

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

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Well, greetings once again, everybody. And special greetings to all of you ministers that are here for the Refresher Course from around the world.

Fifty years ago I was putting emphasis on certain things where I was actually at least 50 years ahead of my time. You know, actually, the 1st Century apostles were more than 1950 years ahead of their time. They thought the second coming of Christ was going to occur way back there in their lifetime. And of course it didn't.

But fifty years ago I could see that we were coming into the last generation of this world. So many things have been happening. I wonder if you people can understand — I don't think that very many of you can see things as I do.

For example, I remember things that happened back in the 19th century. I remember very well staying up until midnight to see the old century out and the new century in, and 1899 was going out and the year 1900 was coming in. Of course I was only seven and a half years old, and I couldn't understand why my parents kept me sitting up all that time in a Methodist Church, and they wouldn't let me go to sleep. And I wanted to go to sleep so *badly*. Sometimes children can't understand some of the things their elders do.

But today it becomes a very solemn warning. And now the time is very imminent. The new United States of Europe is on the verge of going together. Now it has gone together a number of times. Well, five times directly and a sixth time that the world hardly noticed. And we're waiting now for the seventh resurrection of the Roman Empire. And the whole world is going to be astounded. And I can tell you it could even happen next year.

But along with it, I want to come specifically today into a certain subject I've not touched on, I think, for some years now. I think that perhaps most of you have never heard me speak about it. In fact the booklet that we had on it has become out of print. And that subject is, the Mark of the Beast. What is the mark of the beast?

We began to see that I was ahead of my time, actually. I think we said, and said publicly and in our advertising, that *The Plain Truth* is a magazine that has always been ahead of its time on foretelling news events and giving the meaning of today's news, today's world news, what it means, where it's taking us, where we are heading, what is going to happen next. And now we're right at the time where the so-called Holy Roman Empire is going to be revived again.

Now those of you who saw the Bible Study last night

saw a lot of the events that led up to the present time. And it goes clear back to ancient Israel. Actually God had raised up a nation. Let me go back even farther than that. In the time of Adam, after Adam made the wrong decision, rejected the Spirit of God, turned his back on God, decided to take to himself the knowledge of right and wrong, good and evil. Now the knowledge of good and evil has nothing to do with dealing with matter and material things, with science and technology, with such subjects as chemistry, physics, astronomy. It has nothing to do with building a house, and building an automobile, but it has a great deal to do with your relationship with other people, but most of all your relationship to God. And that's what the world has completely lost because the knowledge of good and evil not only represents knowledge, a spiritual knowledge of spiritual things, attitudes, events, and what God has in store for those who love Him and not for others, but it is a matter of attitudes. And all troubles in the world come from the attitude that spring from the one human spirit with which every human being is born. Otherwise you wouldn't have a mind. As I've said so many times, even a cow out in the field has a brain as good as yours. An elephant's brain is a great deal larger. I really don't know whether a cow's brain is a little larger or a little smaller. It's one or the other. But a cow seems to be rather stupid compared to a human being, because there's no spirit in connection with its brain. And it doesn't have attitudes of competition and strife and of coveting, and the type of attitudes that we humans get into in relation to one another.

But humans have forgotten all about, it seems, the relationship with God. We have all kinds of relationships with other humans. And so, husband and wife can't seem to get along together in so many cases, parents and children, capital and labor, next door neighbors, group can't get along with group, race with race, nation with nation. We get into conflict and it's all attitudes of mind.

Now God closed up the Holy Spirit when He closed the tree of life, He closed the Holy Spirit. When Christ came He said I will build My Church. He started it with 12 disciples. After He had taught them, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to them. And there were 120, actually, that had followed Christ that received the Holy Spirit that day. Later that day after Peter's sermon, about 3,000 others were baptized.

Then the Holy Spirit was opened, but only to those that God would draw. Jesus said, "*No man can come to Him except the Father that sent Him draws him.*" And on that Day of Pentecost Peter said, "*The Holy Spirit was for as many as the Lord our God should call.*" Go back and read it in the 2nd chapter of the book of Acts, about the 39th verse. As many as the Lord our God shall call.

And let's see, wasn't it in the — I guess it was in the sermonette this morning, it was mentioned that you didn't volunteer to become a follower of Christ or to become a Christian. You were drafted. You're not a volunteer. God chose you, and for each one of you, you were chosen out of perhaps a few thousand others that were not chosen. And so, I've tried to tell you that there's a very, very great responsibility on you because you've been chosen for something very great.

Now way back at the time of Moses, many hundreds of years before Christ, God had decided to call the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and He made them into a nation. But they didn't have the Holy Spirit. It wasn't open to them. God gave them promises, but the promises He gave them were all materialistic, nationalistic, for material wealth and national dominance over other nations even. But there was always a condition, and they never would fulfill the condition.

After a long time they even divided among themselves, into two different nations, one was still called the Kingdom of Israel, but they rejected their king. And they went in for democracy, and they chose the man who had practically been King Solomon's prime minister, had practically run the government anyway for Solomon, Jeroboam. The tribe of Judah split off and formed its own nation called the Kingdom of Judah. And they are the Jews. And the Jews, from that time on, are not Israel. They're the nation of Judah, not the nation of Israel at all.

And the world doesn't know that. So many of the people in the world don't know who they are. The people of the United States of Britain, of Western Europe, don't know who they are. The Germans don't know who they are. The Jews don't know who they are. They have lost their identity, and of the things I — I was just remarking in the wings out here just before the song services, I really need 5 or 6 sermons for what I want to tell you today, there's so many different facets to it, so much that I can't get to more than just a part of it this afternoon..

But God offered, finally — well, they split up into two nations. Let's go back to that. And first, after 7 dynasties and 19 different kings, Israel had followed their kings and every one of those kings had rejected God and God's way of life. And they had all gone the way of sin, contrary to the law of God which is God's way of life. And God's way of life is the way God and the way Christ have always lived from eternity, so far as we know. As far as we know they've always lived that way. And it's the way of peace, it's the way of cooperation, it's the way of love, it's the way of happiness, and it's the way of real, great accomplishment and achievement, and of a satisfying, fulfilling life. Humans don't know that.

