

Chapter 9

THE MARK OF THE BEAST**REVELATION 13***Two Approaches to Chapters 12–14*

Before we go to new Scripture, I want to suggest two approaches to Revelation 12, 13, and 14 to you. You remember that in Revelation 12 we had the survey of history, and it is a sweeping approach about how Israel was attacked by Satan, the war in the heavens, and the devil and all his angels being cast out. Then Satan attacks the remnant of the woman's seed, the faithful ones that believe in and obey Jesus Christ. Following right on the heels of that we have the opening of Revelation 13 that has the beast coming up out of the sea. After that comes the beast coming up out of the earth.

That is our starting point tonight. Following those events of the beasts coming up, though, we have Revelation 14 that will be a review of the 144,000 of converted Jews, then the announcement of the falling of Babylon, and the thrusting in of the sickle to reap the harvest.

Survey Includes Chapters 12–14

If you put Revelation 13 on to Revelation 12 and Revelation 14 on to Revelation 13, take those three chapters as a block, then it becomes a much larger summary of history. We know that Revelation 12 is a sweeping approach of history to survey what has been going on through the ages, and then the rising of the beasts. Verse 17 of Revelation 12 has the dragon waging war on the remnant, and then the beast comes up out of the sea.

Survey Stops in Chapter 13

The rising of the beasts could be part of that survey of history. On the other hand, the survey of history could cut off with the war being waged against the remnant by the devil and the demons. If that is the case, then the beast coming up out of the sea follows Trumpet #7 in the continuance of chronology. You would have, then, the trumpets with Trumpet #7 being the last one, which signifies the rapture. The beast coming up out of the sea would mean then, that the Antichrist would not be known until after the rapture.

Looking at it the other way, the trumpets would go along to Trumpet #7, and the announcement of the rapture, then there is the survey of history which reaches way back in time to the beginning of Israel and walks forward all the way through the beast coming up out of the sea, the beast coming out of the earth, the 144,000, and the mark of the beast as a survey of history. Get in your mind the sweeping of history, and then the picking up of chronology again with the bowls.

I want you to see that there are two ways you can look at this. Depending upon the way that you choose, you will make some determinations. If you choose to have chronology pick back up again in Revelation 13, then we can all breathe a sigh of relief because we will not be here when the Antichrist arises out of the sea.

Tim: So you are talking about a pre-trib or post-trib rapture.

V: No, we are in the tribulation right now. I want you to hear that. But we can have a pre-manifestation of Antichrist rapture.

Student: Is that a mid-trib?

V: And that would basically be a mid-trib.

Pete: My question is backing up a little. We studied about the angel having a foot on the earth and a foot on the sea. Is that indicating the one-world religion?

V: No. That unites the church and state under God's Word in the Little Book.

Jerry: Heaven and earth coming together.

V: Yes to that. But now I have introduced a chronological issue for you to resolve.

Joe: To summarize then what you are saying in simplified form, you would just put the chronology of Revelation 12 by itself, and that would be a rapture before the Antichrist?

V: Yes.

Mary: But if you take them together, then we would be raptured sometime during . . .

V: We do not know.

Rapture Occurs at Last Trumpet

The certainty of what we have in chronology is that the rapture will not be before the last trumpet. We know that. God said that. If, then, the last trumpet cuts off in chronology, then God says, "Let me give you a sweeping review of history." He reaches back from Israel and He goes all the way to the fall of Babylon in Revelation 14. If that is the survey of history, then the rising of Antichrist is just somewhere within that survey. It does not place it chronologically after Trumpet #7 specifically.

The survey of history is not event oriented as closely as the seals and the trumpets and the bowls. Those are very precise; they have a very punctiliar beginning point, and you can begin to locate them. But this sweep-

ing survey is very general, and it covers centuries and centuries and centuries. Where in the sweeping view of history the Antichrist actually arises we do not know, we just know that it is after Satan begins to wage war against the remnant. That is all we know. To summarize, if the survey of history covers the rise of Antichrist, then we cannot determine the specific location of Antichrist's rising in regard to Trumpet #7. However, if the survey ends before the rise of Antichrist, then he arises after the Rapture.

Carnal Weapons

Steve: In verse 10 in Revelation 13 it says:

13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

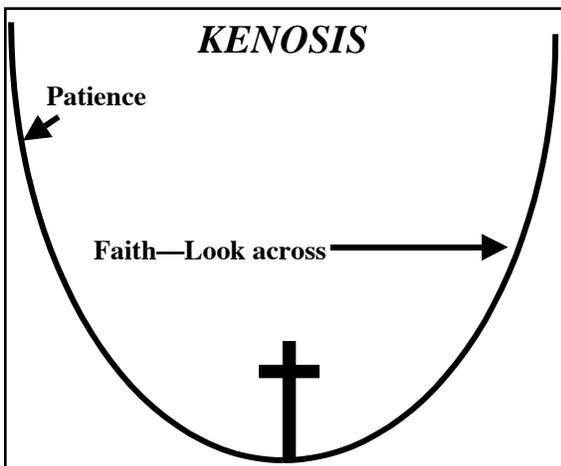
That is referring to false teachers, right?

