

Current Affairs #92 – The Corruption of Knowledge  
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As we continue to unpack the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Revelation, we are in the discussion of the sounding of the seven trumpets. We have gotten down to verse 10 of Revelation 8, where the third angel sounded.

*Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. The name of the star is Wormwood [which, of course, is the term for bitter]. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter (Revelation 8:10-11 NKJV, comments added in brackets).*

Once again, if we have any kind of domestic understanding of these things, we will look for some great falling star and something in amongst the planets, but it is not that at all. “And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.” I will remind you that when God brought Israel into the land of promise, in the Book of Deuteronomy, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter, He is describing from chapter 5, which is the second giving of the law, and on in chapters 6,7, and 8 He is describing the land that He is bringing them into. He describes various forms of water.<sup>1</sup> They included rivers, fountains, and springs of water, meaning a well-watered land, or as it would be said, a well-watered garden.

When God established the Garden of Eden, there were four rivers in the Garden of Eden.<sup>2</sup> Their names were Pishon (which meant a spurter), Gihon (which meant a gusher), Tigris, and Euphrates—four rivers. Because God understands the importance of water and springs of water and rivers in the symbology associated with the Word. “In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God” (cf. John 1:1-2). In the opening of creation, the first reference to it is, “and the Spirit of God was hovering over the

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

<sup>1</sup> See Deuteronomy 8:7: “For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, that flow out of valleys and hills;”

<sup>2</sup> See Genesis 2:10-14

surface of the waters” (cf. Genesis 1:2) or moving upon the waters, telling us that in the deep there is an absolute correlation between the Spirit of God and the Word, which was symbolized by water.

So whenever the word of God is brought forth by the leading of the Holy Spirit, it is sweet, it refreshes, it cleanses. It is the foundation for renewal and renovation. It is what baptism is: it is how you arise out of death to a newness of life. Husbands are supposed to wash their wives by the water of the word, which is the promise of living in the reality of Christ and the church being the model for a husband and a wife.<sup>3</sup> We are born again of water and the word, so when the Holy Spirit ministers the distribution of the word, it is sweet, it is cleansing, it is transformative, and it is life-sustaining. These are just some of the value associated with this symbol of water as the word.

What happens here?

- “A great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.” Now, its name is called Wormwood because it turns water that men need into bitterness that kills you.
- “many men died”—What would be the indication here? That the information on which mankind depends for truth has been so thoroughly perverted by this wormwood.
- The reference to a great star falling from heaven—we know there are three heavens. This star does not fall out of heaven itself, where the throne of God is; Paul refers to the second heaven as “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”<sup>4</sup> So it is talking about as the heavens are shaken. We talked about that the last time: the lightnings, thunders, noises, and a great earthquake reference back to Hebrews 12 that speaks of, “once more I will shake the heavens.”<sup>5</sup> The deceptions of the heavens—meaning, of the second heavens where the demonic resides—the deception that was cloaked in invisibility now comes into the realm of humankind, and the coming of it is likened unto a great star, one of these demonic figures

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<sup>3</sup> See Ephesians 5:25-26: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,”

<sup>4</sup> See Ephesians 6:12: “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.”

<sup>5</sup> See Hebrews 12:26: “whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, ‘Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.’ ”

that falls from the heavens. The word “star” there is the word *astér*,<sup>6</sup> *astere* or *asteron*; literally or figuratively, it is a star. Now, this may or may not be a demonic figure. What it certainly is, is a new form of deception that corrupts the information of mankind. A new form of deception has come upon the earth.

