. Wheat makes a much finer bread flour, for it is a higher quality grain. So, what we have here, are two grains, barley and wheat, which stand symbolically for the Old Testament and New Testament, which is the written or spoken word of God.

When a famine occurs in the world in the physical sense, there is a lack of bread, because there is a lack of grain which can be ground into flour to make the bread. But when we are studying this portion of scripture, we know that a worldwide famine for bread is not what the Bible is talking about. But what the Bible is talking about in Revelation 6:5-6, is the spiritual food, that bread from heaven, which was actually symbolized in the Old Testament by manna. Manna was given to the children of Israel in the wilderness, and pointed to the concept of bread from heaven. We understand that the word of God is bread from heaven, because Jesus was the Word of God, and he himself said that he was that bread from heaven.

The black horse of Revelation 6, represents that there will be a famine for the word of God in the world. It also mentions, in these same verses, that the oil and the wine are not to be distributed. The actual word used in the King James version is, "hurt," and means that the oil and wine is not to be hurt, in the sense of taking away a portion of it. The original Greek word indicates "doing damage to" as in taking part of it away, or in essence, selling it. This is important, because what the scriptures trying to show us is that the barley and wheat, which symbolized the written or spoken word of God, are available only for a high price, but the oil and wine are not for sale to the general public. The oil and wine represent the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ, which are the two witnesses which stand before the Lord of all the earth. They are the two testimonies, which give testimony as to the truth that God is who he claims to be. Therefore, Jesus Christ reveals God by speaking his word and demonstrating it outwardly, or should we say, by not only talking it, but walking it. The Holy Spirit reveals God by the miraculous works of His power, which demonstrates the truth of God's claim that he is all powerful.

Now, let me sum this up a little bit. The black horse of Revelation 6, says that God will send a famine upon the earth which is a famine for the word of God. The barley stands for the Old Testament, the wheat stands for the New Testament, the oil stands for the Holy Spirit which reveals God's power in the earth, and the wine stands for Jesus Christ who reveals God's love in the earth. Those who live on the bread from heaven must work very hard in order to supply themselves and their families with enough bread to sustain life. In this instance, we're talking about enough spiritual bread to sustain spiritual life. The deep understanding of God through the testimonies of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit does not come easy. However, when we look at the other end of the spectrum concerning the warfare between good and evil, we can easily see that when desiring to buy and sell grain that comes from Satan rather than from heaven, there is no famine at all. You can buy as much knowledge of science and technology as you wish. Not only can you get as much of the basics as you want, you can actually wallow in it. There is no end to purchasing Satan's temptations, no end to buying and selling anything that will stimulate the carnal nature, the beast nature, of man. This is what is referred to in Revelation 13, where it says that the purpose of the image of the beast is to create a situation where the only business of trade is that which Satan propagates, and that which is heavenly would not be able to be attained at any price. If the time were not shortened, Satan would be able to attain this goal. If God did not stop the progression of man's attempt to exalt himself by the strength of his own hands, there would eventually come a time when there was no one left who were buying the bread from

heaven, but only those who were wicked people, and trafficking in worldly knowledge and delights.

If you would look around you, and look very carefully, and pray that God would allow you to see with spiritual eyes, I believe God will reveal to you that we are approaching a time when Satan's worldly system of science and technology, man's earthly knowledge, is fast becoming the only form of trade in the world. There is a famine for the word of God, but there is no famine for the science and technology of man. Therefore, man's faith in his own abilities is being increased dramatically, but man's faith in God is being destroyed continuously. This is the goal of Satan, and he would be able to accomplish this goal if God were to allow him to continue long enough. But God is going to stop the progression of deception before all flesh is lost to the Lake of Fire. This is a promise we have from Jesus. But at this current time Satan is operating very successfully. The word of God can hardly be attained, but the lies of Satan can easily be purchased.

I know that most people look at science and technology as a wonderful blessing from God. And it's not that science and technology of itself is wrong, but the difficulty with science and technology is that man uses it to attain his goals rather than to look to God for help. The problem with the Tower of Babel incident in the book of Genesis was that the people of earth attempted to exalt themselves by the strength of their own hands rather than calling upon God in humble subservience to him. In today's end times, man has once again attempted to build that tower structure which will exalt him to heaven by the strength of his own hands. In these last days man relies on what he can do with science and technology much more than what he can do by relying on God himself. Satan does not want man to rely on God. In order for Satan to convince man not to rely on God, he has to convince man that he doesn't need God. Man is feeble, and is at great risk in the universe, and without help from somewhere, man would perish. God is our provider and nourisher. Satan is attempting to fully convince man that he no longer needs God, and that life and health can be maintained without God. Satan's intent is to cause all knowledge from God to be removed from the earth until such time as no man buys or sells that which is from God, but only buys and sells within Satan's system.