V: No. It is referring to the wrong way to wage war back against Satan. You see we cannot fight Satan with carnal weapons. Using the sword will be very tempting as you approach the end times. Satan is going to use carnal weapons against Christians, and when he mounts an attack against you, it is not going to be necessarily a spiritual attack. It could be a government attack. It can be through political correctness and sending the troops out to get you the same way they did with Jesus. Now that is demonic in its context, but it is a carnal attack that is being used. If we try to fight back using those same carnal weapons, then we fall into the trap of Peter whipping out the sword and whacking the guy's ear off. If you are going to have a chance against Satan, it has to be through patience and faith. And it says that in the verse you cited, "Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

Patience

Remember what I said about patience. It is being under the burden, and settling in your heart that you are going to go the distance, and that it may be death at the end, but you are going. In order to endure the physical death, you should not have this debate raging in your mind as you are heading in that direction: Am I going to die? Does God want me to die? You must settle it in your heart that you are going to speak a word for the Lord no matter what it costs. Just settle it in your heart. The patience is enduring the death.

The faith is the commitment which comes from being able to see across the chasm in the *kenosis* (see Chart 9.1). Remember that you must look across on the other side of the grave in order to see the glory and the resurrection and the exaltation as faith. Patience is going down, faith is seeing your sacrifice as a future going up. Glory to God.

**CHART 9.1*****Escapist Rapture?***

Wanda: I am trying to understand what you said about tribulation, because you know everybody is saying tribulation saints will be raptured out. Now you indicate that other people are getting saved in the tribulation, and that is what is confusing me because my

understanding of the restrainer is that it is the church and it will be raptured out. These people under the altar that have been beheaded, my understanding is that they were beheaded during the tribulation because they did not go in the rapture. Am I right?

V: No, ma'am. Here is the hooker on all of this. This is a tradition that has been taught and grounded into our brains, and that tradition is that we are too good to have to suffer anything.

Wanda: That is a deception!

V: It is. Many of our forefathers have had to suffer. There are people today suffering for their testimony. There needs to be a re-evaluation of all of that suffering, and quit looking at this history in terms of escapism. The pre-tribbers say: "I am going to be out of here, and it is going to be all those other people who will go through the tribulation. So I do not have to worry about anything. I am just cooling it on through." This is problematic. It creates a lukewarm saint today with an escapist mentality.

A person uncommitted and not willing to hold up that burden in patience cannot know what I am talking about when I say, "You settle it in your heart and be willing to go all the way to the death." They cannot hear what I am saying here because they are brain-washed into thinking, "I am just going to live and have a good time. It is all roses for me, and then I am out of here. It will be all those other sorry people that did not get saved that are going to go through the tribulation." They think, "It will not be me."

Escapism is a wrong approach to this issue. You must see that there is not going to be any rapture prior to the last Trumpet. That is a given. God said that. I look in the Bible for trumpets. I find the last one, and

guess what. That is where the rapture is. It certainly is not before the last trumpet. Therefore, if you look prior to Trumpet #7, you will find a whole pile of people being martyred. What are you going to do with that tribulation? You have to get tough and suck it up, hang in there, and go with this re-evaluation.

If you put your whole life on these want-to's, these dreams, the yearning in your heart that you will escape all the troubles, what is going to happen to you when the trouble hits and Antichrist comes out? He says, "Take the mark." You think, "What shall I do? Antichrist is telling me if I do not take the mark, I cannot buy or sell. He is forcing me to take the mark! It is against my will. Okay, I will take the mark, but I do not want it!" Here you are taking the mark, and God says in His Word that anybody that has the mark is not going to heaven. Get tough, now, people!

Fighting with Spiritual Weapons

Steve: It would do us all well to really go in and study that 6th chapter of Ephesians where Paul talks about the spiritual battle in the heavenly armor because that lays it out. That lays out our battle plan, our weapons, our everything. We should look at that very carefully because we need to know our plan and weapons to endure suffering.

V: Yes, and tie that right in here because this is how we are going to fight. If we do not fight with the spiritual weapons, folks, we are going to get clobbered. The worst possible defeat would be to take the mark of the beast in order to save our physical lives.

Steve: Just as to what is being said, I told a Sunday school class of youth that perhaps the most difficult lesson that the Lord has to teach us is patience, but nevertheless in

Revelation 13:10, out of all that is being said in that verse, patience is the key word. We do not fight Satan with the normal thinking of sword, we cannot even consider a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye because he has power in carnal weapons. One of the youths asked, "Why do we need patience so badly? Here it is right here in this verse. If we do not have patience, we will accept the mark."

V: Having set the stage for how you want to interpret this, your interpretation will establish whether you are looking to see the Antichrist. Are you looking and being careful and cautious in your walk? Or are you being careless and taking everything for granted, that everything is going to be all right, and you are going to be out of here before the Antichrist and all his terrible troubles arrive? It depends upon how you see this survey of history. The way I am looking at it is that I attach the rising of the Antichrist and the rising of the False Prophet in the survey of history, not in the *chronos* of the events as we have studied to this point. That is where I come down. You do not have to come down there. Please know that your grades will not be affected whether you agree with me or not. However, your lives will be affected, and your "eternal" grade will be affected.

