

It's amazing how fast the Feast goes by. Here now on the Last Great Day, and preparing this sermon here, working on it last night thinking about what an incredible Feast of Tabernacles and now today, the Last Great Day. We have been so blessed. God has given us so very much in which to rejoice as that's a part of that command that we heard at the beginning of the Feast: we're to rejoice in this particular time, to focus on that and to make sure that we obey God in doing so. And certainly it's been something in one respect easy to do, and yet sometimes because we have to watch our human nature, because we have to fight battles, because of living close together and different things that happen and different choices that people have in life that sometimes we have to remember what we're being taught about this way of life and about the way of peace and so forth

So it's been a great Feast both physically and spiritually for us; and for the majority of you, couldn't help but think about how this has been your first experience of an eight day Feast. The vast majority of people who are listening today in this Last Great Day, for you it is incredible to understand that - your first experience of a full eight day Feast with *all* the brethren in an area in a sponsored site. Now we've always kept an eight day Feast, but obviously in the last couple of years here, for those of you who, most of you who fit in that category who are new, we've only had a four day sponsored site in the sense of different sites around the world. But this year to have that opportunity, it's an incredible opportunity indeed.

So now it's nearly over. Today it's a little bit different here because of how we're doing the sermons because of New Zealand and a need to get this one posted for them for this afternoon. I know that there are a bag of mixed emotions, if you will (not right now), but by the time we get through the last service and especially as people begin to think about, it begins to hit you more about where we're at – that it's time to head back home and so forth. Sometimes it can be a bit of an emotional thing, somewhat saddened in one respect because of understanding that people have to go right back out in this world; you realize you're going to go right back out into your routine because what we're picturing here at this Feast is not yet here. That which we picture in the sense of the Feast being that which looks forward to the Millennial period; it's not yet realized, but we're so close...*so close!* It's really incredible when you think about it that way.

If you like titles to your sermons this one's entitled; *We're Almost There*. Just a short time away, it really is.

So I think it's good that we think about some of our journey here. We have been going through the most unique time in all human history. It is a time that so many of God's people have desired to know more, to understand more the meaning of Daniel 12 that covers the time of the 1335 days. We're in it! They wanted to know! *Daniel* wanted to know and God just told him, "Shut up the book, it's not for you to know." And it hasn't been for anyone since that time-period so long ago. It wasn't for those apostles who came along later – it wasn't for them to know as they read these verses, to understand what Daniel 12 was all about. And I think of sermons I heard in Philadelphia and during that time-period. It wasn't for us to know during Philadelphia either. It wasn't for us to understand these things! And here we find ourselves in the midst of it. It's incredible; it really is when you understand.

Sometimes when you live something *you don't grasp the magnitude of it*. Sometimes when you live something and it's just day by day you don't really *grasp* the significance of it especially when it's a matter of God's plan and what God is working out, because our lives go on day by day, we have our normal routine through a seven day week and the cycle that takes place like that. And we go through that cycle and sometimes it is truly so difficult for us to grasp the magnitude of what we're living! And we're living in some of the most exciting, most *awesome* times in all of earth's history!

I've longed for this period of time ever since I've come into the Church – not knowing when it would be, *desiring* to see a time when indeed Jesus Christ would return. Not desiring to go into what we called 'great tribulation'! Who wants to go into that? But knowing that we had to go through it to get to where we were going. And how incredible is it that we're not suffering beyond what we thought we would be in – in other words in comparison to that. We suffer, yes, as anyone else ever has whose been called into God's Church through the trials and troubles and so forth; but we're not suffering because of what's going to happen in the future here. Not at all! We're blessed to sit here. We're blessed to have a great meal in the morning down here, breakfast. This morning as I was eating I was thinking... this hotel, the breakfast there, there are so many choices you can't have all of them – and such great food. And after a while if you partake of it a lot it catches up with you. You can't keep doing it. I can't keep doing that. So what an incredible thing to see the blessings we have, those things that we're still able to have and not have the kinds of battles that we thought we would have when we first went into this period of time.

We're living the 1335. We're in the midst of the 1335 days – actually, we're well past the half way mark on that one when you consider when *that* one began. And then the 1290 days spoken of, obviously, there. We're living in the time that has followed the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal being opened and we're the only ones that know it. The rest of the church that was scattered, the thousands who are out there – they don't know. They don't know we're in a period of time and the 7<sup>th</sup> Seal has already been opened. They're going to be shocked and horrified when they find out all of a sudden, because by the time it begins, whenever it begins, it's going to be quite condensed. What an awesome thing to understand! It's going to be a powerful instrument to help bring people to repentance who are so *asleep* spiritually! It's going to be a powerful tool! And yet we're blessed to live in this period and see clearly what's gone by and to know we're closing in. We're almost there.

It's the time after all 144,000 of the firstfruits have been sealed and the Government of God that's coming with Jesus Christ has been sealed, it's been established, it has been built, it's constructed. Oh, there's just a little bit of tweaking going on – I have to add that one; sometimes some pretty big tweaking in *our* lives. But when you consider that there are those who are a part of the 144,000 who are alive today – there are those in this room who are going to be a part of that 144,000. Those of you at different Feast sites – there are people in your midst who are going to be a part of 144,000. *And you don't grasp the magnitude of the blessing and the opportunity you have to share with them, to be able to fellowship with them, to have a relationship now that's going to have a great impact on your life in a good way, in a right way, into the Millennial period.* You have opportunities and blessings that *no others* through time, in that respect, have had. We don't grasp that as a whole. We don't grasp that. We might to a degree, to a point, but it is an awesome thing!

There are *many*...there will be *millions* as they begin to change and have opportunity to come to understand and repent and are able to be baptized who are going to live on in the Millennial period who would have given *anything* if they'd know about it – if they'd known beforehand. What an awesome thing to have traded places with any one of you! But see, we're not *hit* in the same way because we live

our lives day by day and we don't think about the magnitude of what God is doing in our lives. It's hard to see the reality. We live by faith and we walk forward believing what God says, but the *magnitude* of it all – it's hard to see – it truly is, because we are so *physical*. *We are so physical* in the ability to appreciate and to grasp and to latch onto what we *have in our midst that is so awesome and so powerful!* Not because of who anyone is by any specific degree in that respect, but the magnitude of recognizing *this is it, this is God's Government*, and to *know them*, to know those who will be spirit beings on this earth in the next thousand years walking on this earth, visiting with others – to see you mature and grow. It's going to be a joy. I already know. It's going to be a joy to watch you grow and it's going to be a heartache to see you die. God has done that for 6,000 years because death is an enemy. That's what it says. But then that joy too when you look ahead and realize it won't be long – we're almost there. We're almost to the hundred years!

But for now, we can only think in a very short span of time and it's an awesome thing indeed to understand. *I don't* even grasp by any measure. You may think I do. *I don't begin to grasp*; I was thinking about it coming down the elevator today and thinking about people who mock and make fun of various things and thinking... "Do you want this job?" I don't grasp what God has given to me; I can't comprehend it. I really... I believe it with all my being and more because God's given that to me, but the reality of it all sometimes? It's difficult to grasp, it really is, to recognize the things that are there. I don't grasp that fully.

And so sometimes we just don't grasp fully and we have to pray about those things and ask God to help us to appreciate, to grasp, to latch onto, to be moved by, to be excited by, to be *confident and bold* in what He's given to us to do, *and we need that* in the time that's remaining in front of us – some six hundred and whatever it is, five days or whatever from now. To go through this period then in front of us. The more we grow, the bolder we should become and we *shouldn't leave here saddened – we should leave here emboldened, strong, purpose of mind* that's powerful and strong, to grasp what God has given to us, to be so focused that we are so excited that we're going to be able to share what we have with others. You have incredible opportunity to share with others in the near future in ways that you *can't comprehend* right now – you *can't* until you're in the midst of it. It's so great! It's so beyond your comprehension what God is getting ready to do!

See, I am *deeply* moved by when I think about what God gave to us in the ministry to become organized like we are. *It was never in my mind to do any of that – NEVER!* Thank God; because I know it's not of me –because *I* wouldn't have done it. I was kind of forced to. Everything we've gone into – every doctrine since the apostasy – everything we've ever gone into – there are times I've told my wife, "I don't want to get into that subject!" That's what I told her. There's one subject she brought to me at one period of time and it was going around different areas and she brought some literature, some things to me and, "I don't want to *touch* that one! I've addressed so many, I don't want to go there." And I had to go there. Why? Because it *was* affecting so many people, so many of the scattered people. It was like it was being stirred up from one group to another group and I had no option, I had no choice, and God let me know, "Oh, yes you are going to address that one." So I did. Forced in time to do it because of the need to protect, to help God's people. God reveals those things. And so you do what maybe you don't like to do sometimes – sometimes that's a lot of our life. And then we learn after a while it becomes a way of life.