The Devil's greatest tool to accomplish this goal is the secular programming of television and movies. This secular programming is the Image of the Beast, referred to in Revelation 13. It is a picture, an image, which speaks, and because of its constant representation of carnal man, it causes those who watch and listen to it to become desensitized to Satan's lies, and to lose interest in heavenly things. The secular programming of television and movies depict everything that is worldly, but very little of that which is heavenly. When it was first introduced, there was more emphasis on righteousness and morality, because society was, as a whole, more concerned for godly things. But at this time there is very little left of that. Soon there will be absolutely nothing that is good left on television or in the movies. It is even possible that we have already passed this point. When it says in revelation 13 that the second beast causes the people of earth to make an image to the beast, it is referring to humanity creating television and movies which would ultimately be used to portray a 24-hour, seven-day a week, advertisement for the glory of

man himself. This is a very deceptive tool, for even Christians are deceived into allowing the image of the beast to brainwash them.

Yes, I know what your response probably is. Believe me, I have heard all of the replies I care to hear. But the truth is that we are locked into this fleshly body until such time as Jesus Christ returns for us. And because of this, we struggle against the temptations of the flesh. But the movies and television programming display all those things which appeal to our animal nature. And because the pull of the flesh is so great, we hate to turn away from watching the many forms of its carnal nature. We enjoy watching things on TV and in the movies that we would never watch in real life. We go places on TV and in the movies that we would never go in real life. We tell ourselves that we are not really doing anything wrong, because we are not actually partaking in the evil deeds. But all the time Satan knows that we don't have to physically partake in order to be contaminated in our minds. The purpose of the Image of the Beast is to destroy all desire for that which is heavenly, by advertising all that is earthly.

Notice in Revelation 6:7-8, that the black horse of famine is followed by the pale horse whose rider is Death. Notice that Death is followed by Hell. This means Eternal Death rides the pale horse, and kills the inhabitants of the earth with eternal death and damnation. Satan is snuffing out faith in the earth by this end-time Image of the Beast. Christians are largely unaware of this threat to their faith. And Christians are largely unconcerned. And Christians don't want to have the Image of the Beast taken away from them, because they love what it portrays. When you are in church, you will most likely be stimulated by spiritual things. When you are at the movies or in front of your television, I guarantee you, that you will not be stimulated by spiritual things, but by carnal things. Yes, there are many forms of deception, but this one great tool is the most deceptive of all because it lets you watch all that is wicked, and yet this diabolical tool of Satan convinces you that to watch and listen to wickedness is not the same thing as partaking in it.

But if you would be willing to take an honest look at what I am saying, then ask yourself these simple questions. "What have I learned to do, or how have I learned to dress, act, speak, or live from the secular programs and movies I have watched in the last year? Have I learned more about heavenly things, or have I learned how to be more concerned with amusements and selfish interests?"

Whether you ask yourself these questions, or seriously admit the truth or not, is up to you. I can only point out what is taking place. It is up to you to make sure that where the Image of the Beast is taking you, is where you really want to go.

Well, we're out of time. We'll start here again next week, and explore the events of the fourth and fifth seals of Revelation. In the week following, we'll talk about the sixth seal, and the implications of the seven trumpet judgments and the Great Day of the Lord's Wrath, which is the seven vials, or bowls, of Revelation. Today's message is the first of a three part series dealing with these subjects. I hope you can be with us for the next two weeks as we explore our current

end-time situation, and the events which will be unfolding in the near future. The end may be closer than you think.

Part 2 (Track 2)

Hello! Thanks for being with us. Today I'd like continue where we left off last week. Last week we talked about Revelation 6:5-6, which describes the spiritual famine for the word of God which is already here, and has been brought about by the installation of Satan's world system of knowledge which is quickly replacing the knowledge of God. If you missed the program last week, please request it. It is free for the asking, as are all the messages that we bring to you.

Now, let's move right into our subject and consider the fourth horse of Revelation chapter 6, the pale horse. Death sits on this horse, and is followed by Hell, which means that this rider is the death which brings eternal damnation. This eternal death is successfully accomplished toward many people of earth by Satan's worldly system, which is successful with the help four things. These are four general categories of situations which destroy faith in God.