Sybil: If Revelations 12, 13, and 14 are a sweeping of history, then the Antichrist comes after the rapture?

V: Not necessarily. He could be already on the scene.

Steve: It just goes back to what you said then. We just know that he comes before the last trumpet.

V: No, before the judgment.

Jill: We already know that he has to be on earth.

V: Not necessarily. If the beasts arise in the survey of history, then all we know for sure is that they arise before the judgment. If the beasts enter the scene as a chronological event after Trumpet #7, then the rapture will prevent saints who are currently alive from enduring any additional tribulation dished out specifically by Antichrist.

Paul: Peter, in one of his epistles, says we need to be alert for the devil. He is like a roaring lion.¹ I heard a guy on the radio who said, "I stay ready." Always be ready; just stay ready. That way you do not have to get ready. We need to just stay ready, be alert. Because whatever is going to happen is going to happen. What we need to realize is that if we are walking with the Lord, submitting our lives to Him no matter what the cost, the victory is already won. He may kill our bodies, but Jesus owns our souls.

V: Amen!

Homer: There is a logic that perhaps says that it would be logical to deduce that the Antichrist would come before the rapture because he wants to get all the folks he can before Jesus apprehends us. We do not know when he is going to be here, but that kind of logic would certainly be for us to be prepared always in every waking moment. He could come before you could even look around.

Tim: What occurs to me on what Paul just said: the people who are getting ready have not settled it in their hearts. People that are ready have settled it in their hearts.

V: That is a good point. It needs to be a fully thought-out, done deal.

Beast Out of the Earth (The False Prophet)

Now we will get back to Revelation 13.

Revelation

13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by [the means of] those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

13:17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number [is] Six hundred threescore [and] six.

We will skip verse 18 for right now because that is very difficult. Let me come back to verse 11, the two horns are two men. The False Prophet is going to be a person that is going to be in charge of two people. One will be in charge of education, and one will be in charge of journalism: both are things that have to do with words. This beast is going to have a benign, gentle appearance like a lamb, but he is going to speak like a dragon. That means his words are going to betray him. Listen to the words! Do not look at the countenance, do not look at the gentleness, listen to the words. The words of journalism

¹ 1 Peter 5:8.

and education are the words that are shaping society and bringing society around so that it will be politically correct and ready and willing and desiring to worship the first beast. All the various technical things are means. The two that will be in charge will be the minister of education and the minister of information or journalism. That false prophecy is already being propagated around the world, folks. It is geared to produce political correctness by getting the Antichrist in power and getting the population to conform.

Mark of the Beast

There are people today taking the mark. Let me tell you something: You listen to television and you see this politically correct junk. There are people that are agreeing with that political correctness. That is taking the spiritual mark on the forehead when you agree with it. Television propagates information and actions that are politically correct. When people say, “Yeah, I agree,” and they get in there and do it, that is taking the spiritual mark on the hand. There are people today taking the invisible mark on the head or on the hand, and it is going around the world, and they are ready, willing, and desirous of a physical mark to follow that up. They will be first in line, and they will turn you in if you resist or give a testimony to your faith. You need to see this, now. We are in a terrible situation.

False Prophet

Here is the dragon. He gives his power to Antichrist. Antichrist now is having all the power, the wealth, the prestige, the charisma, everything the dragon can pass on to him. It is the same kind of stuff that he tried to entice our Lord with when he said, “Bow down to

me, and I will give you all these nations.”² He has that capability to give you power and wealth. All you have to do is give allegiance. He will give it to you. He is going to give it to this man who is the Antichrist. The Antichrist is going to turn around and give power to the False Prophet. The False Prophet is going to be a minister to Antichrist, bringing the devotion of the world, the population of the world to him.

Taking the Mark

The False prophet will use education and journalism, the two horns, to bring that to pass. There is going to be, then, a stress on taking the mark. Here is the way it is going to go if you do not get the mark: it will first be a passive kind of take the mark. It will be a campaign of television, education, newspapers, magazines, books, art, everything included in journalism to be persuading the people to voluntarily take the mark. They will tell you to get in line, go on down, get your mark, and show your allegiance to the king. The people will swoop in there. Those who have the invisible mark are going to get in there as fast as they can to get the visible mark and show it off with pride, how they are okay, they are certainly the “reasonable” people. They have taken the mark, and it is making the world operate so much better. They will say, “What is wrong with you? Why do you not take the mark?” The visible mark is the second step. You cannot buy or sell unless you take the mark.