We have much in the way of indication of what this is, because in the Book of Daniel, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter, we are introduced to a great beast that has ten horns. A little horn comes up, at a point in the narrative, and overthrows three horns.<sup>7</sup> So there is an eighth horn—ten existing; three are overthrown by one, so a net of two losses (ten removing three would be seven, but an additional gain of one would make it eight). Eight is the symbol of new beginnings, which would be an indication of a new time coming upon the earth, heralded by this horn that arises on one of what Revelation would describe as seven heads. Revelation 13 describes the same beast and adds the factor that it has ten horns and seven heads.<sup>8</sup>

But this horn is given eyes, and it is given a mouth, and it speaks blasphemous things against the throne of God, against the dwelling place of God, and against things in heaven and things on the earth. So what are we talking about? And this horn makes war against the saints and overcomes them<sup>9</sup> until judgment is set and given in favor of the saints, and they inherit the Kingdom.<sup>10</sup> Prior to this star falling, there is this great beast that arises, and there is this horn that speaks blasphemous

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<sup>6</sup> See *aster*, Strong’s Greek 792 - <https://biblehub.com/greek/792.htm>

<sup>7</sup> See Daniel 7:7-8: “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It *was* different from all the beasts that *were* before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.”

<sup>8</sup> See Revelation 13:1b: “And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.”

<sup>9</sup> See Revelation 13:5-7a: “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them.”

<sup>10</sup> See Daniel 7:21-22: “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favor* of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.”

things that is allowed to oppress the saints, and does for time, times, and half a time. But now, in the moment of judgment, this corruptor of the information on which now men have come to rely is cast down, and he can no longer sustain the lies that make war against the saints. So, it is time for men to face the truth of the deceptions that they have agreed to follow. When they drink of this water, it is bitter and men die. This is a time, again, of judgments.

What we will see as the Book of Revelation, in a sense, doubles back and emphasizes some of these particular things, is it will talk about how the saints who are subject to the deceptions prior to the casting down of these vain imaginations—the casting down of these deceivers who corrupt the word, who deceive mankind, who lead mankind astray—prior to that, this mouth will wage war against the saints. The oppression of the saints in the end of the age is a propaganda war. It is a battle for what is true. We could take no comfort in the present moment from the fact that both in the church and out of the church—both in the church and in the world—nobody seems to really know what is true anymore.

A deceiver is effective when he comes into an environment rife with deception, and that way, I declare to you, is being prepared even as we speak. Because mankind has lost connection to the eternal standards, and even the church has become distracted by political things and things that relate to its survival. It was always going to be like this once the gospel of prosperity was introduced apart from any relationship to a life of sacrifice. Prosperity, as an end within itself, has always been a false doctrine, unsustainable by the Scriptures because its appeal is it leads men astray by appealing to their lusts and to the vanity of their lusts.

But the time when all those things will be disclosed is now, as related here in the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Book of Revelation. There will be an arrest. By the way, you know, one of the reasons God does not commission us to go and tear things down and wage war with the various appearances of evil upon the earth, whether in the church or in the world, and rather gives us the admonishment, “Let them grow together until the time of the harvest,”<sup>11</sup> is because the judgments will come out of

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<sup>11</sup> See Matthew 13:30: “Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

heaven in the appointed time, in direct answer to the prayers of the saints, who, when they were subjected to these things in the earth, they were maligned by these very systems and the people who put their trust in them.

There are times when we will be required to be as sheep to the slaughter, as lambs dumb before the shearers, so we will not open our mouths, just like He could not.<sup>12</sup> But did God vindicate Him? And has God continued to vindicate Him, even though He was crucified and rejected? Well, of course. And in the final analysis it is He, now, who is giving command for the sounding of the trumpets that reflect the answerings of the prayers of the saints. So we are not ever going to be destroyed. In fact, we are reserved to be the judges, the divine *elohim*,<sup>13</sup> the magistrates of God.

The great star that fell from heaven like a burning torch may be a demonic personage who has infused this mouth that speaks blasphemously; very likely it is that. But it is the time when all forms of deception on which mankind has relied, whether they are likened unto rivers or springs of water... Because the reference to waters, whether rivers or springs, is a reference to word. And men have put their trust in words that are false, words that oppress the saints, words that blaspheme the Most High and He who sits on the throne, and the majesties of heaven. Words like, “Well, they are always talking about the end of the age, but, you know, it has never happened. So, how do we even know these things are true?” Words that are now growing as a groundswell against the misconduct of the church in this present time, where everything associated with the church is being dismissed, even as the church is being dismissed.