As we spoke last week, the Image of the Beast is the greatest tool in Satan's planned end-time destruction of mankind's faith in God. Using this tool, his intent is to cause all people of earth to look away from God and focus on the things of this world. His purpose is to cause the people of earth to become so involved with things of this world, and with the knowledge of this world, that the things of God, and the knowledge of God, no longer seem to make sense, or no longer seem to be necessary. As I said last week, if the time were not shortened, Satan would be able to accomplish his diabolical goal.

When we look at the rider on the pale horse, we see that this rider can kill, and that he can do it with the help of four things. These four things are, the sword, famine, death, and beasts of the earth. The sword might best be described as Satan's ability to destroy by his lies. Just as the sword of the Spirit is the word of God, and proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord, so Satan's sword is his word of lies, and proceeds out of his mouth. This is an attack against truth. Without truth, there is no faith.

The second tool mentioned in these verses is hunger. Because the nature of man is selfish, there are those in the earth who have plenty, while there are those in the earth who have very little of anything. Physical hunger destroys faith in God. Because God's word tells us that he will provide all our need according to his riches and glory, those in the midst of famine lose faith in God. This, once again, causes eventual spiritual death.

The third tool mentioned in these verses is death. It's interesting to read these verses and realize that death can kill with death. But what it is really saying is that death is an enemy of faith. Because humans fear death, they tend to look anywhere they can to find an escape mechanism. But because death is inevitable, it wields a power over mankind. In Revelation we find that the last enemy of God that will be destroyed is death. It is an enemy because it brings great fear

upon man. Satan uses the fear of death to destroy man's hope. Jesus Christ is the hope that replaces the fear of death. Nevertheless, this tool of Satan is powerful.

The fourth tool mentioned in these verses is, the beasts of the earth. This refers to the animal, or beast nature, of man. The beast nature of man opposes the spiritual nature of God. As I have said before, Satan chose the beast nature, the animal nature, to exalt himself above the throne of God. He could have chosen to remain with God and submit himself to the spiritual nature of God. However, he chose to be the Prince and power of the air, rather than to be the chief angel under the authority of God. He used this same animal nature as a ploy to draw one third of the angels away from God. In fact, Revelation 12:4, describes this action as using his "tail" to draw those angels away from God. The tail symbolizes the animal nature, which relies on natural forces for strength and power. Natural man breathes air because of the need of his fleshly body. Born-again man breathes in the Holy Spirit of God, and therefore becomes a spiritual being, even though still locked in this body of flesh. We know that when the warfare between good and evil is over, flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of heaven, but only those who are born again in spirit will go to live with God. The warfare continues, and attempts to destroy a man's faith in God by the beast nature of man. All those of earth who exalt themselves through the carnal nature, and becoming strong through the powers of this present world, destroy the faith of those who trust in God. As the people of God see the people of earth who are wicked become prosperous, they become discouraged, and may also possibly be drawn to be like those other beasts of this world. The temptation to act according to man's animal nature rather than with the spiritual nature of God is very strong in humans. The only one who was ever able to overcome that animal nature and remain pure was Jesus Christ.

The process we see in Revelation 6, is a time of Great Tribulation for the Saints of God. It is not necessarily a time of physical tribulation as is generally taught by Bible scholars, but is a time when their faith is under extremely great trial. We are told in Revelation 3:10 that this great trial of our faith will come. Notice that this trial is to try our souls, not our flesh. We must remember that when the enemy is trying to destroy souls of men, physical tribulation is not always necessary. Satan doesn't have to use a physical sword to kill your soul. All he has to do is destroy your faith in God, and your soul is destroyed. Great Tribulation is currently in full swing in our end-time world, for it is a demonic attack against faith in God. Physical suffering is not necessary. Just encouraging man to spend his time watching sports instead of reading the Bible will destroy his soul. Man is largely unaware of this threat to his faith because he is always looking for Satan to bring physical trials, not amusements. People are deceived because they don't equate worldly amusements with evil spiritual warfare. But we can see this attack coming if we look more closely at what the Bible tells us. In Revelation 3:10 we see that there will come a time of great trial upon all the earth in order to try men's souls. The four symbolic destructions used by the fourth rider bring great trial, Great Tribulation, to God's people. There is great doubt mounted up against faith in God by these four types of difficult situations of earthly life. It isn't so important to understand what each of the four tools represent, but rather to understand that God has allowed Satan to have power in the earth to deceive. But no matter whether sword, or famine, or death, or beasts of the earth, the truth of God can overcome all these things, no matter

how much doubt they produce. Yet is a great time of tribulation which we are enduring at this present day, for these things have increased significantly in these last days, and the destructive power against our faith is much greater than it was before knowledge was increased.

