

01 Seven Thunders- Paduca, KY (side 1)

I gave a topic that I would like to present here, which is fundamental to why we are here in 1975 after the peace of Trumpets, for many of you knew that there was a general thinking in the church that the crisis wouldn't be filed to the United States in the church by 1972.

I want to address that question, though it is not passÃ© in one sense.

I think it holds the key to many of the problems and some of the doubts that people have had.

Or if we had understood in advance what was to occur in 1972, which did in fact, we might well have understood in advance the trends that have taken place since, and we certainly would have seen the world advance in a different light.

I would like to have us go through the book of Revelation and take a look at the tenth chapter, which is the one chapter in the book of Revelation that for most of us we've never understood.

In fact, had we understood the tenth chapter, we would never have focused in on 1972 as we did, but we would have seen it in an entirely different perspective and would have seen the state of mind of the church today. But we won't look at chapter 10 immediately, but we're going to look at the book of Revelation and see how chapter 10 fits in.

Had we known it, there is a possibility that some who left would not have, and certainly we would have been much more aware.

I would have drawn attention to a fundamental principle that Mr. Gene Carger and I were just briefly discussing on the phone last night. I've known him since the first year, the second year of college. This is many, many years ago, about 1948. It's hard to realize how much time has gone by since it's 27 years. One of the rules that any great economist will tell you, and I obtained this from the Economic Report, that Messer's Story and Book, we call it the Storybook Report, they're Canadians, have published. It may be summarized such as this, that economic or political or anything we anticipate often takes much longer to develop than we think it should.

But once it begins to occur, it develops much faster than we anticipate.

Now, in terms of prophecy, I think this is fundamental, that what we have thought would occur has taken much longer to develop. But when it begins to occur, it will reach a climax much faster than we anticipate. Let's put it down. I've stated it twice so you grasp the picture. We said in the 1950s the beast is rising. We have captions like this in the plain truth. I want to say, brethren, that's not true. The beast hasn't risen yet.

I think we might as well place it. There was an indication that indeed it was going to on the basis of what was developing. And in 1953, of course, the remnants of the Nazi party attempted to overthrow the Western German government. But it's under Nauman. Nauman's efforts came to nothing.

Most of you have forgotten all about it and never heard of it. There was a revolution, of course, in Berlin. It's Berlin in 1953, and then we had the Hungarian revolution in 1956. That just seems so recent, and yet that's 19 years ago. It's almost a generation ago. There was a pope who vigorously was speaking out against communism, and all of that has changed so that in reality, not only has the beast not appeared on the world scene, there aren't ten nations organized yet, and this is 1975. So

let us face the fact that often what we anticipate occurs much more slowly than we imagine. But when it begins to develop, it occurs much more rapidly because indeed the world situation is of such a nature today that actions must take place fast to prevent the kind of crisis that the nations all fear. But in the meantime, the economic power of nations is far greater, and governments are now willing to exercise economic power such as they were unwilling to do in 1929 to 1932, which led, of course, to the great depression that no one wants to go through again.

Now, what we are saying then is that many of the things we anticipate, we anticipate a religious persecution. I think there's no question in terms of the biblical statements in chapter 12 of Revelation, but today the religious power that we have foreseen as the institution behind it, that power is more divided, more confused than ever before, that in reality every instrument that one might anticipate, such as the common market developing into a union that is public, that what may look like it one day may not necessarily look like it the next. Because the Bible didn't say it has to come out of the common market, but it surely did look like it in the 50s. It did look like it in much of the 60s, but as the 60s drew to a close there could be doubts, and I have expressed severe doubts for now several years, in fact, that we will ever find the common market as the political basis for what is defined in Revelation 17 and 18 and 19. Now the economic basis is obviously there. What we want to do then for the moment is to go through the book of Revelation and to see where we are, and to see the key that was in the 10th chapter that would have helped us to understand much more, but we didn't understand it. We, in fact, thought it referred to something in the future, when in reality it has an entirely different application. And had we known it, I would never have written the booklet, a true history of the true Church, as I did at its close, instead of leaving the whole story of the congregation of Laodicea in doubt for the future, we would have been able to lay it out very plainly as to what the situation is. We didn't then see it. I want to go through the book of Revelation just briefly. Now we're not going to discuss, except to show where it is, and I assume that the majority of you are familiar with things in Revelation, but I'm going to assume that none of you knows it so well, but what we ought to at least summarize some of the points as we go along, so we know where we are. The book of Revelation is conveyed to the churches from Jesus Christ through John. John writes to the seven churches in Asia, verse 4, chapter 1.