What an incredible journey we're on; and sometimes we just can't grasp it all, we can't see it all. Ask God for more help. Ask God for more help to be enlivened by, to be strengthened by His spirit, His life, His mind; to be strengthened with confidence and boldness and energy to go into *whatever* is in front of

you full steam ahead; focused, excited, inspired. Ask for help to be able to *grasp* what He's put before you.

I was thinking this morning about so many... *you're so young!* For some of you this may be your third Feast, your second Feast, your first Feast! The vast majority of you, *you're so young!* And I can't *tell you* and I can't *give it to you* how much God has placed in front of you – truly! Because I went to God's house side by side and council blended sweet with hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people that I know from area to area to area across the United States – and they lived this way of life for many, many, years and we did many things together, things with their children and families and homes and activities...and they're not able to share in this! Some are going to get to again here and I so look forward to that because that has been like *ripping out my heart* in times past to know but by the grace of God there go I. We are no better! On the contrary – God so often works with us to confound and dumbfound the wise. We should know what we are; we should see who we are.

And so I think of them, I think of those who are blind right now, who are asleep right now and they are so asleep and it's *so frustrating* - you can't share this with anyone out there! And anything they hear from us, or hear about us it's like Lazarus and the Rich Man. I used to think of how that applied, and it does in the world and people who come along with the truth and so forth – anyway, today in the church it's that way. There's this *giant chasm* between us and those who are scattered because of *all* that God has given to us – it truly is. It's so *vast* now! People who have a reflection of something in the past but they stopped; they weren't able to continue on – they haven't grown and are trying to keep a hold of something that resembles something of the past in Philadelphia – and that's not even good! And I think of all that God has given us. And so on a physical plane without God's spirit we look a little loony tunes to them – we truly do – a little far out there. "The two witnesses?! ...and his wife?! Oh man, what will they come up with next? ...Oh, women are being ordained! Whoooo, man that guy has really... He went to Ambassador College and look at what he's doing!? Look what he's saying?! And people are still listening to him! It's hard to imagine anyone would listen to that, isn't it?!" That's what they think. That's how far out it is; it just blows their mind! Incredible!

And you're living it...in the midst of it. Awesome, awesome, awesome.

And so we've been blessed to observe two Feasts since the revelation of 'Time, Times and Half a Time' that began right after Trumpets of last year beginning September 20, 2009. We observed the Feast that followed that and we've had the blessing of observing this one. *There's one more* within the period of 'Time, Times and a Half a Time'; one more Feast of Tabernacles. What an incredible blessing if we're able to observe it... if we're able to observe *it* well before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet sounds perhaps. How awesomely inspiring, incredible, would that be? And I don't have the foggiest idea; but we're planning for it. We're planning for it immediately. We're going to start planning for next year's Feast. Something may happen this week. Something may happen next week. I don't know when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Trumpet's going to sound – just like what is written in the book – I don't know. We don't know until it happens. We don't know the timing of those things and how it's going to occur and when it's going to occur; how close 2-3-4 are going to be together. We don't know. We don't have the foggiest idea. Nobody knows.

Is such a thing possible? To be able to have a Feast next year again? Absolutely it is, it's totally possible and we need to think about that. But I can't tell you one way or another.

Let's turn over to Revelation 9. Some of you like numbers and some of you really don't; but for a little while let's consider a few numbers. What is it that we do know of a certainty if you consider numbers in

the midst of the period of time that we're going through? What's given? What do we know of a certainty? Let's begin in **Revelation 9:1 - And the fifth angel sounded**, so this is a way off here yet because we haven't had the second, third, and fourth yet; but here's the fifth; **and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.** A place of restraint. **And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air became darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.** So again, it's a language here that's prophetic, that's not meant to be easy to understand; and yet it gives a picture here of something that takes place. We understand it's about war, it's about weapons of war and people of war and so forth. But it reveals who's behind this great power that emerges, obviously, and that's over in verse 11.

We've known for so long the emergence of 10 nations. God gave that to Mr. Armstrong a long time ago; there would be 10 nations that would emerge one last time, one final time, the 7<sup>th</sup> revival of the Holy Roman Empire. We knew that would come along and here is the one who was behind it all... **Revelation 9:11 - And they had a king over them, who is the angel of the bottomless pit**, again, that place of restraint, **whose name is in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon**, and it's kind of an interesting word in one respect; it speaks about an angel of an abyss and the word really means 'a place of destruction or ruin, a place of the destroyer.' That's who Satan is; he is the destroyer and his way is one of destruction, to destroy; **but in the Greek tongue has the name Apollyon.** Same word; means the same thing, *exactly* the same thing just different languages. And so he is the being behind it all as we've talked about during this Feast of Tabernacles when he's given power to be over a resurrection again of the Roman Empire – given great power to do the destructiveness of what he is going to perform.

So going back here to **verse 3** – again, reading it; **And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: speaking of a military power, and unto them was given power**, they're *given* power. Don't know what that means. Have no idea. Sometimes it's kind of astounding to me; it's a little difficult to grasp how 10 nations in Europe could come together quickly, could have a military power that could step in and take control of the United States. That's a tough one to grasp because of all of our submarines, all of our nuclear capability alone, all of the military power that exists there. So whatever happens in the second, third and fourth obviously have a great impact upon what they're going to be able to do at some point. But they're *given* power. What does that mean? Do they have something that comes along that they're able to use, to have, that gives them greater ability? I don't know. They came very close in WWII; they came *really close* to having nuclear power. It would have *controlled the earth* if they would have been able to follow through with it and have it come their way. But it wasn't intended that they should have that power at that time. So they weren't 'given that power' at that time; they weren't allowed to have it.

So something happens, maybe something along those lines. You know, again, we really don't know, but they do have the power to do exactly what God says they're going to do, and we know that Europe, the Western part of Europe where the scattered nations of Israel are – some may even be a part of that in a profound way. And that's going to be difficult for some to deal with later on. France has been in the midst of some of that before; but there may be some others involved this time around. And so some won't accept what's taking place and won't agree that this could be what it's talking about because they're going to have such a stumbling block with that one alone. What an incredible thing; the pride of human nature to say, "It *can't be that way* even if God says *yes it can.*" Yes it can! Are you going to accept what's staring you in the face?

Just like sometimes it's so difficult for me to comprehend, but I understand it's a spiritual blindness, but it's hard for me to grasp how *anyone* in the scattered group of people, in the tens of thousands, cannot admit and acknowledge we had an apostasy and that Il Thessalonians, a man of sin, was behind it all. Even on a physical plane – that's a difficult one to grasp why. Why can't you *acknowledge* that? Because it'd make great change in your life if you could start with that; but they just can't do it.

So this again, **unto them was given power as the scorpions of the earth have power.** To strike quickly without warning. It's not like a rattlesnake, let's you know it's there, just before you step on it or you're close to it it lets you know to back off. That rattle starts going. I have a thing with poisonous snakes – especially rattlesnakes – I grew up around them and did not care for them one iota; but I was so thankful. It's not like your snakes around here. Your snakes aren't as 'good'; they do not warn from what I understand. They don't have rattles; and there are some nasty critters out there. Snakes here in Australia – you've got some wicked ones out here, a lot worse than a rattlesnake ever was.

But here's a scorpion; you don't know it's there. Stick your foot down in a shoe and whammo! Strike without warning to paralyse – that's what they do there, that venom there works to paralyse whatever it strikes. **And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, nor any tree;** and we'll understand that more deeply later on.

...**but only those men who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads.** Interesting how it's stated. Why would it mention something about those who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads? Interesting language of some of these things that are here. And so there's only two kinds of sealing that can take place; there's that which is with the begetting of God's spirit, and a part of that could definitely be here in part of the meaning of this because there are lessons to be learned from that; but specifically what it's talking about when it says a sealing of God, it says, **in their foreheads.** Because that's where the mind is; that's where the spirit of God is, or the spirit essence of man is and there's that spirit that God gives at baptism and so forth and so is it discussing someone here fully that is a matter of an individual who is impregnated with God's spirit? My mind goes quickly to something here when going through something like this, and I think of all those who did receive that; all those who did receive the impregnation of God's spirit... and I'll come back to this.