The Bible tells us that in the end times knowledge shall be increased and many shall run to and fro. The running to and fro symbolizes the concept of self help, instead of standing still and waiting on God for your help. The increase of knowledge took a giant step forward in these last couple of hundred years. In 2 Thessalonians 2, we see that the power of Satan is hindered for several hundred years after the time of Christ, but that eventually the hindrance to Satan's working with power is removed. These scriptures tell us that he will be allowed to work with powerful signs and wonders prior to the coming of the Lord. From the time man was able to harness the fire from the sky, man's heaven, knowledge has been increased, and the extent of man's knowledge of science and technology has mushroomed into ever increasing proportions. The ensuing wars became world wars instead of isolated wars. Famine increased, death increased, and the selfishness of man has moved from being regarded socially as evil, to being exemplified as a wonderful attribute of man. We are now in the midst of the Great Tribulation. This is not the same thing as the wrath of God, but is the trial of our faith which comes prior to the Day of the Lord's Wrath. All those of the world who refuse to accept Jesus Christ as Master, as Lord and Savior, will be those who were unable to patiently wait for Jesus Christ, which means to hold onto their faith in spite of all the doubt Satan throws at us. The numbers of people who will die the death that brings the Lake of Fire will be immeasurable. But as this Great Tribulation continues, God will stop the destruction of his people before all are lost.

There is a process that will take place at the midpoint of Great Tribulation. The reason I say that this will take place at the midpoint, is, at least in part, because of the scripture in Zechariah 14:2-3, which says, "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. 3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle." This is a prophecy of the end-times, and signifies that time which is shortened for the sake of the elect. The Great Tribulation will continue its onslaught, but what will be shortened is the time period of Satan's ability to deceive because of the lack of understanding of God's word in the earth. What will be shortened is the time period of the black horse of famine. The famine for the word of God will cease. In Revelation 1:16 and 19:15, we see that the sword of God proceeds out of his mouth to destroy his enemies. This sword is the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. In other words the understanding will begin to come back to God's people. Up to the midpoint of the Great Tribulation, there is a continual destruction of God's truth. Symbolically, this can be stated as, no green grass for the sheep to graze in. Using this same graphical description, there will now be lush green pastures for God's people. Although Satan will continue to operate his worldly system of barter and selfishness, God's people will come to realize how wicked the world has truly become, and how much God's people have been immersed in the midst of it. In fact, they will realize they are in the midst of Babylon the Great, and will finally understand why the Bible tells God's people in both the Old Testament and New Testament to flee out of the midst of

Babylon. They will also see how God's people have been destroyed by destroying their faith in God. When they see this they will be reminded of the scripture in Matthew 24:15-16, which refers to God's people seeing the diabolical working of Satan with all power and lying wonders, and fleeing to the mountains.

Let me explain to you what this fleeing to the mountains means. This will take quite a bit of explanation, so bear with me. When Jesus was ready to ascend into heaven after his bodily resurrection, he led his disciples out from the city of Jerusalem and traveled until he approached Bethany. At this point he rose into heaven. The disciples were told by two men in white clothing that Jesus would return in this same manner, and in that day his feet would stand upon the Mount of Olives, and the Mount of Olives would split in the midst, and half of it would move toward the north and half of it would move toward the south. This would create a very great plain or valley from East to West, which starts at Bethany and ends at Jerusalem. This, contrary to many teachers of biblical prophecy, is not a physical event. Once again, I remind you, that it is easy to make a logical physical conclusion of prophecy, but that doesn't mean you have ears to hear.

What Jesus was telling his disciples was that symbolically his feet would touch the Mount of Olives as he approached Jerusalem to set up his earthly kingdom. When God's people see the abomination of desolation for all its diabolical working, they are to flee from Babylon, or in essence, flee from the participation in all things which they recognize as being evil. In symbolic sense, when God's people recognize that Satan has been deceiving God's people with great signs and wonders, which are miraculous in the context of earthly physical powers, they will flee from all that is now recognized as wicked. Their flight will be away from the wickedness of the earth, and toward the righteousness of God. Their flight will be in expectation of the Lord's soon return in the clouds of heaven. This symbolic valley of the mountains will reach to Azal, which is a symbolic name for Jerusalem, or the city of Zion, the city of our Lord.