So God let Assyria take Israel captive. They began to move away and by about 100 and 18 or 20 years later, 130 years later, they had lost their identity and moved west-

ward and northwest. And I'm going to tell you a little later why Israel lost her identity. Now Judah kept her identity and I'm going to tell you why a little later. The Jews think they're Israel and I'm going to tell you why. They're not Israel, they're Judah. And they don't really know who they are.

So I wish you all could have heard last night's Bible Study because it was a prelude to what I want to say today. And the Bible Study of the week before.

But I want to get back to this mark of the beast, because it's soon, again now, going to be enforced. And it has been enforced in the past in ancient history. You probably, most of you, don't even know that. Well, we will come to that.

Anyway, then God used King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to take Judah captive, because they had turned away from God. Well, they never really turned to Him. They professed to back in the days of Moses, but they never really had done it.

Through Daniel God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a knowledge of the true God, and that God had given him the right to rule. Now you're going to see that later on a continuation of that was given its seat of power and authority by Satan the devil. But it was God who gave Nebuchadnezzar his seat and power and authority. And God was showing, if you read between the lines in the book of Daniel, especially in the 2nd and the 7th chapters and others in between, God was giving King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon the chance to become God's kingdom and replace Israel. But the Gentiles rejected it.

King Nebuchadnezzar was sent out for 7 years. He finally acknowledged God and he came back and God gave him the kingdom back, but his son rebelled and went the other way, and then the kingdom was taken away.

And so it was succeeded by the Persian Empire, and that in turn by the Greco-Macedonian Empire or Greece, and there were 4 different divisions there. And that in turn was succeeded by the Roman Empire, the Roman Empire begun about 31 BC and ruled until 476 AD when the Barbarians of the north conquered it and destroyed it. Then we had 3 nations, the Heroli, Vandals and the Ostrogoths that came in there for a few years, less than a hundred years, in 476. But by 554 at the behest of the Pope at Rome the Catholic Church had grown by that time rather powerful, Justinian who was ruling the empire in the East. Now the Roman Empire had been divided. There was the Catholic Constantinople in the East, Constantinople today is called Istanbul, which is the real metropolis of Turkey today. It used to be Asia Minor and up in the land of the Galatians and some of those people in the Biblical days.

Anyway he restored what, really, they called the Roman Empire. And again it was raised up again by Charlemagne, a French head who came to his zenith in

800 AD. And a little later Otto the Great of Germany. And after that Charles the Great, I believe it was of Hapsburg, of Austria. And after that came the Napoleon. And there you had 5 different resurrections of the Roman Empire. But by the time of Otto the Great of Germany, they were calling it the Holy Roman Empire, and that was all explained last night.

And it actually meant that they believed the Kingdom of God had come. The Pope was called Vicar of Christ. Did you ever look up that word VICAR in the dictionary? He's supposed to have a name on his crown, I don't think it's there, it's never been found. I've heard that he's supposed to be, I don't know whether I'm pronouncing it correctly, but as it would seem to sound out in English, *Vicarious Fei Dei*, or something like that. I don't think there are any such words on the crown however. But the word VICAR means IN PLACE OF. It does not mean the representative of. It doesn't mean that he represents Christ. It means he's kicked Christ out and taken over. That's rather brutal and that's plain language, but I want to make it blunt enough so you'll understand what I'm saying. Because that's what it actually means. Christ has been kicked out. There has been a revolution. There's been a military coup. The Pope has taken over. Christ is out of it. And they're supposed to rule now, just not a thousand years but forever.

Well, you know when Hitler came he was — Mussolini had made a little bit of a resurrection of the so-called Holy Roman Empire but it didn't really rise up to anything very big until Hitler joined with him in the axis. And Hitler's whole idea was a thousand years of rule of the master race, the Germans. Now the Germans are not a master race. They're a race of orderly people who are very great producers of certain mechanical things, have very great talents in certain directions, they are a people who had been down and out after World War I, Hitler came around and raised them up with the idea that they are better than any other people on earth. He practically had them hypnotized. I think that a great many people in Germany today realize that. And I don't think you find very much of Hitlerism in Germany today.

However, it's coming in a little different way today. Now once again they're right on the verge of raising this thing up once again. Now because it didn't happen in our lifetime, many people don't realize how it has happened time after time from 554 on up to 1814 when Napoleon, as we say, met his Waterloo.

I go to Waterloo for lunch every once in a while, King Leopold lives right practically there, in that very vicinity. And we've been very close friends now since 1948 — I don't mean '48, I mean 1968.

Anyway this whole system of Gentile governments began with Nebuchadnezzar. And now we find the last resurrection of it is coming up and it means something to you and me. And the mark of the beast is something that's

going to be enforced. And you are going to risk your life on it in the very near future.

In speaking of these very same things Jesus said, "*He that hath an ear, let him hear.*" And I say to you, if you have ears to hear, you'd better hear and you'd better understand. And don't take this lightly. Because your life is going to be at stake.

I'm going to tell you one of two things is going to have to happen to you, every one of you, and you're going to face it collectively as a Church, but each is going to face it individually also. You're going to be tested, if you try to save you life you'll lose it for all eternity. You may have to give your present life in order to make the Kingdom of God. Are you going to try to live on and save it? Are you willing?

There's one place in the 12th chapter of Revelation where, after Satan has had the battle in heaven once again and has been sent back down to earth, where the saints loved not their lives unto death. And that's speaking of our time and our people. And those of the Laodicean Church to follow us, almost immediately.