...**but only those,** those of mankind; it's not just men, it's talking about women as well here. It's a sexist term whenever you see this; it's men speaking of mankind. ...**but only those who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads.** It should come as no surprise... you know what God's focus always is? You know what is paramount all the time? Those with whom God is working. The rest of the world who haven't yet received the impregnation of God's spirit...the rest of the world that will come in time whether some be... the vast numbers that will go into the Millennial period. But there are going to be far more who do not and all those who have died through time. They have a place in time. We know about *this* day that we're going to hear about, that some have heard about this morning all ready and that we're going to hear about this afternoon here in Australia, about what this day pictures here in the Great White Throne and so forth. And so God has a place for all; but so often when you read through things...I was so moved by that when God began to show that even the Seals... When we began to understand the Seals of Revelation were not about the world; it wasn't about destruction and tribulation in the world and that 1<sup>st</sup> Seal and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Seal and then the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seal and the 4<sup>th</sup>... it wasn't about the world at all! I was *dumbfounded* by that, *moved* by that, to realize this is God's concern and warning *to the Church.* It was about the Church; *fully* about the Church! And we'd *always* taken it as human beings always do, first we see something physical; we can't see the spiritual until God gives it.

And when that was revealed I was dumbfounded and came to see that these things continue on, things about the Church and what God is doing. First and foremost it's *always* about those whom God has called and works with and moulds and fashions. And when I read about this time period, because God has already given it by revelation, to know that at this time here (and because of this account), from the point that the 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet blows and forward, that *then* something I have *so longed for for so long*, the promise in Ezekiel that there are going to be many more that I walked to God's House with side by side and counsel blended sweet that God's going to draw back. He's going to awaken them and He's going to use that time period to awaken them. They can't be awakened now, they can't be worked with. They're not being worked with as you are; there are many more things that they have yet to learn and to be grounded in and to come to see, so that when they are awakened they are going to be able to do powerful things. They're going to be able to serve and help out in powerful ways and they're going to repent just like everyone else has that has come out of the period of the past and went into an apostasy and a period of being asleep.

When they realize what they did during that *vast* period of time there's going to be such a *deep* repentance. To think that it took *all the way to the 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet and here everything we've always looked forward to*, the end-time and two witnesses to be on the earth, *and they COULDN'T SEE IT* because they didn't believe, they didn't believe God that we lived in an apostasy and the Church was scattered. They *wouldn't accept* something so plain and so simple! I'll tell you what...the repentance is going to be deep and it's going to be great; but it's going to take this. And it's not going to happen overnight, it's going to be over the period of time that they do what they do all the way to the end! And that's awesome to understand! From the moment this begins until the moment it ends God is going to use what is there to continually awaken people out of sleep and to give them opportunity to live into a new age; *not* to be a part of the 144,000, but to live on into a new age and to complete the work in them that the rest of you are going to seek to complete in order to be in the next resurrection, to become a part of the God Family. God is concerned with them. Because of what happened they're not able to share in the sealing, and yet they're going to be awakened.

And this first and foremost is the focus of what's taking place here. God loves them all – every one... *every one* of those individuals who is asleep out there into the tens of thousands – loves them all, even those who cannot be awakened at this time because it isn't God's purpose. There are things to be learned from all this – powerful things! Hate to get sidetracked here and go off in a different direction in part of this.

There are *powerful* things to be learned through all this in time and it's a little bit like what we talked about in the angelic realm. It took them a long, long time... we don't know how long it took. A thousand years? First time? Ten thousand? A million years? A billion? I don't know, but it took a long, long time for beings who were created, who accepted and just did what they were given because that's what they were created to do until something sparked something in a being, until iniquity was found in him. Took a long, long time. And we're made physical so it doesn't take a *long time*, so that we can experience evil from the get go, so we can experience the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes because this is how God works to change the mind. When you read the article you'll grasp that in an even deeper way.

So this process is speeded up because of how we are made. And so through history, through 6,000 years, we benefit from those who have gone before – we *learn* from their errors, we learn from *their* hardships. We read stories in this book that *move us* and *inspire* us and we learn from it so we don't have to experience everything. We can learn, after God's spirit begins to work with us and those lessons

that are there that are so powerful, so we don't have to experience evil to the same degree. That's what's so beautiful about the Millennium: people can have 6,000 years to see what mankind came to at the end of 6,000 years – to destroy the earth if God didn't intervene. That's what we would do, we'd destroy everything! That's what human beings are capable of. Do you think that people in the Millennium aren't going to be able to learn from that in a very powerful way...what 6,000 years led up to of man going his own way, having his own governments? You better believe they are!

And so in a very powerful way, lessons that happened! They're going to be able to learn! We can read stories in the book of Acts; we read stories from Paul; we read stories throughout the scriptures that inspire us and move us by what God has done in people's lives in the Church. But I'll tell you what – when they read about Philadelphia, when they read about what happened in the midst of Laodicea, when they see what started to happen at the end of Philadelphia; the love of many began to wax cold, which is the word *agape*, God's love. It began to wax cold because people were becoming lethargic and Mr. Armstrong felt in the beginning of the eighties, “Do *half* of you *even* get it?” Why? Because *he* knew the prophesies of Laodicea and he saw that spirit rampant in the Church; and we were already having shakings (and the word is earthquakes, but it has to do with shakings), in the Church of God, being shaken at times in different areas; like I've mention in times past in Washington, DC and Hawaii and many other regions as well here and there. *Whole congregations* going because of what some leaders did! Incredible what we experienced!

Mr. Armstrong nearly died – God brought him back stronger than ever. And from the moment He brought him back his message till the day he died was one of getting the Church back on the right track. Before he died he asked the Church “Do *10 percent* of you get it?! Do even *10 percent* get it?” Little did we know he was right on the mark spiritually. There wasn't much kicking at that time spiritually. Most were falling asleep; most was being prepared to be Laodicea in great power, and lack of it. That's what we had to go through, we had to live it.

People in the future are going to be able to read those stories, just like those of you when you read our history and you read it like the book of Acts and you believe it, you're moved by it. You have the benefit! Those of you who've been called in the last three years have had the benefit of our suffering. You've had the benefit of being able to read history of the *worst times* God's people have *ever experienced* in history; and you see it's true, and you can learn from it. And you don't have to repeat it; you don't have to live that one, you don't have to experience it to know it was true and to know it was devastating – because you hear about it, you hear about it in sermons, you read about it in the book and you believe it with all your being. You know!

And so, this process of how God works with the mind and the benefit we have of being able to go into a new age with one Government, with one way of life; and now with all these lessons of humanity. *How blessed! How blessed* the world is to be able to have that which is written of 6,000 years of history. And you know what? There's going to be a whole lot more that's true this time around because you read history today and it's written by people who change it to whatever they want it to be. But an interesting thing's about to happen – people will be getting resurrected who know what happened and they're going to be able to tell what happened during their time period and they're going to be able to tell about all the big lies of history and say, “That didn't happen. Didn't happen that way at all – here's what happened...” and history is going to be true for the first time! And people are going to benefit from it because it's going to be in the context of God and what God has been doing on the earth for 6,000 years. It truly is a beautiful thing!

So it's an awesome thing when you understand and you begin to grasp more and more what God is doing with the mind, *what* we have to go through, *why* evil is necessary, *why* it's a necessity, *why* the angels were different from us, *why* we had to be physical and *how* awesome it is that God can work with this mind the way He does to transform it! There is no other way, and it's an awesome thing that He's doing. I can't say enough about it; but if I kept saying a lot about it you'd probably get tired of hearing.

So it talks about this process here, those who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads, those who missed out, those who can't receive it, those who can't have it; but those who can be awakened to live on into a new age; that this is the period of time that this is going to happen; that this is more about *them* than it even is about what's taking place. What is it we're going to be focused upon? What is it we've been talking about over and over again? *What is it that excites us and moves us and that we see?* It isn't the destruction! That has to be. It isn't the suffering! It isn't so much of humanity that's going to die! They're going to have an opportunity later on in a world that is so *awesome!*

*What this day pictures, the Great White Throne is AWESOME!* Incredible! We heard about some of that last year and have a better vision and understanding of what that's about – a baby *then* who can be around your snakes here and not be hurt – can't die, won't die. There's a purpose behind why God does what He does at that time – a guarantee of life, a guarantee of being able to live on, a guarantee, in that respect, of protection and help because there's a great purpose in what happens then. People can die during the Millennium and still be resurrected later on, but during the Great White Throne it's a different story. That *is* the time for them to have opportunity to change and they're going to have a thousand years history in front of them that they never had before – plus a catching up with the 6,000 whatever part of it they died in, or within that last 1,000 as well.