This valley is also referred to as the valley of decision, meaning judgment, or the valley of Jehoshaphat, which also means judgment. It is the time when our Lord's judgment comes to judge all those who dwell upon the earth. In essence, when we see the abomination of desolation, which means that wickedness which makes desolate in that it destroys our faith and brings death, we will turn from the wicked ways of this world in which we are caught up, and will run to the Lord. As the Lord returns in the clouds of heaven to enter his city of Zion, he scoops up all his children into the clouds with him, pours out his fury upon the wicked, and with his bride, enters the city of Jerusalem. We know that the splitting of the Mount of Olives by the touch of Jesus' feet is not a physical thing, because Jesus will not touch the earth physically until his people are caught up to him in the clouds. But this is a difficult concept at this time to understand, because of the famine for the word of God that he has allowed to come upon all the earth in order to try men's souls. But I believe God is, at this very time, in the process of standing up and restoring the truth to his people. As God begins to show what has really been happening to people of the earth, true followers of God will shun the worldly ways of dress, the worldly ways of prosperity, and the might and power of man. They will turn wholly to the Lord in

expectation of his imminent return. They will cast away the things of this world as they would cast away an unclean cloth. They will separate themselves from all that is evil. They will turn away from the love of money, and from focusing on that which brings lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and pride of this life. They will do what Revelation 7, says they will do. They will wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb by spiritually fleeing out of Babylon, and running to the place of the mountains.

Christians, at this time, have robes, but they are soiled. They need to be washed. Before the Great Tribulation comes to an end, Christians will be revived. They will come alive from the dead, from the unconsciousness, from their unawareness of how rampant sin is in their lives, and how much they are entwined in it without realizing it. There will be a revival of God's people like no revival ever seen before. However, Christians will understand what is taking place, just as it says in Daniel 12:10, but the wicked of the world will not understand. For them Jesus will come as a thief in the night. When God's people finally come to a realization of how Satan has been working with all power and signs and lying wonders, and realize how he has deceived the people of God as well as the wicked of the earth, they will rejoice in the truth which proceeds out of the mouth of God. When the last of the elect have washed their robes, we will see the fulfillment of the fifth seal of Revelation. This is a time of white robes being distributed to all those who turn away from the world and focus on God with all their heart, all their soul, and all their strength. Let's take a little closer look at the fifth seal of Revelation 6:9-11.

The only thing these verses tell us about the fifth seal is that white robes are given to those souls who are under the altar. Some explanation of the principle of sacrifice on the altar of God is necessary in order to understand the implications of the fifth seal, and souls being found under the altar. In the Old Testament Law of Commandments, sacrifices were slain and put on the altar to be burned. The altar was a large grate which allowed the ashes from the burning sacrifices to filter down below and land on the ground under the altar. The only way to become a soul under the altar is to become a living sacrifice or a martyr for the sake of Jesus Christ. When you give yourself as a sacrifice that is acceptable in the eyes of God, the fire of heaven consumes the sacrifice, and the sacrifice becomes ashes which filter through the grate and lie on the ground under the altar. To become a sacrifice is to set aside your worldly life of selfishness just as Jesus Christ set aside his worldly life in the flesh, and gave himself as a sacrifice for others. There is no other way to become a soul under the altar. Therefore, when you leave the enticements of the world, when you come out from among them and becomes separate, then and only then can you become a soul under the altar. Satan's world system is designed to prevent all people from becoming souls under the altar. It is the only way to attain salvation. Everything in Satan's arsenal is posed to destroy self-sacrifice. Everything in Satan's arsenal is designed to discourage man from living a life of righteousness and sacrifice for others. Satan would rather that we live for lusts of the eye, lusts of the flesh, and pride of life, which are the three general categories of living for selfishness. Selfishness is the opposite of self-sacrifice. True love is self-sacrifice. That's why perfect love casts out all fear, because when you love perfectly, you have become an unselfish self-sacrifice, and you have nothing to fear because there is nothing left of you that anyone can harm.

When the white robes of purity have been given to those who have fled from the worldly system of evil, then the Great Tribulation will come to an end. At this time the sixth seal of Revelation will be opened. At this time the sun and moon will lose their brightness, and the stars will fall from heaven. But then, there isn't time to go into a description of the sixth seal this week, so we will have to continue it next week. I would encourage you to be with us. If you can't be with us, please request the free teaching series. And even if you can be with us, we encourage you to ask for the CDs and transcripts of these messages. All messages are free. All CDs are free. Please listen to Kim Schlehuber, and she will give you the information you need. Thanks for being with us.

