

Message #18 of Scripture Beneath The Surface
“You Can’t Avoid What You Can’t See”

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Hello! Thanks for being with us. Last week I spoke concerning the rapture, and today I'd like to extend the discussion. Rapture is not a scriptural term, but is a word which means, "catching away." In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, we read that when Jesus returns in the clouds of heaven, the dead who are in Christ will first be resurrected, and then the remaining true followers of Christ who are yet alive will, along with those who have just been resurrected from the grave, rise to meet Jesus in the air. This is an event that takes place after the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars fall from heaven. You will find this in Matthew 24, verses 29-42.

The reason I am speaking more today concerning the rapture is because the timing of the first resurrection, and our rising to meet the Lord in the air, is an important tool in determining the order of events of these last days. If you are under the assumption that there is a pre-tribulation rapture, you will be at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to understanding the end-time events, for you will never be able to comprehend what the image of the beast is, nor what the mark of the beast is, or even what the beast is itself. These concepts of Revelation 13, are hidden from the eyes of Christians who believe in a pre-tribulation rapture. The reason these are hidden is that when you believe that the Rapture precedes the Image and Mark of the Beast, then you will not recognize the Image and the Mark which are already current at this very time.

Satan is a deceiver. I'm sure no one will disagree with me there. But many Christians don't believe he can deceive them. But the only way we can escape Satan's deception is to come to a sure knowledge of scripture. And to do this, you will need to know the word of God not only in

it's written form, but also know it as it was manifested by Jesus Christ. And finally, you must be led into the truth of God's word by his Holy Spirit. You see, the written word of God, of itself, does not reveal enough to humans to save us from hell. We have to have the testimony of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

But Satan is fighting God all the way, and the way he fights is with lies. Lies destroy the truth. And because God is truth, Satan could destroy God if he could destroy the truth. And it is only through the truth that Christians can make it through the trials of this world. In 2 Thessalonians 2:10, it tells us that those people of earth who are deceived, are deceived because they did not receive a love for the truth. If I asked you if you loved the truth, I'm sure you would reply that you do love the truth. However, if we look a little deeper at the concept of loving the truth, you may see something you haven't seen before.

Loving something is not the same as just liking it. A love for the truth means that you have an intense attraction for it. It means that you hate the times when you can't have it. You hate not being with it. You want it to be the center of your life, an urgency to be one with it. Love is an intense word, not a thing that can be taken lightly. If you aren't enamored with the word of God, and in essence, with God himself, then you don't really have a love for the truth. And if you don't have a love for the truth, then you will be deceived by Satan, just like it says in 2 Thessalonians 2:10. Your deception is that you won't see or understand the things Satan is doing in the earth, but you will think you do.

There are tons of Christians who think they have Satan down pat: all figured out. But while they are busy playing at life and loving this world, instead of loving the truth, and doing the works of God, Satan is convincing them to keep their eyes focused on anything at all except what really is. He's like a magician who doesn't want you to look up his sleeve. The pre-tribulation rapture theory is Satan's attempt to get people to be complacent about the Image of the Beast and the Mark of the Beast. He wants you to think that it won't exist until you're already gone to heaven, and that way he can destroy you with it and you'll never even know it was here.

When Christians accept this, they are blinded to what is already here. Even though the Image of the Beast and the Mark of the Beast are already here, and the anti-Christ is already here, most Christians can't see them because they aren't looking for them. Because of the pre-tribulation rapture theory, the spiritual eyes of many Christians have been blinded. This means the spirit of anti-Christ can work freely, the image of the beast can easily do its work of destruction, and the mark of the beast can easily be applied to your forehead or your right hand even though you think you are completely safe.

You don't fight against something you can't see. A simple example of this is that if someone yelled that there was a lion coming to rip you to pieces, and you couldn't see the lion coming, you wouldn't know which way to run. You might be panicking with fear, but you would have to stand still until you saw the lion, so that you would then know which way to flee.

This is the trouble with the pre-tribulation rapture theory, in that this theory does not allow you to see the true dangers. The pre-tribulation rapture theory tells you there is no danger because the only danger that will come will only come after you are safely gone. But you must realize that you can't escape the destruction that the image of the beast brings, or avoid receiving the mark of the beast in your forehead or right hand, if you don't know what it is. And the pre-tribulation rapture theory makes people believe that they will not be here on Earth to see the image or mark of the beast, so they don't search for understanding of it. The pre-tribulation rapture theory makes ostriches of Christians, in that they bury their head in the sand and can see no danger.

