

Signs of the End of the Age The Falling Stars

Studio Session 88

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We want to continue our discussion of the signs surrounding the return of the Lord—signs not only in the earth but signs in heaven above. We’ve had quite a discussion so far of the signs on the earth. These have been in previous presentations. But now we are looking at signs in the heavens above. I’d like to begin with the fact that the Lord says that the powers of the heavens will be shaken and that’s because once more God will shake, not only the earth as He did once, but He will also shake the heavens. This is an interesting prophecy from the book of **Haggai, chapter 2**. In **Haggai, chapter 2, verse 6**, the following is said, “**‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations, and the desired of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty. ‘The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘And in this place I will grant peace,’ declares the Lord Almighty.’**” (Inserted – **Haggai 2:6-9**)

You have often heard this Scripture quoted. It is largely quoted by the people who advocate non-restricted prosperity. What they fail to tell you is that just preceding the scripture that says, “The silver is mine and the gold is mine and the house that I will build at the end of the age is greater than the former house and I will fill it with peace, I will give peace in that place.” Do you know what comes just before that? “In a little while,” meaning as I [God] measure time, “In a little while I will once more shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. I will shake all nations.” And then a term that is used in Scripture to describe the Lord Jesus Christ, that term is: “the desired of the ages,”—“Comah” in the Hebrew—and it refers to a star, indeed it refers to a constellation of stars. The Desire of the Ages, but that is a little bit further down in this message, “Then the desired of the ages will come.” Jesus will come... after He has shaken the earth and the heavens.

We see that He is shaking the seas and the dry land. In the original sections of this broadcast, in this series of messages entitled “The Signs of the Times,” we spoke of the

time when God is shaking the earth. Now it says that He will shake the heavens, and in the three records of Jesus' great prophetic declarations in the New Testament—three records, in **Matthew 24**, **Mark 13** and **Luke 21**—in all these three great records the reference is to signs on the earth and signs in the heavens, and all three say that the powers of the heavens will be shaken. In the last broadcast we looked at what the powers of the heavens were, things that were created that are in the heavens that are described as “powers.”

From the book of **Ephesians**, the **6 th chapter**, we read the following, “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers...” there is that word, the “powers” of the heavens, “powers, authorities, the rulers of the darkness of this world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Inserted – actual verse—**“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” – Ephesians 6:12**) So where are these powers? Where are these powers described variously as “forces of evil”? I mean look at the construction of this. “Powers,” “authorities,” “forces of evil,” “areas of rule,” “principalities”... in the heavenly realms, that’s where they are: in the heavenlies as opposed to the earth.

In the last broadcast we looked at the fact that there were three heavens and concluded that the second heavens is the seat of the demonic. The powers that are in the heavens are described as: “principalities,” which means areas of rule; “powers,” which means the actual ability to do things; “authorities,” which would mean that they don’t only have the ability to do things, they have the right to do it—if you have authority you have the right to do a thing, if you have power you can do it—and then “armed forces,” spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Wait a minute... what are we talking about when you talk about “areas of rule,” “powers,” “authorities and armed forces?” You are talking about a kingdom, a kingdom that from the heavens rules the earth—deceives mankind. That’s what we are talking about.

We know that the demonic kingdom has been set up in the fashion such as this. For example, when Daniel was in Babylon the angel Gabriel came to him and told him that he was sent by God to speak to Daniel but on his way he was intercepted and engaged in warfare for fourteen days with a character known as “the prince of Persia”... “the prince of Persia.” (Inserted – actual verse—**“But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.” – Daniel 10:13**)

Kids know that name today from video games but they may not understand where it came from. It was a demonic prince who ruled the nation of Persia. And he [Gabriel] said that nobody came to his aid except Michael, meaning no one *needed* to come to his aid except Michael—Michael the great prince. Michael is the angel of warfare and if you are

engaged in a battle and Michael is sent to your aid the battle is over when Michael arrives because that's who he is: he is the prince of war. And he, of course, struck down the prince of Persia.

The archangel further told Daniel, "And when I return, the prince of Greece will come..." meaning that as the prince of Persia declined in his importance—as the demonic prince known as the prince of Persia, as he declined in his importance—another prince would arise, whose name would be the prince of Greece, and these princes, from their seats in the heavenlies, in the second heavens, would exercise rule over certain populations of the earth. (Inserted – actual verse—**“So he said, ‘Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince. And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I took my stand to support and protect him.)’”** – **Daniel 10:20-11:1**) So the prince of Persia, from his seat in the demonic realm, exercised a kind of legitimate rule over the people of Persia. Similarly, when he was overthrown, the one who replaced him in this hierarchy of rule was the prince of Greece.