And in this letter, which is a cover letter to the seven churches, there is also a message to seven separate congregations in what was then the province of Asia. Now, Western Asia Minor or Turkey. And these seven separate congregations have letters addressed to them in chapters 2 and 3. Now we recognize that indeed, most congregations were all contemporary, and we are told at the close of each that whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. So every age and every individual should give heed to the lessons that are recorded in each one of those, because there can always be congregations today, like any one of them, and there can always be individuals in a congregation who make the same mistake that either the congregation or individuals in it made in those seven churches in Asia Minor.

And we have always said these two chapters have a dual application. I said so in the booklet, we have said so from the pulpit. There's some people who somehow didn't know that.

But we also recognize that the reason why you proceed from Ephesus to Laodicea in the sequence is also the fact that you proceeded along the road from Ephesus to Laodicea. As you went, and as the message was delivered to each of the seven churches, and each one of the churches had other cities, these were a part of the major mail route, the major trunk route transportation, and you went from one to the other. And since the church has a sequence in time, as well as many different characteristics at any one time, we see in here the story of church history laid out the experiences of those seven churches were chosen to tell the story of the church through history. Now, God could

have chosen Clarence. He could have chosen Athens and Thessalonica, or Philippi, or Troas, or Colossae. He didn't do that. These seven churches are to tell something very special. Anything else would have been repetitive. And God, looking down on these seven, found something significant historically through time as well. Then beginning in the fourth chapter, we now have the introduction to the vision itself. After this, I looked and beheld the door was open in heaven, and John thinks of himself as now in spirit instead of living in flesh. And the experiences he had were unaccountable in his estimation if he were not in spirit. But it is all a vision, as you will ultimately see, because these are visions that he received as he said in the very first chapter while he was in the island of Patmos, and he sees himself as if he were spirit and the throne of God in heaven is there. So now we have, as we go through, a warning to the church, and a message to the church through time. Seven churches. Then we have a specific message that is conveyed to the church for the first time in detail. And this is a prophecy of events to happen such as not even Daniel was given. Now in this fourth chapter, we have the background of the vision. And in the fifth chapter, we're told about a little book.

I should let me correct that. We're told about a scroll. And this scroll was of the nature of the scroll in that day. And there were seals that held different parts of it shut.

Now normally, there was only one seal on a scroll. And when that was broken, you could unwind the whole thing. But this was different. This had seven different seals so that you had to break seven to get the whole story. If you broke one, you only had one part of it.

And there was a reason to focus in on singular events through time that should occur.

Now, the one who was found worthy was Jesus, the Christ, our Messiah, Lord, and Master.

He was without sin. If he had not been without sin, this message would not have been conveyed today to the church. God the Father did not determine or reveal everything through the prophets.

And he did it usually through Jesus in the Old Testament like he did here through Jesus in the New. He then was not known as Jesus but Yahweh or the spokesman. And apparently in this case, though we are not told how much Father and Son may have discussed the future events, there were things that he has reserved to himself. And there are even things now apparently he has reserved to himself that is when he shall choose to make the decision to send Christ to earth.

Not reveal in the book of Revelation specifically.

But here we are now given a message that adds to what Christ was given to reveal in Matthew 24 and the parallel verses in Mark and Luke. It was indeed a revelation that the Father gave to Christ to give to us. Now we note that in chapter 6 the seals are stripped off one by one.

And you will note that you already have removed the sixth seal by the time you come to the 12th verse. Now you will read about it if you've read the key to the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation and the last as we publish. But you read it right here in the Bible. Don't take for granted the rest of the story just because I say it here. There are six seals being stripped off here and you can find the other five if you don't have them circled by numbers.

It shows you how rapidly the six seals are removed in a fraction of a chapter.

Now the first five seals in other words are discussed in the first 11 verses.

And the sixth seal now takes a little longer and you'll note that the seventh seal begins with chapter 8 verse 1. I'll have you look so you know where it is. So you take a note that the sixth seal takes us through more than a chapter. From chapter 6 verse 12 through the seventh chapter. That's longer

than the first five seals altogether in terms of text. And then the seventh seal covers everything and the rest of the book of Revelation beginning with chapter 8.

All right now we take note of some things. We don't know what language was written on the scroll. I certainly wouldn't concede of it to be Koine Greek. There's no evidence that it was either Aramaic which is some parts of the Old Testament or Hebrew. But whatever language God the Father, Jesus Christ and angels communicate with, that was on the scroll. Their normal means of communication would seem to be basically logical. But what happens every time a seal is removed then John says take a look. I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals or seal number one verse one of chapter six. There was a noise of thunder and four beasts were saying come and see.