Part 3 (Track 3)

Hello! Thanks for being with us. Today I'd like to continue where we left off last week. Last week we talked about Revelation 6, and the fourth and fifth seals. This week I'd like to talk about the sixth seal, found in Revelation 6:12-17. I'll go ahead and read it. It says, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; 13 And the stars of heaven fell onto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. 14 And the heaven departed like a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

The darkening of the sun and moon is an event which is full of symbolic significance. It is possible that at the end of time there could be an actual physical failing of the light from the sun and moon and stars. But whether or not this actually takes place physically, is impossible to answer at this current time. We'll have to wait and see what happens. But what we do know, when we look beneath the surface of the scriptures, is that the darkening of the sun and moon represents the decrease in natural man's knowledge, as opposed to the spiritual knowledge from God. The light of the sun, moon, and stars represents understanding of the natural laws of the universe. Jesus Christ, because he is the Word of God, is the light from heaven, the Truth, which comes from God, and lightens our path in a spiritual sense. We have all heard descriptive terms of staying on the narrow path so that we do not fall into the utter darkness of the abyss. The light of God's word illuminates our spiritual path in this world, and this path is that which leads us to eternal life. But in this world, natural man looks to the natural workings of the universe for their strength. It is only born-again man who looks to God for strength by and through his Holy Spirit. When wickedness in the earth abounds, it is nothing more than carnal man trusting more and more in the strength and power he gains through his own inventions, by the strength of his own hands.

When the Bible says that the sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars shall fall from heaven, this means that God will remove the ability of the earth to function within the natural laws of the universe. What will take place is that man will start to experience a disruption in the logical sequence of events. An example might be something as simple as, the polarity of electricity changing unexpectedly. It might mean that gravitational forces would change unexpectedly. It might mean that the magnetic qualities of iron would suddenly become non-magnetized. It could mean that thermometers would start to malfunction for no apparent reason and begin to read temperatures incorrectly. It might be that when two plus two is entered into a computer or calculator, that the results given are not the number, four. It could also mean that these examples might work part of the time but not all of the time, or might work in one location of the earth but not in another part of the world.

When natural man shuns God and chooses to follow Satan, he actually is trying to take on the role of God. He then uses the logical orderliness of the cosmos to manipulate matter, using natural man's knowledge which is within the scope of the science and technology of this world. God does not need to use physical means to accomplish his goals, but only needs to speak the word, and his word is fulfilled. But Satan has determined to exalt himself by means other than God's word, and is relying on, and encouraging the people of earth to rely on, the natural laws of the universe for their preservation and provision. In this current time, the hindrance to Satan's working with all power and signs and lying wonders has been removed. He is now causing the people of earth to excel in natural man's physical knowledge. This is represented in 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, where it is stated that prior to our Lord's return, Satan, as the Mystery of Iniquity, will be allowed to work his deception in the world with all power and signs and lying wonders. The power and signs and lying wonders are what we see today in this modern world. It is no longer horse and buggy days which we are experiencing, but an increase in science and technology that is greater in these last days than was even thought possible before. This increase in man's understanding, symbolized in scripture by the physical light of sun and moon, deceives humans by convincing them that man really has significant power within himself, and that this power of man can and will produce the eternal life and happiness that he so desperately wants. In addition to this, the deception of Satan also holds the false promise that man can attain the goal of eternal life without the need for God. This temptation for man, to cast away the concepts of God and rely on himself as God, is sweeping the world at this very time. And once again, if the time of deception is not shortened, Satan would be able to fulfill his plan and all the earth would be lost.

But the time will be shortened, and God's elect will be saved, just as God has promised us. However, the increase in man's knowledge in these last days has caused great deception, and the earth is being converted to the worship of that which is anti-God in nature, and is worshipping the powers that come through the "Prince of the Power of the Air." Satan is called the Prince of the Power of the Air, in that he works through the powers of earth, through the powers of man who is subject to life through the air of this world rather than having life through the Holy Spirit of God. Man who becomes born-again relies on God, and receives the Holy Spirit within him. The Holy Spirit then becomes his guide, and guides him into all truth, thus empowering him to live on this