You know, what is interesting is that of course this is happening when Daniel is still in Persia. It happens at the time of the rule of the Medes and the Persians. This would be something like six hundred years before Christ. In the earth, three hundred years later, a prince would arise in the region of Macedonia who would unify the Ionian states, which did not exist as the nation of Greece at that time—they were individual city-states. But what would arise then would be a nation known as Greece, and it would in fact be ruled over—300 years later—by Alexander, and so the nation of Greece would arise. But until then these states were known primarily as the Ionian cities... the cities of the Ionian Peninsula. It was under Philip of Macedonia—Alexander's father—that they would first come to be known as the country of Greece. Three hundred years before it happens on the earth the events are prophesied by the rise and fall of demonic princes in the heavenlies.

Christians today have been duped into thinking that the only kind of spiritual warfare that actually happens is a private, personal engagement between the individual and Satan. We have not been told properly that there is an entire array of the demonic against humans. So they have geographic areas of rule over which individual princes rule and they vie for the right to be dominant over the rising of nations. But not only do they have geographies of rule and princes that rule over them, they have both power and authority. It means that there are agreements that have been made between humans and the demonic that give the demonic legal authority over these realms and until the peoples of these realms turn to the Lord, these realms will continue to be blighted by the rule of the demonic.

Consider how, for example, the people of ancient Babylon made deals to appease the

gods of Babylon: Baal and some of these ancient deities. The whole idea of a people agreeing that a demon has a right to rule them, and then appeasing them through various forms of sacrifice and worship is what actually legitimizes the rule of these princes over these peoples. Eventually sometimes God will just call judgment upon a society such as that and will destroy them. Why, for example, did the Europeans in the 15th century sail into places like the Bay of Cortez and lay waste to the Aztec civilization? Because God had had enough of a society fueled by blood, the demands of blood made by these demons for centuries over people.

We often will see that in the times of nations, if God is going to rescue the people, and as they cry out to God, He will often devastate a people because the people attribute their success, their security, their peace and their well-being to the providence of these deities that they serve. When disasters overtake them their faith in these deities becomes shattered in some cases and for the first time are they open and available to God. The histories of nations indicate long periods of appeasements to various gods. You see, we tend to see everything through the eye of the modern perspective, ignoring the histories of nations.

What do we think culture is—this much-vaunted imperialism we call culture? Where did it come from? It came from histories of people, frequently histories of people who made pacts with the demonic and served and honored and gave obeisance to these demonic forces in all manner of ways, from carvings that signify the demons, whether these demons were associated with animistic perspectives or they were just bizarre in their appearances apart from any relationship to the natural world around them. Many of the ancient societies were formed around the gods that they worshipped, and these gods were legitimized in these arrangements in their rule over people. That's why the Scriptures say, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but we do wrestle against these demonic entities that have power and authority." (Inserted – actual verse—**"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."** – Ephesians 6:12)

You see, they have power, meaning they have greater strength than the humans and they have authority, meaning they have been legitimized in their rule over nations. Their modern ancestors often do not know why countries remain in economic backwardness for example, or we think of some of the medical practices or what would pass as medical practices in certain of these nations. For example it has been recently brought forth into the light that some of the witch doctors in various African countries where the AIDS epidemic is running rampant, the advice that some of the witch doctors are giving to people who are trapped in this vicious, terrible thing called AIDS, is that if they will have sexual intercourse with a virgin that somehow they will be cured.

We look at things like that and we think, “How mind-numbingly backward!” But no one really protests too much because it’s “culture.” What sort of “culture” is this? Where did this come from? Is this not frighteningly the sacrifice of children to appease the gods? Is that not where this came from? Is this not the sacrifice of a virgin to get the gods to go away and leave you alone? That’s why these demonic spirits actually have authority... because the fathers of nations, the heads of tribes in antiquity, formed appeasing alliances with these demonic spirits and they continue to exert rule in ways such as these. Now that example is very primitive but we could take more modern examples and we would see the vestiges of these evil pacts, whether it is evil pacts formed by Norsemen that now rule in places in the far north, such as the whole idea that nobody has any real importance: “unterloven” as the northern Europeans call it, that these are societies in which no one has any real importance. So the theory is: don’t make yourself to be very important because the tallest blade of grass is cut down.

Where would anybody get this idea that so fundamentally goes against the truth that God made every individual with an important destiny, which is that through each individual God intends to live and show his goodness to mankind? In so many different ways—crude and ancient, or modern but just clothed differently—these demonic spirits have exerted rule over human nations. We must not think that the demonic is only engaged in these personal engagements between humans and the demonic. They are engaged structurally. They have power, which is the ability to do things; they have authority, which is their historic right given through pacts that the fathers of tribes and nations made with these demonic spirits in exchange for promises of well-being. They have power, they have authority and they have “armed forces.” It means that they have the requisite personnel to carry out their deceptions and to perpetuate their vicious rule over nations.