The Laodicean Era of the Church has not yet come but it will. And I think that we're doing a whole lot to raise it up. But a lot of people have been hearing on the radio and on television, and they realize they're hearing a message that is UTTERLY DIFFERENT from any other religious message they hear anywhere! And a lot of them, of course, say, 'Well, how can one man be right and all the others wrong?' Because all the others preach about the same thing. And millions have been reading it in *The Plain Truth* because over 5 million copies — I think it's gone down in the last two months a little bit because of renewal subscriptions, but about three months ago it was up to 5-1/2 million. But it goes right back up again. I think it came down to about 5 million, 1 or 2 hundred thousand. And in another few months it will be right back up there, and then going on towards 6 million, God willing. We hope.

All right. Now I want to get back, and I want to pick up that story in Revelation 13. It really starts in the second chapter of Daniel. Now you know the story of the second chapter of Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar had finally put together the first great world empire. Civilization started with city states. Nimrod was the first one we have a record of in — I believe it's — what is it, the 5th chapter of Genesis, something like that. Nimrod built Babylon, Nineveh, and a number of other cities. And for a long time the only governments were in cities, each city had its own government. And we had what they called city states. And the city had its own king. They didn't call them mayors, they called them kings.

And then they got into nations. And we had ancient Egypt, and we had ancient Greece. And certain other — and, of course, there was ancient Assyria. And later came the Medes, the Persians, and others. But

Nebuchadnezzar got even many of those together into a world empire of a number of nations, the first world empire.

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. He saw a great image, and that image showed what was going to happen, beginning with him. It was a great image — I forget what it was, I think it was 10 feet tall or else it was a great deal taller than that. Anyway, we've shown you pictures of it on the television program and in the magazines.

The head was of gold. That represented Nebuchadnezzar. Now it started there and it showed what was going to happen as you come down through the image. Its breast and arms were of silver, that was the next empire to succeed him, or the Persian Empire. And then later on would come Greece or the Greco-Macedonian Empire. And that was the belly and thigh of brass. And then came the Roman Empire and its two legs because Rome was divided. And Satan's kingdom is divided. And part of the Roman Empire was in the east and part in the west.

Now, incidentally, the Roman Catholic Church grew up but it wasn't all Roman Catholic. It was the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as the Roman Catholic Church. And that has come down to today also.

However, the Roman Empire fell in 476 and 554, as I said a while ago, Justinian was brought from Constantinople over to Rome to restore the empire in the west. And it wasn't restored as the Roman Empire in the east at that time. But it has had a number of successions and now it's going to be restored once again.

Now Daniel 2 shows it finally coming down to the toes of the feet. But you see one of those feet is planted on eastern Europe and one on western Europe. And it comes down to the final end of the second coming of Christ and smashing this whole succession of Gentile governments on the toes of the feet. That's the 10 kingdoms that are going to go together in Europe, perhaps next year, perhaps the year after. Now I can't set dates, and if it doesn't happen for 2 or 3 years from now, don't say how Mr. Armstrong said it was going to be in 1983. I didn't say that. I say it could. I didn't say it will. Now if someone tries to say I said it, I've got all you as witnesses, I didn't (*ha, ha*). Because they tried to say back in 1972 that I said things I did not say. Some people thought I said the second coming of Christ was going to occur then. No, I could see reasons why I thought this empire might go together at that time.

And our Work will stop very soon after this Holy Roman Empire has this next and last resurrection. And our Work will stop. And then will come the Great Tribulation. And out of, and during the Great Tribulation will rise up the Laodicean Era of God's Church.

But this Church, well you're either going to risk death or you're going to take the mark of the beast. One or the

other. Unless we are taken to a place of protection and safety. And there are 2 places in the book of Revelation that certainly indicate we shall be. But it's going to take a miracle.

Now it took a miracle from God to get the Israelites out of Egypt way back there in the days of Moses. He had to strike a rock, and water came out of it. And He may have to perform just as great miracles again this time. You'd better begin to believe in miracles because your very existence may depend on it.

Well, anyway, you come to Daniel 7 and he saw the same thing. But in the form of his dream or vision, he had seven — I don't mean seven, I mean four — four wild animals or beasts. The first was a lion and that was the Chaldean Empire. The second was a bear and that was the Persian Empire. The third was the Greco-Macedonian Empire and had 4 heads. Well, it was divided into 4 divisions. And each one had its own head. And then that made up 6 heads, and then the Roman Empire the 7th head, and that was the 4th beast he saw. Of course it had one head, but it was strong, stronger than any of the others and stepped over the territory of all of them, and replaced them all. The Roman Empire.

Now then we come into the 13th chapter of Revelation and it continues that same identical thing. And I want to begin now in the 13th chapter of Revelation. And I'm going to take a little bit of time to go through it, word by word. As I say I wish I could have many, many hours for this.

Now John is telling here in the book of Revelation what he saw in a vision, like a dream. He was on the Isle of Patmos, and he was being shown the time of the Day of the Lord, and that's the time when God will step in and intervene in world affairs and it will climax in the second coming of Christ. And then the thousand year rule under Christ.

Now the 13th chapter of Revelation, he's showing what he saw in this vision. He says, "*And I stood upon the sand of the sea and saw a beast rise up out of the sea having seven heads and ten horns and upon his horns ten crowns...*" now notice the crowns are not on the head, they were on the horns. "*...and upon his horns ten crowns and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*" So there's something evil about it. "*And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard...*" it wasn't a leopard but it was quick and catlike like the body of a leopard. It had the best characteristics of a leopard. "*...and his feet were as the feet of a bear...*" the most powerful part of a bear are its feet. And it had the strongest part of a bear because it was a very powerful thing. It wasn't a bear, it just had the feet like a bear.

"*And his mouth as the mouth...*" it wasn't the mouth of a lion, but as the mouth of a lion. Now that is the strongest part of a lion, especially with a male lion, and I don't know whether that's stronger than a female or if it just looks bigger. "*...and the dragon...*" now in Revelation 12 and

Revelation 20 you see very plainly the dragon is Satan, the devil. "...gave him his power and his seat and great authority..." Now let me give you one little key right here. Gave him. That's the male gender. Now in these prophecies the him or the male gender represents civil, political government, political and military. The she or her or the feminine gender always denotes Church.

