

Current Affairs #109 – A Summary

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I want to, at the outset, give a little bit of a summary, because things have been moving very quickly throughout the Book of Revelation and our studies. You will recall that there are three things going on:

1. One is that there are seven seals that are being opened, and we are at the point of the breaking of the seventh seal.
2. Then, under the seventh seal there are seven trumpets.
3. And under the seven trumpets there are the seven bowls of the wrath of God.

As the last three of the bowls of the wrath of God are poured out, there are woes that are to come, which bring extreme distress upon the earth. At the end of the seven seals and at the end of the seven trumpets, we are observing the last of the three woes that characterize the judgments of God upon the earth at that time.

It would be helpful, in your following along with these teachings, for you to realize that these three categories of events—the seven seals, the seven trumpets, the seven bowls—are not as though they are one upon the other. It is a sort of parallelism: where this is going on, and this is going on, and this is going on, and all three are occurring at the same time. It is reminiscent of what Jesus said in the Book of Matthew, the 24th chapter, that great prophetic passage regarding the end of the age; He describes the events as birth pangs on a pregnant woman (see verse 8). We have the tendency, you see, when we read these things, to assign a sort of chronological happening: that this happens first, and then this happens first, and then this happens first. No, it is not really like that. The Scriptures speak of these times as distress, the like of which had never been seen before upon the earth.¹ And it is this notion of the kind of rolling, one on top of the other kind of a thing, that amplifies this great distress.

One thing to keep in mind—and I understand that there are many things to keep in mind; this is not an easy study. And in fact, it has been represented many times by many different scholars and teachers and the rest of it. So, it is an area of study that is complex on many levels. That is why

All Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Bible, unless otherwise noted.

¹ See Matthew 24:21: “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.” See also Daniel 12:1; Mark 13:19.

the Scriptures speak of these things as requiring “men of understanding.”² Because what is coming together, in the Book of Revelation and throughout the Book of Revelation, are all the pieces that have been prophesied before throughout Scripture. It is as though you are drawing the purse string or drawing the net together to encircle everything. That is the function of the Book of Revelation. John references things as if the writer is thoroughly familiar with these things, and there is an innate assumption that everybody else is familiar with them as well.

For example, we will get to it halfway through chapter 11, where John says, “the beast that comes up out of the abyss.” Now he assumes that the readers are familiar with Daniel, the 7th chapter, which speaks of that beast. So John does not set it up as if he is the original narrator of Scripture. He sets it up as though, for the times and when these things are to occur, the readers will understand. And much like Jesus said it in His own rendition of prophetic Scripture, when He said, “When you see the abomination that causes desolation standing in the holy place, as spoken by the prophet Daniel, let the reader understand,”³ there is a cognition that these are not simple, one-dimensional references.

They do represent, first, the culmination of prophetic Scripture; and secondly, there is an innate assumption that the readers are familiar with prophetic Scripture. The best I can tell you is that it would appear to me that these things were intended for a time and for a people who would be substantially familiar with prophetic Scripture. This would not have been the case in the first century. And in fact, it would not have been the case even amongst the Jews in the time of Jesus, because Jesus Himself described the condition of the Jews back in His day as like the days before, in Isaiah, where “seeing they see not, and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.”⁴ It is interesting that Paul, in his last set of statements in the Book of Acts, as the Book of Acts is concluding, speaks of the condition of Israel as one in which people existed in a state of seeing and not seeing, hearing and not hearing, neither do they understand.⁵

² See 1 Chronicles 12:32: “of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;” See also Proverbs 20:5: “Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out.”

³ See Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14.

⁴ See Isaiah 6:9; Matthew 13:13-14; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10.

⁵ See Acts 28:26-27, quoting Isaiah 6:9.

For a people at any time in history who has this preexisting condition of seeing only what they want to see and hearing only what they want to hear, the Scriptures are always going to be hidden. But there is the anticipation of Scripture that, in the last days, there will be a proliferation of the spirit of prophecy, inasmuch as the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ is described as a spirit of prophecy.⁶ And again, as it regards the last days, things are said such as, “Men will go to and fro, and knowledge will increase.”⁷ So while there is an increase in secular knowledge, and while there is a proliferation of secular things, there is also going to be a proliferation of the knowledge and understanding of spiritual things. It is said in these terms: Jesus, speaking to His disciples, said, “But to you is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven.”⁸ Even the Book of Revelation itself, connecting back to when the Book of Daniel concludes, Daniel is told, “Go your way for now. You will sleep in the dust of the earth. But in the end of the age, in the end of the anticipated time when these things will be true, knowledge will increase.” That is, the knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of Heaven, the knowledge of the things of God will greatly increase upon the earth.