What an *awesome* plan! And the more you *see* it and the more you *grasp* it – words can't describe! It doesn't even give credit! I feel so *inadequate* to talk about God, the awesomeness, the glory of God. Words just can't do it! We are so puny! And yet the more we see the more awesome everything becomes, it truly does.

And so God's focus here, just like ours will be, is going to be upon the millions who are changing! Because that's what's exciting, because it's about *them*; because all this is happening to *give us a new* age and those who are going to be prepared for Christ...and then even to the last day in what God does, to help humble this world so that people will *shut their mouths and bow to the ground* to their God, who they don't even begin to know – but they're afraid! They are fearful! And they're willing to listen, that they don't have to go worship before a cross, counting beads, or these different temples that have different gods in them that they made with their own hands. Amazing!

God's concerned, just as we are, and that's why we've organized in the way we did, as I said a while ago, going back to that about the ministry and why we have organized in the form that we have and that our focus is on baptism and the change in the baptism ceremony (and God has given us that), so that many can be baptized in mass numbers as God opens their mind. That's our excitement, that's what we're focused on. We're not focused on the destruction and the crying and the sorrow and the misery that's going to come upon this world. We should be focused upon what's coming out of it that God's going to work with. The others will have their time and that will be a beautiful time for them.

And so God is still very concerned with those who are going to have an opportunity to be awakened; and it's not a small thing He's doing. Do you think someone who's been in the Church 20 years, 30 years, 40 years and then all of a sudden something happens to them and they had a relationship with God but

because of what they lived through, because of what *had* to take place, *had* to be allowed in order to help people in the future, in order to teach great and powerful lessons that they are a part of. We don't even begin to grasp...I'll just tell you, we don't even begin to grasp the love of God Almighty for His children, because they're His children.

There's a difference in a period of time when we live on this earth as God's children without His holy spirit; but there is that which happens when God has been able to enter into a relationship with people when they have His holy spirit. Because the scriptures talk about our ability to have a *relationship* with God once we receive, or are drawn by the holy spirit and have the holy spirit in our life. There is a difference, there truly is. God doesn't give His love to this world yet. He's given His Son that will in time, depending on where they live, as in the Great White throne, that *then* they're going to be able to receive the love of God and the mercy of God. But for so many... not now. There are many who aren't able to receive the blessing that some of us have received and will receive when Jesus Christ returns and we're changed from mortal to immortal and are able to live on.

**Verse 5** – speaking of this power; **And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months:** so something is going to happen during a period of time that's going to work to perform something, to accomplish something. And candidly, when you look at different people's lives, depending on when they're awakened is going to depend upon how long they're tormented; **and their torment is as the torment of a scorpion**, there is physical and spiritual being revealed here. There is that which is physical and there is that which is spiritual because God is always working with His people; and that's first... **and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion when he strikes a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.**

**And the shapes of the locusts...** I'll tell you right now - this isn't about the vastness of humanity that the 10 nations rise up against – because those whom they go to war against they're going to kill and they're going to kill a lot of people. This is about someone else. **And the shapes of the locust were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads, it says, were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces like faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.** So one day we'll come to see what that is all about. I'm not going to try to draw you a picture of anything. It's about war, it's about fighting, it's about the fierceness of it and so forth.

**And their breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.** It's going to be a fearsome thing when they strike. Germany has a word for how they strike – blitzkrieg. Think something has changed? You know, people are different in the world. There are people who deal with things differently. The British, when they go to war they go to war in a different way. They do! Their history's been that way. German's aren't quite the same; they do it in a different approach. They're not too concerned about the 'rules of war,' engagement. I hope you understand what I'm saying. The British are a different kind of people. That's why when they came over to the 13 colonies that became the U.S. they fought war in a certain way and there was a people able to stand up against them because they didn't fight war the same way, they didn't play by the same rules. "How dare you not play by the same rules of war!" Human nature is a funny thing sometimes.

And so this power that arises in Europe is one that strikes quickly, swiftly.

**Verse 10 - And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there stings were in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.** To hurt mankind, that's what it's talking about. And it doesn't mean 'to hurt'; because you can be struck by a scorpion and you're going to live and you're going to be just fine. When this says 'hurt' it's hurt in a big way because its death and destruction in a *great way*, truly is. It's death and destruction. There is that which is about what they can do physically and there is that which comes out of this, if you will, spiritually. So there's that which they do physically and when it uses 'hurt' here it means 'powerful destruction'. This is not a small little pain like I've got a hurt right now in my leg. It's not a mild thing like this at all.

So these verses reveal one of the most important focal points that constitute an important measure of time within the end-time. We have two places that give us a time frame, or a period of time, or something spoken of within a period of 'Time, Times and a Half a Time' or within the 1335 days or in the 1290 or the 1260... and this is one of them because it's the 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet and it talks about a period of what? They have power to do something for five months. When does it begin? No one knows – maybe. But it would be good to consider how late this could occur.

It's good to consider it; it's good to think about it because sometimes... we don't want to get into a situation where we think, well, it can't be that way. Because if you believe something like that and then things happen in a different way – what are you going to do? That's why I ask, "Can we have a Feast next year?" We could. It's not dependent upon the 5<sup>th</sup>; it's really dependent upon the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpets. So when do they happen? I don't have the foggiest idea! It may happen on my way home. I don't know! It may happen the day before next year's Feast. I don't know! It may happen the day after. I don't know! ...none of us do. But it's good for us to think about some of this because don't ever get to a point where you say something definitely cannot happen. So let's look at what could happen or the potential would be, or in this case here, good to consider how late something could occur.

So again, how long is this period of time? Says 5 months. That's how long they have to hurt people. That's how long they have to do what they're going to do. Wow! If that's literal...that's an amazing one. If that's *all* they have – hmmm... wow! So is it exactly 5 months or could this even be a figure that shows something that happens within a window of time that is within a 5 month period of time not necessarily beginning on a specific day in a 5 month period. We can look at a 5 month period on a calendar and maybe it starts on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and maybe ends on the 27<sup>th</sup> day or something like that... and be within 5 months. Or does it mean *exactly* that many days? Interesting here how 5 months is 150 days when you look at something like that.

See, I can't help it, but I think of the last 140 days and I think, man, wouldn't it be amazing if that's what it's about? Wouldn't it be incredible, wouldn't it be awesome. I don't know, but wouldn't it be incredible! Don't say it can't be! See, that's my point. Don't say things can't happen that quickly. But we do know something that is absolute – something has to take place with the Holy Roman Empire that does last at least within this period of time. Can it go longer? Yes, if it's God's purpose. Can it be shorter than 5 months? Only in the context of what I described as something that is used biblically oftentimes when speaking of things that happen within a certain amount of time, speaking of months. If its days it becomes exact – 1290, 1260, 1335, 30 days – it's pretty specific.

So what does all this mean? Again, I don't know. It's going to be interesting to see how it pans out. Wouldn't it be an awesome thing if within the period of time when we come down, 'Time, times and a Half a Time' – if that one there *finally* takes on some awesome significance. We'll see – see what happens. We just know it's going to happen – that we know absolutely.

So, that final 'half a time' begins right around January 8, 2012 so it'll be interesting to see what takes place. It'll be real interesting.

Going back to Revelation 9, there's one more date that's of great importance which we'll come to know one day for certainty what it means. But again, it's important for you to know the possibilities for timing in this end-time.

So the next one here – let's continue on...**Revelation 9:10** – again, reading about what took place here with this group - **And they had, speaking of the Holy Roman Empire, tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men/mankind five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, in the Greek tongue is Apollyon. One woe is past; and behold, two more woes are coming after this.** Notice the previous chapter in the last verse, because this is stated at some point after the 4<sup>th</sup> Trumpet sounds.

Finally in **Revelation 8:13 - And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, Woe, Woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the Trumpet and the three angels which are yet to sound!** And so God is showing us at this stage that these Woes are all about great physical tribulation for all the earth. Before this we know that the rest of the world has not suffered in the physical manner that Manasseh is going to; because Manasseh is going to receive the brunt end of 2-3 and 4. They're going to receive the brunt end of it; and candidly....

You know, it's an awesome thing, just as an example here... I am dumbfounded by (and yet I'm not), when I see peoples of different parts of the earth that God has called, whom God has called; but He hasn't called them in different parts of the earth. He's called them primarily within Ephraim and Manasseh territory. He has worked with people of different cultures, different countries, different nationalities, and brought them to where He has chosen to work with them so that we can do the kind of work we're doing at the end-time as small as we are and the way we are, to be able to handle it, to deal with it, so that people have the opportunity to grow, so that people here in this congregation of many different areas are able to come together and have an extra measure – not just listening to a computer off in some part of the world – or maybe not even having access to such a thing, but are able to grow in an environment that God has blessed us to have; that we can come together like this in this area here and that people have other areas that they're able to come together in in order to grow.