earth in the present time, and then to live eternally with God. But the “Prince of the Power of the Air” works deceptively by physical knowledge, and his promise of life to mankind can only be delivered within the limits of flesh and blood. If man refuses to be born-again, and chooses instead to live according to the natural powers of the universe, then he only has life within the confines of air, or in other words, within the confines of a physical existence. Air, is symbolic of physical man's ability to breathe in life, but in the heavenly sense, the Holy Spirit is symbolic of spiritual man's ability to breathe in life. Air allows fleshly man to live a physical life, subject to a physical realm. God's Holy Spirit allows spiritual man to live a spiritual life, subject to the heavenly realm. The kingdom of heaven is not a realm of flesh and blood, but is spirit. However, Satan wants man to rely on the natural laws of this world and to remain a natural man. God wants us to be born again. The battle of spiritual warfare is a battle between flesh and spirit. God has allowed Satan to bring great deception in these last days in order to try man's faith in God. Only the elect of God will come out of this Great Tribulation and wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

It is important to recognize that the Great Tribulation is not a tribulation of physical things, except in the sense that whatever comes against God's people will be destructive to their faith. Satan's intent, working within guidelines that God has allowed him to work with in these last days, is to bring about such power, signs, and wonders in the realm of science and technology, that all people, including God's people, will not have to rely so heavily on God. The structure of Satan's plan to erode man's faith in God starts with temptation. This of course is nothing new to mankind. But since the time that God removed the hindrance to Satan's ability to work with great power, signs, and lying wonders, as stated in 2 Thessalonians, chapter 2, the temptations which now come against mankind are far more deceptive, especially within the realm of television and movies, which is the Image of the Beast which was prophesied to come, in Revelation 13.

Man's animal nature, his flesh nature, draws very heavily toward lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and pride of life. This has always been the avenue in which Satan can approach man, so this is nothing new. However, when you couple this with the false promise of being able to attain health, prosperity, and even eternal life through bio-technology, cloning, etc., rather than by submitting to the authority and righteousness of God, this becomes a temptation that is very hard to resist. Mankind believes they are sitting on the brink of discovering the proverbial fountain of youth. Those people of earth who are only hanging on to religious convictions because of a fear of hell, and have no real love for the truth of God, will eventually be convinced that there is an alternative to serving God. Their actual final deception will be accomplished because, as it tells us in 2 Thessalonians 2:10, they did not receive a love for the truth.

The temptations of mankind with the Image of the Beast, with its programing which emphasizes fleshly lust, coupled with a false hope of being able to reach eternal life and universal power by the strength of man's own abilities, is an extremely devastating combination. This is the Great Tribulation, the great trial of our faith, which has been promised to come upon all the world.

However, just as in all things, this will come to an end, and then the judgment of God will follow. The end of the Great Tribulation takes place immediately prior to the opening of the sixth seal. It says this very specifically in Matthew 24:29. Let me read this to you. It says, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give her light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”

There are several scriptures which refer to this event. If you've got a pencil, you might want to jot these down. There is Isaiah 5:30; Isaiah 13:10; Is 24:23; Joel 2:10-11; Am 4:13; Am 5:20; Acts 2:20; and Rev 6:12. And of course, this last verse, Revelation 6:12, is the opening of the sixth seal. Coupled with Matthew 24:29, we see that the opening of the sixth seal comes immediately after the Great Tribulation. At this time, God has brought the truth of his word back to his elect, which has caused a great awakening in his church. This great awakening will be a revival of awareness of the truth, not a great movement in which souls are saved. One of the most significant errors made by Christians is that a revival is a time of evangelistic soul saving. But actually, a revival is a state of being revived, and you can only revive that which was previously alive or aware and has become unaware, or become dead, or entered a state of unconsciousness, etc. This reviving is what is needed in the church today. The people of God are largely unaware of the extent of God's truth. Truth has been eroded by the lies of Satan, and, in essence, this is a state of unconsciousness for the church of today. When the word of God begins to be revealed to God's people again, and they finally realize the extent of Satan's deception even in the church, then there will be a crying out for the Lord to give us understanding, for we know the truth of God's word will set us free.

The people of earth who do not truly love God will not be aware of the truth that is being restored to the elect of God. It tells us in Daniel 12:10 that the trial of our faith, the Great Tribulation, will cause God's people to become white, to be purified, but that although God's elect will understand what is taking place, the wicked will not understand. In fact, the wicked cannot understand because they do not have the Holy Spirit. Only the elect, those who are truly the children of God, have the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The revelation of God's truth will not be seen by those of the world who reject God. For the wicked, the Day of the Lord will come upon them as a thief in the night, but in 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4, we are assured that our Lord's return will not catch us unaware. We may not know the day nor the hour of our Lord's return, but we certainly will recognize when his coming is imminent. Jesus told us that when the day approaches, to look up, for our salvation draws near. But the wicked will be ignorant of the impending Day of the Lord, and will not make themselves ready.