So, no one is to be blamed for not understanding ahead of time. In other words, our forebears in the faith were not given these understandings, so they could only guess at things. I am both amused and amazed at some of the wild speculations of scholars from the past, where there was a fixation on the activities of the Turkish Ottoman Empire and the religion of Islam. There was a time when those things seemed altogether positioned to carry the symbolism of prophetic references. At a later time, there was an absolute obsession with the prophetic scholars, in Europe in particular, with Napoleon. He was viewed as either the anti-Christ or clearly someone who was foreshadowing the activities of the anti-Christ. But none of these things were true, as history proves. We have seen more recent attempts to understand these things, in such writings as Hal Lindsey’s *The Late Great Planet Earth*, completely missing the mark, I might add, and indeed,

⁶ See Revelation 19:10c: “Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

⁷ See Daniel 12:4: “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

⁸ See Matthew 13:11: “He answered and said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.’ ”

full of conjecture and assumptions common to the Baptist religion, for example. But it has been more than fifty years since the writing of *The Late Great Planet Earth*, and of course, history has thoroughly debunked it. There is not a shred of what remains in that writing that is relevant today. We keep on going, and the things that at one time in history caught the fancy and the imagination of people have now been thoroughly debunked. I might mention the *88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988*.

The main problem, you see, is this: there is a kind of a linear understanding, or an attempt to understand prophetic Scripture in a linear fashion, and that is always going to fall flat. That is always going to miss the mark because there are things that are in creation that are representative of the mindset of God, who lives outside of creation. He is in creation, inasmuch as all creation is in Him, but He is beyond creation. So we will notice such things as the fact that heaven and earth were created: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (cf. Genesis 1:1). He created the heavens to put in them a representation of things that existed in Himself—things that relate to the original intent, and how He intended to pursue and to prosecute the original intent in time. But the original intent is the perfect score; it is the perfect depiction of what it will be like when God wraps it all up. Heaven is one of two orders, one of two realms in creation, in which God deposited these things that were to come to pass at the end of the age. In heaven He placed the more complete representation of the things that are eternal (of that which He has placed in time and in the created realm). And on the earth, He placed types and shadows of these heavenly things, which in turn are types and shadows of these eternal things.

For example, the tabernacle, to which we will find a reference momentarily when we start looking at Revelation 11—there is a reference to the tabernacle in heaven. Or, there is a reference to the Ark of the Covenant in heaven. There is a further reference to the temple in heaven. All of those had an earthly representation. The temple—with an earthly representation of what is in heaven, which is a representation of what is in the eternal—was a reference to the temple in Jerusalem and the history of the Jews as it related to the building of the temple. So it is a physical building, but within that physical building, referenced as the temple, there was something called the Holy of Holies.

The primary thing in the Holy of Holies is something called the Ark of the Covenant, which was a box that contained symbols; they were actual realities, actual things, but these things were symbolic in their references. They reference things in heaven, which in turn reference things in the eternal. In the box you had the two tablets of stone, you had the Book of the Law, representing a covenantal relationship between God and a people. You had a pot of manna, which represented food and sustenance and an economy that was not connected to the earth but came out of heaven. You had the rod that budded, which also suggested eternal life—life that was not connected to the realm of the natural—and in that sense, represented *zoë*⁹ life, the life of the spirit, which is unlike *psuché*,¹⁰ the life of the soul, or *bios*,¹¹ the life of the body. It is not sustained by, nor is it connected to, a source of maintenance that is rooted in the earth.

But then, when you take these things and look at them in heaven, they actually refer to something that is eternal. In heaven, instead of the temple, a building on the earth, you have a greater focus upon the Holy of Holies, which is referenced as the *naos*¹² of God. When there is a reference to the *naos*, it is the representation of the dwelling place of God; but in that dwelling place of God referenced in heaven, you are seeing what it refers to in the eternal, because it is a people. It represents a people. The *naos* in the Holy of Holies is the people of God. And then there is an altar of incense, which is a reference to what was in the Holy of Holies in the earthly tabernacle, but there in heaven it is a clear representation of the prayers of the saints. But in the eternal, it represents a people who have sacrificed their lives to God, meaning they have become a living sacrifice. So in the eternal, the *naos*, limited as it is in depiction and in representation in heaven, the *naos* is, in a sense, the end from the beginning, the final summation of the reason that God created the heavens and the earth, and the symbolic references of heaven and the even greater material symbolism of the earth—that would be a man in the image and likeness of God, which God declared, outside of time and space and outside of a position relative to heaven, was His intention for the creation of the heavens and the earth.

⁹ See *zoë*, Strong's Greek 2222 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/2222.htm>

¹⁰ See *psuché*, Strong's Greek 5590 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/5590.htm>

¹¹ See *bios*, Strong's Greek 979 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/979.htm>

¹² See *naos*, Strong's Greek 3485 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/3485.htm>

So, there is this summary going on in the Book of Revelation. That is why things appear contemporaneously, in a sort of parallelism, as opposed to how they might appear in a more or less linear progression, where you could say there are the seven seals, and when they are finished, there are the seven trumpets of the wrath of God, and when they are finished, there are the seven vials or bowls. It is a continuous progression—a concept that we typically miss, you see, if we think of earth and logic and the progression of things as the primary focus. Prophetic Scripture, frankly, is never like that.