Then that group of people that have been holding out because they know something about the book of Revelation will say, “No, if we do not take the mark, we are going to die.” You cannot buy or sell without the mark. So they will reason that they are being forced to

² Luke 4:5-8.

take the mark. That is a rationalistic approach. They are going to say, “We are forced to take the mark.” Let me tell you what forced to take the mark is. That is when a team of people come and grab you, throw you down, tie your hands and feet down, and hold your head down, then they brand you against your will while you are kicking and screaming for all you are worth. That is a forced mark, but when they say, “If you do not take the mark, you are going to die,” and you say, “Okay, I am going to take the mark, but it is forced on me.” That is not forced! That is a voluntary “yes.” That is a choice.

Joe: That mark on the hand is what I have always known it to be. You take it for convenience, not because you believe. You take it for convenience of “I want the food, I want the pleasures, I want whatever.” But you take it nonetheless.

V: That is right, you take it.

Joe: You know Nike’s big motto is “Just do it.” You could see them using that campaign for propaganda purposes.

V: Yeah, I can hear it now: “Just do it. Just go on and do it. It is not going to hurt you.”

Joe: Dr. Vinson, if you are held down and branded with it, that is not taking it. You are not willingly taking it.

False Revival

II Thessalonians

2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

There is the looking for revival. The church is looking for revival. You need to see that revival is going to come, but it is going to

be a false revival. That false revival is going to be some kind of opposite of the *kenosis*, and the church is going to praise the Lord for this wonderful revival. That is how Satan operates! He offers you power and wealth for your allegiance. Counterfeit revival is coming.

The closer we come to Antichrist himself, the more false revival is going to begin sweeping the land. There is going to be the trading in of the faithful, patient endurance for emotional, carnal satisfaction. People are going to get goose bumps and holler, “Oh, this is a wonderful revival.” We are already trading in the hard-nosed, self-denying, cross-bearing Christianity of following Jesus that is required of a true disciple who has it settled in his heart and is going to go the distance.

Discipleship costs you greatly. If you trade that in for this false revival, and you get swept up in this hysteria of all the wonderful church services, and “Boy! Christ is here and over there, and somewhere else. Come on over here, you should be right here for Christ is here.” Or, “You can come in here and you can start your song service and then start having some emotions break out, and the goose bumps, and Christ has arrived. You can feel Him.” I want you to know that when Jesus faced the cross, He wept, He sweated, He was in agony, and guess who was there. The Father was there, and the angels were there nurturing Him and giving Him strength to go through it.

I do not want all of you trading in true discipleship and going with all this hysterical stuff that is being passed off as revival because there is nothing that counts except self denial, cross bearing, followship. That is revival. It will be with tears running down your cheeks and a hurting in your gut and fear and trembling as you go.

Oscar: Professor, you are saying some things that are very, very frightening, and the reason why is that they are contemporary. We do not have to be anxious about Him coming soon or coming whenever. What you are describing is the charismatic and the neo-Pentecostal movements, and the name it and claim it stuff. That is going on now.

V: That is a scary thing, but there is much more.

Bob: That is going on now! There is revival going on right now, and I am not going to say that it is one way or the other, but people are coming, and the big thing that I have heard about it, the mark of this revival is that people are leaving with gold teeth.

V: Oh, great! Let me tell you something: if they leave with gold teeth, they are on the wrong kind of *kenosis*.

Bob: You know the Lord Jesus Christ never operates out of chance or circumstance. But I want all of you people to think of something right now. We are in this class for a reason. If each one of us can take this message out to our people, and they are not all going to agree with it, but if we can turn a few, and they go out and turn a few, hallelujah!

V: Hallelujah! And God will be glorified.

Bob: Amen!

Carl: Talking about this reminds me of a couple of things that have been going on here the last few years. It started off in Toronto where they had that so-called Toronto blessing revival which went to Pensacola, Florida, and then to Brownsville, Texas. They talk about slaying in the spirit. Christ never slayed anybody. He lifted them up and healed them. But these people are so-called

slain, laid out, or laughing uncontrollably. They think this is genuine revival.

V: And it is going to get worse, this kind is the obvious kind. Anybody can see the fallacy of that. There are some subtle revivals going on—watch it. Get your ears and antennas up. Be ready now because it is coming. I mean even to the deceiving of the elect. Be careful. If it does not hurt, then you are on the wrong path. *Kenosis!* Sacrifice! Pain! Giving your life!

Tom: What you are saying is that we have to be ready. In World War II the Germans trained some of their finest soldiers to speak fluent English in order to infiltrate the Americans. I remember hearing a story about a guy in one-to-one combat. He thought this German was an American soldier. To confirm it, he asked him, “I want to know who the pitcher was for the Cleveland Indians” for a specific game, and the guy could not answer him. He ended up shooting him because he could not answer that one question. That is how difficult it is going to be for us if we are not on top of it.

V: You are right on the money. It is going to be critical. It is already critical. We are losing a lot of people in this combat. They are being wounded and falling out all over the place.

Ted: What I teach to my son is self-denial. I told my son, “Look, when you have received Jesus, and you have made Him your choice, no matter what, whatever goes, you are going to stay with Jesus.” I told my 20-year old son, “Look, here is the deal. If someone comes up and says, ‘You can eat if you take the mark,’ then your choice must be to die. You have to be ready. If someone asks, ‘What is the extent you will go for Jesus,’ the answer is Death!” Once you make

up your mind for death, then you have it settled!