And I saw, that's four living creatures of angelic origin, I saw and behold a white horse and he that sat on him had it bowed and the crown was given to him and he went forth conquering him to conquer. Now John is told here, he isn't told here, but he's told elsewhere to write what he sees.

You have to go back to the first chapter. I won't go back to that. But John sees things in the presence of God's throne and then he writes in Koine Greek and we have it in English, what he sees. He is not given in the book of Revelation a copy of the scroll.

There's no place in all the book of Revelation which says to John that you don't have to write anything but I will give you the scroll and all you do is copy the scroll in as the book of Revelation and it isn't that way. The scroll is just, it's all a division you see and in this vision that occurs while he is a prisoner in the island of Patmos he sees in this vision a scroll opened in heaven and he's not reading off the scroll then when one seal is open you see the four living creatures in the vision say to John look and in this vision John looks and sees things happening in God's throne, the presence of God's throne and then he's told in the vision to write down in the book what he has seen and so after the vision is over he writes down what he has seen and the whole thing is vividly presented. Now whether he saw all this in one dream or not we're not told. There does not appear to be breaks but that is irrelevant. I don't think it is important to the story. It was that vivid however that he remembered all of this you know when you have this kind of vivid dream it's very difficult to forget or to blot it out even at 90 years of age.

Now the first five seals take us through a long period of history if you please roughly 19 centuries of time. I will not explain them they have been explained before but we come to the sixth seal and there was a great earthquake and events that altered the traditional view of heavenly bodies as we see them the sun becomes black and as a consequence the moon appears blood red in verse 12 and it would appear to have to be stars now whether we can call these meteorites they have the appearance of meteors shooting through the heavens they fell to the earth and there was a removal of heavenly bodies like a scroll that is rolled up and the time when every mountain and island is moved out of its place and kings of the earth and great men and rich men and others are afraid because what they see is in fact a some manifestation of God who sits on the throne and of Jesus Christ who is about to pour his wrath out on the earth and they admit now that today of his wrath has come and will be able to stand that is they have been told these things and they know and now it's suddenly a realization that what they thought they could laugh off is going to happen after all this is in the future this follows the tribulation which is described as the fifth seal now in the tribulation described under the fifth seal beginning in verse 9 and through verse 11 there are indications of two periods of persecution one of which would be in the past and the other which takes place and is in the sense yet to take place but just before the day of the Lord in chapter 6 introduces the day of the Lord sorry the sixth seal introduces the day of the Lord here in chapter 6 all right now we move along and we know that even though there may be a repetition of false prophets I'll give you the summary

of those wars famines pestilence tribulation there's undoubtedly a repetition even of the seals as they're open once through history and then climaxing in our time again i think we can often see parallels certainly there have been such parallels beginning even with the Protestant Reformation uh and the modern sequence of warfare leading up to the coming tribulation and then to the day of the Lord or God's intervention chapter 7 after these things i saw for angels standing on the four corners of the earth uh here the these are like the four directions of the compass we're not talking about a square flat earth we're talking in terms that we speak of like the setting of the sun in modern language or the directions of the compass now what you discover is that the consequences of what would happen are temporarily postponed another angel ascends from the east having the seal of the living god he says that there should be a delay to hurt not the earth nor the sea or trees till the servants of our god are sealed in their forehead which has reference of course to having been given the holy spirit now there are many people are the words who have come out of the great tribulation who are going to be called now because they realize that what has been said by this work today and what is going to be said by this work tomorrow and what will be said by the two witnesses in the tribulation all of those things are true and now they're going to act on it and god gives them time and so we have 12,000 of each of the 12 tribes excluding dan that doesn't mean dan is excluded but it means there's also a great multitude of all nations including israel including more than the 12,000 of each of the tribes and the tribe of dan because you have two groups the specific number and then a great multitude of all nations for god called more than 12,000 of each but he chooses he called more than 12 disciples but he chose 12 see now the story of chapter seven is a part of the sixth seal we haven't come to the seventh seal but it shows that there are events between the tribulation in the day of the lord and that there is even after the heavenly signs a delay in god's wrath suddenly doesn't come on the earth but more people aren't being called converted or many were being called maybe a better way to put it in some new ones and now they are really being brought to a place of conversion as a result of what they have gone through yes most of these people could have acted before but there was no opportunity because of the kind of religious persecution spiritually they are now virgins we're not talking about physical virgins we're talking about spiritual ones it has nothing to do with their spiritual past there isn't a single person in god's church who spiritually was a virgin before he was called because we all have been in one way or another a part of the world and we become like the virgins that is the church but we have an indication that if they're closed with white robes in verse nine that they have become forgiven and are now regarded as virgins i think that should be very clear these are people who are converted hundreds and hundreds of thousands perhaps even a few million are suddenly being converted because if you have a great multitude it can't be numbered and you could number 144 thousand this must be so immense that there's no way to number them now we're able to number all the people who come to the Feast of Tabernacles but this is beyond the ability looking out to take numbers and these people have gone through the tribulation we're told in verse 14 they came out of great tribulation they washed their robes and have made them white in the blood of the lambs and we're told that the others we're told of them also again in verse nine they stood before the throne they were closed with white robes so you have this picture there also that god chooses a special group out of them 144 thousand and out of all of these then god proposes to build up the work of his kingdom what has been called in the last 19 centuries don't compare to this and these people are ultimately those who will either hunger no anymore or thirst anymore verse 16 the light of the sun will not be on them that clearly indicates or to be ultimately composed of spirit because we are subject to sunlight and sun tan and sunburned when your spirit you are not you don't live in the world of physical matter god's calling all these because he needs them for the government or the kingdom of god now we come to chapter eight and when he had opened the seventh seal there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour now this is not because there are no women there that's of course not the real explanation but