When you get into the 17th chapter you find a woman riding the Beast. But the woman is the Church. The beast is a he or a him, which is a military or a civil, political government. Now this thing is of Satan the devil, who gave it its seat and power and great authority. Now this whole system as it started, God gave Nebuchadnezzar his seat and power and great authority but by the time it gets down to this point, and I'm going to show you that this includes the 4 beasts of Daniel 7, and this is speaking of the Roman Empire.

Now there is a chart, and I worked out that chart, believe it or not, some 55 or 56 years ago, while I was being converted. God showed me the truth. Now if you take — the only way you can understand this and there are other chapters in Daniel that bear on the same thing, it's a very complicated thing. The only way you can understand it is like a large problem in arithmetic or mathematics. And it is greater than you can figure out in your head alone, you have to put it down on paper. And add and subtract and divide and multiply, and one thing and another. It gets a little confusing. You take 10,897 and divide it by 32 and multiply that by 4 and then subtract 822, and something else, now do you have the answer? Anybody here got it? Well, I haven't either. You can't do that. You have to put a thing like that down on paper to get it. Well, that's what I did. I guess no one else ever thought to do that.

And verse 3, "*I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death and his deadly wound was healed and all the world wondered after the beast.*" Now I want you to notice the time sequence. It is then healed, and now it says it's healed, the whole world is wondering after the beast.

Let me give you a little bit here in the Revised Standard Translation. "*And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words and it was allowed to exercise authority for 42 months.*" Now this mouth was haughty, blasphemous words. Brethren I don't want to accuse human beings and this is all ancient history, anyway, and not anyone now living. But that was the Popes of Rome. And here you have the Roman Empire and its deadly wound, its head was wounded to death, "...but the mortal wound..." this is the Revised Standard now, "...was healed and the whole earth followed the beast." Or wondered after the beast. Now that's the beast after it is healed. "*With wonder men worshipped the dragon...*" which is Satan, the devil and he is the god of this world.

And brethren, I don't think we realize that the world is worshipping Satan. "*For he had given his authority to the*

beast and they worshipped the beast." The beast now healed which is now, after Justinian from that time on, "...saying, who is like to the beast, who can fight against it? and the beast..." now this is the healed beast after 554, "...was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words..." that mouth didn't come until after 554, "...and it was allowed to exercise authority for 42 months." Now a day for a year in those times, meant 1260 years. And it was, it was started in 554 and it ruled for 1260 years. Now if you can figure that, that takes you to 1814. And that is when Napoleon was finally defeated at Waterloo. "*It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming His name and His dwelling, that is those who dwell in heaven.*" And of course those who dwell in heaven are angels that are described in the 4th and 5th chapters of the book of Revelation.

Now a lot of that blasphemy, I had been in Rome and down at the Pope's summer palace at Costello don Golpha and seen 5,000 people just screaming, and frantic as if they were in a trance or a frenzy, *Viva Papa, Viva Papa!* and calling the most holy father. The most holy father. That's a title that belongs only to God. And they do give that to the Pope, even to this day.

"*Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them,*" and thousands and even up to a few million Christians or professing Christians were put to death. And I'm going to show you, because of the mark of the beast. Because they wouldn't accept it. But I'll come to that later.

"*And authority was given it over every tribe and people and tongue and nations.*" That is, of course, it's speaking about Europe and the different languages. And they have different languages in Europe. "*And all who dwell on the earth will worship it, every one whose name is not written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb, that was slain from the foundation of the world.*" Well, in the King James it says, the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. It was decided at the foundation of the world, the time of Adam, when Adam rejected the tree of life, that Christ would come as the second Adam and be slain to pay the penalty for our sins.

Now coming to the next verse, verse 9, I believe it is, "*If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes.*" Now this is coming down to a time now when it does apply to us. "*If anyone slays with the sword, with the sword must he be slain.*" Here is the call for the endurance and faith of the saints. "*Then I saw...*" John says, what he's seeing in a vision now, "...another beast..." Now who and what is this beast? Another beast. "...which rose up out of the earth..." The first beast was out of the sea, and this one was out of the earth. "...and had two horns like a lamb, and it spoke like a dragon..." Now I believe that's a little different in the King James. Let me find that in the King James. "*Another beast coming up out of the earth and he...*" and it's a he now, it's not a she so this cannot be just the Church as such, "...had

two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." Well, a lamb pictures Christ, so he appeared like Christ but he spoke like Satan. The dragon is Satan.

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh, says God. So says your Bible. So actually, while he was pretending to be Christ, Christ on earth ruling, the kingdom of God was here, he was actually speaking like a devil. Now the Bible says some very horrible things about the Roman Catholic Church. That's why the Catholic Church has never encouraged people to read the Bible. And for a long time in Spain before the present government, any one sending a Bible even as a gift to a friend, if someone was trying to have someone send him a Bible into Spain, it would be confiscated on the way in. Bibles were not allowed to be bought in Spain. And Spain is more Catholic than Italy.

"I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth, two horns like a lamb but spoke as a dragon." So actually it was masquerading as Christ but out of its heart it was speaking what was in its heart and it was Satan the devil, or the tool of Satan.

"And he..." notice it's he again, *"...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."* Now it's not the first beast before its deadly wound was healed, but the first beast whose deadly wound had now been healed. So it is the one that became the Holy Roman Empire.

Now the Holy Roman Empire was political. What is this other beast? The only thing that it can possibly be is that the Roman Catholic Church is both Church and State. I wonder if you realize that Vatican City is a separate nation? The Vatican is the State part of the Church. That is the he part. The Church is the she part.

But there is a marriage. And — well, I don't think they're married either, it's fornication, not marriage.