V: Amen! You are right on the money. Commit in your heart, get it settled today!

Jill: Paul was saying earlier that we who are in this class need to have a sense of accountability, and no one is here accidentally. We do not know what we are being prepared for but ultimately we need to tell somebody else. Over in Ezekiel God says that the minister, the pastor, the prophet will have the blood of the people on his hands if he does not blow the trumpet. If I blow the trumpet, and they still perish, that blood is on their heads, but if I do not blow the trumpet, if I do not tell them what they need to be warned about, their blood, when they die or become casualties in the war, will be on my hands. I cannot stand that.

V: I know it. I cannot either. We have to get it right.

Son of Perdition (The Man of Lawlessness)

II Thessalonians
2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Now this is the son of perdition who is revealed. This parallels the Antichrist in Revelation 13 where the False Prophet, using the two information methods of education and journalism, is going to promote the worship of this son of perdition.

II Thessalonians
2:5 Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

The Restrainer

2:6 And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.

There is something stopping the son of perdition right now. That something is not the Holy Spirit because if the Holy Spirit is going to stop him, he is stopped. However this son of perdition is progressing, but the “he” has not yet stepped onto the world’s scene openly as of right now. We do not know who “he” is. We can have suspicions, but we do not know who “he” is. There is coming a time, though, when we will know, but it is only after that which is holding him back is pulled away. According to verse 6, something is holding him back.

II Thessalonians
2:7 For the mystery of iniquity . . .

Or the mystery of lawlessness.

II Thessalonians
2:7 . . . doth already work: only he who now letteth [will let], until he be taken out of the way.

Let me give you my theory of the restrainer. The restrainer has a masculine ending, so the restrainer is masculine. The Bible says that it is “he,” but it is an impersonal “he.” Since the son of perdition is called the “lawless one” and the mystery of “lawlessness” is what is at work, then I think that it is law that is restraining the lawless one while the mystery of “lawlessness” is at work. It is law that is restraining lawlessness.

Law is masculine. The Greek word “*Anomos*” (lawless one) ends in “os” which is masculine. If you were going to substitute a pronoun in Greek for law (*nomos*), it would be “he” instead of “it.” So I think that what is holding back lawlessness is law. If that is the case, if I am right, then friends we are closer than you ever dreamed because law is changing by the day.

Sybil: Darkening of truth and justice.

V: My land, it is! It is the darkening of truth and justice.

Henry: Are you talking about the son of perdition? Was not Judas called the same thing? What is the difference in him and what we are talking about here?

V: This one here is going to be the one chosen by Satan to stand up on the world scene and be the king and actually receive the worship of the world. Judas was not that. He was just a pawn in his attack on the one that is of the perfect law.

Henry: I thought the son of perdition was referring to Judas' situation so that perdition would be here on the earth in the spirit at that time.

V: Yes.

Antichrist Revealed

II Thessalonians

2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2:9 [Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Now watch this next verse.

2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Man! We have to hang onto the truth. We have to have pleasure in righteousness. We have to be focused on the banner of Jesus Christ. If we allow any of this lawlessness or the mystery of iniquity or the mystery of

lawlessness come into us through political correctness, then we are part of the darkening of truth and justice in this world. Hang on there now. You stand in there. Stand in the light and be a reflector of the light and a professor of the light. Take the light into the darkness. If you do not, we are going to get darker and darker and darker. Remember that 1/3 of your light is already gone.

Betty: Are you saying that when it says, "The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders?" This is going to be happening in the church?

V: Yes, it is going to be all over the world and especially in the church. The church is involved in lawlessness. Many in the church vote for lawlessness. They do not want restraint. They think that abortion is okay. Do you believe that abortion is okay? No, you do not believe that. Why is the church voting for that? I do not understand how they can vote like that.

Oscar: I saw in the paper Tuesday about a case where a young lady took her baby and put it in a garbage can. The article claimed that it was a shame because there is a law on the books now that if you are having it outside of a hospital, you just call 911. You just give them the baby, and they take it away. When I read through that, one of the girls in our office said, "Oh, that is great. Taking the baby away eliminates the problem." I said, "Wait a minute, think about that. 911 is willing to take the baby away right now. Years or perhaps even months from now, what are they going to do with those babies when they have so many of them?" In other words, there will be no restraint on young ladies having babies because there will be no consequences. What

are they going to do with those babies eventually? Eventually we may get into this period you were talking about. Maybe you will get a little grace period to check the baby out to see if you want it, and then give it to 911 if you do not want it. When 911 cannot support them or we cannot support them, perhaps they will start putting them to death.

V: We have no-fault divorce. Maybe we can have no-fault birth.

Jerry: One other thing. They were talking about it this morning on the radio. One of the conservative, Washington, D. C., family groups got their hands on brochures and price listings of body parts of babies at abortion clinics who were selling those parts. There is no law against it.

Homer: It was something like this in Romans 1:28.³ People who do that, it says God gave them over to a debased mind. Is that what we are talking about? Their minds are twisted and . . .