They do it from the heavenlies; they do it from behind the curtain of invisibility, but the day is coming and—as the return of the Lord nears—the day will come when they will be forced out of the heavens and will no longer be able to conduct their affairs behind the cloak and curtain of anonymity. They will come to the earth, that is what **Revelation 12** tells us, “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth because the devil has gone down to you and he is filled with fury for he knows that his time is short.” (Inserted – actual verse—“**‘Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.’**” – **Revelation 12:12**)

When these events occur, the earth will become the place where there is this final climactic clash between the interest of God and of Christ and the interest of the evil one in opposition to the interest of Christ on the earth. Since the believers in Jesus Christ are the ones who hold forth the mystery of Christ in the earth, they of necessity become the targets of this warfare when the evil one comes to the earth. And so the Scriptures say,

concerning the saints and that day, in **Revelation, chapter 12**, “**‘Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God,’** that’s **Revelation 12:10**, “**... and the authority of his Christ.’**”

So what are we saying? We are saying that inasmuch as out of the heavens will come—and into the earth they will come—the entire demonic structure which is now hidden (hidden behind the invisibility of realms) it will be thrown out of the heavens into the earth and in no way will its power or its intentions or its methods be veiled or sealed or otherwise kept back. Now it is all in the open. Now can you imagine that the evil one is on the earth with all of the powers that he has over mankind, how will the saints survive? How will the people of God do in that day? Well God will have to arise, would He not? And so the Scriptures say, “Now has come the kingdom.” It doesn’t mean that the kingdom was never here. It means the full power and authority that was in the kingdom will now be available to the body of Christ.

How much power is this? How much authority is this? Jesus put it this way, “All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth.” (Inserted – actual verse—**“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’” – Matthew 28:18**) So the power of the Lord Jesus Christ on the earth will rise in the fullness of the kingdom. Everyone that Jesus got from the Father will be available to the body of Christ. What is the conclusion of the matter then? If you have kingdom against kingdom, race against race—a holy race against the evil one—what will be the outcome? The Scriptures say, “They overcame him...” meaning the saints will overcome, “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of their testimony and that they did not seek to preserve their lives even unto death.” (Inserted – actual verse—**“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” – Revelation 12:11**)

I know that you will probably say, “But that’s past tense.” No... it’s written in the language of past tense but it definitively refers to the future and this is why: When John was given this vision John was not standing on the earth. He was given this vision from heaven. So from heaven he was seeing the event, which is known in heaven—all things are known, the end is known from the beginning—so in heaven he could see the matter as finished. On the earth, the matter is still in the future. So the proper perspective from the earth is: we will overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, by the word of our testimony, and that we did not choose to save our lives even unto death. Why is this so? Because the full weight of the kingdom rises to confront the full weight of the deception and the authority derived through deception that the enemy has.

For the present time however, and until the heavens are shaken and they are removed—these created things that are in the heavens, that can be shaken, that will be shaken—and

the word defines shaking as being that of removing—until they are removed from the heavens we wait for that eventuality. But when they are removed from the heavens what do we have? We have the great clash between the things of God and the people of God on the one hand and the things of the evil one, and the evil one and his minions on the other hand. How will we know when these astonishing events will come forth on the earth, because they are not these things that arise from the earth itself? They are things that happen from the heavens, coming to the earth

The origins, the first strike of these things will not begin on the earth; they will begin in the heavens. How will we know when these things will come, because knowing is an inherently valuable part of preparing? How will we know so that we may prepare? The understanding of the timing is critical. The answer to this is: there will appear signs in the heavens above. It is the signs in the heavens that tell us when and what is coming from the heavens into the earth.

The next broadcast will focus very specifically on these signs in the sun, moon and stars, but we must first lay out the foundation—the underpinnings—not of the signs, the signs point to some thing. It is not the signs that we are primarily interested in; it is: “what it is that the signs indicate.” You see, all signs point to an actuality. The actuality is that the powers of the heavens will be shaken, or removed from the heavens. That’s the actuality. What are in the heavens that will be shaken and removed? The entire demonic realm that presently rules human nations but does so in anonymity. What will be the signs that will appear in the heavens that will tell us all of this? Because the importance of that is that we will also know the time, because historically at the point where the signs begin to appear in heaven it is the time when we should look for the occurrence of these things in the earth. So with that in mind it is critically important that we understand the signs in the heavens above. We will pay specific attention to that in succeeding broadcasts and I know that you will want to listen and to learn what these things are. I’m Sam Soleyn. Thank you for joining us in these continuing studies on the end of the age. I’ll see you next time.

Scripture References:

Haggai 2:6-9

Ephesians 6:12

Daniel 10:13

Daniel 10:20-11:1

Revelation 12:12

Revelation 12:10

Matthew 28:18

Revelation 12:11