Anyhow, many nations send ambassadors to the Vatican. It is a separate state within the nation of Italy. Now I've been there. I've been inside of the Vatican library, and I've examined pages of one of the 3 oldest copies of the Bible in existence. The *Codex Vaticanus*, and I had to have a letter from — it was Mrs. Claire Luce who was the American Ambassador in Rome at the time, to sponsor me and guarantee that I wouldn't destroy it or steal it or take it out or anything of the kind. And so they were very polite and they let me have it and hold it in my hands and read it. I could have spent 2 or 3 hours there reading it if I'd wanted to. But I just wanted to see it for the novelty of it, and because it's one of the oldest copies. And it may be the oldest on the face on the earth, of the Bible.

"He exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him..." Now this is really the government part of the

Roman Catholic Church. But this is the political government part, and it did exercise the power. The Popes were on top of it, and the political rulers had to do what the Church said.

I want to tell you, they're coming to the place of doing that again. And just recently in Germany there has been a new law passed that the Holy Days to be observed as rest days or national holidays are to be decided by the Church. And they must be either Roman Catholic or Protestant. And each state, like Bavaria or other states within Germany, can decide what they want and whatever they decide the people have to follow. Now just bear that in mind because we're coming to something.

"He..." that is the government part of the Roman Catholic Church, *"...exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him..."* and that is the Roman Empire after it was healed, the Holy Roman Empire. And that's why it was called holy is that the Pope is supposed to be ruling it. *"...And causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast..."* which is the Holy Roman Empire, *"...whose deadly wound was healed."* See, not the first beast before its deadly wound was healed, or whose deadly wound was yet to be healed, but to worship the beast whose deadly wound had been healed.

"And he..." now it's the Roman government, the Church government, *"...doeth great wonders so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men."* Now if that had ever happened, I don't know, but a lot of this is yet to come to pass and it may be that that has some significance. Now the book of Revelation speaks in symbol a great deal. I don't know why, I haven't done any research on that particular little detail right there, to find what that fire, if it symbolizes something beside literal fire. I'll have to check that later. Let's just pass right on over that.

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had the power to do in the sight of the beast." Now wait, let me read that — we're getting down to verse 14. Let me read that, I think there's another word I want you to get in the Revised Standard Translation. *"But all those who will not worship the image of the beast to be slain..."* In other words they had to worship this government or be slain, the government of the Catholic Church.

"He had power to give life to the image of the beast that the image of the beast should go..." now remember the image of the beast is the Vatican, or the civil government of the Church, *"...and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed, and he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark..."* Now we come to the mark of the beast. *"...to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads, and that no man might buy or sell..."* Now to buy means to purchase whatever you need, food, clothing, buy a new home, buy an automobile, whatever, or sell.

That means you can't engage in the business of buying and selling, and you won't have the money, you won't have the wages to buy anything with. *"...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. Here is wisdom, let them that have understanding count the number of the beast for it is the number of a man and his number is six hundred three score and six."* Or 666. Six hundred and sixty six.

Now of course people have tried to count that in every way. People have said that that mark of the beast is that and that, and the other thing. It was the fesses on the dimes years ago. Because the fesses was a Roman symbol, of ancient Rome, the Roman Empire. And it was Franklin Roosevelt's NRA, some people said.

People normally read a thing like this and just make it on their own imagination, what they think it is. But remember the Bible itself must interpret the Bible. And the Bible must explain its own symbols, and we can't use our own ideas. If I give you my idea, I'm not leading you properly.

Now I want to show you something in the chain of events in the book of Revelation. Go back to the sixth chapter of the book of Revelation. And there were the — remember the four horsemen. And the first was a false Christ, those who were coming saying that they were the representatives of Christ, not that they were Christ, but the representatives of Christ and deceiving many. They were preaching that Jesus was the Christ, and deceiving the many. After that came war and then came famine and then pestilence and death..

Let's see, there was first the false Christ, then war, then famine, and then pestilence. That's the four horsemen.

Now, let me see. Go back to the sixth chapter and I want to begin now with verse 9. *"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held."* Now way back in the Middle Ages, some reports say there were millions that were killed because they would not bow down to worship the Papacy, and because they would not observe Sunday and they kept the Sabbath instead of Sunday.

"They cried with a loud voice saying, 'How long, O Lord, faithful and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?'" Now, they are dead. But it's like their blood is crying out for vengeance. Of course, they're dead, they don't know anything until the resurrection. But this is just as if they were, well, it's like an allegory, as if they were crying out, 'Why don't you avenge our blood?' And God hasn't done it yet. And that's been a thousand years or more ago, since a lot of them were martyred.

"And white robes were given to each one of them..." White robes always represent righteousness, *"...that they should rest yet a little season..."* in other words remain dead

in their graves yet a little season, *"...until their fellow servants also and their brethren that should be killed as they were..."* as they were killed, *"...should be fulfilled."* In other words there's going to be another martyrdom of saints.

Now in ancient history, long before any of us were born, there were thousands and millions. It used to be sport in Rome, in fact maybe several of you may have visited Rome and you've gone into the great Coliseum there where they used to throw Christians on a Sunday afternoon. It was a Sunday afternoon sport. They had the lions that were real hungry, they let the lions get hungry, then they turned the lions loose and the Christians on the arena, no place for them to go. And the lions would get them and tear them apart and eat them up, and the people used to watch it with glee, as the lions tore them open they'd bleed, and the lions would eat them up. Now that kind of thing has happened. We think that there's never been a time when people could be as fiendish and as evil as some things are now. I think perhaps they've been more so in the past, it just wasn't as widespread and general as it's got to be now.

And so that is the Great Tribulation. And others are to be killed in the Great Tribulation. And that is representing the time sequence of the Great Tribulation in the sixth chapter of Revelation.

"And I beheld when He had opened the sixth seal..." now what happens right after the Tribulation? *"..and lo, there was a great earthquake and the sun became as black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood, and the stars of heaven fell down to the earth even as a fig tree gathereth her untimely figs, and the kings of the earth and the great men and the rich..."* now this is the Day of the Lord, now I want you to notice, *"...rich men and the great captains and the mighty men and every bond man and every free man hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains and said to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb for the great day of His wrath has come.'" That is the Day of the Lord.*

Now, then, let me read you that same thing back here in Matthew 24. I hadn't marked this, I hadn't intended to use this but I want to. Let me show you a time sequence. They were going to come and there would be people representing Christ in verse 4 and 5, many will come in Christ's name saying that Jesus is the Christ and deceiving the many and all of these other things would be happening.