Fellowship is a powerful thing, it truly is. Fellowship is an awesomely powerful tool for growth, for Family, to come to learn Family and to come to learn that you've got to work things out in Family. Because the more you get to be together, you know what? The more you've got to work on things because everybody there is not like you – thank God. Now you understand what I'm saying.... I wouldn't want to deal with myself. I have enough trouble with me without seeing a lot of people who are exactly the same way as I am. I don't just like – I *love* the variety; I love that in God's creation, *especially* in humanity, *especially* in mankind. I *love* the variety; love it! I love things in God's creation.

I'm looking forward, as I mentioned here already, as we go through Singapore on the way back home, they have this botanical garden full of orchids. If my memory serves me right, into the thousands of varieties of orchids that aren't crossed or hybrid – just from different parts of the world, isn't that right? Yep; he's saying it's right. And then many thousands that are mixed. I'm looking forward to that because I enjoy things like that. I especially love the things that Ephraim does more than Manasseh – Manasseh just doesn't have that knack. You go to Niagara Falls as an example; you're on the American side –

bland, blah, kind of let things run down. You go across the border, as soon as you get into Canada there are beautiful gardens! They're beautiful! There's just this knack that Ephraim has, and you know what? Others learn from that in time; it's kind of infectious. And other people begin to benefit from that and other people do the same thing! So throughout Canada you find a lot of that. You find it in Great Britain, you find it here! I love going through botanical gardens when I have time!

I didn't get to do it in Melbourne and I was disappointed – just didn't work out. The one in Sydney – beautiful! There's one in Wellington; one of the first ones when we first went to New Zealand. The history that's there that goes way back; and most places do like that – they started bringing things in the 1800's – *way back!* Things that are growing there – they started this and they built upon it. Incredible! I love the variety! And as you grow closer to God you'll grow in that – it's just a natural thing! You come to appreciate more deeply the things that God has given to enjoy in life, the riches and the beauty and what He's created and the awe... and it helps you in your relationship to God! You become more in awe of God, of things He's made. It's just so beyond the mind!

If you ever get past everything you see on the earth – if you get a chance to see it all, all the plants, all the animals, everything that's there, all the different varieties of topography and everything else, geology; you can then start looking in the universe, out in the galaxies and the stars and everything out there. It just goes on and on and on – it's so incredible! All to the glory and the majesty of God Almighty because He made it all, He brought it all into being! But how awesome it is, mankind, the differences, the ability to have *so many* of so many backgrounds and things that make us what we are and then when God's spirit comes along that change that begins to take place in our life and the Family that's there and then we begin to enjoy the differences and the relationships.

And so again here, as I mentioned earlier, sometimes some of those things.... So we have this opportunity that's unique, primarily within the scattered nations of Israel where God has used that in an awesome way to bring people together in His Church so we can have this awesome experience of fellowship in His Family... *His* Family; and how we treat His Family is how we treat Him. How we think about each one in His Family is how we think about Him – that's truly the truth in every way! And if we don't think right toward someone who is His then we've got a problem with God, not with the other person. You've got a *problem with God* and that's an awesome thing to understand and to grow in.

So I think about how that God has called different ones and done it within the area of Ephraim and Manasseh and how these things have taken place and it is a *profound* thing indeed, isn't it? Let's go back and read this and pick up on this again here, we'll get to this.... And so it talks about **Woe, Woe, Woe to the inhabitants of the earth**, and so forth here. And again, we know what's going to primarily take place. It does primarily happen to Manasseh, but it's also going to happen to Ephraim in a very big way. But exactly where in Ephraim we don't know exactly yet; but the second, third, and fourth is going to be devastating. ...but not to the rest of the world! It's not tribulation for the rest of the world; only in the sense of what it does economically. It's going to shake the world in that area and that's a continuation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet. That just get's bigger and bigger as time goes along.

There are 3 Woes for the world. That's when things are really bad for the whole earth. **Revelation 9:13 - And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the Trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, to slay a third part of mankind.** It's hard to grasp! What they do, what Asia (and speaking specifically of China and Russia as a primary force there), and of those who will be

allied with them... what they're going to do is hard to grasp. 1 fell swoop – 1/3 of mankind destroyed – possibly overnight. That's how quick something like this can happen. They have the power to do it but they start preparing for this – it talks about – an hour, day, a month, and a year in advance; but it doesn't happen until a specific moment in time.

**And the number of the army and the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: 200 million; and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them who sat on them, having breastplates of fire, of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.** Tremendous power, tremendous numbers in this army that's taking place here and what all they plan and strategize. Takes place over a long period of time but something begins in their mind and their hearts at a moment in time, whatever that moment is, whatever sparks that; and we don't know what that is. And it says that this military might is prepared, again, over this period of time and it's basically a period of 398 days – that's what it covers. It's quite specific here in that respect. And how long they will carry out such destruction? It doesn't say.

So if we look at a basic amount of time here, the least amount of time, then the latest this event might occur would count back from May 27, 2012...and so maybe there will be some events that will happen, maybe something to do with the economy of the United States and maybe.... I don't know, but something's going to spark this moment in time where they decide they're going to do something in the world. China has kind of always had certain designs and certain events can prompt them to move things up a little bit – or a lot. But they think a certain way to the rest of the world. They are a unique nation with all the people who are there and kind of bursting at the seams and kind of looking at different places – probably to Australia, New Zealand and we know they've looked at the United States. Some generals have made some comments about that in times past. I remember the one here not too long ago – was it a couple years ago, 3 years ago or so? Said, basically, "We just want a half of the United States. You go over there and we just want the other half. That's all we need. That's kind of our aim." Riiiiight.

But anyway, something's going to motivate China and Russia and some of those other nations to begin to prepare for war - that's what it's about...to prepare for war. And it will possibly not be recognized by a specific event when it does happen, may or may not know it when it takes place; but by all appearances it happens before the Holy Roman Empire does what they do.

The latest (let's just look at this event going back 398 days), if we go back how long does it take to do what they're going to do? To destroy a third of mankind? It can happen overnight, but they can't just get all their military and plans that they have to go up toward the area of Iran and Iraq and the Valley of Megiddo, and some of those things that are prophesied as they go up against Europe. They can't do all that overnight, so how does this happen when it does? Well, they're prepared for a long time. So when they do it and start moving certain things... again, how long do they need for that? I don't know... a week (?), two weeks (?) I don't know...what's the least amount of time? And you have to add that to the 398 days... well, if you do, if we look at the least amount of time that possibly something like that could happen – that'd be around the Days of Unleavened Bread, it'd be around Passover or the end of Unleavened Bread of 2011 – incredible! So, we don't know and we may never know. We may never know what that event was; an hour, a month... until God tells us later on in the future. There may be some things we may not know.

But these are the only two places where it gives a specific amount of time being spoken of in the midst of everything that's happening and it has to do with the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup>, or the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe, but the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpets.

So let's just go ahead and read the rest of this as a matter of the story flow. **Revelation 9:18 - By these three a third part of mankind was killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.** Here's that *same* word again, 'they do hurt'. See, this isn't just a small thing; it just said it's going to destroy a third of all mankind. A third of all mankind – it's about destruction in a very powerful way. So yes, mankind is going to be 'hurt' by it, in a very great way.

**And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues and yet repented not of the works of their hands,** isn't it amazing? Awesome here to understand the mind of man. Here the first thing that comes on the scene, that people do see, is the 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet and what the Holy Roman Empire does – then the next thing that happens somewhere later up the line, after that period of an hour, a month, a day, and a year... this event happens, sometime later, maybe at the very tail end – we don't know. But sometime after the Holy Roman Empire has done what they do. But notice here...God makes it clear that it's in the *heart and mind* of Russia and China, as an ally, maybe started in with just China – but they will be allied together. It was in their heart and mind to do this before the Holy Roman Empire became a reality – before it was revived. So they adjust some of their plans and so forth in what they have to do when they come up... and that's why they come up against them in that direction to do all out war.

So it's an incredible time we live in at the end-time here, it truly is, and it talks about how even after all this, **that people will not repent of the works of their hands,** because there is something out there being told to them by this time that does have power, when God does give power to be able to tell the world what's happening before it happens and why it happens and why it's going to continue and what's going to come together and when it's going to end. Everything is going to be very specific in those things; but **people still wouldn't repent of the works of their hands** – they're bent on doing what they're going to do because they don't believe it.