Strong Deception

V: Well, that Romans passage may be even worse than what we are talking about here. Romans is describing a process that goes to the depths of degradation, even past homosexuality. That degradation is a place in which you have lost your orientation between right and wrong. There are going to be many people here with good intentions who are deceived. These will be normal kinds of people that we are dealing with here. The great masses of society that are going to fall in line with Satan are good folks. They are going to be your relatives and your neighbors and

³ Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in [their] knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

your co-workers. They are going to be decent people.

Beth: They are going to be trying to convince us that what they are doing is right.

V: And that we are wrong.

Paul: This morning driving here, I was thinking about these passages and about the tribulation when things will get worse, and about some of the acts that people are going to do towards other people especially toward Christians, and I thought to myself, "How could somebody be so uncompassionate?" But it clicked. Let us think, for instance, about our young people. They are barraged everyday with violence, drugs, and sex, not only on TV but on the movie screen, by the music they listen to, the violent video games. They have totally become desensitized to sin. Satan is raising this age group of people up to be in his army. They are not going to have one care in the world.

V: Right. You are on the money.

Jerry: It says even the elect will be deceived?

V: The elect? The elect will be deceived? Almost the elect will be deceived.⁴ That means, then, that even the Christian is going to have a hard time seeing through this darkness, a very hard time.

Spiritual Mark and Deception

We have come to the point of receiving the mark, and I want you to just go ahead and dedicate yourselves that you are not going to receive the invisible mark so that you can get

⁴ Matthew 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Mark 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if [it were] possible, even the elect.

in training. Do not receive the invisible mark. It is being received today. Not receiving the invisible mark is your training ground. The visible mark you will recognize right away because I believe all the elect who have been rejecting the spiritual mark are going to recognize the physical mark and say, “No. If I have to die, I die.”

Please understand that it is the invisible mark that is very difficult to recognize, and you must start your training right now.

There is another thing that I think is going to be connected to this mark. As you heighten your sensitivity to look through the darkness and see the errors that are sweeping across the country, *i.e.* false revivals, false psychology’s, false theologies, false prophecies, false teachings in the pulpit, and all the escapist mentality, the me first idea, the self indulgence of the church, the upside down *kenosis*, and the lack of serious sacrifice among the saints, then you will discern the mystery of iniquity far sooner than the masses.

The masses are not going to catch on. They are going to follow Antichrist, and they are going to take the invisible mark and eventually the physical mark. Ultimately, they are going to the lake of fire. But the lukewarm saints are also going along the way with them thinking they are on the correct path until they hit the wall. Then they will wake up and say, “Oh, no!” They are not going to take the physical mark if they are truly elect.

There will be a lot of rationalizing going on in the thinking of the saints. I have already heard some. There are saints today that if you talk to them about the possibility that your social security or your retirement might be cut off unless you take the “government-is-

our-savior” mark on your hand or your forehead, what are you going to do? They said, “I am going to take the mark. I must have my social security. Without that I will die. I would starve to death. I will take the mark.” So, friend, beware! This is a very subtle thing. All you have to do in order to justify taking the mark is just rationalize the evil away. “This is not Antichrist. This is the government.” That kind of thought pattern is already taking the invisible mark, and it is getting you ready to take a governmental mark.

Wanda: Are the people who go all the way to the wall the remnant?

V: Yes, the remnant after the rapture. Basically we are the remnant now. There is going to be a lukewarm group of Christians who are escapist. They think that it cannot happen to them, even when it is going on right now. Some Christians think that it has to be good because God will not let them have a day without food or suffer any tribulation. That is the kind of Christian who is going to hit the wall. Only then will they come to their senses. What I want is for the discernment to take place now, right now. The earlier we can discern and the earlier we can get our brethren to discern, the more people will be rescued out of the masses into the elect.

Oscar: I think big debts are going to be in that, too. People that owe a lot of money are going to have a hard time resisting that mark. They are going to come after you if you owe a lot of money.

V: Yes.

Oscar: They will propose to forgive your debt if you will take the mark.

V: Yes, they will declare then that you are a good citizen, and all good citizens come out equal.

Revelation

13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number [is] Six hundred threescore [and] six.

I confess to you that I do not qualify as “he that has wisdom.” I do not know what the number 666 means. I do not know how to interpret that. I just do not know what to do with that, so I go on to Revelation 14. I have come up with so many answers that I now have answers describing the answers.

REVELATION 14

The Physical Mark

Revelation

14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Notice that elsewhere the mark of Satan is written in the forehead, but here is the mark of God written in the forehead. It is mark against mark. Which mark am I taking right now? I am taking the mark of God in my forehead because I am trying to think the thoughts of God. The thoughts of God are not self glory, self indulgence, self satisfaction, self centeredness, and all of that political correctness.