The world is now no longer picking and choosing. They do not even consider whether or not there might be the truth amongst the things they are discarding. They are satisfied that the purveyors of unrighteousness are coming from the church, and the purveyors of falsehoods, who are leaders of the church—of the Evangelical Church in particular, but the Roman Church is not exempt—so in

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<sup>12</sup> See Romans 8:36-37: “As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”; see also Isaiah 53:7: “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”

<sup>13</sup> See *elohim*, Strong’s Hebrew 430 - <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/430.htm>

this indiscriminate dismissal of all things “religious,” the stage has been set for blasphemous things to replace even those things that had elements of the truth in them.

As this goes forward, man will drink deeply from the rivers and springs of misinformation. They will drink to their satisfaction from the waters of human intelligence and the collective wisdom of the minds of fallen men. The net outcome will be that they will dismiss the saints as being not relevant. And these words will form a very different mindset, a very different idiom as to what is true. You are already seeing that happening in the world.

There is such a figure as a spokesman for the beast, who will use all the power of the beast—its economic power, its social power, its military power, its commerce, and all the rest of it—to insist on the primacy of the ways of the beast, who is actually this great kingdom that is the alter ego of the power of Satan himself. This is coming into the world, and it is coming rapidly, but we are being allowed a look ahead to see what happens to this false compendium of wisdom that sustains the beast in its heyday, in its day of working hardships of every kind upon the saints, to include waging war against them on the question of what, in fact, is true, and whether or not there is such a thing as a person of the Truth—waging war on no lesser person than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. But judgment is set.

The name of this star is bitterness. It sows bitterness because that is the direct and proximate result that will stem from the way that human knowledge has been corrupted. And, by the way, this is a corruption that is not new, but it will reach its apogee in this time. Human knowledge was corrupted from the time of the tower of Babel, when men reasoned that there was a way to negate the power of God upon the earth by substituting, putting in place, their own wisdom and their own understanding. But, all of that is destined to be summed up in this bitterness. It is called bitterness because it is like wormwood that makes the waters bitter. There can be no good coming out of this fountain. This fountain was always one of bitterness and death.

Whoever has relied on it has lived in a condition of being dead while he was still alive, he just did not know it. Because all of the ways of darkness, and all of what constitutes the kingdom of darkness, leads to death. That is why God translates us from the control of that darkness, the

darkness of the corruption of information, and reliance upon that darkness that produces warfare and anger and bitterness and division among human beings, the like of which were first presented at the point where the end of things was about to begin with the four horsemen that we studied way at the beginning of this series.

*A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.*

*Then the fourth angel sounded: And a third of the sun was struck, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them were darkened. A third of the day did not shine, and likewise the night (Revelation 8:11b-12).*

We will unpack that, but you will note that it is a third; it is not all of it just yet. Why? Because we are still in the earth. The saints are still in the earth at this time, so all wisdom has not been corrupted. It is not that there are no sources available anymore. At the very end, I believe it is in the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Amos, it says that in the end of the age there will come a famine, not for bread and water, but a famine for the word of God.<sup>14</sup> These are things that repeat themselves throughout human history, and whereas some of these things were true in antiquity—times of Israel, times of the Babylonian Empire, times of Rome and the early church, and the like—there is a final summation of these things that is consistent with the end of all things, and the beginning of that which is yet to come. As long as the earth remains, these cycles will continue to move through time, and whereas they have fulfillments in certain epochs, it is not to be presumed that, until the end of the age, their final fulfillments have come.

As we come back to and as we look at the fourth angel who sounds, we will see how the things that are affected are physical. They relate to the environment: they relate to the plagues in the environment, they relate to commerce in the environment, they relate to the corruption of wisdom and knowledge and understanding. And in the last of these four—then we will have three more—these first four are of a particular kind, but in the last of them it is a third of the moon, the stars,

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<sup>14</sup> See Amos 8:11: “ ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.’ ”

and the sun that are being struck and darkness comes to that degree upon the earth. We will continue to discuss that.

I am Sam Soleyn. We will see you then. Bye-bye.