It's amazing, even at the very end when they see something in the atmosphere, this astounding sight; that more and more this thing of spaceships and extra-terrestrial life and now we have some military people who claim that these beings have visited us several times and some even believe into recent times, especially the areas of nuclear sites and so forth and have shut down various things that won't work. Amazing what's going on out here in the world, that people's minds... and of course the Catholic church just adding a little bit more to it – that even within the Catholic church and Christianity that maybe it's possible that there are now (because we didn't know this before), but now since the pope has said that there may be life on other planets – so that Europe can kind of feel like China and Russia when it comes down to it and their knees shaking.

Because it comes to a point in time when they're not scared of China and Russia – they become more scared of what they see coming in the atmosphere. It's going to be *so awesome* what mankind can finally see on that last day. We can't even begin to comprehend it – scares the 'you know what' out of them! I think of the account in the Old Testament when it talks about 'Mene, Mene Tekel Upharsin' on the wall being scratched out here and this one guy starts shaking his knees and he loses it, can't control himself he's so scared. That'd be a normal reaction if you all of a sudden see a hand that's writing on the wall. It'd kind of shake you up, wouldn't it?

What about something like this appearing and you think that you're about to be invaded and all of a sudden on that day and things around you and your nations where you are located – you think about Job when he started hearing and it says as soon as something was destroyed and as soon as he got through with his story someone else came along and said, "I was out here... and I'm the only one who escaped and all this was destroyed. And these people came in and took all your..." That's exactly what it's going to be like on that day, because all of a sudden they're going to be hearing reports on *that* day. China's going to hear it, Russia's going to hear it, anybody else involved is going to hear it – all the 10 nations of Europe are going to hear it - of these things that happened immediately toward the beginning of that day one after another. Awesome and powerful things; it's called the 3<sup>rd</sup> Woe, which means a lot of people are going to die! Depending on God's judgement at that time, depending on mankind and what mankind does is to how great that destruction will be – *possibly* a lot greater than the 2<sup>nd</sup> Woe.

There may not be a whole lot left as far as humanity is concerned in some nations when God Almighty finishes what He does on that last day because He is going to put down nations in a very powerful way. And that's what these verses are about here, and part of it, because mankind still won't repent – but God's going to bring them to their knees! That's exactly what He says. He's going to bring them to their knees so there is fear like they have never known fear before and these generals and different ones are going to be gathered together in the Valley of Megiddo and they're going to be hearing these reports of the destruction taking place in their nations. And you know who they're going to blame? They know it's not Europe and Europe knows it's not China!

Nothing like this has ever happened on earth before if you read about the 7 last Plagues – nothing like that has ever happened to man before in such mass and such power! "Aliens! It's aliens! We're being attacked! That's how goofy human beings are! I mean really?! I'll guarantee you that there are going to be some, a lot, who are going to think that kind of thing because they've seen so many Hollywood movies, even with subtitles in their own languages and they've already seen some of these creatures. You think that doesn't come into the mind of someone when all of a sudden you're scared to death and you see something coming and you see all this destruction and you think about these beings and what they might look like? You know what's going to pop into your head? What you've already seen. They're going to be afraid!

I have one that comes into my mind immediately when I think about these shows... I see this reptilian thing that has this thing that comes out of his mouth that... bleeeegh... when he talks because I watched the stupid show. But that's how funny human beings are, that's how we are, that's how we think and that's... thousands and millions of those? "Let's team up!" That's what they're going to do, they're going to team up and try to fight against it. That defies imagination but that's what they do as a last ditch effort. They want to fight against it; but you know what God does? He just wipes them all out. They're the last to go. *They* are the last to go. What's happening in their nations they hear first... and *then* what an *incredible* prophecy – it talks about how their flesh just melts off their body they die so quickly and the blood just flows on the earth so deep in places that it's the height of the bridle of a horse. And you have a hard time comprehending that; and I've already done the *math* because I was so dumbfounded by it – and it's possible in a *big way* when something is so instantaneous and so many people... like a little rainstorm. You know what happens? It just starts flowing and it gathers together and it just keeps flowing and it just keeps coming in from other tributaries, just keeps going and finally it's flowing together. Scary stuff! The end-time here is a scary time and it's meant to be in order to bring mankind to his knees.

All these things are going to happen. What an incredible age, what an incredible time, and what a horrifying thing that man is so defiant against his God! Fights all the way to the very end because he doesn't want to change, he doesn't want to repent; and amazingly so in time there are so many who *won't*. They'll do exactly what Satan did. They don't want God's way. They will not want God's way! There are people who've been called into God's Church, and there are those who have already committed the unpardonable sin. Who are they? That's between God and them – God knows. They won't repent. That's what an 'unpardonable sin' is – one you won't repent of. If you *won't* repent because you don't want to change, because you don't want what God has before you, or you refuse to do so, or you enjoy sin to that point and you just really don't care – whatever it is – and you *won't repent...* it still comes down to *won't repent* – it's unpardonable, can't be forgiven. It's a simple one. It's an unpardonable sin because it can't be forgiven because you don't ask for it, you don't want it, it's not in your mind so you've made your choice and so be it – death for all eternity never to be resurrected again.

**...and with them they do hurt. And the rest of the men who were not killed by these plagues and yet repented not of their works of their hands,** it's talking about those who are going forward to do what they're doing. It's not talking about people who've already been conquered within Ephraim and Manasseh and Western Europe and the nations where scattered Israel is... hundreds of thousands of people who've been repenting through these periods of time. This is talking about those other nations who are destroying the earth – that they won't repent and they won't cease from doing what they're doing. They won't cease from their destruction.

**...yet repented not of their works... that they should not worship demons, and idols, and gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:** so for whatever reasons, why human beings do what they do, so much of it is about religion, about their beliefs and they hold onto their beliefs and won't change, period. Or it's about what they can get out of something. They're motivated by some of these things individually and some of these things in combinations first and foremost, as a part of life, and it lists them all.

**Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor their thefts.** Man just doesn't want to change so God's going to bring them to repentance in time...or not... if they won't.

What does all this mean? It means we're ever getting closer and closer to the end and the return of our High Priest, our Elder Brother Jesus Christ as King of kings and the establishment of the Millennial period that we're blessed to picture through the Feast of Tabernacles, and then now this Last Great Day of the hundred years beyond that. But we're looking forward to the beginning of that Millennium being established on the earth that we've been so blessed to picture in seven days at the Feast. Incredible! Beautiful! So again, as the title of this sermon says, we're almost there!

So we may well have another Feast. We may be able to observe the first Feast that falls in within the time frame of the final "Time, Times and a Half a Time" ...and we may not. We're just planning for it; but we're going to look forward as we can and that's what we need to go back to do, to focus on the next Feast of Tabernacles. And if something happens in the meantime we will adjust with it quickly, we'll move to the right hand or to the left and do exactly what God gives us to do at that moment in time. We move forward.

So oftentimes the Last Great Day of the Feast, again, is one that is sad because everyone has to go back out into this world and we have to cease to be together in such an environment of rejoicing that we've been able to have, time shared together, enjoyable times, exciting times – relationships being strengthened, growing in new relationships that we've never had, experiencing something for the first time in our life that we've never experienced before, couldn't even begin to imagine. You know, someone comes into the Church and you tell them about the Feast of Tabernacles, and until you live it – can't know what it's like – you have to experience it, and it's an incredible thing! Awesome fellowship! Truly exciting!

And so again here, it's okay to be a little saddened; but I stress the word 'little'. Be excited! Be inspired! Be lifted *up* by what God has given you! It will be in the future that you will look back and remember *this* Feast of Tabernacles and some awesome truth, *powerfully awesome truth* that God gave; gave us 4 *incredible truths* that go beyond words because it has to do with the spirit of God in our minds and our ability to appreciate and see it and grow in it through time. And you'll come to appreciate *these things* more through time – up into the Millennium. Fifteen years up the road, twenty years up the road, you're going to look back and you're going to be *dumbfounded*, you're going to think *how awesome that was!* How *incredible* what God gave to us! You know why? Because you're going to see it in a greater way at *that* time because of where you are spiritually than what you are now. That's a growth, that's a thing of growth and excitement because we just keep building upon it.