the wrath of god has come and you know not even the angels have seen god this angry and when god is this angry you don't approach him god has waited all this time there is a time to be angry and to put an end to sin and god has reached the limit of his patience and is about to intervene and so the seventh seal is open and here we have a seven angel standing before god with seven trumpets and you see that could have happened already beginning with chapter seven in time but it didn't they were told to wait not to act till all these people were converted so that between the tribulation and the day of the lord there is a longer period of time than one might have anticipated that is why doesn't god intervene is the question see and the answer is all these people are being called yet before this happens now we suddenly discover that the seven angels do sound verse six and the seven angels which had seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound and then with chapter eight verse seven the first angel sounds verse eight the second verse ten the third verse twelve the fourth and we have four angels who have already sounded and we have finished the eighth chapter but there are three more to sound and these are called woes in verse 13 now in chapter nine the fifth angel sounds verse one chapter nine verse 12 one woe is passed two to come verse 13 the sixth angel sounds i'm going through the movement of time because i want you to see the movement we're not interested in all these explanations because i'm focusing in on the tenth chapter not every chapter in other words the seventh seal is made up of seven trumpet blasts of which there are four in productivity and three very terrible now at this point in time there has been a normal movement there isn't any question the beginning with verse six we have moved from one seal to the next and when we got to the last seal save one that is seal number six we are told that there was to be a brief postponement before the next one blows off that is the uh i should say the next seal is taken off and the trumpets blow and a certain number of people are introduced who are being called and now we're moving along under the seventh seal and you have one trumpet after the other and now you have six that have sounded and the question is what happens because we are not told that the seventh sounds until verse 15 of chapter 11 and the seventh angel sounded so what we want to do is look at what happens in between now up to this point john is seeing the focus on the book the crisis opening and when the scroll rather than a book is opened then we have a picture of what happens based on what was written and john then describes what he sees that happened now we also know that as we proceed to the rest of the book there are insects that somehow other parts of the book don't continue the story full without giving some background and there is a break in the story now we'll take an illustration of the break in the story in a moment chapter 12 is an illustration now there appeared a great wonder in heaven a woman called the sun and the moon under her feet and upon her head was a crown of twelve stars she was with child prevailed in birth and there appeared another wonder a dragon and the woman produced the child the dragon sought to devour the child and she brought forth a man child destined to rule the nation's verse five with a rod of iron and the child was caught up to god to heaven and the woman fled to the wilderness verse six and there was another war in heaven which follows the great dragon here fought against michael and now salvation has come verse 10 and we're told you see that the devil who at this time is very angry goes to make war with the remnant of her seed verse 17 now when the woman flees the first time in verse six it's for a thousand two hundred and sixty days for years and here the last time she is given help it's for a half a time the time and time verse 14 so we discovered that the woman flees twice now we've understood this before because in reality there is a tribulation of the middle ages that in a sense comes up to the tribulation but doesn't introduce the day of the lord that's like saying that when the fields were opened it happened once but it also happens again many things are dual in prophecy but the next time it happens in full force it will lead to the day of the lord the first time it didn't well look at chapter 12 verse 1 there appeared a great wonder in heaven a woman called the sun now this is an introduction john sees something remarkable in heaven and he describes it and in chapter 13 we're told here of a beast that he sees rising out of the sea now chapter 12 is the spiritual history of