And then in verse 14 and this gospel, finally, this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations, and then will come the end of this world. Brethren, this is the Church that's doing that, and I've been doing it, you've been backing me in doing it.

Now, what is next? Verse 21, *"For then..."* right after that, *"... shall be great tribulation, such as was not from the*

beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be, And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved alive; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." In other words it's going to be the Great Tribulation.

Now, we are proclaiming that warning. While we've been proclaiming that warning, 30 years ago the hydrogen bomb was first produced, the first time that weapon of mass destruction could wipe out all humanity on the face of the earth. And this says right after that, immediately after that will come the Great Tribulation. That's going to come as a result of the reformation of this empire over in Europe! And it'll be so bad, it'll be nuclear World War III, that if God did not intervene no one would be saved alive.

Now what's going to happen right after the Tribulation? How is He going to end that Tribulation?

"...for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." And we, brethren, are the elect. Notice, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days..." verse 29, "shall the sun be darkened..." here's the same thing I read in Revelation 6. "...the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." Those powers are spiritual powers of Satan and his demons.

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven," they will see God sitting on His throne in heaven, "...and all the tribes..." or nations, "...of the earth shall mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." The second coming of Christ.

Brethren, we are the last thing triggering just before the Great Tribulation. The Great Tribulation is going to be brought on by this United States of Europe. It's not going to come by Russia, but by them. They will be a greater power than Russia, or the United States.

Now, then, let's get back to some other things. I was reading out of the sixth chapter of Revelation just a moment ago. Now let's get back to the beginning of the seventh chapter. I want you to notice a few things. "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth..." Now the winds that blow are the trumpets, the trumpet plagues that come just before, as a matter of fact the trumpet plagues are the seventh seal, and the seventh trumpet is the seven last plagues. And Christ comes at the time of the seven last plagues.

Now comes the sealing of the 144,000. And then separate from that, and a little later, is this beginning with verse 9, "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude which no man could number..." The 144,000 appear to be this Church, brethren. And we're not that big yet. But we're getting that big, fast.

"...I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes..." he sees a vision that represent things on earth, "...and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." Now one of the elders in verse 13 "...answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? And whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation..." Now modern translations say The Great Tribulation, "...and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." That will be the Church, it would have to be the Laodicean Church that will follow this Church and come out of the Great Tribulation.

Now, I want you to notice something in Revelation 20 and verse 4. Revelation 20 starts out with the angel taking Satan, the devil and binding him a thousand years. But in verse 4, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus..." martyrs, both way back there several hundred years or over a thousand years ago and those yet to be martyred during the coming Great Tribulation, "...and judgment was given to them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark..." now there's the mark of the beast again, "...upon their foreheads, or in their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Those who refused to have the mark of the beast will reign with Christ a thousand years.

Now, plainly the martyrs over a thousand years ago refused that mark. And there are others that are to be martyred in the future, in the next few years, maybe within a year and a half or two years from now. It could be that soon.

So now let's go back to Revelation 14. The martyrs over a thousand years received the mark. Now let's see, 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." Now where's the mark of the beast to be written? The mark of the beast will be stamped in their forehead and in their hand, so that they can't buy or sell, or you can't hold a job and have money to buy or sell.

Now take verse 4, just to skip and get the important ones. "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins..." that is spiritually speaking, in other words with the churches of this world, but are virgins from that point of view, plainly referring to this Church, "...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first-fruits unto God and to the Lamb." Again, we are the first-

fruits, brethren. How many times do we see that, and we get that on the day of Pentecost.

Now beginning with verse 9, and there were now two angels with messages, *“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...”* Here it is again about the mark of the beast, *“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.”* At the second coming of Christ.

If you do not receive the mark of the beast, you may be killed, you may be tortured, you may be martyred. If you do receive the mark of the beast, then this is going to happen to you and you will not ever make it into the Kingdom of God. And brethren, every one of you may personally in the next one and a half, two, five years, maybe 10 years, I can't set a date. But it's very, very imminent now! And the time has come to warn! You're going to have to make a decision! You'd better know what is the mark of the beast.

“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.” The mark of the beast.

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are they...” now these do not have the mark of the beast, *“...that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”* On the one hand, are those who have the name of God in their forehead, and when it comes to work and things, they have the commandments of God. And one of those commandments tells you what day you can't use your hands in work. And that day is the Sabbath day. It has SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD!

Now why would Satan the devil use a Church to try to make you break one of the commandments of God? Satan is a great deceiver. Satan is a great deceiver. I want you to notice there are two classes, one will have the mark and they will be martyred and many things are going to happen to you by the police and the police state. And they're going to take over this country if you're not killed in the war and the famine and the pestilence that's coming, and prophesied to come almost any time now, then you're going to face this.

But if you reject the mark, let's see Revelation 12:17. I don't remember why I put that right in here. Let's get that. Revelation 12:17. Oh yeah, *“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”* That's the Word of God, the Bible. And what churches do have it?

Brethren, I had to find out way back there, 56 years ago now, that the churches do not believe the Bible. They do not follow the Bible, but they preach precisely the opposite of the Bible. And when it comes right down to following the Bible, this is the only church I know. The Sardis Church did, as far as they went, but they didn't go far enough. They didn't even know what is the true gospel. They didn't know what'll happen during the Millennium. They knew there'd be a Millennium, all right. But they didn't have the true gospel, the Kingdom of God. They don't know we can be born of God. They have the Bible, as far as they've got it, but they only have a little of it.

But, now, the martyrs did not have the mark of the beast. Those that obey the human government may save their human life, but they're going to suffer all these plagues that I read to you here, from God and will not make it into the Kingdom of God.