In the beginning, in the book of Genesis, we find that the first light that was created was not the physical light of the sun, moon, or stars, but that the first light was that light from heaven. The sun, moon, and stars were not created until the fourth day of creation. Natural man looks to the natural things of earth, and his light is that light which illuminates in a physical logical way. The light from heaven is the true light. It is important that Christians recognize that the natural knowledge of man will be extinguished at the end of the Great Tribulation period, symbolized as the sun and moon being darkened, and the stars falling from heaven. Scripture refers to this

event in several different ways, such as found in Acts 2:20, “The sun will be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and notable Day of the Lord comes.” At this time, the forces of our physical universe will deteriorate, and man will begin to experience great frustration as the methods of power they have come to rely on begin to falter. The Bible tells us in Isaiah 28:17-19, that men will experience a loss of their refuge of lies, and things will begin to go wrong to such an extent that men will struggle just to understand the daily report of things happening, let alone understand what is actually causing the difficulties.

It is important that Christians recognize that the Great Tribulation, which spans the time of the “seals of Revelation,” is a trial of man's faith in God, which is meant to test whether man truly believes in God, or only claims to believe. And at the same time, we must also recognize that the Great Day of the Lord is great wrath from God, which spans the time of the seven trumpets of Revelation, and is not a trial of faith for God's people, but a trial for the wicked of the earth in the Day of the Lord. There will be, in essence, a “turning of the tables,” which means that, now, instead of God's elect being tempted and tried to such a great extent, the people of earth who have not sought the Lord will be tested and tried, and their faith in the world's science and technology will be ultimately destroyed. In fact, this trial of the wicked which brings about extreme problems with the physical powers of the world, will be such as are described in Isaiah 24:18-20. Let's read this portion of scripture to get an idea of what the wicked of this earth will be experiencing during the seven trumpet judgments. It says, “And it will come to pass, that he who flees from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that comes up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. 19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is completely dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20 The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression of it shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.”

This will cause great frustration for the wicked of the world, and as a result they will begin to blame Christianity for their troubles. This movement is already in motion, of course, but will gather momentum as they become more and more frustrated with the events taking place. The seven trumpets of Revelation are seven trumpet judgments. Just as the Great Tribulation allows God's elect to be tried and tested in order to purify his church, the seven trumpet judgments will allow the wicked of the earth to be judged. This concept of judgment beginning at the house of God and then spreading to those outside the house of God is a scriptural concept.

When the seven trumpet judgments are completed, Jesus Christ will appear in the clouds of heaven and we will see the resurrection of the righteous. Those righteous who are still alive on the earth will be caught up with those who are resurrected, and together, these two groups will meet the Lord in the air. This, of course, is stated plainly in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. The word that is used currently to describe this catching up to Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven is, rapture, which is not a Biblical term, but is used because it means, to be caught up. This does not mean that a rapture takes place before the Great Tribulation as many Bible scholars claim, for Revelation 24:29 makes it patently clear that the coming of Jesus Christ only takes place AFTER

the Great Tribulation. We also know from several scriptures that the Great Day of the Lord is a separate event from the Great Tribulation, and rather than a trial of faith for the elect of God, it is a trial which will ultimately bring condemnation to those who reject Jesus Christ.

One specific scripture which explicitly shows that the Day of the Lord's Wrath is not the same thing as the Great Tribulation is found in Joel 2:31, where it says, "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD comes." If Matthew 24:29 says that the Great Tribulation occurs BEFORE the darkening of the sun and moon, and Joel 2:31 says that the Great Day of the Lord's Wrath takes place AFTER the darkening of the sun and moon, then we know for certain they are two separate events, separated by the event of the sun and moon darkening. Those who claim that a pre-tribulation rapture will occur, claim that the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord's Wrath are one in the same. We can see from just these two scriptures that this is not true.

Well, once again we are out of time. I hope the messages of these last three weeks has been helpful. Next week I hope to extend the exploration of some points of the end-time events we are already seeing, and some of the things we can expect to see coming to pass in the near future. Once again, we encourage you to send questions or comments, and remind you that both current and past materials are free for the asking. Thanks for being with us.