That's why I marvel sometimes when I go through John 14, when I go through areas like that, because year by year by year there's just *a little bit more* that God gives to make it richer and more alive – and that's the word – *more alive* spiritually in the mind in what we see and the excitement and the appreciation and how it magnifies and glorifies God. And that's why the more we see and the more we learn the more God is magnified – He truly is – because the more you come to see and understand, truly the more in awe you are of God and that's exciting. It's exciting! And we get to grow in that and grow in that and grow in that and we never cease growing in it. It just becomes better and better and better through time. Latch on to it! Hold on to it! Thank God for it! It's just right now we can't have it all the time.

That's why the Feast of Tabernacles is a unique experience because you get to have this for eight days, sermon after sermon after sermon after sermon. But we go back out in the world and it's six days without being fed and you have to rub shoulders in this sick world and the battles are great and the sorrow is great and the frustration is great and the trials are great and the hardships are great and the battles are great and you're being bombarded on every side because of a spirit world that's out there and you have battles to fight in your own nature. And because you're back out there rubbing shoulders with it again it's easy to go right back to some of the battles we had before we got here because we have human nature and so we have to face it again in a greater....

It's been easier here, candidly, but at times you've had to watch your human nature here, its part of life, because it's a little more refined in this atmosphere isn't it? Think about the Millennium. You're on your toes a little bit more and it's easier to grow in an environment like this, it truly is – and that's exciting! That's what we're shooting for, that's what we're working for, that's what our lives are about. We're looking forward to that for all the rest of the world.

But in a little while here you're going to be right back out there in the midst of it all and probably at the very first here it can be a little...especially those of you who are experiencing this for the first time and partially more than what you did the last time and the time before that. Sometimes there's a letdown

because it's such a contrast... it's like whiplash spiritually when you go back out in this world. Don't let it get a hold of you. Remember these things, stay focused on these things, ask God for more of His help because He wants to give it to you. That's what's exciting to me as we get closer and closer here, God's will is to give you more of His power, more and more, more than you've ever experienced (those of you who've been around a long time.)

You're going to get the opportunity if you will continue to fight your own nature, if you will continue to yield to the moulding and fashioning that God is doing, that He's going to give you *more help, more of His spirit, more power* because there's a job in front of us. An incredible thing to understand. We have an incredible little over a year and a half in front of us, so be *upbeat* about it! Truly! Be charged up, be inspired; but you can't just work it up, it's something you've got to cry out to God for! And when you start feeling some of that let down or some of the negative things out there bombarding you and hitting you *don't let it get to you*; cry out to God. *He is your source of power in life*, He truly is, and He wants to give you more of that help because you have a great job to do. Be inspired! God wants you to be inspired!

But again, it's in our relationship with God, on your knees cry out and ask Him! Ask Him, several times if you have to throughout the day, let Him know, share with Him! He already knows it! He knows when you're getting bogged down; He knows when you're getting pulled down; He knows when the battles are getting great and how you feel and your emotions that go along with that and what it's like. And our High Priest knows what it's like in a very powerful way, He truly does. Share it with God! That's what He wants; He wants you to share that with Him because it's through that process of acknowledging that and your being able to see it and your grasping, "I need help!" that is an important spiritual tool. Because the reality is we always do – we need help.

So continue to rejoice, to be inspired, to be excited of where you're living – and if you don't feel that and it's not real to you – cry out to God more for it, for that help because He wants to give you more of that, He truly does. He truly does in a very *powerful way*! You can't work it up. The Protestant world tries to work up religion, they try to work up being excited and so forth – but the reality is with God it's real or it isn't, it truly will flow through your life or it won't; and to what degree it does depends upon our recognition of our need for it and our crying out to God.

I think of the examples that God says about if a parent knows... you know, if your child is hungry what are you going to do? And so the example is given there, 'if a parent knows how to give good things to their own children, *how much more* does God Almighty *desire* to give us,' and share with us what He says He wants to give to us more and more and more. So ask for it, cry out for it – but you've got to know you need it before He can give it to you and you've got to ask before He'll give it to you.

So fight that fight in this next year – do that in a way you've never done it before so that He can use you more when the moment comes...because it's coming, it's coming quick. We're almost there in so many ways.

Turn over to Romans 8. We read about it but we don't grasp it. We have read a story of something that's going to come to pass here, start happening before long, from the 1<sup>st</sup> Woe on. We believe it, but we don't grasp it. We believe it's going to happen, but we don't understand it, we don't grasp it in the sense of reality until you're there. Just like the Feast of Tabernacles – you believe it when you're called, you believe that others are excited about it but you can't grasp it until you're there, until you experience

it. How much more things like this? How much more massive things that are going to happen on the earth?

That's why when I speak to the Church and talk to the Church about the ministry and what you're going to be doing – I know you can't grasp it. You don't know what it means yet that you're going to have the opportunity, there are going to be those occasions when you're going to have hundreds of people just wanting you to put your hands on top of them as they go by – they're going to want that so much, they're going to desire that so much they're going to line up for it and they're going to be hanging on every word you speak. They're going to be hanging on those words, they're going to *want to hear* what you tell them, they're going to be quiet and they're going to listen as you give them instruction about going under the water and how to do it. You believe it. I *hope* you believe it. I believe you believe it. It's going to be far greater than that – *far greater than that*. We just can't comprehend it it's so great.

And it's all because God Almighty has such an incredible plan of preparing a massive people for His Son. He's going to have them there! This is so awesomely exciting to God and He's going to have those who are there who are impregnated with His spirit that are going to be able to rejoice along with Him because it's Him in every one of them in a magnified way that shouts inside in their spirit, in their being when the King of kings is coming...and God's going to have them there ready, truly is. Far more meaningful...*far, far, far, far – so exceedingly far beyond* what happened in the days of John the Baptist. We read a story like that and we're very moved by it and indeed we should be moved by it, but what you're getting ready to live and what you're getting ready to go through is quantum leaps beyond that in magnitude and power and purpose.

**Romans 8:14 - For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God.** We need to *see that* with all of our being. We're *led* by God's spirit! We are God's children...we need to act like it! Believe it, live it, be confident, be bold! God has a purpose in having called you. If you are able to be here and you hear the things that are being said and you understand them – it's God that's giving you that and that's such an *awesome* thing that goes beyond words. Understand the power connected to that, *appreciate* the power connected to that, understand that the power of God Almighty is with you and behind you and desires to see you succeed and go forward in everything that He's placed before you right now.

**For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the spirit of sonship,** that's what it means, **whereby we cry, Abba, Father.** We cry out to God, we need Him, we want Him –and He wants us to have that because it's through that that He gives us of His spirit to help us to grow and to excel.

**The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit,** the holy spirit, **bears witness with that spirit essence in us,** in our mind, **that we are the children of God:** we see the things we do only because of that. We're able to drink in and be inspired *only* because of that miracle that's happening in our minds.

I remember the first time that I spoke and gave the sermon about the greatest miracle in time; and still so moved by the truth of it all, to understand everything that's in creation out there, the vastness of the universe and stars that you can put a hundred of our suns in from one edge of it all the way through side by side in order to get through the diameter of some of the things that are out there, some of the stars that are so great. And I can't comprehend that – something so *vast*, things that are so beautiful that the Hubble sends back. Awesome things that are out there! God just commanded it and it came into being – *and we're not that way!* We're not that way and we've gone through some

sermons here at this Feast of Tabernacles talking about the angelic realm, a plan that God had and the *work* that God has been doing for so long in order to have rest, in order to have peace, in order to have the Family that He's desired to have from the very moment He first began to create. And it's about *us*! And it's about the miracle of what takes place in your mind – because we resist God! Our nature resists God – the universe didn't! Anything that's ever been created and made never resisted.

When He made Adam and Eve, they didn't resist, they were just made – but *this*, that which is far more precious, that which is far more meaningful, that which God desires to give *life*, everlasting life to, resists God. And we learn through that battle and it's through that very battle that God can create and mould and fashion Elohim in us. It is so awesome!

**And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; right along with Christ, if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.** We're going to go back out there after this Feast and we're going to suffer. It's just our way of life, for living this way of life. You suffer because family, or others, they don't *like* what you believe – mates in some cases who don't *like* what you believe, children who don't *like* what you believe, parents who don't *like* what you believe, some that totally won't have anything to do with some in God's Church because they don't like what they believe! And that hurts! *It hurts; it hurts like mad sometimes* doesn't it when you go through having your life ripped apart like that...but you make a choice for God and God's way of life but the battles are still there and the hurt and the suffering is still there! But that's what it's about!