The thoughts of God are sacrifice. He gave His only begotten Son, and I am to give myself. You are to give yourself. Sacrifice! Start thinking in terms of *kenosis*. Get the mark of God, the invisible mark of God on your forehead and in your thought life. Then go out and start helping people, handing out tracts, and get the invisible mark of God on

your right hand. Make your actions the same as God's actions. Make your thoughts be the same as God's thoughts. Jesus said in Philippians 2, “Let this mind be in you.”⁵ That is where we are: taking those invisible marks. I am sealed with the mark of God. There is a spiritual mark on me! And when Satan comes, he sees **PROPERTY OF ALMIGHTY GOD** in the middle of my forehead. The only way he can mess with me is if I give him permission. When I give him permission, he can come in and do all manner of evil in my life, in my body, and in my home until I take that permission back and say, “Hold it! Get out of here, because this is the property of God—bought, paid for, signed, sealed, and delivered to God.”

Many Waters

Revelation

14:2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, . . .

Notice that, there are a lot of different kinds of waters. There is some truth in a lot of different denominations, people. God's truth is all of that good truth put together, and none of us has a lock on the whole thing. When you hear God, it is going to sound like lots of waters, not just the little dribble that you are carrying around now.

Revelation

14:2 . . . and as the voice of a great thunder: . . .

And we have already talked about thunder in here.

Revelation

14:2 . . .and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

I want you to know that a harp brings a cooperation and a harmony together, so when you see the harping in here, it is talking about

⁵ Philippians 2:5.

how God acts through His people in harmony, and we all come together, and we can hear the voice of many waters, and act in harmony together, and bring the whole truth, not in chaos and not in self interpretation or private interpretation but in the harmony of God.

New Song by 144,000

Revelation

14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Now notice where the 144,000 are. They are in heaven right in front of the throne with the beasts and the elders. We have been seeing this scene coming up over and over and over again. Here are these 144,000 right there singing away. They have the big mark, the name of God written across their foreheads, and they are singing this new song. These people were redeemed from the earth. You have been redeemed from the earth, but there is a new song being sung by this 144,000 that you cannot sing.

It is a special kind of redemption that we are looking at here.

Revelation

14:4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

This kind of redemption is for a kind of man who has no ties at all to the earth. They are not worrying about how they are going to make their money and where they are going to do their job or where they are going to take their wives and where they are going to take their vacation and where they are going to

build their houses. They are not worrying about a car with a dead battery in it and other kinds of problems that are going to come along. They are going to walk free from the earth. They are going to walk through the earth, and they are not going to have a wife that says, "I think we need to get a new car," or "We just do not make enough money. You need to get a second job." They are free of the things that tie you down and inhibit your free walk.

We have a song to sing, and it is a new song, but it is not this song. When these people were redeemed from the earth the umbilical cord was whacked off, and this is the kind that Paul was talking about when he said "I would rather you not marry,"⁶ because if you marry, you will have to please a wife. She has concerns of the world. These guys do not have a wife or any of those earthly concerns. They have been redeemed from the earth. They have no defilement with them, so they are completely free.

Revelation

14:5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

This is sacrifice without regard to another care. It is total sacrifice. When these 144,000 get saved, they are going to get radically saved. There is not going to be this rinky-dink stuff that we do. It will be big league. It is going to be like Jeremiah and Isaiah. Isaiah went around naked.⁷ Jeremiah was lowered down into a cesspool,⁸ and had to stand leaning against the wall and sleep standing up or he would have drowned in that stuff. He did not care. Bring it on. That is the attitude He wants from us. We are seeing the 144,000

⁶ 1 Corinthians 7:27-40.

⁷ Isaiah 20:2-3.

⁸ Jeremiah 38:6.

do exactly what He wants. All we can do is approximate it because we are in the context of marriage. We are in the context of a career and a life and an earthly context.

Present Life Context

How are you going to make the best? It looks to me that you have to do the best you can in the context where you are. Paul says, "If you are a slave, stay a slave."⁹ I am not trying to get you to change out from where you are, stay where you are and maximize it. You are pulling two things together. You are in a context of being connected to the earth. (You are not like these folks.) These folks are totally disconnected from the earth. But you also have a call on your life of sacrifice and *kenosis* so you must pull the two together without destroying either one. You cannot destroy your marriage, and you cannot say no to God. So, what are you going to do? You must hang on to both of them, and it is like a huge boulder on your back. Settle it in your heart, stay in there, grit your teeth.

Beth: Forget the new car.

V: Yes, forget the new car.

Joe: I should have brought my wife to-night.

⁹1 Corinthians 7:17-24 But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches. Is any man called being circumcised? let him not become uncircumcised. Is any called in uncircumcision? let him not be circumcised. Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God. Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Art thou called [being] a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use [it] rather. For he that is called in the Lord, [being] a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, [being] free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.

Tim: You know what Paul was trying to say there? Listen. If you are a believer and single, stay that way.

V: If you can cut it. Do you have the makings? If you have the makings, man, grit your teeth and go for the long haul because we are talking about eternity. Get tough.

Ted: In this situation because we are in the context of the world, most of us in here are married, so the Word of God is saying, "Make the best possible situation for what you have for the glory of God."

V: Yes, absolutely. Maximize your call within your context. The thing that we must consider is that one competes against the other. It takes wisdom, then, to hold the context and call together to maximize because if you maximize one at the breaking of the other, you have not even maximized the first.