There are several points of incorrect end-time prophetic interpretation to consider. One is that there will be a man who is the anti-Christ, who will sit in an earthly temple, and that this man is the head of the beast that was killed with a sword and has come back to life. But let's take a look at this doctrine and see what is really true and what is not true. First of all, the only place in scripture that the word anti-Christ is used is in the books of first and second John. Those references are, 1 John 2:18-22, 1 John 4:3, and 2 John 1:7. In these verses the word anti-Christ is referring to the spirit of anti-Christ, which is a spirit of opposition to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, not only is John referring to anti-Christ as a spirit, rather than a man, but he also makes the point in 1 John 4:3 that anti-Christ was already in the world at the time he wrote this. If the anti-Christ that John was referring to was already in the world at that time, then there is no other possibility but to conclude that the anti-Christ mentioned is not a man. Anti-Christ is anyone or anything that is opposed to Christ. And because God is a spirit, we must recognize that the beast nature is opposed to the spirit nature of God. The beast nature reigns supreme in our bodies of flesh, but just remember, flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of God. Therefore, we must be overcomers of the beast nature, and put on the righteous nature of God. We must put on Christ, and allow the Holy Spirit to dwell within us and to lead us.

Those who teach that the anti-Christ will be a man, teach that he is the head of the beast that was slain with a sword, and that he has come back to life. This is a dangerous doctrine, for it claims that a man, through the power of Satan, can be resurrected from the dead. This is a diabolical doctrine which actually equates the anti-Christ with Jesus Christ, in that just like Jesus, the anti-Christ can be resurrected from the dead. This gives Satan credit for being able to create life. If Christians believe this is actually possible, then they open themselves up to the deception of a major false Christ personality who is attempting to make his mark in the world even now. He is referred to as, Maitreya, the Christ, and is backed by an organization calling themselves, The Masters Of Wisdom. This organization claims that Maitreya is the Christ, just as Jesus was Christ, and that this Maitreya created his own human body to inhabit because no human being on earth was qualified.

So, I don't know about you, but I don't believe that a man can be slain with a sword, and raise himself from the dead to become an anti-Christ person. Secondly, the anti-Christ theory claims that this anti-Christ man will sit in an earthly physical temple. But, we are the temple. Jesus

made that plainly clear. If anti-Christ is able to sit in the temple showing himself as if he is God, then where he is sitting is in the body of Christ. The body of Christ is made up of Christians, and in this sense, the doctrine is correct, for the spirit of anti-Christ is firmly rooted in the church of today. Many who call themselves Christians are more interested in things that will stimulate their flesh than in the things of God that will stimulate their spiritual man. Instead of emulating Christ, they emulate the world society. They conform to the world standard, rather than to the standard of the cross. But Jesus said that we were to take up the cross and follow him, not turn on the TV set and follow its example. The animal nature of the world sets the trend, and this established trend has created a secular society which is certainly anti-Christ, for it blatantly opposes Jesus Christ and all that is called God. And Christians love it, and continue to willingly bring it into their homes by way of television and movies.

We here at Scripture Beneath The Surface believe that when the Bible says, “He that has ears to hear, let him hear,” that it plainly means that the understanding cannot come without being revealed by the Holy Spirit. Most of the end-time doctrine we hear today gives a strictly physical readout to prophecy. By this I mean that they only see the surface possibilities from a purely human standpoint, and cannot recognize the underlying meaning. An example of this is the fire brought down from heaven by the second beast of Revelation 13. The general response by theologians is that the anti-Christ can take fire from God and bring it down to earth to consume a sacrifice. But it couldn't be done on Mount Carmel in the days of Elijah, and no man is going to be able to do it at the end of the world. But what they cannot understand is that the fire from heaven is lightning, in the form of electricity, which man has harnessed. This is what the verse refers to as a notable miracle. Yes, it is physical fire, but the miraculous aspect is only miraculous in the eyes of man, and not through the eyes of God.

The second beast responsible for this miracle is the animal nature in man. Man, by the strength of his own hands, and not by the power of God, has risen up in his own brute animal nature, and laid aside reason in exchange for brute instinct. The beast that rose up in the earth is the animal nature of man that rose up and began to build an empire on earth which proposes to eventually lift humans up until they become equal with God, and in a sense, become gods in their own right. Humans are rebuilding the Tower Of Babel, but this time their materials are much more sophisticated. Instead of reaching to heaven with bricks and slime, they are attempting to reach heaven by the materials of science and technology, such as biotechnology, gene manipulation, and cloning.