Those who obey God may be tortured. Let me tell you what kind of torture. They used to run needles right up under your fingernails and thumbnails into the quick. And boy, that does hurt!

All right. I wanted to prepare you. Now I'll give you one. They would tie a rope around your wrists, together. They would tie another rope around your ankles, holding them together. The one rope would be hitched up to one horse. The other rope from your feet would be hitched to another horse. And they start the horses in opposite directions and they pull you until they pull you apart. Actually pull your legs or your arms right out of their sockets until you're pulled apart. That's the way they tortured people until they died. It's so fiendish that I hate to tell you some of the things that have happened. And those things have happened. And former people have gone through that, in order to keep the commandments of God.

Now, the two horned beast is merely a sort of enforcer. They enforce the mark, they compel obedience. And they don't kill anyone. You'll notice that they are drunk with the blood of the saints, but they didn't kill them. They caused them to be killed. They just pronounced them anathema from Christ and the government killed them. But they ruled the government.

Now, they are going to compel disobedience to God. But they are not going to compel you to lie, they're not going to compel you to commit adultery, they're not going to compel stealing, they're not going to compel you to covet your neighbor's goods or your neighbor's wife, they will not compel you to dishonor your father and mother, they will not compel you to have other gods, they might to worship idols and they might not, they won't compel you to use profanity. But I'll tell you what they will compel you to do, to observe Sunday instead of the Sabbath.

Now they call the Sabbath the Lord's Day. They say the Church changed it. And the Church did change it, the

Roman Catholic Church. But God did not. Cardinal Gibbons of the Roman Catholic Church wrote, in my earlier life, he's dead now but I remember when he did, he wrote this: "You may search the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you cannot find one word in the Bible authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Bible everywhere enforces the sanctification of Saturday, the seventh day of the week." But, he said, "You Protestants have to admit the authority of the Roman Catholic Church that is branded on you when you observe Sunday, because you have no other authority for Sunday but that of the Roman Catholic Church." And it came out of the sun worship that they brought in to so-called Christianity and put the name of Christ on it.

It has to effect one of the commandments of God. Now what commandment affects your business? How many of our people have had to change their jobs? That it's effected their job and their earning of a living, and the buying or selling, because of the Sabbath?

Now the Roman Catholic Council of Laodicea, it was 363 AD, they passed this: "Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath." They called it the Sabbath, they didn't try to say it's the Protestants that began to call Sunday the Sabbath. The Roman Catholic Church never did. Rather they said at this Council of Laodicea, "Christians must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath,..." That, they said, is Jewish. "...but must work on that day, resting rather on Sunday. But if any be found to be Judaizing, let them be declared anathema from Christ." And when the Church called them anathema from Christ, the government of the Holy Roman Empire tortured them or put them to death if they didn't obey and start to worship on Sunday.

There's no question about it, brethren. And that has happened. It is the only commandment that they have altered. They haven't altered the others, but they did try to alter this one.

Now I'd like to have you notice back in Daniel 7:25. And this is speaking of the Roman Catholic Church among Daniel's four beasts here. There was to be a small horn that was to come among them which was the Papacy. "And he shall speak great words against the most High..." Isn't that just like I read in Revelation? "...and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws..." to change the law in respect to time, as they changed the Sabbath into Sunday. And they changed the day from beginning at sunset to beginning at midnight. And they changed the months and the new moons to the way it is. They changed times all along and it all came through the Roman Catholic Church. "...and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of times." In other words 1260 years. They did that, carried it on for 1260 years.

Now I want you to notice that the Sabbath is not a

mark. It is a sign. And I want to show you there's a difference between a sign and a mark. A sign is something that a man hangs out in front of his business: Jones & Company Furniture. Now that identifies it, tells who owns it, it tells what it is. It's not a drug store, it's not a men's clothing store, it's a furniture store. A sign identifies. But the merchant hangs it out of his own accord. It's not branded on him. He takes that himself and puts it out. A sign is always that you hang up yourself to identify. Or even a doctor would have a little, neat sign outside of his door. But it identifies who is in there, who's in that room.

Now let's turn back for a moment to Exodus 31 beginning with verse 12. "And the [Eternal] spake unto Moses, saying..." Now I want you to notice that this is something, it's a covenant and it's eternal, and it has nothing to do with the old covenant. This is made after the old covenant was made. The old covenant was made and ratified back in the 24th and 25th chapters of Exodus, and this is the 31st chapter. This is long after that. Now you know, and any lawyer will tell you that any covenant or contract — a covenant is a contract, an agreement — and anything that appears after it is signed, after the signature is no part of it at all. This is not part of the old covenant. But this is eternal.

Now I want you to notice beginning in verse 12 "And the [Eternal] spake to Moses, saying, speak thou unto the children of Israel saying, my Sabbaths you shall keep for it is a sign between Me and you" — how long? Just a little while? — "throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord that doest sanctify (or set you apart) that does sanctify you." That means set apart for a holy use and purpose. It identifies those who are God's people — it identifies God. Now let's read on and I'll show you how.

"You shall keep the Sabbaths, therefore for it is holy unto you." The world doesn't want to put any difference between the holy and the profane. This one church is one church that does, brethren. And you will have to begin to put a difference between the holy and the profane. The Sabbath day is holy — your first tithe — which is God's tithe is holy to Him. You are stealing if you use it. You are stealing if you use the Sabbath day that belongs to God. It is not your time — it's God's.

"You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore for it is holy unto you, everyone that defileth it shall be put to death." Now that, of course, was in the nation Israel — it was the death penalty for whoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. "Six days may work be done, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest Holy to the Eternal. Whosoever doeth any work in that Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death." Now there was the death penalty in Israel if you don't keep the Sabbath. But a sign identifies.