So you're going to go right back out in the midst of that away from this great fellowship and Family that we have here that we're able to experience side by side. This is what we have to keep our eyes on, keep focused on, to understand that's expected, that's how you're going to grow. And one day, *one day*, at some point in time here there's even going to be a lot of those who all of a sudden are going to change and the stronger you have been for this way of life, the more you have suffered, and the more you've received suffering in the right way, God's way, not in retaliation, not getting back at someone, not responding in kind; but the more you have done things the way God says to do it the more you're going to be of a help to them when their day comes – because their day will come! And for a lot of them (because God works with families), for a lot of them it'll be a dumbfounding thing for you when that day comes and they embrace you and hug you and thank you for holding firm to what you believe. And the more you've held to that the greater respect and the greater help it will be for them, truly. You can't put a price tag on that one. It's a powerful, powerful thing!

Be an example. Be a light. Take the suffering. Move forward. Do what God says! It all comes back very powerfully so, truly does.

**If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.** It's a part of suffering. Suffering is part of life. Getting cut off from the rest of the world, from family and different ones because of what you believe - it's a part of life. But we're not like some who've had to go before and live their whole life like that. Because, see during Philadelphia as a whole, people who had those problems in family and so forth it was a lifelong experience. For you, you are so blessed because some of you are going to be able to experience different ones who all of a sudden one day....

I've had situations...I get a charge out of it when it happens. I remember a couple of individuals, one in particular that wrote me a letter one time, an email apologizing up and down for what they'd called me and said about me. I didn't know it; but they gave their mate a *horrible* time when they came into the

Church. *Horrible!* Battled with them, used language that wasn't good toward the mate and toward me (which I didn't hear), but one day... *one day* [snap] the mind was opened and they repented, became more zealous than the mate – at least for a time and it probably levelled out at some point here, but that's the way it generally happens in the beginning. You know how all of a sudden you're starting to make these changes and all of a sudden you see something you didn't see before and realizing why that other person was doing what they were doing and holding firm to what they believed and it's a beautiful thing, repentance. And then everything that's ever happened in the past – it's forgotten and not only that....

So to have spiritual Family is an awesome thing, to have physical family in the spiritual Family is an awesome thing, truly is! I'm blessed because I have that to a degree, truly am. And so time is coming when so many of you are going to begin experiencing that more and more. It's exciting, it's inspiring!

**Verse 18 - For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.** And in others. In us and in others. So looking far in the future, for some of us not too far now thankfully. Incredible! Almost there!

Don't have to worry about hamstrings anymore. ☺ I can go out there and do that thing you guys were doing yesterday. They had this thing out there in this park – I've never seen anything like that – with all these things going through the trees out there, all these different obstacle courses and wires and cables and it was incredible. I told my wife, I said, "If I hadn't had the injury that I had over in New Zealand I'd have been right there with them and got my hamstring then!" Because I'm sure I would! Some were talking about how they could feel today what they did yesterday and me being quite a bit older it'd be pretty bad. But I would have been there – it looked like a ball of fun!

**I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation,** which is about us, **waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.** Which is about us becoming a part of God's Family and going through this entire process to the time that finally we're born into it. **...for the creature,** as it says here, but it's about the creation, **the creation was made subject to vanity, not willingly;** so we've read these things, we've read this section here and gone through that and it's inspiring and exciting to see what God is doing and the opportunities, the blessings we have.

Let's go on down to **verse 28 - And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.** What an awesome thing to understand our calling, to understand why you're here and how you got here and what God has given to you. He wants you to succeed in powerful, powerful ways, He truly does; He's made everything possible for us! God's there in front of us, beside us. I think of the word 'Petra' that we used to not understand as deeply as we should and we took it in a wrong way and we looked to the location and personal physical safety. We were going to Petra at the end-time. We were going to go over there and we were going to scout out our cave and we were going to live there while the rest of the earth was going through a pretty bad time; and thank God it wasn't that way. Petra is our Rock. In the Old Testament it's about a rock, a Rock that's God Almighty, our foundation, our strength, our high tower, our defence, our fortress; the things that God wants us to see Him as – everything that's there for us because we can't do this. He does it, truly does.

**And we know that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, I love these verses...for whom He did**

**foreknow**, not predestination as the Protestant world teaches it. He knew He had a plan for mankind. He had a plan for 144,000. He has a plan for *millions*; He has a plan for *billions* in His Family. **For whom He did foreknow, He also did** (the word means) **predetermined**; determined. And if we understand, predetermined before *anything* began to be created... **predetermined to be conformed to the image of His Son**, God had it planned out how we would be able to become a part of His Family – that’s what we’re being told, because of this plan that He had before He ever began creating anything; **that He...** speaking of Jesus Christ, **that He might be the firstborn among many brethren**. **Moreover whom He did predetermine, them He also called**: we’ve experienced that. I’ve experienced that, and you experienced that. That’s how you came along. There comes a time when everyone receives a calling. So all of us, in order to become a part of His Family God begins by drawing us with His holy spirit. We begin to see things we never could see before, we begin to understand things we could never understand before, we begin to understand things that are false in the world, we begin to see things that are true and right with God – the Sabbath, the Holy Days and the meaning of it and what they picture and all that’s there that God begins to put in the mind. And we begin to make choices and judgements about all that.

I’ve known so many people through time whose minds were opened who couldn’t come to the point of baptism because something else was there. God gave us those experiences to see, to learn from that within the Church through time. So many people that I’ve known and visited, been in their house or met them somewhere – minds wide open, could see it, could talk to you about it, but something pulled them aside... family, tithing, keeping the Sabbath, going to their employer, something. Something got in the way.

So God starts with a drawing, a calling and we make choices and if we choose what He’s drawn us to, baptism, what an awesome thing.

**...moreover He did predetermine them He also called, and whom He called, them He also justified**: have to go through a process here or else God won’t work with us, we have to come to that point in time here. So He’s made the way possible for us all along the way. God has paved the way way ahead of time; **and whom He justified, them He also glorified**. This entire process of our calling to the time we’re begotten of God’s spirit we receive a glory that is not of man but of God Almighty dwelling and living within us. And then beyond that, finally the change that takes place.

**What shall we say of these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?** So again, something to remember as you go back after this Feast here and you have battles; and you’re going to have battles. When you have sorrow; and you’re going to have sorrow. When you have things happen within families or on the job, or with neighbours, or whatever it is because of what you believe, because of what God has given to you. And it will happen, those things happen. Or a let down that you’re going to have after you go back from the Feast, just because for eight days you’ve been receiving spiritual food and now you can’t have that experience anymore.

That’s why this time is so unique. There is never a time in your life where you can be so close to God Almighty as the Feast of Tabernacles. *You can’t have this the rest of the year!* Isn’t that an amazing thing? You just can’t have it because it gives us that hope and that desire and we’re able to learn from it and desire that which is ahead for us because of what it pictures – a Millennium, the seven days, the Last Day – all these things have purpose and reason why God has designed it so. **If God be for us, who could be against us?** I hope we understand God is *for* us. Can’t give that to you, it’s just something you

pray about and ask God to help you to see and to understand where He is, that He's always there with you if you ask for Him.

**He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Verse 33) - Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is it that condemns? It is Christ who died, yes rather, that has risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.** Again, that's a sermon in itself. That could be a *series of sermons* in itself, what this is all about and how awesome it is that Jesus Christ is our High Priest and intercedes for us before His Father.

**Who shall separate us from the agape/love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** In the Church of God different ones are going to experience some of these things. Things are going to happen in life.

**As it is written, For your sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.** Understand that there are things here that are for others; that you suffer for others. I'm thankful, we should all be thankful that we have the opportunity to change and to become a part of the God Family; but our hope and our heart and our desire should be for everyone else around us – that we want to yield ourselves to that process in order to help others, in order to bring others into that, to share this with others, to give them that opportunity. And that's exactly what we're going to be given in a very powerful way here in the near future in a way that the Church of God has never experienced ever, *EVER*. That's what we get the opportunity for.

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** Conquerors, fighters; that's what we have to go back and do – be determined to fight and *conquer*!

**For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor of things present, nor of things to come, nor height, nor depth, on and on it goes here...whatever it is God is always with us; nor any creature, shall be able to separate us from the agape/love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Beautiful verses! To believe them, to see them, to know them, to be encouraged by them, to be inspired by them is something we have to do in our personal relationship with God in praying to God.

Pray to God about these things. Have boldness and have confidence as you leave the Feast of Tabernacles and finally this Last Great Day; and *don't* let yourself have that giant letdown. You know, when you start feeling it pray to God about it, that you not have it; because I have known of some who have allowed that to continue on and hurt them mightily through a period of time. Don't let those things happen and understand your calling. Understand what God has called you to.

~~~end