Tim: Paul said if you do not care for your own household, you have denied the faith.¹⁰

V: Yes, so it takes some wisdom to pull the two together, and it almost seems like it cannot be done. There are times when it seems like it cannot be done.

Wanda: With God all things are possible.¹¹

V: That is right. With God all things are possible, and it is like going through the eye of a needle.

Pete: Concerning what you have just been talking about, there is something that has been going through my mind for about the last three weeks. I am divorced with two small children. I have custody of the children and the house. It appears that my ex-wife is fixing to get married again. It has been going through my

¹⁰ 1 Timothy 5:8.

¹¹ Matthew 19:26.

mind to give her the house, give her my pension, and go. I have been struggling with this for some time.

V: My goodness!

Pete: The Lord has been dealing with me on this.

V: We are talking about your situation.

Pete: I am seeing how to put it together. It has been laying back there in my mind. This is the way you can do it. You break all ties, but yet you are supporting your family because you have the pension, and the VA check coming in. That makes the house payment, pays the electric bill. The wife is working already.

V: Pray for wisdom, Pete. Caring for your own household involves much more than money. You have to maximize your call within your context.

Notice that there is no guile in the 144,000. Guile means that there is an agenda, and you are being deceptive in what you say or in your countenance, and you are working an agenda. That is a false presentation.

Carl: “No guile” means you have no agenda.

V: Right, you are like a book. You have no agenda with which you are trying to manipulate onto somebody.

Revelation 14:6 begins with “And I.” “And I” is a place where chronology can pick up again. I am not saying that it does at this point, only that it could.

Babylon is Fallen (Babylon, the World System)

Revelation

14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on

the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Henry: Please, sir, speak a little more on fallen Babylon. Is that a reward for our patience? Babylon represents homage?

V: No, God puts on the one side Babylon as the city of the world, which represents the earth or world system, and Jerusalem on the other side as the Lord’s system. Those two are put forward as the dichotomy of the entire universe. On the one side, then, is the world system. If the world system is brought into the church, Mystery Babylon gets written on the harlot’s brow (we will get there. This is just an introduction here). The fall of Babylon and the judgment of Babylon are going to occur. We are getting closer and closer and closer to it, and now it is showing that Babylon is fallen. I believe that after the rapture, there is this statement in 14:7 that is going to say, “Now here comes the judgment of the world.” Not only are there the works judgments of the saints, but both the person and the works judgment of the entire world are coming up next. So the announcement that Babylon is fallen means that the world system has climaxed, the time of the Gentiles walking all over God’s people is coming to the end, and now God is about to step onto the scene and bring judgment against them. Anyway, that is the way I am seeing this.

Henry: You are saying this verse 8 is referring to the world system falling.

V: Yes, the world system is falling and ready to receive the wrath of God. The world system has drunk the wine of the wrath of fornication.

Worshipping the Beast

Revelation

14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

14:10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Let me stop there for a minute. Worshipping the beast is not going to appear like worship. Worshipping the beast is being done now. It is a mentality. This is political correctness, this assuming the rightness in the governmental approach to things when the government is a fallen institution. This worship is going to have devastating effects. So if the beast is over in Europe somewhere, and he is setting the laws for the world community, and the people say, "Oh, he is so good to us to give us the great laws to get rid of these mean-spirited Christians who have hindered us. Now we can get rid of these laws that have been stopping us from having our complete fulfillment." That is worship. It is not necessarily going to have the kind of definition where you get down on your knees and pray

to the beast. It is going to be this kind of mental acceptance. It is going to be to affirm what the beast is saying and then ratifying it by taking the mark.

Henry: It is a matter of having the least little appreciation of anything that he does.

V: It really is. Folks, get tough now.

Mary: Daniel 7:25 verifies exactly what you are saying. It says here that He is going to wear out the saints of the most High because it has to do with the changing times and laws.¹² You mentioned laws.

V: Yes, ma'am. That Scripture really confirms this idea.

Jack: Law and lawless being in the masculine, then all of a sudden there is a her. Is that significant? It is calling Babylon her.¹³

V: Okay, yes. This would be the bride of Antichrist.

Jack: And it goes all the way to the end.

V: It goes all the way to the end: the bride of Antichrist. It is a she. Babylon is a she.

Revelation

14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Your patience. Get under God's burden, keep His commandments, grit your teeth, get tough and stay under it. It is a commandment to you.

¹² Daniel 7:25 And he shall speak [great] words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

¹³ Revelation 14:8.

Chapter Questions

1. The rapture will occur (choose one)
 - a. after the last Seal is opened
 - b. prior to the last Seal
 - c. at Trumpet #5
 - d. at Trumpet #7
2. The person in charge of education and journalism will be (choose one)
 - a. the false prophet
 - b. the Antichrist
 - c. Satan
 - d. not yet known
3. What is escapism thinking?
4. Who is the Beast of the Earth?
5. Explain the spiritual mark of the Beast.
6. Describe the 144,000.