Now let me tell you a few things. Why did the Jews think they are Israel? Why is it that our people are Israel

but don't know who we are? Because the first thing that Jeroboam did when Israel rejected King Rehoboam, was to, not only get rid of the priesthood and the Levites went back and joined in with Judah, but he also changed the day of worship from Saturday to Sunday. And he went right along with the pagans over in Assyria that were observing the Chaldean mystery religion. And because they lost the sign that identified them, no one knew who they were and they finally — they lost their own language and lost their identity.

Why did people think the Jews were Israel? Because they have kept the Sabbath through these centuries and years. And the Sabbath is branded as Israel. But it is a sign they have voluntary kept — no one has forced them to do it. But the mark of the beast — a mark is brand, it is branded on you like you brand cattle. The cow doesn't ask you to do it, the cow doesn't voluntarily, you do it to him. And the mark is one that is marked on you. A mark also identifies, doesn't it? The sign identifies. Both a mark and a sign identify.

One is the sign of God and the other is the mark of the beast. They both have something to do with the right hand and the forehead — with work. The Christians who have the sign of God have the name of God — the Church of God. The name written on our foreheads. We have it in our hand. And you'll find that the commandments will be bound in their hand, and in their foreheads, in other places in the law of Moses when speaking of the commandments of God.

There is only one commandment that the world absolutely will not obey. And that is the Sabbath. THE SABBATH IS GOD'S TEST COMMANDMENT. That is the one that is the test above all. Now God's law is love to God and love to neighbor. You know the carnal mind will often have a certain amount of love to other people. For example, a lot of husbands and wives who are entirely carnal get along because each is getting what he or she wants from the other. They can get along. Of course, too often, they don't get along. All depends on what they get, not what they give. But they don't seem to want anything to do with God.

You can't come to love God unless you love less your own children, your father and mother, those closest to you. Not that you have to hate them as it is in the King James translation of the Bible. But the world doesn't realize that it makes any difference whether we love God or not. God's law is love. It's love divided into two divisions, the two great commandments: Love toward God, that's the first four of the ten commandments; Love toward neighbor, that's the last six. The Sabbath is the one that shows love to God and there is NO REASON IN THE WORLD TO KEEP THE SABBATH except that it's holy to God and you are obeying God and keeping your foot off of the Sabbath, as He says, I believe its the 56th chapter of Isaiah, or it's one of the chapters of Isaiah — keep your foot off of it, from polluting it, muddying it all up.

Oh, I could preach you sermon after sermon after sermon about the Sabbath and we've been taking it for granted because we can keep it and take it for granted. And I haven't been preaching much about the Sabbath in a good many years now and I used to have to preach on that subject more than anything back 50 years ago. But now we are coming to the place your going to see how important it is. There is no question whatsoever — I tell you brethren, it just seemed we didn't need to talk about this subject very much in our own church because we understood it..

Another thing, the Sabbath question was a great question before the public 55 years ago. But today it hasn't been so important. It's going to get important once again. So we haven't been talking much about it in this church — we take it for granted. Well don't take it for granted. It is very important. I think we need a few more sermons about the Sabbath and I think that I'm going to preach a bit more about it.

And also about the very imminency of these things. We're in the time now of our final exams. In fact, we have been for the past 2-3-4-5 years. I've been telling you that. But we are in that time, and there isn't much more time to go.

I have some other things I thought I would read to you about the coming of this empire in Europe, but I just haven't had time, so I'm not going to take time because time is up now. But I want you to realize the seriousness of this, the imminency of it. And the time of trial and testing is coming. And the time when we are going to have to be concerned about, we are going to have get out of here and leave here — leave this auditorium. I don't know what will happen to it. God will look after that. It is dedicated to Him, I think He will take care of it, whatever way He wants it done.

We may all have to go someplace. I don't know how we are going to go. God is going to have to show us a lot of things He hasn't revealed yet. We're coming to the time and we're going to come very shortly now to the time when I tell you the ministers of this church are going to have to tell all you people in the congregation its better not to have more children from now on, because there's a curse pronounced on those that have even nursing babies or new babies that are that young at the time of this Great Tribulation. And it's going to come very soon now.

I think its bound to be one or two years, or three, at least, I don't think its going to be here tomorrow or next week. And don't misunderstand me, I'm not setting a date, I'm just telling you it is very, very, imminent. I wish I had time to read you some letters here, and there is one very important man that has a lot to do with this getting of Europe together. Well, he is one of the two most important men and he wants to have a meeting with me and I just missed a meeting with him on this last trip, but there is to be plenary meetings of the European Parliament, which is that division of the people of the common market trying to get this together as a political union and their meetings, it's

the same as the San Francisco conference that drew up the charter for the United Nations. And they expect to have their charter for that all completed, by I believe, no I forget the date again, I had it given to me again yesterday, its in early March. I think the 7th or 8th of March, something like that. It's supposed to be completed by that time.

Now things are going together faster than you realize, and most of it is not hitting the public press. You aren't going to read of it for awhile in the public press, but I get it confidentially from those on the inside. And I have fortunately had access to them. And I want to tell you that it is moving. They say it is not moving fast enough for them. They are very disappointed that it isn't moving faster. But they are putting everything back of it that they can. And we have to put everything back of getting ourselves ready that we can!

I'm going to have to declare a time of fasting and prayer in the next two or three weeks. But, I'm not going to that this minute, today, I want to think it over and I'll send it out in a general letter to the whole membership and, at least, to the ministers who will announce it in their respective churches, so it'll will be maybe just a week or two.

From now on, brethren, until the Kingdom of God it's not going to be all peaches and cream. If you think its going to be all beautiful and everything is hotsy-totsy and dandy, FORGET IT!

We are in for nothing but trouble, and the whole world is! But we are on God's side — that means He's on our side, doesn't it? And we need to get a little better on His side, and we are going to have to do some fasting and praying. And I'm going to set aside a time for fasting and prayer in the next few Sabbaths. So that's it for now, brethren, but whatever you do, keep close to God from now on because I want to tell you that times are different and the Devil knows he has but a short time. Now maybe we don't know it, we better wake up to the fact that he does only have but a short time, and that means that we only have a short time to be ready.

END