Electricity, the fire of the heavens which man has harnessed, has enabled the science of mankind. Without this fire from heaven there would be no recurrence of the Tower of Babel. The first Tower of Babel was man's first attempt at exalting himself. It was an act of self-empowerment by humans, rather than to accept God as the complete power and authority in everything. The second Tower of Babel is much more technical, in that it is attempting to exalt man to the status of being gods, but it also is just a self empowerment act by humans, using science and technology, made possible through the harnessing of the fire of the heavens. Electricity is at the

core of EVERY scientific principle. Without this notable human miracle, there would be no major end-time thrust of Satan's power.

There are two beasts of Revelation. The first was the self-empowerment animal nature of Satan, which initiated the war in heaven that drew a third of the angels away from God. As I've mentioned before, Satan used his tail to do that. That's found in Revelation 12:4. The tail is symbolic of the animal nature, as opposed to the spirit nature of God. An animal does not use reason, and is therefore considered to be a brute beast. This initial animal nature, which is at the core of opposition to God, was then introduced in the earth through man, and is represented in Revelation 13 as the second beast. This beast nature is opposed to the finer things of God. The animal nature is brutish, which means to be without reason. Man has largely ignored reason and replaced it with an animal nature which is centered on self-empowerment by instinctive actions rather than thoughtful decisions. The animal nature only seeks to satisfy the instinctual desires of the flesh, and cannot comprehend the fullness or omnipotence of God.

In these last days, this beast nature of man has caused the people of earth to create an image of the beast. Although the image speaks, the church is largely unaware of what it is, or of its devastating destruction to God's people. The image of the beast is an image of the beast nature, that flesh nature which attempts to exalt itself against the spirit nature of God. The image of the beast is displayed by television and movies, and because of its great power, is responsible for brainwashing humans, including Christians. Make no mistake, the image of the beast is already here, and the image speaks, just as the Bible prophesied that it would.

No, the image of the beast is not the TV itself, or the actual movie film and cameras, but it is the beast nature which is displayed on the television and movie screens. The TV set is just the hardware that displays the image of man's fleshly nature. Secular programming, whether through a TV set or through a movie screen, is showing and speaking the things of man's beast nature, and not the spiritual nature of God. Secular programming not only leaves God out of their definition of reality, but actually blatantly opposes him. But Christians largely ignore the evil of it, even though they may recognize and acknowledge its excessive wickedness.

What follows is a destructiveness through deceitful lies, which brainwash the people of earth into a false reality, telling the people of earth that the absence of God and the wonders of man's abilities is the actual reality. It is a market where the things of God are not available, but the things of carnal man are readily available. What is truly God is being pushed onto the very back shelf of Satan's marketplace, and the goods and services that his merchants display are the only items readily for sale. If a person wants the deep things of God, if he wants to buy the wheat and barley of the word of God, he may find it tucked away somewhere on the back shelf, but the oil and the wine will not even be sold. The only food for sale is Satan's crop of grain, which is deceitful food, and for those who worship the nature of carnal man, there is no famine.

But Christians are largely unaware of this, and they even join the crowd in helping to grind the grain of Satan's doctrine. They worship the beast, by glorifying the animal nature. They worship the beast nature, but have little time to worship the spiritual things of God.

The results are that the mark of the beast is eventually placed on those who choose to worship the beast nature instead of God. It is put in their forehead or right hand. To be marked is to be designated as to who you belong to. The forehead implies that the mark is a designation of ownership brought about by a conscious decision. When the designation is placed in the right hand, it implies an unconscious decision, but one which was determined because the hand took more of the things of this world than it did for things which strengthen the heart. There are many people in the church today who call themselves Christians, but who spend more effort taking of the things of the world in order to stimulate their fleshly man, than they do in seeking the things from God above. The beast in man is getting stronger and stronger, and the spirit man is being put to death.

These concepts I'm referring to are not easy to understand. They have not been taught for a long time. The only reason they are coming back to the church is for the purpose of preparing God's people for these current last days. The Great Tribulation is here now, for it is a tribulation that is not aimed at just the physical destruction of the body, but a total destruction of the soul. The works of science and the various technologies at work in the world today have brainwashed most Christians into thinking they can live for the things of this world instead of living for Jesus and still go to heaven.

But going to heaven depends on whether you are considered to be a child of God or a child of the Devil. Children of God worship God. They don't worship the works of man's hands. But the science and technology of this world has blinded the minds of many, and they are seeking to get more of the things of this world than to get the things of God. This Great Tribulation is geared to tempt man so completely and thoroughly that if time were extended long enough, even the very elect would cave in to the world mind set. The world social system and the world money system are making a bid for the minds of people, and Christians are even in danger of being so deceived that they will worship the dainty things of earth and forget that they were put here to worship the Lord God.