That is why the Bible speaks of people who have a mind of understanding. And the writers of prophetic Scripture, the articulators of prophetic Scripture—whether it is the Lord Jesus Christ; Daniel in the Old Testament, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Zechariah (all of these we have referenced as we have progressed through the study of the Book of Revelation); and in the New Testament, of course, the various writers who referenced prophetic things; and now, in a sense, the motherlode of prophetic Scripture as it relates to the end of the age, the Book of Revelation—these all assume a people who are led by the Spirit, who have been given understanding, and indeed, all of the seven characteristics of the Holy Spirit.¹³ There are the characteristics of wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, power, and the fear of the Lord, in addition to, of course, lordship, the right to rule and the understanding of how the Spirit of God establishes the rule of Christ in and throughout the earth.

I thought that I would pause here, before we launched into the rest of the deconstruction of the 11th chapter of the Book of Revelation, and mention these things. This was more of a summary of and commentary on the movement of prophetic Scripture. As we go on then, I want to use the time to, in a sense, set up some further comments I wish to make that go with our depiction of and our deconstruction of chapter 11, as it regards the two witnesses. So I want to summarize this particular portion to say that, in this sort of parallelism, it represents the unfolding of the plan of God to bring about the grand end of things under these three aspects, which mutually complement each other.

¹³ See Isaiah 11:2: “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

Going to the 11th chapter, and again, in summary; first, we saw a measuring rod, where the *naos* of God, the dwellers within the Holy of Holies—the Body of Christ, whether in heaven or on the earth—are measured. Again, I referenced that this measurement has to do with the fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ.¹⁴ Christ is the archetypal Rod, the measuring stick, as it were, that comes out of the stump of Jesse, according to the 11th chapter of the Book of Isaiah,¹⁵ and He is referenced as the measurement of the full and mature Body of Christ. Ephesians, the 4th chapter, speaks of “until we come to the fullness of the stature that belongs to Christ.” The point of this, of course, is that we are meant to carry His glory in the earth. If you see the body, you will see the head; just like in the days of the Lord Jesus Christ, if you saw the Son, you would see the Father.

And these are about summarizing things. You see, this is not a new launching of anything in the earth. It is the drawing together, as I said earlier, pulling together the net, pulling together, as it were, the purse strings, so that the thing God started creation to achieve and to accomplish is now being verified. In much the same way that, before Jesus went up into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, and upon His baptism by John, God from heaven announced by way of confirmation that this is the beloved Son in whom He is well pleased, and the Holy Spirit comes down on Him in the form of a dove. Before the presentation of the thing that God is doing, there is the authentication of it. And then there is the testing of it that allows us then to understand that the rod of measurement has come. This same progression will be observed momentarily, when we get into the 12th and 13th chapters of the Book of Revelation, because what He is doing is, He is establishing the authenticity of the standard by whom He intends to bring about judgments. Why is this so? Because God is just. No one will be able to say, “Well, God, if You had really shown us what is true, then we would have gravitated toward it; but in suddenly judging us, You did not give us a chance.” No.

At this moment in history, there is occurring a great falling away. In the last minute of this recording, I want to say, what we are being shown in the earth is a great falling away: a deceived

¹⁴ See Ephesians 4:13: “till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

¹⁵ See Isaiah 11:1: “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”

church that has taken up arms in the heart of a nation because its leaders have, for decades, fed the people lies that somehow the United States of America is the Kingdom of God, and the preservation of the nation of the United States is tantamount to the preservation of the Kingdom of God. And this is not so. The United States has never been, it is not now, nor will it ever be the Kingdom of God. But unruly mobs are descending upon the capitol, praying in the name of Jesus in the hallowed places of a nation's identity. This is the quintessence of what is false. This is the false church having risen up.

Now, this is not the Body of Christ, but it will be persecuted as if it is the Body of Christ. And all this stuff, all of this sound and fury and all of the loud talk will disappear in the face of persecution. The persecution will swiftly come, and all of this will disappear. These leaders will vanish when the price of their behavior is required. But what will remain is a level of hubris, a level of anger that is demonically stirred against the person of Christ. Now, some will not run because they are the real ones. They are the ones who are being prepared by measurement and by endorsement from heaven itself. They are the standard by which the false will be judged.

Once it has been authenticated and presented, it will be tested by the devil. That is where the persecution will come. This test will establish that this is the authentic measure, and by this measure then, both the unfaithful and the pretenders, as well as the earth itself, will be judged by the authenticity, the integrity, the faith of those who indeed are measured, judged, and approved of God. Those whose sacrifices, being described as living, now carry the thing that judges the earth. They will be able to test and to approve not only the good will of God or the pleasing will of God, but the perfect will of God. It will have become evident in them.

There are just a few more things I want to talk about in regards to the two witnesses, and then we will move on into the signs in the heavens above.

I am Sam Soleyn, and we will continue our discussion. Blessings to you. Bye-bye.