the church in simple one chapter explanation with a focus on persecution and flight flight and the devil seeking to destroy the church chapter 13 describes as an introduction the political power and the religious power you will know it was given to this political power verse 7 to make war with the saints and the period of time was again 40 and 2 months first time and then there is a religious power who works with that individual who has the political power chapter 12 is certainly an inset by itself a separate story chapter 13 is an inset in two parts in a sense these modern chapters don't really tell the story you could have had a separate chapter in more than one place but we tend to say well a chapter should be so many verses and that's all the reason it's done this isn't original this is done by men you really have an inset so it's an economic city power as well ancient Babylon was a religious center it was a political it was an economic center of the world chapter 19 and after these things I heard a great voice of much people or a voice of many in heaven and of course the whole vision takes place there well the place that poured out in God's presence everything takes place it isn't the question of people being in heaven it's the question of where the vision is taking place salvation glory honor power to the Lord our God excuse me and now the church as a whole is pictured as having prepared itself ready to reign with Christ who has come to rule and to punish the kings of the earth and their armies verse 19 and I see another angel come down from heaven chapter 20 and Satan is bound and the saints reign and I saw a new heaven in the new earth chapter one of verse 21 and then he shows something in chapter 22 which might just as well be a part of chapter 21 because those two really flow together very directly and here in this last story we have the holy city blessed are those who do his commandments that they might have a right to the tree of life verse 14 because outside are dogs and sorcerers that almost sexuals and sorcerers and hormone users and murderers and idolaters and whoever loves and makes a lie or a false hope so but not everybody gets in it's those who keep the commandments who do verse 14 now the reason I went to all these chapters is to let you know something that each one of the chapters or if the chapter is not a proper division maybe even inside or maybe two chapters should have become one but they're all introduced by a direct event I saw a new heaven in the new earth I saw an angel come down from heaven I heard a great voice of multitude you see of the people who are spirits in God's presence I'm just going backwards after these things I saw another angel and there came one of the seven angels and he talked with me and I heard a great voice out of the temple saying and I saw another angel another sign in heaven and look and behold the lamb stood on Mount Zion and here's the beast that comes out of the earth and then a previous beast those two things in chapter 13 and then there's the great wonder in heaven these are all introductions of remarkable events that take us into the background and fill in the story either religiously for the church politically or economically or religiously for the world and now we want to look at chapter 11 we're going to work back to chapter 12 now there was given me a read like a loud and the angel stood saying rise and measure the temple of God well when you look at chapter 11 verse 1 this is a most awkward way of introducing something new now I want you to note that beginning the chapter 12 and on there is a clear break from what precedes well we have taken for granted something everywhere in our explanation that chapter 11 begins the first incense and the chapter 10 is a continuation of chapter 9 we have taken for granted that is most of us the chapter 11 begins with an incense and yet it's the one chapter that doesn't have a logical break from what precedes you note that each one of the other is a clear break there appears a wonder that chapter 13 may have to have a new introduction the text may vary there but that's unimportant there is a clear break wherever an event happens in all of the others when you have an inset chapter that tends to fill in the story in the background why then does chapter 11 not start with this kind of a break it just says and there was given me a read like a rod and the angel said rise and measure the temple after you have had the story of the sixth angel sounding the trumpet well the answer to the question is this chapter 11 is an incense but a part of an incense that begins with chapter 10 we have assumed that chapter 10 is a part of the sixth trumpet and that

11 is the incense and that was our mistake the mistake was made because we didn't understand chapter 10 and therefore nearly passed over it because after all it says there were seven trump seven funders and what the seven funders said was sealed up so we rather passed over it because we didn't understand it but now look at chapter 10 verse 1 and see if this is not in fact the same kind of incense that we've had all along and I saw another mighty angel after six angels had blown a trumpet but before the seventh one does because the seventh doesn't sound until verse 15 of chapter 11 we now have an insect because here is an angel out of sequence right between the sixth and the seventh trumpet is an angel out of sequence who comes down from heaven clothe with a cloud and a rainbow was upon his head his face was as it were of the sun and his feet as tellers of fire and he had in his hand a little book open and he sent his right hand upon this right foot upon the sea and his left upon the earth and cried with a loud voice was when a lion roars and when he had cried seven funders uttered their voice we have assumed rather and that all of this is the part of the sixth trumpet this was our assumption that all of this takes place well into the day of the lord which it doesn't at all because this is an insect by another angel and not the angel had blew the sixth trumpet am I making that clear and because chapter 11